



THE PRESIDENT
OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

February 8, 2006

Excellency,

As you know, the two Co-Chairs, Ambassadors Arias of Panama and Kumalo of South Africa, held their most recent informal consultations of the plenary on the Human Rights Council yesterday. They have now conducted more than thirty such informal consultations. I am very grateful to them for their diligent co-chairmanship of the consultations. I am similarly grateful to you for your consistent and high-level personal participation and your thorough contributions to this important work.

The sixty-second session of the Commission on Human Rights in Geneva is now approaching rapidly. There is an expectation on all of us to do all we can to ensure a smooth transition with the Commission.

In order to move our work towards its conclusion, I will conduct intense consultations over the coming days. I look forward to meeting with any of you who wish to do so. Meanwhile, I also encourage you to continue to engage informally with each other on the outstanding issues.

Delegations have clearly articulated their positions on the elements under discussion. It is now time for us all to unite around formulas for the establishment of a Human Rights Council which will further strengthen the United Nations human rights machinery.

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

In accordance with the 2005 World Summit mandate to conduct these negotiations in an open, transparent and inclusive manner, I will of course revert to the plenary after these consultations.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jan Eliasson', written in a cursive style. The signature is positioned above the printed name 'Jan Eliasson'.

Jan Eliasson