

**Second Ministerial Review Summit
on the
Geneva Declaration on Armed Violence and Development**

Statement of Lebanon

Delivered by

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to the United Nations in Geneva**

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Mr. Chairman/ President,

Excellencies and Colleagues,

I wish at the outset to express my appreciation to the Swiss Government for organizing and hosting this Ministerial Review Summit, and similarly all our appreciation to our co-host the United Nations Development Programme.

Three years after our 2008 meeting in this beautiful city of Geneva where this process was launched, here we are again to debate about it, rejoice successes, redress shortcomings and plan for future steps.

Unfortunately one cannot say that our world of today is safer or more prosperous than that of 2008, nor that of 2006. Violence remains an unavoidable tragic product of underdevelopment, while the vicious circle makes the opposite true as well. The world has been trapped for long decades in

the economic burden of armed violence and the security burden of underdevelopment.

As the former UNSG Mr. Koffi Annan stated, **“The World will not enjoy development without security or security without development, and it will not enjoy either without respect for human rights.”**

Facing this reality, our collective initiative was more than necessary. It goes beyond a concerted action by States and civil society entities; it rather constitutes recognition or even an awakening that global, national and sub-national prosperity and well being cannot be dissociated in any way from a holistic approach to address security challenges. It looks like stating the obvious, but when we consider the degree of awareness and responsiveness around the world to this basic reality, we realize that more should be analyzed, studied and, most importantly, done.

My country, Lebanon, is among those countries which were destined to experience the sad linkage between development and security. It had enjoyed a GDP per capita among the highest in the Region and beyond, until 1975 civil

war erupted, coupled by successive Israeli invasions and occupation, lastly in 2006 when its soil was showered by 4 million cluster bombs, among other inhumane weapons deliberately targeting civilians, leaving thousands of martyrs and wounded.

Mr. Chairman/ President,

Beyond the 150 thousands families in Lebanon suffering from members' losses, a global view of the burden of armed violence appears to be appalling. Humanity had lost millions since we last met in 2006, and it had spent trillions of dollars on the machines and the techniques of killing.

The responsibility lies on our shoulders and it requires from us to raise awareness of these figures and facts, and use all possible mediums to advance our common goals. It also entails promoting holistic post-conflict approaches to address both the aftermath of internal struggles and the reconstruction of the infrastructure and the invigoration of the economy.

Mr. Chairman/ President,

Security and prevention of armed violence cannot be dissociated from promoting a world order whereby respect of international law, sovereign equality of States and ending occupation and oppression of peoples constitute unavoidable principles. The Middle East, including Lebanon, has been suffering the direct and indirect repercussions of Israeli occupation to Arab land for more than fifty years. One cannot overlook how much occupation and denial of rights affect the violent behavior of individuals and groups.

Today, Israeli violations of Lebanese sovereignty and its occupation of Lebanese land still constitute a source of instability and a main impediment to development in south Lebanon and the country as a whole.

Finally Mr. Chairman/President, I, once again wish to express Lebanon's full support to both the text and spirit of the

Geneva Declaration and our support to all future steps taken to promote this process, and thank you Mr. Chairman.