



Mission permanente d'Israël
auprès de l'Office des Nations Unies
et des Organisations Internationales à Genève

משלחת ישראל
ליד משרד האומות המאוחדות
והארגונים הבינלאומיים בג'נבה

Statement by H.E. Ambassador Itzhak Levanon
Permanent Representative

4th Regular Session
Human Rights Council

Before the Vote on Resolution L.2

27 March 2007

Mr. President:

Resolutions S-1/1 and S-3/1 are notable for nothing so much, as their notoriety as this new Council's first prominent examples of selectivity, politicization and double standards. They provided an avenue for the OIC and Arab states to demonstrate, in a dramatic fashion, exactly how they intended to commandeer the Council for their own purposes. It also provided a disillusioning example to all of us of the power a voting bloc can wield, a power exploited to obstruct any meaningful review of human rights abuses in any part of the world they find to be politically inconvenient or personally embarrassing.

In conspicuous contrast to the broad, inclusive and intentionally vague language in the operative paragraphs of another resolution, which was adopted by consensus, the language of these two resolutions are narrow, restrictive and very precisely delineated. They only allow for the investigation of one side of the equation.

Had the envisaged missions succeeded in surpassing the confines of their very restrictive mandates and presenting a nominally balanced report, I am confident the sponsors of these resolutions would have denounced both the missions and the reports, and refused to accept their conclusions. We have witnessed such a reaction, after the four special rapporteurs visited Israel and Lebanon last September.

I would like to reiterate what I have said previously before this body: Israel is never opposed to engagement with the international community through dialogue and consultation, rather than the imposition of inequitable and unbalanced resolutions.

Should the sponsors of these resolutions adhere to the Council's stated goals of impartiality, objectivity and non-selectivity, I can assure you there will be a commiserate shift in the Israeli approach to engagement as well.

Members of the Council,

The adoption of this resolution is in marked contrast to the wish delegations have expressed to see the Council changing its course for the better. I urge you to consider that in your votes.