



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



**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF
AZERBAIJAN, ON BEHALF OF THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT
(NAM), UNDER AGENDA ITEM 55, ENTITLED “REPORT OF THE
SPECIAL COMMITTEE TO INVESTIGATE ISRAELI PRACTICES AND
SETTLEMENT ACTIVITIES AFFECTING THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF
THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE AND OTHER ARABS OF THE OCCUPIED
TERRITORIES”, WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE FOURTH
COMMITTEE OF THE 76TH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS
GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

New York, October/November 2021

Madam Chair,

1. The Republic of Azerbaijan is honored to submit this statement on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.
2. At the outset, allow us to express our gratitude to the Chair of the Special Committee and to its other members for their much valuable efforts, as well as for the comprehensive report contained in document A/76/360, of which we have taken note of, including the very concrete and important recommendations contained therein. We also thank the Secretary-General for the important reports he has submitted under this item, and thank the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights for the assistance in this regard.

Madam Chair,

3. The Non-Aligned Movement deeply regrets that the inquiries of the Special Committee continue to yield negative results. The report provides details on the worsening human rights situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including in East Jerusalem, as well as in the Occupied Syrian Golan. It describes the dire humanitarian crisis in the Gaza Strip, including as a result of the illegal Israeli blockade that has been in place for over fourteen years. The deplorable human rights situation and humanitarian crisis that Palestinian people endure under Israeli occupation has also been thoroughly documented in reports of other UN agencies on the ground and the UN Country Team. Thus, the Movement reiterates its deep concern that Israel, the occupying Power, refused yet again to recognize and cooperate with the Special Committee, preventing it from observing the human rights situation on the ground firsthand, holding consultations with the relevant Israeli authorities, and denying access to victims in the Occupied Palestinian Territory and other Occupied Territories, as called for by its General Assembly mandate.



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4. The Member States of the Movement condemn, in particular, Israel's continuing settlement activities throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including in and around Occupied East Jerusalem, as well as in the Occupied Syrian Golan. The Special Committee has been reporting on such illegal activities now for decades and, despite the calls of the international community, Israel, the occupying Power, persists with total impunity. These measures and activities are illegal under international law, including under the provisions of UN Security Council resolution 2334 (2016); they constitute grave breaches of international law and must be completely and immediately ceased.
5. Such activities also remain at the root of the numerous human rights violations being perpetrated by the occupying Power and thus constitute the main obstacle to peace and directly threaten the viability of the two-State solution based on the pre-1967 borders. In this regard, the Movement strongly condemns Israel's de facto annexation of Occupied East Jerusalem and its threats to annex more Palestinian land and calls for an immediate end of all such illegal policies and measures and for respect of the Charter and all relevant provisions of international law and UN resolutions.
6. Regrettably, despite the vast UN legislation on this issue and the repeated demands for Israel's respect of international law, such violations by the occupying Power continue unabated, including the killing and injury of Palestinian civilians, particularly in the context of demonstrations in the Gaza Strip; expansion of settlements and the wall and related infrastructure; demolition of homes and the confiscation of land and property; exploitation of natural resources; forced displacement and threat of forced transfer of Palestinian civilians, including in particular Bedouin communities; severe restrictions on movement; revocation of residency rights in Occupied East Jerusalem; arrest and administrative detention of Palestinian civilians, including children; incessant violence and excessive use of force, terror and provocations by Israeli settlers, extremists, and security forces, including at the holy sites in Occupied East Jerusalem, particularly at Al-Haram Al-Sharif; obstruction of humanitarian access and attacks on medical personnel and destruction of humanitarian aid; discrimination and lack of accountability in the justice system; and other measures of collective punishment. The result has been the grave deterioration of conditions on the ground, immense human suffering, further destabilization, and obstruction of all efforts to resume a political process to justly resolve the Palestine question and end the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Madam Chair,

7. The escalation of these illegal practices of colonization constitute clear contempt of the global calls for Israel's compliance with the norms and principles of the international law, as well as relevant United Nations General Assembly and Security Council resolutions,



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including resolution 2334 (2016) and the demand for the cessation of all such illegal policies and practices. It is high time to end this illegal Israeli occupation.

8. The Report stipulates that while affecting every aspect of life, Israel's policies and practices violate fundamental human rights and the dignity of the Palestinian people and other Arabs living under its occupation. In this regard, the Non-Aligned Movement reiterates its serious concern over the disturbing findings of the report, particularly regarding almost daily military incursions and raids by the Israeli occupying forces and excessive use of force directed also against Palestinian youth and peaceful protesters in the Gaza Strip and in many parts of the West Bank, including East Jerusalem and conducted in and around densely-populated Palestine refugee camps.
9. The Movement further expresses its great concern about the dire humanitarian crisis in the Gaza Strip, as a result of the illegal Israeli blockade, and the destructive impact of successive military aggressions. This situation constitutes a grave violation of the international humanitarian and human rights law and requires immediate attention. Urgent efforts are needed to alleviate the suffering and hardships of the Palestinian civilian population in Gaza, including those who remain internally displaced and suffering from food insecurity, loss of livelihoods and widespread poverty, and to reverse the severe de-development trajectory there. The Movement calls again for acceleration of long-delayed reconstruction and economic recovery, while stressing the important role of UNRWA in providing essential assistance to the refugees in Gaza and reiterating the call for strong political and financial support for its mandate, as well as its humanitarian and development efforts.
10. Moreover, the Movement once again calls upon Israel to promptly and unconditionally end its illegal blockade of Gaza and open all crossing points in accordance with the international humanitarian law and all relevant UN resolutions, including Security Council resolution 1860 (2009).

Madam Chair,

11. During the reporting period, Israeli settler violence and incitement continued to cause casualties among Palestinian civilians, destructions of property and hence was reported to be a factor that forced Palestinians off their land. Harassment, intimidation and attacks, many constituting terror, committed by Israeli settlers against Palestinian civilians, including women and children, continue unabatedly. The transfer of Israeli settlers and other illegal settlement activities continue to undermine the contiguity of the Palestinian land and the viability of the Palestinian State, imperiling the two-State solution on the pre-1967 borders. These actions violate the inalienable right of the Palestinian people to self-determination and independence, as well as their social, cultural and religious rights.



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12. At the same time, the occupying Power continues to use so-called “legal” and “administrative” measures to expand its control and advance its attempts to *de facto* annex more Palestinian territory, including the declaration of areas as “State land”, the seizure of land for archaeological excavations, the creation of “national parks” and the development of tourist attractions entrenching the occupation in the Palestinian land, as well as the imposition of other illegitimate schemes and measures, especially in and around Occupied East Jerusalem and the Jordan Valley.
13. In this connection, the Non-Aligned Movement strongly condemns the illegal confiscation of land and exploitation of the natural resources of Palestine by the occupying Power, which deliberately denies Palestinians right to permanent sovereignty over their natural resources, their right to development, and perpetuates their state of dependence regarding, among others, water and energy resources.
14. The Movement thus reiterates its call for urgent action and practical measures by the international community, in particular by the Security Council, to compel the occupying Power to abide with all of its obligations under the international law, including the 1949 Fourth Geneva Convention, the relevant UN resolutions, and the ICJ Advisory Opinion. It is urgent to uphold international law in order to alleviate the human rights and protection crisis prevailing in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem; to avert further human suffering and ensure protection of the civilian population; to stop the further destabilization of the situation on the ground; and to salvage the prospects for peace, on the basis of the two-State solution.
15. In this context, the Member States of the Movement reiterate their grave concern about the lack of accountability for all the violations committed by Israel, which 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. In this regard, we also stress the importance of the 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.

Madam Chair,

16. Now, turning to the Syrian Golan, the Non-Aligned Movement reaffirms once again that all unlawful actions by Israel, the Occupying Power, since 1967, including discriminatory and illegal policies towards the Syrian population; the continued deployment of



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landmines and the presence of Israeli army bases in and around Syrian residential and civilian areas; the construction and expansion of settlements; and recent attempts of Israel to exercise sovereignty over the occupied Syrian Golan constitute a clear violation of international law, the UN Charter and relevant resolutions, including Security Council resolution 497 (1981), and the 1949 Fourth Geneva Convention,. In this regard, the Movement demands that Israel abides by resolution 497, and withdraw completely from the Occupied Syrian Golan to the borders of 4 June 1967.

17. Members of the Non-Aligned Movement reiterate its 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.
18. Lastly, 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 achieving 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 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).

I thank you, Madam Chair.