



New York, 19 May 2009

Excellency,

I refer to Presidential Statement S/PRST/2009/15 issued by Your Excellency on the situation in Somalia on Friday, 15 May 2009.

In this connection, I wish to put on record my Government's strong opposition to, and categorical rejection of, the unsubstantiated accusations leveled against my country as described in operative paragraph five of the Presidential Statement.

My Government is indeed appalled by the unwarranted decision of the Security Council to accuse a Member State on the basis of "reports" whose origins, underlying motivation and veracity have neither been acknowledged nor ascertained. Sadly, this pattern is not new. The fact is my country has been falsely accused of "sending troops or supplying weapons" to "this or that Somali faction" on several occasions before. Too often, these accusations were primarily motivated by, and conveniently timed with, illegal acts of interference and invasion of Somalia by certain powers and their regional allies.

The Security Council Statement asserts that the "Transitional Federal Government is the legitimate, internationally recognized Government of Somalia". As my Government has underlined on many occasions, the highly complex and grave conflict in Somalia will not be resolved by arbitrary and ill-advised formulas that have no basis in international law and that do not reflect the wishes and sovereign political choices of the Somali people. "Transitional Governments" that are periodically hatched in non-inclusive incubators outside Somalia have never survived the test of time in the past years in spite of the huge military and financial support that were extended to them by their external sponsors. The illicit provision of arms associated with, and justified under, these acts have further added fuel to the simmering conflicts.

H.E. Mr. Vitaly I. Churkin  
President of the Security Council  
The United Nations  
New York

These experiments could have perhaps been excused had they not been fraught with massive loss of human life and suffering to the Somali people, and, with detrimental ramifications to the stability and security of the Horn of Africa region. But the human misery has been, and remains, too tragic for these disastrous “experiments” to continue without let up under this or that rationale.

As it will be recalled, Ethiopia’s invasion of Somalia at the beginning of 2007, with the deplorable endorsement of the UN Security Council, to prop up the previous “Transitional Government” entailed two years of chaos and mayhem. Over half a million Somalis were dislocated; numerous villages pulverized in indiscriminate air attacks; and, tens of thousands of civilians killed. At the time, the broad coalition of the Union of Islamic Courts were routinely condemned, wrongly labeled as “the epicenter of terrorism” while the “Transitional Government” of the day was condoned as the sole legitimate authority. The imperative for broad based, inclusive processes of peace-building and national reconciliation was shrugged off. After two years of failure, we are again being called to sing the same chorus.

The people of Somalia should not continue to be victims of ill-advised experiments and formulas worked out elsewhere. They deserve better. And above all, their sovereign rights to form their own government through their internal processes of peace building and reconciliation should not be compromised.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration and I would be grateful if the letter could be circulated as a document of the UN Security Council.

Araya Desta  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative