

**HRC: Special Session on Middle East
15-16 October
Canadian Statement**

Thank you, Mr President

My delegation took note of the request made by the Palestinian delegation at the Twelfth Session of the Human Rights Council to defer consideration of a resolution on the Goldstone Report until the Thirteenth Regular Session of the Council in March 2010.

Only two weeks ago, the lead co-sponsors of the resolution considered that this would allow, quote, "more time for broad-based and comprehensive consideration" on the report.

We are very concerned that this Special Session has been called so soon after this assessment was made.

Mr President,

The Council's credibility depends on its preparedness to confront violations of human rights wherever and whenever they take place.

Canada strongly supports the use of Special Sessions to address grave situations, wherever they occur.

But we are concerned about the continued and unbalanced attention given by the Council to Middle East issues. This is at the expense of serious human rights situations around the world which the Council has failed to pay attention to.

We consider this Special Session a very poor precedent for the Council which undermines its integrity.