

CANADA

A/HRC/3/L.13 Human Rights Situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory: follow up to Human Rights Council Resolution S-1/1

Instruction: Call the vote and vote NO Deliver following EOY:

Explanation of Vote:

As mentioned in our statement last week following the High Commissioner's update to the Council, Canada is committed to promoting the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all peoples in the region, as well as respect for the rule of law. The recent escalation of violence, the loss of human life and the suffering of victims are of serious concern to Canada. We reiterate that the Palestinian Authority must take concrete measures to address Israel's security concerns and eliminate attacks against Israel. Israel <sup>for its part</sup> must assume its responsibility to exercise utmost caution to prevent civilian casualties as it exercises its right to defend itself against terrorism. Canada has always been and remains wholly committed to a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in the Middle East. We encourage both sides to follow <sup>up</sup> last week's <sup>promising</sup> agreement between President Abbas and Prime Minister Olmert by clear action towards peace.

Canada therefore continues to support constructive resolutions which present a balanced perspective. At the Special Session held in July, Canada explained that it could not support the resolution that was adopted at that time because it did not go far enough to represent a balanced approach <sup>to</sup> of the human rights situation in Gaza. Consistent with our position on the resolution adopted on July 5, Canada voted against the follow-up resolution adopted today.