



29 June 2010

Excellency,

Let me, from the outset, welcome the report of the Secretary-General on Eritrea (S/2010/327). While the report is not free of inaccuracies and repeats some of the erroneous and unfounded allegations against Eritrea, including the accusation that Eritrea had invaded Djiboutian territory when in fact it hadn't, the facts and analysis that it presents underline the sheer injustice of the sanctions imposed on Eritrea. The developments over the past few months on both the issues of Eritrea-Djibouti and Somalia, which the report highlights, show that there is no pretext anymore to keep the sanctions in place.

As noted in the report, the agreement signed by the Governments of Eritrea and Djibouti with the facilitation of the Government of Qatar, whose good offices were first requested by Djibouti, is a welcome development.

On Somalia, Eritrea has continued to articulate its considered views and exert efforts for sustainable peace. It participated in the Istanbul Conference on the basis of a gracious invitation extended to it by the Government of Turkey and the United Nations. It would not be appropriate to attribute other interpretations to this participation other than Eritrea's sincere desire, together with other participants, for a durable and courageous solution. In Istanbul, Eritrea reiterated that the efforts for a solution should be guided by certain principles:

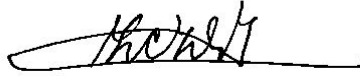
- that there can be no military solution to the conflict in Somalia;
- that the only real prospect for a lasting resolution of the Somali problem lies in an inclusive political process; and
- that a durable solution for Somalia can only be the outcome of a Somali owned and driven process.

Eritrea concurs with the Secretary General's view of the importance of compliance with the Eritrea-Ethiopia Boundary Commission (EEBC) decisions for the promotion of peace and stability in the Horn of Africa. Clearly the time has come, and justice makes it imperative, for the UN Security Council, which has unjustifiably shied away from the issue, to take tangible measures to compel Ethiopia to withdraw from the sovereign Eritrean territories that it is occupying in flagrant violation of the UN Charter and international law.

H.E. Mr. Claude Heller
President, Security Council
United Nations
New York, N.Y. 10017

The Secretary-General in his report suggests that Eritrea needs to do more, without giving any specifics. Obviously, all countries in the world need to do more. Clearly, Ethiopia needs to respect the EEBC decision and end its illegal occupation of Eritrean territory. As for the United Nations Security Council, justice and fairness demand that, it lifts the sanctions that it unjustifiably imposed on Eritrea.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurance, of my highest consideration and I would be most grateful if the letter could be issued as a document of the Security Council.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Araya Desta', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Araya Desta
Ambassador, Permanent Representative