



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), DURING THE CONSIDERATION OF AGENDA ITEM 72, ENTITLED “REPORT OF THE INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE”

New York, 30 October 2019

Mr. President,

1. It is an honor for the Republic of Azerbaijan to take the floor on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), in connection with the consideration of agenda item 72, entitled “Report of the International Court of Justice”, to which we attach great importance.
2. At the outset, allow us to thank the President of the ICJ for his presentation of the report to the General Assembly on the activities of the International Court between 01 August 2018 and 31 July 2019, as requested by this body last year and contained in document A/74/4, of which we have taken due note.

Mr. President,

3. The Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) reaffirms and underscores its principled positions concerning the peaceful settlement of disputes and the non-use or threat of use of force. In this context, the ICJ has a significant role in promoting and encouraging the settlement of international disputes by peaceful means, as reflected in the Charter of the United Nations, and in such a manner that international peace and security, as well as justice, are not endangered.
4. Moreover, the Member States of the Movement have agreed to advance their endeavors aimed at generating further progress to achieve full respect for international law and, in this regard, commend the role of the ICJ in promoting the peaceful settlement of international disputes, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the UN Charter and the Statute of the Court, in particular, Articles 33 and 94 of the Charter.
5. Noting the fact that the Security Council has not sought any advisory opinion from the International Court since 1970, the Non-Aligned Movement urges the Security Council to make greater use of the ICJ, the principal judicial organ of the United Nations, as a source of advisory opinions and interpretation of international law.
6. In this connection, at the Ministerial Meeting of the Coordinating Bureau of the Non-Aligned Movement, held in July 2019, in Caracas, Venezuela, the Ministers of the Movement decided to encourage those in a position to do so to make greater use of the ICJ and to consider conducting consultations among the Member States of the Movement, as and when appropriate, with a view to requesting Advisory Opinions of the ICJ, including, when appropriate, on cases in which unilateral coercive measures that are not authorized by relevant organs of the United Nations and that are inconsistent with the principles of international law or the Charter of the United Nations, may undermine international peace and security.



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Mr. President,

7. The Non-Aligned Movement seizes this opportunity to also invite the General Assembly, other organs of the United Nations and the specialized agencies duly authorized, to request advisory opinions of the ICJ on legal questions arising within the scope of their activities.

8. Moreover, the Member States of the Movement reaffirm the importance of the ICJ advisory opinion issued on 8 July 1996 on the “Legality of the Threat or Use of Nuclear Weapons”. On this, the ICJ concluded unanimously that there exists an obligation to pursue in good faith, and bring to a conclusion, negotiations leading to nuclear disarmament in all aspects under strict and effective international control.

9. To conclude, we continue to call on Israel, the occupying Power, to fully respect the 9 July 2004 ICJ advisory opinion entitled "Legal Consequences of the Construction of a Wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory", and we call upon all States to respect and ensure respect for the provisions therein for the realization of the end of the Israeli occupation that began in 1967 and the independence of the State of Palestine with East Jerusalem as its capital.

I thank you, Mr. President.