



**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 74, ENTITLED “REPORT OF THE
INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE”**

New York, 29 October 2020

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 74, 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 International Court of Justice for his presentation of the report to the General Assembly on the activities of the International Court between 1 August 2019 and 31 July 2020, as requested by this body last year and contained in document A/75/4, of which we have taken due note.

Mr. President,

3. The Non-Aligned Movement reaffirms and underscores its principled positions concerning the peaceful settlement of disputes and the non-use or threat of use of force. In that context, the International Court of Justice 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. At their eighteenth Summit, held in October 2019 in Baku, Azerbaijan, the Heads of State and Government of the Non-Aligned Movement agreed to endeavor generating further progress to achieve full respect for international law and, in this regard, commend the role of the International Court of Justice in promoting the peaceful settlement of international disputes in accordance with the relevant provisions of the United Nations 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 Court, the principal judicial organ of the United Nations, as a source of advisory opinions and interpretation of international law.
6. In this regard, 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



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to encourage those in a position to do so to make greater use of the International Court of Justice and to consider conducting consultations among the States Members of the Movement, as and when appropriate, with a view to requesting advisory opinions of the Court, including, in cases in which unilateral coercive measures that are not authorized by relevant organs of the United Nations and are inconsistent with the principles of international law or the Charter of the United Nations may undermine international peace and security.

Mr. President,

7. The Non-Aligned Movement takes this opportunity to invite the General Assembly, and other organs of the United Nations and specialized agencies that are duly authorized by the General Assembly, to request advisory opinions of the International Court of Justice on legal questions arising within the scope of their activities.
8. Moreover, the States Members of the Movement reaffirm the importance of the Court's advisory opinion issued on 8 July 1996 on the Legality of the threat or use of nuclear weapons (A/51/218, annex). In this matter, the International Court of Justice 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 advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on the Legal consequences of the construction of a wall in the occupied Palestinian territory (A/ES-10/273). 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.

Thank you.