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United Nations



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INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

MEMORANDUM INTERIEUR



TO: Mr. Vijay K. Nambiar
A: Chef de Cabinet
EOSG

DATE: 23 March 2011

REFERENCE: 147-03/2011/UN-
OHRLLS/AA

THROUGH:

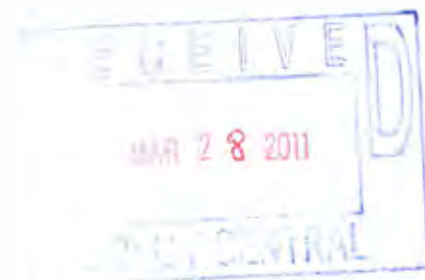
S/C DE:

FROM: Cheick Sidi Diarra, Under-Secretary-General, Special Advisor
DE: on Africa and High Representative

SUBJECT: Handover of the Report of the Eminent Persons to the UNSG
OBJET:

1. The Co-Chairperson of the Group of Eminent Persons for the Least Developed Countries, President Alpha Oumar Konare and one of the Eminent Persons, Mr. Louis Michel, were scheduled to handover the Report of the Group to the Secretary-General on Thursday, 24 March 2011 in a ceremony in the Office of the Secretary-General.
2. However, based on the earlier schedule for handing over the report on 22 March 2011, President Konare had already taken an appointment to meet with the Chairperson of the African Union, President Teodoro Obiang of Equatorial Guinea, and it has not been possible to change this appointment. Mr. Michel has just informed me that due to unforeseen circumstances, he will not be able to attend the ceremony. And, at such short notice, no other Eminent Persons is available to handover the report on Thursday, 24 March 2011.
3. This report is a very important document that can make significant contributions to the ongoing negotiations for a new programme of action for the LDCs. The negotiations are now at a critical stage and Member States are keenly awaiting the report and looking for renewed impetus from it.
4. In view of the above considerations, I would advise that the report be released to Member States as scheduled on Thursday morning without a formal handover ceremony. A copy of the report is attached with a note from the Secretary-General which has already been approved by your office. The Secretary-General may then meet with the Eminent Persons to formally receive the report at a later date. A press release will be prepared to advise the media and copies will be made available to them.
5. Grateful if you could seek the urgent consent of the Secretary-General on this matter.

cc: The Deputy Secretary-General
Mr. Kim Won-soo



DEV/11/002



Please find attached a memo from Mr. Cheick Sidi Diarra, USG (OHRLLS / OSAA) regarding the handing over of the Report of the Eminent Persons Group to the Secretary-General

Julie-Ann Brown to: Vijay Nambiar

23/03/2011 12:03 PM

SGCentral, Kavazeua U. Katjomuise, Wonsoo Kim, Harriet Osias,
Cc: Asha-Rose Migiro, Julie-Ann Brown, Ricardo Dunn, Myriam
Kusayanagi, Andrew Allimadi

Dear Mr. Nambiar,

Please find attached a memo from Mr. Cheick Sidi Diarra, USG (OHRLLS / OSAA) regarding the handing over of the Report of the Eminent Persons Group to the Secretary-General.



FAX201103231135.PDF

Best regards,



Julie-Ann Brown (Ms.)

Personal Assistant to the Under-Secretary-General,
High Representative for LDCs, LLDCs, SIDS
and Secretary-General of UN LDC IV

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Note by the Secretary-General

1. With a combined population exceeding 880 million people, the Least Developed Countries include the poorest and most vulnerable segment of humanity. Most of their populations live on less than a dollar a day and face profound challenges to their health and well-being. In spite of their painstaking efforts and those of the international community, the LDCs' potential remains untapped, and their economies are increasingly marginalized in the global arena. These countries are at the epicentre of a continuing developmental emergency.

2. The plight and potential of the LDCs will be highlighted at the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, to be held in Istanbul, Turkey, from 9 to 13 May. In preparing for this major event, I decided to appoint a Group of Eminent Persons in order to benefit from the wisdom of individuals, from within and outside government, who possess a broad range of experience and expertise in managing development challenges.

3. The purpose of the Group was to build on the lessons of the past decade's international support for the LDCs, and to recommend a new generation of policy measures in the areas of aid, trade, foreign direct investment, **technology** transfer, debt relief and adaptation to and mitigation of climate change. I also asked the Group to raise international public awareness of the Conference.

4. The former President of Mali, Mr. Alpha Oumar Konare, and the former President of the World Bank, Mr. James D. Wolfensohn, served as co-chairs of the Group. Other members include Ms. Nancy Birdsall, President of the Centre for Global Development; Mr. Kemal Derviş, Vice President and Director of Global Economy and Development at the Brookings Institution; Sir Fazle Hasan Abed, Founder of BRAC, the Bangladesh Rehabilitation Assistance Committee; Sir Richard Jolly, Honorary Professor of the Institute of Development Studies at the University of Sussex; Dr. Louis Kasekende, Deputy Governor of the Bank of Uganda; Mr. Louis Michel, Member of the European Parliament and former European Commissioner for Development and Humanitarian Aid; and Mr. Hiromasa Yonekura, Chairman of Sumitomo Chemical Company Ltd.

5. Their report points to weak human assets, limited physical and institutional infrastructure, dependence on fragile agricultural sectors and a limited range of exports as the main factors hampering the LDCs' economic prospects. The Group's main finding is that the **gap** between the LDCs and the rest of the world will continue to widen unless the structural limitations of their economies are addressed. With the slogan "No MDGs **without** LDCs", the report also emphasizes the importance of this group of countries in the global economy and their relevance to the development agenda of the international community. While international support will remain critical, the LDCs themselves have an important role to play, especially in the area of governance.

6. I commend the Group for their hard work and insights. This report is an important contribution to the ongoing intergovernmental consultations leading up to the Istanbul Conference. I urge Member States to read this report carefully and to draw lessons from its conclusions and recommendations.

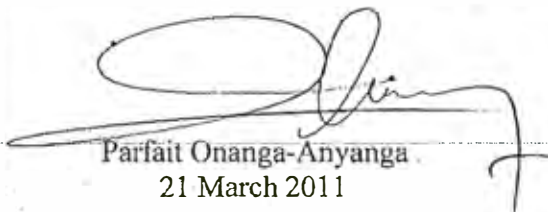
7. I urge all Member States, first and foremost the LDCs themselves, with their development partners and the whole international community, to actively engage in preparing a Programme of Action that will enable us to face the tests of the decade ahead. It is my sincere hope that when they gather in Istanbul in May, Member States will seize the moment to make historic decisions commensurate with the challenges at hand. The UN system for its part remains committed to support this endeavour.

Note to Mr. Nambiar

Report of the Group of Eminent Persons for the Least Developed Countries

1. The Report of the Group of Eminent Persons for the Least Developed Countries will be presented to the Secretary-General on 24 March 2011. As per established practice, the report will then be sent to Member States with an accompanying note from the Secretary-General.
2. ODSG has prepared the attached draft cover note in close cooperation with OHRLLS and the speechwriters.
3. We recommend the draft note for your approval.

Thank you for your kind consideration.


Parfait Onanga-Anyanga
21 March 2011

Approved

