Mr President,

I am taking the floor on the rights of the child.

I am saddened to hear that the long statement made by the Ambassador of Finland in the name of the European Union concerning violations of human rights of children in different parts of the world made an exception from his statement the children of Lebanon.

In his statement this morning the head of the Commission of Inquiry on Lebanon referred to the critical plight of these kids. He appealed to this Council to protect Lebanese children who account for a full third of all casualties and deaths as a result of the brutal Israeli invasion of this ancient country.

Yet these children too are human. They too deserve our attention. The Council must respond to the appeal of the Head of the Commission of Inquiry. Let us express our humanity in a non-selective manner.