OHRLLS

Note to the Secretary-General

Report of the Committee for Programme and Coordination and the post of the Under-Secretary-General and Special Advisor on Africa

1. In the attached note, Under-Secretary-General Diarra proposes continued engagement with the African Group and G77 and China to obtain their political support to delay the implementation of any resolution in the Fifth Committee that would endorse the recommendations of the Committee on Programmes and Coordination (CPC).

2. In its report the CPC expressed opposition to the reconfiguration of the Office of the Special Advisor for Africa (OSAA) and the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (UN-OHRLLS).

3. In addition, the CPC recommended that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to provide a report on filling the position of the USG and Special Advisor on Africa in accordance with Resolution 63/260.

4. USG Diarra proposes instead to seek, through consultations, an extension of the ongoing trial period of the reconfiguration with a view to mobilizing support for its institutionalization and to enhance further the synergies between the two Offices.

5. I am in agreement with the approach recommended by USG Diarra.

Asha-Rose Migiro
21 October 2009

cc: Mr. Nambiar

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UNITED NATIONS OFFICE OF THE SPECIAL ADVISER ON AFRICA (OSAA)

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ACTION DSG ✓
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TO: The Secretary-General
A:

DATE: 16 October 2009

THROUGH: Vijay K. Nambiar
Chef de Cabinet

REFERENCE

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

SUBJECT: **OSAA** ✓
OBJET:

The Deputy Secretary-General and I have for the past month been consulting informally with members of the African Group and G 77 and China and some members of the ACABQ, for their support in extending the current reconfiguration of the Office of the Special Advisor for Africa (OSAA) with that of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (UN-OHRLLS).

As a result of these consultations, and as a first step, I have proposed a briefing session with the African Group in order to:

- Inform the Group of our evaluation of the two offices showing efficiencies and synergies gained as a result of the configuration,

- Point out that the lack of a full endorsement by the General Assembly has not allowed adequate harnessing of potential synergies; noting that this has engendered some gaps requiring enhanced support in favour of further consolidation,

- Remind that an evaluation report of the Secretary-General is being prepared and would in due time be presented; and,

- Propose that, as a result of the initial assessment, our considered view is that there is a need for an extension of the trial period.

However, it is noteworthy that while the preliminary consultations were generally promising, subsequent interactions, especially with the G 77, reveal that the Fifth Committee is likely to endorse the recommendations of the Committee on Programmes and Coordination (CPC) with regard to OSAA.

In the report, the CPC took exception to the OIOS report that had endorsed the reconfiguration of the two offices. It recommends that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to provide a report on the filling of the position of

the Under-Secretary-General and Special Advisor on Africa in accordance with resolution 63/260. It also urges filling the post before 31 December 2009.

Nevertheless, the CPC report is not without contradictions. On one hand, it recommends "the General Assembly to request the Secretary-General to ensure coordination and synergy in the areas of overlap between the Office of the High Representative and the Office of the Special Adviser in order to achieve results in the most effective way". On the other, it expresses a view "that alignment of the two Offices would weaken the United Nations focus on the special needs of the countries for which they have been established"!

Consequently, in consultation with the Deputy Secretary-General, it is my intention to continue engaging with the African Group and the G 77 and China with a view to obtaining their political support to delay the implementation of any resolution endorsing the recommendations of the CPC and to obtain the extension of the trial period.

In the meantime, I will continue with the finalization of the review report.

cc: The Deputy Secretary-General