

## **Human Rights Council 13<sup>th</sup> Session**

### **General Debate Item 7: Follow-up to Special Sessions**

#### **Intervention by Norway**

**22 March 2010**

**Delivered by Minister Counsellor Beate Stirø**

Thank you, Mr. President,

Let me start by echoing the appreciation expressed by others for the work of the OHCHR on this important matter.

Norway has since the outbreak of the Gaza conflict emphasized that the parties to the conflict bear the primary responsibility to investigate and prosecute possible violations of humanitarian law conducted by forces under their command.

This is necessary in societies based on the rule of law. It is necessary to prevent a culture of impunity. It is also necessary for the long-term prospects of peace and prosperity in the region and for reconciliation between its people.

The Goldstone report contains a number of recommendations to the parties. National implementation of these recommendations must comply with relevant international standards.

The General Assembly, in resolution 64/254 of 26 February 2010, called on the parties to conduct investigations that are independent and credible and comply with international standards. Further, the General Assembly requested the UN Secretary-General to report on the implementation by the parties, with a view to the consideration of further action in monitoring national investigations by the relevant United Nations organs and bodies. This report is due by the end of July this year – only a month before the 15<sup>th</sup> session of the Human Rights Council.

In the follow up of the Goldstone report it is essential to secure a coordinated and coherent approach by relevant UN organs. Competing or even contradicting processes must be avoided.

Norway supported GA resolution 64/254. This decision is clear: based on the content of the SG's report to the GA by the end of July 2010; further action with regard to monitoring national investigations will be considered. In our view, a decision by the Human Rights Council during this session that establishes a new monitoring mechanism contradicts the decision by the GA.

Norway is determined to contribute to a meaningful and credible process on the Goldstone-report, both in the General Assembly and in the Human Rights Council. We encourage the main sponsors to work with all actors towards a decision by the Human Rights Council that enjoys broad support and adds value also to the process in the GA.

In closing, Mr. President, let me underline that Norway will continue to be a strong supporter of the Peace Process and promote a two state solution.

Thank you, Mr. President