



6 February 2006

Excellency,

I am writing to draw your attention to the upcoming meeting of the Ad Hoc Committee established by General Assembly resolution 51/210 of 17 December 1996 dealing with terrorism. The meeting will take place from 27 February to 3 March 2006. The main task for the Ad Hoc Committee at this meeting will be to continue work on a comprehensive convention on international terrorism. The Ad Hoc Committee will also address the question of convening a high-level conference under the auspices of the United Nations.

Given the vital importance of combating terrorism and the mandate given to us by our leaders in the 2005 World Summit Outcome, I hope that Member States will be able to make every effort to reach agreement on a comprehensive convention on international terrorism as soon as possible during this session of the General Assembly.

To facilitate this process, I have asked the Chairman of the Sixth Committee, Ambassador Juan Antonio Ydnez-Barnuevo of Spain, and the Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee, Ambassador Rohan Perera of Sri Lanka (who will be in New York from around 20 February), to consult Member States with a view to exploring a possible way forward on outstanding issues in the negotiation of the comprehensive convention.

I strongly encourage Member States to participate in these consultations in a constructive spirit and with renewed vigour and determination in order to achieve consensus on the comprehensive convention.

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

After the conclusion of the Ad Hoc Committee meeting in early March, I plan to initiate informal consultations of the Plenary on a counter-terrorism strategy. By this time, I hope to have received relevant input from the Secretary-General's Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force which could serve as an initial basis for our consultations. I plan to revert to you with proposed names for Co-Chairs to help conduct consultations on this matter.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jan Eliasson', written in a cursive style.

Jan Eliasson