



Statement

by

**H.E. Ambassador Charbel Wehbi
Director of Political and Consular Affairs
Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Emigrants**

**at the
Fourth Committee**

**Item 56: Comprehensive review of the whole question
of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects**

New York, November 4, 2015

Check Against Delivery

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

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation would like to associate itself with the statement delivered by Morocco on behalf of NAM.

Mr. Chairman,

70 years ago, the founders of the United Nations were united around a sacred principle: To prevent the scourge of war. Later, the peace keeping operations were established as an important tool in this endeavor. Today, 70 years later, the title of the report of the independent high-level panel on peacekeeping, "Uniting our strengths for peace: politics, partnerships and people," reminded us of the need to remain united around the same objectives: to work for peace through strong partnerships.

Indeed, this report, as well as the Secretary-General's report and the Leaders' Summit on peacekeeping operations held on the margin of the General Assembly reaffirmed the collective political will to ensure that these multidimensional missions are more flexible, adaptable, and responsive to national priorities.

In this regard, I would like to emphasize the following points:

The C-34 should remain the unique intergovernmental forum to discuss policies and guidance. Moreover, the increasing complexity of conflicts demands greater collaboration between local, national and regional actors, but also between the C-34, the Security Council, the TCCs, PCCs, Secretariat, and other UN agencies.

The enhancement of regional and triangular cooperation is also required for the smooth delivery of mandates. However, strengthening partnerships is also a prerequisite for success, be it amongst UN departments within headquarters such as DPKO, DFS and UNDP, or between headquarters and the field.

Essentially, the success of these partnerships hinges upon the strong relationship with host countries, while the interaction with the civilian population and armed forces are of paramount importance.

DPKO and DFS should intensify their efforts to finalize guidance and strategies to streamline the leadership of peace operations in light of the renewed global commitments made this year to increase the participation of women in leadership and mediation roles. The number of female peacekeepers and heads of missions should also be increased in line with the latest findings.

Finally, peacekeeping operations should never be the end goal. They should include peace-building and post-conflict reconstruction elements from the onset. They must support national institutions and capacity building such as the rule of law, security sector reform, good governance, and DDR. These components will ensure a smooth transition towards national ownership and lasting political solutions.

Mr. Chairman,

Allow me now to share with you our national experience as a host country of one of the oldest monitoring operation UNTSO and one of the largest peacekeeping operations in the world UNIFIL.

We repeatedly highlighted the excellent relationship between the Lebanese Armed Forces and UNIFIL at the operational and coordination levels. Moreover, the strategic dialogue and the coordination mechanism are well underway to facilitating and streamlining assistance to build-up the capabilities of the Lebanese Armed Forces. This led to the formulation of the plan for five years to build up the LAF's capabilities. It is only by reinforcing its capacities that the Lebanese Army will be able to fulfill its tasks in south Lebanon in cooperation with UNIFIL, and will be able to combat terrorism and maintain security and stability in the country.

We also cautioned against Israeli attempts to undermine this cooperation as well as the credibility of UNIFIL and the Lebanese Army. We emphasized our belief that through the tripartite mechanism, UNIFIL can prevent any unilateral and provocative action, which might lead to escalation.

On January 28, 2015, a UNIFIL Spaniard peacekeeper was killed by Israeli shelling. This attack is a tragic reminder that crimes, such as the 1996 Israeli attack on the UNIFIL quarters in Qana and the 2006 Israeli attack on an UNTSO observation post should never be repeated and that their perpetrators should be held accountable. Respect for the safety and security of UN peacekeepers is of paramount importance to the full implementation of the mandates of all peacekeeping missions.

My Government reaffirmed its commitment to the full implementation of resolution 1701(2006) and reiterated its calls to the international community to compel Israel to abide by its obligations under said resolution, to withdraw from the remaining Lebanese occupied territories and to cease to violate Lebanon's sovereignty by land, air and sea.

Mr. Chairman,

I would like to commend UNIFIL's Force Commander for his able leadership during these critical times, the women and men of this force, for their tireless efforts in fulfilling the mandate, and laud the commitment of every troop contributing country. They strive to build a better and more peaceful tomorrow.

All peacekeepers deserve that we match their noble sacrifices with unwavering political and financial support. The civilian population deserves durable and sustainable peace. Hence, Investing in peace remains a rewarding investment for the future.

I thank you Mr. Chairman.