

MISSION PERMANENTE DU LIBAN  
AUPRES DE  
L'OFFICE DES NATIONS UNIES  
A GENEVE

—  
Rue de Moillebeau 58  
1209 Genève

Statement  
of  
Ambassador Gebran SOUFAN  
Permanent Representative of Lebanon  
to the UN Office - Geneva  
on the occasion of the presentation  
of the report of the UN High Commissioner  
for Human Rights  
on the follow up to the report of the  
Commission of Inquiry on Lebanon  
4<sup>th</sup> Session of  
the Human Rights Council  
Geneva, 15 March 2007

Mr. President

The Human Rights Council resolution 3/3 of 8 December 2006, adopted without a vote, requested the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to consult with the Government of Lebanon on the report of the Commission of Inquiry established by the Council on 11 August 2006 “ to investigate the grave situation of human rights in Lebanon caused by the Israeli military operations ”. The mandate of the High Commissioner included consultations with the Lebanese authorities on the report’s findings and on the relevant recommendations contained therein.

Resolution 3/3 of 8 December 2006 underlines the unanimous concern of the Council to redress these violations as well as its will to assist the Government of Lebanon in dealing with their consequences, as specified in the recommendations, mainly with regard to :

- Humanitarian assistance and reconstruction.
- Vulnerable groups (children).
- Respect for International Law.
- Weapons.
- Redress violations of humanitarian law and human rights.

Mr. President,

Even an expedited process of recovery remains slower than the process of destruction, particularly if the latter is deliberately indiscriminate and random and the rehabilitation is multi-sectoral.

Therefore, it is understandable that the High Commissioner’s report is a preliminary one. The latter, albeit brief, is in a way substantive, because it is more that a declaration of intents.

Rather, it constitutes a plan of action involving “ an inter-branch task force” to ensure a comprehensive and holistic approach to follow up on the Commission of Inquiry’s recommendations and examine, in consultation with the Government of Lebanon, “the possibility of designing activities and projects in order to ensure the follow-up of specific recommendations”.

The report informs that a “Protection Working Group” is already set up in Lebanon to look into human rights aspects of economic and social recovery programmes, emphasizing a rights-based approach to health, education, housing and other rights”. The work is conducted in partnership and cooperation with Government Officials and members of civil societies. Furthermore, the collaboration extends to the Lebanese Parliamentary Committee on Human Rights with a view to assist in a capacity-building programme in the area of human rights law and International humanitarian law.

Mr. President,

The road ahead for implementing resolution 3/3 of 8 December 2006 and hence for the High Commissioner to discharge her duties accordingly requires:

- 1- Synergy, as many UN agencies and bodies and other intergovernmental and regional bodies are involved with the report of the Commission of Inquiry. It is only after receiving replies to the High Commissioner letters, that her office would be able to report on the activities relevant to the recommendations that are being implemented by other agencies and bodies.
- 2- Intensive Consultations in Beirut with the competent Lebanese authorities are another requirement, bearing in mind that the

tripartite Commission of Inquiry met with 21 senior Government officials, three parliamentarians, 31 officials of other institutions, including hospitals and local authorities, let alone representatives of the UN agencies, NGOs and Civil Society. Consulting with the mainstream would certainly require time and energy from the regional representative of the High Commissioner in Beirut as well as the “inter-branch task force” in Geneva. Therefore, we respectfully request that time be extended for the High Commissioner for Human Right to accomplish the work entrusted with in op. 2 of resolution 3/3 and to report to the Council at its fifth session.

In sum Mr. President,

We acknowledge with appreciation the work undertaken so far by the OHCHR in implementing resolution 3/3; we look forward to continuing a constructive engagement with her Office, and to the presentation of a follow-up report as previously stated.

Finally, I seize the moment to urge the human Rights Council to initiate urgent action with other international bodies involved with disarmament, without prejudice to each others’ prerogatives, aimed at averting the recurrence of harm to civilians in any part of the world and at preserving their non-derogable and non-negotiable rights under international Law.

I thank you