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**UN Watch Statement on UPR Lebanon
Delivered by Mr. Hillel Neuer**

Thank you, Mr. President.

The purpose of this human rights review process is to hold governments to account, in order to make a difference for men and women on the ground. Today we ask: Should human rights activists support — or object — to the adoption of today's report on Lebanon's human rights record?

Let me read from the report:

Paragraph 24: "Senegal praised progress"

Par. 31: "Sri Lanka welcomed the efforts made to ensure the right to education."

Par. 32: "The State of Palestine commended efforts to promote and protect human rights."

Par. 33: "Sudan commended the National Human Rights Plan."

Par. 37: "Togo praised the adoption of the National Human Rights Plan."

Par. 45: "Venezuela acknowledged the commitment of Lebanon to upholding human rights"

Par. 49: "Algeria commended Lebanon for its progress on economic, social and cultural rights."

Yet the truth, Mr. President, is the opposite.

Let us be clear:

The truth is that Lebanon's human rights record received a negative rating from Freedom House, including on civil liberties and political rights.

The truth is that, as documented in a major report by Amnesty International, Lebanon continues to discriminate against Palestinians, denying their universal human rights, including the freedom to work in professions and earn a living.

Given that the Palestinian Mission and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation yesterday circulated a series of resolutions about Palestinians, why is it that not one of these resolutions, not one word, addresses the hundreds of thousands of Palestinians whose human rights are violated by Lebanon?

The truth is that, contrary to what Lebanon stated in this report, Hezbollah remains a terrorist group, as the Arab League itself has just recognized.

Mr. President,

For all of these reasons, let me be clear: the victims of human rights abuse around the world object to the adoption of this report. Thank you, Mr. President.