

### ***Position Paper for the Security Council***

Global Warming as a Security Issue, the Situation in Georgia, and the Situation in Iran are the three issues before the Security Council. Being a member of the Arab Maghreb Union (AMU), African Union (AU), the Group of 77 (G-77), the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), and having signed documents such as the Kyoto Protocol, and voted on such matters as Security Council Resolution 1803, the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya deems these issues as of the utmost importance and believes the topics must be carefully considered in order to further future international success and relations ("Libya"). The Great Socialist's People Libyan Arab Jamahiriya vigorously works toward further international progress in the following areas:

#### **I. Global Warming as a Security Issue**

If global warming continues on its current path, spreading disease, air pollution, extreme weather, failing economy, and destruction to fragile ecosystems are what is in store for planet Earth. In fact, scientists predict that by the year 2080, 200 million people will be displaced by "intense droughts, sea level rising, and flooding" ("Global Warming by the Numbers"). It has also been determined that the atmospheric buildup of CO<sub>2</sub> and other greenhouse gases "is largely the result of human activities such as the burning of fossil fuels" ("State of Knowledge"). Although it has been determined that climate change is a serious issue that deserves immediate attention, the Security Council has held only one discussion, carried out on April 17, 2007. 55 UN members participated during the meeting, "a record for such a debate" (United Nations Security Council. [SC/9419](#)...). The Libyan Arab Jamahiriya has signed and ratified the Kyoto Protocol, an international environmental treaty that aims to stabilize the concentration of greenhouse gases. As of 2008, 183 countries have ratified the Protocol ([The Kyoto Protocol](#)). Researchers say that global warming could become "a serious issue of [national security]." In fact, terrorism is predicted to heighten as a result of fighting over water and shortages ("Report: Global Warming May Be a Security Factor"). However, much more work must be done in order to prevent the detrimental effects Global Warming is predicted to have on our environment.

The Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya believes that in order to improve the current climate change situation, immediate action must be taken. If nothing is done, the effects of global warming could be fatal and irreversible. The Libyan Arab Jamahiriya also acknowledges its role in the climate change. Although the country houses only 0.1% of the world's population, it accounts for 0.2% of global emissions. This translates to an average of 9.3 tons of CO<sub>2</sub> per person. "If all countries in the world were to emit CO<sub>2</sub> at levels similar to that of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, we would exceed our sustainable carbon budget by approximately 318%" ("Libyan Arab Jamahiriya: The Human Development Index...").

In 1922, Libya was one of 154 UN member states that signed the Framework Convention on Climate Change (also known as the FCCC). The FCCC is informally known as the Earth Summit. As a member of this treaty, Libya has agreed to "stabilize greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere" (Montana Model UN. [Security Council Topic Background Guide: Topic II: Global...](#)). Libya signed and ratified the Kyoto Protocol on the 24<sup>th</sup> of August 2006 ("Kyoto Protocol"). By signing both these treaties, the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya acknowledges that restrictions on emissions are vital in regards to controlling global warming. However, having signed as a non-Annex I Party to the Protocol, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya also points out that specific targets for greenhouse gas emissions do not bind them ("Kyoto Protocol"). The Libyan Arab Jamahiriya supports the Kyoto Protocol and hopes that its guidelines will help some of the most polluting nations to gain control over the climate change situation.

#### **II. The Situation in Georgia**

Even with agreed ceasefires, the situation in Georgia is anything but peaceful. Backed by Russian assurances, rebels in South Ossetia and Abkhazia struck out against Georgia in early 2008. South Ossetia and Abkhazia already have already undergone numerous failed attempts towards independence, but this Russian support has renewed their hopes. On August 26, 2008, both territories announced their independence from Georgia and were recognized by Russia. Because the sovereign nations are still recovering from the recent conflict, Russia has been funding South Ossetia and Abkhazia's reconstruction of urban areas. Russia and the United States have been very active in this conflict with Russia siding with the new independents and the US supporting Georgia. Therefore, it has been difficult to pass resolutions in

the Security Council as each nation continues to veto the other's resolutions regarding the situation in Georgia (Montana Model UN. Security Council Topic Background Guide: Topic II: The...). The Security Council has taken no action since April 2008 when it passed Resolution S/RES/1808. This resolution promotes "a settlement of the Georgian-Abkhazia conflict only by peaceful means and within the framework of the Security Council Resolutions" (United Nations Security Council. SC/9299...). Only with more resolutions and further action will the conflict in Georgia truly be resolved.

The Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya has expressed great concern regarding the situation in Georgia. The Libyan people have stated their extreme distress about the escalating violence, the incredible number of civilian casualties and displaced refugees, and the costly and detrimental destruction in the capital of South Ossetia and other regions. When a situation with such extreme circumstances occurs, it is the Security Council's duty and obligation to immediately meet and attempt to create a resolution. The South Ossetia region has been struck with a serious calamity and the Council must take immediate action in ending it. The Libyan Arab Jamahiriya would like to make clear that they believe the United Nations has not fulfilled their responsibilities as of the present. During a Security Council meeting, Libyan representatives explained how "In spite of the suffering recorded and the deterioration of the situation on the ground, the Council had shown itself unable to reach agreement on common language" (United Nations Security Council. SC/9419...). The people involved in this unprecedented crisis have suffered immensely and it is the Security Council's duty to take immediate action towards restoring peace.

The Georgian situation is not a recent conflict. In fact, tension has been strong in this area for decades. Therefore, care must be taken in order to not upset the situation further. It is undeniable, however, that whatever course of action is decided upon should be launched at once. Libya "would support any initiative, whichever efforts, to reach consensus in the Council. It called for an immediate ceasefire, a return to the status quo ante and respect for valid resolutions and agreements" (United Nations Security Council. SC/9149...). Such a delicate situation deserves a carefully considered resolution.

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