



CHAIR OF THE COORDINATING BUREAU OF THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT



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 held a meeting on 22 June 2021 via video-conference.
2. The Ministers *considered with gravest concern* latest developments and the dangerous deterioration of the situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, they also mourned the loss of civilian lives, including many children and women, and expressed their solidarity with all victims and their families, as result of ongoing and escalating illegal policies and practices by Israel, the occupying Power.
3. The Ministers *condemned* in the strongest terms the acts of aggression by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people, including, *inter alia*, attacks on Palestinian worshippers at Al-Aqsa Mosque in occupied East Jerusalem; threats to expel hundreds of Palestinian families from their homes in occupied East Jerusalem; daily military raids and the detention and arrest of hundreds of Palestinians, including children, women and journalists; and the recent military airstrikes against the Gaza Strip, which resulted in the killing and injury of more than 270 Palestinians, including many children and women, the widespread destruction of homes and vital civilian infrastructure, including health care and water and sanitation facilities, and the displacement of more than 77,000 Palestinians, deepening vulnerability and humanitarian needs in a time of global pandemic and exacerbating the dire socio-economic conditions caused by the 14-year illegal Israeli blockade of the Gaza Strip.
4. The Ministers *underscored* that such provocative, illegal actions by Israel, the occupying Power, will further aggravate already-high tensions, with far-reaching de-stabilization and repercussions. The Ministers *demanded* an immediate halt to all acts of violence, provocation and incitement, including by extremist Israeli settlers, and *called* 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. They called for urgent measures to ensure the protection of the Palestinian civilian population in accordance with international law.
5. The Ministers stressed the need for full respect of the ceasefire announced on 21 May 2021, and expressed their deep concern at the repeated breaches by Israel, the occupying Power, including military airstrikes against the besieged Gaza Strip and both continued provocations and illegal actions in occupied East Jerusalem, particularly at Al-Aqsa Mosque/Al-Haram Al-Sharif. They called for a complete and immediate end to Israel's systematic aggression, policy of apartheid and cruel violence against the Palestinian people, as well as for a halt to its continued



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violations of international law in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, while stressing that this is fundamental for fostering the resumption of meaningful political dialogue and credible negotiations and for the ultimate achievement of a just and comprehensive peace, based on the vision of a region where two independent and sovereign States, Israel and Palestine, live side by side in peace, with secure and recognized borders, on the basis of pre-1967 borders, and in accordance with international law and relevant UN resolutions.

6. The Ministers *recalled* the many relevant United Nations resolutions, including of the Security Council, General Assembly and Human Rights Council, as well as the 2004 Advisory Opinion of the International Court of Justice, and called for their full respect and immediate collective efforts to implement the obligations and provisions therein aimed at upholding international law and contributing to the international efforts to bring an end to the Israeli occupation that began in 1967 and realize a comprehensive, just and lasting solution and peace and security in the Middle East.

7. 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 23 October 2019 in Baku, Republic of Azerbaijan, on the sidelines of the XVIII Summit of Heads of State and Government 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.

8. The Ministers *reiterated* 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.

9. 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-a-vis the Palestine question.



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10. 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. The Ministers *stressed also* the importance of the unity and support and active engagement of the Member States of the NAM Caucus in the Security Council.

11. The Ministers *reiterated* the demand for the cessation of all Israeli policies and measures aimed at altering the demographic composition, character, identity and legal status of the City of Jerusalem and for full compliance by Israel, the occupying Power, with its obligations under the Fourth Geneva Convention and all other applicable provisions of international law. In this regard, they expressed grave concern about plans for the imminent eviction and forced displacement of Palestinian families from their homes in the Sheikh Jarrah and Silwan neighborhoods of occupied East Jerusalem and called for a halt to such illegal and inhumane policies and practices.

12. The Ministers *deplored* all breaches of international law and provocations in the City, and stressed that such actions, including all Israeli settlement activities and annexation measures, including, *inter alia*, the confiscation of Palestinian land and seizure of Palestinian homes and properties, construction and expansion of colonial settlements, and construction of the wall, constitute flagrant violations of international law, have no legal validity and must be immediately and completely halted, as repeatedly determined and demanded by the United Nations Security Council. The Ministers also *called* on Israel, the occupying Power, to scrupulously respect the sanctity of the holy sites in Jerusalem and the historic and legal status quo at Al-Aqsa Mosque/Al-Haram Al-Sharif and to cease forthwith its provocations and incursions at this sensitive holy site.

13. The Ministers called for full respect for the historic and legal status quo at the holy site and for the Hashemite historic custodianship exercised by His Majesty King Abdullah II ibn Al Hussein, of Jordan for the Christian and Muslim holy sites in the city and for the protection of the sanctity of the holy sites.

14. The Ministers commended the efforts of His Majesty King Mohammed VI of Morocco as Chair of Al-Quds Committee of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation and welcomed the “Call for Al Quds/Jerusalem” signed in Rabat, on March 30th 2019, by His Majesty King Mohammed VI of Morocco and His Holiness Pope Francis to stress the important role that Al Quds/Jerusalem plays 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.



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15. The Ministers *underscored* the illegality of the 54-year Israeli occupation of the Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem. They *recalled* Security Council resolution 2334 (2016), in which, *inter alia*, the Council underlined that it "will not recognize any changes to the 4 June 1967 lines, including with regard to Jerusalem, other than those agreed by the parties through negotiations", and called on all States "to distinguish, in their relevant dealings, between the territory of the State of Israel and the territories occupied since 1967". The Ministers further *stressed* the need for measures of accountability and underscored the General Assembly's call, in resolution 75/97 (2020), "upon all States, consistent with their obligations under international law and the relevant resolutions, not to recognize, and not to render aid or assistance in maintaining the situation created by measures that are illegal under international law, including those aimed at advancing annexation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and other Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967".

16. The Ministers *reiterated* that respect for the Charter, international law and UN resolutions constitutes the foundation for a just solution of the Palestine question, the cornerstone for regional and global peace and security. The Ministers *reiterated* the calls upon the international community to exert all necessary efforts to promote the realization of a just, lasting and peaceful solution based on the internationally-endorsed parameters enshrined in the relevant UN resolutions, and expressed readiness to engage with and support initiatives on this basis.

17. 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, including the Palestine refugees 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 international law and 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.

18. 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. They further *recalled* the Security Council's determination, as reaffirmed in resolution 2334 (2016), to examine practical ways and means to secure the full implementation of its relevant resolutions, and *called* for immediate efforts to this end and the active engagement of the NAM Caucus of the Security Council in this regard.



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19. 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 and sovereign 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.

20. The Ministers also *called* for increased funding to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) 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. 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. 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. 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.

21. 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.

22. The Ministers *called for* the redoubling of international efforts, at the governmental, intergovernmental and non-governmental levels, 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.



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23. The Ministers *pledged* to remain in constant contact and coordination and to work cooperatively, in order to uphold the principles and positions declared herein and to ensure the implementation of the relevant United Nations resolutions 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. They reaffirmed the commitment to continue supporting the Palestinian people in their quest to achieve their inalienable rights and legitimate national aspirations, including their right to self-determination, freedom and independence in their State of Palestine, with East Jerusalem as its capital, which is vital for the establishment of a just, comprehensive and sustainable peace.

22 June 2021