



18th Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Non-Aligned Movement

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25-26 October 2019

POLITICAL DECLARATION OF THE MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE OF THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT (NAM) ON PALESTINE

1. The Ministers of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) Committee on Palestine met on 23 October 2019, in Baku, Republic of Azerbaijan, on the sidelines of the XVIII Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Movement.
2. The Ministers underscored the urgent need to address recent critical political developments and the continued deterioration of the situation on the ground, which are dangerously undermining the inalienable rights and legitimate national aspirations of the Palestinian people and the prospects for the realization of a peaceful and just solution for the question of Palestine.
3. The Ministers *reaffirmed* their full commitment to the principles and positions regarding the question of Palestine adopted in previous Declarations by the Committee, including, most recently, the Ministerial Declaration adopted on 20 July 2019 in Caracas, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, on the margins of the Ministerial Meeting of the Coordinating Bureau of the Movement. They also recalled the positions affirmed by past Ministerial Meetings and Summits of the Movement regarding the question of Palestine, and *reaffirmed* their abiding solidarity with the Palestinian People and unwavering support for their just cause.
4. The Ministers *stressed* that a just, lasting solution to the question of Palestine in all its aspects must remain a priority on the Movement's agenda and remains also a permanent responsibility of the United Nations until it is satisfactorily resolved in all aspects in accordance with international law and the relevant United Nations resolutions. Hence, the Ministers *appealed* to the Members of the Movement, to renew their commitment and further strengthen and coordinate their efforts to promote the realization of justice and the inalienable rights of the Palestinian People, including to self-determination and independence. They stressed the importance and urgency of action in this regard, including in support of United Nations resolutions and programmes of support to the Palestinian people, including support to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), underscoring the sensitive juncture of their plight and extreme challenges being faced after more than 52 years of the illegal Israeli foreign

occupation of their land and escalating threats of annexation, as well as the passage of more than 71 years since the tragic *Nakba* of the Palestinian people in May 1948.

5. The Ministers reaffirmed that supporting the realization of the Palestinian people's inalienable rights to self-determination, independence, statehood and sovereignty, in line with international law and relevant United Nations resolutions, is central to fulfilling the historic international commitments and responsibilities vis-à-vis the Palestine question and to preserving the rights-based international system and rules-based international order that are being threatened by serious challenges and attempts to undermine them.
6. The Ministers, in solidarity, *reaffirmed* their support to the initiatives of the State of Palestine at the UN, including the resolutions on the Question of Palestine that are annually presented within the various Committees of the UN General Assembly, and to act forthwith to coordinate positions to foster and mobilize the support of Member States. In this connection, they *welcomed* the State of Palestine's Chairmanship of the G77 and China for the year 2019 and reaffirmed their support for this important undertaking.
7. The Ministers *stressed also* the importance of the unity and support of the Member States of the NAM Caucus in the Security Council. They *reiterated* their call for support for the peace proposal presented by H.E. President Mahmoud Abbas to the Security Council on 20 February 2018, and strongly *supported* his call for an international peace conference based on the longstanding parameters and terms of reference of the peace process, within a defined timeframe and in accordance with the relevant United Nations resolutions, including Security Council resolution 2334 (2016), and the Arab Peace Initiative, and called for active efforts and coordination to advance this initiative. They stressed that a peaceful solution to the question of Palestine is central for establishing peace and stability in the Middle East and globally.
8. The Ministers *stressed* the need for urgent mobilization and exertion of multilateral efforts to alleviate the humanitarian and socio-economic hardships being endured by the Palestinian people; to bring a halt to the grave violations of international law being perpetrated by Israel, the occupying Power, in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem; and to advance the achievement, without delay, an end to the Israeli occupation that began in 1967 and a just, comprehensive, lasting and peaceful solution to the question of Palestine on the basis of the relevant UN resolutions. They *expressed grave concern* that the lack of accountability for violations has further emboldened Israel's impunity, destabilized the situation on the ground, and diminished peace prospects, and *deplored* any support to or cooperation with Israel's illegal actions and impunity.
9. The Ministers *reaffirmed* their readiness to contribute to the achievement of a just and peaceful solution, and urged the intensification of international and regional efforts for this objective, as called for by Security Council resolution 2334 (2016). They *recalled* in particular the responsibilities of the Security Council and the General Assembly, in accordance with the Charter and relevant resolutions.
10. The Ministers *called* for the urgent provision of political, economic and humanitarian support to assist the Palestinian People and support their efforts to realize their inalienable rights, including to self-determination and freedom in their independent State of Palestine, with East Jerusalem as its capital, on the basis of the pre-1967 borders and a just solution for the Palestine refugees, based on General Assembly resolution 194 (III), and to achieve genuine peace, security and coexistence. They *reaffirmed* their longstanding commitment and firm resolve to ensure support in this regard.

11. The Ministers *reaffirmed* their grave concerns regarding the deterioration of the situation and *stressed the need* for urgent action to mobilize the international community, including the Security Council, in accordance with its Charter duties, to compel Israel, the occupying Power, to cease completely all illegal settlement activities in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem; the demolition of Palestinian homes and properties and forced displacement of Palestinian civilians; all acts of violence, provocation and incitement, including at Al-Haram Al-Sharif; its more than decade-long blockade of the Gaza Strip; its arrest of Palestinians and abuse of Palestinian prisoners, including children; all measures of collective punishment against the Palestinian civilian population; and all other illegal practices and human rights violations.
12. The Ministers *expressed deep concern* about the impact of the continued absence of a credible political horizon for justly resolving the conflict and realizing the rights of the Palestinian People. They *deeply deplored* Israel's continuing intransigence and obstruction of peace efforts and entrenchment of its more than fifty-two-year military occupation via various illegal schemes and measures in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem – the territory that constitutes the State of Palestine. They *strongly condemned* the recent provocative declarations by Israeli officials threatening to annex parts or all of the Occupied Palestinian Territory in grave violation of the prohibition on the acquisition of territory by force, and *called upon* all States to stand in firm rejection of such illegal actions and to pursue measures of accountability to deter the occupying Power and to compel its compliance with international law.
13. The Ministers *expressed grave concern* about the consequent human rights crisis and protection crisis being deliberately inflicted on the Palestinian People, and the deepening insecurity and humanitarian and socio-economic suffering they are enduring, particularly in the Gaza Strip where conditions are extremely dire. They *strongly condemned* Israel's military attacks against the civilian population in the besieged Gaza Strip, in grave breach of international law, including international humanitarian and human rights law and the relevant provisions on the protection of civilians in armed conflict. The Ministers *condemned* the crimes committed by the occupying Power against innocent Palestinian civilians during the "Great Return March" protests against Israel's illegal occupation, oppression and dispossession of the Palestinian people and calling for the lifting of the Israeli blockade and for realization of the Palestinian right of return. They *deplored* the killing by the Israeli occupying forces of more than 300 Palestinians, including children, and the injury of more than 30,000 people, many gravely wounded and permanently disabled, including more than 120 amputations.
14. The Ministers *expressed deep regret* about the continuing failure to provide protection for the Palestinian people in accordance with international humanitarian law and the relevant UN resolutions, including General Assembly resolution ES-10/20, and with due consideration for the proposals made by the Secretary-General in his recent report (A/ES-10/794) for providing international protection and the important recommendations made by the Independent International Commission of Inquiry of the Human Rights Council in the report on the protests in the Occupied Palestinian Territory (A/HRC/40/74). They *reiterated* their call for protection to deter violence against civilians and ensure the safety, well-being and protection of the Palestinian civilian population, and *committed* to supporting Palestine in all of its efforts to follow-up on these important reports.
15. The Ministers *called for urgent efforts* by States, individually and collectively, by all political, diplomatic and legal means, to hold Israel, the occupying Power, accountable for all of its violations in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, including its illegal colonization measures and its grave human rights violations. They *stressed* the need for consequences for Israel's ongoing violations and blatant contempt of

the Security Council and General Assembly and the relevant resolutions. The Member States of the Committee that are Party to the Rome Statute also *affirmed* the importance of the International Criminal Court (ICC) for addressing the war crimes and crimes against humanity being committed by Israel against the Palestinian people, and *emphasized* the centrality of justice in bringing an end to such crimes and impunity.

16. The Ministers *reiterated* their call on all countries that have not recognized the State of Palestine to do so forthwith as an expression of their sincere commitment to peace based on the two-State solution on the pre-1967 borders and their respect for international law and legality in accordance with the relevant United Nations resolutions. They *expressed* support for the State of Palestine's outreach efforts in this regard, and stressed the importance of, achieving further recognition in the current period as a contribution to protecting the rights of the Palestinian people, preserving the two-State solution and salvaging peace prospects.
17. The Ministers *called* on countries that have recognized the State of Palestine to publicly reaffirm that East Jerusalem is the capital of the State of Palestine. The Ministers also *called* on States having relations with Israel to explicitly clarify that their recognition of diplomatic relations with Israel are on the basis of the pre-1967 borders, and that no Israeli sovereignty is recognized over the 1967 line (1949 Armistice Line), including in regards to Occupied East Jerusalem. They *stressed* that this too would be in line with their obligations under resolution 2334 (2016), specifically operative paragraphs 3 and 5 regarding non-recognition of any changes to the 1967 lines, including with regard to Jerusalem, and *calling on* all States to make this distinction in their dealings with Israel, the occupying Power. They *urged* serious action, individually and collectively, to respect and implement this obligation.
18. The Ministers *recalled* the Communiqué issued on 06 December 2017 by the Coordinating Bureau of the Movement in which it *strongly denounced* the provocative and unilateral decision by the US Government on Jerusalem and the official move of the US Embassy from Israel to the City of Jerusalem on 14 May 2018, in contravention of international law, relevant United Nations resolutions and the Charter's prohibition of the acquisition of territory by force. They *denounced* similar decisions made by other States and called for a halt to such unlawful and provocative actions and for respect of the relevant UN resolutions and the Charter, stressing in particular the imperative of adherence by States Members of the Movement in respect of international law and the principles, positions and solidarity of the Movement.
19. In this connection, the Ministers also *recalled* the adoption of General Assembly resolution ES-10/19 on 21 December 2017, reaffirming relevant resolutions; reiterating the call upon all States to refrain from establishing diplomatic missions in the Holy City of Jerusalem, pursuant to resolution 478 (1980) of the Security Council; and stressing that Jerusalem is a final status issue to be resolved through negotiations in line with relevant UN resolutions. The Ministers also *acknowledged* and *welcomed* the decision of the Government of Paraguay to reverse its decision to move its Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem.
20. The Ministers *expressed deep regret* that such illegal decisions and actions by the US have emboldened Israel, the occupying Power, to continue its pursuit of its illegal policies and practices to further consolidate its control and unlawful *de facto* annexation of the City. They *strongly cautioned* that such actions will have far-reaching, negative and destabilizing repercussions. In this regard, the Ministers *strongly deplored* the continuation of Israel's colonization activities in all manifestations, including, *inter alia*, expansion and construction of settlements and the Wall; the forced displacement of thousands more Palestinians, including Bedouin families and particularly in the areas of Occupied East

Jerusalem and the Jordan Valley, including in the sensitive so-called “E-1” area; the confiscation of huge tracts of Palestinian land; the exploitation and theft of natural resources; the destruction of hundreds more Palestinian homes and properties and the revocation of Palestinian residency in Occupied East Jerusalem.

21. The Ministers *deplored* and *called* for cessation of all violations, provocations and incitement by Israeli officials and extremists in regards to Al-Haram Al-Sharif. They called for full respect for the historic status quo at the holy site and for the Hashemite historic custodianship exercised by his majesty king Abdullah II ibn al Hussein for the christian and muslim holy sites in the city and for the protection of the sanctity of the holy sites.
22. The Ministers *condemned* Israel’s illegal annexation plans. They *called on* all States to reject such provocative declarations and *called for* robust action to uphold international law, protect the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people and salvage the chances for a just peace. They *stressed* the urgent need for the full implementation of the relevant resolutions, including accountability for all violations by the occupying Power. The Ministers also *condemned* and *rejected* the adoption of the so-called “Nation State Law” by the occupying Power, which explicitly endorses apartheid and ethnic discrimination against Palestinian citizens of Israel and Palestinian residents of Jerusalem, but also aims to intensify Israel’s colonization, segregation and discrimination regime in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem.
23. The Ministers *reiterated* the urgency of providing support to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), following the punitive and unjustified decision of the US Government to terminate its funding and its ongoing negative campaign against the Agency. They *denounced* this decision, which not only targets the most vulnerable segment of Palestinian people by undermining the provision of vital humanitarian and development assistance to more than 5.4 million refugees, but also threatens the entire region’s stability. They called on all States to strongly support the Mandate of UNRWA and its renewal by the General Assembly this year. They also called for increased funding to the Agency to ensure the uninterrupted provision of assistance to the Palestine refugees in all fields of operation and to ensure a dignified life for them and their families, pending a just solution to their plight in accordance with General Assembly resolution 194 (III) and the Arab Peace Initiative. They *reaffirmed* that UNRWA’s assistance is crucial for the protection, well-being and social resilience of the refugees and for the stability of these communities and their host countries, which is equally essential for preserving the prospects for peace and fostering its realization.
24. They reiterated their commendation of the support extended by several NAM Member States in support of UNRWA and urged continued, and where possible, increased support for the Agency in light of the severe and recurrent funding crisis that continues to be faced by UNRWA and the urgent appeals made by the Commissioner-General at the Pledging Conference held on 25 June 2019. They *stressed* that such mobilization is a critical component of the efforts aimed at providing the Palestinian people with the necessary humanitarian, socio-economic and development assistance to alleviate the dire humanitarian situation that they continue to endure, including under the Israeli occupation, particularly in the Gaza Strip, and to support and strengthen their national capacity.
25. The Ministers *urged* continued assistance to support Palestinian economic recovery and development, including for strengthening State institutions and infrastructure, in line with the national priorities and development plans of the Palestinian people. They *called on* Israel to cease its obstructive and unlawful practices harming Palestinian socio-economic recovery and development, and called in particular for the immediate lifting of the Israeli blockade of the Gaza Strip and an end to the punitive withholding of Palestinian

tax revenues. They *pledged* support to efforts to address the Palestinian economic crisis, and called on the Movement's Members to do their utmost to provide assistance. They *commended* the many initiatives of humanitarian and developmental support by Members in this regard, and *urged* their continuing generosity, including in the framework of South-South cooperation.

26. The Ministers *expressed their appreciation* for the unwavering and personal commitment of H.E. Mr. Nicolás Maduro Moros, President of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, during his tenure as Chair of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) (2016-2019), in upholding and advancing the Movement's positions concerning Palestine.
27. The Ministers *called for* the redoubling of international efforts, at the governmental, inter-governmental and non-governmental levels, to realize these noble objectives as rapidly as possible, stressing that a peaceful solution to the question of Palestine is central for establishing peace and stability in the Middle East. They called for the follow-up and implementation of all proposed measures adopted in past Ministerial Declarations, Ministerial Meetings and Summits of the Movement regarding the question of Palestine, with a view to countering the recent negative and dangerous developments, enhancing solidarity with the Palestinian people and their leadership at this critical time, and salvaging the prospects for a just and peaceful solution.
28. The Ministers *pledged* to remain in constant contact and coordination, in order to uphold the principles and positions declared herein in support of a just, lasting, comprehensive and peaceful solution to the question of Palestine, and its attainment without delay, and in solidarity with the Palestinian People at this critical moment.

Baku, 23 October 2019