



THE PRESIDENT
OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

16 May 2008

Excellency,

On 4 March 2008, the General Assembly adopted resolution 62/242 entitled "Modalities, format and organization of the high-level meeting on Africa's development needs", by which it decided that the high-level meeting would take place on 22 September 2008, prior to the general debate of the sixty-third session of the General Assembly.

I am pleased to announce that arrangements for the meeting are underway. My two facilitators, Ambassador Frank Majoor of the Kingdom of the Netherlands and Ambassador Ismael Gaspar Martins of the Republic of Angola, have begun informal consultations with delegations and groups, and will continue to do so in the coming weeks and months. I encourage delegations to contact them with any specific ideas or thoughts which should be reflected in the Political Declaration to be adopted at the end of the meeting.

The General Assembly requested the President of the General Assembly to finalize the organizational arrangements for the high-level meeting. In the coming weeks, I shall communicate through the two facilitators some specific information regarding the organisational arrangements for the meeting, including a draft programme for the event.

The high-level meeting on Africa's development needs comes at a time of both promise and challenge for the continent. While on the one hand many African countries have shown strong GDP growth and progress on the MDGs over the last few years, rising world prices for food and oil, climate change and intractable conflict threaten to reverse these gains. This meeting provides an opportunity for world leaders to come together to renew their commitments to Africa's development and focus attention on how to address the challenges.

The General Assembly decided that this meeting will be held at the highest possible political level, with the participation of Heads of State or Government, ministers, special representatives and other representatives, as appropriate. Given the importance of the issues, I would therefore like to encourage delegations to be represented at that level.

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

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Srgjan Kerim".

Srgjan Kerim

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