Thank you very much, Madam Under-Secretary General. I am indeed very grateful to you. I thought I would depart from what my colleagues have written because I have been following the trend of what is being discussed today and I thought let me try and make a few brief points, noting the time constraints.

Madam Undersecretary General, Panelists, thank you very much for your deliberations today. We much appreciate what all of you have brought to the table, here at the United Nations, for us to mull over here on the issue of piracy off the Somali coast.

It is important for us to acknowledge that there are political, legal, social and economic aspects and that these need to be addressed. There should be no issue on that. I think we are all one on that.

I think we also need to recognize that what is happening is that the pirates are becoming much more sophisticated. The pirates' capacities are increasing, these are also increasing as a result of the acts that they undertake for a variety of reasons which are well-known to us. This makes the situation extremely worrying because of its capacity to impact global trade. The impact on trade in our region is, in any case, is immense. We suffer the consequences of this. India is also faced with the fact that a large proportion of the seafarer community comes from our country. This has social consequences for us, apart merely from the fact that our nationals are caught-up.

We certainly and fully respect what UNCLOS has to say, jurisdictions of flag states and all other rules and regulations which fall in this ambit. But I think the need of the hour for all of us today is to find solutions where States have the preponderance of being able to take action which is through collaboration. Individually, they are always going to be ahead of us, because of the kind of motivations that drive the pirates including the lure but we as the Member States of UN and as States have capacities which are huge but which need to be tapped and brought into collaborative action. It is therefore
extremely important that we look at what we can do for this collaboration both on the legal framework side as well as in terms of practical collaboration. We, therefore, would be very supportive of these deliberations to see what we can do, what are the kind of innovations that we can look at, evolutions if necessary in terms of international law.

And I think, it is extremely important that we also look at issues on strengthening capacities of countries in the region to deal not only with the situation as it prevails but also the situation as with regard to the question of handling the people who get caught, when you capture pirates, when you bring them to the shore and their trials. It is quite clear this is well beyond the capacities of many of the States with whom we are also trying to have arrangements and so on and so forth.

I want to stop here, Madam Under Secretary-General, and say that we of course are very supportive of various international arrangements which are already in place and which are being worked on, in the International Maritime Bureau, the ReCAP and, in particular the activities of its Piracy Reporting Center as well as the multifaceted initiatives recently taken by the IMO.

We also believe very strongly in the role of the UN and I am very happy that you have convened the meeting here at the United Nations. This gives all of us, the global community, the ability to be able to participate, to understand, to contribute and have the United Nations in a pivotal role to be able to see what we can do as a global community to address this particular issue which is of very serious concern to everyone.

Thank you very much.

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