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**Note to the Chef de Cabinet**

**Attendance to the Norway-France Initiative meeting on  
Global Health and Foreign Policy**

In September 2006, the foreign ministers of Norway and France, joined by Brazil, Indonesia, Senegal, South Africa and Thailand, launched the Global Health and Foreign Policy Initiative, an effort aimed at raising the importance of global health issues on the international foreign policy agenda.

The group has established an Expert Working Group of ministerial representatives that aims at producing a report by mid-April with recommendations that would be presented to the international community by the foreign ministers of Norway and France, with the intent to broaden the Initiative to other interested countries. Different countries have already expressed their interest in taking part to this effort.

The Group met for the first time in Paris in November 2006 and held a second round of consultations in New York on 17 and 18 January. They invited me and a representative from WHO to participate in their second meeting; Silva Bonacito attended on my behalf. The Group valued the presence of the Secretary-General's Office and has once again extended an invitation to Ms. Bonacito to attend the Initiative's third meeting in Dakar, on 19 and 20 February. Costs will be covered by the Initiative's Secretariat.

I believe it is important to keep an eye on the work of the Group. The Initiative holds potential for an important outcome given the countries involved. We may want to use this group as a member state counterpart for any future health related initiative the Secretary-General might decide to promote.

RO

Robert Orr  
9 February 2007

c.c. Carmen Spraus

Agreed

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