We pause with the global community to note with sadness and respect the passing of Nelson Mandela. He inspired people around the world with his commitment to a non-racial, democratic and just society and through his dignified and positive approach to reconciliation. The unanimity of his acclaim is well-deserved and eloquent for a man who spent 27 years in prison amidst the deafening silence of the powerful for what have since become validated and widely held beliefs.

We honour and uphold the principles on which Mandela based his life and his leadership by drawing attention to the continuing need for greater political, economic and social justice in many other parts of the world, where people still struggle for self-determination and freedom.

As Mandela said, "Palestinian and Israeli campaigners for peace know that security for any nation is not abstract; neither is it exclusive. It depends on the security of others; it depends on mutual respect and trust. Indeed, these soldiers of peace know that their destiny is bound together, and that none can be at peace while others wallow in poverty and insecurity.'(1) This lesson can be applied in other parts of the world as well.

In his 1993 Nobel address, Mandela said, "Let it never be said by future generations that indifference, cynicism or selfishness made us fail to live up to the ideals of humanism which the Nobel Peace Prize encapsulates" – words we take to heart on this sad day for us all.

Signed,

Jayantha Dhanapala
President

Paolo Cotta-Ramusino
Secretary General