

Draft NAM Statement
Twelfth Special Session of the Human Rights Council
The Human Rights Situation in the Occupied Palestinian
Territory including East Jerusalem
15 October 2009

Mr. President,

I have the honor to deliver this statement on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

The Non-Aligned Movement expresses its grave concern about the serious deterioration of the situation of human rights in the Occupied Palestinian Territories, including East Jerusalem that result from the ongoing unlawful policies and practices by Israel, the occupying power.

The NAM condemns in the strongest terms Israel's continuing military occupation of the Palestinian territories in breach of international law and UN resolutions. It further condemns the continuing Israeli military campaign against the Palestinian people, particularly in the Gaza Strip and East Jerusalem, by which the occupying power has continued to commit grave human rights violations, including by use of excessive and indiscriminate force that has killed and injured thousands of Palestinian civilians, including children, and has caused vast destruction of properties, infrastructure and agricultural lands.

In their last Summit in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt of July 2009, the Heads of States and Governments of NAM forcefully condemned the Israeli military aggression against the Palestinian civilian population in the Gaza Strip during the period from 27 December 2008 till 18 January 2009, which resulted in the killing of more than 1,400 Palestinians, including hundreds of children and women, and the injury of more than 5,500 Palestinians. They condemned also Israel's wanton destruction of thousands of Palestinian homes; business properties; vital civilian infrastructure, including water, sanitation and electricity systems; hospitals and ambulances; mosques; public institutions, including schools and national ministries; farms; and several UN facilities.

In view of the above mentioned clear position taken by the Heads of States and Governments of NAM, the movement welcomes the report of the independent international fact-finding mission headed by Justice Goldstone. It is the NAM's conviction that the serious consideration of the report as well as undertaking serious follow-up as regard to its implementation are of utmost importance to reinforce the credibility of the Council and to bring to an end the persistent situation of impunity and defiance of the law.

The NAM confirms that East Jerusalem is an integral part of the Occupied Palestinian Territories and that all Israeli measures aimed at altering the legal, geographic and demographic character or status of Jerusalem and of the Occupied Palestinian Territory as a whole are null and void and have no legal validity whatsoever. Thereby, our Movement urges Israel to cease all illegal practices in East Jerusalem as in their entirety they gravely undermine the contiguity, integrity, viability and unity of the Occupied Palestinian Territory and jeopardize the realization of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people.

Our movement firmly believes that the Human Rights Council cannot turn a blind eye when it comes to the deteriorating human rights situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territories. It further believes that pressures exerted by the international community through its strong and categorical condemnation of such serious violations would convey a clear message to convince all parties that there can be no justification for violations of human rights under any circumstances.

I Thank you