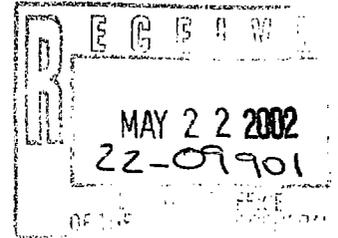


NOTE TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

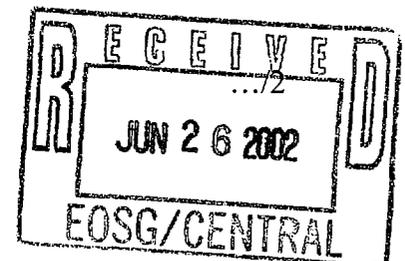
Re: INSTRAW



Yesterday morning, I met with Ambassador Padilla Tonos, Permanent Representative of the Dominican Republic, at his request. The purpose of his visit was to inform me about a letter to be sent by the Minister of Foreign Affairs to you raising two points: (a) appointment of the Interim Manager/Director of INSTRAW and (b) the establishment of an intergovernmental working group to review the future operation of INSTRAW under General Assembly resolution 56/125.

Ambassador Padilla expressed concern about the slow progress in appointing the Interim Manager/Director of INSTRAW. I informed him that the selected candidate, Ms. Savitri Butchey, a former staff member of UNDP, had applied for permanent residency in the United States and was in the process of obtaining a work permit from the US Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS). On 7 May 2002, I was advised by Ms. Butchey that in view of changes in INS procedures after the terrorist attack of 11 September 2001, the review of her case was likely to be delayed until early July. I have contacted two other candidates for temporary replacement. One of them is in the same predicament as Ms. Butchey and another is interested to fill in for two months only. My Office continues to negotiate with the latter candidate and I expect the results by the end of this week. In any case she would be based in New York and service the working group which has not yet been established. U

The second point raised by the Ambassador was difficulties in establishing the working group on the future operation of INSTRAW called for by the General Assembly in its resolution 56/125. Under the resolution there should be two government representatives from each of the five regional groups. So far, only four Member States nominated representatives: Dominican Republic, El Salvador and Venezuela from Latin America and the Caribbean, and Bangladesh from Asia. Ambassador Padilla informed me that his Government considered that a letter from the Secretary-General would expedite the formation of the working group. I explained that, in my capacity as your Special Representative, I have written on two occasions to Chairs of regional groups urging them to nominate representatives and raised the issue with other influential delegations in the Third Committee and the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW). The President of ECOSOC and Chair of CSW agreed to take up the issue with their respective regional constituencies. Regrettably, the remaining regional groups, especially the EU, appear to be reluctant to appoint their representatives to the working group in view of a divisive nature of the issue.



In light of past accusations by the Dominican Republic of insufficient support for INSTRAW on the part of the Secretariat, I would suggest that either you or the Deputy Secretary-General sign the letter to the remaining regional groups requesting them to nominate representatives for the working group. Subject to your approval, my Office will be pleased to provide a draft of such letter. Ambassador Padilla also informed me that his capital would be asking you to meet Ambassador Padilla so that he could personally bring these points to your attention.

With appreciation,



Angela E. V. King

21 May 2002

cc: Deputy Secretary-General
Mr. Iqbal Riza