The Delegation from Represented by

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**Position Paper for the United Nations Security Council**

The Arab Republic of Egypt, strives to fulfill its responsibilities to the United Nations by being a dedicated and conscientious contributor to the core issues at hand. The issues before the United Nations Security Council Committee are the human rights situation in Myanmar and a follow up on the implementation of the Durban Declaration.

**I. The Human Rights Situation in Myanmar**

The Arab Republic of Egypt has endured a unified state for more than 5,000 years. As such, we fully recognize the earnestness of maintaining domestic relations and peace within one’s own state. We have, as a sovereign nation-state, played a key role in a number of conflict resolutions. This includes our own peace treaty with the state of Israel, the subsequent Israeli-Palestinian conflict resolution in the 1978 Camp David Accords, and the 1979 Egypt-Israel Peace treaty, which we would like emphasize resulted in out Expulsion from the Arab League for 10 years. Despite this however, in 2000, we hosted two total summits to resume these negotiations. In addition, we involved ourselves in the negotiations leading to the Madrid Peace Conference in 1991, and played our part during the 1990-91 Gulf crisis. Through mid-2004 we worked closely with Israel and the Palestinian Authority to facilitate stability following Israel’s withdrawal from Gaza while simultaneously engaging in seeking out a solution to the crisis the Darfur region of Sudan. From that point on we have continued to contribute regularly to other UN peacekeeping missions, most recently those in East Timor, Sierra Leone and Liberia.

In regards to Myanmar, we appreciate its situation and find its civil discord regrettable. However, due to the large degree of peace-oriented resolutions we are currently involved in, especially in regards to the region of the Middle East, we find that it would be too problematical to divert our attention to other regions. Spreading our efforts and attentions too thin will, we fear, compromise our effectiveness and over-all success discernibly.

The Arab Republic of Egypt has conclusively opted to take a less direct approach in confrontations with the Union of Myanmar, otherwise known as Burma. We feel that “soft” negotiations and working copasetically with the government will be the most effective way of cultivating positive, influential relations with the Union of Myanmar. As such, we intend to work closely with officials and relevant leaders such as chairman of the State Peace and Development Council, Than Shwe, and are in the process of developing close economic ties with the Union and its government. It is our intention and sincere hope that, Allah willing, the developments of these ties will serve as a positive influence for the country and help raise their standing in the eye of the global community.

**II. A Follow up on the Implementation of the Durban Declaration**

The Arab Republic of Egypt recognizes the importance attached to the follow upon on, and implementation of the Durban Declaration and find it a step towards eradicating the scourge of racism. We appreciate concerns for widespread racism, racial discrimination, rights to self-determination and an upholding of international standards and find it regrettable that the goals of the Third Decade against racism have not been met. It is hoped that, given the provisions outlined in the Durban Declaration and the Program of Action, things will improve. The Arab Republic of Egypt recognizes all international conventions and treaties, as well as the right to sovereignty by all states, and especially that respect for human rights includes the right of people to decide their own territory. We believe this guarantees to all peoples the right to choose their own political systems, as well as economic, cultural and social. We look forward to discussing these issues so as to ascertain certain standpoints and work towards a clarification of language to suite the needs of all States.

That which is held highest by the fundamentals of democracy is individual rights. As such, the Arab Republic of Egypt would like to place emphasis on the importance of self-determination and an upholding of international standards within the Durban Declaration. It is our sincere belief that the natural enemies of said rights and international standards are occupation and colonialism. It is only when these foes are eradicated that all nation-states will be able to enjoy a full range of individual rights, including the right to self-determination. The non-recognition of these rights or attempts to eliminate or undermine them, are violations of this principle. We believe that these rights should not, and cannot, be taken for granted. It has rather been the inalienable right of peoples, which allowed for the perpetration of armed struggle against foreign occupation or colonialism during a peoples struggle for their freedom. The international community has failed to guarantee the right of self-determination for the Palestinian people; that represented a form of discrimination against those people, who had struggled for decades to create an independent State.

In order to address these issues of the Durban Declaration that we have found to be the most pertinent, the Arab Republic of Egypt on behalf of all African states, intends to table a comprehensive resolution on Durban follow up at the Human Rights council’s March 2008 session where we hope to address and resolve a number of contentious issues. More importantly, however, we have introduced a draft resolution concerning the situation of and assistance to Palestinian children in document A/C.3/58/L.24. This document is primarily concerned with addressing the situation in occupied Palestinian territories, which have continued to deteriorate at alarming rates, especially affecting Palestinian children who are the most vulnerable sector of the population and are in urgent need of assistance and services. So long as these peoples woes continue to remain un-addressed by the international community, the Arab Republic of Egypt sees no point in discussing self determination, or the Durban Declaration for that matter, at all. The General Assembly itself has reaffirmed the legitimacy of the right to people under forced occupation to request and receive assistance in order to continue their legitimate struggle. It defined terrorism as the occupation itself and the repression of legitimate resistance in the quest for self-determination. As long as occupation persists, so does suffering and as long as suffering persists, the Palestinian resistance remains a legitimate right.