



**CHAIR
NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT
GENEVA CHAPTER**



**UN Human Rights Council
48th Session**

**General debate on Agenda Item 7
Human Rights situation in Palestine and other occupied Arab territories**

Draft Statement

By Permanent Mission of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the UN Office and other International Organisations in Geneva on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement

Geneva, 01 October 2021

Madam President,

1. I have the honour to deliver this statement on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM).
2. Referring to the 30th session of the Human Rights Council on the grave human rights situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem and recalling the relevant decisions of the Ministerial and Summit meetings, as well as declarations of the Non-Aligned Movement, including the Communiqué issued on 13 May 2021, the Movement calls for scrupulous respect by Israel, the occupying Power, of international law, including humanitarian and human rights law, in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem.
3. For many years, the Non-Aligned Movement has maintained a firm position of solidarity with the Palestinian people and their just cause, and the condemnation of massive, flagrant and systematic violations of human rights and of international humanitarian law committed by Israel.
4. The NAM also underscores the need to continue providing political, economic and humanitarian support to assist the Palestinian people and to bolster their resilience and efforts aimed at achieving their legitimate national aspirations, including their inalienable right to self-determination and freedom in their independent State of Palestine.
5. We recognize and commend the efforts of the United Nations and its agencies and particularly the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) and the Committee of Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People. The Movement encourages continuation of their support. The NAM takes note with appreciation of the report of the Secretary General presented to the 43rd Session of the HRC on the Israeli settlements in the occupied Syrian Golan.

6. The NAM expresses its grave concern at the continuing Israeli settlement policy and related activities, including the expansion of settlements, the expropriation of land, the demolition of houses, and the confiscation and destruction of property, which has changed the physical character and demographic composition of the occupied territories and the occupied Syrian Golan.

7. The General Assembly, the Security Council and the Human Rights Council have all confirmed that the construction and expansion of Israeli settlements and other related activities in the Occupied Palestinian Territory and the occupied Syrian Golan are illegal under international law. The NAM is also deeply concerned over numerous UN official reports, particularly by the recent report of the Secretary General, which have reaffirmed the continued human rights violations of the Palestinian people by Israeli force, throughout the occupied state of Palestine.

8. In this regard, the NAM urges the international community to exert its pressure in order to cease immediately the continuation of this illegal trend by Israel which is a blatant violation of International law.

9. Furthermore, the NAM strongly believes that Israel as the occupying power, has to be held accountable for its continued grave and systematic violations of both international human rights law and international humanitarian law in all Occupied Arab Territories, including the occupied Syrian Golan.

10. The NAM emphasizes that Israel as the occupying power, should immediately release all Palestinian prisoners, particularly children and women. It should also cease serious violations of international law and fully lift the blockade of Gaza to remedy the ongoing punitive measures against civilian population and release Palestinian children in detention in accordance with international standards, in particular the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

11. In conclusion, the NAM extends its full support to the Government of the State of Palestine in its ongoing efforts to put an end to the occupation of the land of the State of Palestine and realize the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people.

Thank you.