



**19th Summit of the Heads of State and Government
of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM)
Kampala, Uganda**

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

17 January, 2023

1. The Ministers of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) Committee on Palestine met on the sidelines of the XIX Summit of Heads of State and Government of Non-Aligned Movement, on 17th January, 2024.
2. The Ministers *declared* their firm commitment to the principles and positions regarding the question of Palestine adopted in the previous Declarations by the Committee, including the Political Declaration adopted by the NAM Ministerial Committee on Palestine, held on the sidelines of the Ministerial Meeting of the Coordinating Bureau of the Non-Aligned Movement in Baku, Azerbaijan on 5 July 2023, which, inter alia, *reaffirmed* their abiding solidarity with the Palestinian people and unwavering support for their just cause.
3. The Ministers *underscored* that the longstanding, common and principled positions responsibly affirmed by NAM on the question of Palestine over the past sixty years must be defended, preserved and promoted by the Movement and its Members, including through active participation in relevant meetings, conferences and other initiatives, especially at the United Nations Security Council, General Assembly, Human Rights Council and International Court of Justice, as part of the Movement's continuing efforts to bring an end to colonialism, oppression, occupation and domination in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and to assist the Palestinian people to realize their inalienable rights, including to self-determination, independence and return.
4. The Ministers *expressed their grave concern* about the dangerous deterioration of the situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, especially the catastrophic humanitarian crisis and immense suffering and losses being endured by the Palestinian civilian population in the Gaza Strip, as a result of the Israeli military aggression and total siege imposed since October 2023. They *demand*ed an end to this illegal aggression and siege, and *demand*ed an immediate ceasefire and humanitarian aid at scale, to meet the dramatic needs of the population, as well as an immediate halt to the forced displacement of Palestinian civilians, including any attempts by Israel to expel or deport them from their homeland, and a halt to all other illegal Israeli policies and practices,

including all measures of collective punishment against the Palestinian people. They *denounced* any support for or cooperation with such illegal policies and practices in grave breach of international law.

5 The Ministers *warned* of the far-reaching and grave repercussions of further destabilization of this volatile situation, in the absence of accountability and a just solution. They *demand*ed an immediate and complete end to Israel's systematic and violent aggression, acts of colonization and annexation, and policy of apartheid and human rights abuses against the Palestinian people, including its continued denial and violation of their right to self-determination. They *warned* that this grave situation is threatening regional and international peace and security, and *called* on the UN Security Council to uphold its Charter duties and act forthwith to demand a ceasefire in the Gaza Strip, to protect civilians, and to avert a further escalation and spread of the violence in the region. They *reaffirmed* that there is no military solution for the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

6. The Ministers *mourned* the tragic loss of civilian lives in the recent period, and expressed their solidarity with all victims and their families. They *called once again* for urgent measures, in accordance with international law, to ensure the protection of the Palestinian people from the illegal policies and practices of Israel, the occupying Power, and violence of the Israeli occupying forces and extremist settlers and settler militias, and *called* on the Security Council to act forthwith to implement its resolution 904 (1994) and all other relevant resolutions for the protection of civilians and in follow up to the UN Secretary-General's 2018 report on protection of the Palestinian people. They *called also* for the full implementation of General Assembly resolutions ES-10/21 and ES-10/22 on the "*Protection of Civilians and Upholding Legal Obligations*", demanding an immediate humanitarian ceasefire and the protection of the Palestinian civilian population, as well as Security Council resolutions 2712 (2023) and 2720 (2023), notably the provisions for the protection of civilians in armed conflict, particularly children.

7. The Ministers *condemned* in the strongest terms the acts of aggression and collective punishment by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people, in grave breach of international law, including humanitarian and human rights law, including, *inter alia*, the killing and injury of tens of thousands of Palestinian civilians, including many children and women, in the Israeli military aggression that began in October 2023 against the besieged Gaza Strip, as well as in attacks by the occupying forces and extremist settlers and settler militias in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem; the massive destruction of homes, hospitals, schools, universities, mosques, churches, UNRWA shelters and other civilian infrastructure, including water, sanitation and electricity networks, in the Gaza Strip; seizure and demolitions of homes and properties and threats to expel hundreds of Palestinian families from their homes in occupied East Jerusalem and other parts of the West Bank; violent incursions at Al-Aqsa Mosque/Al-Haram Al-Sharif in occupied East Jerusalem and attacks on Palestinian Muslim and Christian worshippers in the City; and daily military raids and arbitrary detentions and imprisonment of thousands of Palestinians, including children, women and journalists. They *demand*ed an immediate and complete cessation of all such illegal Israeli policies and practices.

8. The Ministers *strongly condemned* the killing of over 22,000 Palestinians in the Gaza Strip in the period between October 2023 and January 2024, over 70% of whom were children and women, and the wounding of over 57,000 Palestinians in

bombardments by the Israeli occupying forces, as well as the killing of 324 Palestinians, including 83 children, and wounding of more than 3,800 people in attacks by occupying forces and settlers in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, in the same period, in addition to the killing of 200 other Palestinians in 2023. They *deplored* the punitive and inhumane siege imposed by Israel on the Gaza Strip depriving the Palestinian civilian population of basic needs, including access to food, water, medicines, and fuel, causing widespread hunger, want and diseases and risking famine and epidemics. They *demand*ed an immediate humanitarian ceasefire towards a permanent cessation of hostilities and an immediate end to the siege and collective punishment of the Palestinian people. They *reiterated* the calls for protection of the civilian population and extension of urgent support and solidarity, including the provision of emergency humanitarian aid to alleviate their suffering and support resilience in the face of catastrophic humanitarian conditions, including the displacement of nearly 90% of the population.

9. The Ministers *expressed grave concern* about the failure to end Israel's aggression and siege on Gaza and the grave breaches of international law, including humanitarian and human rights law, being perpetrated, and *noted with alarm* the warnings by United Nations Special Rapporteurs of an "unfolding genocide" in the Gaza Strip. They *took note* of the case initiated by South Africa, a Member of the Movement, against Israel at the International Court of Justice under the Genocide Convention seeking provisional measures to halt the aggression against the Palestinian people, and *stressed* the imperative of accountability for all war crimes and crimes against humanity.

10. The Ministers *strongly condemned* in this regard, all racist and discriminatory legislation and measures by Israel against the Palestinian people, noting with deep concern recent reports by international, Palestinian and Israeli human rights organizations and the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territory occupied since 1967, concluding that such policies and measures amount to apartheid. They also *condemned* and *demand*ed the cessation of the provocations and dehumanizing, racist and inflammatory rhetoric by Israeli officials, threatening and inciting violence against the Palestinian people, including recurrent genocidal threats of annihilation, ethnic cleansing and annexation.

11. The Ministers *reiterated their strong condemnation* of all Israeli settlement activities in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, including, *inter alia*, confiscation of Palestinian land, construction of settlements, the wall and related infrastructure, transfer of Israeli settlers, forced displacement of Palestinian civilians and exploitation of natural resources. They *deplored* all such illegal policies and practices by which Israel is entrenching its occupation, colonizing the Palestinian land and flagrantly pursuing annexation, all in grave breach of international law, and *demand*ed their immediate and full cessation. They *called for* full compliance by Israel, the occupying Power, with its obligations under the Fourth Geneva Convention and all other applicable provisions of international law, including the relevant UN resolutions.

12. The Ministers *also demand*ed an immediate halt to all illegal measures and all acts of violence, provocation and incitement, including by extremist Israeli settlers, and *called for* scrupulous respect by Israel, the occupying Power, of international law, including humanitarian and human rights law, in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem. They *emphasized* the need for accountability and *stressed* in this regard the importance of the request by the General Assembly on 30 December

2022 for an advisory opinion by the International Court of Justice (ICJ) on the legal consequences and obligations resulting from the continuation of such illegal policies and practices, the prolongation of Israel's occupation, the denial of the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and discriminatory measures against them, and encouraged the continued valuable participation of Movement Members in the Court's advisory proceedings.

13. The Ministers *stressed* that full respect for international law is fundamental for ensuring the safety and well-being of the Palestinian civilian population, for de-escalating the extremely dangerous situation and salvaging the prospects for a just solution. They *called* for the convening of an international peace conference to launch a peace process, under international auspices, aimed at bringing an end to the Israeli occupation that began in June 1967, realizing the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, including to self-determination and independence, and justly resolving all final status issues regarding the question of Palestine, namely refugees, Jerusalem, settlements, borders, security, water and prisoners, for the achievement of a just, comprehensive and lasting peace in conformity with international law and the relevant UN resolutions and on the basis of the two-State solution on the pre-1967 borders.

14. The Ministers *recalled* the many relevant UN resolutions, including those of the Security Council, General Assembly and Human Rights Council, as well as the 2004 ICJ Advisory Opinion, and *called* for their full respect and immediate collective efforts to implement the obligations and provisions therein aimed at upholding international law, including, *inter alia*, obligations as High Contracting Parties to the Geneva Conventions and as State Parties, and contributing to the international efforts to bring an end to the injustice inflicted on the Palestinian people, including the Palestine refugees, since the *Nakba* in 1948, an end to the Israeli occupation that began in 1967, and to realize a comprehensive, just and lasting solution and peace and security in the Middle East.

15. The Ministers *reiterated* that achieving a just solution to the question of Palestine must remain a priority on the Movement's agenda and remains also a permanent responsibility of the United Nations until it is satisfactorily resolved in all aspects in accordance with international law and the relevant UN resolutions. Hence, the Ministers *appealed* to the Members of the Movement to remain at the forefront of international efforts to achieve a just and lasting solution and to renew their commitment and further strengthen and coordinate efforts to realize justice and the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people. They *reaffirmed* that supporting the realization of the Palestinian people's rights, including to self-determination, independence, statehood and sovereignty, as well as the rights of the Palestine refugees to return and to just compensation, in line with international law and the relevant UN resolutions, is central to fulfilling the historic international commitments and responsibilities vis-a-vis the Palestine question.

16. The Ministers *reaffirmed* their solidarity and support to the initiatives of the State of Palestine at the UN, including the resolutions on the Question of Palestine presented annually in the General Assembly, Economic and Social Council and Human Rights Council, and to act forthwith to coordinate positions and mobilize the support of Member States. The Ministers *stressed also* the importance of the unity and principled positions of the Member States of the NAM Caucus in the Security Council and encouraged their active engagement and support.

17. The Ministers *expressed their grave concern* at all Israeli policies and practices aimed at altering the demographic composition, character, identity and legal status of the City of Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, and *reiterated the demand* for the immediate cessation of these illegal actions. They *deplored* in this regard any plans to expel and forcibly displace Palestinian families from their homes in the Sheikh Jarrah, Silwan and other neighborhoods of occupied East Jerusalem, as well as other areas of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, and *called* for a halt to such illegal, inhumane practices. They *reiterated* that all such policies and practices have no legal validity and must be immediately and completely halted, as repeatedly determined and demanded by the UN Security Council.

18. The Ministers also *called* on Israel, the occupying Power, to scrupulously respect the sanctity of the holy sites in Jerusalem and to cease its violations of the historic and legal status quo, including in particular at Al-Aqsa Mosque/Al-Haram Al-Sharif and to cease forthwith its provocations and incursions at this sensitive holy site.

19. The Ministers *called* for full respect for the historic and legal status quo at the holy sites in City of Jerusalem and for the Hashemite historic custodianship exercised by His Majesty King Abdullah II ibn Al Hussein of Jordan for the Christian and Muslim holy sites in the city and for the protection of the sanctity of the holy sites. The Ministers also stressed the important role of Al-Quds Committee of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation and welcomed the “Call for Al Quds/Jerusalem” signed in Rabat, on March 30th 2019, by His Majesty King Mohammed VI of Morocco and His Holiness Pope Francis to stress the important role that Al Quds/Jerusalem plays as a city of tolerance and mutual respect among the people of the three monotheistic religions and stressed the need to preserve its specificities and its features as a city of peaceful coexistence.

20. The Ministers *underscored* the illegality of the 56-year Israeli occupation of the Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem. They *recalled* Security Council resolution 2334 (2016), in which, inter alia, the Council underlined that it “*will not recognize any changes to the 4 June 1967 lines, including with regard to Jerusalem, other than those agreed by the parties through negotiations*”, and called on all States “*to distinguish, in their relevant dealings, between the territory of the State of Israeli and the territories occupied since 1967*”. The Ministers further stressed the need for measures of accountability and underscored the General Assembly’s call, in resolution 77/126 (2022), “*upon all States, consistent with their obligations under international law and the relevant resolutions, not to recognize, and not to render aid or assistance in maintaining the situation created by measures that are illegal under international law, including those aimed at advancing annexation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and other Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967*”.

21. The Ministers *reiterated* that respect for the Charter, international law and UN resolutions constitutes the foundation for a just solution of the Palestine question, the cornerstone for regional and global peace and security. They thus *reiterated* the calls upon the international community to exert all necessary efforts to promote the realization of a just solution based on the internationally-endorsed parameters enshrined in the relevant UN resolutions, and *expressed* readiness to engage with and support initiatives on this basis.

22 The Ministers *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 of or cooperation with Israel's illegal actions. They called for tangible measures of accountability in accordance with international law for compelling a halt to all such illegal actions and ensuring justice for the victims, and *urged* Member States to undertake immediate collective and national efforts in this regard.

23. The Ministers *recalled* in particular the responsibilities of the Security Council and the General Assembly, in accordance with the Charter and relevant resolutions. They *further recalled* the Security Council's determination, as reaffirmed in resolution 2334 (2016), to examine practical ways and means to secure the full implementation of its relevant resolutions, and *called* for immediate efforts to this end and the active engagement of NAM Caucus of the Security Council in this regard.

24. The Ministers *called* for the sustained 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 and sovereign 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 the General Assembly resolution 194 (III), and to achieve genuine peace, security and coexistence. They *reaffirmed* their longstanding commitment and, solemnly commemorating the 75th year since the Nakba, pledged to redouble their efforts to extend active support aimed at bringing an end to this historic injustice.

25. The Ministers *reaffirmed* their strong support for the mandate of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) and *called for* sufficient, sustained and predictable 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. They *commended* the extraordinary efforts by UNRWA staff to provide lifesaving assistance and emergency shelter to the majority of the 1.9 million Palestinian civilians displaced in Gaza as a result of the Israeli military aggression and siege that began in October 2023. They *condemned* the killing of 142 UNRWA staff members in Israeli attacks on the Gaza Strip and bombardments of UNRWA schools sheltering displaced families, where at least 315 people were killed and 1,150 injured. They *deplored* and *demand* the immediate cessation of all attacks and incitement by Israel against UNRWA.

26. The Ministers *stressed* that UNRWA's assistance remains crucial for the protection, well-being and social resilience of 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. They *commended* the support extended by several NAM Member States to UNRWA and *urged* continued, and where possible, increased support for the Agency, including a larger assessed contribution to UNRWA from the UN regular budget. 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, including under the Israeli occupation, particularly in the Gaza Strip, and to support and strengthen their national capacity pending the realization of a just solution.

27. 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 on the pre-1967 borders, and their respect for international law and legality in accordance with the relevant United Nations resolutions. They *expressed* unflinching support for the State of Palestine's admission as a Member State of the United Nations, with full capacity and urgent need to initiate such processes that are deemed necessary to grant such full capacity and *stressed* the importance of further international recognition as a contribution to protecting the rights of the Palestinian people, including their right to self-determination and independence.

28. The Ministers *called for* the redoubling of international efforts, at the governmental, intergovernmental and non-governmental levels, stressing that a peaceful solution to the question of Palestine is central for establishing wider peace and stability in the Middle East. They *called for* the follow-up and implementation of all measures proposed in past Ministerial Declarations, Ministerial Meetings and Summits of the Movement on the question of Palestine, and the reports and recommendations of the Special Committees with a view to countering the 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.

29. The Ministers *pledged* to remain in constant contact and coordination and to work cooperatively, in order to uphold the principles and positions declared herein and to ensure the implementation of the relevant United Nations resolutions 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. They *reaffirmed* their solidarity with the Palestinian people and the commitment to continue supporting them in their just quest to achieve their inalienable rights and legitimate national aspirations and justice to enable them to live in freedom, dignity, peace and security in their homeland.

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