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Explanation of Vote
Cherith Norman Chalet, Minister Counselor
United Nations Management and Reform
UNIFIL 2015/2016 Budget Resolution
June 24, 2015

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 is not procedurally correct. This is the reason why we have opposed previous General Assembly resolutions on this item 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 founding of the United Nations, 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 General Assembly's Fifth Committee, and should be avoided both now and in the future.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.