



**Statement**

**by**

**Mr. Majdi Ramadan**

**at the  
Fourth Committee**

**Item 53: Comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping  
operations in all their aspects**

**Wednesday, October 25, 2010**

**CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY**

***Permanent Mission of Lebanon to the United Nations  
866 United Nations Plaza, Suite 531, New York, NY. 10017***

At the outset, we extend our thanks to the Under Secretary-Generals for Peacekeeping Operations and for Field Support for their valuable introductory statements. Lebanon aligns itself with statement made by Morocco on behalf of the Non Aligned Movement.

**Mr. Chairman,**

Lebanon believes that UN peacekeeping operations require a partnership and regular consultations between the SC, the Secretariat, TCCs and the host country.

Peacekeeping should not be an end in itself but rather part of a political solution. Comprehensive resolution of conflicts by dealing with their core causes remain the objective. In our region, an end to the Israeli occupation in Palestine, Syria and Lebanon, the core cause of the conflict, is a prerequisite to any comprehensive resolution and successful transition of UN peacekeeping missions in the Middle East.

Peacekeeping is not an alternative to an inclusive political process; it rather provides space for such a process that can guarantee the protection of civilians and achievement of sustainable peace.

**Mr. Chairman,**

Respect for the safety and security of UN peacekeepers and positions is not only critical for the implementation of peacekeeping mandates, it is also a measure for the primacy of International Law and the respect of Security Council resolutions. Crimes like the 1996 Israeli attack on the quarters of United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) in Qana, south Lebanon, and the 2006 Israeli attack on the post of the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO) also in south Lebanon should never be repeated.

In this regard, Lebanon underscores that compliance with the principle of “collective responsibility” that allocates peacekeeping costs on UN member states, does not contradict with the general principle under International Law of the “responsibility of a state for its internationally wrongful acts”. We recall that based on this principle of state responsibility 18 previous General Assembly resolutions have asked for a compensation to be paid to the UN for the damages it incurred as a result of the 1996 Israeli attack on UNIFIL in Qana.

**Mr. Chairman,**

Lebanon believes that the main underpinnings of success of peacekeeping operations rest on the following elements:

**First: Developing clear and achievable mandates matched with the required resources.** We need to set realistic goals and to ensure that the mission is provided with sufficient resources and timely logistical support.

**Second: Adherence to the general principles of peacekeeping** namely impartiality and the UN Charter principles of sovereignty and political independence.

**Third: A strong link between peacekeeping and peacebuilding.** Recovery activity and peacebuilding tasks are critical even at the early stages of peacekeeping. Indeed, early peacebuilding involvement will help generate peace dividends particularly in terms of economic recovery that would in turn re-establish the sense of security and build trust in the peacekeepers.

**Fourth: Strengthening the role of regional and sub-regional organisations,** in accordance with Chapter VIII of the Charter, specifically the African Union including through the use of assessed contributions to ensure sustainable, flexible and predictable financing for African peace keeping mission.

**Mr. Chairman,**

We took note of the paper entitled “The New Horizon Initiative: Progress Report No.1” and we look forward to more progress on the key areas of policy development, capability development, global field support strategy, and planning and oversight. The goal is the realization of a more efficient peacekeeping, adapted to the new complex realities.

To achieve that goal and to ensure the creation of a more predictable, professional, accountable and adaptable peacekeeping system, we should emphasize the key role of the C34 in policy formulation and development and that of the fifth Committee in resource allocation. We should also enhance regular coordination on peacebuilding tasks with the PBC in a manner that stresses national ownership and prioritization of peacebuilding needs.

In this regard, while noting the intention to develop operational guidelines for the protection of civilians with the participation of the C34, we underscore that protection of civilians is the primary responsibility of host countries. Lebanon understands that such guidelines if developed should enable a peacekeeping force like UNIFIL to safeguard innocent Lebanese civilians from the daily dangers and threats that the Israeli occupation and over flights bears on their lives.

**Mr. Chairman,**

As peacekeeping now appears to be entering a period of consolidation after a substantial period of growth, it is high time to draw on lessons learned in order to finalize the strategy for critical early peacebuilding tasks undertaken by peacekeepers. This strategy should not only focus on areas such as police, justice and corrections, DDR, SSR and mine action but also economic revival and sustainable development. It is clear today that peacekeeping and peacebuilding are not sequential, it is also clear that transition should be based on benchmarking against indicators in all fields.

On capability development the Secretariat should identify critical gaps and develop a comprehensive capability-driven approach that addresses uniformed as well as civilian capability requirements. And on global field support we are glad to note that the Secretariat is moving from “a mission-centric” to a more “global management approach”.

As for planning and oversight, we welcome the consultative process among various peacekeeping actors that was started this year. We also look forward to the lessons learned from the evaluation of command and control arrangements in peacekeeping planned for 2010-2011.

**Mr. Chairman,**

Turning now to Lebanon, we reiterate the full support of the Lebanese Government and the Lebanese people, specifically in south Lebanon, to UNIFIL and UNTSO. Lebanon is fully committed to the implementation of Security Council Resolution 1701(2006) in its entirety.

Lebanon highly appreciates the important role that UNIFIL plays in south Lebanon and fully recognizes the grave sacrifices it suffered. UNIFIL has been steadfast in its support for the Lebanese people in their efforts to liberate their lands from the Israeli occupation for more than 30 years now. UNIFIL is also our partner in mine clearance and in development efforts in south Lebanon.

The Lebanese people and their Government express their sincere thanks and appreciation to the peoples and Governments of each and every troop-contributing country.

Thank you Mr. President.