



SLOVENIA

**Statement by H.E. Ms. Sanja Štiglic
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Slovenia to the United Nations
at the Tenth Emergency Special Session of the General Assembly
January 16, 2009**

Mr. President,

Slovenia fully aligns itself with the statement delivered yesterday by the Czech Republic on behalf of the European Union and would like to make some additional comments in the national capacity.

Slovenia welcomes the adoption of the SC resolution 1860 and calls on the parties in conflict to immediately cease all acts of violence and respect their obligations under SC resolution, as well as the applicable international humanitarian and human rights laws. We strongly condemn attacks on schools and hospitals, on UN and ICRC personnel and facilities, including the shelling of UN premises in the Gaza Strip yesterday.

We are deeply concerned regarding the humanitarian situation in Gaza, where the suffering and anguish of the civilian population has escalated dramatically over the past days. Slovenian government therefore decided to allocate additional humanitarian assistance to the population of Gaza. It is of utmost importance that humanitarian aid reaches the people of Gaza without hindrance. We welcome the decision taken by Israeli authorities to extend the cessation of attacks, for humanitarian assistance to be delivered unimpeded. Humanitarian personnel must be guaranteed free and secure movement and access. Security and administrative arrangements must be clearly established and predictable without any preconditions.

The wounded and the seriously ill, for which medical assistance cannot be provided in Gaza, must be evacuated. The most fragile group of population – women and children – need protection. They live in shortage of basically everything – except violence.

However, it goes without saying that efficient humanitarian response is only possible if ceasefire is in place and all crossings are open.

In conclusion:

We call on both sides to cease fire immediately. The parties must restrain from any actions that would further threaten the viability of the comprehensive, just and lasting settlement of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. In this context we strongly support Egypt in its ongoing efforts to achieve comprehensive and durable ceasefire as well as the activities of the UN SG Ban Ki-moon in the region.