

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

His Excellency Dumisani S. Kumalo
Permanent Representative of the Republic of South Africa
to the United Nations
Chairman of the Group of 77
United Nations, Room S-3959
New York, New York 10017

Via Fax: 212-692-2498

Dear Mr. Ambassador:

We are writing concerning the Group of 77's actions in obstructing vital United Nations reform including the creation of a Human Rights Council. Our colleagues, Representatives Henry Hyde and Tom Lantos wrote to you recently on United Nations and we understand that you do not plan to respond to their letter. That's an unfortunate decision.

It is our belief that the actions of the Group of 77 portray a movement opposed to reform of the United Nations, a policy decision we see as harmful to the group's own interests. Public disclosure of a UN audit documenting a massive kickback and bribery scandal by UN procurement officers and UN contractors only highlights the urgent need for much-needed reform of UN management practices. It saddens us to learn of the opposition of the Group of 77 and China to disclosure of these findings and moreover to actions being taken to prevent them in the future.

More importantly, the actions of your members in severely weakening the formation of a new Human Rights Council does a disservice to an issue about which G77 members profess great concern. It is outrageous that any human rights body can have among its members, nations that routinely violate the most fundamental freedoms. Nations that are habitual human rights violators should not be members of any United Nations human rights body.

Their possible inclusion in this new body makes a mockery of the reform process.

We urge you to seek the immediate end of the G77's members' actions in opposition to a true and abiding reform of the United Nations' Human Rights Commission.

Reform of the UN rests on greater transparency and accountability to the people of the world who count on the UN for the important programs it administers and provides. What is more disheartening is the fact that reforms advocated by those few nations bearing the greater burden of financing UN programs are being actively opposed by many of the Group of 77 which bear the least burden yet benefit the most by a reformed United Nations.

Any further obstruction by the members of the G77 only threatens to further erode public confidence in the United Nations here in the United States. The institution, weakened by corruption to such a degree as it already is, can surely not continue in this atmosphere of decline.

We urge you to recognize this need for reform and end the Group of 77's members' efforts to block these much needed, meaningful and lasting changes to how that institution functions.

Sincerely,

Chauhan P. Lentin

Lincoln Diaz-Balart

Erich L. Engel

John S. G. ...

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Carmie Mack

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Orin Pen

Su Unabov

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Amund

Jeff Furberg

Da Rm

Dan Banta

Thaddeus McCulloch

Elton Gallegly

Shelley Berkley
