

The Permanent Mission of Eritrea to the UN welcomes the report of the SG on Eritrea. (June 29, 2010)

While the report is not free of inaccuracies and repeats some of the erroneous and unfounded allegations against Eritrea - including the accusation that Eritrea had invaded Djibouti territory, when in fact it had not - the facts and analysis that it presents underline the sheer injustice of the sanctions imposed on Eritrea. If those sanctions were unjustified in the first place, the developments over the past few months on both the issues of Eritrea-Djibouti and Somalia, which the report highlights, show that there is no pretext anymore to keep the sanctions in place.

As noted in the report, the agreement signed by the Governments of Eritrea and Djibouti with the facilitation of the Government of Qatar, whose good offices were first requested by Djibouti, is a welcome development.

On Somalia, Eritrea has continued to articulate its considered views and exert efforts for sustainable peace. It participated in the Istanbul Conference on the basis of a gracious invitation extended to it by the Government of Turkey and the United Nations. It would not be appropriate to attribute other interpretations to this participation other than Eritrea's sincere desire, together with other participants, for a durable and courageous solution. In Istanbul Eritrea reiterated that the efforts for a solution should be guided by certain principles;

- No military solution
- Inclusive
- Somali owned

Eritrea concurs with the SG's view of the importance of compliance with the EEBC decisions for the promotion of peace and stability in the Horn of Africa. Clearly the time has come, and justice makes it imperative, for the UN Security Council, which has unjustifiably shied away from the issue, to take tangible measures to compel Ethiopia to withdraw from the sovereign Eritrean territories that it is occupying in flagrant violation of international law.

The SG in his report suggests that Eritrea needs to do more, without giving any specifics. Obviously, all countries in the world need to do more. Clearly, Ethiopia needs to respect the EEBC decision and end its illegal occupation of Eritrean territory. As for the UNSC, justice and fairness demand that, it lifts the sanctions that it unjustifiably imposed on Eritrea.