



THE PRESIDENT
OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

3 November 2005

Excellency,

In my letter of 30 September, I set out my intention to keep implementation of the Outcome Document under close review and to take stock of progress at regular intervals. I believe we are now at an appropriate moment to review our work and to consider what further action to take.

At the outset of the Summit follow-up process, we agreed that negotiations must take place in New York among Member States in an open, transparent and inclusive manner. We agreed that the Outcome Document should be the primary basis of our work, and that we should focus on each item on its merits. We also agreed that we should listen to the voices of UN agencies, NGOs and others who can bring in the realities of the field.

I have been encouraged by Member States' willingness to work through the mechanisms we have been using for Summit follow-up, tabling comments and draft texts through me and the Chairs and Co-Chairs. I am pleased that linkages between items of follow-up which might delay progress have largely been avoided. I recognize, however, that Member States attach differing degrees of importance to different agenda items. Thus, it is important to strive to make progress in a way which is balanced and comprehensive.

Let me first review progress in the key areas of Summit follow-up. On development, there has been considerable activity over the last month. Alongside the important ongoing work of the Second and Third Committees, I have appointed two Co-Chairs to conduct informal consultations for the preparation of a High Level Meeting on HIV/AIDS next year. Preparations are proceeding for the High Level event on Migration and Development and for the Review of the Brussels Programme of Action on Least Developed Countries. The General Assembly has held a plenary debate on NEPAD and

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malaria. ECOSOC has held Special Events on the African food crisis and on Avian flu. The Secretariat and Agencies' Chief Executives Board has begun considering how best to take forward the work we requested on system-wide coherence, and will revert to us once it has proposals.

On humanitarian issues, there will shortly be a plenary debate. In this context, work on the strengthening of the Central Emergency Revolving Fund is moving forward. The need for such a Fund has been dramatically underlined by recent natural disasters. The Outcome Document also mandated us to look at the institutional framework for the UN's environment work. Given our currently strained agenda, I envisage that the General Assembly will deal with this important matter in the spring of 2006.

On the Peacebuilding Commission, I am grateful for the work of the two Co-Chairs. They have brought us an understanding of what peacebuilding would mean on the ground. They have produced two options papers, the latest narrowing down the outstanding issues. I have noted the constructive discussions this paper has yielded. I believe we are close to the end result. I therefore trust that we can solve the outstanding issues without delay, and make the Commission operational by the end of the year. A prompt decision on establishment would create a positive momentum for the entire follow-up process.

On the Human Rights Council, I am grateful to the two Co-Chairs who have now conducted informal consultations. The substantive comments made by Member States during this phase constitute the basis for the options paper that the two co-chairs have circulated today. After the submission and compilation of Member States' views, we will proceed to an intense negotiation phase by the end of November. We must aim to reach an agreement before the end of the year, also for budgetary and practical reasons. The earlier we have a decision establishing the Council, the earlier we can start working on the necessary transitional arrangements with the present Commission on Human Rights.

On terrorism, work on the comprehensive convention is progressing. I intend to follow this closely in the next few weeks. As I said on 30 September, we must finalize the convention before the end of the year – and we are close. In the wake of recent terrorist atrocities, we must redouble our efforts to bring this about. A breakthrough on this would strengthen the standing of the

United Nations in the world. I have agreed with the Sixth Committee Chair and the Chairman of the Working Group on Terrorism that we will keep this agenda item open until work on the convention is concluded.

Meanwhile, I am planning to initiate informal consultations of the plenary on the counter-terrorism strategy, ideally after we have finished the work on the comprehensive convention. I have taken note of the views expressed on the procedural and substantive aspects during debates in the Sixth Committee.

On Security Council reform, I have used the time since the 30 September letter to listen to different views. I am confident that Member States will use the opportunity of the General Assembly debate on 10 November to provide elements that can form part of the review of progress by the General Assembly before the end of 2005.

On revitalization of the General Assembly, I refer to my letter of 31 October concerning the ad hoc working group, the role of the General Committee, thematic debates and discussion in the Main Committees on revitalization. Effective implementation of the Summit Outcome will be the most convincing display of revitalization of the General Assembly.

My letter of September 30 focused on issues with deadlines in the Outcome Document, or logistical reasons to move quickly – the Peacebuilding Commission, the Human Rights Council and terrorism. Having reviewed our progress to date, I believe there are two areas of work we now need to take forward in order to make balanced and comprehensive progress possible: Development and ECOSOC reform, and Management reform.

On Follow-up to the Summit Outcome on Development and ECOSOC reform, we need to build on the momentum for development created in 2005. This is a matter of fundamental importance. 2005 gave us many welcome new commitments. But if, by this point in 2006, the international community has not tangibly accelerated implementation, the prospects of achieving the Millennium Development Goals by 2015 might already have been lost.

In this context, I would like to initiate informal consultations of the plenary as soon as possible to take on two specific tasks for the United Nations. One would be to prepare the text of the draft resolution necessary to make the

changes to ECOSOC's organization of work, agenda and working methods as envisaged in paragraphs 155 and 156 of the Outcome Document.

The other task would be to consider how to ensure that implementation of the development outcomes of the 2005 World Summit is effectively monitored. For example, it will be vital to ensure that developing countries formulate comprehensive national development strategies to achieve the MDGs and adopt them in 2006, and that donors provide the necessary support. The issues are inter-related because part of ECOSOC's revised mandate is to ensure follow-up of the relevant outcomes of the major UN Conferences and Summits. Drawing on existing processes, we need to work out a mechanism for monitoring follow-up that can take effect as soon as possible.

The President of ECOSOC and some Member States have already helpfully circulated working papers on these matters. I would be grateful to receive any other contributions from Member States which would help create the basis of work for these consultations. I hope to see the consultations begin without delay so that ECOSOC's implementation of the reforms and the monitoring of Summit follow-up can begin as soon as possible.

On Management reform, our leaders recognized at the Summit that we need an efficient, effective and accountable Secretariat in order to effectively comply with the principles and objectives of the Charter. The Summit requested that the Secretary-General provide proposals on, inter alia, mandates, the budgetary, financial and human resources policies, regulations and rules, and on an evaluation of system-wide oversight. The Secretary-General will also provide further details on the independent oversight committee and the ethics office.

These reports were requested by the Plenary and should therefore also be discussed in the Plenary. The bulk of the reports will be forthcoming in the first quarter of 2006. I understand, however, that some issues could be presented to the plenary already in the next few weeks.

Consultations with Member States have shown that Management reform is an essential element of implementation of the Summit Outcome. I therefore propose to initiate informal consultations of the plenary on this issue. Such consultations would deal with the overarching policy of Management reform. In accordance with established procedures the budgetary, financial and

administrative implications should be dealt with by the Fifth Committee. The work of this Committee and the informal consultations should be mutually reinforcing. It is therefore important to shape an agenda for the informal consultations which reflects an appropriate division of labour.

I know that the new consultations I am proposing, taken together with existing follow-up processes, represent a challenging agenda. I am particularly keen to avoid placing too heavy a burden on smaller Missions. I would hope that we will be able to finalise work on the Peacebuilding Commission and the comprehensive convention on terrorism very soon and that the workload will therefore diminish. I trust that we will also continue to limit ourselves to considering policy matters in the plenary, avoiding the detail of issues wherever possible.

As we continue our work, we must not lose sight of this unique opportunity to reassert the relevance of the General Assembly to the major international issues of our age. Our leaders and many outside this Organisation will ultimately judge the Summit Outcome by our actions in New York on implementation. I know that you are all as committed as I am to showing the world what this Organization can do.

I am calling an informal meeting of the plenary on **Monday 7 November at 4:00pm** in the Trusteeship Council to involve all Member States in the finalization of plans for the necessary next phase of our work. I would propose to name Co-Chairs for the consultations on Development and ECOSOC reform and on Management reform next week, and to ask them to begin promptly to prepare a basis of work for the discussions.

I look forward to your participation in Monday's meeting, which I hope will provide an opportunity for an interactive discussion among Permanent Representatives on the road ahead in the reform process.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.



Jan Eliasson