

Statement Attributable to the Spokesperson of the Secretary General
On the 40th Anniversary of the 1967 Arab-Israeli war

On this day, the Secretary-General remembers the men, women and children who have been killed or had their lives shattered by the tragedies of conflict in the Middle East, particularly the Palestinians who continue to live under an occupation that has lasted forty years. The United Nations remains committed to bringing assistance to those who suffer, and to working tirelessly for a just, lasting and comprehensive peace in the region in accordance with international law and the resolutions of the Security Council.

As the 40th anniversary of the 1967 Arab-Israeli war reminds us, statehood for Palestinians, security for Israelis, and peace in the region cannot be achieved by force. An end to the occupation and a political solution to the conflict is the only way forward – for Israelis, Palestinians, Syrians, Lebanese and the wider region. This will only be achieved through negotiations to bring about an end to the occupation, on the basis of the principle of land for peace, as envisaged in Security Council resolutions 242 (1967), and 338 (1973).

New York, 5 June 2007