

12 December 2000

**Statement of H.E. Mr. Harri Holkeri,
President of the 55th Session of the General Assembly,
at the monthly meeting between the Office of the President of the
General Assembly and the Chairpersons of the Regional Groups for
the month of December**

The meeting was attended by the Chairpersons of the Regional Groups for the month of December: Madagascar (African States), Mongolia (Asian States), Ukraine (Eastern European States), Chile (Latin American and Caribbean States) and Andorra (Western European and other States).

The President stressed that although some important issues are still pending the 55th session of the General Assembly has been successful and several substantive results have been achieved.

The President reminded that he has taken up the question of the reform of the Assembly and its working methods in many occasions and statements, including at the Forum of Small States on November 15, 2000. He encouraged to visit his web site where all statements can be found.

He repeated his invitation to the Member States to discuss the issue on how to improve the Assembly working methods, focusing on the implementation of already existing General Assembly resolutions, such as resolutions 51/241 and 48/264.

The President told that he intends to convene an informal 'brainstorming' session of the General Committee to discuss how to improve the working methods of the General Assembly sometime in February 2001. The President will take it upon himself to prepare a non-paper (food for thought) sometime in the year 2001, in connection with the above mentioned brainstorming session of the General Committee. The President welcomes suggestions and ideas already beforehand, in order to have an idea where the priorities of the Member States lie on this issue.

The President intends to nominate a facilitator to assist him in the process and the issue will be discussed with the whole membership, most probably in the informals of the plenary.