



**CHAIR OF
THE COORDINATING BUREAU
OF THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT**



**DRAFT STATEMENT TO BE DELIVERED BY THE DELEGATION OF
THE REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN, ON BEHALF OF THE NON-
ALIGNED MOVEMENT (NAM), QUARTERLY OPEN DEBATE OF THE
SECURITY COUNCIL ON “THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST,
INCLUDING THE PALESTINIAN QUESTION”**

New York, 28 October 2019

Madam President,

1. It is an honor for the Republic of Azerbaijan to take the floor on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement at this quarterly open debate on a matter to which we have historically attached special importance, namely, the Situation in the Middle East, including the Question of Palestine.
2. At the outset, it is a great privilege to convey our profound respects to H.E. Mrs. Naledi Pandor, Minister for International Relations and Cooperation of the Republic of South Africa, a fellow non-aligned country, and to congratulate her delegation on its Presidency and leadership of the Security Council throughout this month.

Madam President,

3. Just five days ago the Ministerial Committee of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) on Palestine was convened in Baku, Azerbaijan, to review the latest developments in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem. Regrettably, the situation remains critical and clearly unsustainable. In its unanimously adopted Political Declaration, the Ministerial Committee, *inter alia*, renewed the Movement's abiding solidarity with and our unwavering support for inalienable rights and just cause of the Palestinian people, and called once again for a just, lasting and comprehensive solution to the Question of Palestine, which has been too long delayed and caused too much human suffering and tragedy across the decades.
4. In this regard, the Member States of the Movement seize this opportunity to reaffirm, once again, that the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, with the Israeli occupation at its core, continues to pose a serious threat to regional and international peace and security and requires both urgent attention and action, in accordance with international law, the relevant UN resolutions and, of course, the UN Charter itself and the tools provided by multilateral diplomacy for the peaceful resolution of conflicts.



CHAIR OF THE COORDINATING BUREAU OF THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT



5. The Security Council has a clear responsibility for ensuring the maintenance of international peace and security. It must uphold its Charter duties and must act to implement its own resolutions, which not only constitute the foundation for a peaceful, just and lasting solution to the conflict, but are legally binding to all UN Member States. The Question of Palestine cannot be the exception. Hence, we remain deeply concerned that this body has been for too long unable to fulfill its mandate on this important question due to the use of veto by one permanent member. The Members of the Movement call upon the Security Council to overcome its paralysis and fulfill its Charter duties towards the Palestine question, restoring credibility to this body and upholding its obligations towards the achievement of a just and peaceful solution.

Madam President,

6. The Non-Aligned Movement still believes that Security Council resolution 2334 (2016), which reaffirmed the Security Council many relevant resolutions on the matter, provides the only viable path to peace, setting forth the essential requirements and parameters for the achievement of a just solution on the basis of the two-State solution on the pre-1967 lines, in accordance with the longstanding terms of reference of peace endorsed by the international community; namely, the relevant United Nations resolutions, the Madrid principles, including the principle of land for peace, the Arab Peace Initiative and the Quartet Roadmap, and ensuring the fulfillment by the Palestinian people of their inalienable rights, including to self-determination and independence in their State of Palestine, with East Jerusalem as its capital. Hence, we call for the full respect of resolution 2334 (2016) and for the effective implementation of its provisions and obligations, particularly by the occupying Power, and including also in terms of States' obligations with regard to distinction, a matter that is central to accountability.
7. Similarly, the Member States of the Movement continue to call for the full respect and implementation of all other relevant resolutions, including with regards to the complete cessation of all Israeli settlement activities and with regards to the status of Occupied East Jerusalem, for it is this that would create the necessary conditions towards bringing an end the occupation, justly resolving the conflict in all its aspects, and making Palestinian-Israeli peace and security a reality, for the benefit of both peoples, for the region and for the international community as a whole.
8. It is imperative that action be taken immediately, in line with international law and the relevant UN resolutions, to redress the situation on the ground, de-escalate tensions, and foster an appropriate environment for the pursuit of peace, including by averting unilateral, provocative or arbitrary measures that only serve to embolden Israel to further pursue its illegal policies and practices in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem. Actions that violate Security Council resolutions and the historic *status*



CHAIR OF THE COORDINATING BUREAU OF THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT



quo of Jerusalem and its holy sites are provocative, dangerous and destroy the prospects for peace and should not be supported or celebrated by any country. Threats of annexation by Israeli officials must be unequivocally condemned and any measures taken in this regard must be forthwith rejected as null and void and without any legal effect and must be met with firm measures of accountability for such grave breaches.

Madam President,

9. In relation to the Gaza Strip, the situation remains of great concern to the Movement, particularly the grave humanitarian situation, which regrettably continues to deteriorate day by day. The Non-Aligned Movement reiterates its call for the complete lifting of the Israeli blockade, which continues to impose untold humanitarian, social and economic suffering on the more than 2 million Palestinian children, women and men in Gaza. This crisis must be comprehensively addressed, in accordance with international law, including humanitarian and human rights law, and the relevant UN resolutions, and in the context of the overall situation of the continuation of the illegitimate, belligerent, Israeli foreign occupation of the Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, since 1967, and of the unequivocal calls for an end to this over half-century occupation.
10. In the absence of a solution, the Member States of the Movement reiterate their call for the continued provision of the needed humanitarian and socio-economic assistance to the Palestinian people, including the Palestine refugees. The Non-Aligned Movement, therefore, stresses the importance of UNRWA, along with other UN agencies and international organizations, in alleviating their plight and call for full support for the renewal of UNRWA's mandate to ensure the continuity of its vital programmes and its contribution to regional stability.
11. As Israel has clearly abdicated its obligations as the occupying Power to protect the Palestinian civilian population, in respect of the 1949 Fourth Geneva Convention, we also reiterate our longstanding call for the international community to ensure the protection of the Palestinian people. This is urgent for alleviating the dire state of insecurity of the occupied population and preventing the loss of more innocent human life. Failure to do so can only lead to further escalations and the tragic loss of more civilian lives.
12. In this connection, we reiterate our grave concern about the lack of accountability for all the violations committed by Israel, many of which may amount to war crimes. The absence of justice only fosters greater impunity, leads to the recurrence of crimes and destabilizes the situation on the ground, thus further diminishing the prospects for peace. We continue to call for international action, particularly by the Security Council, to ensure a cessation of, and accountability for, the violations that are being systematically committed by the occupying Power against the Palestinian civilian population under its



CHAIR OF THE COORDINATING BUREAU OF THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT



occupation. Israel must comply with its duties and responsibilities under international law and must be held to account, should it continue its blatant contempt of this body and of its international legal obligations.

Madam President,

13. With regard to the situation in the Occupied Syrian Golan, the Non-Aligned Movement reaffirms that all measures and actions taken, or to be taken by Israel, the occupying Power, such as its illegal decision of 14 December 1981 that purports to alter its legal, physical and demographic status and its institutional structure, as well as the Israeli measures to apply its jurisdiction and administration there, are null and void and have no legal effect. In this regard, and in line with our principled position, we demand once again that Israel abides by Security Council resolution 497 (1981) and withdraw fully from the Occupied Syrian Golan to the lines of 4 June 1967, in implementation of Security Council resolutions 242 (1967) and 338 (1973). In addition, we reiterate our condemnation of the unilateral and arbitrary proclamation of the United States of America on "Recognizing the Golan Heights as part of Israel", and renew our call on the Security Council to unequivocally condemn this provocative act.
14. Moreover, the Member States of the Movement emphasize the necessity to have Israel withdraw from all Lebanese territories including Shebaa Farms, Kfarshouba Hills and the Lebanese part of Al Ghajar village up until behind the Blue line, in accordance with relevant United Nations resolutions and in particular Security Council resolution 1701 (2006).
15. To conclude, we seize this opportunity to reiterate our call for the international community to act collectively, with responsibility, to uphold international law and to exert and intensify all necessary efforts in support of the Palestinian cause, the ultimate goal of which is to bring an end to this historic and grave injustice. We reaffirm our commitment to promoting a just, lasting, comprehensive and peaceful solution to the Question of Palestine in all its aspects, including for the plight of the Palestine refugees, and reaffirm our support to the Palestinian people in their struggle to achieve justice and fulfill their inalienable rights and legitimate national aspirations, including to self-determination, freedom and independence in their sovereign and independent State of Palestine, with East Jerusalem as its capital.

I thank you, Madam President.