

Mr. Chairman,

I am taking the floor today in explanation of My Delegation's vote on draft Resolution A/C.2/70/L.14 entitled "Oil slick on Lebanese shores" that was introduced by the Delegation of South Africa on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

For the tenth consecutive year the Second Committee has voted, by an overwhelming majority, in favour of this Resolution. It acknowledged the adverse environmental, economic and health related implications that have been inflicted on Lebanon as a result of Israel's bombing in July 2006 of El Jiyeh electric power plant, resulting in an oil slick that covered the entirety of the Lebanese coastline, and extended beyond it to partially affect the coastlines of neighbouring countries and a significant surface area of the Eastern Mediterranean.

The Committee has again requested Israel to assume responsibility for prompt and adequate compensation to the Government of Lebanon for the damages caused which amounted, in 2014, to 856.4 million US dollars, according to the Secretary General's Report A/70/291.

The adoption of this Resolution reaffirms the commitment of this Committee to uphold International Law, in particular the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, and the rules and principles of International Environmental Law. The Resolution carries a particular significance this year in the context of the adoption of Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development, which aims, *inter alia*, to promote and ensure respect for International Environmental Law principles, and at the dawn of the milestone COP21 Conference that will be held in Paris in a few weeks. Furthermore, the Resolution asserts the will of the overwhelming majority of the international community to hold countries responsible for their internationally wrongful acts.

In this regard, Lebanon affirms that it will continue to mobilize all resources and resort to all legal means to see that this resolution is fully implemented, and that the adequate compensation is paid promptly.

Finally, Mr. Chairman

I take this opportunity to extend our sincerest gratitude to all our friends and partners in the Second Committee who supported this Resolution, and to the Secretary General for his thorough and highly valuable report. We would also like to thank the World Bank, UNDP, UNEP, FAO and IUCN who contributed through their worthy studies, surveys and reports to the achievement of this outcome.

Thank you