

ADDRESS TO THE PRESS BY H E PROF GAMBARI CHAIRMAN OF  
THE UNITED NATIONS SPECIAL COMMITTEE AGAINST  
APARTHEID AND PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF NIGERIA TO  
THE UNITED NATIONS.

It is with strong emotion that I address you here today, on South African soil. The United Nations Special Committee against Apartheid is particularly gratified to witness the launching of a process for which it has campaigned for so long. We have worked hard to promote the international consensus on South Africa, first evident in the United Nations Declaration on Apartheid in 1989, and strengthened over the past two years in a number of resolutions. Just last week, the General Assembly of the United Nations, speaking with one voice, welcomed the convening of CODESA and called upon - and I quote - the representatives of the people of South Africa to commence in good faith, urgently, broad-based substantive negotiations towards an agreement on the basic principles of a new constitution, taking into account the fundamental principles in the Declaration and its suggested guidelines on the modalities for the elaboration of a new constitution; on transitional arrangements inspiring general confidence in the administration of the country until the new constitution takes effect; and on the role to be played by the international community in ensuring the successful transition to a democratic order.

End quote.

The United Nations also clearly reaffirmed its responsibility to continue to take all necessary measures aimed at the eradication of apartheid and the establishment of a democratic, non-racial society in South Africa. Therefore in observing closely the process that starts today, in which we fervently hope that all parties will join, the United Nations cannot be a neutral bystander. We are all committed to give our full and concerted support to this critical process. I thank you.