

**Statement attributable to the Spokesperson for the Secretary-General
on the humanitarian aspects of Security Council Resolution 1701**

The Secretary-General welcomes the progress on the urgent humanitarian aspects of Security Council Resolution 1701 achieved by the recent decision of the Israeli government. These involve the return of the two abducted Israeli soldiers and the solution of the cases of Lebanese prisoners held in Israel. He looks forward to the signing and the full implementation of the negotiated agreement in the near future. He hopes that the envisaged humanitarian moves will encourage further steps on implementing other parts of the resolution and contribute to further humanitarian moves.

New York, 30 June 2008