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13 July 2015

Secretary-General,


Today marks my last day in office as Ombudsperson for the Security Council Al-Qaida Sanctions Committee after a five year term. I wish to thank you for the opportunity to serve as the first Ombudsperson. The Ombudsperson mechanism stands as a unique and important achievement of the Security Council and the United Nations. Through it, individuals and entities have a recourse for consideration of their delisting requests at the international level, which provides a fair process and makes available an effective remedy. It is in accord with the principles for effective independent review as envisaged by Secretary-General Annan and advocated for by you.

I note with appreciation the administrative support which the Department of Political Affairs has provided to the Ombudsperson over the five years. I would also like to thank the staff of the Office of the Ombudsperson Eric Butcher, the administrative assistant, and Natacha Wexels-Riser, the legal officer, for their excellent work for, and unwavering commitment to, the Office of the Ombudsperson.

However, I have today submitted my final report to the Security Council (S/2015/533). In it, as in preceding reports, I have noted with concern the lack of full implementation of the Security Council mandate for an independent office of the Ombudsperson. In particular, I have highlighted the shortcomings of the contractual, administrative and organizational arrangements in place, which threaten the independence and sustainability of the mechanism.

As outlined in the report, I would encourage you to consider a fundamental restructuring of those arrangements, especially with respect to contractual status and the placement of the mechanism within the organization in terms of administrative oversight. Most fundamentally there is a need to ensure that an independent Office of the Ombudsperson exists within the organizational structure and that its core feature of autonomy has institutional safeguards. This entrenchment of the Office of the Ombudsperson within the architecture of the organization would represent yet another important contribution stemming from the Secretary-General. It would reflect a significant further enhancement for fair process and adherence to the rule of law in the work of the Security Council and the United Nations, in accordance with the vision of the United Nations Charter.

It has been an honor to serve in this position during its initial phase and I wish the new Ombudsperson much success in carrying forward the work of this important fair process mechanism.


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Ombudsperson

BAN Ki-Moon
Secretary-General
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