



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



**STATEMENT TO BE SUBMITTED  
BY THE DELEGATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN  
ON BEHALF OF THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT  
QUARTERLY OPEN DEBATE OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL ON “THE SITUATION  
IN THE MIDDLE EAST, INCLUDING THE PALESTINIAN QUESTION”**

*New York, 26 January 2021*

**Mr. President,**

1. I have the honor to deliver this statement at the quarterly open debate on the Situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian Question on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.
2. The question of Palestine has historically been an issue of concern and vital importance to the Movement and it is with deep regret that we witness the passing of yet another year without resolution to this injustice. Constituting a matter of international peace and security and also being the cornerstone for peace in the Middle East region, the situation there remains critical and unsustainable and thus continues to require priority attention by the international community.

**Mr. President,**

3. Looking back, figures from 2020 are appalling: In the Gaza, 49 Palestinian, including 13 children and 3 women, were killed by Israeli occupying forces as a result of air strikes and during demonstrations, clashes, military operations and other incidents. 2,940 Palestinians were injured, including some 434 Palestinians by live ammunition. In the occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem: 22 Palestinians were shot and killed, including 1 woman, and 3,802 Palestinians were injured, including 801 children. In 2020, it was documented that the Israeli occupying authorities demolished or seized 593 structures in the occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem, resulting in the displacement of 687 people, including 347 children and 177 women, and leaving about 18,860 others affected.
4. Reflecting on this dismal reality, the Non-Aligned Movement seizes this opportunity to reaffirm its abiding solidarity with the Palestinian people as they continue to endure this tragic injustice, its unwavering support for their inalienable rights, including to self-determination and its commitment to the alleviation of their plight and to the achievement of a just, lasting and peaceful solution to the question of Palestine in all aspects. That solution is well-known and must be in line with international law, relevant UN resolutions and the UN Charter itself. The tools provided by multilateral diplomacy are the way to achieve such a solution, which cannot be unilaterally, forcibly and unfairly



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imposed. It is high time to activate those tools in the service of justice and peace; this is the only way to bring an end to this conflict.

**Mr. President,**

5. The Security Council has been entrusted with clear responsibility to ensure the maintenance of international peace and security. Therefore, it must uphold its Charter duties and act to ensure implementation of its own resolutions, which not only comprise the foundation for a peaceful solution to the conflict, but are, on top of that, legally binding to all UN Member States. We are deeply concerned that this body has been for too long unable to fulfill its mandate on this important question. At this critical moment, this requires immediate action to hold Israel, the occupying Power, accountable for its violations. The absence of justice only fosters greater impunity and further destabilizes the situation on the ground, severely diminishing the prospects for peace.
6. The Member States of the Movement deplore the ongoing Israeli intransigence and illegal policies and measures that are greatly undermining the realization of a peaceful solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The Movement reiterates its grave concerns regarding the continued deterioration of the situation on the ground in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem and in particular the Gaza Strip, where the illegal and suffocating Israeli blockade has imposed a dire humanitarian situation and deplorable socio-economic conditions, which have only worsened in this time of global pandemic.
7. The Non-Aligned Movement continues to believe that Security Council resolution 2334 (2016) provides the most viable path to peace, setting forth the essential requirements and parameters for the achievement of the two-State solution on the pre-1967 borders, in respect of the longstanding terms of reference of peace endorsed by the international community, in accordance with the relevant United Nations resolutions, the Madrid principles, including the principle of land for peace, the Arab Peace Initiative and the Quartet Roadmap. Hence, we call for its full and effective implementation.
8. Israel must be compelled 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, provocations and incitement against Palestinian civilians, as well as other human rights violations, many of which may amount to war crimes. Israel must fully comply with its duties and responsibilities under international law, including its legal obligations under the Fourth Geneva Convention as the occupying Power. It must immediately cease all policies and measures aimed at the alteration of the demography, character, identity and legal status of the occupied territories, it also must respect the historic status quo at the holy sites in the Occupied East Jerusalem, including at Al-Haram Al-Sharif. The Non-Aligned Movement also reaffirms its support for Jordan in preserving and administrating the Islamic and Christian Holy sites in Jerusalem,



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including Al-Haram Al-Sharif, and the Hashemite Custodianship of the holy sites as exercised by His Majesty King Abdullah II ibn Al Hussein of Jordan.

9. The Non-Aligned Movement commends the efforts of His Majesty King Mohammed VI as Chair of Al-Quds Committee of the Organization of the Islamic Cooperation. The NAM welcomes the “Call for Al Quds/Jerusalem” signed in Rabat, on March 30<sup>th</sup> 2019, by His Majesty King Mohammed VI of Morocco and His Holiness Pope Francis to stress the important role of Al Quds/Jerusalem as a city of tolerance and mutual respect among the people of the three monotheistic religions and stressed the need to preserve its specificities and its features as a city of peaceful coexistence.
10. The Non-Aligned Movement demands once again that Israel abide by the United Nations Security Council resolution 497 (1981), and withdraw fully from the Occupied Syrian Golan to the borders of 4 June 1967, in implementation of Security Council resolutions 242 (1967) and 338 (1973). The Members of the Non-Aligned Movement condemn the statement made by the President of the United States of America on 21 March 2019 regarding the Occupied Syrian Golan, as well as the subsequent unilateral and arbitrary proclamation on "Recognizing the Golan Heights as part of Israel", and call upon the Security Council to shoulder its responsibility by clearly condemning this provocative statement and proclamation.
11. In the absence of a solution, the Member States of the Movement reiterate their call for the continued provision of the needed humanitarian and socio-economic assistance to the Palestinian people, including the Palestine refugees. The Movement expresses its deep appreciation for the invaluable work done and the essential assistance provided by UNRWA to the Palestine refugees and welcomes the extension of its mandate until 30 June 2023, and urges the necessary funding support for UNRWA at this crucial time.

**Mr. President,**

12. In conclusion, the Non-Aligned Movement reaffirms its abiding solidarity with the Palestinian people, as well as its unwavering support for their just cause, and renews its commitment to further strengthening and coordinating the international efforts to achieve a just, lasting, comprehensive and peaceful solution to the Question of Palestine in all its aspects, including for the plight of the Palestine refugees based on resolution 194 (III). We express our sincere hopes that this year will witness tangible progress in the heroic quest of the Palestinian people to attain justice and fulfill their inalienable rights and legitimate national aspirations, including their right to self-determination, freedom and independence in their sovereign and independent State of Palestine, with East Jerusalem as its capital.

I thank you, Mr. President.