



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



STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR ABELARDO MORENO, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF CUBA, IN ITS CAPACITY AS CHAIRMAN OF THE COORDINATING BUREAU OF THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT, AT THE RESUMED SESSION OF THE TENTH EMERGENCY SPECIAL SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON THE ILLEGAL ISRAELI ACTIONS IN OCCUPIED EAST JERUSALEM AND THE REST OF THE OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN TERRITORY. New York, January 15, 2009

Mr. President,

I have the honor to address this important debate on behalf of the 118 members of the Non-Aligned Movement.

As you would recall, last 13 January, the Movement issued a third statement on the situation in Gaza, ratifying the role the General Assembly is to play in this issue and supporting the resumption of the 10th emergency special session.

I really appreciate the convening of this session which, in our opinion, should not be only limited to a debate, but should also adopt a resolution effectively contributing to the implementation of resolution 1860 (2009), adopted last 8 January by the Security Council, and particularly to the international and regional efforts carried out so as to end the Israeli aggression against the Palestinian population in Gaza, lead to the withdrawal of the Israeli forces from the territory of the Strip, ensure the protection of the Palestinian civil population and guarantee the safe and opportune access of the necessary humanitarian aid to said population.

Consequently, I request you to take the lead in the whole process.

Mr. President:

The Non-Aligned Movement strongly condemns the massive military aggression being carried out by Israel against the Palestinian civilian population in the besieged Gaza Strip.

NAM also condemns in the strongest terms Israel's blatant disregard of Security Council resolution 1860, which calls, *inter alia*, for an immediate ceasefire.

NAM demands the immediate implementation of resolution 1860, including in particular its call for an immediate ceasefire leading to the withdrawal of the Israeli occupying forces from Gaza.

Immediate measures are required to address the pressing humanitarian and economic needs of the Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip, including by the sustained and permanent opening of Gaza's border crossings fully in accordance with the terms and provisions of resolution 1860, to ensure the free access of humanitarian aid and other essential supplies and goods and to facilitate the passage of persons to and from the Strip.

This brutal Israeli military aggression constitutes a grave breach of international law, including humanitarian and human rights law, and is causing vast suffering among the Palestinian civilian population, fueling the cycle of violence and threatening international peace and security as well as the fragile peace process between the two sides.

NAM reiterates its deep regret at the vast loss of innocent lives and injury being caused to Palestinian civilians by this brutal Israeli military campaign as well as at the extensive destruction being caused to homes, properties and infrastructure in the Gaza Strip. In this regard, NAM expresses its deepest condolences to the grieving Palestinian people as they mourn the loss of near 1 000 Palestinians killed, 400 children, and near 4,000 Palestinians injured, including more than 1,200 children.

NAM urgently calls once again for an immediate cessation of all military activities and violence. NAM calls for all efforts to be exerted to compel Israel, the occupying Power, to cease this aggression and to scrupulously abide by all of its obligations under international law and relevant United Nations resolutions. In this regard, the Movement demands that Israel unconditionally comply with its obligations as the occupying Power under the Fourth Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War of 12 August 1949.

Moreover, in light of the dire situation being faced by the Palestinian civilian population under Israeli occupation and aggression in the Gaza Strip, NAM reiterates its calls for the immediate provision of protection for the Palestinian civilian population in the Gaza Strip in accordance with the relevant provisions of international humanitarian law.

Mr. President:

The Non-Aligned Movement expresses its serious concerns regarding the extensive difficulties being faced by medical and rescue workers in the Gaza Strip in evacuating and treating civilians wounded and in need of emergency medical treatment due to Israel's continued targeting and obstruction of ambulances and rescue workers and due to severe shortages in medical supplies and the disrepair and unavailability of the necessary equipment to respond to this critical situation.

In this regard, NAM expresses its strong condemnation regarding Israel's targeting and killing of U.N. humanitarian personnel, including UNRWA personnel, working tirelessly to deliver humanitarian aid to the Palestinian people, and calls upon the occupying Power to respect the Convention on Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations.

There is a need for intensified and coordinated efforts by the international community to bring an end to this crisis and to exert all necessary efforts to support and promote the peace process as well as to ensure respect for international law, including international humanitarian and human rights law, the key to a peaceful settlement of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict and the Arab-Israeli conflict as a whole, as the sole means to guarantee a lasting peace in the region.