NATIONS UNIES
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UNITED NATIONS
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26 March 2010

Dear Mr. Neuer,

Thank you for your letter dated 24 March, concerning the written statement submitted by the International Organization for the Elimination of all Forms of Racial Discrimination (EAFORD) to the 13th session of the Human Rights Council under Agenda item 7.

The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) acting as the Secretariat of the Human Rights Council is, as you know, not in a position to edit or censor NGOs' oral or written submissions. The cover sheet to all NGO Written Statements makes this quite clear, stating "This written statement is issued, unedited, in the language(s) received from the submitting non-governmental organization(s)." In all cases, NGOs are fully, and solely, responsible for the statements they make.

Moreover, the Secretariat does not exercise authority to pass any judgment in relation to allegations made by NGOs of human rights violations, however deeply distasteful such allegations may be.

I wish to state clearly and unequivocally, that the publication of statements by NGOs does not mean that the United Nations endorses or condones their content in any way whatsoever.

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Mr. Hillel C. Neuer
Executive Director
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An NGO in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council is nevertheless expected to engage in an appropriate, respectful and constructive manner with Member States on human rights issues. If a Member State finds statements or actions of an NGO to be objectionable, there is an established process whereby an official complaint may be made to the NGO Committee of ECOSOC, which is empowered to apply appropriate sanctions.

Yours sincerely,

Eric Tistounet
Chief, Human Rights Council Branch