

Canadian Explanation of Vote - Special Session of HRC
August 11, 2006

The conflict in Israel and Lebanon has resulted in actions that are contrary to the principles of international humanitarian law and these should be pursued in other appropriate contexts, such as meetings of the High Contracting Parties of the Geneva Conventions, by the international community. Furthermore, as stated, this issue is currently before the UN Security Council and Canada does not consider it helpful or constructive for this Council to be dealing with similar issues in a way that may not be consistent with the position of the Security Council.

Canada firmly reiterates our desire to employ this new Council for constructive not divisive ends. We believe that this body's procedures and its output must respect the principles upon which the Council was founded. Rather than fall back into non-productive habits, it must work to ensure universality, objectivity and non-selectivity in the consideration of human rights issues, and to eliminate double standards and politicization.