



Statement

by

**Mr. Hassan Abbas
Counsellor**

**at the
Fourth Committee**

**Item 55: "Comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping
operations in all their aspects"**

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Check Against Delivery

*Permanent Mission of Lebanon to the United Nations
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Mr. Chairman,

At the outset, my delegation would like to associate itself with the statement delivered by the delegation of Morocco on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM).

Mr. Chairman,

The last decade has witnessed a worrying increase in violence and conflicts in many regions and countries around the world leaving, as a result, many communities devastated by the scourge of war and destruction, and leading to one of the most dangerous forced displacement crises since World War II. The role of the UN's peacekeeping operations and political missions has never been so crucial to the maintenance of peace, and the prevention and mitigation of conflicts. Adapting to the wide range of new and emerging challenges to peace and security around the globe is essential for ensuring the success of peacekeeping operations in the future.

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

- Prevention continues to be the utmost priority that should be sought by the United Nations, at the headquarters and in the field. We agree with the Secretary General's emphasis on the "primacy of politics" and the need for a renewed focus on diplomatic and peacebuilding efforts to run in parallel with peacekeeping operations. Supporting national governments in their post-conflict reconstruction and reconciliation efforts, and in the strengthening of national institutions, and in rebuilding their economies, would help in sustaining peace and stability, and avoiding a relapse into crises or conflicts.

- C-34 continues to be the unique intergovernmental forum to discuss policies and guidance in the context of peacekeeping operations. My delegation would like to reiterate that the increasing complexity of conflicts demands greater collaboration between local, national and regional actors, but also between C-34, the Security Council, TCCs, PCCs, UN Secretariat, other UN agencies and host countries.

- Lebanon welcomes the Secretary General's zero tolerance policy on sexual exploitation and abuse in peacekeeping operations, which should ensure the full compliance of their personnel with the United Nations code of conduct.

- Protection of civilians is an important component of the mandate of many peacekeeping operations today. In this regard, we stress on the need to implement the set guidelines for protection in a comprehensive and universal manner.

- The steps undertaken to ensure a better representation for women in peacekeeping leadership posts are commendable and we call for their enhancement.

Mr. Chairman,

Lebanon is the host country of two longstanding peacekeeping missions, UNTSO since 1948, and UNIFIL since 1978 following Israel's first invasion of my country.

UNIFIL was reinforced in 2006 following the adoption of Security Council resolution 1701, which put an end to Israel's 33 day war against Lebanon, and whose term was renewed unanimously by the Security Council for one additional year last August, without changing its mandate.

Time and again, my Government has reaffirmed its commitment to the full implementation of resolution 1701(2006) and reiterated its calls on the international community to compel Israel to abide by its obligations under said resolution, to withdraw from the remaining Lebanese occupied territories, to cease its daily violations of Lebanon's sovereignty by land, air and sea, to move from the cessation of hostilities to a permanent ceasefire, and to end its flagrant attempts at undermining the credibility of UNIFIL and its leadership,

Mr. Chairman,

Both UNTSO and UNIFIL continue to enjoy the full support and cooperation of my Government in implementing their respective mandates. Channels of communication and dialogue between the leaderships of both Missions and the relevant Lebanese authorities are open and work efficiently and effectively. A particular highlight of this cooperation is the excellent relationship that exists between the Lebanese Armed Forces (LAF) and UNIFIL at all levels, which is maintained through the coordination mechanism and the Strategic Dialogue, both aimed at facilitating and streamlining necessary international assistance to build up the capabilities of LAF. Such assistance would enable LAF to fulfill its tasks in maintaining stability and security across the country, including in South Lebanon, and to combat terrorism.

My Government is also committed to preserving the safety and security of all UN personnel in Lebanon, including UNIFIL whose security and safety have been continuously undermined by Israel since 1978, most recently the killing of a Spanish peacekeeper as a result of Israeli shelling in January 2015, and the killing of many peacekeepers by shelling and airstrikes during the July 2006 aggression on Lebanon, and the shelling of the UNIFIL headquarters in Qana in 1996 which resulted in the killing and injury of more than a hundred civilians and the injury of 4 Fijian peacekeepers.

Finally Mr. Chairman,

I would like to take this opportunity to salute all UN peacekeepers and to pay tribute to their sacrifices in the line of duty. I would also like to extend our sincerest gratitude to all Troop Contributing Countries for their continued and tireless commitment to the success of UNIFIL and other peacekeeping operations in their pursuit to achieve peace and stability in our region and around the world.

I thank you for your attention.