



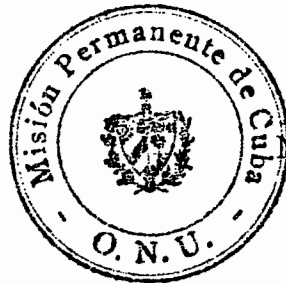
CHAIR OF THE COORDINATING BUREAU OF THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT



NAM / 7/ /2008

The Permanent Mission of Cuba to the United Nations, in its capacity as Chair of the Coordinating Bureau of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM CoB), presents its compliments to the Permanent Missions and Permanent Observer Mission of Member Countries of the Non-Aligned Movement to the United Nations and has the honour to enclose herewith, for NAM delegations information, the JCC letter addressed to Under-Secretary-General B. Lynn Pascoe, containing the views of NAM and G77 and China on the Secretary-General's report on strengthening the Department of Political Affairs.

The Permanent Mission of Cuba to the United Nations, in its capacity as Chair of the Coordinating Bureau of the Non-Aligned Movement, avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Permanent Missions and Permanent Observer Mission of Member Countries of the Non-Aligned Movement to the United Nations the assurances of its highest consideration.

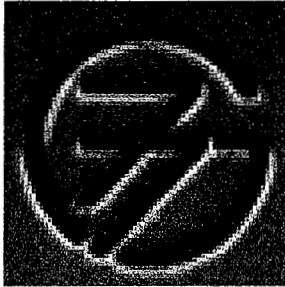


New York, 6 March 2008

Permanent Missions and Permanent Observer Mission
of Countries Members of the Non-Aligned Movement
to the United Nations
New York

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<u>Member Countries</u>	
Afghanistan	Nicaragua
Algeria	Niger
Angola	Nigeria
Antigua and Barbuda	Oman
Bahamas	Pakistan
Bahrain	Palestine
Bangladesh	Panama
Barbados	Papua New Guinea
Belarus	Peru
Belize	Philippines
Benin	Qatar
Bhutan	Rwanda
Bolivia	Saint Kitts and Nevis
Botswana	Saint Lucia
Brunei Darussalam	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
Burkina Faso	Sao Tome and Principe
Burundi	Saudi Arabia
Cambodia	Senegal
Cameroon	Seychelles
Cape Verde	Sierra Leone
Central African Republic	Singapore
Chad	Somalia
Chile	South Africa
Colombia	Sri Lanka
Comoros	Sudan
Congo	Suriname
Côte d'Ivoire	Swaziland
Cuba	Syrian Arab Republic
Democratic People's Republic of Korea	Thailand
Democratic Republic of the Congo	Timor Leste
Djibouti	Togo
Dominica	Trinidad and Tobago
Dominican Republic	Tunisia
Ecuador	Turkmenistan
Egypt	Uganda
Equatorial Guinea	United Arab Emirates
Eritrea	United Republic of Tanzania
Ethiopia	Uzbekistan
Gabon	Vanuatu
Gambia	Venezuela
Ghana	Vietnam
Grenada	Yemen
Guatemala	Zambia
Guinea	Zimbabwe
Guinea-Bissau	
Guyana	<u>Observer Countries</u>
Haiti	Armenia
Honduras	Azerbaijan
India	Bosnia and Herzegovina
Indonesia	Brazil
Iran	China
Iraq	Costa Rica
Jamaica	Croatia
Jordan	El Salvador
Kenya	Kazakhstan
Kuwait	Kyrgyzstan
Lao Peoples' Democratic Republic	Mexico
Lebanon	Paraguay
Lesotho	Serbia
Liberia	Ukraine
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	Uruguay
Madagascar	
Malawi	<u>Observer Organizations</u>
Malaysia	African Union
Maldives	Afro-Asian People's Solidarity Organization
Mali	Front de Liberation Nationale Kanak et Socialiste
Mauritania	League of Arab States
Mauritius	National Hostosian
Mongolia	Independence Movement
Morocco	Organization of the Islamic Conference
Mozambique	South Centre
Myanmar	United Nations
Namibia	
Nepal	



**THE JOINT
COORDINATING
COMMITTEE**

United Nations

New York



6 February 2008

Mr. Under Secretary General,

We have the honor to address this letter to you, on behalf of the Joint Coordination Committee (G77 and China and the Non-Aligned Movement) regarding the report of the Secretary General on the strengthening of the Department of Political Affairs.

The JCC attaches great importance to the strengthening of the United Nations and efforts should continue to be made to develop the Organization's full potential on the basis of priorities and mandates approved by Member States.

A reformed UN must be responsive to the entire membership, faithful to its founding principles and adapted to carrying out its mandate. The success of the UN reform can only be judged in terms of a collective assessment of the potential improvements in the functioning of the Organization while preserving the interests of all countries, including developing countries. A stronger UN that responds more effectively to their collective needs is in our common interest.

The JCC would like to reaffirm the role of General Assembly and its Fifth Committee in considering and deciding on all financial and human resources requirements and policies, and the structure of the Secretariat.

The JCC shares the view that improving the UN's capacity to prevent and resolve conflicts is a better investment than dealing with the costly aftermath of wars and armed conflicts. Clearly, prevention of conflict is key to the Organization's Charter obligation to maintain international peace and security.

**Mr. B. Lynn Pascoe
Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs
United Nations
New York**

Any effort to enhance the role of the United Nations in preventing conflict should take into account the need for balance and comprehensiveness, in accordance with its Charter and international law, in order to enhance conflict prevention and resolution and post-conflict peace-building strategies with the aim of achieving sustained economic growth and sustainable development.

In this context, the JCC takes the opportunity to reiterate that it expects to receive as soon as possible, for its consideration, the Secretary General's proposals regarding the reform of the development pillar of the Organization.

The objective of strengthening and rationalization of the Department of Political Affairs (DPA), including its supportive role regarding conflict prevention and resolution is to improve the Department's effectiveness and efficiency in fulfilling its mandate.

The JCC believes that the DPA has no mandate other than those provided by relevant resolutions and decisions of the United Nations. Therefore, any adjustment of Department's mandate requires further decision of the Member States.

The JCC has carefully considered the Report of the Secretary General as contained in document A/62/521, and while supporting some elements of the proposals it has also important concerns.

The JCC is disappointed that the views, priorities and role of developing countries, including their contribution to conflict prevention and resolution are not adequately reflected in the report.

We note that some proposals in the report lack detailed information. To allow Member States to make an informed decision, more clarification is highly appreciated.

For example, we have concerns regarding the establishment and nature of the proposed Regional Offices. We stress that these Offices can only be established with the full support of all Member States concerned and with an appropriate mandate approved by the General Assembly.

The JCC takes note of USG Pascoe's clarification on the regional offices on 13 February 2008, and would like to stress its general position as follows: 1) the establishment of any regional office should seek prior consent of host country and all countries in the region; 2) the Member States will decide on the establishment of regional offices on a case by case basis; and 3) a regional office cannot have extraterritorial mandate, i.e. mandate extending beyond the countries of that region; 4) taking into account the different nature of various regions, there is no uniform formula for the establishment of the regional offices.

The JCC expects that in due time the Secretariat will provide detailed information, among other things, on the following elements:

- The mandates in which any proposed office will operate, as well as the appropriate means and tools available to them to manage and sustain peace and to prevent the eruption of new conflicts.
- The type and nature of the relationship between the regional offices and the authorities of the host and concerned countries, on one hand, and these offices and the regional and sub regional organizations, on the other hand.
- Process of interaction between these offices and the other United Nations entities present in the field.
- Reports to be produce by these offices and how the reports would be use by the DPA.
- Mandates of the DPA regarding cross-cutting issues, bearing in mind that the majority of these issues are dealt with by relevant UN bodies. In this context, it would be appreciated if politically sound clarifications, including the relevant mandates approved by Member States, could be provided with regard to the DPA's expansion of functions and mandates in the area of cross-cutting issues.

The JCC also has concerns, among other things, regarding some of the proposals for restructuring the Regional Divisions within the DPA.

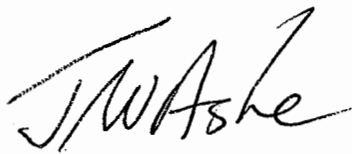
We also reiterate the importance of the principle of equitable geographical representation regarding any decision taken by the Secretariat in terms of human resources, so as to ameliorate the current geographic imbalance in the Secretariat.

In conclusion, the JCC kindly request the Secretariat to issue a Corrigendum to the aforementioned Report reflecting the comments and concerns of the Member States. This would be the most effective and easy way to move forward on this process and to avoid other more complex scenarios. After the corrigendum is issued, the technical aspects of the proposal could be discussed within the Fifth Committee.

In the Annex to the present document there is a list of the concrete modifications to the Report contained in document A/62/521 that the JCC expects to see reflected in the corrigendum.

The JCC is ready to continue working on this issue with a constructive approach and a spirit of cooperation and hopes that its views will be duly taken into account so as to facilitate a successful outcome of this process.

We avail ourselves of this opportunity to renew to you, Mr. Under Secretary General, the assurances of our highest and most distinguished consideration.



H. E. Mr. John William Ashe
Ambassador Extraordinary and
Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative of
Antigua and Barbuda
United Nations



H. E. Mr. Rodrigo Malmierca Díaz
Ambassador Extraordinary and
Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative of the
Republic of Cuba to the
United Nations

**PROPOSALS FOR A CORRIGENDUM TO THE REPORT OF THE
SECRETARY- GENERAL AS CONTAINED IN DOCUMENT
A/62/521**

Paragraph 4

Add in line 6 after “strengthening of the DPA”, the following: **“as well as the development architecture...”**

Delete in line 6 the word *“vital”*.

Delete in line 8 *“in the area of peace and security”*.

Paragraph 5

Delete in line 2 *“field oriented and”*...

Delete in line 9 *“full collaboration of Member States”* and replace by **“prior consent of the concerned Member States and approval of the General Assembly”**...

Add in line 10 after “regional offices”: **“in Central Africa, West Africa, the Great Lakes and the Horn of Africa”**.

Paragraph 13

Delete in line 9 *“when and where the need arises”* and replace by **“upon their request”**.

Paragraph 14 (e)

Add in line 2 after “regional offices”: **“in Central Africa, West Africa, the Great Lakes and the Horn of Africa”**

Delete in line 5 *“after dialogue with and agreement of Member States and regional organizations”* and replace by **“with the full support and agreement of the Member States concerned, after dialogue with regional organizations and with an appropriate mandate from the General Assembly”**.

Delete last sentence of the paragraph: *“They would replace, when appropriate and only in consultation with all relevant partners, single country political missions which have a more limited focus”*.

Delete in line 11 *“United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)”*.

Delete in line 12 “*agencies, funds and programme offices*”.

Paragraph 67

Delete in the last line “*significantly*” and replace by “**proportionately**”.

Paragraph 113

Delete the second sentence of the paragraph “*This would allow the current Officer at the P-4 level to focus on Morocco and the Western Sahara, ensuring better support to the Personal Envoy for Western Sahara and the development of strategies and recommendations for implementation of Security Council resolution 1754 (2007)*”.

Section D Middle East and West Asia Division (paragraphs 120 – 152)

- The name of the Middle East and West Asia Division should be Middle East Division.
- The Division should not be divided to several units.
- The Division should comprise Arab Middle Eastern countries in the African continent.
- Inclusion of all United Nations basic relevant resolutions and references on the Middle East, including the following most important resolutions, 242 (1967), 338 (1974), 497 (1981).
- Inclusion of a clear reference to Security Council Resolution 425 (1978) concerning Lebanon.
- Reference to the return of all the occupied Arab territories.
- The work of the Quartet should include all tracks of the Middle East peace process and not only the Palestinian-Israeli track
- Not linking the Syrian Arab Republic to the Security Council Resolution 1701 (2006)

Gulf Section (Paragraph 139 through 152)

We have strong reservations on the title and content of this Section.

Paragraph 148

Delete in line 6 the word "*modernization*".

Paragraph 168

Delete in line 6 "*South Asia*".

Delete in lines 7 and 8 "*several countries (Pakistan, India, Bhutan)*".

Paragraph 171

Delete from line 4 to 8 the following: "*United Nations policy regarding South Asia. The Officer would also liaise with civil society, including non-governmental organizations and academic institutions, to build a network of information collection and exchange. He/she would monitor and report developments across South Asia and assist*".

Paragraph 173

In paragraph 173 the Secretary General proposes to establish a new North-East Asia Unit in the East Asia and Pacific Section of the Asian and Pacific Division. Meanwhile, we've noted the ACABQ cautions against the fragmentation of the regional divisions into a multiplicity of units, and the comments that it would be more efficient to deal with issues in an integrated manner instead of on a country-specific basis. Taking into account the ongoing process carried out by major stakeholders in the North-East Asia, we are not convinced that the said unit, with its vague mandate as contained in the report, is necessary to be established.

Paragraph 189

Delete the whole paragraph.

Paragraph 195

Delete in line 2 the word "*civil*".

Delete the second sentence: "*The new Central America/Mexico Section would continue to work with Governments to strengthen conflict prevention mechanisms and monitor developments in the subregion, still assailed by destabilizing factors, such as transnational organized crime, drug trafficking and gang violence*".

Paragraph 198

Delete in the last sentence the phrase: *“relating to conflict prevention, peacemaking, peacebuilding and other issues in his/her areas of assignment”*.

Paragraph 200

Delete in lines 5 and 6 *“relating to conflict prevention, peacemaking, peacebuilding and other issues....”*

Paragraph 201

Delete in line 7 *“and participate in the planning of strategies and development of policy advice relating to conflict prevention, peacemaking, peacebuilding and other issues....”*

Paragraph 202

Delete second sentence: *“It would also permit forward-thinking on critical subregional issues, as well as on key political developments”*.

Paragraph 203

Delete last sentence: *“He/she would monitor and assess political developments in assigned countries in the subregion in order to provide the Secretary-General and senior Secretariat officials with early warning and policy options for conflict prevention, peacemaking and post-conflict peacebuilding”*.

Para 205:

Delete in the last sentence *“and participate in the planning of strategies and development of policy advice relating to conflict prevention, peacemaking, peacebuilding and other issues....”*

Paragraph 206

Delete in the third line *“a permanent member of the Security Council”*.

Paragraph 207

Delete *“to emerging regional leadership in the hemisphere, such as Argentina, Brazil and Chile”* and replace by *“to the more important political presence of the sub-region in the hemisphere.”*

Paragraph 249

Delete from line 9 to the end of the paragraph the following: *“The list of issues is almost unlimited: in addition to the existing ones, such as democracy, terrorism, conflict prevention, human rights, rule of law and natural resources and conflict, there is a plethora of emerging global issues on which political analysis and advice are required, including, for instance, transnational organized crime, corruption, the politics of land, narcotrafficking, climate change and security, radical ideology and fundamentalism, and migration. Issues such as gender have also acquired higher corporate priority. Although there are dedicated United Nations agencies, funds and programmes responsible for some of these issues, the Department is routinely called upon to provide analysis and advice on their political implications, which in many cases contribute directly to conflict.”*

Paragraph 258

Delete in the second sentence the following: *“...for which they are mandated focal points, namely peacebuilding, terrorism, and democracy and rule of law. They would also continue to provide advice on the political dimensions of the many existing and emerging global issues that fall to the Unit, including constitution-making, responsibility to protect, human rights, transitional justice, gender, transnational organized crime, corruption, the politics of land, narcotrafficking, climate change and security, radical ideology and fundamentalism, and migration”*

Delete in sentence 4 the following:

“..UNDP, OHCHR,..”

“..and the World Bank, as well as important external partners, such as the Inter-Parliamentary Union..”

Delete in sentence 3 from the bottom the following: *“..such as the Department of Political Affairs-UNDP Joint Programme, the United Nations Democracy Fund Programme Consultative Board, the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force and the United Nations Dialogue with the Global South”*.

Paragraph 259

Delete the last sentence *“For example, the Committee has recently taken up a number of cross-cutting issues (such as responsibility to protect and democratization) and prevention initiatives, both of which come under the responsibility of the Policy and Partnerships Unit. The increased connection ensures better usage of and improved preparation for the Committee.”*

Paragraph 280

Delete in the third sentence: *“and the Andes”*.

Paragraph 281

Delete in line 4: *“welcome by Member States and regional organizations”* and replace by: **“established by the GA and with the full agreement of the concerned Member States and, where appropriate, pertinent consultations with regional organizations,”**...

Add in line 5 after “approach”: **“in Central Africa, West Africa, the Great Lakes and the Horn of Africa”**

Delete last sentence: *“In-field capacity would also strengthen a “One UN” approach by facilitating the provision of political advice to United Nations country teams, regional economic commissions and Resident Coordinators on the ground where they operate, especially when combined with more frequent visits by Headquarters staff and improved use of existing mechanisms (such as the Executive Committee on Peace and Security) to ensure coordination at the Headquarters level”.*

Paragraph 283

Delete in the second sentence *“consultations with legislative authority and in close consultation with Member States and regional organizations of the regions in question”* and replace by **“and after consent of the concerned Member States and approval of the General Assembly, in Central Africa, West Africa, the Great Lakes and the Horn of Africa”.**

Delete the last sentence: *“One of the benefits of such a network, as indicated in the example already provided of Central Asia, is that it provides a low-cost safety net, enabling the Member States to phase out some long-standing special political and peacebuilding missions, while retaining a continued United Nations political presence that can provide political support, preventive diplomacy and good offices, as needed, as countries and regional organizations work through the peacebuilding process”.*

Paragraph 288

Add in line 8 after the word “serve” the following phrase **“in coordination with the concerned government”.**

Paragraph 290

Delete the whole paragraph and replace it by the following: **“Going forward, the Secretary General is considering the establishment of similar offices in the Horn of Africa and Southeast Asia. As stated earlier, the establishment of any regional office would depend on the status of the existing operations**

on the ground dealing with peace and security, the views and agreement of Member States and regional organizations in the area of focus and approval by the General Assembly”

Subprogramme 3 Security Council Affairs /paragraphs 305-314)

We have reservations on the approach taken in the whole section and the soundness of its line of reasoning. Proliferation of sanctions without examining its usefulness can not be a convincing reason to ask for more financial and human resources. We need more information to be able to decide on the proposals on this section.