

11 August 2006

## Delegation of Japan - Explanation of Vote

We are sad. Sad because we were not able to support the draft resolution put forth by our friends. Please do not think that we are not mindful about the very grave situation. On the contrary. We have time and again made clear how serious we have taken the situation in and around Lebanon and the suffering of the people there. Let me repeat our position here so to explain why we had to vote as we have done.

One. We deeply regret that, regardless of the repeated appeals from the international community, Israel continued air bombings. They have resulted in the deaths of a great number of civilians, including children and UN personnel. This is not acceptable.

Two. Japan calls for an immediate cease-fire.

Attacks against Israel must be stopped as well. Hostages must be released.

Three. We urge all the parties concerned to exert their utmost self-restraint.

The key concept here is the responsibilities of all parties concerned. One party alone cannot be held responsible. Attacks from Hezbollah must be duly addressed too. I stress "duly". From this point, we appreciate the cosponsor's effort to improve the text, <sup>✓</sup> but we have to say it still is not sufficient. *- it is in the right direction.*

We believe that the proposed resolution as amended is yet from being the one that would help to improve or solve the situation. This is the reason for our voting.

Mr. Chairman,

We are now starting the newly born council's voyage. Some of the shared core notions were, as I recall, inclusiveness and consensus seeking. I regret one of the first results of this council did not proceed in that manner. In the future, in addressing other issues, we hope further efforts will be made for arriving at a consensus.

Last but not least, let me hasten to add that our sympathy towards the Lebanese people is deep and unchanged. They never deserved to be put in the situation they find themselves in today. We have announced our emergency humanitarian Grant Aid for Lebanon. We are and will always stand by the people of Lebanon. I thank you.