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Nations Unies

Permanent Mission of Switzerland to the United
Nations

Seul le texte prononcé fait foi

**64^{ème} session de l'Assemblée générale
Plénière**

Rapport du Conseil des droits de l'homme

**Déclaration
prononcée par**

**S.E. M. Peter Maurer
Représentant permanent de la Suisse
auprès de l'Organisation des Nations Unies**

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**64th session of the General Assembly
Plenary**

Report of the Human Rights Council

Statement by

**H.E. Mr. Peter Maurer
Permanent Representative of Switzerland
to the United Nations**

New York, le 4 novembre 2009

Mr. President,

Switzerland has already stated its position in the Human Rights Council and in the Security Council on the report of the Independent UN Fact-Finding Mission on the Gaza Conflict, which took place from December 2008 to January 2009.

My delegation would therefore like to simply reiterate the following points:

- The Mission investigated allegations of violations committed by all and not just one of the parties. It is thanks to this approach that the report has a high level of credibility. It looks at the events in an objective and comprehensive manner.
- Switzerland is concerned about the Mission's conclusion that very serious crimes were committed by the different parties, and it would be irresponsible not to take the matter further. In this context, the report proposes a number of recommendations which would ensure that justice be done.
- It is essential at this stage that the parties to the conflict conduct their own independent inquiries, in accordance with international standards. The responsibility is, first and foremost, their own.
- However, if the parties to the conflict do not have the will or lack the ability to conduct the necessary inquiries and legal proceedings, it will then be up to the international community to ensure that these violations do not go unpunished.
- The Human Rights Council endorsed the report's recommendations and called upon the various actors, including the United Nations General Assembly, to ensure that they carry out the recommendations in accordance with their respective mandates.

- The General Assembly should consider the creation, if necessary, of an independent committee of experts in international humanitarian law and human rights to oversee the proceedings of the parties in this respect.

Mr. President,

In the interest of the victims, both Israeli and Palestinian, we must take steps to ensure that this report is not simply forgotten or greeted with indifference. Combating impunity is an indispensable condition for a lasting peace and for the prevention of future crimes. These two objectives are mutually reinforcing each other and should be pursued simultaneously.

We strongly believe in a negotiated solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. It is in this spirit that we call upon all parties to respect their obligations under international humanitarian law and with regard to human rights.

Thank you, Mr. President