

**HRC 13 – EOJ on L 30 (Goldstone) – 24.3.2010**

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**STATEMENT BY H.E. LAURA MIRACHIAN  
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF ITALY**  
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Mr. President,

The peace process in the Middle East is our common priority. As recently highlighted by the Quartet, we support an urgent resumption of contacts with the hope that the two sides, the State of Israel and the Palestinian Authority, will come together to negotiate a peace agreement, with the help of the international community, in order to put an end to decades of conflict and tension in the region.

The Human Rights Council should serve the primary objective of peace and favour conditions conducive to a constructive dialogue.

Mr President,

At the same time, a long lasting peace in the Middle East must take into account the need for accountability. The report by the UN Fact Finding Mission on the Gaza Conflict headed by Justice Goldstone includes allegations of grave violations of international humanitarian law. We reiterate our call to the parties to implement those recommendations addressed to them, in particular, the establishment of appropriate, credible and independent investigations. We acknowledge that relevant, though not conclusive, steps have been taken so far in this direction.

The text before us introduces new elements and follow up mechanisms that would overload the system and duplicate existing efforts. Therefore, and despite the commendable attempts to reach a compromise undertaken by all stakeholders, including the Palestinian Delegation and the European Union, we are not in a position to support it and we will vote against.

Thank you, Mr. President.