

HRC Special Session 12
Statement by the Netherlands

Mr President,

I would like to align myself to what the Swedish Ambassador has said on behalf of the European Union.

Mr President,

In our national statement during the 12th Session of the Human Rights Council, the Netherlands stated that the report of Justice Goldstone warrants serious consideration and we welcomed a in-depth discussion of the report in the Council. At the same time, we also indicated that we believe that it is essential that the commission's report is discussed on its merits and in a balanced manner. We favour a transparent discussion that focuses on the content of the report: the crisis in Gaza and associated aspects of human rights and international humanitarian law.

~~[We do not feel that this Special Session allows for a discussion that does justice to the report.]~~

The Netherlands believes strongly that the concerned parties should pursue their own in-depth investigations into accusations of violations of human rights and international humanitarian law, some of which have already been initiated by Israel. Where possible, the concerned parties must bring to justice those suspected of these violations.

The Goldstone report has just been subject of serious deliberations within the regular session of this Council. Therefore the Netherlands has no reason for this Special Session to reassess the Council's previous decision.

The Netherlands will urge parties bilaterally to pursue their investigations and we support other countries to do so. Further investigations by the concerned parties should, in our opinion, be referred back to the only forum suitable for that purpose, being this Council.

Thank you, Mr President