

27 June 2013

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*Agenda item 158 (b) - United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon
Call for a vote – Israel – Mr. Isi Yanouka, Minister-Counsellor,
Permanent Mission of Israel*

Mr. Chairman.

At the outset, I wish to express Israel's appreciation and support for all United Nations peacekeeping forces. We offer our gratitude to the troop-contributing countries, the commanders, and all those who support the important work of diverse PKOs.

Israel's political and financial contributions represent our continuing commitment to the operations, goals and values of PKOs. We are proud to have good relations and longstanding cooperation with peacekeeping forces in our region.

Nonetheless, I am compelled to express Israel's disappointment, once again, with the resolution before us, contained in document A/C.5/67/L.37. This resolution contains language that is politicised and genuinely unhelpful in supporting PKOs. Clearly, such language has no place in this resolution. Politically-motivated language like this ruins the professional nature, good relations, and consensus atmosphere of the Fifth Committee.

Paragraphs PP-4, OP-4, OP-5, and OP-15 are a sad attempt to institutionalise an anti-Israel narrative within the United Nations. Rather than responding to these charges at the moment, I will leave any political comments for the relevant United Nations fora instead of this professional committee.

Israel regrets that certain countries have chosen to drag this entire committee into an entirely unrelated political conflict by proposing language in this resolution that has nothing to do with UNIFIL's budget.

For these reasons, my delegation is calling for a vote on this resolution, and will vote against it.

We call upon other members of the committee to express their disapproval of this unconstructive language by casting a negative vote, as well.

Thank you.