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16 September 2011

Dear Mr Neuer,

Thank you for your letter dated 15 September 2011, addressed to the High Commissioner for Human Rights, to which I am replying on her behalf.

As you are aware, the General Assembly resolution on modalities of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly to commemorate the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action was adopted on 13 June. The resolution invited the "President of the General Assembly to draw up a list of representatives of civil society organizations, including non-governmental organizations active in the field of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia, and related forms of intolerance and, taking into account the principle of equitable geographical representation, to submit the list to Member States for consideration on a no-objection basis, for participation in the high-level meeting".

In line with its usual policy and practice to support the broadest possible engagement by civil society with UN meetings, mandates and mechanisms, OHCHR shared the information on the high level meeting, held under the auspices of the President of the General Assembly, with more than 2,500 NGOs and networks worldwide in its message of 7 July. The President of the General Assembly received the full list of NGOs which had expressed interest in attending the meeting, and thereafter Member States were invited to consider the list, in accordance with the resolution, as a result of which, nine NGOs were excluded, including UN Watch.

OHCHR colleagues have been in regular contact with your colleagues in Geneva and UN Watch also took part in the extensive briefing provided to Geneva-based NGOs on 6 September.

We thank you for sharing your concerns. We will transmit your letter to the President of the General Assembly.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "June Ray".

June Ray

Chief, Civil Society Section

Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

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