



THE PRESIDENT
OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

22 June 2006

Excellency,

I have the honour to refer to resolution 60/227 of 23 December 2005 by which the General Assembly decided to hold a High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development on 14 and 15 September 2006, at the beginning of the 61st Session. It will be the first time that this issue is addressed at this level in the General Assembly.

In preparation for the High-level Dialogue, the General Assembly invited the President of the General Assembly, within existing resources, in consultation with Member States, and with the assistance of the Secretariat, to organize prior to the High-level Dialogue up to two panel discussions on its overall theme. The first panel discussion was held here in New York on 8 June.

I wish to inform you that second panel discussion is scheduled to take place in Geneva on 4 July 2006, from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. I would like to invite you to personally participate in this event.

The purpose of the panel discussions is to debate, at the substantive level, the ways and means of maximizing the benefits of migration for development and minimizing its negative impacts, and, particularly, the role that the United Nations system can play in assisting Member States to make the most of the opportunities that migration brings and addressing the challenges it poses.

All the Permanent Representatives and
Permanent Observers to the United Nations
Geneva

The panel discussions will provide an excellent opportunity for fruitful interaction between Member States and representatives of the United Nations system and will be an important contribution to the successful organization and outcome of the High-level Dialogue in September.

I am pleased to announce that the panelists for the second panel discussion will include heads of relevant United Nations agencies, funds, programmes, as well as the International Organization for Migration as follows:

Mrs. Louise Arbour, United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

Mr. António Guterres, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

Mr. José Antonio Ocampo, Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs

Mr. Juan Somavía, Director-General, International Labour Organization

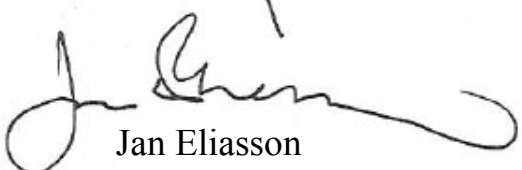
Mr. Peter Sutherland, Special Representative of the Secretary-General on International Migration and Development

Mr. Brunson McKinley, Director-General, International Organization for Migration

Due to reform-related activities in New York, I will unfortunately not be able to travel in early July. I have thus asked Ambassador Ali Hachani of Tunisia, Vice-President of the General Assembly and President of the Economic and Social Council, to chair the panel discussion on 4 July in Geneva on my behalf.

I am pleased to attach an Information Note that provides further details on the arrangements for the panel discussions.

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



Jan Eliasson