



Permanent Mission of Eritrea to the United Nations New York

Check against Delivery

STATEMENT DELIVERED

BY

AMBASSADOR GIRMA ASMEROM

PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF ERITREA TO THE UNITED NATIONS

DURING

THE ADOPTION OF THE DRAFT RESOLUTION ON SOMALIA ERITREA SANCTIONS

NEW YORK, 23 OCTOBER 2015

Mr. President,

I would like to thank you and the members of the UNSC for giving my delegation the opportunity to participate in an agenda item that directly affects my country.

I wish to extend my sincere thanks to the Chairman of the Committee and those representatives from different countries who in defending the principles of impartiality, objectivity and procedures of the UN Security Council have played a constructive role so that the draft resolution could reflect the reality in Eritrea, the Horn of Africa and the Red Sea Region.

Mr. President,

The two justifications for the imposition of the unjust sanctions against Eritrea were crystal clear. They were Eritrea's alleged support to al- Shabaab in Somalia and the Djibouti Eritrea disputes in the context of their implication to regional and international peace and security, period! Nothing less, nothing more!

Mr. President,

The Somalia Eritrea Monitoring Group has concluded that **"it has found no evidence of Eritrean support to al-Shabaab"** in Somalia. With regard to the disputes between Eritrea and Djibouti, the Presidents of the two countries have entrusted the State of Qatar to mediate their disputes.

Therefore, since the two justifications for the imposition of the unjust sanctions against Eritrea are nonexistent, the correct, legal and logical action should have been for the UN Security Council to immediately and unconditionally lift the unjust sanctions against Eritrea and terminate the mandate of the Somalia Eritrea Monitoring Group concerning Eritrea.

Furthermore, the lifting of the unjust sanctions will enhance Eritrea's capability to protect its sovereignty and maintain its security as well as to effectively implement the UN Security Council resolutions that are related to the fight against global terrorism and extremism. The lifting of the **unjust** sanctions goes also with the letter and spirit of the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDG). **"No one should be left behind"**. Sanctions, especially unjust Sanctions negatively affect the most vulnerable, in particular children and women.

Unfortunately, because of the misguided geopolitical agenda of the United States Administration in the Horn of Africa and the Red Sea Region, the UNSC has sadly decided to maintain the unjust sanctions against the people and the government of Eritrea for another year.

Mr. President,

Concerning the current United Nation Security Council's decision that defies logic and legality, the Eritrean Ministry of Foreign Affairs has put out a statement which for the record I will share it with the Council.

(See attached Press Release of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 23 October 2015)



The State of Eritrea
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Press Release

UNSC Action that undermines its own legal authority

In a resolution adopted today, the UN Security Council has sadly decided to maintain yet for another year the unwarranted sanctions that were originally imposed against Eritrea on the Christmas Eve of December 2009 and its follow-up resolution that was adopted in December 2011.

At the time, Eritrea was falsely accused of dispatching 2000 troops to Somalia in support of Al-Shebaab. The pattern of unsubstantiated allegations was repeated in 2011 when Eritrea was wrongly accused - just one month prior to the adoption of Resolution 2023 - of sending three plane loads of arms to Al-Shebaab through the airport of Baidowa.

All these allegations were patently false. But trumped up charges were vital for the architects of the sanctions resolutions against Eritrea who used their diplomatic clout to ram through the unjust measures against Eritrea in a largely pliant Security Council.

Six years on, all Security Council Members and the international community as a whole, are fully aware of the false testimonies that were concocted against Eritrea to serve some political ends.

Indeed, the UN report this year – as it was also the case last year – states categorically that the “Monitoring Group” has found no evidence of Eritrean support to Al-Shebaab.

Under normal circumstances, the UNSC should drop its case against Eritrea and rescind the sanctions resolutions which were unjust in the first place. But these are not normal times. And, instead of redressing these injustices – and making due

reparations to Eritrea - the UN Security Council, despite the reservations and objections of several of its members, has opted to dwell on its misguided course under the heavy-handed prodding of the US and its usual allies. As it happens, the UN Security Council is invoking non-existent facts and potential “threats to regional peace and security” in its dogged desire to harass Eritrea.

There is one unfathomable fact that the UN Security Council cannot gloss over as it unfairly victimizes Eritrea. Ethiopia continues to occupy sovereign Eritrean territories, including the town of Badme, in flagrant violation of the Charter of the United Nations. Ethiopia’s acts also violate the Algiers Peace Agreement – guaranteed by the UN Security Council – and the final and binding arbitral decision. This must surely be an affront to the UN Security Council in as much as it wishes to hide it.

The UN Security Council is mandated by Articles 39-41 of the UN Charter to take appropriate measures against Ethiopia. But the UNSC cannot contemplate this action as Ethiopia enjoys the full protection and tutelage of the United States. But in submitting to US political wishes and preferences, the UNSC is compromising and undermining its own legal mandate and authority. Eritrea and the region will suffer the consequences of unwarranted UN action in the short-term. But in the long term, the real causality is international law as well as the corrosion of the UNSC’s legal authority in the maintenance of international peace and security.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Asmara

23 October 2015

