Excellency,

Following requests from a range of Member States, and in cooperation with the United Nations Secretary-General, I am pleased to convene an informal interactive dialogue of the General Assembly on “Early Warning, Assessment, and the Responsibility to Protect” on Friday, 9 July 2010. This dialogue will be part of the General Assembly’s continued consideration of the responsibility to protect, as called for in paragraph 139 of the 2005 World Summit Outcome Document and confirmed in General Assembly resolution 63/308 of 14 September 2009.

The General Assembly held a debate on 21, 23, 24 and 28 July 2009 to consider the Secretary-General’s report on implementing the responsibility to protect (A/63/677). This debate provided Member States with an opportunity to exchange views on different aspects of the issue, while also underscoring the need for further dialogue. Many Member States spoke of the importance of early warning and assessment.

While the 2005 World Summit Outcome Document called for the international community to “support the United Nations in establishing an early warning capability,” the question of how to go about this merits further discussion and interactive dialogue. This dialogue will enable Member States to express their views, concerns, and suggestions, and to engage with the Secretary-General and leading experts in an exchange of views on this matter. I understand that the Secretary-General is preparing a report on the role of early warning and assessment to help inform the upcoming dialogue.

More details on the programme and panelists will be provided closer to the event. I look forward to your support and active participation in this informal interactive dialogue.

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

Ali Abdussalam Treki

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