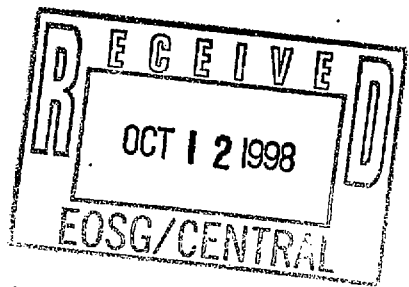


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THE DEPUTY SECRETARY-GENERAL



8 October 1998

*Alfredo*

Dear Mr. Witschi-Cestari,

Thank you very much for your letter of 6 October and your kind words. I want to congratulate you very sincerely on the remarkable work which you have accomplished in very difficult circumstances. I believe that the United Nations' unified response to the crisis in Afghanistan will set an example for future operations all over the world, and that the mechanisms set in place in New York and Islamabad to coordinate our policies and activities will be replicated many times.

I would like to wish you, in my turn, success in all your future endeavours. Indeed, I am quite sure that our paths will cross again.

Yours sincerely,

Louise Fréchette

Mr. Alfredo Witschi-Cestari  
UN Coordinator for Afghanistan  
Islamabad

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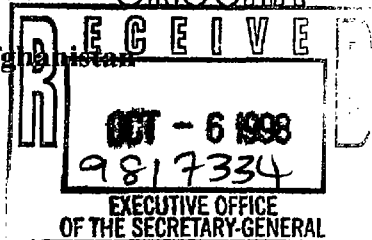
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**FACSIMILE**

Ref.: 132/MIS/1959

To:	Ms Louise Frechette Deputy Secretary-General United Nations, New York	Date:	6 October, 1998	
		Fax No:	001-212-963 2155	
CC:	Mr. Sergio Vieira de Mello USG for Humanitarian Affairs United Nations New York		001-212-963 3630	
			001-212-906 5778	
From:	Alfredo Witschi-Cestari UN Coordinator for Afghanistan Islamabad	Signed:		
Subject:		File No:		Pages: 1

Dear Madame Deputy Secretary-General

It is a source of great satisfaction to me that one of my last acts as UN Coordinator for Afghanistan is to let you know that representatives of the international community here, including donors, UN agencies and NGOs, have agreed to the formation of the Afghanistan Programming Body (APB). The first meeting of the APB will be held in Islamabad on November 5th under the chairmanship of Japan, which is currently also chairing the Afghanistan Support Group of donors. The APB's first task will be to approve its own draft constitution (a copy is attached for easy reference) which has been the subject of consultations between stakeholders in the last months, before reviewing the draft 1999 Appeal for Afghanistan. This Appeal will, in itself, embody our commitment to implementing the ideas in the Strategic Framework for Afghanistan and in the principled common programming process.

Afghanistan was certainly a challenging choice as a test case for improving the way the UN and its partners go about improving our collective response to complex emergencies. The situation on the ground remains difficult, to say the least, and may yet deteriorate before it gets better. But this has not prevented us, with your support, from developing collaborative structures in the field. I am confident that these will facilitate the task we face in the coming months and years.

May I take this opportunity to thank you for your commitment over the last months and to wish you every success for the future. I hope that our paths will cross again.

With best regards.

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