

Position Paper for the First Committee of the General Assembly Plenary

The issues before the First Committee of the General Assembly Plenary 20XX are: Conflict Diamonds; Pharmaceutical Companies, Medicine and Disease; and Strengthening the UN System: A Follow-up to the Agenda for Change. The almighty God calls us humans to guard his Creation in the most peaceful and careful manner. Therefore the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia will do everything within its power to reach this goal.

I. Conflict Diamonds

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is deeply concerned about last decade's emergence of diamond-related conflicts and its consequences, like the suffering of innocent women and children. Saudi Arabia therefore fully supports *A/RES/55/263* (2002), which calls for the implementation of an international diamond certification scheme. Especially the situation in some Sub-Saharan countries like Sierra Leone, Liberia and Angola requires increased international efforts in order to stabilize the situation.

Saudi Arabia is deeply convinced that measures under Chapter VI of the UN Charter are appropriate to prevent parties from using conflict diamond trade for fuelling long lasting and brutal fighting. Saudi Arabia therefore supports embargo regimes like *S/RES/864* (1993) against the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) rebel group in Angola. The *Kimberly Process Certification Scheme* and the World Diamond Congress' resolution in 2000 to block conflict diamonds from reaching market are two further possibilities to stop the use of this diamond trading. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia strongly supports those approaches. Although Saudi Arabia is not a major importer of diamonds, and hence is not a member of the *Kimberly Process*, his Majesty's government feels committed to this international effort. Therefore, Saudi Arabia was one of the first states to implement all recommendations of *S/RES/1306* (2000), by prohibiting the import of all rough diamonds from Sierra Leone without a Certificate of Origin. The Kingdom would like to point out an alarming side effect of conflict diamonds: Terrorist groups seem to use the trading with those diamonds for money laundering purposes. Since Saudi Arabia is on the forefront of the international fight against terror, this aspect cannot be underestimated by his Majesty's government. Saudi Arabia, fully supporting resolutions *S/RES/1373* and *S/RES/1390*, also has taken all possible actions to dry out the financial basis of terrorism, the struggle of humankind.

To address the conflict diamond problem as a whole as well as its special connection to terrorism, Saudi Arabia calls upon the international community to unconditionally support the established sanctions regimes, the *Kimberly Process* and anti terror measures in order to suppress the funding of terrorism. The founding of an international police task force against conflict diamond trading within the International Police Criminal Organization (Interpol) would support these efforts effectively. Interpol Policemen and *Kimberly Process* experts as well as anti terror units have to be connected in this task force. The financing of this task force should be ensured through funds from the World Diamond Congress, major diamond importers and volunteer commitments. Saudi Arabia is willing to contribute to the financial and personal matter of the unit generously. The task force has to uncover the diamonds' flow as well as all the benefactors of the trading. In a second step it has to crush the involved groups and organizations. Combined with tightened sanction regimes and an increased certification scheme the conflict diamond problem can be brought under control and will ensure an ultimate success. The Kingdom calls all other countries to support the new police task force in the same way.

II. Pharmaceutical Companies, Medicine and Disease

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is fully aware of the global threat, which originates from contagious, infectious and mortal diseases like HIV/AIDS, malaria and cholera. Saudi Arabia therefore recognizes the need for a global plan to fight and stem those diseases by multinational cooperation within the UN and contributes its fullest commitment to this topic by securing pharmaceutical coverage within its sphere of influence.

Saudi Arabia has managed – with the guidance of our people by the almighty God and our King Fahd – to extinguish the HIV/AIDS disease almost completely within its national borders and thereby achieved the sixth of the *Millennium Development Goals*. With only 0.01% infection rate of the population, the Islamic religious order protected our people from immoral behaviour and the spreading and proliferation of pandemic diseases. Furthermore, the healthcare system of Saudi Arabia presents itself compatible to the UN criteria for a broader medicine distribution, by covering all citizens and being completely free of charge for Saudi people as well as for insurant foreigners. Saudi Arabia is willing to offer to all interested countries the expertise gathered during the establishment of our well-functioning health system. It is clear that not every country is capable to achieve a similar health system on its own; therefore Saudi Arabia recognizes the need for international initiatives and presents three proposals.

First, all affected countries should increase the budget for the health systems, their education and disease prevention programs, by reducing military expenditures or strengthen their fight against corruption as stated in *A/RES/55/61* of 4 December 2000. Secondly, Saudi Arabia is of the opinion that Article 39 of *TRIPS-Agreement* is of significant importance for international patent rights, but to in accordance to the Islamic principles of charity and well-being of the human life Saudi Arabia supports the establishment of an action plan for generic patents. A global deal between UN members and the leading pharmaceutical companies should initiate this action plan without endangering their patent rights. Furthermore, to overcome the lack of treatment, pharmaceutical companies should be strongly integrated in this plan by granting them administrative approach, government provisions, allowance of export and reliable rules of compensation, hence reducing some companies' fear that their patent rights and research efforts are being bypassed. Thirdly, to enhance the action plan Saudi Arabia proposes the establishment of a health respond fund for unexpected epidemic and a special contract with pharmaceutical companies, which sets the value of adequate antibiotic medicine on a low-price level. The fund should be financed by a specially elaborated formula, which obliges all members of the UN to contribute a certain amount financial support, particular to their economic capabilities. Low-price-medicine, further debt rescheduling, financial and logistic aid for affected countries are the only strategy which can lead to a stemming of diseases threatening global health diseases.

III. Strengthening the UN System: A Follow-Up to the Agenda for Change

As a founding member of the UN, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has successfully been involved for nearly 60 years in the organization's effort to establish and secure worldwide peace and development, and is strongly committed to upcoming reforms. Saudi Arabia reaffirms its commitment to the UN, but recognizes that the requirements for the 21st century call for a change of the UN's system, functions, structure and working techniques as stated by the Secretary-General in "*Strengthening the UN System: An agenda for Change*" (A/57/387) and the "*A more secure world – Our shared responsibility*" report. Starting with the Security Council (SC), as the main responsible body for securing world peace and stability, Saudi Arabia is willing to issue its recommendations for reforms of the UN system to the General Assembly (GA). Today the SC still reflects the situation of 1945. Its permanent members do not share any need or will to engage in adequate reforms. Saudi Arabia calls upon the permanent five member states of the SC to use their right to veto wisely. A further point of concern for Saudi Arabia is that the SC lacks representation of the world's religious diversity. Furthermore Saudi Arabia supports broader enhancement of passed resolutions in general, to increase the effectiveness of the UN. Currently the annual state reports are flooding the GA with partly unnecessary information and thereby are hampering this honourable body's work.

Saudi Arabia deems that expansion and reform of the SC has to be the first step UN reform process. Therefore the Kingdom insists that the inclusion of additional members should be aligned in consideration of a geographical, financial and religious formula. Developing countries must as well be involved as major contributors to the UN, to achieve a more just and balanced international representation. Saudi Arabia calls for reforms which allow a broader permanent membership with a representation of all major religions in the SC. Only if these reforms and recommendations are applied seriously will the transparency, credibility and effectiveness of the SC be increased adequately. A further revitalization of the GA requires a strict adherence to UN resolutions in order to increase the effectiveness and allows the GA to concentrate on more recent topics. Regarding the state report system, Saudi Arabia proposes that countries should only address the GA when real changes have commenced, so that the complexity of bureaucratic procedure can be limited. This would revitalize the GA, which would be appropriate for this respected body. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia agrees on a closer cooperation between the UN and some nongovernmental organizations (NGOs). The Red Crescent for example is an important asset to the international system. On the other hand the Kingdom will only support appropriate initiatives to integrate those NGOs which are not endangering the importance, role, scope of action or integrity of any member state. In matters of integrating and enhancing the role of the civil society in cooperation with the UN, Saudi Arabia is willing to cooperate on levels of internet accessibility, free media and civil participation. The Kingdom insists on its right to examine contents which are a danger to national security. Saudi Arabia is reviewing and reforming its national laws to adopt measures for a further participation of its civil society, hence promoting its population to the world's social and civil society.

It is of imperative necessity to launch constructive reform initiatives by means of dialogue and consent, to prepare the United Nations for upcoming duties and tasks, thus enabling the international community to prevail over global problems of the 21st century.