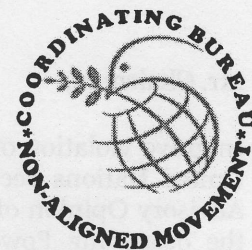


**CHAIR OF  
THE COORDINATING  
BUREAU OF THE  
NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT**



**STATEMENT BY H.E. MS. ILEANA NÚÑEZ MORDOCHE, CHARGÉ D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF CUBA, ON BEHALF OF THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT, AT THE GENERAL DEBATE OF THE SPECIAL POLITICAL AND DECOLONIZATION COMMITTEE (4<sup>TH</sup> COMMITTEE).**

**AGENDA ITEM 30: REPORT OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE TO INVESTIGATE ISRAELI PRACTICES AFFECTING THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE AND OTHER ARABS OF THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES.**

**New York, 4 November 2008.**

Mr. Chairman,

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the 118 Members States of the Non Aligned Movement.

The situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, continues to deteriorate and to be marked by deadly violence, instability and high tensions. The toll of human lives, injured, displaced, homeless, impoverished and those without access to basic needs in the Occupied Palestinian Territory continues to increase at an alarming rate. The poverty rate is currently at 65.8% in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, reaching a total of 80% of the population in the besieged Gaza Strip, where the majority of the population is dependent on food aid for survival and nearly 50% are unemployed.

The Non-Aligned Movement expresses its grave concern about the constant deterioration of the situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, particularly as a result of the excessive and indiscriminate use of force by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian civilian population and its many other illegal policies and practices, including its inhumane and destructive measures of collective punishment against the Palestinian civilian population, which violate the rights of the Palestinian people and have devastated their socio-economic conditions, amounting to a dire humanitarian crisis.

NAM condemns the prolonged Israeli military occupation of the Palestinian Territory since 1967 and expresses grave concern over the distressing developments in the recent period. For more than four decades, Israel, the occupying Power, has been unrelentingly violating international law, including international humanitarian and human rights law, in its actions in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem. During this time, the occupying Power has been committing grave human rights violations against the Palestinian people, including reported war crimes.

Moreover, for more than four decades, the occupying Power has carried out deliberate and unlawful policies and practices aimed at altering the demographic composition, character and nature of the Palestinian land, particularly via measures such as the confiscation of large areas of Palestinian land, implementation of its illegal colonial settlement policy and, since 2003, its illegal construction of a Wall in the West Bank, including in and around East Jerusalem. In addition, the occupying Power continues to impose a humiliating and discriminatory network of hundreds of checkpoints and roadblocks throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory, restricting the movement of persons and goods and also seriously fragmenting and undermining the contiguity and integrity of the Territory and completely isolating East Jerusalem from the rest of the West Bank.

Israel also continues to impose closures, including its continued sealing-off of the Gaza Strip. At the same time, the occupying Power continues to arrest and detain thousands of Palestinian civilians, and to carry out intense military raids and incursions in Palestinian population canters, causing extensive loss of life and injury to Palestinian civilians, including children, and the deliberate and widespread destruction of property and land. Also, the settlers that Israel has illegally transferred to the Occupied Palestinian Territory continue to kill, injure and intimidate Palestinian civilians and to destroy their properties, including their agricultural fields and crops.

Mr. Chairman,

In grave violation of international law, including the Fourth Geneva Convention, in violation of numerous United Nations Security Council and General Assembly resolutions, and in defiance of the 9 July 2004 Advisory Opinion of the International Court of Justice and the will of the international community, Israel, the occupying Power, continues to carry out its illegal colonial settlement campaign in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, especially in and around Occupied East Jerusalem. Moreover, despite commitments made in the context of the Middle East peace process and agreements reached therein and contrary to the spirit and goals of this renewed peace process, Israeli has escalated such illegal activities in the recent period.

In the past several months, Israel has issued tenders for thousands of new units in Israeli settlements throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory and continues to construct and expand its illegal settlements, to build bypass roads to serve those settlements and to maintain settlement "outposts". At the same time, the occupying Power continues to illegally construct the Wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including in and around East Jerusalem, which is intricately correlated with its colonial settlement activities, serving, *inter alia*, to further entrench the settlements and to facilitate their expansion and the attempts to *de facto* annex more Palestinian land.

Such actions not only constitute flagrant violations and grave breaches of international law, but also heighten tensions, further destabilize the fragile situation on the ground and very negatively impact the peace process between the two sides. Indeed, these illegal Israeli policies and activities are destroying the territorial contiguity, integrity and unity of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, seriously undermining the prospects for the establishment of a physically viable and contiguous Palestinian State and thus threatening the prospects for achievement of a just and lasting peace settlement with the realization of the two-State solution on the basis of the pre-1967 borders.

The Members of the Non-Aligned Movement reiterate their condemnation of all such illegal actions by Israel, the occupying Power, and call for their immediate cessation.

Mr. Chairman,

NAM reaffirms that all measures and action taken, or to be taken by Israel, the occupying Power, which purport to alter the legal, physical and demographic condition and institutional structure of the Occupied Syrian Golan, as well as the Israeli measures to impose jurisdiction and administration there, are null, void and have no legal effect.

We also reaffirm that all these measures and actions, including the illegal construction and expansion of the Israeli settlements in the Syrian Golan since 1967, constitute violations of international law, international agreements, the U.N. Charter and resolutions, including the Security Council resolution 497 (1981), the Fourth Geneva Convention, and a challenge to the international community. The Movement demands that Israel abide by resolution 497 (1981) and withdraw completely from the Occupied Syrian Golan to the borders of 4 June 1967.

Mr. Chairman,

NAM will continue to support the Palestinian people and its leadership in order to bring an end to the Israeli occupation that began in 1967, in accordance with the rules and principles of international law and the relevant UN resolutions.

We reaffirm our unwavering commitment to a just and peaceful solution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and to the inalienable right of the Palestinian people to exercise its self-determination and sovereignty in its independent State of Palestine, with East Jerusalem as its capital.

Thank you