



Statement

by

**Ms. Caroline Ziadé
Deputy Permanent Representative of Lebanon
to the United Nations**

**at the
Fourth Committee**

**Item 51: "Comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping
operations in all their aspects"**

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Check Against Delivery

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Mr. Chairman,

My delegation would like to associate itself with the statement delivered by Morocco on behalf of NAM. I would also like to thank USGs Ladsous and Khare for their comprehensive briefings.

Mr. Chairman,

In a world witnessing increased turmoil, violence and conflicts, the United Nations is reminded on daily basis of its core principles to prevent the scourge of wars. Peace keeping operations continue to be a critical tool in this regard. Hence, the need to strengthen the abilities for such operations to adapt, and adjust to new challenges and to respond to national priorities provided with enough resources and in depth knowledge.

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

Prevention is the renewed game in town. It is of paramount importance that the secretariat in the Headquarters and in the field be able to detect the initial signs of unrest or crisis, to act to prevent their escalation into a fully fledged conflict and to prevent the continuation of conflict. It is also of paramount importance that Peacekeeping Operations when deployed in a conflict zone be well equipped not to manage a conflict but to help establishing a favorable environment to reduce tension and to launch a political process which will enhance stability and security.

In this context, 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, participation of women in peace negotiations and DDR. These components will ensure a smooth transition towards national ownership and lasting political solutions.

The C-34 is the unique intergovernmental forum to discuss policies and guidance, agree on them and endorse recommendations resulting from relevant reviews.

My delegation would like to reiterate that 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, other UN agencies and host countries.

The Protection of civilian remains at the forefront in many of the mandates of peace keeping operations, we emphasize the need that the guidelines set are implemented in a comprehensive and universal manner.

We commend the steps taken to ensure better representation of women in leadership and other posts, and call for their intensification.

Mr. Chairman,

This is the 10th Anniversary of the adoption of resolution 1701(2006) which ended 33 days of Israeli war against Lebanon, and reinforced UNIFIL deployment in the South of Lebanon since the first Israeli invasion of my country in 1978. Time and again, 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, as mentioned in paragraph 15 of the Secretary-General report issued last June on the implementation of resolution 1701" Israel has continued to occupy northern Ghajar and an adjacent area northern of the blue line, in violation of resolution 1701 and of Lebanese sovereignty".

- Cease to violate Lebanon's sovereignty by land, air and sea as mentioned in paragraph 14 of the same report: " Israeli violations of Lebanese airspace continued almost daily... in violation of resolution 1701" and to move from this precarious situation of cessation of hostilities to a

Let alone the launch by Israel of millions of cluster munitions on civilian populations described by Human rights Watch as amounting to war crime.

As a host country of one of the oldest monitoring operations UNTSO and one of the largest peacekeeping operations in the world UNIFIL, I would like to highlight the following key elements that we consider important for the delivery of the mandate:

- Maintenance of a dialogue between the Mission and competent authorities in the host country: We are proud of maintaining a transparent and timely dialogue with UNIFIL and UNSCOL. Open channels of communication with competent authorities will facilitate reaching quick and swift solutions to financial, logistical and other matters related to the mandate of peacekeeping operation. Moreover, we are confident that the up strategic review will be conducted in the same spirit.

- Strategic dialogue with Lebanese armed forces: 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 not only to the formulation of the plan for five years to build up LAF's capabilities, but also to generate international support to support its implement. 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 to combat terrorism and maintain security and stability in the country.

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

- Ensuring safety and security: On January 28, 2015, a UNIFIL Spanish 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 killing of peacekeepers and Lebanese civilians, 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.

I would like to pay high tribute to 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.

I thank you Mr. Chairman.