



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



**STATEMENT 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, 23 April 2020*

**Mr. President,**

1. I am honored to speak on behalf of the 120 Member States of the Non-Aligned Movement.
2. At the outset, we would like to congratulate Dominican Republic with the assumption of presidency in the Security Council.

**Mr. President,**

3. The Non-Aligned Movement seizes this opportunity to reaffirm its abiding solidarity with the Palestinian people, its unwavering support for their inalienable rights, including to self-determination and its commitment to the alleviation of their plight until the achievement of a just solution. The Movement also continues to appeal for and support all efforts to achieve a just, lasting and peaceful solution to the question of Palestine in line with international law, the UN Charter and relevant UN resolutions.

**Mr. President,**

4. The situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, regrettably continues to deteriorate and destabilize, while the Security Council remains paralyzed on this matter. This body must uphold its Charter duties and act to ensure implementation of its own resolutions. These resolutions 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, immediate action is required to hold Israel, the occupying Power, accountable for its violations. It is patently clear that the absence of justice, across decades in this case, only fosters greater impunity, further compounds the conflict and the human suffering it is causing and further destabilizing the situation on the ground, severely diminishing the prospects for peace.



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5. The situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including the East Jerusalem, has been critical for years, but human rights violations and crimes perpetrated by Israel, the occupying power amidst the current global crisis caused by COVID-19 pandemic are unprecedented. Israel is blatantly exploiting the state of emergency and lockdown to accelerate its illegal settlement policy, including through the continued demolition of Palestinian homes and properties, including water and sanitation structures and humanitarian assistance, as well as daily military raids and settler attacks on Palestinian civilians. Those illegal actions severely undermine the Palestinian efforts to combat the pandemic, particularly in the Gaza Strip that is already facing dire humanitarian and socioeconomic conditions under the weight of Israel's thirteen-year illegal blockade.
6. The Member States of the Movement deplore the ongoing Israeli intransigence and illegal policies and measures that greatly undermine the realization of a peaceful solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. NAM reiterates its call for an end to the illegal Israeli occupation and for the restoration of justice and rights to the Palestinian people, including their right to self-determination. These are fundamental pillars for the achievement of a peaceful solution.
7. The Non-Aligned Movement continues to believe that Security Council resolution 2334 (2016) provides the most viable path to peace and calls for its full and effective implementation. This resolution sets 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.
8. Israel must be compelled to cease immediately and 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, including the massive collective punishment of 2 million Palestinians in the Gaza Strip. The illegal and inhumane blockade of Gaza must be completely lifted. 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 without exceptions. It must immediately cease all policies and measures aimed at the alteration of the demography, character, identity and legal status of the occupied territories.
9. The Non-Aligned Movement also demands once again that Israel abide by United Nations Security Council resolution 497 (1981) and withdraw fully from the Occupied



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Syrian Golan to the borders of 4 June 1967, in implementation of Security Council resolutions 242 (1967) and 338 (1973).

10. Moreover, the Member States of the Movement urge Israel to cease its violation of Lebanon's territorial integrity and sovereignty, in accordance with the relevant United Nations resolutions, particularly Security Council resolution 1701 (2006).
11. In the absence of a just solution, the Member States of the Movement also 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 by UNRWA and its provision of assistance, including education, healthcare and vital relief and social services, to the Palestine refugees, including the essential emergency assistance provided to help Palestine refugees to confront the COVID-19 pandemic. We urge once again the sufficient and predictable funding of the Agency to enable the continuity of its operations, in line with its General Assembly mandate, pending a just solution.

**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. This will most certainly open a new chapter for regional, as well as global, peace and stability, a goal strongly supported by our Movement.

I thank you, Mr. President.