

Mr. Chairman,

I am taking the floor today in explanation of Lebanon's vote on draft Resolution A/C.2/71/L.2 entitled "Oil slick on Lebanese shores".

For the eleventh consecutive year the Second Committee has voted, by an overwhelming majority, in favour of this Resolution, reasserting the will of the international community to hold countries responsible for their internationally wrongful acts, and sending a clear message that time is not a vehicle for impunity, and not a reliever of responsibilities from such acts. 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.

It acknowledges 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.

Through this resolution, the Second Committee has once 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/71/217.

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 without delay.

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.

I thank you Mr. Chairman.