



# General Assembly

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**Question of Palestine**

## **Letter dated 23 July 2019 from the Permanent Representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General**

I have the honour to address you and take the opportunity of making reference to the Ministerial Meeting of the Coordinating Bureau of the Non-Aligned Meeting, held from 18 to 21 July 2019, in Caracas, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, on the theme “Promotion and consolidation of peace through respect for international law”.

In this regard, and in accordance with the mandate entrusted at that time by the Ministers of the Non-Aligned Movement, I am pleased to transmit herewith a copy of the Political Declaration\* (see annex) adopted at that time by the Ministerial Committee of the Non-Aligned Countries on Palestine, while respectfully requesting your good offices for its circulation as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 39.

*(Signed)* Samuel **Moncada**  
Ambassador

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\* Circulated in the language of submission only.



**Annex to the letter dated 23 July 2019 from the Permanent Representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General**

**Political Declaration of the Ministerial Committee of the Non-Aligned Movement on Palestine**

1. The Ministers of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) Committee on Palestine met on 20 July 2019, in Caracas, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, on the margins of the Ministerial Meeting of the Coordinating Bureau of the Movement, taking into account the urgent need to address critical developments in the international arena 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.

2. At the outset, the Ministers *declared* their firm commitment to the principles and positions regarding the question of Palestine adopted in previous Declarations by the Committee, including, most recently, the Ministerial Declarations adopted on 05 April 2018 in Baku, Republic of Azerbaijan, on the margins of the XVIII Mid-Term Ministerial Conference of the Movement, and on 26 September 2018, on the margins of the High-Level Segment of the 74th Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations, in New York, which, *inter alia*, denounced the provocative decision by the Government of the United States of America, on 6 December 2017, regarding Jerusalem, in contravention of international law and relevant United Nations resolutions. 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.

3. 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. 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, in light of 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 the passage of more than 71 years since the tragic *Nakba* of the Palestinian people in May 1948.

4. The Ministers reaffirmed that supporting the realization of the Palestinian people's inalienable rights to 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.

5. 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 assumption by the State of Palestine of the Chairmanship of the G77 and China for the year 2019 and reaffirmed their support for this important undertaking.

6. 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 supported his call for an international peace conference based on the longstanding parameters and terms of reference of the peace process in accordance with the relevant United Nations resolutions and the Arab Peace Initiative, and called for active efforts and coordination to advance this initiative.

7. The Ministers *stressed* the need for urgent mobilization and exertion of efforts to alleviate the 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 a just 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.

8. The Ministers *called for* strengthened multilateral efforts aimed at achieving, without delay, an end to the Israeli occupation that began in 1967 and a comprehensive, just, lasting and peaceful solution based on the relevant UN resolutions, the Madrid terms of reference, including the principle of land for peace, the Arab Peace Initiative and the Quartet Roadmap, stressing that a peaceful solution to the question of Palestine is central for establishing peace and stability in the Middle East and globally.

9. The Ministers *reaffirmed* their readiness to contribute to the achievement of a just and peaceful solution, and called for 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; 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; 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, and *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 Gaza where conditions are extremely dire.

13. The Ministers *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 and their respect for international law and legality. 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 preserving the two-State solution on the pre-1967 borders 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 to explicitly clarify that their recognition of diplomatic relations with Israel are also on the basis of the pre-1967 borders, and that no Israeli sovereignty is recognized over the 1967 line (1949 Armistice Line), including in 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.

19. In this connection, the Ministers also *recalled* the adoption of the 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 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* the 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 historic custodianship of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan 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, in line with the relevant General Assembly resolutions. 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 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 under the Israeli occupation, particularly in the Gaza Strip, and to 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, in his capacity as Chair of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), 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.

Caracas, 20 July 2019