



CHAIR OF THE COORDINATING BUREAU OF THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT



NAM/106/2010

9 March 2010

Excellency,

I have the pleasure to write to Your Excellency today in my capacity as Chair of the Non-Aligned Movement Coordinating Bureau (CoB) in New York. Upon the CoB decision on 9 March 2010, I would like to convey the Non-Aligned countries' deep concern about the announced intention to appoint a Panel of Experts to advise on accountability issues relating to Sri Lanka, which comes as a reaction to proposals by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights that are based on information that does not take into account the particularities of the domestic situation, and without consultation with the Government concerned.

As you are surely aware, the President of Sri Lanka has already confirmed in public his intention to appoint a domestic mechanism to address accountability issues, voluntarily. Neither the Security Council, nor the General Assembly or its subsidiary Human Rights Council, has made pronouncements on alleged human rights violations in Sri Lanka or mandated any particular course of action. The situation in Sri Lanka is not on the agenda of any of these bodies, and there is nothing in the Charter of the United Nations that authorizes intervention in matters which are essentially within the domestic jurisdiction of any state, without prejudice of course to the application of enforcement measures under Chapter VII.

The Non-Aligned Movement strongly condemns selective targeting of individual countries, which it deems contrary to the Founding Principles of the Movement and the United Nations Charter. In this context, the Movement firmly opposes the unilateral evaluation and certification of the conduct of States as a means of exerting pressure on Non-Aligned Countries and other developing countries. As the Heads of State and Government of the Movement reaffirmed in their 15th Summit in Sharm El Sheikh, human rights issues must be addressed within the global context through a constructive, dialogue-based approach, in a fair and equal manner, with objectivity, respect for national sovereignty and territorial integrity, non-interference in the internal affairs of States, impartiality, non-selectivity and transparency as the guiding principles, taking into account inter alia the political particularities of each country.



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These were the bases on which the international community reached consensus on establishing the Human Rights Council, with the hope of ushering in a new cooperative approach in dealing with human rights issues.

The Non-Aligned countries are of the conviction that acting on the said proposals on the eve of General Parliamentary Elections in Sri Lanka could do more harm than good to the country's ongoing and relentless efforts aimed at reinforcing reconciliation and national unity. Based on the principles of national ownership and leadership, the Non-Aligned countries therefore wish to underscore the need to allow enough space and time for the Government of Sri Lanka to complete its own domestic processes, without interference or unsolicited assistance.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Sincerely yours,

Maged A. Abdelaziz
Ambassador and Permanent Representative

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