

6 November 2002

**Statement of H.E. Mr. Jan Kavan,
President of the 57th Session of the General Assembly,
on the International Day for Preventing the Exploitation of
Environment in War and Armed Conflict**

The General Assembly,

Noting the important role played by the United Nations, including the Security Council, in the Afghan peace process,

Noting that the items entitled "Emergency international assistance for peace, normalcy and reconstruction of war-stricken Afghanistan" and "The situation in Afghanistan and its implications for international peace and security" will be considered by the General Assembly on 6 December 2002,

Convinced that an interactive dialogue on Afghanistan one year after the agreement reached among various groups in Bonn would afford the international community an opportunity to take stock of the lessons learned in Afghanistan as well as enhance discussions on 6 December 2002 in the General Assembly on Afghanistan, including on post conflict reconstruction in Afghanistan and future United Nations activities in this regard,

Welcoming innovative approaches in the ongoing effort to revitalize the work of the General Assembly,

1. Decides to convene on 18 November 2002, an open-ended panel of the General Assembly on Afghanistan which will have two consecutive sessions: from 9 to 11 a.m. and from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.;
2. Also decides that the Open-ended Panel will have as its theme "Afghanistan: one year later";
3. Further decides that the first session of the Open-ended Panel will focus on political issues and the second session on economic issues;
4. Decides that the Open-ended Panel will be chaired by the President of the General Assembly and will have, for each session, a maximum of four panelists selected by the President in consultation with the Member States;
5. Also decides that the President of the General Assembly will present a summary of the discussions of the Open-ended Panel at the beginning of the debate in the General Assembly on 6 December 2002 on the items dealing with Afghanistan.