



**STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE GROUP OF 77 AND CHINA
BY MS. LOURDES PEREIRA SOTOMAYOR, FIRST SECRETARY, THE PERMANENT MISSION OF
THE REPUBLIC OF ECUADOR TO THE UNITED NATIONS, ON DRAFT RESOLUTION A/C.5/71/L.31
ENTITLED "FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS INTERIM FORCE IN LEBANON", AT THE
SECOND RESUMED PART OF THE SEVENTY-FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

(New York, 25 May 2017)

Madam Chair,

1. I have the honour to speak on behalf of the Group of 77 and China and express our thanks to the Secretary-General for his reports on the financing of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), as contained in documents A/71/640, A / 71/765 and its Corr.1 and to the Chair of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions for the related report contained in document A/71/836/Add.5.

Madam Chair,

2. In response to General Assembly resolution 70/280, the Secretary-General states in his report that Israel has not paid the amount of \$1,117,005 due as accounts receivable for UNIFIL resulting from the tragic incident in Qana on 18 April 1996. The Secretary-General further explains that he has received no response to his subsequent letters addressed to the Permanent Mission of Israel in this regard, the latest dated 16 January 2017.

Madam Chair,

3. The Group of 77 and China stresses once again that the amount due from the incident in Qana on 18 April 1996 should be paid by Israel, and requests the Secretary-General to report on this matter to the General Assembly at its seventy-second session.

4. In this regard, the Group of 77 and China is the sponsor of preambular paragraph (4) and operative paragraphs (4), (5) and (13) of draft resolution A/C.5/71/L.31, and of the draft resolution as a whole, entitled "Financing of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon".

Madam Chair,

5. I would like to reiterate the appreciation of the Group of 77 and China to the Secretary-General for his efforts in this regard and to the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon for their sacrifices and positive contribution to restoring peace and security in the region.

Thank you, Madam Chair.