



# Security Council

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## Model 10

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### Letter dated 12 February 2010 from the Secretary-General to the President of the Security Council

I refer to my letter of 6 August 2009 (S/2009/407) addressed to the Security Council, in which I recommended that the mandate of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) should be renewed and noted that, three years after the adoption of Security Council resolution 1701 (2006), it is timely to take stock of the operational capacity of UNIFIL and conduct a comprehensive review, which would include a comprehensive evaluation of the Maritime Task Force. The Security Council, in its resolution 1884 (2009) of 27 August 2009, renewed the mandate of UNIFIL for an additional year, noted that the review would be conducted “during the coming months” and welcomed “receiving as soon as possible the conclusions of the review of the operational capacity of UNIFIL”.

In accordance with my proposal, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and UNIFIL undertook to assess the operational effectiveness of UNIFIL, including its force structure, assets and requirements, on land and at sea. The joint technical review of the Department and UNIFIL has now been completed. It is forward-looking, with the aim of ensuring that the mission’s assets and resources are configured most appropriately to fulfil its mandated tasks. It is not a review of the mandate, authorized strength or rules of engagement of UNIFIL.

The review should also be seen in the light of the Security Council’s presidential statement of 5 August 2009 (S/PRST/2009/24), in which the Council stressed the need for regular assessment of the strength, mandate and composition of peacekeeping operations, with a view to making the necessary adjustments where appropriate, according to progress achieved or changing circumstances on the ground.

In September 2009, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and UNIFIL initiated a two-stage review process. UNIFIL proceeded to analyse the current situation in its area of operations, taking into account its mandated tasks and the experience it had gained since the adoption of Security Council resolution 1701 (2006). It then determined appropriate forward-looking adjustments to the Force structure as necessary in an effort to adapt the operational capacity of UNIFIL to changes in the operational environment that have occurred since late 2006. In mid-November 2009, UNIFIL submitted its initial findings and preliminary recommendations to the Department.

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