



CHAIR OF THE COORDINATING BUREAU OF THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT



NAM /151/2008

The Permanent Mission of Cuba to the United Nations, in its capacity as Chair of the Coordinating Bureau of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM CoB) and in fulfilling the mandate of the Movement, presents its compliments to the Chairperson of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations and the NGO Section in the Department of Social and Economic Affairs, and wishes to draw the attention of the Committee to an urgent matter concerning “the World Union for Progressive Judaism”, a non-governmental organization listed on the Roster status of the Economic and Social Council.

During the sixth special session of the Human Rights Council on “Human Rights Violations Emanating from Israeli Military Incursions in the Occupied Palestinian Territory”, held in Geneva on 23-24 January 2008, the representative of the aforementioned organization attempted during his oral intervention to delve into issues that fall beyond the scope of the Council's mandate. The President of the Council, H.E. Mr. Doru Costea, the Permanent Representative of Romania in Geneva, asked the representative twice to focus on the issue at hand; nevertheless, he continued his intervention in the same vain. When given a final third reminder to focus on the issue at hand by the President of the Council for the sake of the whole audience and the gravity of the topic, the representative said, “rather than speak, I will conclude with one sentence... There is a general malaise in the air, a feeling that something is rotten in the state of this Council...”

The full recording of this incident can be reviewed through the following link on the United Nations webcast:
<http://webcast.un.org/ramgen/ondemand/conferences/unhrc/special/6th/hrc080124am-eng.rm?start=01:15:27&end=01:19:14>

Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 60/251 of 15 March 2006, the participation of non-governmental organizations in the Human Rights Council is based on the arrangements and practices observed by the Commission on Human Rights, including ECOSOC resolution 1996/31 of 25 July 1996. In fact, the repeated appeals made to the representative of the organization by the President of the Human Rights Council came in line with paragraph 19 of the said ECOSOC resolution, which clearly stipulates that the nature of the consultative arrangements with non-governmental organizations should not be such as to overburden the Council or transform it from a body for coordination of policy and action, as contemplated in the Charter, into a general forum for discussion. The same principle equally applies to all United Nations organs that base their relations with non-governmental organizations on ECOSOC arrangements and practices.

Member Countries	Nicaragua
Afghanistan	Niger
Algeria	Nigeria
Angola	Oman
Antigua and Barbuda	Pakistan
Bahamas	Palestine
Bahrain	Panama
Bangladesh	Papua New Guinea
Barbados	Peru
Belarus	Philippines
Belize	Qatar
Benin	Rwanda
Bhutan	Saint Kitts and Nevis
Bolivia	Saint Lucia
Botswana	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
Brunei Darussalam	Sao Tome and Principe
Burkina Faso	Saudi Arabia
Burundi	Senegal
Cambodia	Seychelles
Cameroon	Sierra Leone
Cape Verde	Singapore
Central African Republic	Somalia
Chad	South Africa
Chile	Sri Lanka
Colombia	Sudan
Comoros	Suriname
Congo	Swaziland
Côte d'Ivoire	Syrian Arab Republic
Cuba	Thailand
Democratic People's Republic of Korea	Timor Leste
Democratic Republic of the Congo	Togo
Djibouti	Trinidad and Tobago
Dominica	Tunisia
Dominican Republic	Turkmenistan
Ecuador	Uganda
Egypt	United Arab Emirates
Equatorial Guinea	United Republic of Tanzania
Eritrea	Uzbekistan
Ethiopia	Vanuatu
Gabon	Venezuela
Gambia	Vietnam
Ghana	Yemen
Grenada	Zambia
Guatemala	Zimbabwe
Guinea	Observer Countries
Guinea-Bissau	Armenia
Guyana	Azerbaijan
Haiti	Bosnia and Herzegovina
Honduras	Brazil
India	China
Indonesia	Costa Rica
Iran	Croatia
Iraq	El Salvador
Jamaica	Kazakhstan
Jordan	Kyrgyzstan
Kenya	Mexico
Kuwait	Paraguay
Lao Peoples' Democratic Republic	Serbia
Lebanon	Ukraine
Lesotho	Uruguay
Liberia	Observer Organizations
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	African Union
Madagascar	Afro-Asian People's Solidarity Organization
Malawi	Organization of Islamic Cooperation
Malaysia	Front of Liberation Nationale Kanak et Socialiste
Maldives	League of Arab States
Mali	National Hostosian Independence Movement
Mauritania	Organization of the Islamic Conference
Mauritius	South Centre
Mongolia	Nepal
Morocco	
Mozambique	
Myanmar	
Namibia	
Nepal	

However, the misconduct of the representative of the organization does not only run against the nature of the consultative arrangements, but also in contravention to the principles governing the establishment of consultative relations with non-governmental organizations, as laid down in paragraphs 2 and 3 of ECOSOC resolution 1996/31. Instead of showing due respect to the spirit, purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, and undertaking to support the work of the United Nations, the representative of the organization had frequently abused the privilege of accreditation to the Commission on Human Rights in the past, and more recently to the Human Rights Council, to undermine the United Nations system and make unfounded allegations against its Member States. Yet, in this late incident, the unacceptable insults and the defiance of the principles and arrangements governing the work of United Nations organs and their relations with non-governmental organizations must not be overlooked.

Correspondingly, and in light of the fact that the functions of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations include, inter alia, the responsibility for regular monitoring of the evolving relationship between non-governmental organizations and the United Nations according to paragraph 61 (a) of ECOSOC resolution 1996/31, the Coordinating Bureau of the Non-Aligned Movement calls upon the Committee to promptly deal with the matter in order to preserve the hard-won gains achieved through the establishment of the Human Rights Council, hence ensuring that this fledgling organ continues to work in close cooperation in the field of human rights with Governments, regional organizations, national human rights institutions and civil society.

The Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations is thus urged to thoroughly consider this matter as soon as possible, and the NGO Section in the Department of Social and Economic Affairs is kindly requested to ask the Secretariat of the Human Rights Council and the United Nations Office in Geneva to submit their investigation report to the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations for its reference, with a view to taking the necessary decision, in accordance with ECOSOC resolution 1996/31, particularly paragraph 57 thereof, during the upcoming resumed session of the Committee later this month.

The Permanent Mission of Cuba to the United Nations, in its capacity as Chair of the Coordinating Bureau of the Non-Aligned Movement, avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Chairperson of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations and the NGO Section in the Department of Social and Economic Affairs the assurances of its highest consideration.

New York, 13 May 2008

Mr. Hasan Hamid Hassan
Chairperson of the
Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations

NGO Section
Department of Social and Economic Affairs of the
United Nations



Address: 315 Lexington Avenue, New York, NY 10016

Telephone: (212) 689-7215 Ext. 364, 361

Fax: (212) 883-5769

E-mail: cuba_onu@cubanmission.com, namcob@cubanmission.com

Website: <http://embacuba.cubaminrex.cu/onu>