



THE PRESIDENT
OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

7 June 2006

Excellency,

In order to effectively comply with the principles and objectives of the Charter, our leaders at the 2005 World Summit recognized that we need an efficient, effective and accountable Secretariat.

In the coming weeks we face a daunting task to set in motion concrete and action-oriented processes aimed at responding to the proposals on Secretariat and management reform submitted by the Secretary-General pursuant to the request of our leaders.

We should embark on this task with our eyes directed to the realities of the world and place the human beings and the real problems in the centre. The litmus test and the measuring rod for UN reforms, including Secretariat and management reform, must be the difference they make for people and crises areas around the world.

We have various and complex issues to deal with and the time is limited. I am acutely aware of the fact that many of you will be required to attend the Economic and Social Council session in Geneva, early July. Thus I am writing you now to outline the important issues on Secretariat and management reform that remain on our agenda and which need to be addressed in the next few weeks.

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

Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 60/260 of 8 May 2006, the Fifth Committee will be considering the report of the Secretary-General on “*Investing in the United Nations: for a stronger Organization worldwide*”, (A/60/846 and Add.1-4). The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ) will shortly be issuing its report containing its recommendations thereon. In this connection, I wish to urge the Fifth Committee to engage in constructive and intensive deliberations on the issues in these reports on which consensus may be reached.

Within the next few days, the Secretary-General will also be submitting his detailed report on *procurement* (A/60/846/Add.5) pursuant to section V of resolution 60/260 and resolution 59/288. I invite the Fifth Committee to consider this report during the second resumed session after having received the recommendations from the ACABQ.

In pursuance of paragraph 164 (b) of resolution 60/1, the Secretary-General will furthermore be submitting, in mid-June, his report on a *comprehensive review of governance and oversight*. In view of the volume of this report, the General Assembly may wish to take up this report through a phased and gradual approach.

In section XIII of resolution 60/248, the Secretary-General was requested to propose terms of reference for the *Independent Audit Advisory Committee*. The report of the Secretary-General on this subject is expected to be issued soon.

As you are all aware, under the able leadership of the Co-Chairs, Ambassadors Akram of Pakistan and Rock of Canada, informal consultations of the plenary have been held on the report of the Secretary-General on “*Mandating and delivering: analysis and recommendations to facilitate the review of mandates*” (A/60/733 and Corr.1). A parallel review is being conducted by the Security Council and the Economic and Social Council.

The mandate review is a complex undertaking, addressing the very core of the activities of the United Nations and touching issues that are of importance to every Member State. A number of ideas on procedures as well as substance of the mandate review have been put forward. I am encouraged by the commitment of all Member States to this process.

The mandate review is an important endeavor requiring hard work and difficult choices. I am, however convinced that if we create an adequate degree of trust and confidence between Member States we can initiate a solid and credible process through which we can reach agreement on how to strengthen and up-date the programme of work of the United Nations.

In the coming weeks, Ambassadors Rock and Akram will, building upon discussions to date, be holding a number of informal meetings and consultations with a view to: (a) identifying areas where there can be agreement for early action; and (b) designing a process to carry forward the mandate review exercise. I have asked the co-chairs to up-date me regularly on the progress of their work.

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I have enumerated above a number of issues and reports that will have to be considered during the coming few weeks.

Some of these issues will require considerable time for examination both by the General Assembly, Fifth Committee and the ACABQ. I appeal to all delegations to engage in these negotiations with a true spirit of cooperation, with one goal in mind – that these efforts are to make the United Nations an efficient and effective Organization in order to serve our peoples better.

I urge you all to be creative as you deliberate in finding solutions to the proposals before you. I also urge you to address these challenges with trust and confidence in each other and with respect for each others' concerns. We have a common task which we must face and fulfill in a spirit of cooperation and compromise.

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



Jan Eliasson