Introduction by Ambassador Masood Khan, Permanent Representative of Pakistan Of draft resolution L-5 entitled "The Report of the Commission of Inquiry on Lebanon", 8 December 2006

Mr. President,

On behalf of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, I have the honour to introduce the draft resolution entitled "Report of the Commission of Inquiry on Lebanon". The intention of the draft is to ensure follow-up to the report of the Commission of Inquiry, established in pursuance of paragraph 7 of resolution S-2/1 of the Second Special Session of the Human Rights Council.

Resolution S-2/1 of 11 August 2006 set up a Commission of Inquiry: to investigate the systematic targeting and killing of civilians by the Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) in Lebanon; to examine the types of weapons used by Israel; to assess the extent and deadly impact of Israeli attacks on human life, property, critical infrastructure and the environment.

The OIC, at the time of the consideration of report of the Inquiry Commission, last week, commended the Commissioners for their fair and impartial investigation as well as their courage in producing the report. The OIC pointed out that the fact finding of the report was comprehensive and bold but some of its recommendations were diffident and hesitant and some even irrelevant. It thust fell short of expectations. Greater consistency between facts and ensuing recommendations would have been welcomed.

In the report, the Commissioners established a consistent pattern of indiscriminate and disproportionate use of force by the Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) against the Lebanese civilians and civilian objects. The excessive and unjustified use of cluster munitions, 90% of which were dropped in the last 72 hours has also been confirmed by the Commission.

Mr. President,

The short procedural draft resolution before us has a precise message. It calls for a follow-up of the recommendations of the Commission of Inquiry, made in the implementation of paragraph 7 of Resolution S-2/1 of 11 August 2006.

As co-sponsors of the draft resolution, OIC Member States have been engaged in a spirit of cooperation in negotiations with a number of countries and groups. We have taken on board their suggestions. Operative Paragraph 2 of the draft resolution now reads as follows:

"Requests the High Commissioner for Human Rights to consult with the Government of Lebanon on the report and its findings and on the relevant recommendations and to report to the 4th session of the Human Rights Council"

We hope that with these important changes, the Council adopts the text by consensus.

I thank you Mr. President.