



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



**STATEMENT TO BE DELIVERED BY THE DELEGATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF
AZERBAIJAN, ON BEHALF OF THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT (NAM), DURING
JOINT GENERAL DEBATE TO BE HELD WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE
FOURTH COMMITTEE OF THE 76TH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS
GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

New York, 19 October 2021

Madam Chair,

1. The Republic of Azerbaijan has the honor to take the floor on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement on agenda items 54, 55, 56 and 57.
2. At the outset, allow me to extend our warm congratulations to you and to the other members of the Bureau on your election. I would like to assure you of the support of NAM to work closely with you during the deliberations at the 76th session.

Madam Chair,

3. Non-Aligned Movement underscores the importance of the work carried out by United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), and reiterates its strong support of the Agency and its mandate, as given by the General Assembly, to provide humanitarian, development and emergency assistance and protection for over 5.7 million Palestine refugees, pending the achievement of a just solution to their plight on the basis of relevant UN resolutions, including resolution 194 (III), which affirmed, *inter alia*, their right to return and fair compensation.
4. The Member States of the Movement believe that the mandate and operations of UNRWA in Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, and the Occupied Palestinian Territory remains essential and indispensable until the achievement of a just, lasting, comprehensive and peaceful solution to the question of Palestine, including for the plight of the Palestine refugees. The longstanding, strong and generous support of the international community, including the host countries, has been critical for ensuring the continuity of UNRWA services over the years. We are proud that the host countries and many of the major donors are NAM Member States, who are committed to upholding their political, humanitarian and moral responsibilities in this regard. NAM urges the international community to step up its support to UNRWA, especially in light of the deteriorating socio-economic conditions and instability in the region severely affecting the Palestine refugee community and their living conditions, which have been further aggravated by the COVID-19 pandemic, and the recurrent, severe financial shortfalls that still affect its vital humanitarian programmes. In this regard, we reaffirm the urgency of providing UNRWA with sustained, predictable and uninterrupted support, as repeatedly called for by the General Assembly and the Secretary-General of the United Nations.



CHAIR OF THE COORDINATING BUREAU OF THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT



5. The Member States of the Movement also seize this opportunity to stress that the prolonged crisis in the Gaza Strip must be comprehensively addressed, in accordance with international law, including humanitarian and human rights law, and the relevant UN resolutions, in the context of the overall efforts to bringing an end to the illegitimate, belligerent, Israeli foreign occupation of the Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, since 1967. Similarly, we call once again for the full and immediate lifting of the illegal Gaza blockade, which is the only way for the Palestine refugee population in Gaza to decrease its dependency on UNRWA.

Madam Chair,

6. We once again 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, in line with international law and the relevant United Nations resolutions.
7. The Member States of the Movement reiterate their grave concern about the lack of accountability for all the violations committed by Israel in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the other Arab Territories occupied since 1967. The failure to hold Israel accountable for its violations and to ensure respect for international law only fosters impunity, while diminishing the prospects for peace. Hence, we continue to call for international action, particularly by the Security Council, to ensure accountability for and a cessation of the violations committed by the occupying Power. Israel must comply with its obligations and responsibilities under international law, including in accordance with the relevant United Nations resolutions, including Security Council resolution 2334 (2016).
8. In this regard, we also stress the importance of the 2021 report by the Secretary-General on the protection of the Palestinian civilian population and of the need for serious follow-up on the recommendations contained therein to ensure the safety and well-being of the Palestinian people under Israeli occupation. Follow-up measures to ensure protection are especially urgent as Israel persists with, and even escalates, its violations of international law, including humanitarian and human rights law, including, *inter alia*, killing and injuring Palestinian civilians, among them children; settlement activities, including the construction of settlements and the wall and transfer of extremist settlers, who continue to provoke and terrorize the Palestinian people, and the unabated seizure of Palestinian land and properties, demolition of homes and forced displacement of Palestinian families; arbitrarily arresting and detaining Palestinians and subjecting prisoners and detainees to ill-treatment and abuse, including reports of torture; and collectively punishing the



CHAIR OF THE COORDINATING BUREAU OF THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT



Palestinian people through punitive means and measures, including severe movement restrictions, a discriminatory permit regime and its inhumane blockade of the Gaza Strip.

9. The Non-Aligned Movement, in line with the decisions adopted during the XVIII Summit of Heads of State and Government, held in October 2019, in Baku, the Republic of Azerbaijan, reaffirms, inter alia, the urgency of addressing all of these grave violations in accordance with international law with a view to bringing them to a halt, ensuring protection to the Palestinian people and mobilizing the collective efforts to achieve a just, lasting, comprehensive and peaceful solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, which is at the core of the Arab-Israeli conflict and a long-overdue objective of the Movement, on the basis of the two-State solution based on the pre-1967 borders, in accordance with international law, the relevant United Nations resolutions, the Madrid principles, Arab Peace Initiative and Quartet Roadmap, which are the foundations of the longstanding international consensus on a just solution. In this regard, we once again reaffirm our unwavering commitment to the restoration of the inalienable rights of the heroic Palestinian people, including to self-determination and to their independent and viable State of Palestine, with East Jerusalem as its capital, and a just solution for the plight of the Palestine refugees on the basis of General Assembly resolution 194 (III).

Madam Chair,

10. The Non-Aligned Movement regards peacekeeping as the flagship activity of the United Nations. Peacekeeping operations are the means by which the United Nations are recognized by the populations it serves. NAM Member States remain the largest contributors to UN peacekeeping operations with nearly 90% of all uniformed personnel deployed on the field.
11. For the second consecutive year, Covid-19 continued to affect all UN activities, including peacekeeping. We commend the Secretary General for launching the successful vaccination campaign, which contributed to the safety and security of our contingents, as well as the local populations, and allowed UN peacekeeping missions to maintain a satisfying level of operational readiness and continue delivering their mandates. The initiative that was carried out in close consultation between the Secretariat and the Member States – through the Group of Friends on the Covid-19 Vaccination of Uniformed Personnel- is also a good illustration of the importance of such coordination for the success of our work.

Madam Chair,

12. The high-risk environments coupled with the restrictive measures imposed by the Covid-19 pandemic significantly impact UN peacekeeping operations and add to the numerous challenges already faced by our deployed troops, pertaining especially to their safety and security.



CHAIR OF THE COORDINATING BUREAU OF THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT



13. In this regard, we welcome the ongoing efforts to improve peacekeeping, under the able leadership of the Secretary General, and with guidance from Member States in particular within the C-34. We are encouraged that the renewed joint commitment to strengthen the momentum for pursuing progress in peacekeeping yielded tangible improvements and additional positive developments.
14. Among these positive developments is the consecration of the practice introduced in 2020 within the C-34, consisting on providing a limited number of focused recommendations based on the 08 thematic chapters of the Secretary General's Action for Peacekeeping initiative and laid out in a short, user friendly and action-oriented report. We reiterate our support to the C-34 in its significant role as the only intergovernmental body of the General Assembly mandated to review the whole question of peacekeeping in all its aspects and provide the Secretariat with clear guidance to that end.
15. We take note of the A4P+ action plan, which reflects the renewed focus on developing concrete deliverables to strengthen the implementation of the A4P initiative. We recall and emphasize on the Secretariat and Member States shared responsibility to work together, in a collaborative approach, in order to identify ways to enhance the effectiveness and coherence of peacekeeping and sustain political attention towards this endeavor, including through the implementation of A4P+ priorities.
16. We are of the view that advancing A4P+, and consequently the overall performance of peacekeeping operations, needs to take into account all political and operational aspects of the matter including: well-defined, realistic and achievable mandates matched with adequate resources, political will, leadership, performance and accountability at all levels, eliminating caveats given their detrimental impact on mandate implementation and performance. We also urge Member States to fulfill their financial contribution in full, on time, and without conditions, and the Secretariat to settle any outstanding reimbursements for the Troop and Police Contributing Countries without delay.
17. We view the upcoming Seoul Ministerial Conference on UN Peacekeeping and its preparatory process as a timely opportunity in this regard, and welcome this additional occasion for Member States to make tangible commitments to overcome the operational challenges facing peacekeeping. Our objective remains that UN peacekeeping operations benefit from well trained, adequately equipped and sufficiently supported personnel, as well as reinforced adaptability and enhanced capacities to operate in high-risk environments. We also welcome the announced thematic focus on technology.
18. NAM expresses its deep concern over the recent spike in attacks against peacekeepers and the increase in disinformation campaigns targeting UN peacekeeping operations, and urges all stakeholders to take necessary measures to improve the safety and security of peacekeepers to effectively implement their mandate, including by providing adequate resources. We trust that better situational awareness including through the responsible use



CHAIR OF THE COORDINATING BUREAU OF THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT



of technology in peace operations will complement the ongoing efforts in this regard. In this connection, we take note of the Strategy for the Digital Transformation of UN Peacekeeping and its intent to improve the situational awareness of peacekeeping missions and provide them with additional tools for conflict monitoring and analysis, while ensuring host state sovereignty and data privacy. Moreover, we call for a broader discussion on measures to improve safety and security of peacekeepers, including through the Group of Friends on Safety and Security of UN Peacekeepers.

19. Enhancing the impact of peacekeeping operations on peacebuilding and sustaining peace, remains a key pillar of A4P and deserves to receive the requisite attention throughout the lifecycle of operations. In this context, NAM commends the Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission for convening a meeting on that issue earlier this year.
20. NAM recognizes the indispensable role of women in UN peacekeeping and supports the efforts towards increasing their participation in peacekeeping operations. We call on all stakeholders to take the necessary measures to achieve greater representation of women, beginning with identification of specific needs and incentives, and preparation of adapted facilities, including through the implementation of UNSC Resolution 2538.
21. Finally, we seize this opportunity to pay a heartfelt tribute to all civilian and uniformed personnel serving under the UN flag, especially during the particularly trying times due to the Covid-19 pandemic. We commend their sustained selfless commitment and dedication towards providing the necessary and instrumental support to lasting political solutions to crisis and conflicts.

Madam Chair,

I will conclude with a few words on the Special Political Missions.

22. We recognize the valuable role played by the Special Political Missions on a wide range of issues, including conflict prevention, mediation, good offices and peacebuilding. We emphasize the importance of the principle of national ownership in peacebuilding efforts and call for SPMs to enhance coordination with their respective host country. We remain committed to supporting all efforts aimed at achieving the effectiveness of Special Political Missions, including by reiterating our call that SPM's be financed through the same criteria, methodology and mechanisms used to fund peacekeeping operations.

I thank you.