

NORWAY

HRC SS12. EOV before the vote.

Mr President,

The report of the UN Fact Finding Mission on the Gaza Conflict is thorough and well prepared. A substantial amount of documentation is included in the Report. The report deserves to be treated in a serious manner by the Human Rights Council.

The report contains a number of recommendations to the parties and to different UN organs. We strongly believe that the parties to the conflict bear the primary responsibility to investigate and prosecute possible violations conducted by forces under their command.

National implementation of the recommendations in the report must comply with relevant international standards. International monitoring of the implementation by the parties is therefore crucial. In this context we believe the Human Rights Council can play a key role.

It is our firm view that the Council should send a clear and unambiguous message on the follow-up to the report. In order for this message to be effective, it is important that it enjoys the broadest possible support. Norway has been engaged in the consultations on the draft resolution to this end.

We are disappointed that it has not been possible to allow enough time for a serious process to take place in order to obtain the necessary broader support. For this reason we are not in a position to vote in favour of this resolution and will abstain.

Norway is still determined to contribute to a meaningful and credible process on the Goldstone-report in the Human Rights Council. We hope to see the same commitment from all other members.