

Brazil's Statement to the UN Security Council

Geneva, March 06th 2008, 7th HRC Session, Resolution on the Situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territories

Intervention by the Brazilian delegation to the Human Rights Council, on behalf of Argentina, Brazil, Chile and Uruguay

We actively participated in the three previous Special Sessions of the Council on the human rights situation in the Palestinian Occupied Territories (OPT). We acknowledged the spirit of consensus which guided the institution-building process of the Council and the inclusion of item 7 on the Agenda of the Human Rights Council. We have shown a pattern of favorable votes regarding resolutions on the OPT either at regular or Special Sessions.

Notwithstanding our attention to the human rights and humanitarian rights situation on the OPT, which has been indicated on all previous occasions at the Council and in our statements on the issue, we wish to reiterate, at this 7th Session, the need of the Human Rights Council to address the issue under a broader perspective. It should contemplate the impact of use of force against civilian population by all parties involved in hostilities, and it should reinforce the urgent need that both sides engage, in an authentic manner, in the efforts to promote dialogue and peace negotiations resumed at the Conference of Annapolis and reinforced at the Paris Conference.

While recognizing the disproportionate use of force by Israel, and its consequences, we wish to remind that, unless there is from all parties involved a genuine commitment with dialogue and cessation of use of force, it will not be possible to achieve significant change on the ground under a human rights perspective.

We reaffirm our conviction that the right to live in peace is universal and extensive to all peoples. Addressing the issue in a partial manner, without the recognition of and the call for moderation by all parties involved in hostilities, would jeopardize the legitimacy of the Human Rights Council, as well as the effectiveness of any decision to be taken concerning the Palestinian Occupied Territories.

It is revealing that on the occasion of its 1st, 2nd and 6th Special Sessions, the Human Rights Council has devoted itself to the human right situation on the OPT. It is also relevant that the contents of resolutions approved on these special sessions have been reiterated on the subsequent regular sessions. Up to the present moment, no lasting impact on the situation of the populations affected by the conflict has taken place. We

reaffirm the importance of guaranteeing the full implementation of the HRC's resolutions to achieve a peaceful and sustainable solution on the ground.

Brazil has voted in favor of the draft resolution A/HRC/7/L.1 and requests the floor for an explanation of vote after the vote.

It is a cause of serious concern the recent military attacks in the Occupied Palestinian Territories, particularly in the Gaza Strip, resulting in loss of lives and injuries within the civilian population.

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

While recognizing that the number of Palestinian civilian victims was far superior to those of Israel, Brazil wishes to remind that, from a human rights perspective, unless there is from all parties involved a genuine commitment with dialogue and cessation of use of force, it will not be possible to achieve significant change on the ground.

As stated on previous Special Sessions of the Council, it is unacceptable by Brazil the use of violence by either side as an instrument to achieve their aims.

While firmly reiterating its continuous belief in dialogue and peaceful solution of conflicts, Brazil strongly condemns the escalation of the level of violence.