

Brazil's Statement to the UN Security Council

Geneva, January 2008, Six HRC Special Session, Resolution on the Situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territories

Intervention by the Brazilian delegation to the Human Rights Council

Mr. President,

Brazil is among those countries which signed the list calling for this Special Session on Palestine.

It is the view of the Government of Brazil that, unless all parties reinforce their commitment to dialogue and to the cessation of the use of force, it will not be possible, from a human rights perspective, to achieve significant changes on the conditions prevailing on the ground.

Brazil reaffirms its understanding that the right to peace is universal and shall include, to that extent, all peoples. A partial approach to the current situation, without a call for moderation to all parties involved in the hostilities, would jeopardize the legitimacy of the Human Rights Council, as well as the efficacy of any decision taken on the issue.

Brazil is concerned not only with the effects of the Israeli attacks and incursions on the human rights and humanitarian situation in the Palestinian Occupied Territories, but also with rocket attacks launched against Israeli communities close to the Gaza strip.

It is the understanding of Brazil that all parties involved in hostilities must halt actions which affect civilian populations on both sides. We welcome the support of the international community to the peace negotiations, under the terms defined by the Conferences of Annapolis and Paris. We also call Israel to guarantee free access of humanitarian services and supplies to Gaza.

I thank you Mr. President.

Mr. President,

Brazil has voted in favor of the draft resolution A/HRC/S-6/L1 and requests the floor for an explanation of vote after the vote.

We are deeply concerned with the increasing deterioration of the living conditions of the Palestinian population. We deplore the suffering imposed upon them.

Both parties involved in the conflict must refrain from resorting to collective punishment or to any form of violence which affects civilian population.

As stated on the First and Second Special Sessions of the Council, Brazil considers unacceptable the use of violence by either side as an instrument to achieve their aims. Escalating the level of violence will not make a durable peace more likely. Brazil firmly believes in dialogue and peaceful solution of conflicts.

Brazil welcomes strengthening the support by the international community to the peace negotiations, under the terms defined by the Conferences of Annapolis and Paris, the firm understanding that all parties involved in hostilities must halt actions affecting civilian populations on both sides, as well as the call for Israel to guarantee free access to humanitarian services in Gaza.

I thank you Mr. President.