



**Statement by
H.E. Ambassador Maged Abdelaziz
Permanent Representative of the Arab Republic of Egypt
Chair of the Coordinating Bureau
of the Non-Aligned Movement**

Before

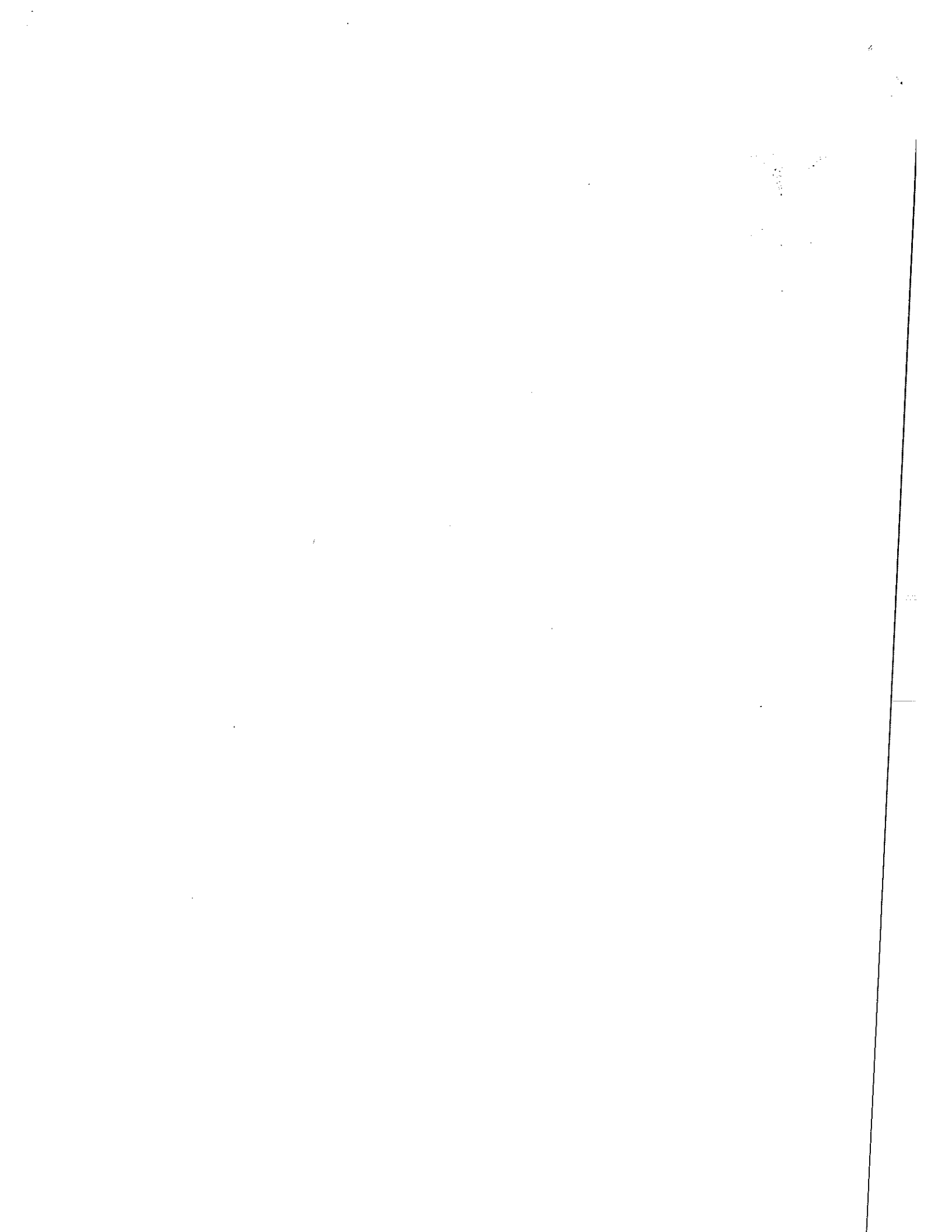
**The Special Political and Decolonization Committee
66th Session of the General Assembly**

Agenda Item (53)

**“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 2011

Check against delivery



Madame Chair,

I have the pleasure to address the Special Political and Decolonization Committee on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) on this important Agenda Item. I would like to start by commending the valuable activities by the Chair and Members of the *“Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices violating the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arab peoples of the Occupied Territories”* and to express NAM’s appreciation for the comprehensive report presented to the General Assembly.

NAM calls for the implementation of the recommendations contained in the Report of the Special Committee in order to ensure the applicability and respect of international human rights and international humanitarian law by Israel, the occupying Power, and to end its impunity in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and all other Arab Territories it continues to occupy. NAM holds the deep conviction that respect for international law by the occupying Power is the primary requisite for ending the human rights abuses, ending the occupation and ultimately bringing an end to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and the Arab-Israeli conflict as a whole.

While noting the recent efforts by concerned international and regional parties, including the Quartet statement of 23 September 2011 and the meetings held by the Quartet with each of the parties on 26 October 2011, NAM regrets that it has not been possible to resume direct negotiations on the Palestinian track mainly due to the lack of commitment by Israel to abide by clear parameters for these negotiations, on the basis of United Nations resolutions and longstanding agreed terms of reference, and that Israel the occupying Power continues illegally, unilaterally and aggressively changing facts on the ground, raising tensions and further complicating and destabilizing the situation and prejudging the outcome of negotiations. Such actions by the occupying Power in particular are severely undermining the viability of the two-State solution on the basis of the 4 June 1967 borders, and these actions starkly belie Israel’s claims that it accepts the Quartet statement and that it is acting in good faith to end this conflict.

Mme. Chair,

As repeatedly documented by the Special Committee, and reflected in its latest report, the human rights situations of the Palestinian people and other Arab peoples of the Occupied Territories remain dire as a result of the longstanding Israeli occupation and its continuation of countless illegal policies and practices. The Non-Aligned Movement is gravely alarmed by the findings of the report during the current

period and the systematic violations committed by Israel, the occupying Power. The Movement is equally concerned over the conclusions of the report that send a clear message that Israel is acting as a country "above the law". NAM is deeply disturbed by the findings of the report, especially regarding the "Situation of children in the Occupied Palestinian Territory", which clearly point to a pattern of repetition of the illegal violations previously raised by this Committee and in other international organs this year and in years past.

Indeed, the situation of human rights in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, continues to witness a severe deterioration that is infringing on a wide scope of rights of the Palestinian people, including, inter alia, their rights to self determination, to freedom of movement, to education, to property, to development, to worship and even to life. The Non-Aligned Movement is extremely concerned about the Israeli measures aimed at the displacement or transfer of the Palestinian civilian population from strategic areas in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, through illegal practices, which include the continuing aggressive settlement campaign, the construction of the wall, forced evictions, home demolitions, and the revocation of Palestinian residency rights, all measures that are particularly severe in Occupied East Jerusalem, and call for the immediate cessation of all these unlawful acts.

It is disturbing that Israel, the occupying Power, continues to pursue such illegal practices despite the prohibitions of such actions under international law, including the Fourth Geneva Convention, relevant United Nations resolutions, the 2004 ICJ Advisory Opinion and the clear rejection of the international community, particularly of settlement activities, which clearly constitute the main obstacle in the way of direct negotiations and the main detriment to the two-State solution on the basis of the 4 June 1967 borders. Moreover, the impact of these illegal measures on the Palestinian civilian population, including women and children and the most vulnerable such as the Palestine refugee population, must be seriously considered and measures be taken in accordance with international law to remedy this unjust situation.

Concerning Gaza, the situation remains to be a top priority for the Movement. The critical human rights situation there continues to inflict deep suffering on the Palestinian civilian population. The severe measures of collective punishment that continue to be imposed by Israel, as well as the grave impact of its ongoing blockade and the lasting consequences of its destructive military aggression in 2008-2009, continue to result in the violation of the human rights of the Palestinian people. International humanitarian law, particularly the Fourth Geneva Convention, and UN resolutions, must be fully respected. In this regard, NAM emphasizes the necessity that

Israel lifts fully its illegal blockade according to Security Council resolution 1860, General Assembly resolution ES-10/18 and other relevant resolutions and open all its crossing points to Gaza for sustained and regular movement of persons and goods.

NAM welcomes the prisoner exchange agreed to under the Egyptian auspices, which led to release of an Israeli soldier in return for more than one thousand Palestinian prisoners and detainees. NAM, however, condemns the continued detention and imprisonment of more than 5,000 Palestinians in Israeli jails, where prisoners are constantly subjected to physical and mental ill-treatment and all forms of human rights abuses. It is the conviction of the Movement, as stated in the Special Declaration adopted by the NAM Ministerial Conference in Bali in May 2011, that the Palestinian prisoners, who include children and women, should be immediately released and proper international inspection of their conditions should be a priority for the international community, particularly the Security Council and the Human Rights Council.

Mme. Chair,

Turning to the Syrian Golan, the Non-Aligned Movement reaffirms once again that all unlawful actions by Israel the occupying Power since 1967, constitute a clear violation of international law, the UN Charter and relevant resolutions, including Security Council resolution 497 (1981), and the Fourth Geneva Convention. NAM demands that Israel abides by resolution 497 and withdraw completely from the occupied Syrian Golan to the borders of 4 June 1967.

Mme. Chairman,

The Movement stresses that serious and genuine peace negotiations cannot be conducted while Israel persistence to carry out its illegal actions in the Occupied Palestinian Territory and other occupied Arab Territories that continue to violate the human rights of the civilian populations under occupation and continue to exacerbate the conflict. We reiterate our demand that Israel, the occupying Power, cease completely all these violations and act in good faith and in accordance with its legal obligations to promote an environment conducive for peace. This must include refraining from provocation and actions aiming at altering the status of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, particularly East Jerusalem, and prejudging the outcome of the final status negotiations, and to constructively cooperate with efforts to push ahead the negotiations path for the achievement of a just, lasting and comprehensive solution of the conflict in the Middle East based on the realization of the rights of the Palestinian people, including their right to self-determination, freedom and independence.

The international community must act to prevent a total collapse of the peace process after so many years of efforts and support for this process on the basis of a clear foundation rooted in international law, UN resolutions and the international consensus on the two-State solution based on the 4 June 1967 borders. Now more than ever, NAM stresses the need for the international community to remain united in its demand that Israel must respect its legal obligations as an occupying Power and cease forthwith all its violations. There is unanimous conviction that such respect is imperative for achieving the two-State solution through a mutually agreed solution based on the agreed principles and terms of reference, namely Security Council resolutions 242, 338, 1397, 1515 and 1850, the Madrid terms of reference, including the principle of land for peace, the Arab Peace Initiative and the Road Map.

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 to exercise its self-determination and sovereignty in its independent State of Palestine, with East Jerusalem as its capital.

Thank you, Madame Chair,