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Statement

by

H.E. Mr. Araya Desta

Permanent Representative of Eritrea to the United Nations

At the 6362nd meeting of the United Nations Security

Council

on

agenda item, “Peace and Security in Africa”

New York, 20 July 2010



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Madam President,

I wish to congratulate you for assuming the presidency of the United Nations Security Council for the month of July and I wish to thank you and the members of the Council for according my delegation the opportunity to share its views on agenda item: Peace and Security in Africa.

Before I get into the substance of the report, let me take this opportunity also to welcome the report of the Secretary-General for reflecting most of the important developments in our region and some of the concerns of my country. Since Eritrea has already submitted its views on the contents of the report of the Secretary-General, I will limit my intervention to three specific issues: 1) Eritrea-Ethiopia; 2) Djibouti-Eritrea; and 3) Somalia. Each issue is distinct from one another, yet they are all tied by history and geography; it goes without saying that such ties go far beyond the mentioned countries.

Madam President,

The pacific settlement of disputes among nations is one of the core principles on which the United Nations was founded. In this connection, I wish to commend the Secretary-General for pointing out the need to resolve the **Eritrea-Ethiopia** border dispute which was peacefully, legally and technically concluded by the Eritrea-Ethiopia Boundary Commission. However, the non-implementation of the Commission's rulings continues to impede collective and common approaches to some of the serious problems of the region, not to mention the huge sacrifices it demands on the peoples of the two nations.

The Eritrea-Ethiopia issue is indeed an occupation of sovereign Eritrean territories by Ethiopia and it must be dealt according to Article 51 of the UN Charter and other relevant provisions of international law. This violation needs the urgent attention of the Council and it should not be treated differently. Let me state it in a frank manner, for the past eight years, the Security Council declined to address Ethiopia's defiance of the



Eritrea-Ethiopia Boundary Commission's "final and binding" delimitation Award of 13 April 2002 and the demarcation decision of November 2007.

Ethiopia's refusal to honour its obligation and its act of arming, training, hosting and financing Eritrean armed elements with the objective to destabilize Eritrea should not be allowed to continue without the reaction and action from the Security Council. Issues of peace and security must be addressed in a fair and objective way as the UN Charter dictates. The Eritrea-Ethiopia issue has been in the agenda of the Security Council for several years, since 1998, until the Council decided to end the mandate of UNMEE by resolution 1827 of 30 July 2008.

Madam President,

Recalling that by the same resolution, in paragraph 6, the Council decided to remain actively seized of the matter, I wish to once again urge the Security Council to discharge its responsibility in a manner consistent with its mandate under the UN Charter in order to ensure Ethiopia's withdrawal of its troops from sovereign Eritrean territories.

Madam President,

Somalia continues to be the most difficult crisis to resolve in the African region. And this might continue to be the case until the Somalis are allowed to rise to the challenge of the day that requires determination and a shared vision of a united and stable Somalia. For this to materialize, more emphasis should be given for a political space that allows all Somali key actors to engage in meaningful and peaceful discussions. Eritrea will continue to work with the international community in seeking a sustainable peace in Somalia. It was in this spirit that Eritrea participated in the Istanbul Conference on Somalia by accepting the gracious invitation extended to it by the Government of Turkey and the United Nations in order to end the suffering of the Somalis.

Eritrea believes that the efforts of the international community should be guided by certain principles:

1. that there can be no military solution to the conflict in Somalia;



2. that the only real prospect for a lasting resolution of the Somali problem lies in an inclusive political process; and
3. that a durable solution for Somalia can only be the outcome of a Somali owned and Somali driven process.

As demonstrated during the Istanbul Conference, Eritrea shall engage TFG officials and other key actors. Eritrea shall remain to be part of a sustained and constructive effort to achieve peace and stability in Somalia.

On **Djibouti**, as noted in the report of the Secretary-General, the agreement signed by the Governments of Eritrea and Djibouti under the leadership of the Emir of Qatar, His Highness Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani, is a significant development. Ever since the issue of Djibouti-Eritrea was brought to the attention of the Security Council, Eritrea exercised restraint and opted for such matter to be addressed in a calm and quite manner preferably at bilateral level or through a third party that is acceptable to both sides taking into account the sisterly relationship of the two countries and the need to ensure peace and security in the sub-region. In this context, Eritrea is pleased by the Qatari mediation in order to restore and cultivate good neighbourly relations with Djibouti on the basis of each other's full respect of territorial integrity and sovereignty.

Finally, Madam President, notwithstanding resolution 1907 which was imposed on Eritrea unjustly and selectively by lumping unrelated issues, my delegation shall remain committed to regional peace and security. Eritrea takes issues of peace and security very seriously and it shall not be discouraged or deterred from participating in meaningful and fruitful discussions that would concretely contribute to sustainable peace in its region.

In light of the steps taken by Eritrea together with Djibouti under the auspices of the Qatari diplomatic efforts and Eritrea's firm commitment towards the peace efforts in Somalia, my delegation appeals to the Security Council to lift the sanctions regime imposed on Eritrea.

I thank you, Madam President.

**Permanent Mission of Eritrea
To the United Nations**



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