



**STATEMENT**

**BY  
MR. HASSAN SALEH,  
COUNSELLOR,  
PERMANENT MISSION OF LEBANON  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

**ON BEHALF OF THE ARAB GROUP**

**AT THE  
42<sup>ND</sup> SESSION  
OF THE  
COMMISSION ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT**

**FRIDAY, APRIL 3, 2009**

*Permanent Mission of Lebanon to the United Nations  
866 United Nations Plaza, Suite 531, New York, NY 10017*

Mr. Chairman,

I have the honor to deliver the following statement on behalf of the Arab Group.

As a matter of principle, the Arab Group respects decisions by regional groups on with regard to their candidatures to United Nations bodies, councils and commissions. However, the Arab Group is deeply concerned that having Israel as Chair of the Commission on Population and Development (CPD) will negatively impact the Commission's credibility and in turn the Commission's work. Israel still occupies other peoples' territories in grave violation of the United Nations Charter, and the resolutions of the General Assembly, the Security Council, ECOSOC and Human Rights Council, and that Israel, the occupying Power, obstructs development and violates the human rights of the Palestinian population in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the Syrian population in the occupied Syrian Golan and the Lebanese population in the occupied Lebanese territory. The Arab Group thus wishes to state its strong objection to this nomination and considers it in contravention of the purposes and principles upon which this Commission was established.

Mr. Chairman,

Israel's appalling record of violations of the rights of the civilian populations under its occupation, and its contempt of United Nations resolutions and international law, including humanitarian and human rights law, are documented in numerous United Nations annals and reports. Accordingly, the Arab Group affirms that Israel is not qualified to perform its duties in an impartial manner and to assume an important position such as the Chair of the Commission on Population and Development.

Mr. Chairman,

I would like to draw the attention of the members of the Commission that the Arab Group has sent a letter to the Secretary General of the United Nations stating its position on the Israeli nomination and requested its distribution as an official document of the forty-third session of the Commission on Population and Development under agenda item 1 entitled: Election of Officers, a copy of which is annexed to this statement. Based on the aforementioned, the Arab Group calls upon the Member States of the Commission on Population and Development to uphold the purposes and principles that guide the work of the Commission and calls upon them to vote against this nomination.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.