

TM action 5/11/10  
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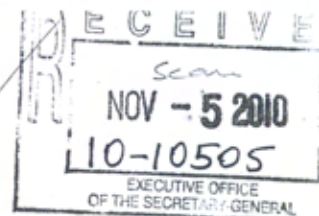
United Nations



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INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

MEMORANDUM INTERIEUR



TO: Mr. Vijay Nambiar  
A: Chef de Cabinet, EOSG

DATE: 5 November 2010

FROM: Ivan Šimonović  
DE: Assistant Secretary General for Human Rights

REFERENCE:

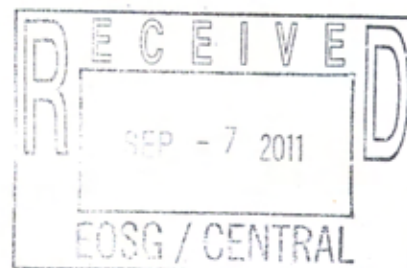
SUBJECT: OHCHR and the Restacking Plan

OBJET:

Following our conversation of this morning, and earlier exchanges with Mr. Adlerstein and Ms. Kane, I am enclosing a note outlining the problems the office faces with its premises in the new building.

We very much appreciate the difficulties involved in these questions and the efforts that are being made in respect of human rights.

cc: Ms. Angela Kane  
Mr. Michael Adlerstein



## OHCHR Office in UN Secretariat Building

CMP decided that OHCHR shall be

- Located on 30<sup>th</sup> floor
- Sharing with Office of the Special Adviser for Africa and the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States

The particular sensitivity and confidentiality of OHCHR's work, including visits from victims, is a key concern to us. It would be much more compatible to place OHCHR with OLA, DPA or DPKO. (7)

It has been said that the High Commissioner for Human Rights cannot retain an Office at UN HQ. On her visits, she must make use of a "VIP suite" on a lower floor.

The HC's visits have become increasingly frequent.

OHCHR is transforming into one office with two headquarters: Geneva and New York

HC has always had, and has now, an office in New York.

Not having an office for the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights at United Nations headquarters will send a potentially negative signal.

NGOs, government delegations, victims of human rights violations and others who regularly come to visit her when she is in New York, will have difficulty understanding this message.

We risk them assuming that human rights is not an important pillar of the UN's work.

Only two enclosed offices are included in OHCHR's current allocation of space, which does not correspond to our needs for confidentiality.

The office of the HC is never vacant and will not be vacant: OHCHR needs a larger closed space within its immediate premises for numerous meetings of a confidential nature.