



16th Summit of Heads of State or Government of the Non-Aligned Movement

Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran

26 - 31 August 2012

Solidarity Declaration on Palestine

1. The Heads of State or Government of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) *expressed their deep regret* that, due to the deplorable measures of Israel, the occupying Power, the NAM Committee on Palestine was unable to convene the Extraordinary Ministerial Meeting in Ramallah, Palestine, on 5 August 2012, which had been planned as a demonstration of the Movement's solidarity with the Palestinian people. They *condemned* Israel's provocative action, in contravention of international law and its obligations as an occupying Power, which prevented the Members of the Committee from witnessing firsthand the grave situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and from directly conveying to the Palestinian people and their leadership the Movement's longstanding, principled support for the just cause of Palestine and commitment to the achievement of a just, lasting and peaceful settlement of the question of Palestine in all its aspects.
2. The Heads of State or Government regretted that Israel's obstruction of the entry of NAM Ministers to the Occupied Palestinian Territory prevented the Committee on Palestine from meeting with H.E. President Mahmoud Abbas and the rest of the Palestinian leadership. They *expressed deep appreciation* to the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan for receiving the Members of the Committee on Palestine and for the efforts exerted to facilitate arrangements for the planned Extraordinary Ministerial Meeting. They *recalled* the Press Statement issued by the Committee on 5 August 2012 in Amman, as well as the related Statement by the NAM Coordinating Bureau in New York on 9 August 2012. They *reaffirmed* the Movement's resolve to continue assisting the Palestinian people in their legitimate quest for dignity, justice and their inalienable right to self-determination in their independent State of Palestine, with East Jerusalem as its capital, based on the pre-1967 borders.
3. The Heads of State or Government *reaffirmed* the Declarations on Palestine adopted by the Committee and endorsed by the Movement, most recently in Sharm El-Sheikh in 2012 and Bali in 2011, and their commitment to the positions

therein. They *renewed the call* for political, economic and humanitarian assistance in support of the Palestinian people and their efforts to achieve their legitimate national aspirations and inalienable human rights, including their right to self-determination in their independent State of Palestine, with East Jerusalem as its capital, and their right to return. They *paid special tribute* to the resilience of the Palestinian people throughout the many decades of hardship they have been forced to endure for over 64 years since the 1948 *Al-Nakba*, which dispossessed and rendered the majority of Palestinians as refugees, now constituting more than 5 million people, and for over 45 years since the 1967 Israeli military occupation of the remainder of the Palestinian land, including East Jerusalem.

4. The Heads of State or Government *reiterated their grave concern* regarding the critical situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, as a result of Israel's prolonged military occupation and illegal policies and practices. They *condemned* Israel's ongoing military raids and attacks against the Palestinian civilian population; blockade of the Gaza Strip; settlement colonization campaign involving, *inter alia*, land confiscations, construction and expansion of settlements and "outposts", transfer of Israeli settlers, construction of the Wall, home demolitions, and imposition of severe movement restrictions and hundreds of checkpoints; detention and imprisonment of thousands of Palestinians; forced displacement of Palestinian civilians; and all other measures of collective punishment against the Palestinian people, constituting grave breaches of international law, including humanitarian and human rights law.
5. The Heads of State or Government *deplored* the vast physical, economic and social devastation caused by the Israeli occupation, particularly the destructive impact of the illegal Israeli settlements and the Wall, in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem. They *condemned* all such illegal colonization activities deliberately aimed at altering the Territory's demographic composition, character, and legal status and at forcibly acquiring more Palestinian land in total contradiction of international law and the two-State solution based on the pre-1967 borders. They *expressed grave concern* at the situation in Occupied East Jerusalem, where the Israeli settlement campaign is most intense, and *called for* a complete end to all settlement activities, excavations, including near Al-Haram Al-Sharif (Noble Sanctuary), home demolitions, residency revocations, and closure of Palestinian institutions in the City. They *condemned* also the terror, violence and provocations by extremist Israeli settlers against Palestinian civilians and properties, including homes, agricultural lands, and Muslim and Christian holy sites, and *cautioned* that such actions are fueling religious sensitivities that risk further destabilization and must be brought to an immediate end by the occupying Power.
6. The Heads of State or Government *reiterated their grave concern* about the critical humanitarian and socio-economic conditions in the Gaza Strip due to Israel's blockade, by which it continues to collectively punish the Palestinian people and obstruct movement, humanitarian access, entry of essential goods, and the reconstruction of Gaza. They *reiterated the demand* that Israel respect international humanitarian law and fully end this illegal blockade, stressing the need to ensure the sustained, regular movement of persons and goods between Gaza and the outside world and to restore the link and unity between Gaza and the

West Bank, reaffirming that the Gaza Strip remains an integral part of the Occupied Palestinian Territory.

7. The Heads of State or Government further *reiterated the call* for ensuring accountability for the crimes and violations committed by Israel, the occupying Power, during its military aggression against the Gaza Strip in December 2008-January 2009. They also *reiterated the call* to ensure accountability for the Israeli military attack on 31 May 2010 in international waters on the humanitarian convoy destined for the Gaza Strip, in which nine Turkish civilians were killed. They *called on* the international community, including the Security Council, to pursue serious efforts to end Israel's impunity and realize justice for the victims, including via follow-up of the findings and recommendations of the UN Fact-Finding Mission on the Gaza Conflict. They *reaffirmed* the obligations of the High Contracting Parties to the Geneva Conventions regarding penal sanctions, grave breaches and responsibilities.
8. The Heads of State or Government *expressed grave concern* about the inhumane treatment of Palestinian political prisoners and detainees being held by Israel, including physical and mental abuse, reported torture and denial of access to proper medical care and family visits. They *expressed concern* about recent crises of prolonged hunger strikes by prisoners and detainees, in peaceful protest of the illegal practice of administrative detention, by which hundreds of Palestinians are held without charge or trial, and other human rights violations by Israel. They *reiterated the call* for the immediate release of all the Palestinians detained and imprisoned by Israel, including children, women and elected officials. They *recalled* the Ministerial Declarations on Palestinian Political Prisoners adopted in Bali (May 2011) and Sharm El Sheikh (May 2012), and *urged* the mobilization of efforts to address this critical issue.
9. The Heads of State or Government *demand* that Israel immediately cease all of its illegal policies and practices in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and cease its violations of the human rights of the Palestinian people. They *reiterated* the demand for the complete cessation of all Israeli settlement colonization activities, which constitute grave breaches of international law and flagrant defiance of UN resolutions, the 9 July 2004 International Court of Justice Advisory Opinion, and obligations under the Quartet Roadmap to freeze all settlement activities and dismantle all settlement "outposts". They *expressed grave concern* that this illegal campaign is undermining the contiguity, integrity, viability and unity of the Occupied Palestinian Territory and jeopardizing the prospects for physically achieving the two-State solution for peace on the basis of the pre-1967 borders, prompting a search for alternative just solutions.
10. The Heads of State or Government *reiterated their serious concern* about the dangerous impasse in the Middle East peace process and *called for* immediate, practical efforts to salvage the two-State solution and advance a fair, credible peace process based on the relevant UN resolutions, including Security Council resolutions 242, 338, 425, 1397, 1515 and 1850, the Madrid terms of reference, including the principle of land for peace, the Arab Peace Initiative and the Roadmap. They *stressed* that the peace process must ensure an end to the occupation of the Palestinian Territory and the other Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967, including East Jerusalem; the exercise by the Palestinian people

of their right to self-determination in an independent, sovereign, and viable State of Palestine, with East Jerusalem as its capital; and a just solution for the plight of the Palestinian refugees based on General Assembly resolution 194 (III).

11. The Heads of State or Government *recalled* in this regard the historic role and obligations of the international community, in particular the UN Security Council and General Assembly, as well as the High Contracting Parties to the Fourth Geneva Convention to uphold their obligations and ensure respect of the Convention in all circumstances. They *called on* the Security Council, based on its Charter duty for maintenance of international peace and security, to act forthwith to implement its resolutions, to ensure compliance by Israel, the occupying Power, and to promote a just, lasting and comprehensive solution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and the Arab-Israeli conflict as a whole.
12. The Heads of State or Government *reaffirmed* support for the Palestine Liberation Organization, the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, and the Palestinian National Authority under the leadership of President Mahmoud Abbas, and *emphasized* the importance of protecting and strengthening the national and democratic institutions of the Palestinian Authority, including the Palestinian Legislative Council, which shall constitute a vital foundation for the independent State of Palestine. They *reiterated* the urgency of Palestinian unity for realization of the legitimate national rights and aspirations of the Palestinian people. They thus *welcomed* the Reconciliation Agreement signed in Cairo, on 4 May 2011, aimed at ending the division since June 2007, as well as the Declaration signed in Doha, on 5 February 2012, aimed at overcoming the challenges to the agreement's implementation, and *called* on the international community to respect and support the Palestinian reconciliation.
13. The Heads of State or Government *called for* continued support for strengthening Palestinian national institutions, in line with the plan launched by Prime Minister Salam Fayyad in August 2009, "*Palestine: Ending the Occupation, Establishing the State*". They *commended* its completion in August 2011 with the implementation of the second phase, "*Homestretch to Freedom*", stressing the importance of this initiative for laying the foundations for the independence of the State of Palestine, and *called for* efforts to preserve and advance achievements in this regard during this critical period. They further *reaffirmed* the importance of the official recognition extended to Palestine by 132 countries, and *urged* the Members of the Movement that have not recognized the State of Palestine to do so as soon as possible as a positive contribution to making Palestine's independence a reality based on international law and UN resolutions.
14. The Heads of State or Government *welcomed* in this regard the application submitted, on 23 September 2011, by Palestine to be admitted as a Member State of the United Nations, consistent with the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination and independence, convinced that realization of this objective will be a major step towards securing freedom, dignity, stability and peace for the Palestinian people. They *also welcomed* the admission of Palestine as a Member State of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

15. The Heads of State or Government *called on* the Members of the Movement to remain at the forefront of support for the historic march of the Palestinian people for freedom and peace. They *called for* intensified efforts in this regard, including at the UN Security Council, General Assembly, Human Rights Council and other relevant organs and agencies. They *commended* the members of the NAM Caucus of the Security Council for their serious efforts concerning Palestine, and *urged* them to remain active to enhance the Movement's role in the peace effort. They *stressed* the importance of regular contacts by the Movement at the Ministerial level with the members of the Security Council, Quartet, League of Arab States and all other concerned parties for advancing Palestine's recognition as a State and its admission as a Member of the United Nations at the earliest possible date as well as for reviving international and regional efforts to bring an end to the Israeli occupation that began in 1967, realize the long-overdue independence of the State of Palestine, with East Jerusalem as its capital, and inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, and achieve a just, lasting and comprehensive peace and security. The Ministers *extended an urgent call for* launching a plan of action, based on the longstanding terms of reference of the Middle East peace process based on international law and UN resolutions and in coordination with other relevant political and regional groups, for the achievement of these objectives as soon as possible.
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