

ISRAEL - Adoption of UNIFIL L. Doc

Statement by Ms. Daniel Hazanovitz:

Mr. Chairman,

As we are forced to do every year - the 5th committee is once again gathered to vote on the L. Document presented by the group of 77 and China. Once again the work of this important committee is politicized and thus undermined, and once again this committee is standing by and allowing this inane repetition, treating this matter as "business as usual", rather than insisting on a change.

We, the Member States, have spent the better part of this past year working towards reform. Nowhere has this been more prominent than in the 5th committee, particularly in this second resumed session. We have been striving to make the United Nations a better, more efficient, more effective organization by discarding old and ineffective practices and adopting new and better ones. Unfortunately, this approach does not seem to apply to the committee's own work, and so we find ourselves here once more. This reminds me of a quote by Frances Burney, an English novelist and playwright, who said: "The mind naturally accommodates itself, even to the most ridiculous improprieties, if they occur frequently".

Mr. Chairman,

At the opening of our discussions on management reform this session, the group of 77 and China stated, and I quote: "Reform must be undertaken to create a more responsive, but also more **responsible** and **credible** Organization". However they choose to repeat the past and continue singling out my country every year and reinforcing this unjustified bias in this ridiculous fashion, making a mockery of this organization and this committee, especially this year when they did not even try to engage with the committee on the UNIFIL language before presenting the L. Document. Imagine if this method was used in order not to engage on the reforms, the TCC reimbursement rates or the modalities. Do any of us believe this would make the UN and our work here more **responsible** or **credible**?

Mr. Chairman,

Israel has been faced with terrorism and violence for many years and therefore we have a significant and deep understanding of the necessity for peacekeeping. What is more- we are actively engaged in trying to assist the UN in protecting its peacekeepers- brave men and woman from TCCs and PCCs whose' invaluable work in difficult and dangerous environments we greatly appreciate.

Israel has, and continues to maintain good relations with all peacekeeping forces in our region, including UNIFIL, and unceasingly demonstrates its support for UN Peacekeeping operations as

a whole. However, our efforts to support UN Peacekeeping Operations is not the issue we are here to discuss today.

Mr. Chairman,

Preambular Paragraph 4 and Operative Paragraphs 4, 5 and 13 are nothing more than an attempt to advance a political agenda in an otherwise a-political discussion on UN peacekeeping budgets and should not be accepted as part of the 5th committee mandate.

Therefore, we call for a vote and urge this committee to embrace the winds of change brought forth by the reforms and vote against it, because change will foster more change whereas repetition will only reinforce further repetition.

Thank You.