



THE PRESIDENT
OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

29 March 2010

Excellency,

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. The security, political, 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.

The rapid geographical spread of maritime piracy and the complexity of the issue 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, I intend to convene an informal meeting of the General Assembly on May 14 2010, to provide an opportunity for all Member states to discuss the problem of international maritime piracy in a comprehensive manner and to address its causes and effects both on land and at sea. Representatives of relevant Specialized Agencies, Inter-Governmental Organizations and NGOs will also be invited to participate in the meeting.

It is my hope that during this meeting, Member states would take an in-depth look at piracy, share lessons learned and proffer suggestions to improve the international response.

Further details regarding the meeting will be provided in due course.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Ali Abdussalam Treki

All Permanent Representatives
And Permanent Observers
To the United Nations
New York