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Explanation of Vote by Stephen L. Lieberman, Minister Counselor for United Nations Management and Reform, on the UNIFIL Peacekeeping Budget Resolution Tuesday, June 12, 2012

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

The United States strongly supports UNIFIL, which is implementing an important mandate. However, the use of General Assembly funding resolutions to pursue claims against a Member state procedurally is not correct. This is the reason why we have opposed the General Assembly resolution on this item in previous years since they required Israel to pay for costs stemming from the Q'ana incident of 1996. These resolutions were not consensus resolutions.

Since shortly after the UN's inception, the procedure which has been followed is that the Secretary-General presents and pursues the settlement of the Organization's claims against a state or states. Using a funding resolution to legislate a settlement is inappropriate. It also politicizes the work of the GA's Fifth Committee, and should be avoided both now and in the future.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.