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United Nations Nations Unies

INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM MEMORANDUM INTERIEUR

cc DSG

TO: All heads of departments and offices

A:

DATE: 7 March 2007

REFERENCE:

THROUGH:

S/C DE:

FROM: Alicia Bárcena, ~~Under-Secretary~~-General

DE: Department of Management

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EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

SUBJECT: **Planning for the introduction of an Enterprise Resources**

OBJET: **Planning (ERP) system**

1. I am writing to inform you that planning has begun for the United Nations to implement a global enterprise resource planning system (ERP) and to request that you afford the highest priority in making this a successful common effort.

2. As you may know, the General Assembly decided during its 60th session to replace the Integrated Management Information System (IMIS) with a next-generation ERP or comparable system. The Assembly also decided that the United Nations will adopt the International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS). The implementation of IPSAS is planned for 2010 and its standards will need to be incorporated in the ERP.

3. Many of you may ask "What is an ERP?" An ERP is an advanced software that aims to integrate all departments and functions across an organization onto a single computer system that can serve all those departments' particular needs. In the UN, we expect it will cover functions such as programme planning, budgeting, contributions and performance; human resources management and administration; supply chain, assets and facilities management; general accounting, travel and other administrative flows; reporting to management and stakeholders, and more.

4. Why? By integrating functions, it will allow administrative processes to be seamlessly connected, providing up-to-date and comprehensive information on financial and human resources. It will give managers the ability to make better-informed decisions, and to make crucial connections between resources and programme delivery. Having a global system that supports all levels of management and day-to-day operations at Headquarters, in peace-keeping and political missions and offices away from Headquarters will make our work more efficient.

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5. The implementation of an ERP will be a major endeavour reaching beyond the realm of an IT project. I therefore implore you to take a "quantum leap" in looking at the way we work. It is an opportunity for us to take a creative and fresh approach to finding better ways of doing business and simplifying administrative processes.

6. A core "ERP project team" has started to prepare the groundwork. The team, presently led by Mr. Guido Maccari, has already contacted some offices to hold brainstorming sessions in advance of a more systematic validation of requirements. The first major task is to identify what works well today in our systems and should be preserved; what needs to be improved; and what is not currently addressed and should be introduced in the new system. A report to the General Assembly will be prepared by the end of this month, in order to obtain approval for the resources required. We expect this transformation of processes and systems to engage most of us through at least 2010, with the actual implementation planned from 2008 through 2009.

7. Another project that we are launching is the review of the current e-staffing tool, Galaxy, and the development of a new system that would be more effective and efficient in supporting the staffing and talent management needs of the Organization. The new tool will be introduced in 2008, and will eventually integrate with the new ERP system.

8. Your personal engagement and the cooperation of your staff will be key in the effort to move toward an ERP, which will require extensive collaboration within and between departments and duty stations. It is therefore important that you give it the utmost priority. From my side, I commit to keep you regularly informed on the status of the project.

cc: The Deputy Secretary-General
Mr. Nambiar
Ms. Beagle
Mr. Sach
Ms. Lute
Mr. Blinder