

UNITED NATIONS

NEW YORK

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY



الأمم المتحدة
نيويورك
مكتب رئيس الجمعية العامة

The Office of the President of the sixty-fourth session of the General Assembly presents its compliments to all Permanent Missions and Permanent Observer Missions to the United Nations and with regard to the Informal General Assembly Plenary Meeting on piracy to be held on Friday May 14 at the GA Hall, has the honour to attach herewith for your information the draft programme and background note.

The Office of the President of the sixty-fourth session of the General Assembly avails itself of this opportunity to renew to all Permanent Missions and Permanent Observer Missions to the United Nations the assurances of its highest consideration.

New York, 4 May 2010

To All Permanent Missions and
All Permanent Observer Missions to the United Nations

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized 'Y' followed by a diagonal line.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY INFORMAL MEETING
ON PIRACY

14 May 2010

The problem of international maritime piracy has in the last few years gained global attention, particularly with the increasing incidents of piracy in the Gulf of Aden and especially off the coast of Somalia.

Recent statistics from the International Maritime Bureau indicate that in 2009 alone pirates attacked 217 ships with 47 successful hijackings. Pirates extorted more than US \$60 million in ransom, the largest payment on record. In 2008, there were 242 attacks with 111 successful hijackings and about US \$40 million in ransom. The adverse security, political, legal, economic and social implications of this scourge are of serious concern to the international community.

With regard to Somalia, the United Nations has taken actions aimed at strengthening and assisting the Transitional Federal Government (TFG) to improve the security situation in Somalia, which is essential for an enabling environment to fight piracy off the coast of Somalia. The Security Council has authorized measures to counter piracy and armed robbery off the coast of Somalia. A Contact Group on Piracy off the coast of Somalia (CGPCS) has also been established. These efforts notwithstanding, the sovereignty, economy and security of Somalia remain under serious threat as a result of piracy.

Piracy has a destabilizing effect on regional and global trade and security. There is therefore the necessity for global strategies to address the factors that trigger and sustain piracy. Moreover, its rapid geographical spread and complexity necessitate a deeper and more comprehensive look at the various facets of the problem in order to devise a collective and more coordinated response.

In view of the foregoing, the President of the General Assembly is convening on 14 May 2010 an informal meeting of the General Assembly to provide an opportunity for all Member states to discuss the problem of international maritime piracy in a comprehensive manner to effectively address the issue. Representatives of relevant Specialized Agencies, Inter-

Governmental Organizations and NGOs will also be invited to participate in the meeting.

A comprehensive approach will be taken in addressing the issue of international maritime piracy in its political, legal, social and economic perspectives. Discussions will be held in the form of sharing of views between delegations and other participants on the issues and proffering possible solutions. The meeting will be opened with remarks by the President of the General Assembly and the Secretary-General. The President's closing remarks will mark the end of the Meeting.

Outcome of the Meeting:

A summary of the Chairman (President of the General Assembly) drawn from discussions at the Meeting. Inputs from the synthesis provided by the moderators will be considered as part of the summary.

Topics for discussion during the Meeting:

1. *Political, Legal, Social and Economic aspects of combating piracy*

Issues under this topic could include an examination of the relevant provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), the ILO Maritime Labor Convention 2006; discussion of the initiatives that can be implemented within the framework of the International Maritime Organization to enhance security of navigation; political implications and socio-economic repercussions of piracy; the necessity for land-based initiatives in the fight against piracy and discussion of other options in bringing the perpetrators of acts of piracy to justice and cooperation among states.

Other issues include jurisdiction over the crime of piracy; the problem of custody and prosecution of pirates; ways of strengthening mutual legal assistance between Member states in investigating piracy acts and by ratifying and implementing the international treaties in this field, the welfare and protection of victims of piracy including seafarers and a consideration of ways of enhancing the effectiveness of national criminal justice systems aimed at ensuring that any person involved in financing, planning, preparation or perpetration of piracy acts or who supports such acts is brought to justice.

2. Somalia: A Case Study

Fighting piracy off the coast of Somalia will be impossible without addressing the root causes of the scourge. The stabilization of the political and humanitarian situation in the Horn of Africa region as a whole is also a key component of effective action against piracy. Land based initiatives in Somalia could be discussed as a key factor in addressing the root causes of piracy in the region. Other issues that can fall within this topic include the lessons learned from the efforts in Somalia and their application in the fight against the problem in other parts of the world, effective information sharing amongst member states, the need for strengthened and more effective peacekeeping efforts in Somalia etc.

3. Global character of piracy and the crucial role of the UN and Cooperation Amongst Member states in combating the scourge

Being a global problem, piracy demands a global approach which includes the elimination of its root causes, suppressing its manifestations both on land and at sea and addressing its impacts. Most effectively this approach can be implemented by the United Nations as the only universal Organization able to consolidate international efforts in countering maritime piracy. Cooperation amongst Member states as well as other stake holders is crucial.

Date, time and duration of Meeting:

The interactive meeting will be held on 14 May 2010, from 10 am to 1pm and from 3pm to 6pm. After the opening segment, invited panelists and experts will make presentations in their respective panels. Each speaker/panelist will be allocated 10 minutes. Questions/comments from delegations will be taken by the presenters after each panel presentation. Questions/comments from delegations and other participants and responses from presenters may continue at the end of the three panel presentations.

In order to allow all interested Member states to participate in the discussions, delegates are kindly requested to limit their interventions to three minutes.

**INFORMAL MEETING OF THE GENERAL
ASSEMBLY PLENARY ON PIRACY**

NEW YORK, 14TH MAY 2010

DRAFT PROGRAMME

1000 - 1050 –Opening Session

Speakers:

H.E. Ali Abdussalam Treki – President of the 64th session of the General Assembly of the United Nations

H.E. Ban Ki-Moon – Secretary-General of the United Nations

Special Guests of the President of the General Assembly:

H.E. Sheik Abdikadir Ali Omar – Interior Minister of Somalia_(tbc)

H.E. Mr. Amos Kimunya – Minister of Trade of Kenya

- 1050-1140: 1st Panel Presentation on the first topic: *Political, Legal, Social and Economic aspects of Combating Piracy*

Panelists:

Ambassador Thomas Winkler – Legal Adviser of Denmark and Chair Working Group II of the Contact Group on piracy off the coast of Somalia (CGPCS)

Mr. Douglas B. Stevenson – Director, Centre for Seafarers' Rights, the Seaman's Church Institute of New York and New Jersey

Moderator: Mr. Antonio Maria Costa – Executive Director, UNODC

- 1140-1300: Questions/Comments/Responses on the 1st Panel Presentation
- 1500-1550: 2nd Panel Presentation on the second topic: *Somalia: A Case Study*

Panelists:

Mr. Alain Le Roy – Under-Secretary-General, UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations

Ambassador Ramtane Lamamra – African Union Commissioner for Peace and Security.

Moderator: Mr. Ahmedou Ould-Abdallah – Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General to Somalia

- 1550-1620: Questions/Comments/Responses on the 2nd Panel Presentation
- 1620-1710: 3rd Panel Presentation on the third topic: *Global character of Piracy and the crucial Role of the UN and Cooperation amongst Member states in Combating the Scourge*

Panelists:

Rear Admiral Peter Hudson – Operations Commander of EUNAVFOR “Atalanta”

Mr. Yoshihisa Endo – Executive Director, ReCAAP
Information Sharing Centre

Moderator: Mr. Lynn Pascoe – Under-Secretary-General, UN
Department of Political Affairs

- 1710-1750: Questions/Comments/Responses on the 3rd Panel Presentation
- 1750-1800: Closing remarks by the President of the General Assembly and adjournment of the meeting.

*Civil Society representatives are also invited to speak at Q/C/Rs