

S-Gs Meeting with the incoming GA President Mr. Srgjan Kerim -13 July 2007

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General

- I very pleased to hear that our teams are working so closely already to ensure that the 62nd session of the General Assembly will be productive in a wide range of areas.
- Clearly we will get off to a big start to the GA with over 110 Heads of State and Government already planning to come.

Climate Change

[The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) is the main forum in the United Nations for dealing with climate change. Negotiations on a post-2012 mechanism will begin in Bali in December.

Climate change within the context of sustainable development was the subject of a comprehensive review and assessment by the 14th and 15th sessions of the Commission on Sustainable Development in 2006 and 2007 during which there was agreement to accelerate the transition to a lower greenhouse gas emitting economy.

The Ministerial Declaration issued by ECOSOC last week referred to climate change indicating that responses should be coordinated with social and economic development in an integrated manner with priority to achieving economic growth and poverty eradication. The issue of climate change was debated by the Security Council earlier in the year and will be debated by the 61st session of the General Assembly on 31 July-1 August. Mr. Kerim has expressed a strong interest in the issue stating that it is a global issue and that the 62nd session of the GA would fail if it did not deal with it. He has noted the role of the IPCC and the UNFCCC and has indicated that the GA could streamline activities in close cooperation with the Secretary-General, ECOSOC and other bodies.]

- I believe that climate change is one of greatest sustainable development challenges we face.
- I am firmly of the view that climate change is not predominantly an environmental challenge, but has also important social, economic and political dimensions.

- This view now has wide support and was reflected in the Ministerial Statement issued by ECOSOC last week which reaffirmed that responses to climate change need to be coordinated with economic and social policies.
- I am continuing to explore ways to help the international community move forward in confronting climate change, and to come up with a comprehensive and re-energized response on both mitigating green house gas emissions and adapting to climate change.
- I welcome the forthcoming debate on Climate Change as a Global Challenge by the 61st session of the General Assembly on 31 July-1 August. It can provide an opportunity to present national strategies and actions on climate change.
- In order to advance consensus towards a global post-2012 agreement I have appointed three Special Envoys on climate change.
- I have taken the initiative to convene a high-level event on the eve of the 62nd session of the General Assembly on climate change to galvanize political will and advance progress towards a global agreement at the Bali Climate Change Conference in December 2007.
- I hope that the GA continues to promote synergies and coherence among bodies of the United Nations for effective and concerted action on climate change.
- I think your decision to focus the General Debate this year on "Responding to Climate Change" is a very good one. This will enable an in-depth treatment of national positions that our one-day event on September 24 can't hope to do.
- I do hope you will join me in opening the High-Level Event on the 24th.
- Preparations for the event are now well advanced and I plan to release a note verbale with all the final modalities within the next ten days. That should give heads of state and government a clear indication of what we hope for from them.

MDGs

- The format of the event naturally depends on its goals and objectives. However, if the intent is to maximize impact and visibility, and thus assuring participation of a critical mass of heads of state and government, then the General Debate of the General Assembly in September 2008 is likely to provide the right venue.
- The precise format of the event would need to be clarified, as calling it an actual "summit" of the Assembly normally requires a much longer

and more formal procedure than might be possible or desirable in this case.

- Instead we could think of a one or two-day dialogue dedicated to the MDGs during the General Debate. The Debate is usually at the level of heads of state or government and foreign ministers. With you in the lead the level of participation would likely be high. Such a dialogue would become part of the official calendar of the GA.
- Alternatively or concurrently with the above event, we could also think of something along the lines of the 2005 Chirac-Lula initiative. This event would, however, be at the margin of the General Assembly.
- If this is basically what was discussed with PM Brown, the SG could ask the PGA to encourage the UK and other member states to contact soon the incoming President of the General Assembly to discuss with him the modalities, since member state(s) need to be in the lead. He could encourage them to do the same.

Counter-Terrorism

- I understand you will be holding an informal review and would be happy to attend.