



**Statement attributable to the Spokesperson of the President of the
General Assembly**

GA President calls for permanent ceasefire in Sri Lanka

United Nations, New York 13 April 2009 -- The President of the General Assembly Miguel d'Escoto Brockmann welcomes the announcement of the ceasefire declared yesterday by the government of Sri Lanka, hoping that it is a defining step that will enable the beginning of peace negotiations and an end to further violence in that country. The President has been very concerned about the tens of thousands of people who are facing a humanitarian disaster in the eastern part of Sri Lanka. He noted the lack of adequate food, water and sanitary conditions arising from military operations as well as aerial bombings that have injured many civilians.

“Negotiations between the warring factions are the only way to a peaceful resolution of the conflict and this requires an end to military action and sending urgent humanitarian aid to the civilian population”, the President declared, adding: “In these situations, military solutions are not solutions.”

D'Escoto reminded all concerned parties of their obligation to do all they can to protect civilians and stressed that civilians should be allowed to leave the conflict zones.