

**General Assembly**

Distr.: General
8 February 2001

Original: English

Fifty-fifth session

Agenda item 50

**Causes of conflict and the promotion of durable
peace and sustainable development in Africa****Letter dated 7 February 2001 from the Permanent Representative
of South Africa to the United Nations addressed to the President of
the General Assembly**

I have the honour, in my capacity as Chairman of the Coordinating Bureau of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, to enclose herewith the statement I delivered to the Coordinating Bureau on 6 February 2001 pertaining to the letter dated 22 January 2001 (A/55/741) from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the United States Mission to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly (see annex).

I should be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 50.

(Signed) Dumisani S. **Kumalo**
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative



Annex to the letter dated 7 February 2001 from the Permanent Representative of South Africa to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

Statement by the Chair of the Non-Aligned Movement to the Coordinating Bureau, 6 February 2001

I would like to draw the attention of the Coordinating Bureau to a recent statement by former United States Ambassador Richard Holbrooke in which the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries was mentioned.

Because Ambassador Holbrooke took a further decision to distribute the said statement as an official United Nations document under the General Assembly agenda item entitled "Causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable peace in Africa" (A/53/741), the Chair felt compelled to respond. The decision by the United States Mission to publish the statement under this General Assembly agenda item can only be seen as an attempt to question the legitimacy of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries.

In his statement Ambassador Holbrooke suggested that the African members of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries should leave our Movement. This attempt by a non-member of the Movement to prescribe to the African members of the Movement is at best uninformed, or at worst, it is misguided, misleading and constitutes an affront to members of the Movement as a whole.

The founding principles of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries — respect for the Charter of the United Nations and the sovereign equality and independence of all nations — remain valid. These principles are reflected in the Movement's agenda endorsed at the highest level at its various summits of Heads of State or Government, the most recent being held in Durban, South Africa, in 1998.

The members of the Movement are steadfast in promoting these principles in the United Nations General Assembly and its Main Committees, and the Security Council. This is a tribute to the Movement, which represents a broad majority of developing countries from all regions of the world, brought together in their striving for common, legitimate and laudable goals for a world based on peace, justice and dignity; and against unilateral coercive measures, exploitation and trade restrictions imposed by the rich and powerful.

South Africa is proud to be the Chair of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries. For our people, the Movement will always be remembered for having stood steadfast in support of our struggle against apartheid while many outside the Movement were either complacent or supportive of the racist regime of our past.

In spite of the recent past, the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries believes that the critical problems the United Nations has to confront — underdevelopment and the lack of global peace and security — require a partnership between the countries of the North and the South. The Movement is committed to building this partnership either bilaterally or in meeting annually with the European Union, the Group of Eight industrialized countries or the Scandinavian countries.

We will remain seized of the challenges facing all members of the Movement. I am convinced that Movement members will continue to be fully engaged in a collective effort, and in collaboration with partners of the North, in the pursuit of a multilateral, rules-based system in which developing countries have full representation.
