## Statement: Appointments to SBS Should be Based on Professional Merit Only

The High Representative today expressed his concern about the fact that no director has yet been appointed for SBS. As a key institution safeguarding the security of the state, this state of affairs cannot be left unresolved for long, he said.

"It would be very bad news if I have to once again make this appointment. But no one should doubt my decisiveness. Nor should they be in any doubt that if I am required to make this appointment, then my decision will be based on merit and professional criteria only, not ethnicity," he said.

The High Representative also emphasized that those such as the director of SIPA who have already been legally appointed cannot be removed. "There cannot be any meddling in this. It is not up to the Presidency or anyone else to illegally remove someone who has been installed," he said.