

Delegation of Canada

Explanation of Vote - UNIFIL

Mr. Chairman.

Today, Canada finds it necessary to oppose the resolution entitled "Financing of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon".

This should in no way be construed as a lack of confidence in the work of UNIFIL. Canada has supported and continues to support the valuable work of the UN Interim Force in Lebanon.

However, Canada finds certain paragraphs of the resolution to be inappropriate given that they attempt to politicize the important work of this committee. The resolution contains language which calls on Israel to provide compensation to the UN for the 1996 Qana incident. The General Assembly's Fifth Committee is not a tribunal and therefore is not the proper venue for a call for damages. We believe that this language inappropriately politicizes the work of the committee and therefore cannot support the resolution.

Thank you.