

United States of America

This position paper is the position of your country in the 6061st meeting in the Security Council about the situation in Israel and Palestine. Your position is however open to change, if you feel you can agree on less strong statements in a resolution. It is however necessary to understand what other countries mean by their statements, so you are sure that the statements, you are agreeing upon, are not compromising your own. Furthermore, note that the US is one of the five permanent members of the Security Council which gives US the right to use its veto on decisions/ resolutions if they cannot agree upon them.

It is your task to make a 1 minute opening speech based on your positions given in this paper. The final part of this document contains a speech held in the Security Council and this speech can give you an idea to how you should make your opening speech.

The last page in this position paper is a draft (udkast til) resolution. You will take point of departure (udgangspunkt) in this draft, and try to convince other countries to agree on this draft. You will most likely have to change some of the points when you are negotiating, since many countries will not agree on what it says in the draft. This negotiation process (forhandlingsprocess) will mainly (hovedsagelig) take place during "suspension of the meetings" or if you go outside during the sessions. This is when you will negotiate with other countries. During formal session, you should try and speak for the points you want in the resolution (for instance say that you think it is necessary to condemn Hamas for its actions and not Israel, because they are only defending themselves).

Do this during the session: When the permanent members and some of the non-permanent members of the council agree on your draft resolution (maybe in a moderated version) you should "Motion to introduce your draft resolution".

Position

United States of America is a founding member of the United Nations and also a permanent member of the Security Council. United States' influence has generally kept the Israel/Palestine issue off the Security Council's agenda. When Council members have introduced resolutions, responding to periodic crises, the US has repeatedly (*gentagende gange*) used its veto on Israel's behalf. The U.S. has traditionally rejected (*afvist*) the international consensus (the international consensus has involved the withdrawal of Israeli forces to within the internationally recognized boundaries in return for security guarantees from Israel's neighbours, the establishment of a Palestinian state in the West Bank and Gaza and some special status for a shared Jerusalem) and currently takes a position more closely resembling (*minde om*) that of Israel's right-wing government: supporting a Jerusalem under largely Israeli sovereignty (*suverænitet*), encouraging (*tilskynde*) only partial withdrawal (*tilbagetrækning*) from the occupied territories, allowing for the confiscation of Palestinian land and the construction of Jewish-only settlements and rejecting an independent state Palestine without Israeli agreement.

Throughout the Israeli-Palestinian peace process, the U.S. has insisted on the two parties working out a peace agreement among them selves. The U.S. has blamed the Palestinians for not compromising further (*gå mere på kompromis*), even though they already ceded (*afgivet*) 78 percent of historic Palestine to the Israelis in the Oslo Accords. With the U.S. playing the dual role of the chief mediator (*hoved-mægler*) of the conflict as well as the chief diplomatic, financial and military

backer of Israeli occupation forces, the U.S. goal seems to be more that of Pax Americana than that of a true peace.

The US's relations to other SC members

The US mainly supports Israeli interests in the conflict. They have also good relations to Panama and Costa Rica and in terms of SC discussions, the US have good relations to the EU and Russia with whom they have been part of the Quartet of the Middle East. Thus, these are the countries that you will turn to first when negotiating about the resolution. It is necessary to remember to consult with both Israel and Palestine before introducing and agreeing upon a resolution, since these are the main parties in the conflict.

Finally, the permanent members of the Security Council will always be consulted in regard to a draft resolution (*resolutionsforslag*) since they can make the agreement fall because of their veto power.

The United States' stance on the subjects under discussion

Point 1: Ceasefire

The USA finds that the ongoing attacks against Israel and the decision by Hamas not to respect the previous truce show that there must be new arrangements in place, not a return to the status quo. A ceasefire that returns to those circumstances is unacceptable, and it will not last.

It is imperative that any ceasefire be durable and sustainable and that it ensure the safety and security of Israelis and Palestinians alike.

The parties need urgently to conclude a ceasefire that can endure and bring real security. That will begin a period of true calm that includes an end to rocket, mortar and other attacks on Israelis and allows for the cessation (*indstilling*) of Israel's military offensive.

The United States of America supports:

1. the urgency of an immediate, durable and fully respected ceasefire
3. the need for Israeli military engagement in the occupied territories in order to fight terrorism but demanding a withdrawal of Israeli forces
4. Palestinians to declare an unequivocal end to violence and terrorism and undertake visible efforts to this on the ground;
5. Hamas to ensure an immediate end to the rocket attacks into the territory of Israel

Point 2: Response to the humanitarian situation

The USA is very concerned about the humanitarian situation in Gaza. The U.S. supports the Palestinian refugees and is financially supporting UNRWA in order to ensure (*sikre*) food, shelter, health, and other humanitarian needs (*humanitære fornødenheder*) for the refugees in Gaza and the West bank. Yet, actions towards a secure humanitarian situation must also include an end to the smuggling of weapons into Gaza and a reopening of crossings so that Palestinians can benefit from humanitarian goods and basic supplies.

The United States of America calls for:

1. Member States to support international efforts to alleviate the humanitarian and economic situation in Gaza;

3. a normal and permanent reopening of all crossings into Gaza

Point 3: Condemnation of Israeli actions

The USA finds that Israel has the right to defend its territory from Palestinian attacks. The United States regrets the loss of lives of innocent civilians and the growing humanitarian difficulties in the area. Yet, the United States of America will not condemn Israel for protecting its population from attacks from Hamas.

Point 4: Condemnation of Hamas' actions

Hundreds of thousands of Israelis lived under the daily threat of rocket attacks. Frankly, no country — none of our countries — would have been willing to tolerate such a circumstance. Moreover, the people of Gaza watched as insecurity and lawlessness increased and as their living conditions grew more dire (*forfærdelig*) because of the actions of Hamas. We have not yet seen any evidence that Hamas is willing to immediately cease rocket attacks. Knowing that it was intolerable for Israel to live under the terror of rocket attacks, Hamas continued its barrage (byger) which involved dozens of rockets a day. As a result we face the crisis we are meeting to day.

The United States of America will:

1. condemn the provocations by Hamas
2. condemn the breaking of the truce by Hamas
3. condemn the terrorist attacks against Israel by Hamas

The position given to your country may not be the country's real position; it has been changed and simplified for this mock-session.

Example of a speech

This is an example of a speech held in the Security Council. This speech is available to you, so you can see how a speech can look. It is your task to make your own 1 minute speech where you incorporate (*indarbejder*) your own positions in regard to the 4 points we are discussing today (the ceasefire, response to the humanitarian situation, condemnation of Israeli actions and condemnation of Hamas' actions). You can use the statements already written under each of the points above or you can make up your own speech that follows the points.

Thank you very much.

I would like to begin by welcoming the presence among us of the Secretary-General, whose statement we very much appreciate.

We would like to express our appreciation for the convening of this meeting in the light of the gravity of the current situation in the Middle East, especially in Gaza and southern Israel. We believe that the urgency of the reality on the ground required the immediate holding of a public meeting of the Council and calls for a firm response by this organ. We hope that the Council will take relevant action that will be respected by the parties.

We would like to remind that only a renewed ceasefire can open the way to establishing minimally acceptable conditions for the people of Gaza, and that only continued political negotiations between the Palestinian factions and between Israel and a Palestinian Authority that is negotiating on behalf of all Palestinians, can bring a lasting solution to this conflict.

We stress the absolute need to speedily resolve the underlying causes of the situation in the Middle East. Here, we reaffirm our great concern about the fact that the Security Council — which bears primary responsibility for maintenance of international peace and security — is on the margins of this process.

As we strive for a ceasefire, we remain deeply concerned about innocent Palestinians and Israelis who are suffering. Let me assure the Council that we understand the urgency of an end to the fighting and that we are working around the clock to bring it into being.

We need urgent action to restore supplies of food, fuel and medicine to the population of the Gaza Strip. That means opening up the crossings into Gaza to allow the entry of those supplies, and it means ensuring that the supplies can be distributed properly within the Gaza Strip. Israel must meet its humanitarian obligations, and the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East will, as always, have a vital role to play and will almost certainly need more support.

Thank you Mr. President

Security Council

Resolution 1880 (2009)

Adopted by the Security Council at its 6061st meeting

The Security Council,

1. *stresses* the urgency of an immediate, durable and fully respected ceasefire
2. *stresses* the need for Israeli military engagement in the occupied territories in order to fight terrorism but demanding a withdrawal of Israeli forces
3. *calls for* Palestinians to declare an unequivocal end to violence and terrorism and undertake visible efforts to this on the ground;
4. *calls on* Hamas to ensure an immediate end to the rocket attacks into the territory of Israel
5. *calls upon* Member States to support international efforts to alleviate the humanitarian and economic situation in Gaza;
6. *encourages* a normal and permanent reopening of all crossings into Gaza
7. *strongly condemns* the provocations by Hamas
8. *strongly condemns* the breaking of the truce by Hamas
9. *strongly condemns* the terrorist attacks against Israel by Hamas

Burkina Faso

This position paper is the position of your country in the 6061st meeting in the Security Council about the situation in Israel and Palestine. Your position is however open to change, if you feel you can agree on less strong statements in a resolution. It is however necessary to understand what other countries mean by their statements, so you are sure that the statements, you are agreeing upon, are not compromising your own.

It is your task to make a 1 minute opening speech based on your positions given in this paper. The final part of this document contains a speech held in the Security Council and this speech can give you an idea to how you should make your opening speech.

Do this during session: After about 20 minutes of formal discussion, motion for a suspension of the meeting for 10 minutes in order to be able to continue informal negotiations on the subject that you are currently discussing.

Facts about Burkina Faso

Burkina Faso is a landlocked (*indlandsstat*) nation in West Africa. It is surrounded by six countries: Mali, Niger, Benin, Togo, Ghana, and Côte d'Ivoire (*Elfenbenskysten*). Burkina Faso's capital is Ouagadougou. Burkina Faso is a former French Colony but gained independence from France in 1960. The current president is Blaise Compaoré, who came to power in 1987 after a coup d'état (*statskup*).

Burkina Faso has one of the lowest GDP per capita in the world and is the 28th poorest nation in the world. A large part of the economic activity in the country is funded by international aid. 50% of the population is Muslim, 30% are Christians and the last 20% are practicing traditional African religions (such as animism). The population of Burkina Faso is estimated to 13,2 million.

Burkina Faso has been a non-permanent member of the Security Council since 2008, and will therefore be a member until 2009. The country has only one time before been a member of the Security Council; this was in 1985-86.

General position:

Burkina Faso is a member of the Organization of the Islamic conference (OIC). This is important, as Palestine is also a member of this organisation, and Burkina Faso supports the Palestinian Authority and their fight for independence. For Burkina Faso, it is important to ensure the human rights of the Palestinian people and thus supports a truce between Israel and Palestine. Burkina Faso hopes that other countries will take part in a resolution that will ensure a humanitarian response to the situation in the Palestinian Territory. Burkina Faso is aware of the sufferings endured (*gennemlevet*) by the Palestinian people under siege (*belejring*) in the Gaza Strip, in terms of the most brutal campaign of blockage (*blokade*) and displacement (*forflytning*), and being firmly convinced of the need for effective action to alleviate (*lette*) the ordeal (*prøvelse*) faced by the Palestinian citizens in the Gaza Strip and to participate in securing their needs in terms of humanitarian necessities and relief (*lindring*). Burkina Faso thus condemns the military actions from the Israeli army.

Burkina Faso supports the Palestinian resistance and upholds the Palestinian's right to just struggle and battle to improve the humanitarian rights for their people. Furthermore Burkina Faso supports Palestinian self-determination. Burkina Faso condemns Israel for its despicable (*foragtelig*)

aggression on the Palestinian people and its illegal and illegitimate practices, most particularly the extrajudicial (*udenretslig*) killings and assassinations (*attentater/snigmord*), bombardment of homes, infrastructures and innocent civilians, and the unjustifiable blockade on the Gaza Strip as a collective punishment that comes under the category of war crimes. As many other nations of the Security Council, Burkina Faso believes that immediately action is necessary. However, such actions need to be taken by large organizations such as the United Nations. So far the two parts of the conflict – Israel and Palestine – have not been able to solve the conflict themselves, so Burkina Faso therefore consider the UN's help as a necessity even though Burkina Faso holds the international community responsible of the worsening of the humanitarian situation in Gaza.

Burkina Faso's relations to other SC members

Burkina Faso has good relations with Russia, the European Union and African countries. France, the former colonial power, in particular, continues to provide significant aid and support. Burkina maintains diplomatic relations with the Republic of China (usually referred to as "Taiwan") instead of the People's Republic of China and has therefore few relations to China in the Security Council. Burkina Faso has good relations to Libya and Indonesia. Thus, these are the countries that you will turn to first when negotiating about the resolution. It is necessary to remember to consult with both Israel and Palestine before introducing and agreeing upon a resolution, since these are the main parties in the conflict. Finally, the permanent members of the Security Council will always be consulted in regard to a draft resolution (*resolutionsforslag*) since they can make the agreement fall because of their veto power.

Burkina Faso's stance on the subjects under discussion

Point 1: Ceasefire

Burkina Faso calls for an immediate ceasefire, with a reliable monitoring mechanism, opening of crossings to allow for humanitarian access, the rejection of the military option and the re-launching of a political process that is credible and carried out in good faith.

Burkina Faso calls for:

1. the urgency of an immediate, durable and fully respected ceasefire
2. Israel to immediately cease its military attacks and withdraw its forces from Gaza
5. Hamas to ensure an immediate end to the rocket attacks into the territory of Israel
6. international protection of the people in Gaza

Point 2: Response to the humanitarian situation

Burkina Faso holds Israel, the occupying force, responsible for the deteriorating humanitarian conditions in the Gaza Strip and asserts that these conditions are the direct result of Israel's persistent assault, closure of border crossings, and disruption of the flow of fuel, food, and medical supplies to the Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip.

Burkina Faso calls for an immediate ceasefire in order to facilitate the provision of humanitarian assistance, especially in order to evacuate the wounded. It is necessary that Israel opens border crossings to humanitarian assistance, and in particular to allow access for humanitarian workers and the delivery of assistance from a number of states.

Thus Burkina Faso calls for:

1. Member States to support international efforts to alleviate the humanitarian and economic situation in Gaza;
3. a normal and permanent reopening of all crossings into Gaza
4. the United Nations to ensure that Israel takes measures to improve humanitarian conditions, lifting curfews and easing restrictions on movement of persons and goods;

Point 3: Condemnation of Israeli actions

Burkina Faso condemns the continued Israeli assault on the Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip. Burkina Faso supports the steadfast (*standhaftige*) resistance of the Palestinian people in the face of Israeli aggression and reaffirms (*genbekræfter*) its support to their just struggle in order to regain (*genvinde*) their inalienable (*umistelige*) and irrevocable (*uigenkaldelige*) rights, including their right to self-determination and the establishment of their independent state of Palestine. Burkina Faso expressed its aversion (*afsky*) to the deliberate (*bevidste*) murder of Palestinian citizens by Israeli forces, especially children and women, stressing that this Israeli carnage (*massakre*) is flagrant (*en åbenlys*) violation of international law and norms and of the Geneva Convention. Burkina Faso calls on the Security Council, the United Nations Human Rights Council and the international community to act quickly and decisively to stop this continued Israeli aggression and hold Israel responsible for the slaughter of Palestinian civilians in all occupied Palestinian territories.

Burkina Faso will:

1. condemn Israel's collective punishment of innocent civilians
2. condemn the excessive use of force by Israel
3. condemn the Israeli military attacks

Point 4: Condemnation of Hamas' actions

Even though, Burkina Faso shows great support towards Palestine they still do not support Hamas. Burkina Faso believes that Hamas should be kept on the terror list, even though they have been formally elected. Burkina thus call upon Hamas to end the rocket and mortar attacks against Israeli territories.

Burkina Faso will:

1. condemn the provocations by Hamas
3. condemn the terrorist attacks against Israel by Hamas

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Example of a speech

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Thank you very much.

I would like to begin by welcoming the presence among us of the Secretary-General, whose statement we very much appreciate.

We would like to express our appreciation for the convening of this meeting in the light of the gravity of the current situation in the Middle East, especially in Gaza and southern Israel. We believe that the urgency of the reality on the ground required the immediate holding of a public meeting of the Council and calls for a firm response by this organ. We hope that the Council will take relevant action that will be respected by the parties.

We would like to remind that only a renewed ceasefire can open the way to establishing minimally acceptable conditions for the people of Gaza, and that only continued political negotiations between the Palestinian factions and between Israel and a Palestinian Authority that is negotiating on behalf of all Palestinians, can bring a lasting solution to this conflict.

We stress the absolute need to speedily resolve the underlying causes of the situation in the Middle East. Here, we reaffirm our great concern about the fact that the Security Council — which bears primary responsibility for maintenance of international peace and security — is on the margins of this process.

As we strive for a ceasefire, we remain deeply concerned about innocent Palestinians and Israelis who are suffering. Let me assure the Council that we understand the urgency of an end to the fighting and that we are working around the clock to bring it into being.

We need urgent action to restore supplies of food, fuel and medicine to the population of the Gaza Strip. That means opening up the crossings into Gaza to allow the entry of those supplies, and it means ensuring that the supplies can be distributed properly within the Gaza Strip. Israel must meet its humanitarian obligations, and the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East will, as always, have a vital role to play and will almost certainly need more support.

Thank you Mr. President

Costa Rica

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Facts about Costa Rica

Costa Rica is located in Central America, bordering Nicaragua to the north and Panama to the south, and with a population of 4 million people. Costa Rica has been a non-permanent member of the Security Council since January 2008 and will sit in the SC until the end of 2009. Costa Rica is an active member of the international community and, in 1993, proclaimed its permanent neutrality (*permanent neutralitet*). This means that Costa Rica is in favour of solutions through dialogue between parties in a conflict and not through armed conflict. Furthermore, Costa Rica will not take part in interventions (*indgriben*) by the UN.

General position

Costa Rica was one of the first countries to accept Israel as a state and in February 2008 Costa Rica decided to establish diplomatic relations with the State of Palestine. This is an acceptance of the "State Palestine" and thus a confirmation that they support a sovereign state of Palestine. Costa Rica is committed to a two state solution to the conflict and they voted in favour of the UN Partition Plan in 1947. Costa Rica supports U.S. foreign policy in the Middle East, but Costa Rica is however, favouring Palestine more. Costa Rica finds that it is necessary to establish a Palestinian state and that Jerusalem will be in the control of the UN until a viable solution is found.

Costa Rica's relations to other SC members

Costa Rica generally supports the U.S. in international fora, especially in the areas of democracy and human rights. Furthermore, Costa Rica cooperates with the other Central American member of the SC, Panama. Thus, these are the countries that you will turn to first when negotiating about the resolution. It is necessary to remember to consult with both Israel and Palestine before introducing and agreeing upon a resolution, since these are the main parties in the conflict.

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Costa Rica's stance on the subjects under discussion

Point 1: Ceasefire

The political process and the situation on the ground are inseparable, and it is therefore necessary for the Security Council to demand an immediate end to all military action, using all the instruments and powers stipulated in the Charter of the United Nations.

Costa Rica is ready to contribute to the adoption of a draft resolution that urgently calls for an immediate cessation (*ophør*) of the hostilities, the establishment of an effective and lasting truce and the opening of all border crossings with controls and guarantees accepted and respected by all, so as to allow a return to the path of negotiations that will ultimately lead to the establishment of a viable and democratic Palestinian State, living side by side with Israel and jointly promoting the well-being and development that their peoples deserve and desire.

Thus, Costa Rica calls for:

1. the urgency of an immediate, durable and fully respected ceasefire
2. Israel to immediately cease its military attacks and withdraw its forces from Gaza
5. Hamas to ensure an immediate end to the rocket attacks into the territory of Israel
6. international protection of the people in Gaza

Point 2: Response to the humanitarian situation

Costa Rica finds it vital to come to a solution that will help the hundreds of thousand civilians that are presently without food, water, fuel or electricity in Gaza. It is the obligation of both parties to find a solution to the humanitarian crisis that is happening within Gaza.

Thus Costa Rica calls for:

1. Member States to support international efforts to alleviate the humanitarian and economic situation in Gaza;
2. Both parties to allow and facilitate immediate humanitarian action
3. a normal and permanent reopening of all crossings into Gaza

Point 3: Condemnation of Israeli actions

In order to ensure proper conditions for the Palestinian Authority to establish control within its territory, it is necessary that Israel takes steps to secure peace in the region. Israel's military activities in the Gaza Strip have been disproportionate. The activities have resulted in the death of more than 350 persons, including a significant number of civilians. Legitimate (*legitim*) self-defence does not sanction reprisals (*gengældelse*) such as those carried out by Israel in its attacks of recent days. Costa Rica must condemn the Israeli air attacks on Gaza and its blockade against the Palestinian civilian population.

Costa Rica therefore:

2. condemn the excessive use of force by Israel
3. condemn the Israeli military attacks

Point 4: Condemnation of Hamas' actions

Costa Rica understands Israel's security concerns. We find that it is necessary for all members of the Security Council to stand up against violations of human rights and find that it is necessary to condemn the terrorist attacks against the territory of Israel. It is however also important that the Palestinian Authority ensures a peaceful approach to its neighbour, Israel and control the terrorist activities that originate in the Palestinian Territory.

Costa Rica will:

3. condemn the terrorist attacks against Israel by Hamas

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We would like to remind that only a renewed ceasefire can open the way to establishing minimally acceptable conditions for the people of Gaza, and that only continued political negotiations between the Palestinian factions and between Israel and a Palestinian Authority that is negotiating on behalf of all Palestinians, can bring a lasting solution to this conflict.

We stress the absolute need to speedily resolve the underlying causes of the situation in the Middle East. Here, we reaffirm our great concern about the fact that the Security Council — which bears primary responsibility for maintenance of international peace and security — is on the margins of this process.

As we strive for a ceasefire, we remain deeply concerned about innocent Palestinians and Israelis who are suffering. Let me assure the Council that we understand the urgency of an end to the fighting and that we are working around the clock to bring it into being.

We need urgent action to restore supplies of food, fuel and medicine to the population of the Gaza Strip. That means opening up the crossings into Gaza to allow the entry of those supplies, and it means ensuring that the supplies can be distributed properly within the Gaza Strip. Israel must meet its humanitarian obligations, and the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East will, as always, have a vital role to play and will almost certainly need more support.

Thank you Mr. President

France

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The final part of this document contains a speech held in the Security Council and this speech can give you an idea to how you should make your opening speech.

Do this in the beginning of session: Right after the roll call (delegations opråb), you should motion for auxiliary representation of the Palestinian Authority, aiming to include them in the negotiations and hear their standpoint.

Facts about France:

France has been one of the world's foremost powers since the latter half of the 17th century. In the 18th and 19th centuries, France built one of the largest colonial empires of the time, stretching across West Africa and Southeast Asia, prominently influencing the cultures and politics of the regions. France is a developed country, with the eighth largest economy in the world. France is one of the founding members of the European Union, and has the largest land area of all members. France is also a founding member of the United Nations, and a member of the Francophonie, the G8, NATO, and the Latin Union. It is one of the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council (and has the right to veto a resolution); it is also an acknowledged nuclear power with 360 active warheads and 59 nuclear power plants.

General position:

As a permanent member of the Security Council, France has participated directly in many UN Peacekeeping operations, including in the Middle East. France has an important role to play in the mediation of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, since it maintains close historical and political ties with both the Israelis and the Palestinians, and it has both the largest Jewish and Arab-Muslim communities in Europe.

French position in the conflict is clear: Guaranteeing Israel's security and recognizing the Palestinians legitimate right to self-determination is the key to resolving the conflict, and all has to be dealt within the framework of the relevant UN resolutions. Over and above the efforts of France itself, the European Union has a considerable role because of its ties with the Middle East. Indeed, the Europeans are chiefly responsible for the establishment of the Quartet on the Middle East and the implementation of the Road Map. For the Israeli part, France has demanded respect to the Roadmap and, in particular, the removal of the West Bank settlements. Israel must also understand that the economic development of Gaza is essential for peace in the region.

France's relations to other SC members

For France it is of high importance that the EU countries maintain a united standpoint, and that the EU plays a central role in this matter. France will remain in close contact with the other EU

members and they will not agree upon a resolution until they have a common understanding upon this issue between the EU countries in the SC. EU has also good relations with the US and Russia in the question about Israel and Palestine. Though some think that only the US can play a deciding role in the region, it is of crucial importance that the EU formulates a coherent (*sammenhengende*) and unambiguous (*entydig*) policy toward Israel and Palestine because France or any other country cannot conduct a meaningful Middle East policy on their own. Thus, the EU countries are the countries that you will turn to first when negotiating about the resolution. It is also necessary to remember to consult with both Israel and Palestine before introducing and agreeing upon a resolution, since these are the main parties in the conflict.

Due to the EU Membership negotiations, Croatia's stand on questions raised in the Security Council is in line with those of EU and EU will most often invite Croatia to know about their plans, and convince them to participate before going to other members of the SC. EU also has good relations to South Africa. France has also good connections with Burkina Faso, which is former French colony. Finally, the permanent members of the Security Council will always be consulted in regard to a draft resolution (*resolutionsforslag*) since they can make the agreement fall because of their veto power.

France's stance on the subjects under discussion:

Point 1: Ceasefire

France finds that there is no military solution to the crisis in Gaza, only a political solution and calls for an immediate halt in launching of rockets into Israel as well as the Israeli bombardment of Gaza. It is necessary to secure a lasting truce (*våbenhvile*) and a political solution.

France calls for:

1. the urgency of an immediate, durable and fully respected ceasefire
2. Israel to immediately cease its military attacks and withdraw its forces from Gaza
4. Palestinians to declare an unequivocal end to violence and terrorism and undertake visible efforts to this on the ground;
5. Hamas to ensure an immediate end to the rocket attacks into the territory of Israel

Point 2: Response to the humanitarian situation

France sees immediately peace and an end to the conflict as a necessity to ensure a more peaceful Middle East Region and they believe that action from the UN and the Security Council is needed. It is vital that both parties respect the need for uninterrupted (*uforstyrret*) flows of humanitarian goods to the population and free access for international and humanitarian organisations. Furthermore France reiterates (*understreger*) the importance of opening of border crossings and underlines that EU is willing to resume (*genoptage*) its assistance role at Gaza border crossings.

France will therefore lean towards:

1. Member States to support international efforts to alleviate the humanitarian and economic situation in Gaza;
2. Both parties to allow and facilitate immediate humanitarian action
3. a normal and permanent reopening of all crossings into Gaza

Point 3: Condemnation of Israeli actions

Thus, France supports that Israel stops all military activities in the occupied areas. France also condemns Israeli land operations carried out in Gaza and the bombardment by the Israeli army of Palestinian hospitals and premises of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East. France finds that Israel is using disproportionate force against Palestinians.

France will:

3. condemn the Israeli military attacks
4. condemn all violence and hostilities directed against civilians and all acts of terrorism;

Point 4: Condemnation of Hamas' actions

France has condemned many times, and continues to condemn, the firing of rockets against Israel. France finds that the provocations from the Palestinian side have caused (*udløst*) the current situation.

Generally human rights and peace are important issues to France. France finds that both Israel and Palestine should stop the fighting, as innocent people are trapped in the middle of the battle.

France shows great support for Israel, and will, like other great Security Council members, not accept the violence and terrorist attacks from the Palestinian territories.

France will:

1. condemn the provocations by Hamas
2. condemn the breaking of the truce by Hamas
3. condemn the terrorist attacks against Israel by Hamas

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Example of a speech

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Thank you very much.

I would like to begin by welcoming the presence among us of the Secretary-General, whose statement we very much appreciate.

We would like to express our appreciation for the convening of this meeting in the light of the gravity of the current situation in the Middle East, especially in Gaza and southern Israel. We believe that the urgency of the reality on the ground required the immediate holding of a public meeting of the Council and calls for a firm response by this organ. We hope that the Council will take relevant action that will be respected by the parties.

We would like to remind that only a renewed ceasefire can open the way to establishing minimally acceptable conditions for the people of Gaza, and that only continued political negotiations between the Palestinian factions and between Israel and a Palestinian Authority that is negotiating on behalf of all Palestinians, can bring a lasting solution to this conflict.

We stress the absolute need to speedily resolve the underlying causes of the situation in the Middle East. Here, we reaffirm our great concern about the fact that the Security Council — which bears primary responsibility for maintenance of international peace and security — is on the margins of this process.

As we strive for a ceasefire, we remain deeply concerned about innocent Palestinians and Israelis who are suffering. Let me assure the Council that we understand the urgency of an end to the fighting and that we are working around the clock to bring it into being.

We need urgent action to restore supplies of food, fuel and medicine to the population of the Gaza Strip. That means opening up the crossings into Gaza to allow the entry of those supplies, and it means ensuring that the supplies can be distributed properly within the Gaza Strip. Israel must meet its humanitarian obligations, and the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East will, as always, have a vital role to play and will almost certainly need more support.

Thank you Mr. President

Israel

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As Israel is NOT part of the Security Council, Israel is only present because you have been invited by members of the Security Council. This also means that Israel does not have the right to vote, when there are resolutions and other matters on the table to be voted about.

It is your task to make a 1 minute opening speech based on your positions given in this paper. The final part of this document contains a speech held in the Security Council and this speech can give you an idea to how you should make your opening speech.

Do this during session: When you are making a speech of some kind – aggressively attack the sovereignty (suverænitet) of Libya or make some bad personal remark.

Facts about Israel

Since its foundation, Israel's boundaries and even the state's very right to exist have been subject to dispute, especially among its Arab neighbours. However, Israel has signed peace treaties with Egypt and Jordan, and efforts are being made to reach a permanent accord with the Palestinians. It borders Lebanon in the north, Syria in the northeast, Jordan in the east, and Egypt on the southwest, and contains geographically diverse features within its relatively small area. The West Bank and Gaza Strip are also adjacent (*støder op til*). With a population of about 7.28 million, the majority of whom are Jews, Israel is the world's only Jewish state. It is also home to Arab Muslims, Christians, Druze, and Samaritans, as well as other religious and ethnic minority groups.

General position

As one of the two main players in this conflict there can be no doubt that Israel naturally sees their own actions as acceptable. Israel is protecting its population from the incessant (*uophørlig*) barrage (*byger*) of rocket and mortar shell fire. Israel is compelled to resort to a military operation since the escalation (*optrapning*) of Hama attacks against Israel. The targets of the Israeli operation are the terrorists and their infrastructure alone. Israel is not in war with the Palestinian population but with Hamas and other terrorist groups in Gaza. Israel's acceptance into the United Nations in 1949 was explicitly conditioned on its willingness to implement UN Resolution 194.

Israel's relations to other SC members

Israel has very good relations with the US and the US backs Israel in most of its opinions. Furthermore, Israel has good relations to China and Russia (they are trading partners of military goods). Israel has no ties at all to Libya. It is important that other countries consult Israel before they introduce and agree upon a resolution, since Israel is one of the main parties in the conflict.

Israel's stance on the subjects under discussion

Point 1: Ceasefire

It is the responsibility of the sovereign state of Israel to protect the lives and well-being of its citizens and Israel will continue to take all necessary measures to protect its citizens and stop terrorism. In its military operation Israel has exercised its inherent right to self-defence. Hamas is a terrorist organisation that promotes a radical agenda of hatred and violence. It does not recognise (*anerkende*) Israel and call for the destruction of Israel. Hamas rejects peace in the Middle East. Israel urges the international community to reject the agenda of the extremists and support that of the moderates calling for coexistence and the realization of two states living side by side in peace and security. Israel will continue its efforts to pursue peace with the Palestinian people and its moderate leadership, while taking all necessary measures to protect its citizens from terrorism.

Israel can accept the following in a resolution:

4. Palestinians to declare an unequivocal end to violence and terrorism and undertake visible efforts to this on the ground;
5. Hamas to ensure an immediate end to the rocket attacks into the territory of Israel

Point 2: Response to the humanitarian situation

Israel will make every possible effort to avoid any humanitarian crisis in Gaza. The people of Gaza do not deserve to suffer because of the killers and murderers of the terrorist organisations. Since the Israeli operation commenced (*begyndte*), more than 350 trucks loaded with food and medical supplies have entered Gaza and donations and supplies continue to flow into Gaza. Yet, Hamas continues to target (*angribe*) crossings and obstruct the provision of humanitarian relief to the Palestinian people.

Israel can accept the following in a resolution:

1. Member States to support international efforts to alleviate the humanitarian and economic situation in Gaza;

Point 3: Condemnation of the Israeli Actions

The targets of this operation are the terrorists. Israel is doing its utmost (*yderste*) to minimize civilian casualties. Hamas on the other hand, places civilians in the line of fire, carrying out its activities from densely populated areas and directs its attacks towards Israeli civilian targets. Israel is protecting its population and has a right to self-defence. Israel can therefore not accept any of the points suggested in a resolution.

Point 4: Condemnation of Hamas' actions

Israel's operation in Gaza has shown that Hamas is storing weapons and explosives in homes, schools, mosques and hospitals. It is Hamas that bears the sole responsibility for the current escalation and for any civilian casualties, Israelis and Palestinians alike. Hamas is doing nothing to protect the lives of civilians and their actions must be condemned.

Israel will:

1. condemn the provocations by Hamas
2. condemn the breaking of the truce by Hamas
3. condemn the terrorist attacks against Israel by Hamas

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Example of a speech

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Libyan Arab Jamahiriya

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Do this during session: Raise a point of personal privilege and ask if you can be excused for two minutes to go to the bathroom.

Facts about Libya

Libya is located in North Africa and is the fourth biggest country in Africa. The country has a population of 5.7 million and has the third biggest GDP (BNP) per capita in Africa, mainly due to the large petroleum reserves in the country. Libya is part of the African Union and the Arab League and is a Muslim country, with 97% of the population being Muslims. In 1969 a group of military officers, with Muammar Abu Minyar al-Gaddafi in charge, staged a coup d'état (*militær kup*) against King Idris. The monarchy was abolished and made a republic, with Gaddafi as revolutionary leader, a position he still holds.

Libya was previously distancing itself from the West, by for instance promoting oil embargos as a political weapon to challenge the west to end its support to Israel. Libya has been accused of state-sponsored terrorism (*statsponsoreret terrorisme*) such as the Berlin discotheque terrorist bombing in 1986, the bombing of the Pan Am Flight 103 over Lockerbie in Scotland in 1988 and the UTA Flight 772 over Niger in 1989. The UN Security Council imposed sanctions (*sanktioner*) on Libya 1992 in order to exert (*udøve*) pressure on the country to surrender the suspects, pay compensation to the victims' families and cease (*indstille*) support for terrorism. The sanctions were in place 10 years until Libya suddenly changed its foreign policy course (*kurs*) and started cooperating (*samarbejde*) with the West, among others by abandoning (*opgive*) its weapon of mass destruction program and by releasing five Bulgarian nurses and a Palestinian doctor that were charged with conspiring (*sammensværg*) to deliberately infect over 400 children with HIV in 1998 in a hospital in Libya.

In May 2006, the United States restored full diplomatic relations with Libya and removed it from the list of state sponsors of terrorism, where it had been for 27 years. Libya became a non permanent member of the Security Council in 2008 and will be so until the end of 2009.

General position

Libya and Israel do not have diplomatic relations and Libya has not recognised the State Israel. Libya looks upon Israel with very critical eyes. Gaddafi opposed Arab engagement with Israel. He also has called for a "one state solution" based on reconciliation (*forsoning*) between the Israeli and Palestinian people within a single state, which he proposes be called 'Isratine'. In April 2008, a Libyan envoy (*udsending*) to the UN said that the situation in Gaza was worse than in the Nazi concentration camps because of regular Israeli bomb attacks.

Libya has been pushing for the Security Council to condemn the Israeli blockade of Gaza, which the UN says has made it very difficult to deliver food and medicine and has severely (*alvorligt*) damaged the economy. The United States insists any council action would also have to include a condemnation of the Palestinian militant group Hamas, which seized power in Gaza in June 2007, and the rocket attacks against Israel. Libya opposes this (*er imod dette*).

Libya's relations to other SC members

Libya has good relations with Burkina Faso and China, and has also improved its relations to both EU and the U.S. Yet, Libya opposes many of the points of views of EU and the U.S. In general Libya is in favour of most of the demands of the Palestinian Authority. Thus, these are the countries that you will turn to first when negotiating about the resolution. It is necessary to remember to consult with Palestine before introducing and agreeing upon a resolution, since it is the main party in the conflict that Libya accepts. Finally, the permanent members of the Security Council will always be consulted in regard to a draft resolution (*resolutionsforslag*) since they can make the agreement fall because of their veto power.

Libyas' stance on the subjects under discussion

Point 1: Ceasefire

Libya finds that Israel has preferred to employ force, escalation (*eskalering*) and aggression at the expense of lasting peace. Israel has essentially not been a party to the ceasefire, which it unjustifiably violated (*uberettiget har brudt*) more than 195 times, martyring 25 individuals (*gøre til martyrer*). The Israelis have once again demonstrated that they are not interested in peace. What they are interested in is new territory. Everyone knows that the Gaza Strip is under siege (*belejring*) and has been the target of Israeli military aggression since mid 2007. The Council should ensure (*sikre*) that the Israeli criminals responsible do not escape punishment. Libya demands that the international community intensifies its efforts to end the Israeli occupation of the Palestinian Territories.

Libya will fight for:

2. Israel to immediately cease its military attacks and withdraw its forces from Gaza

Point 2: Response to the humanitarian situation

The Israelis have imposed a complete air, land and sea blockade on Gaza. The blockade even prevents humanitarian assistance from reaching Gaza: trucks and assistance provided by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) are unable to enter the Gaza Strip.

Libya has described the various repercussions (*eftervirkninger*) of the blockade and the total paralysis of economic activity: Bakeries have closed; 80 per cent of households are living below the poverty line; there are grave (*alvorlige*) water and sanitation problems — the people of Gaza have water only once a week. Water treatment plants (*rensningsanlæg*) are no longer in operation, which means that stagnant (*stillestående*) water now lies in the streets of Gaza. There is virtually a complete lack of medicine.

But the Israeli authorities have nonetheless violated (*brudt*) all of their obligations (*forpligtelser*) and have imposed (*pålagt*) collective punishment. Libya is condemning the Israeli actions leading to the humanitarian crisis for Palestinian Refugees and condemns Israel's blockade of Gaza and the bomb attacks of Gaza. Libya urges the Security Council to take responsibility to put an end to the tragedy of the Palestinian refugees' situation.

Thus Libya demands

3. a normal and permanent reopening of all crossings into Gaza
5. the United Nations to intervene immediately to ensure humanitarian aid into the Gaza Strip without hindrance;

Point 3: Condemnation of Israeli actions

On 27 December 2008, the Israelis launched their destructive aggression, making use a wide variety of the most lethal weapons against defenceless people, having previously besieged (*belejret*) and starved them and having deprived them even of water, medicine and other necessities — acts which met with astonishing silence from the Security Council. All of the Israeli practices constitute a crime of genocide (*folkemord*), a crime against humanity, and war crime. The Security Council must strongly condemn the Israeli actions.

Therefore Libya will fight to strongly:

1. condemn Israel's collective punishment of innocent civilians
2. condemn the excessive use of force by Israel
3. condemn the Israeli military attacks

Point 4: Condemnation of Hamas' actions

Libya is not interested in condemning the Palestinian people for defending themselves against Israeli actions. Additionally Libya believes that the Palestinian attacks on Israelis are no different than Israeli attacks on Palestinians and thus support the Palestinians who are defending their rights.

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Example of a speech

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We need urgent action to restore supplies of food, fuel and medicine to the population of the Gaza Strip. That means opening up the crossings into Gaza to allow the entry of those supplies, and it means ensuring that the supplies can be distributed properly within the Gaza Strip. Israel must meet its humanitarian obligations, and the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East will, as always, have a vital role to play and will almost certainly need more support.

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Palestine

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As Palestine is NOT part of the Security Council, Palestine has been invited by members of the Security Council. This also means that Palestine does not have the right to vote at all in the Security Council.

It is your task to make a 1 minute opening speech based on your positions given in this paper. The final part of this document contains a speech held in the Security Council and this speech can give you an idea to how you should make your opening speech.

Do this during the session: In the beginning of the session, raise a point of information and ask if you as an auxiliary representation are allowed to motion for suspension of the meeting.

Facts about Palestine

There is an estimate of between 3,3 and 3,8 million people living in Palestine (Gaza and the West Bank) with several more millions of Palestinians living in refugee camps in the Middle East. The administrative capital (*administrative hovedstad*) of Palestine is Ramallah, but the claimed (*gøre krav på*) capital is Jerusalem (al-Quds in Arabic) although Israel claims Jerusalem to be within Israeli territory.

Proposals (*forslag*) for a Palestinian state refer to the proposed establishment of an independent state for the Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip, which is currently controlled by Hamas, and parts of the West Bank, which is now administered by the Palestinian National Authority. The precise borders of this state are under debate. According to a survey, 100 countries would be prepared to recognize a Palestinian state if and when it should arise.

General position

Within the context of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, the term Palestine takes on a more political connotation (*bi-betydning*), the boundaries and terminology of which are subject to deep dispute (*strid*). To the Palestinian people, the boundaries of Palestine are those of the British Mandate excluding the Transjordan, as described in the Palestinian National Charter. Israel was established in three-quarters of this territory by the end of the 1948 Arab-Israeli war, and remaining quarter, comprising the Gaza Strip, the West Bank and East Jerusalem, were occupied by Egypt and by Jordan, and later conquered by Israel during the 1967 war. Palestine has a natural interest in gaining independence and to establish a sovereign state of Palestine.

Palestine's relations to other SC members

The main allies of Palestine are Libya, Burkina Faso and Indonesia. However, many of the other countries in the SC recognize many of the claims that the Palestinian has as well as have only sympathy for the Palestinian claim of an independent state. It is by nature important that all the members in the Security Council consult with Palestine before they decide on a resolution, since Palestine is one of the main actors in the conflict. Finally, the permanent members of the Security

Council will always be consulted in regard to a draft resolution (*resolutionsforslag*) since they can make the agreement fall because of their veto power.

Palestine's stance on the subjects under discussion:

Point 1: Ceasefire

The Palestinian Authority sees Israel as undermining the peace process by their criminal military campaign that has claimed lives of more than 400 people over the last few days. Israel continues to kill and pay no attention to the innocent civilians that suffer from the excessive Israeli force. The attacks on the Palestinian population must be brought to an end immediately by all available means. Palestinians will not accept Israeli force within the territory of Palestine.

Thus Palestine will call for:

1. the urgency of an immediate, durable and fully respected ceasefire
2. Israel to immediately cease its military attacks and withdraw its forces from Gaza
6. international protection of the people in Gaza

Point 2: Response to the humanitarian situation

The collective punishment of the Palestinians in Gaza has exacerbated (*forværret*) the humanitarian situation in Gaza, Because of the Israeli aggression UNRWA has had to cease the distribution of aid to 800.000 people resulting in shortages (*mangel*) of food, water, fuel and electricity. The unprecedented (*uhørt*) closure of the Gaza crossings is causing an unacceptable disaster for the civilian population.

Thus Palestine will fight for:

1. Member States to support international efforts to alleviate the humanitarian and economic situation in Gaza;
3. a normal and permanent reopening of all crossings into Gaza
4. the United Nations to ensure that Israel takes measures to improve humanitarian conditions, lifting curfews and easing restrictions on movement of persons and goods;
5. the United Nations to intervene immediately to ensure humanitarian aid into the Gaza Strip without hindrance;

Point 3: Condemnation of Israeli actions

The Palestinian Authority calls for the threats and the ongoing attacks by Israel to be taken very seriously. They must be condemned and stopped immediately by all available means (*med all midler*).

Thus the Palestinian Authority calls for

1. condemn Israel's collective punishment of innocent civilians
2. condemn the excessive use of force by Israel
3. condemn the Israeli military attacks

Point 4: Condemnation of Hamas' actions

The Palestinian Authority sees Israel as the only aggressor in this conflict. Israel has undermined the peace efforts through their aggressions. Thus the Palestinian Authority cannot agree to any of the points condemning Hamas.

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South Africa

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Facts about South Africa

South Africa is a former British colony, but has been independent since 1910. Although South Africa was one of the 51 founding members of the United Nations, South Africa was suspended (*suspenderet*) from the participation of the work of UN in 1974 due to its apartheid policies. During the late seventies and early eighties UN Security Council sanctions (*sanktioner*) were instituted (*iværksat*) against South Africa and it was barred (*udelukket*) from officially participating in almost all United Nations related bodies (*FN relaterede instanser*). Financial support was also given by the United Nations to national liberation movements (*frihedsbevægelser*). Both the Pan Africanist Congress (PAC) and the African National Congress (ANC) were allowed Observer Missions (*observatory status*) at the UN with UN financial support. The democratic elections in South Africa in April 1994 paved the way (*banede vejen*) for the complete normalization (*normalisering*) of South Africa's relations with the UN. Since then South Africa has participated actively in all aspects of the work of the Organization. South Africa is a non-permanent member of the Security Council. It is the first time South Africa has joined the Security Council.

General position

South Africa has shown great dissatisfaction (*utilfredshed*) with the way the Security Council handles the Israel-Palestine conflict. South Africa has stated that even though the situation in Israel and Palestine has been on the agenda of the Security Council for decades, no solution has been found. South Africa believes a solution is very much needed. It is imperative that the Security Council, which is entrusted (*betroet*) with the maintenance of international peace and security, publicly voice its condemnation of the attacks and demand that they cease immediately.

South Africa supports a two state solution to the conflict and they recognise the Palestinian fight for a sovereign state. In general South Africa is very sceptical towards the Israeli means (*midler*) used in suppressing (*undertrykke*) the Palestinian people.

South Africa's relations to other SC members

South Africa has good relations to the other African countries in the SC (Burkina Faso, Libya). Furthermore, South Africa has good relations to the EU. Thus, these are the countries that you will turn to first when negotiating about the resolution. It is necessary to remember to consult with both Israel and Palestine before introducing and agreeing upon a resolution, since these are the main parties in the conflict.

Finally, the permanent members of the Security Council will always be consulted in regard to a draft resolution (*resolutionsforslag*) since they can make the agreement fall because of their veto power.

South Africa's' stance on the subjects under discussion:

Point 1: Ceasefire

South Africa calls on the Israeli government to stop the military onslaught in Gaza and to immediately and unconditionally withdraw its forces that are currently massing (*samlles*) on the border of Gaza.

South Africa will call for:

2. Israel to immediately cease its military attacks and withdraw its forces from Gaza

Point 2: Response to the humanitarian situation

South Africa finds that the Security Council cannot remain silent (*forblive tavs*) and hope that the situation in Gaza will change as time goes by when more than 800.000 residents (*indbyggere*) are left without water, electricity and basic sewage systems (*spildevandssystemer*). The Security Council and the whole of UN have a special responsibility (*ansvarlig*) in supporting a peaceful resolution in the conflict in the Middle East. The Council should call for all parties to address the serious humanitarian and economic needs in Gaza and take the necessary measures (*foranstaltninger*), including the opening of border crossings, to ensure the continuous provision of food and fuel, and the provision of medical treatment.

South Africa will fight for:

1. Member States to support international efforts to alleviate the humanitarian and economic situation in Gaza;
2. Both parties to allow and facilitate immediate humanitarian action
3. a normal and permanent reopening of all crossings into Gaza
4. the United Nations to ensure that Israel takes measures to improve humanitarian conditions, lifting curfews and easing restrictions on movement of persons and goods;
5. the United Nations to intervene immediately to ensure humanitarian aid into the Gaza Strip without hindrance;

Point 3: Condemnation of the Israeli actions

The Israeli airstrikes using the most sophisticated war machinery, such as F-16 planes, are a violation of international humanitarian law. They represent a disproportionate (*uforholdsmæssig*) use of force and have cause the death of almost 400 people so far and injured many more. South Africa recognizes the legitimate security concerns (*berettigede sikkerheds bekymringer*) of Israel resulting from rocket attacks. But South Africa does not believe that Israel's right to self-defence entitles (*berettiger*) it to violate the rights of innocent civilians, particularly those civilians who have been living under 40 years of foreign occupation. Israel can not expect security for its people and political normality as long as it occupies Palestinian lands and continues to impose permanent rule over Palestinians through the use of military force.

South Africa will therefore:

1. condemn Israel's collective punishment of innocent civilians
2. condemn the excessive use of force by Israel
3. condemn the Israeli military attacks

Point 4: Condemnation of Hamas' actions

With the history of South Africa in mind, South Africa is recognising the fight for freedom that the Palestinians believe in. Although South Africa cannot accept the use of terrorist attacks and the damage done to innocent Israeli civilians in their urge (*trang*) for freedom, South Africa still believes that it is the rights of the Palestinians to defend their rights and fight peacefully for their rights to return to their homes.

South Africa will agree to:

1. condemn the provocations by Hamas
4. condemn all violence and hostilities directed against civilians and all acts of terrorism;

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We stress the absolute need to speedily resolve the underlying causes of the situation in the Middle East. Here, we reaffirm our great concern about the fact that the Security Council — which bears primary responsibility for maintenance of international peace and security — is on the margins of this process.

As we strive for a ceasefire, we remain deeply concerned about innocent Palestinians and Israelis who are suffering. Let me assure the Council that we understand the urgency of an end to the fighting and that we are working around the clock to bring it into being.

We need urgent action to restore supplies of food, fuel and medicine to the population of the Gaza Strip. That means opening up the crossings into Gaza to allow the entry of those supplies, and it means ensuring that the supplies can be distributed properly within the Gaza Strip. Israel must meet its humanitarian obligations, and the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East will, as always, have a vital role to play and will almost certainly need more support.

Thank you Mr. President

Belgium

This position paper is the position of your country in the 6061st meeting in the Security Council about the situation in Israel and Palestine. Your position is however open to change, if you feel you can agree on less strong statements in a resolution. It is however necessary to understand what other countries mean by their statements, so you are sure that the statements, you are agreeing upon, are not compromising your own.

It is your task to make a 1 minutes opening speech based on your positions given in this paper. The final part of this document contains a speech held in the Security Council and this speech can give you an idea to how you should make your opening speech.

Facts about Belgium

Belgium is a small European country that shares borders with Germany, Holland and France. Belgium has a population of 11 million people. Belgium gained independence in 1830 and is today a country that reconciles regional and cultural identities in a single federal structure, with three Communities (the Flemish Community, the French Community and the German-speaking Community). Belgium remains highly committed in the international arena, being a founder member (*grundlægger*) of what is currently the European Union, and a member of the United Nations. In peacekeeping missions (*fredsbevarende missioner*) around the world, Belgium regularly commits its troops to participate in international actions and dispatches (*sender*) observers to flashpoints (*urocentre*). Belgium is a non-permanent member of the Security Council.

General Position

Under the Charter of the United Nations, Belgium has the obligation to act on behalf of the international community and therefore to defend global interests first and foremost. But it will fulfil this responsibility from a Belgian and European Union perspective. The presence of four EU members on the Security Council (United Kingdom, France, Belgium, Italy) creates a significant potential. With the three other EU members in the Security Council, Belgium will work for coordination amongst them and will try to create more consistency between the debates in the EU and those in the Security Council. They will do this in a pragmatic fashion, by focusing on the results when they feel there is added value to contribute and the manoeuvring room to do so.

Belgium's relations to other SC members

Belgium will remain in close contact with the other EU members and they will not agree upon a resolution until they have a common understanding upon this issue between the EU countries in the SC. EU has also good relations with the US and Russia in the question about Israel and Palestine. Though some think that only the US can play a deciding role in the region, it is of crucial importance that the EU formulates a coherent and unambiguous policy toward Israel and Palestine because Belgium or any other country cannot conduct a meaningful Middle East policy on their own. Thus, the EU countries are the countries that you will turn to first when negotiating about the resolution. It is furthermore necessary to remember to consult with both Israel and Palestine before introducing and agreeing upon a resolution, since these are the main parties in the conflict. EU also has good relations to South Africa.

Due to the EU Membership negotiations, Croatia's stand on questions raised in the Security Council is in line with those of EU and EU will most often invite Croatia to know about their plans, and convince them to participate before going to other members of the SC. Finally, the permanent

members of the Security Council will always be consulted in regard to a draft resolution (*resolutionsforslag*) since they can make the agreement fall because of their veto power.

Belgium's stance on the subjects under discussion

Point 1: Ceasefire

Belgium is extremely concerned about the unprecedented (*uhørt*) escalation of violence in Gaza and Southern Israel. It is a serious threat to regional stability, having already caused hundreds of deaths, and is accompanied by a grave (*alvorlig*) humanitarian crisis linked to the specific situation caused by the blockade of Gaza in recent months. Neither of the parties have anything to gain from the current escalation. There is no possible military solution to the conflict and Belgium calls on the two parties to display responsibility towards the civilian populations concerned by undertaking an immediate ceasefire.

Belgium calls for:

1. the urgency of an immediate, durable and fully respected ceasefire
2. Israel to immediately cease its military attacks and withdraw its forces from Gaza
4. Palestinians to declare an unequivocal end to violence and terrorism and undertake visible efforts to this on the ground;
5. Hamas to ensure an immediate end to the rocket attacks into the territory of Israel

Point 2: Response to the humanitarian situation

Belgium calls for the normal and permanent reopening of all crossing into Gaza and both parties must allow and facilitate immediate humanitarian action by permitting the urgent provision of food and medical aid, fuel and electricity to Gaza as well as the evacuation of the wounded and unhindered access for humanitarian workers.

This Belgium calls for:

1. Member States to support international efforts to alleviate the humanitarian and economic situation in Gaza;
2. Both parties to allow and facilitate immediate humanitarian action
3. a normal and permanent reopening of all crossings into Gaza

Point 3: Condemnation of Israeli actions

Israel's right to self-defence does not give it the right to respond disproportionately and without regard for the effects of its actions on civilian populations.

Belgium will:

3. condemn the Israeli military attacks

Point 4: Condemnation of Hamas' actions

Belgium condemns the breaking of the truce by Hamas and the resumption (*genoptagelse*) of rocket attacks on Southern Israel. Belgium finds that the provocations from the Palestinian side have caused (*udløst*) the current situation.

Belgium will

1. condemn the provocations by Hamas
2. condemn the breaking of the truce by Hamas
3. condemn the terrorist attacks against Israel by Hamas

The position given to your country is not the country's real position; it has been changed and simplified for this mock-session.

Example of a speech

This is an example of a speech held in the Security Council. This speech is available to you, so you can see how a speech can look. It is your task to make your own 1 minute speech where you incorporate (*indarbejder*) your own positions in regard to the 4 points we are discussing today (the ceasefire, response to the humanitarian situation, condemnation of Israeli actions and condemnation of Hamas' actions). You can use the statements already written under each of the points above or you can make up your own speech that follows the points.

Thank you very much.

I would like to begin by welcoming the presence among us of the Secretary-General, whose statement we very much appreciate.

We would like to express our appreciation for the convening of this meeting in the light of the gravity of the current situation in the Middle East, especially in Gaza and southern Israel. We believe that the urgency of the reality on the ground required the immediate holding of a public meeting of the Council and calls for a firm response by this organ. We hope that the Council will take relevant action that will be respected by the parties.

We would like to remind that only a renewed ceasefire can open the way to establishing minimally acceptable conditions for the people of Gaza, and that only continued political negotiations between the Palestinian factions and between Israel and a Palestinian Authority that is negotiating on behalf of all Palestinians, can bring a lasting solution to this conflict.

We stress the absolute need to speedily resolve the underlying causes of the situation in the Middle East. Here, we reaffirm our great concern about the fact that the Security Council — which bears primary responsibility for maintenance of international peace and security — is on the margins of this process.

As we strive for a ceasefire, we remain deeply concerned about innocent Palestinians and Israelis who are suffering. Let me assure the Council that we understand the urgency of an end to the fighting and that we are working around the clock to bring it into being.

We need urgent action to restore supplies of food, fuel and medicine to the population of the Gaza Strip. That means opening up the crossings into Gaza to allow the entry of those supplies, and it means ensuring that the supplies can be distributed properly within the Gaza Strip. Israel must meet its humanitarian obligations, and the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East will, as always, have a vital role to play and will almost certainly need more support.

Thank you Mr. President

China

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It is your task to make a 1 minute opening speech based on your positions given in this paper. The final part of this document contains a speech held in the Security Council and this speech can give you an idea to how you should make your opening speech.

Do this in the beginning of the session:

Facts about China:

China is one of today's super powers and with the country's economic growth and huge population rate (1.2 billion), the country has big influence on current conflicts. China borders with a lot of countries around Asia among these are Korea, Mongolia, Russia, Afghanistan, Pakistan, India, Nepal, Bhutan, Myanmar, Laos and Vietnam. October 1, 1949 Mao Zedong, chairman of the Central People's Government, solemnly proclaimed the founding of the People's Republic of China (PRC). The Republic is a socialist state, although it today has opened up to the world and especially their economy resembles a more western liberal economy. China is a permanent member of the Security Council.

General Position:

Israel is China's second-largest arms supplier (the first being Russia). Although diplomatic relations between Israel and China were established only in 1992, military ties go back to the early 1980s. Until formal diplomatic ties were established, the military relationship was covert (*hemmelig*). Israel sold about US\$4 billion worth of arms to China during the covert courtship. In the 1990s, the Sino-Israel military relationship grew rapidly. In fact, arms sales contributed to the strengthening of diplomatic engagement.

The military relationship is important for both countries. China is keen to have access to Israel's high-quality defence products and services, and the relationship with Israel has enabled it to acquire technology that the US and Europe have been reluctant to provide. What is interesting about China's military relationship with Israel is that Beijing has been able to increase engagement with Israel without alienating (*støde fra sig*) the Arabs. Even Iran hasn't protested Beijing's close military ties to Israel.

The Israel-China military relationship also contributed to China softening its anti-Israel stance on the Israel-Palestine conflict. China's policy moved from its pro-Arab tilt (*hældning*) to a more nuanced appreciation of the Israeli position.

China is not willing to condemn states of their actions when they are protecting its civilian population. China believes in condemning terrorist attacks by military fractions that are trying to make a state insecure. This is seen in the light of Chinas national situation – with many different

ethnic minorities, where some, according to the Chinese government, are trying to cause instability in the country. In these cases it is ok to neutralise the opposition.

China's relations to other SC members

China has good relations with Viet Nam, Indonesia and Libya but will not make any agreements and has no diplomatic ties with Burkina Faso because of the fact that Burkina Faso recognises Taiwan as a sovereign state. Thus, Indonesia and Libya are the countries that you will turn to first when negotiating about the resolution. It is necessary to remember to consult with both Israel and Palestine before introducing and agreeing upon a resolution, since these are the main parties in the conflict.

Finally, the permanent members of the Security Council will always be consulted in regard to a draft resolution (*resolutionsforslag*) since they can make the agreement fall because of their veto power.

China's stance on the subjects under discussion

Point 1: Ceasefire

China calls on the two sides to stay calm in handling the serious situation, bringing an end to the cycle of revenge (*hævnen*) and counter-revenge and settling their dispute through negotiation. China continues to support Palestine in their continuous efforts to seek peace through negotiation and backs the Palestine Authority's pursuit (*stræben*) of peace through negotiation.

The top priority now is for the parties concerned to achieve an immediate ceasefire to avoid further civilian casualties. The armed Palestinian faction (Hamas) also needs to stop its rocket firings.

China calls for:

1. the urgency of an immediate, durable and fully respected ceasefire
3. the need for Israeli military engagement in the occupied territories in order to fight terrorism but demanding a withdrawal of Israeli forces
5. Hamas to ensure an immediate end to the rocket attacks into the territory of Israel

Point 2: Response to the humanitarian situation

China believes that the incessant (*uophørlige*) turbulence in the Middle East does not bode well (*varsler ikke godt*) for the prospect of peace and development of the region. Moreover, it negatively affects peace and stability of the whole world. The future direction of the conflict between Israel and Palestine must be a question of serious concern of the international community and must take a strategic perspective and joint hands in a concerted effort to seek a comprehensive (*omfattende*) settlement.

China is deeply worried about the ongoing humanitarian crisis in Gaza and expresses grave concern at the dire humanitarian situation of the Palestinian people. China urges Israel to observe and respect international humanitarian law and take meaningful measures help to ease the humanitarian disaster.

China urges Israel to halt its military operation immediately and open all the border crossings in Gaza to ensure unfettered (*uhindret*) access of humanitarian supplies to the area. China urges the international community to provide further assistance to ease the humanitarian crisis in Gaza.

China calls for:

1. Member States to support international efforts to alleviate the humanitarian and economic situation in Gaza;
2. Both parties to allow and facilitate immediate humanitarian action
3. a normal and permanent reopening of all crossings into Gaza
4. the United Nations to ensure that Israel takes measures to improve humanitarian conditions, lifting curfews and easing restrictions on movement of persons and goods;

Point 3: Condemnation of Israeli actions

China urges Israel to immediately halt its military activities. China is seriously concerned by the large-scale Israeli air attacks against Gaza that have taken place in Gaza over the past days, which have caused an escalation of the tension in Gaza. China strongly condemns all actions that have caused casualties among civilians.

China will:

4. condemn all violence and hostilities directed against civilians and all acts of terrorism;

Point 4: Condemnation of Hamas' actions

The Palestinian armed fractions should cease (*stoppe*) their launching of rockets. In order to restore peace in Gaza it is necessary that the attacks against Israel will be stopped. China is however not ready to condemn Hamas directly, since they believe that the current situation is caused by the Israelis.

China will:

4. condemn all violence and hostilities directed against civilians and all acts of terrorism;

The position given to your country is not the country's real position; it has been changed and simplified for this mock-session.

Example of a speech

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Thank you very much.

I would like to begin by welcoming the presence among us of the Secretary-General, whose statement we very much appreciate.

We would like to express our appreciation for the convening of this meeting in the light of the gravity of the current situation in the Middle East, especially in Gaza and southern Israel. We believe that the urgency of the reality on the ground required the immediate holding of a public meeting of the Council and calls for a firm response by this organ. We hope that the Council will take relevant action that will be respected by the parties.

We would like to remind that only a renewed ceasefire can open the way to establishing minimally acceptable conditions for the people of Gaza, and that only continued political negotiations between the Palestinian factions and between Israel and a Palestinian Authority that is negotiating on behalf of all Palestinians, can bring a lasting solution to this conflict.

We stress the absolute need to speedily resolve the underlying causes of the situation in the Middle East. Here, we reaffirm our great concern about the fact that the Security Council — which bears primary responsibility for maintenance of international peace and security — is on the margins of this process.

As we strive for a ceasefire, we remain deeply concerned about innocent Palestinians and Israelis who are suffering. Let me assure the Council that we understand the urgency of an end to the fighting and that we are working around the clock to bring it into being.

We need urgent action to restore supplies of food, fuel and medicine to the population of the Gaza Strip. That means opening up the crossings into Gaza to allow the entry of those supplies, and it means ensuring that the supplies can be distributed properly within the Gaza Strip. Israel must meet its humanitarian obligations, and the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East will, as always, have a vital role to play and will almost certainly need more support.

Thank you Mr. President

Croatia

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It is your task to make a 1 minute opening speech based on your positions given in this paper. The final part of this document contains a speech held in the Security Council and this speech can give you an idea to how you should make your opening speech.

Do this in the beginning of the session:

Facts about Croatia

Croatia was a constitutive federal republic in the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia from 1945-1991. In 1991, Croatia proclaimed independence by holding the first democratic elections in the country. Yet, the country fought a long and bloody war until 1995 against local Serbs, who opposed the independence. Croatia, as an independent state, was recognized on January 15, 1992 by the European Union and the United Nations. Croatia became a non permanent member of UN Security Council in 2008 and their membership will thus run until the end of 2009. The country is negotiating European Union Membership and received NATO membership invitation on 3 April 2008. Croatia has undergone successful transition from a country receiving peace troops in the 1990ies to one which is now participating in UN peace missions.

Even though the Middle East and North Africa is not on the priorities list of Croatia's foreign policy, its importance from a regional and global standpoint makes it necessary for Croatia to adopt a competent strategic and tactical stance and approach to it and to define the basic plans, goals and foreign policy instruments as well as relations so that they reflect, on the one hand, the specific national interests and needs of Croatia and, on the other hand, comply with the requirements and objectives associated with the process of Euro-Atlantic integration and the future membership of the EU and NATO. National interests, needs and foreign policy priorities, particularly those relevant to European integration and accession to the EU and NATO, are the main factors shaping Croatia's relations with the countries in the Area.

General position

The principle at the core of the peace process – the two state solution with a viable Palestinian state and a safe and secure Israel – should remain the ultimate goal for both sides. Actions such as the terrorist attacks, which Croatia condemns in the strongest terms, are unjustifiable (*uberrettiget*). Equally terrorizing is the launching of rockets into Israeli territory from Gaza by Hamas. Such acts, which give rise to Israel's undeniable right to self-defence, are unacceptable and have to be brought to an end. One cannot remain insensitive in the face of persistent (*vedvarende*) and unapologetic (*ikke undskyldt*) armed provocations that threaten the security of Israel and its civilian population. Terrorist attacks cannot be justified under any circumstances. Croatia shares the concerns about the serious humanitarian situation in Gaza, while being mindful of the circumstances that have contributed to creating it, namely the violent takeover by Hamas last summer and its terrorist activities.

Croatia's relations to other SC members

Due to the EU Membership negotiations, Croatia's stand on questions raised in the Security Council is in line with those of EU. Croatia will thus remain in close contact with the other EU members and they will consult with EU countries about their opinion. Though some think that only the US can play a deciding role in the region, it is of crucial importance that the EU (and potential EU countries) formulates a coherent (*sammenhængende*) and unambiguous (*entydig*) policy toward Israel and Palestine because Croatia or any other country cannot conduct a meaningful Middle East policy on their own. Thus, these are the countries that you will turn to first when negotiating about the resolution. It is necessary to remember to consult with both Israel and Palestine before introducing and agreeing upon a resolution, since these are the main parties in the conflict. Finally, the permanent members of the Security Council will always be consulted in regard to a draft resolution (*resolutionsforslag*) since they can make the agreement fall because of their veto power.

Croatia's stance on the subjects under discussion

Point 1: Ceasefire

Croatia would like to convey its deepest concerns at the suffering of civilians in and around Gaza and to reiterate the need to end all violence. It is essential to achieve an immediate and permanent ceasefire that will be respected by all, put a stop to the persistent rocket attacks targeting southern Israel and end the suffering and deprivation in Gaza.

Only if the conditions on the ground are such that they can guarantee a ceasefire that will be fully respected by both sides, that Israel can be assured that its population will not be exposed to the continuing terror of rocket attacks and that the smuggling of weapons by Hamas will not be tolerated, can we hope to reach a sustainable solution to the crisis.

Croatia calls for:

1. the urgency of an immediate, durable and fully respected ceasefire
2. Israel to immediately cease its military attacks and withdraw its forces from Gaza
4. Palestinians to declare an unequivocal end to violence and terrorism and undertake visible efforts to this on the ground;
5. Hamas to ensure an immediate end to the rocket attacks into the territory of Israel

Point 2: Response to the humanitarian situation

Croatia is deeply concerned at the desperate situation of Gaza's civilians and hopes to see swift humanitarian action on the ground, including deliveries of humanitarian supplies, unhindered humanitarian access and facilitation of the evacuation of injured persons. It is important for all the implicated parties to take responsibility to end the inhumane living conditions for the Palestinian refugees. Croatia reiterates (*gentager*) the call for unhindered access to humanitarian assistance and supplies.

Croatia calls for:

1. Member States to support international efforts to alleviate the humanitarian and economic situation in Gaza;
2. Both parties to allow and facilitate immediate humanitarian action

3. a normal and permanent reopening of all crossings into Gaza

Point 3: Condemnation of Israeli actions

Croatia is deeply disturbed by the latest reports of military movements into Gaza. We also understand that the Israeli military operations are not aimed at the Palestinian population, but should be seen in the context of the continuing threat coming from Hamas, which denies Israel's right to exist and has intensified the scope and frequency of its attacks on the population of southern Israel. Israel has an inherent and legitimate right to defend itself and the obligation to defend and protect its citizens. However, it is vital that civilians in Gaza be protected.

Croatia will:

4. condemn all violence and hostilities directed against civilians and all acts of terrorism;

Point 4: Condemnation of Palestinian actions

Hamas and the militants in the Gaza Strip, positioned in and among civilian infrastructure, have consistently been carrying out rocket attacks on Israel. The terrible daily rocket attacks that Hamas is launching at the population of South Israel have increased in frequency as well as in range in recent days. Israel cannot be denied its inherent and legitimate right to defend itself or its obligation to defend and protect its civilians. Croatia condemns all attempts to reignite (genstarte) violence by launching rocket attacks on Israel amid (*mens*) efforts to secure such a durable ceasefire.

Croatia will:

1. condemn the provocations by Hamas
2. condemn the breaking of the truce by Hamas
3. condemn the terrorist attacks against Israel by Hamas

The position given to your country is not the country's real position; it has been changed and simplified for this mock-session.

Example of a speech

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Thank you very much.

I would like to begin by welcoming the presence among us of the Secretary-General, whose statement we very much appreciate.

We would like to express our appreciation for the convening of this meeting in the light of the gravity of the current situation in the Middle East, especially in Gaza and southern Israel. We believe that the urgency of the reality on the ground required the immediate holding of a public meeting of the Council and calls for a firm response by this organ. We hope that the Council will take relevant action that will be respected by the parties.

We would like to remind that only a renewed ceasefire can open the way to establishing minimally acceptable conditions for the people of Gaza, and that only continued political negotiations between the Palestinian factions and between Israel and a Palestinian Authority that is negotiating on behalf of all Palestinians, can bring a lasting solution to this conflict.

We stress the absolute need to speedily resolve the underlying causes of the situation in the Middle East. Here, we reaffirm our great concern about the fact that the Security Council — which bears primary responsibility for maintenance of international peace and security — is on the margins of this process.

As we strive for a ceasefire, we remain deeply concerned about innocent Palestinians and Israelis who are suffering. Let me assure the Council that we understand the urgency of an end to the fighting and that we are working around the clock to bring it into being.

We need urgent action to restore supplies of food, fuel and medicine to the population of the Gaza Strip. That means opening up the crossings into Gaza to allow the entry of those supplies, and it means ensuring that the supplies can be distributed properly within the Gaza Strip. Israel must meet its humanitarian obligations, and the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East will, as always, have a vital role to play and will almost certainly need more support.

Thank you Mr. President

Indonesia

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It is your task to make a 1 minute opening speech based on your positions given in this paper. The final part of this document contains a speech held in the Security Council and this speech can give you an idea to how you should make your opening speech.

Do this during the session: Raise a point of personal privilege and ask the secretariat to open a window.

Facts about Indonesia

Indonesia is located in Asia; it is the largest archipelago (*ø-gruppe*) in the world and has a population of 223 million people. The Republic of Indonesia saw its light in 1945, when its independence was proclaimed just days after the Japanese surrender to the Allies. Indonesia was in 1950 admitted as the 60th Member State of the United Nations and is presently a non-permanent member of the Security Council.

General position

Indonesia is certain that peace in the Middle East is within reach. Yet, a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East cannot be achieved without a just and comprehensive settlement of the issue of Palestine, which is the key to peace in the area. Indonesia finds it difficult to comprehend (*forestille sig*) a situation where a state that claims to be interested in peace continues to use its military might. Also, division and disagreements within Palestine threatens to undermine the concept of one sovereign and independent Palestine and weakens concerted (*fælles*) efforts in achieving that idea.

Indonesia feel that there is need for the Council to do more than adopt its resolutions and observe them being flouted (*negligeret*). Resolutions adopted by the Security Council with the mandate for the maintenance (*opretholdelse*) of international peace and security are not worth the paper upon which they are printed unless they are implemented. It is the responsibility of the Council to ensure that these resolutions are implemented. It is impossible to imagine peace in the Middle East without a just solution to the Palestinian issue, just as it is impossible to imagine any progress (*fremskridt*) on the road to peace without full implementation of the relevant resolutions.

Indonesia's relations to other SC members

Indonesia has good relations with China, Viet Nam, Libya and Burkina Faso. Thus, these are the countries that you will turn to first when negotiating about the resolution. It is necessary to remember to consult with both Israel and Palestine before introducing and agreeing upon a resolution, since these are the main parties in the conflict.

Finally, the permanent members of the Security Council will always be consulted in regard to a draft resolution (*resolutionsforslag*) since they can make the agreement fall because of their veto power.

Indonesia' stance on the subjects under discussion

Point 1: Ceasefire

Indonesia stresses (*understreger*) that Israel must immediately end its attacks against innocent civilians in the Gaza Strip. There is a genuine need to cease hostilities and put an end to the cycle of violence.

Indonesia will fight for a resolution that includes:

2. Israel to immediately cease its military attacks and withdraw its forces from Gaza
6. international protection of the people in Gaza

Point 2: Response to the humanitarian situation

The continuing violence in the Gaza Strip can only worsen the already dire (*alvorlig*) humanitarian situation there. Civilians in Gaza have been suffering as the illegal blockade and the closure of the Gaza crossings by Israeli authorities continue. Humanitarian assistance should be provided continuously and permanently in order to achieve tangible (*konkret*) improvement of the humanitarian situation in Gaza. Indonesia therefore calls on Israel to immediately lift the blockade and the closure of crossing points.

Indonesia calls for:

1. Member States to support international efforts to alleviate the humanitarian and economic situation in Gaza;
3. a normal and permanent reopening of all crossings into Gaza
4. the United Nations to ensure that Israel takes measures to improve humanitarian conditions, lifting curfews and easing restrictions on movement of persons and goods;
5. the United Nations to intervene immediately to ensure humanitarian aid into the Gaza Strip without hindrance;

Point 3: Condemnation of Israeli actions

Indonesia is outraged at and strongly condemns the continued military onslaught by Israel in the Gaza Strip. Indonesia finds that we are witnessing an excessive and disproportionate use of force by Israel and a collective punishment of innocent civilians in contravention with (*i strid med*) international law. 1.5 million Palestinian civilians in the Gaza Strip live in a state of constant fear and innocent civilians, women and children, have been killed and injured. The violence must and now.

Indonesia will:

1. condemn Israel's collective punishment of innocent civilians
2. condemn the excessive use of force by Israel
3. condemn the Israeli military attacks

Point 4: Condemnation of Hamas' actions

Indonesia finds that the Israelis are the main reason for the suffering of the Palestinian people. Indonesia will not directly condemn the Palestinian for fighting for their right to have an independent state.

Yet, Indonesia can agree to:

4. Condemn all violence and hostilities directed against civilians and all acts of terrorism;

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Example of a speech

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We would like to remind that only a renewed ceasefire can open the way to establishing minimally acceptable conditions for the people of Gaza, and that only continued political negotiations between the Palestinian factions and between Israel and a Palestinian Authority that is negotiating on behalf of all Palestinians, can bring a lasting solution to this conflict.

We stress the absolute need to speedily resolve the underlying causes of the situation in the Middle East. Here, we reaffirm our great concern about the fact that the Security Council — which bears primary responsibility for maintenance of international peace and security — is on the margins of this process.

As we strive for a ceasefire, we remain deeply concerned about innocent Palestinians and Israelis who are suffering. Let me assure the Council that we understand the urgency of an end to the fighting and that we are working around the clock to bring it into being.

We need urgent action to restore supplies of food, fuel and medicine to the population of the Gaza Strip. That means opening up the crossings into Gaza to allow the entry of those supplies, and it means ensuring that the supplies can be distributed properly within the Gaza Strip. Israel must meet its humanitarian obligations, and the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East will, as always, have a vital role to play and will almost certainly need more support.

Thank you Mr. President

Italy

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Facts about Italy

Italy is part of the European Union and was one of the founding countries of the European Community (now EU). Italy has been member of United Nations since 1955 and the country became non permanent member of the UN Security Council in 2007 and will thus end the period by the end of 2008.

Italy supports the United Nations and its international security activities. Italy deployed troops (*sætte tropper ind*) in support of UN peacekeeping missions in Somalia, Mozambique, and East Timor and provides support for NATO and UN operations in Bosnia, Kosovo and Albania. Italy deployed over 2,000 troops to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) in February 2003. Italy participated in the US-led military coalition in Iraq. Italy still supports international efforts to reconstruct and stabilize Iraq, but it has withdrawn its military contingent of some 3,200 troops as of November 2006, maintaining only humanitarian workers and other civilian personnel.

General Position

Under the Charter of the United Nations, Italy has the obligation to act on behalf of the international community and therefore to defend global interests first and foremost. But it will fulfil this responsibility from an Italian and European Union perspective. The presence of four EU members on the Security Council (United Kingdom, France, Belgium, Italy) creates a significant potential. With the three other EU members in the Security Council, Italy will revive coordination amongst them and will try to create more consistency between the debates in the EU and those in the Security Council. They will do this in a pragmatic fashion, by focusing on the results when they feel there is added value (*merværdi*) to contribute and the manoeuvring room to do so.

The European Union attaches great importance to the finding of a just and final settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict and supports initiatives to further the peace process, through the role of the EU Special Envoy (*udsending*) for the Middle East Peace Process (Marc Otte), through its involvement in support of the Quartet (EU, US, Russia, UN), its programs of humanitarian and other assistance for Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza, by virtue (*i kraft af*) of the commitments entered into by Israel, the PA and the EU in the European Neighborhood Policy Action Plans, as well as through programs for civil society and people to people contacts.

Moreover, in 2001, the Italian Government launched a "Global Palestinian Economic Reconstruction and Development Programme" (the so-called Marshall Plan), convinced that the only way to chip into the growing popular support for fanatic extremism and terrorism, fed by

poverty and the lack of future prospects, is by improving living conditions in the Territories. This initiative was adopted in December 2001 Laeken European Council and embraced (*tage til sig*) by industrialised countries during the Evian G8. The initial funds allocated by the Italian Government for gradual implementation amounted to 77 million euro.

Italy's relations to other SC members

Italy will remain in close contact with the other EU members and they will not agree upon a resolution until they have a common understanding upon this issue between the EU countries in the SC. EU has also good relations with the US and Russia in the question about Israel and Palestine. Though some think that only the US can play a deciding role in the region, it is of crucial importance that the EU formulates a coherent (*sammenhængende*) and unambiguous (*entydig*) policy toward Israel and Palestine because Italy or any other country cannot conduct a meaningful Middle East policy on their own. Thus, the EU countries are the countries that you will turn to first when negotiating about the resolution. It is furthermore necessary to remember to consult with both Israel and Palestine before introducing and agreeing upon a resolution, since these are the main parties in the conflict.

Due to the EU Membership negotiations, Croatia's stand on questions raised in the Security Council is in line with those of EU and EU will most often invite Croatia to know about their plans, and convince them to participate before going to other members of the SC. EU also has good relations to South Africa. Finally, the permanent members of the Security Council will always be consulted in regard to a draft resolution (*resolutionsforslag*) since they can make the agreement fall because of their veto power.

Italy's stance on the debated issues:

Point 1: Ceasefire

Italy finds that there is no military solution to the crisis in Gaza, only a political solution and calls for an immediate halt in launching of rockets into Israel as well as the Israeli bombardment of Gaza. It is necessary to secure a lasting truce (*våbenhvile*) and a political solution and it is thus important the violence ends on both sides.

Italy calls for:

1. the urgency of an immediate, durable and fully respected ceasefire
2. Israel to immediately cease its military attacks and withdraw its forces from Gaza
4. Palestinians to declare an unequivocal end to violence and terrorism and undertake visible efforts to this on the ground;
5. Hamas to ensure an immediate end to the rocket attacks into the territory of Israel

Point 2: Response to the humanitarian situation

A ceasefire should be flanked by immediate humanitarian aid to the Palestinian civilians living in the Gaza Strip. The humanitarian aid should be resumed (*genoptaget*) by reopening of all crossing points and their lasting and normal operation. There could also be given an international observation mechanism to guarantee the cessation (*ophør*) of hostilities and unhindered access for humanitarian aid.

Thus Italy calls for:

1. Member States to support international efforts to alleviate the humanitarian and economic situation in Gaza;
2. Both parties to allow and facilitate immediate humanitarian action
3. a normal and permanent reopening of all crossings into Gaza

Point 3: Condemnation of the Israeli actions

Italy reiterates that although the Israeli government is exercising (*udøver*) its right to self-defence, it has to guarantee the utmost restraint and moderation in its military operations. It is deplorable (*beklageligt*) that, in a heavily populated area, innocent civilians were involved and that attacks caused the loss of civilian lives.

Yet, Italy will:

3. condemn the Israeli military attacks
4. condemn all violence and hostilities directed against civilians and all acts of terrorism;

Point 4: Condemnation of Hamas' actions

Italy states that Hamas ended the truce by firing Qassam rockets from the Gaza Strip into Israel. Generally human rights and peace are important issues to Italy. Italy finds that both Israel and Palestine should stop the fighting, as innocent people are trapped in the middle of the battle. Italy shows great support for Israel, and will, like other great Security Council members, not accept the violence and terrorist attacks from the Palestinian territories.

Italy therefore:

1. condemn the provocations by Hamas
2. condemn the breaking of the truce by Hamas
3. condemn the terrorist attacks against Israel by Hamas

The position given to your country is not the country's real position; it has been changed and simplified for this mock-session.

Example of a speech

This is an example of a speech held in the Security Council. This speech is available to you, so you can see how a speech can look. It is your task to make your own 1 minute speech where you incorporate (*indarbejder*) your own positions in regard to the 4 points we are discussing today (the ceasefire, response to the humanitarian situation, condemnation of Israeli actions and condemnation of Hamas' actions). You can use the statements already written under each of the points above or you can make up your own speech that follows the points.

Thank you very much.

I would like to begin by welcoming the presence among us of the Secretary-General, whose statement we very much appreciate.

We would like to express our appreciation for the convening of this meeting in the light of the gravity of the current situation in the Middle East, especially in Gaza and southern Israel. We believe that the urgency of the reality on the ground required the immediate holding of a public meeting of the Council and calls for a firm response by this organ. We hope that the Council will take relevant action that will be respected by the parties.

We would like to remind that only a renewed ceasefire can open the way to establishing minimally acceptable conditions for the people of Gaza, and that only continued political negotiations between the Palestinian factions and between Israel and a Palestinian Authority that is negotiating on behalf of all Palestinians, can bring a lasting solution to this conflict.

We stress the absolute need to speedily resolve the underlying causes of the situation in the Middle East. Here, we reaffirm our great concern about the fact that the Security Council — which bears primary responsibility for maintenance of international peace and security — is on the margins of this process.

As we strive for a ceasefire, we remain deeply concerned about innocent Palestinians and Israelis who are suffering. Let me assure the Council that we understand the urgency of an end to the fighting and that we are working around the clock to bring it into being.

We need urgent action to restore supplies of food, fuel and medicine to the population of the Gaza Strip. That means opening up the crossings into Gaza to allow the entry of those supplies, and it means ensuring that the supplies can be distributed properly within the Gaza Strip. Israel must meet its humanitarian obligations, and the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East will, as always, have a vital role to play and will almost certainly need more support.

Thank you Mr. President

Panama

This position paper is the position of your country in the 6061st meeting in the Security Council about the situation in Israel and Palestine. Your position is however open to change, if you feel you can agree on less strong statements in a resolution. It is however necessary to understand what other countries mean by their statements, so you are sure that the statements, you are agreeing upon, are not compromising your own.

It is your task to make a 1 minute opening speech based on your positions given in this paper. The final part of this document contains a speech held in the Security Council and this speech can give you an idea to how you should make your opening speech.

Do this in the beginning of the session:

Facts about Panama

Panama is located in Central America, bordering Costa Rica and Columbia. Panama has a population of 3.3 million. Panama was ruled by several military strong men since the coup in 1968 and in 1989 the US invaded Panama to remove General Manuel Antonio Noriega, the leader of the country since 1983, whom they claimed to be involved in large scale drug trafficking to the US.

US build the Panama Canal (build from 1904 - 1914) and handed it over to Panama in 1999 – thus Panama has been an important actor for US, since the alternative to the Panama Canal was to travel all the way south around the southern tip of South America. During the time of American ownership of the canal, the US had complete monopoly over the canal and thus the right to exclude any other nation to use it, if they wished.

General Position

Panama is concerned about the fact that Security Council members support one party unconditionally (*ubetinget*) without the necessary distance from the specifics of actions or decisions taken by the party. It seems to Panama that the Council possesses neither the will nor the capacities to promote an understanding (*fremme en forståelse*) that can help reach a peaceful solution. Therefore peace initiatives have come and gone without significant impacts. Panama calls upon Council members to take a responsibility and make serious efforts to understand the causes and the effects of the conflict, and promote and follow up on solutions leading to peace.

Panama agrees with the US government to support the government of President Abbas in the West Bank and isolating Hamas in Gaza. Panama concludes that the final peace agreement between Israel and Palestine must be based on the existence of two States living in peace with each other and with their neighbours within the 1967 borders. Israel must end its incursions (*militære indtrængen*) into occupied Palestinian territories and its siege of Gaza. Panama finds that both Israel and Hamas must immediately and unconditionally cease the violence and take necessary measures (*foranstaltninger*) to avoid civilian casualties and to allow the unrestricted provision of medical and humanitarian aid.

Panama's relations to other SC members

Panama takes the general position of agreeing upon and confirming (*bekræfter*) most of what the US says – although panama takes a critical stance (*standpunkt*) upon the general lack of solutions in the Security Council. Furthermore, Panama has good relations to Costa Rica. Thus, these are the countries that you will turn to first when negotiating about the resolution. It is necessary to

remember to consult with both Israel and Palestine before introducing and agreeing upon a resolution, since these are the main parties in the conflict.

Furthermore, the permanent members of the Security Council will always be consulted in regard to a draft resolution (*resolutionsforslag*) since they can make the agreement fall because of their veto power.

Panama's stance on the issues discussed

Point 1: Ceasefire

Panama finds that only a renewed ceasefire can open the way to establishing minimally acceptable conditions for the people of Gaza and that only continued political negotiations between the Palestinian factions and between Israel and a Palestinian Authority that is negotiating on behalf of all Palestinians, can bring a lasting solution to this conflict.

Panama calls for:

1. the urgency of an immediate, durable and fully respected ceasefire
5. Hamas to ensure an immediate end to the rocket attacks into the territory of Israel

Point 2: Response to the humanitarian situation

Panama finds that Israel should permit a better flow of essential goods into the Gaza Strip and prevent its impending (*forestående*) humanitarian collapse. The creation of a viable Palestinian State presupposes (*forudsætter*) a stable Gaza Strip. Actions demonstrating Israel's good will would help tremendously in this regard thus Israel should take steps towards help normalising Palestinian life.

Panama calls for the international community as well as the Security Council to take the responsibility to actively end the conflict. Panama believes that the international community has a responsibility to ensure that the humanitarian crisis in the Palestinian Territories will end.

Panama calls for:

1. Member States to support international efforts to alleviate the humanitarian and economic situation in Gaza;
2. Both parties to allow and facilitate immediate humanitarian action
3. a normal and permanent reopening of all crossings into Gaza

Point 3: Condemnation of the Israeli actions

Panama finds that Israel should end the violence and ensure that civilian casualties are avoided. The population of Gaza is facing a very difficult situation.

Panama will:

4. condemn all violence and hostilities directed against civilians and all acts of terrorism;

Point 4: Condemnation of the Palestine actions

Panama finds that Hamas should immediately end the violence directed towards the Israeli civilian population.

Panama will therefore:

1. condemn the provocations by Hamas
4. condemn all violence and hostilities directed against civilians and all acts of terrorism;

The position given to your country is not the country's real position; it has been changed and simplified for this mock-session.

Example of a speech

This is an example of a speech held in the Security Council. This speech is available to you, so you can see how a speech can look. It is your task to make your own 1 minute speech where you incorporate (*indarbejder*) your own positions in regard to the 4 points we are discussing today (the ceasefire, response to the humanitarian situation, condemnation of Israeli actions and condemnation of Hamas' actions). You can use the statements already written under each of the points above or you can make up your own speech that follows the points.

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We would like to remind that only a renewed ceasefire can open the way to establishing minimally acceptable conditions for the people of Gaza, and that only continued political negotiations between the Palestinian factions and between Israel and a Palestinian Authority that is negotiating on behalf of all Palestinians, can bring a lasting solution to this conflict.

We stress the absolute need to speedily resolve the underlying causes of the situation in the Middle East. Here, we reaffirm our great concern about the fact that the Security Council — which bears primary responsibility for maintenance of international peace and security — is on the margins of this process.

As we strive for a ceasefire, we remain deeply concerned about innocent Palestinians and Israelis who are suffering. Let me assure the Council that we understand the urgency of an end to the fighting and that we are working around the clock to bring it into being.

We need urgent action to restore supplies of food, fuel and medicine to the population of the Gaza Strip. That means opening up the crossings into Gaza to allow the entry of those supplies, and it means ensuring that the supplies can be distributed properly within the Gaza Strip. Israel must meet its humanitarian obligations, and the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East will, as always, have a vital role to play and will almost certainly need more support.

Thank you Mr. President

Russian Federation

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It is your task to make a 1 minute opening speech based on your positions given in this paper. The final part of this document contains a speech held in the Security Council and this speech can give you an idea to how you should make your opening speech.

Do this during the session: *Raise a point of personal privilege while someone is giving a speech and ask them to speak up since you can't hear what they are saying.*

Facts about Russia

Russia is the largest country in the world and has a population of 142 million. Dmitry Medvedev has recently followed Vladimir Putin as President of Russia.

Russia is part of the Quartet on the Middle East, which consist of US, Russia, EU and the United Nations which is involved in mediating the peace process in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The group was established in 2002 by the Spanish Prime Minister, Aznar as a result of the escalating conflict in the Middle East. Tony Blair is the current Special Envoy for the Quartet.

General position

Russia has a number of interests in Israel, making Israel Russia's second leading trade partner in the Middle East after Turkey. On the diplomatic front, a close relationship with Israel enables (*muliggør*) Russia to play, or appear (*fremstå*) to play, a major role in the Arab-Israeli peace process. With almost 1,000,000 Russian-speaking Jews now living in Israel, Israel has the largest Russian-speaking Diaspora (*eksilgruppe*) outside the former Soviet Union, and this has led to very significant ties (*tilknytning*) in the areas of cultural exchange and tourism. Another major interest is a military-technical one as the Russian military-industrial complex has expressed (*udtrykt*) increasing interest in co-producing military aircraft with Israel, especially since many of the workers in Israel's aircraft industry are former citizens (*statsborger*) of the Soviet Union with experience in the Soviet military-industrial complex.

The issue of greatest importance to the relationship, at least from the Russian point of view, was Israeli support for Russian actions in Chechnya (*Tjetjenien*), with one Russian official stating that "Israel helps us break the Western information blockade of Russia over Chechnya." Israel also helped Russia by sending medical supplies to the victims of the Moscow apartment house bombings, claimed by Putin to have been perpetrated (*begået*) by the Chechens, and also gave medical treatment to wounded Russian soldiers.

Despite Putin's shift to an even-handed (*jævnbyrdig*) position on the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, and Russia's important diplomatic, economic, and military ties with Israel, there are countervailing (*modvirkende*) pressures in Moscow preventing too close a Russian-Israeli alignment (*alliance*).

These include 1) Pro-Arab elements in Russia's Foreign Ministry and in the increasingly influential secret police who hope to restore the close ties Moscow had in the Arab world in Soviet times. 2) Anti-Semitic forces who are also anti-Israel. 3) Russia's arms sales agency, Rosoboronoexport. What makes this problematic for Israel is that Russian arms sales to Iran, an enemy of Israel, are already a matter of major concern. 4) Russia's Muslim community; which constitutes approximately 20 percent of the Russian population, yet, they are still rather quiescent (*rolige*) politically. Nonetheless, the Russian leadership must take their views into consideration, given the dangers of radical Islam not only in Chechnya and elsewhere in the North Caucasus and the Russian Federation, but also in Central Asia.

Russia is not willing to condemn states of their actions when they are protecting its civilian population. Russia believes in condemning terrorist attacks by military fractions that are trying to make a state insecure. This is seen in the light of Russia's national situation – with many different ethnic minorities, where some, according to the Russian government, are trying to cause instability in the country. In these cases it is ok to neutralise the opposition.

Russia's relations to other SC members

Russia has good relations to the EU and the US in regard to the conflict as well as good relations to Burkina Faso. Thus, these are the countries that you will turn to first when negotiating about the resolution. It is necessary to remember to consult with both Israel and Palestine before introducing and agreeing upon a resolution, since these are the main parties in the conflict.

Finally, the permanent members of the Security Council will always be consulted in regard to a draft resolution (*resolutionsforslag*) since they can make the agreement fall because of their veto power.

Russia's stance on the subjects under discussion

Point 1: Ceasefire

Russia favours an immediate end to all military action in Gaza; also urging Hama to immediately end the firing of rockets into the territory of Israel. It is necessary to bring an immediate end to Israel's wide-scale use of force against the Gaza strip, which has already led to great losses and suffering among the Palestinian civilian population.

Russia will call for:

1. the urgency of an immediate, durable and fully respected ceasefire
4. Palestinians to declare an unequivocal end to violence and terrorism and undertake visible efforts to this on the ground;
5. Hamas to ensure an immediate end to the rocket attacks into the territory of Israel

Point 2: Response to the humanitarian situation

The situation in Gaza has become a humanitarian disaster. Humanitarian deliveries and evacuations of the wounded in Gaza must be allowed to ease the situation in that sector. The civilian population's safety cannot be ensured while there are widespread military operations in Gaza. Russia consistently calls for the lifting of the blockade on the Gaza Strip and for addressing the

humanitarian situation there. It is time to end the long lasting Israeli blockade of Gaza. All parties must fully comply with international humanitarian law and humanitarian corridors must be opened and allowed to operate safely to enable unimpeded passage out of Gaza by civilians and foreigners.

Russia calls for:

1. Member States to support international efforts to alleviate the humanitarian and economic situation in Gaza;
2. Both parties to allow and facilitate immediate humanitarian action
3. a normal and permanent reopening of all crossings into Gaza

Point 3: Condemnation of Israeli actions

Russia appeals Israel to refrain from the excessive use of force against Palestinians, and to forgo (*opgive*) arrests of representatives of the PA (*Palestinian Authority*) legislative and executive bodies. Russia is not ready to condemn the Israelis directly, since they believe that the current situation a self-defence manoeuvre.

Russia will:

4. condemn all violence and hostilities directed against civilians and all acts of terrorism;

Point 4: Condemnation of Palestinian actions

Russia underlines that Palestinians have to declare an unequivocal end to violence and terrorism and undertake visible efforts to this on the ground. Russia supports appeals to the Palestinian leadership to take effective measures to prevent terrorist acts and to put an end to missile attacks against Israel which kill civilians. And Russia urges Hamas to end the firing of rockets into Israeli territory.

Russia will:

1. condemn the provocations by Hamas
2. condemn the breaking of the truce by Hamas
3. condemn the terrorist attacks against Israel by Hamas

The position given to your country is not the country's real position; it has been changed and simplified for this mock-session.

Example of a speech

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Thank you very much.

I would like to begin by welcoming the presence among us of the Secretary-General, whose statement we very much appreciate.

We would like to express our appreciation for the convening of this meeting in the light of the gravity of the current situation in the Middle East, especially in Gaza and southern Israel. We believe that the urgency of the reality on the ground required the immediate holding of a public meeting of the Council and calls for a firm response by this organ. We hope that the Council will take relevant action that will be respected by the parties.

We would like to remind that only a renewed ceasefire can open the way to establishing minimally acceptable conditions for the people of Gaza, and that only continued political negotiations between the Palestinian factions and between Israel and a Palestinian Authority that is negotiating on behalf of all Palestinians, can bring a lasting solution to this conflict.

We stress the absolute need to speedily resolve the underlying causes of the situation in the Middle East. Here, we reaffirm our great concern about the fact that the Security Council — which bears primary responsibility for maintenance of international peace and security — is on the margins of this process.

As we strive for a ceasefire, we remain deeply concerned about innocent Palestinians and Israelis who are suffering. Let me assure the Council that we understand the urgency of an end to the fighting and that we are working around the clock to bring it into being.

We need urgent action to restore supplies of food, fuel and medicine to the population of the Gaza Strip. That means opening up the crossings into Gaza to allow the entry of those supplies, and it means ensuring that the supplies can be distributed properly within the Gaza Strip. Israel must meet its humanitarian obligations, and the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East will, as always, have a vital role to play and will almost certainly need more support.

Thank you Mr. President

United Kingdom

This position paper is the position of your country in the 6061st meeting in the Security Council about the situation in Israel and Palestine. Your position is however open to change, if you feel you can agree on less strong statements in a resolution. It is however necessary to understand what other countries mean by their statements, so you are sure that the statements, you are agreeing upon, are not compromising your own. Furthermore, note that United Kingdom is one of the five permanent members of the Security Council which gives United Kingdom the right to use its veto on resolutions if they cannot agree upon them.

It is your task to make a 1 minute opening speech based on your positions given in this paper. The final part of this document contains a speech held in the Security Council and this speech can give you an idea to how you should make your opening speech.

Do this during the session: *Around coffee time, motion for suspension of the meeting for 15 minutes in order to have coffee.*

Facts about UK

United Kingdom is one of the permanent members of the Security Council. Being member of many different organisations such as, NATO, EU, and G8, the United Kingdom is a very important member of the Security Council.

General position:

Under the Charter of the United Nations, UK has the obligation (*forpligtigelse*) to act on behalf of the international community and therefore to defend global interests first and foremost. But it will fulfil this responsibility from a British and European Union perspective. The presence of four EU members on the Security Council (United Kingdom, France, Belgium, Italy) creates a significant potential (*betydningsfuldt potentiale*). With the three other EU members in the Security Council, UK will revive (*give nyt liv til*) coordination amongst them and will try to create more consistency (*sammenhæng*) between the debates in the EU and those in the Security Council. They will do this in a pragmatic fashion, by focusing on the results when they feel there is added value (*merværdi*) to contribute and the manoeuvring room to do so. In this context, UK will also remain in close contact with the other EU members.

The European Union attaches great importance to the finding of a just and final settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict and supports initiatives to further the peace process, through the role of the Special Envoy (*udsending*) for the Middle East Peace Process (Marc Otte), through its involvement in support of the Quartet (EU, US, Russia, UN and its Special Envoy, Tony Blair), its programs of humanitarian and other assistance for Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza, by virtue (*i kraft af*) of the commitments (*forpligtigelse*) entered into by Israel, the Palestinian Authority and the EU in the European Neighbourhood Policy Action Plans, as well as through programs for civil society and people to people contacts.

UK's relations to other SC members

For UK it is of high importance that the EU countries maintain a united standpoint, and that the EU plays a central role in this matter. UK will remain in close contact with the other EU members and they will not agree upon a resolution until they have a common understanding upon this issue between the EU countries in the SC. EU has also good relations with the US and Russia in the

question about Israel and Palestine. Though some think that only the US can play a deciding role in the region, it is of crucial importance that the EU formulates a coherent (*sammenhængende*) and unambiguous (*entydig*) policy toward Israel and Palestine because UK or any other country cannot conduct a meaningful Middle East policy on their own. Thus, the EU countries are the countries that you will turn to first when negotiating about the resolution. It is furthermore necessary to remember to consult with both Israel and Palestine before introducing and agreeing upon a resolution, since these are the main parties in the conflict.

Due to the EU Membership negotiations, Croatia's stand on questions raised in the Security Council is in line with those of EU and EU will most often invite Croatia to know about their plans, and convince them to participate before going to other members of the SC. EU also has good relations to South Africa. Further, the UK as an individual country, has a close relationship to the US, and will therefore to a certain extent agree with the US.

Finally, the permanent members of the Security Council will always be consulted in regard to a draft resolution (*resolutionsforslag*) since they can make the agreement fall because of their veto power.

UK's stance on the subjects under discussion:

Point 1: Ceasefire

UK finds that the immediate trigger for Israeli military action was the end of the truce. Hamas rejected its extension and fired almost 300 rockets between 19 December and 27 December 2008. Those rockets are not just a danger and a provocation — though they are that. They demonstrate a choice by Hamas, not just to target the people of Israel, but also to target the fragile negotiations for peace, sponsored over the past year by the United States.

United Kingdom calls for an immediate halt to all violence. UK reiterates today the call of its Prime Minister for an immediate ceasefire. The Security Council's starting point must be the goals of an immediate ceasefire, an end to arms trafficking and an opening of the crossings. But we also have a responsibility to keep alive the vision of a peaceful Middle East in which Palestinians have the dignity of statehood and Israelis have recognition and security from their neighbours.

UK calls for:

1. the urgency of an immediate, durable and fully respected ceasefire
2. Israel to immediately cease its military attacks and withdraw its forces from Gaza
4. Palestinians to declare an unequivocal end to violence and terrorism and undertake visible efforts to this on the ground;
5. Hamas to ensure an immediate end to the rocket attacks into the territory of Israel

Point 2: Response to the humanitarian situation

The need for humanitarian supplies is urgent. UK says that we need to support countries in the region in developing the tools to tackle the trafficking of weapons from land and sea. This will be a complex and difficult task, but it is essential. Opening of crossings for people, goods and aid into Gaza is however necessary. We need urgent action to restore supplies of food, fuel and medicine to the population of the Gaza Strip. That means opening up the crossings into Gaza to allow the entry

of those supplies, and it means ensuring that the supplies can be distributed properly within the Gaza Strip. Israel must meet its humanitarian obligations.

UK therefore calls for:

1. Member States to support international efforts to alleviate the humanitarian and economic situation in Gaza;
2. Both parties to allow and facilitate immediate humanitarian action
3. a normal and permanent reopening of all crossings into Gaza

Point 3: Condemnation of Israeli actions

UK look upon gravely (*alvorligt*) on the Israeli land operations carried out in Gaza and the bombardment by the Israeli army of Palestinian hospitals and premises of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East. UK finds that Israel is using disproportionate force against Palestinians and that it must cease its military strikes, which have continued for too long and which have caused many civilian casualties..

UK will:

3. condemn the Israeli military attacks

Point 4: Condemnation of Hamas' actions

The European Union (and thus UK) reiterates its condemnation of the continuing firing of rockets into southern Israel. UK shows great support for Israel, and will, like other great Security Council members, not accept the violence and terrorist attacks from the Palestinian territories.

UK therefore:

1. condemn the provocations by Hamas
2. condemn the breaking of the truce by Hamas
3. condemn the terrorist attacks against Israel by Hamas

The position given to your country is not the country's real position; it has been changed and simplified for this mock-session.

Example of a speech

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We would like to remind that only a renewed ceasefire can open the way to establishing minimally acceptable conditions for the people of Gaza, and that only continued political negotiations between the Palestinian factions and between Israel and a Palestinian Authority that is negotiating on behalf of all Palestinians, can bring a lasting solution to this conflict.

We stress the absolute need to speedily resolve the underlying causes of the situation in the Middle East. Here, we reaffirm our great concern about the fact that the Security Council — which bears primary responsibility for maintenance of international peace and security — is on the margins of this process.

As we strive for a ceasefire, we remain deeply concerned about innocent Palestinians and Israelis who are suffering. Let me assure the Council that we understand the urgency of an end to the fighting and that we are working around the clock to bring it into being.

We need urgent action to restore supplies of food, fuel and medicine to the population of the Gaza Strip. That means opening up the crossings into Gaza to allow the entry of those supplies, and it means ensuring that the supplies can be distributed properly within the Gaza Strip. Israel must meet its humanitarian obligations, and the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East will, as always, have a vital role to play and will almost certainly need more support.

Thank you Mr. President

Viet Nam

This position paper is the position of your country in the 6061st meeting in the Security Council about the situation in Israel and Palestine. Your position is however open to change, if you feel you can agree on less strong statements in a resolution. It is however necessary to understand what other countries mean by their statements, so you are sure that the statements, you are agreeing upon, are not compromising your own.

It is your task to make a 1 minute opening speech based on your positions given in this paper. The final part of this document contains a speech held in the Security Council and this speech can give you an idea to how you should make your opening speech.

Do this during the session: In the beginning of the session, raise a point of information and ask the President, what you can use a suspension of the meeting for.

Facts about Viet Nam

Viet Nam is located in South East Asia, south of China and neighbouring Laos and Cambodia. Viet Nam has a population of 86 million people. Viet Nam was a French colony for some 100 years until mid 20th Century. After the French left the country it was politically split into two parts and this eventually resulted in the Viet Nam war where The United States of America fought with South Viet Nam against the Socialist North Viet Nam. The war ended in socialist victory in 1975. Following the war Viet Nam was isolated but in the late 1980ies Vietnamese reforms opened up the country and by 2000 Viet Nam had re-established diplomatic relations with most states and had one of the highest growth rates in the world. Viet Nam has been a non-permanent member of the Security Council since January 2008 and will sit in the Council until the end of 2009.

General position

Viet Nam has friendly relations to most countries but is looking upon the situation in the Middle East with grave concern (*alvorlig bekymring*). Viet Nam finds it worrisome (*bekymrende*) that Israel continues their military incursions into the West Bank and Gaza and keeps expanding illegal settlements (*bosættelser*) in the Palestinian territory. Viet Nam also finds it problematic that there are continuous restrictions on freedom of movement and access to persons and goods in Gaza.

Viet Nam equally sees serious problems in the dire (*forfærdelige*) humanitarian crisis in Gaza which continues to deteriorate (*forværre*) and affects the life of Palestinian people who have been suffering from the lack of food and medical supplies, the suspension of electricity and fuel supplies, the halting of services in hospitals and bakery, the withholding of heating supplies during winter and the paralyzed functioning of sanitation and water facilities.

Viet Nam finds that the best solution is peaceful negotiations since bloodshed (*blodsudgydelser*) produces no winners. Viet Nam support an independent, sovereign Palestinian state which also ensures (*sikrer*) Israeli security, thus two states living side by side in peace. Both parties should renounce violence (*fraskrive sig brugen af vold*) and abide by (*vedstå*) their obligations under international law, particularly human rights and humanitarian laws, and take further concrete action to advance (*nærme sig*) the peace process towards its stated goals. Viet Nam urges Israel to put an immediate end to restrictive measures, open border crossings, and ensure unfettered access for humanitarian assistance to the Palestinian people in Gaza.

Viet Nam's relations to other SC members

Viet Nam has good relations to China and Indonesia. Thus, these are the countries that you will turn to first when negotiating about the resolution. It is necessary to remember to consult with both Israel and Palestine before introducing and agreeing upon a resolution, since these are the main parties in the conflict. Finally, the permanent members of the Security Council will always be consulted in regard to a draft resolution (*resolutionsforslag*) since they can make the agreement fall because of their veto power.

Viet Nam's stance on the subjects under discussion:

Point 1: Ceasefire

The Vietnamese delegation calls upon the parties concerned to exercise (*udøve*) the maximum restraint (*tilbageholdenhed*), cease all military activities and acts of violence and return to the negotiating table to resolve outstanding issues by peaceful means. We urge Israel to stop the excessive and disproportionate (*uforholdsmæssig*) use of force and its military operations and immediately withdraw its forces from Gaza.

The Vietnamese delegation fully supports the intensified and coordinated efforts of the international community to establish an immediate, permanent, effective and monitored ceasefire between the parties concerned and thus ensure long-term peace, security and stability in the region.

Viet Nam calls for:

1. the urgency of an immediate, durable and fully respected ceasefire
2. Israel to immediately cease its military attacks and withdraw its forces from Gaza
5. Hamas to ensure an immediate end to the rocket attacks into the territory of Israel

Point 2: Response to the humanitarian situation

The Vietnamese delegation is gravely concerned about the worsening humanitarian crisis faced by Palestinians in Gaza as a result of the ongoing military actions. We underline the urgent need to cease all restrictive measures and open border crossings in order to facilitate the delivery of food, medical aid, fuel and other humanitarian supplies to the suffering people in Gaza, the evacuation of the injured and the unhindered access of humanitarian workers. We call upon the international community to extend further emergency and humanitarian assistance to the civilian population in Gaza.

Viet Nam calls for:

1. Member States to support international efforts to alleviate the humanitarian and economic situation in Gaza;
2. Both parties to allow and facilitate immediate humanitarian action
3. a normal and permanent reopening of all crossings into Gaza

Point 3: Condemnation of Israeli actions

Viet Nam is recognising Israel's need for self-defence against terrorist attacks, but denounces (*tager afstand fra*) the excessive and disproportionate use of force by Israel in collective punishment of the population in Gaza, which has resulted in the death or injury of hundreds of Palestinians, including

women and children. Viet Nam condemns Israel's continued military activities and bombardments and sees Israeli counterattacks (*modangreb*) as actions that will aggravate (*forvæere*) the situation.

Viet Nam will:

3. condemn the Israeli military attacks

Point 4: Condemnation of Hamas' actions

Viet Nam condemns the terrorist attacks originating in the Palestinian Territories on innocent Israelis. Viet Nam urges all parties to immediately and unconditionally stop all acts of violence.

Viet Nam will:

3. condemn the terrorist attacks against Israel by Hamas

The position given to your country is not the country's real position; it has been changed and simplified for this mock-session.

Example of a speech

This is an example of a speech held in the Security Council. This speech is available to you, so you can see how a speech can look. It is your task to make your own 1 minute speech where you incorporate (*indarbejder*) your own positions in regard to the 4 points we are discussing today (the ceasefire, response to the humanitarian situation, condemnation of Israeli actions and condemnation of Hamas' actions). You can use the statements already written under each of the points above or you can make up your own speech that follows the points.

Thank you very much.

I would like to begin by welcoming the presence among us of the Secretary-General, whose statement we very much appreciate.

We would like to express our appreciation for the convening of this meeting in the light of the gravity of the current situation in the Middle East, especially in Gaza and southern Israel. We believe that the urgency of the reality on the ground required the immediate holding of a public meeting of the Council and calls for a firm response by this organ. We hope that the Council will take relevant action that will be respected by the parties.

We would like to remind that only a renewed ceasefire can open the way to establishing minimally acceptable conditions for the people of Gaza, and that only continued political negotiations between the Palestinian factions and between Israel and a Palestinian Authority that is negotiating on behalf of all Palestinians, can bring a lasting solution to this conflict.

We stress the absolute need to speedily resolve the underlying causes of the situation in the Middle East. Here, we reaffirm our great concern about the fact that the Security Council — which bears primary responsibility for maintenance of international peace and security — is on the margins of this process.

As we strive for a ceasefire, we remain deeply concerned about innocent Palestinians and Israelis who are suffering. Let me assure the Council that we understand the urgency of an end to the fighting and that we are working around the clock to bring it into being.

We need urgent action to restore supplies of food, fuel and medicine to the population of the Gaza Strip. That means opening up the crossings into Gaza to allow the entry of those supplies, and it means ensuring that the supplies can be distributed properly within the Gaza Strip. Israel must meet its humanitarian obligations, and the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East will, as always, have a vital role to play and will almost certainly need more support.

Thank you Mr. President
