



8 November 2007

Excellency,

We are now well into the main part of the sixty-second session of the General Assembly. May I thank you and your delegation for your helpful support and cooperation that has enabled the Assembly and the Main Committees to make a good start to the sixty-second session. I would also like to take this opportunity to highlight the way forward for the General Assembly in the coming months.

There was consensus among our leaders' both during the General Debate and the Secretary-General's High-level event to develop a global response to **climate change**. Building on this momentum, we should take stock and consider next steps after the Conference of Parties in Bali. In this regard, I intend to convene a Panel discussion in February 2008, to consider how best the United Nations system, working with the private sector and civil society, can collectively strengthen its contribution to address the challenges that climate change presents. I will revert to you shortly with details of this event.

The **Millennium Development Goals** are another priority for this session. We have reached the mid-point to achieve the Goals, and many countries, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa remain off-track. At this critical juncture, and given our leaders' renewed commitment to achieve the Goals during the General Debate, I am exploring options on how to review progress during this session in consultation with Member States and the Secretary-General.

**Financing for Development** can make a crucial contribution to achieving the MDGs. I would like to thank all Member States for their active participation in the High-level Dialogue on 23 and 24 October. A summary of the event will be circulated shortly to serve as an input into the preparatory process of the Follow-up Conference on Financing for Development in Doha, 2008. In the spirit of Monterrey, I encourage all Member States to give their full support to the Facilitators, H.E. Ambassador Abdelaziz, Permanent Representative of Egypt, and H.E. Ambassador Lovald, Permanent Representative of Norway so that they may complete consultations to finalize a procedural resolution setting out the modalities for Doha expeditiously. The first informal consultation will take place on 9 November.

All Permanent Representatives and  
Permanent Observers to the United Nations  
New York

On **Management Reform** we should make progress to fully implement the mandate in the 2005 World Summit Outcome Document. Our overall aim should be to modernize the Secretariat so that it is more effective, efficient, transparent and accountable to Member States. In this regard, I intend to hold an informal plenary meeting in spring 2008, with a view to assess what remains to be achieved and to invite proposals on the way forward.

On **Counter-Terrorism**, as you are aware I wrote to you on 7 November, inviting your delegation to participate in an informal meeting of the General Assembly on 4 December 2007, to discuss ongoing and planned activities being undertaken by Member States and the United Nations system to implement the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. I am closely following the negotiations on a Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism and call on all Member States to engage constructively so that we can make headway on the outstanding issues.

Engaging substantively with the priority challenges we face is a vital practical step towards the **Revitalization of the General Assembly**. The membership will have the opportunity to discuss this matter in more detail at the plenary meeting on 26 November. As mandated in resolution 61/292, I will revert to you shortly concerning the appointment of chairs for the Ad-hoc Working Group on the Revitalization of the General Assembly, so that we can monitor implementation of existing reforms and consider further means to strengthen the General Assembly.

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We should bear in mind that our common goal is to strengthen the United Nations so that it can better deliver its mandates and programmes for the benefit of all. During the sixty-second session we should ensure that existing General Assembly reform processes are advancing on the right track and that outstanding reform commitments are moving forward.

**Security Council Reform** is an integral part of the United Nations overall reform agenda. Based on the progress achieved during the sixty-first session we have the opportunity to prepare the ground for the next stage. In this regard, I would encourage Member States to express their views and positions on the way forward during the plenary debate on 12 November.

On **System-wide Coherence** the report of the co-Chairs on their consultations undertaken during the sixty-first session has been transmitted to you. Based on the informal consultations I have undertaken, many delegations would like to continue this process early next year. One of the first steps will be the appointment of two new Co-chairs.



On **International Environmental Governance**, I would like to thank the two co-Chairs, H.E. Ambassador Maurer, Permanent Representative of Switzerland, and H.E. Ambassador Heller, Permanent Representative of Mexico, for developing a paper in consultation with Member States setting out various options on the way ahead. I would encourage Member States to make further progress on the basis of the various building blocks in the options paper.

On **Mandate Review**, based on the positive feedback at our informal plenary meeting of 17 October, and further informal consultations conducted by the Co-Chairs, H.E. Ambassador Mbuende, Permanent Representative of Namibia, and H.E. Ambassador Banks, Permanent Representative of New Zealand, I circulated a letter on 6 November elaborating a framework on the way forward to make progress on this important process.

I would like to take this opportunity to draw your attention to some important forthcoming events in the General Assembly;

- 6 December, the **'specific meeting focused on development'**; and
- 11 and 12 December, the **Commemorative high-level plenary meeting devoted to the follow-up to the outcome of the special session on children;**

The commemorative meeting on children will evaluate progress made to implement the Declaration and the Plan of Action, "A world fit for children". I have the honour to inform you that H.E. Ambassador Viotti, Permanent Representative of Brazil, has agreed to facilitate consultations to prepare the outcome document for the meeting. I will shortly circulate further details concerning this format and substance of this event.

The Assembly will begin consultations on a procedural resolution setting out the timing and modalities for the **2008 General Assembly Comprehensive Review on HIV/AIDS**. As you are aware, in my letter of 6 November I informed you that H.E. Ambassador Outule, Permanent Representative of Botswana, and H.E. Ambassador Intelmann, Permanent Representative of Estonia have agreed to facilitate the consultation process.

I was encouraged by the constructive debate at the **High-level Dialogue on Interreligious and Intercultural Cooperation for Peace**, 4-5 October, as well as during the interactive hearings with civil society on 3 October and the private sector on 11 October. These meetings sent a strong signal that broad partnerships are necessary to promote greater understanding and mutual respect between different religions and cultures. A summary of the meeting will be circulated shortly.

I am pleased to inform you that on 9 November I will convene a briefing for NGOs on the work of the General Assembly with the distinguished Chairpersons of the Main

Committees. Since the beginning of the session I have had many meetings with civil society, including NGOs, the private sector, academia and other institutions, to raise greater awareness about the General Assembly's work and galvanizing support for the United Nation's efforts on the ground.

Finally, given the number of pressing issues to address, including in the Main Committees, and the limited time available, I would encourage Member States to work flexibly and efficiently while ensuring the full participation of all in the decision-making process. We should continue to build on progress achieved so far by taking further follow-up measures in an open, transparent and result-oriented manner. In this regard, I look forward to working with all of you to advance our common objectives and further strengthen this organisation's capabilities.

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

Srgjan Kerim

