



## Security Council

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### Letter dated 11 July 2025 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

In a letter dated 27 June 2025 addressed to me, the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Emigrants of Lebanon requested that the Security Council extend the mandate of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) for a further period of one year, in full accordance with the provisions of resolution [1701 \(2006\)](#). In this regard, and further to my report to the Council of 11 July 2025 ([S/2025/460](#)) on the implementation of resolution [1701 \(2006\)](#), I hereby request the Council to consider the renewal of the mandate of UNIFIL, which is due to expire on 31 August 2025.

Months of hostilities between, on the one hand, Hizbullah and other non-State armed groups in Lebanon and, on the other hand, the Israel Defense Forces caused large-scale destruction, displacement and civilian casualties. The return to a cessation of hostilities on 27 November 2024 brought desperately needed relief to communities on both sides of the Blue Line. While the cessation of hostilities is largely holding, the situation remains fragile, including in the context of rapidly evolving regional developments. Progress in the implementation of resolution [1701 \(2006\)](#) notwithstanding, violations continue and outstanding obligations on both parties remain.

Throughout these hostilities, UNIFIL remained in position along the Blue Line and continued its mandated monitoring and reporting functions. The mission rapidly adapted to the new situation following the cessation of hostilities, pursuant to resolution [2749 \(2024\)](#). Its presence on the ground enabled it to immediately support the redeployment of the Lebanese Armed Forces throughout southern Lebanon, synchronized with the phased withdrawal of the Israel Defense Forces, after 27 November. A strong and well-resourced Lebanese Armed Forces south of the Litani River and at sea is fundamental to Lebanon's upholding its obligations and realizing the full implementation of resolution [1701 \(2006\)](#).

In the profoundly changed strategic and operational context, both Israel and Lebanon have recommitted to resolution [1701 \(2006\)](#) and to meeting their mutual obligations to fully implement it.

With the support of UNIFIL, notable progress has already been made by the Lebanese Armed Forces over recent months towards the establishment of an area between the Blue Line and the Litani River free of armed personnel, assets and weapons other than those of the Government of Lebanon and UNIFIL. The Government of Lebanon must continue to take all actions necessary to ensure that there will be no weapons or authority in Lebanon other than those of the Lebanese State, in line with its responsibilities under resolution [1701 \(2006\)](#).



While the Israel Defense Forces has completed a phased withdrawal from most of southern Lebanon since 27 November, it retains a presence in five locations and two so-called buffer zones north of the Blue Line. It has also been conducting near-daily air strikes and violations of airspace across Lebanon, causing casualties and damage to civilian infrastructure. The Government of Israel must fully withdraw its forces from all areas north of the Blue Line, including northern Ghajar and the adjacent area north of the Blue Line. Israel must also cease its strikes in Lebanese territory and violations of Lebanese airspace and sovereignty, in line with its responsibilities under resolution [1701 \(2006\)](#). Full respect for the Blue Line by both parties is essential.

In this context, I urge the parties to avail themselves of the long-established liaison and coordination channels of UNIFIL, the good offices of my Special Coordinator for Lebanon and the enhanced mechanism as set out under the “Announcement of a Cessation of Hostilities and Related Commitments on Enhanced Security Arrangements and Toward the Implementation of UNSCR 1701” of 26 November 2024. I also call upon the parties to make full use of the tripartite meeting capacity of UNIFIL in identifying solutions to disputed points along the Blue Line, as the mission maintains unique expertise and capacity to support further progress in this regard.

I urge Lebanon and Israel to accelerate steps towards a permanent ceasefire and long-term solution, as is the stated goal of resolution [1701 \(2006\)](#). This includes the full implementation by the Government of Lebanon of the relevant provisions of the Taif Accords and of Security Council resolutions [1559 \(2004\)](#) and [1680 \(2006\)](#), in which the disarmament of all armed groups in Lebanon is required. In complement to efforts made by the United Nations at the political level, under the purview of my Special Coordinator for Lebanon, the continued presence of an impartial international peacekeeping force is essential to supporting stability and security at this crucial juncture.

There has been broad recognition, including across the Lebanese political spectrum, of the continued need for the presence of UNIFIL in southern Lebanon and for its mandated functions. These include the impartial monitoring and reporting by the mission of violations of resolution [1701 \(2006\)](#), support for the Lebanese Armed Forces in the extension of State authority, liaison and coordination, deconfliction and mitigation of the potential for direct confrontation between the forces of the two parties, and facilitation of humanitarian access. It will also be important to retain the mandate of UNIFIL on women and peace and security, including in support of ongoing efforts by the Lebanese Armed Forces to promote and mainstream inclusive gender policies.

I recall that, in order for UNIFIL to fully implement its mandated operational activities, the parties must ensure that the mission has unrestricted freedom of movement and access to all locations of interest within its area of operations. The parties must also ensure the safety and security of peacekeepers and the inviolability of United Nations premises at all times. UNIFIL will continue to adapt and adjust its posture and structure, taking into account the tangible progress made by the parties in the implementation of resolution [1701 \(2006\)](#), including the evolution of capabilities and responsibilities of the Lebanese Armed Forces in the extension of State authority.

I am grateful to the 47 countries that are contributing troops to UNIFIL and should like to express my appreciation to the Head of Mission and Force Commander of UNIFIL, Major General Diodato Abagnara, to his predecessor, Lieutenant General Aroldo Lázaro Sáenz, and to all the military and civilian personnel of UNIFIL, for the work that they are carrying out in southern Lebanon and for their commitment in

the service of peace. I express my condolences to all those affected by exchanges of fire in breach of the cessation of hostilities.

The General Assembly, by its resolution [79/308](#), appropriated the amount of \$552.8 million for the maintenance of the Force for the period from 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026. As at 7 July 2025, unpaid assessed contributions to the special account for UNIFIL amounted to \$136.0 million. The total outstanding assessed contributions for all peacekeeping operations as at that date amounted to \$3,482.9 million. Reimbursement of troop costs has been made for the period up to 31 March 2025, and for contingent-owned equipment for the period up to 30 September 2024.

I should like to express my appreciation for the continued, united and steadfast support of the Security Council for UNIFIL and its mandated activities. With the foregoing information in mind, I recommend that the Council extend the mandate of UNIFIL for a further period of 12 months, until 31 August 2026.

I should be grateful if you would bring this matter to the attention of the members of the Council.

*(Signed)* António **Guterres**

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