Excellency,

I am pleased to inform you of my intention to organize an interactive thematic debate of the General Assembly on the situation in the Middle East on Thursday, 8 July 2010 at the United Nations Headquarters in New York.

The General Assembly has welcomed the holding of “interactive thematic debates on current issues of critical importance to the international community”. As President of the General Assembly, I consider the unresolved issue of the Arab-Israeli conflict to be of such importance to the international community.

I would like to use this opportunity to engage the entire Membership of the United Nations in support of a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in the Middle East. An interactive thematic debate would provide added value in the form of a wide-ranging reflection on the Middle East peace process, with the goal of advancing a peaceful settlement of the Question of Palestine. The debate will gather political leaders, outstanding academics and leading voices of civil society from the region and the international community in an informal exchange with Member States.

A concept note and program will be issued closer to the date of the event. I look forward to your support and active participation in ensuring the success of this debate.

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

Ali Abdussalam Treki

All Permanent Representatives and
Permanent Observers to the United Nations
New York