



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



Statement by H.E. Mr. G.A. Khosroo, Permanent Representative
of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations
on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement
in the commemoration of
“the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian people”
23 November 2015, New York

In the Name of God, the Most Compassionate, the Most Merciful

Mr. Chairman,

I have the honor to address this important meeting on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement on the occasion of the observance of the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People”. I express my deep appreciation to the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People for its important work in promoting the cause of the Palestinian people, as well as our appreciation to the Division for Palestinian Rights of the United Nations Secretariat. NAM also reaffirms its appreciation the Commissioner-General and entire staff of UNRWA for all of their valuable efforts in helping to alleviate the suffering and address the plight and needs of the Palestine refugees, as well as to all of the United Nations agencies with special programmes providing assistance and support to the Palestinian people, in line with the permanent responsibility of the United Nations towards the question of Palestine until it is resolved justly in all of its aspects in accordance with international law.

Mr. Chairman,

The International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian people is a solemn occasion for renewing our shared commitment to a just and lasting solution for the question of Palestine and a durable peace in the Middle East. NAM fully supports the observance of this day, as it provides an opportunity to reflect on the situation of decades of denial of the rights of the Palestinian people and nearly a half century of a foreign occupation that has subjected the Palestinian people to gross and systematic human rights violations and untold pain and suffering and that lies at the heart of the Palestinian question and so many other issues in the Middle East.

The question of Palestine has been on the United Nations agenda for nearly seven decades now, as old as the United Nations itself, and yet the Palestinian people have no glimmer of hope for realizing their inalienable rights, including their right to self-determination and freedom. Despite decades of their participation in peace efforts in good-faith, despite their commitment to a

peaceful solution and to international law, and despite the painful compromises made, the Palestinians' plight has worsened on all fronts due to Israel's persistent illegal policies and practices. These are the same illegal policies and practices that have obstructed justice and undermined all peace efforts over the many years.

As we witness today the appalling escalation of violence and violations by Israel, the occupying Power, and its extremist settlers against the Palestinian people and against their land and Holy Sites, including Al-Haram Al-Sharif, we recall also the devastation inflicted by the Israeli occupying forces last year on the Palestinian civilian population in the Gaza Strip in the most cruel and brutal manner and in the month of Holy Ramadan. As a result of this brutal military aggression, more than 2,200 Palestinians were killed, including more than 550 children and 299 women, more than 11,000 people were injured, nearly half a million people were displaced, and thousands of Palestinian homes and properties, and even United Nations premises, including UNRWA schools used as safe havens by the defenseless and unprotected Palestinian people were attacked and destroyed. NAM reiterates its condemnation of the Israeli military aggressions against the Palestinian people throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem and urgently calls for accountability for all of these breaches of international law, including humanitarian and human rights laws, and United Nations resolutions.

It is disturbing that Israel, the Occupying Power, continues to pursue such illegal practices with blatant impunity despite the prohibitions of such actions under international law, including the Fourth Geneva Convention, relevant United Nations resolutions, and the 2004 ICJ Advisory Opinion. The impact of these illegal measures on the Palestinian civilian population, including women and children and the most vulnerable such as Palestine refugees, must be seriously considered and measures must be taken in accordance with international law to remedy this injustice, including through the provision of protection to the Palestinian people for as long as this occupation continues.

Mr. Chairman,

The ongoing illegal Israeli settlement activities in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, also continue to be a matter of grave concern NAM condemns this illegal and destructive activities and calls for urgent action and practical measures by the international community, in particular by the Security Council, to compel the Occupying Power to cease completely its settlement campaign in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and to abide by all of its obligations under international law, including the Fourth Geneva Convention, UN resolutions, the Advisory Opinion and its obligations under the Road Map in this regard.

In this regard, NAM reiterates its grave condemnation of all illegal Israeli practices aimed at altering the demographic composition, legal status, character and geographic nature of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, so as to facilitate de facto annexation

of more Palestinian land. Provocations by Israeli settlers and extremists, including vis-à-vis sensitive religious sites, particularly Al-Aqsa Mosque, in the recent period have worsened the situation on the ground, deepening already grave doubts regarding Israel's claimed commitment to the two-State solution and peace, and require the attention of the international community.

Mr. Chairman,

The Movement expresses deep concern at the lack of progress in the Middle East peace process, despite decades of negotiations, and calls for immediate and practical efforts to advance a fair and credible peace process based on the relevant UN resolutions and other major initiatives undertaken in the past decades. NAM stresses that the peace process must ensure an end to the occupation of the Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem and the other Arab territories occupied in 1967.

In conclusion, the Movement reaffirms its unwavering commitment to a just and comprehensive solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict, with the question of Palestine at its core, and to the immediate restoration of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, including their right to self-determination and to their independent and viable State of Palestine, with East Jerusalem as its capital, and a just solution for the plight of the Palestine refugees on the basis of General Assembly resolution 194 (III). It is such a just solution that will guarantee the peace that the international community has long searched for and committed itself to it.

Thank you