

TERROREISM

UNITED NATIONS



NATIONS UNIES

NEW YORK

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Room C-204, New York, NY 10017 TEL: (212) 963 7555, FAX: (212) 963 3301

<http://www.un.org/ga/president/62/>



VN
KWS
RO

22 August 2008

Dear Mr. Nambiar,

I am pleased to attach for your information, copies of the letters sent by the President of the General Assembly to the Permanent Representatives and Permanent Observers, transmitting the draft political resolution on the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy to be adopted by the General Assembly, and the draft political declaration for the high-level meeting on the theme "Africa's development needs: state of implementation various commitments, challenges and the way forward", on 22 September 2008.

Sincerely,

Igor Dzundev
Ambassador
Chef de Cabinet

→ Sharon advised
this is as expected
per previous line
no additional message
SL

Mr. Vijay Nambiar
Chef de Cabinet
Under-Secretary-General
Executive Office of the Secretary-General
United Nations



THE PRESIDENT
OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

*Pl check this
into Controller / Share*

by

20 August 2008

IH

Excellency,

I have the honour to transmit herewith the draft political declaration for the high-level meeting on the theme "Africa's development needs: state of implementation of various commitments, challenges and the way forward," which will take place on 22 September 2008.

I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the co-facilitators, Ambassador Ismael Gaspar Martins of Angola and Ambassador Frank Majoor of the Netherlands, for their dedication and hard work in conducting consultations and for preparing this draft.

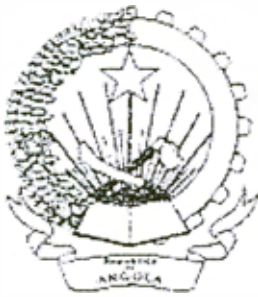
The co-facilitators intend to convene informal consultations to discuss the draft political declaration on Thursday, 28 August 2008 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., and on Friday, 12 September 2008 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. I would encourage delegations to be represented in these consultations at the Ambassadorial level.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Srgjan Kerim

central

All Permanent Representatives and
Permanent Observers to the United Nations
New York



20 August 2008

Excellency,

We write to you in our capacity as co-facilitators for the political declaration to be adopted on 22 September 2008 at the High Level Meeting on "Africa's Development Needs: state of implementation of various commitments, challenges and the way forward"

We are pleased to inform you that, having conducted informal consultations with the general membership, the regional groups and relevant institutions, we have prepared the enclosed draft political declaration. In this draft, we have endeavored to reflect views, concerns and viewpoints of the membership as expressed during these consultations.

It remains our intention to hold two additional consultations with the membership in the coming weeks, once delegations have had the opportunity to study the draft. We have scheduled these informal consultations for Thursday, 28 August 2008, from 10am to 1pm, in Conference Room 2 and on Friday, 12 September 2008, from 10am to 1pm, in the Trusteeship Council Chamber. These will constitute opportunities for the general membership to express their views on the content of the draft political declaration of the High-level Meeting. As previously agreed, we do not foresee negotiations on this text.

We would appreciate if you could distribute this draft to the Member States and invite them for the two upcoming consultations, encouraging them to attend at the Ambassadorial level.

We would also be grateful if, through your good offices, this draft could be shared with the incoming President of the General Assembly.

We thank you for the excellent cooperation on this matter,

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Ismael Gaspar Martins".

Ismael Gaspar Martins
Permanent Representative
of the Republic of Angola

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Frank Majoor".

Frank Majoor
Permanent Representative
of the Kingdom of the Netherlands

H.E. Mr. Srgjan Kerim
President of the 62nd session of the
United Nations General Assembly

“Furthering Africa’s development through partnership”

Political declaration of the High Level Meeting on “Africa’s development needs: state of implementation of various commitments, challenges and the way forward”

22 September 2008

1. We, heads of State and Government, ministers and representatives gathered at the United Nations Headquarters in New York on 22 September 2008 to meet the development needs of the African continent.
2. Africa is a continent of great potential and endowed with valuable human and natural resources. This high-level meeting represents a unique opportunity to strengthen positive developments and to contribute towards the establishment of a global partnership for development in Africa.
- **We recommit ourselves to a global partnership of equals based on our common values, shared responsibility and the determination to collectively act for our common future and to mobilize the resources, including human, financial, and technological, required to end poverty and underdevelopment in Africa, with the objective of turning existing commitments into actions.**
- **We commit ourselves to the fulfillment of the dreams and aspirations of the African people to a better world in which all Africans can live in dignity and peace;**

Development and poverty reduction

3. Eradicating poverty, particularly in Africa, is the greatest global challenge facing the world today. African countries have the primary responsibility for their own economic and social development. National leadership and ownership of national development cannot be overemphasized. We welcome and recognize the ongoing implementation of national development plans and strategies as well as the African Peer Review Mechanism.
- **We reaffirm our commitment to address the special needs of Africa, a continent where, despite recent considerable improvements, the full and timely achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, remains elusive.**
4. African governments have made much progress with respect to democracy, the protection of human rights and sustainable economic policies. Sound economic policies, solid democratic institutions responsive to the needs of the people and improved infrastructure are the basis for sustained economic growth, poverty reduction and employment creation.
5. Urgent action is needed on all sides, including more ambitious national development strategies and efforts backed by an improved enabling environment at all levels and increased international support.
- **We recommit ourselves to partnering with Africa on the development path it has carved out for itself.**
6. Africa faces a number of serious challenges, including food security, climate change, energy supply, HIV/AIDS and migration. We commend African countries for their leadership in addressing these challenges and charting the way forward for the region in the context of NEPAD and the African Union as well as through national development plans and strategies, including commitments in priority areas of action, like agriculture, infrastructure, good governance, investment, health and education.

Peace and security

7. Peace and development go hand in hand. We note the positive trends and advances in promoting durable peace in Africa, and we welcome and further encourage the efforts of the African Union and the sub-regional organizations in strengthening their peacekeeping capacity and undertaking peacekeeping operations in the continent. We stress the importance of peace consolidation mechanisms and processes, such as the *African Union Post Conflict Reconstruction and Development Framework* and the UN

Peacebuilding Commission. The Peacebuilding Commission, established by the 2005 World Summit, is a testimony of the willingness of world leaders to support post-conflict countries on the road to recovery and sustainable peace.

- **We note the important steps taken by the Peacebuilding Commission in setting up integrated peace building strategies and call for increased regional and international support to the implementation of these strategies.**
- 8. Sustainable peace and security require appropriate mechanisms of justice and rule of law. Both at the national and international level, such mechanisms can and must ensure that impunity is effectively countered. In this context, it is recalled that human rights and dignity depend on the preservation of the rule of law and the fulfillment of our common obligations under international human rights law and humanitarian law.
 - **We pledge to work individually, together, and with our partners, including in civil society, for the fulfillment of these obligations.**
 - **We are committed to strengthening domestic, regional and international human rights mechanisms and call on all states to support these efforts to the benefits of freedom, justice, dignity and equality across Africa and the world.**
- 9. Where peace and stability remain beyond reach,
 - **we call on all parties concerned to end hostilities and to engage in the search for peaceful solutions with the support of international and regional partners including the African Union and the United Nations.**
- 10. Africa is home to refugees and internally displaced persons. We recall our obligations under the relevant norms of international human rights law, international humanitarian law and refugee law.
 - **We pledge to take concrete action to meet the protection and assistance needs of refugees, returnees and displaced persons.**

Financing for development

- 11. African governments will endeavor to mobilize domestic resources and attract private capital to finance the targeted investments and expenditures needed to achieve the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals.
 - **We call for the reinvigoration of actions in fulfilling the commitments to assist the continent in meeting its development needs.**
- 12. Official Development Assistance to Africa has increased, mostly due to debt relief. We are, however, concerned that donors are falling behind their commitment to double aid to Africa.
 - **We call for the fulfillment of all Official Development Assistance commitments, including the commitments by many developed countries to increase their Official Development Assistance to 0.7 percent of Gross National Income by 2015, including the specific target of 0.15% to 0.20% of GNI for Least Developed Countries by 2010.**
 - **We emphasize the special importance of finding durable solutions to the debt sustainability and management problems in African countries.**
- 13. The High-level Forums on Aid Effectiveness, which produced the 2005 Paris Declaration and this year's Accra Agenda for Action, are critical steps forward in relation to improving aid effectiveness.
 - **We recommit to improve the effectiveness of development assistance and stress in this regard the fundamental principles of ownership, alignment, harmonization, managing for results and mutual accountability.**
- 14. Africa's development partners have undertaken various important initiatives in recent years, such as, inter alia, the Africa Partnership Forum, the New Asian-African Strategic Partnership, China-Africa Partnership, the European Union-Africa Strategic Partnership, the Group of Eight, the Millennium

Challenge Account, the Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief of the President of the United States of America and the Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD), and emphasizes in this regard the importance of coordination in such initiatives on Africa and the need for their effective implementation.

- **We urge the United Nations system, International Financial Institutions, relevant regional institutions, and Africa's other development partners to continue to support African governments in their efforts to address their development needs.**
15. South-South cooperation has great potential and should be promoted. New donors, such as foundations and the private sector, are playing an increasing role.
 16. The private sector is an important contributor to achieving sustained growth and the internationally agreed development goals.
 - **We stress the importance of strengthening domestic financial sectors as a source of capital by making them truly inclusive, thus expanding access to financial services.**
 - **We stress the importance of increasing foreign direct investment into Africa and its diversification away from the extractive industries for greater employment generation, transfer of technology and knowledge, access to international markets and competition.**
 17. Africa's share of international trade should be increased through regional integration and greater integration into the global economy and fulfillment of our commitment to a well-functioning, universal, rules-based, open, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system which promotes sustainable development.
 - **We call for stronger national action and international support to build domestic productive competitive export supply capacities, as well as trade-supportive logistics for African countries.**

Challenges

18. The rising food prices pose serious risks to food security in Africa and to development gains made.
 - **We call for urgent action by African countries, with the support of the international community, in the short, medium and long term, to rapidly increase agricultural production, through policies and actions to increase productivity, strengthening research and enabling the use of modern farming techniques, as set out in the *Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP)* of the *New Partnership for Africa's Development*.**
19. Water resources in Africa are underutilized and unevenly shared, and this continues to pose a challenge to food security. Africa is committed to addressing this concern and we welcome Africa's commitment to the *African Water Vision 2025*, the Sirte Declaration on agriculture and water in Africa, and the Sharm El-Sheikh commitments for accelerating the achievement of water and sanitation goals in Africa.
20. Energy is essential for economic activity, for learning and for the provision of health services. However, only one in four Africans has access to electricity.
 - **We are deeply concerned about the negative effects of the sharp rise in energy prices. We recognize the urgent need for large-scale investments in energy infrastructure, as outlined in NEPAD.**
21. Despite emitting the least greenhouse gases, countries in Africa face increased risks from the negative effects of climate change. There is an urgent need to address adaptation needs, including financing needs, relating to such effects with appropriate international cooperation mechanisms and policies, but also mitigation by reducing global emissions with at least 50% by 2050, in particular, by the contributions from all major economies, consistent with the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities.
 - **We are committed to the facilitation of transfer of appropriate technology in order to ensure a low carbon intensive economic development in Africa.**

22. Assuring women's rights, gender equality and the empowerment of women is crucial. We recognize the role of microfinance, including microcredit, in the eradication of poverty, the empowerment of women and the generation of employment.
 - **We commit to ensuring inclusive mechanisms for gender equality and women's empowerment.**
23. Limited access to the highest attainable standards of health, including sexual and reproductive health, cause high levels of maternal morbidity and maternal mortality.
 - **We reaffirm the commitment to achieve universal access to reproductive health by 2015.**
24. Violence against women and children remains a concern especially in the context of armed conflict.
 - **We resolve ensure the strict adherence to national and international norms regarding violence against women and girls**
25. African governments, supported by the international community, have expanded primary health care systems through providing basic and vital health services, especially to women, and scaling up of community and mid-level health workers, while addressing the need for more highly trained and specialized staff.
26. Africa remains the worst-affected area by HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis. We recognize the commitment by African governments and regional institutions to scale up their own HIV/AIDS responses in order to curb the devastating effects of this pandemic.
 - **We reaffirm our resolve to provide assistance for the prevention and care, with the aim of ensuring an HIV/AIDS, malaria, tuberculosis-free generation in Africa and of achieving the goal of Universal access by 2010 to HIV/AIDS treatment in African countries and call upon pharmaceutical companies to provide drugs, including antiretroviral drugs that are affordable and accessible in Africa. We also reaffirm our commitment to research on prevention tools, especially on an HIV vaccine.**
27. Universal primary enrollment rates in Africa have increased substantially. However, the goal of primary education for all has not yet been reached. Educational quality and equality has also to be improved.
 - **We renew our resolve to fulfill our commitments towards education, especially in countries experiencing fragility, using the full range of bilateral and multilateral instruments, including a fully-funded *Education For All – Fast Track Initiative Catalytic Fund*.**

Conclusion

28. Meeting Africa's development needs requires coordinated, balanced and integrated actions at all levels, for the full and timely achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and to comprehensively address all challenges to Africa's development.
29. All commitments to Africa should be effectively implemented and given appropriate follow-up, by the international community and by Africa itself. In this regard, we welcome the Secretary-General's comprehensive review of Africa's development needs and the report of the MDG Africa Steering Group.
30. This political declaration is adopted on 22 September 2008 on the occasion of the High Level Meeting on "Africa's development needs: state of implementation of various commitments challenges and the way forward". It seeks to reaffirm the commitment of all states to addressing the development needs on the African continent. In adopting this political declaration, member states reaffirm their belief in a prosperous future for Africa in which core human values of dignity and peace are fully enshrined. In this context, member states further confirm their adherence to the spirit of cooperation that defines the United Nations system and that is based on a partnership among equals.



THE PRESIDENT
OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

18 August 2008

Excellency,

Please find enclosed for your reference the draft resolution, agreed *ad ref*, to be adopted at the plenary meeting of the General Assembly on the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. The draft resolution will be circulated under symbol A/62/L.48

I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the Permanent Representative of Guatemala, Ambassador Gert Rosenthal for his valuable work as a Facilitator of the negotiation process as well as all delegations for their active and constructive participation.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Srgjan Kerim'.

Srgjan Kerim

All Permanent Representatives and
Permanent Observers to the United Nations
New York

Draft resolution on the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, Resolution 60/288, adopted by the General Assembly on 8 September 2006, that calls for, inter alia, an examination in two years of progress made in the implementation of the Strategy, and to consider updating it to respond to changes as provided in paragraph 3 b) of resolution 60/288,

Recalling the pivotal role of the General Assembly in following up the implementation and updating of the Strategy,

Renewing its unwavering commitment to strengthen international cooperation to prevent and combat terrorism, in all its forms and manifestations,

Recognizing that international cooperation and any measures undertaken by Member States to prevent and combat terrorism must fully comply with their obligations under international law, including the Charter of the United Nations and relevant international conventions and protocols, in particular human rights law, refugee law and international humanitarian law,

Convinced that the General Assembly is the competent organ with universal membership to address the issue of international terrorism,

Mindful of the need to enhance the role of the United Nations and the specialized agencies within their mandates in the implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy,

Stressing that the Task Force shall carry out its activities within the framework of its mandate with policy guidance offered by Member States through interaction with the General Assembly on a regular basis,

Recognizing the importance of institutionalizing the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF) within the Secretariat,

1. *Reiterates* its strong condemnation of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, committed by whomever, wherever and for whatever purposes, as it constitutes one of the most serious threats to international peace and security;

2. *Reaffirms* the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and its four pillars, which constitutes an ongoing effort, *and calls upon* Member States, the United Nations, and other appropriate international, regional and subregional organizations, to step up their efforts to implement the Strategy, in an integrated manner, and in all its aspects;

3. *Takes note*, of the report of the Secretary-General entitled “The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy: Activities of the United Nations System in Implementing the Strategy”;¹

4. *Further takes note* of the measures that Member States, as well as appropriate international, regional and subregional organizations have adopted within the framework of the Strategy, as presented during the first biennial review of the Counter-Terrorism Strategy in the September 4-5 session, all of which strengthens cooperation to fight terrorism, in particular through the exchange of best practices;

5. *Reaffirms* the Member States’ primary responsibility to implement the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy while further recognizing the need to enhance the important role the United Nations plays, in coordination with other international, regional and subregional organizations, as appropriate, in facilitating coherence in the implementation of the Strategy at the national, regional and global levels, and in providing assistance, especially in the area of capacity building;

6. *Encourages* non-governmental organizations, and civil society to engage, as appropriate, on how to enhance efforts to implement the Strategy, including through interaction with Member States and the UN System,

7. *Calls upon* the UN entities involved in supporting counter-terrorism efforts to continue to facilitate the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism;

8. *Calls upon* states that have not done so to consider becoming parties in a timely manner to the existing international conventions and protocols against terrorism, as well as on all states to make every effort to conclude a comprehensive convention on international terrorism and recalls the commitments of Member States with regard to the implementation of General Assembly and Security Council resolutions relating to international terrorism;

9. *Takes note* with appreciation of the continued contribution of the United Nations entities and subsidiary bodies of the Security Council to the CTITF;

10. *Reaffirms* the need to enhance international cooperation in countering terrorism and in this regard *recalls* the role of the UN system in promoting international cooperation and capacity building as one of the elements of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy;

11. *Urges* the Secretary-General to make the necessary arrangements to carry out the institutionalization of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF), in accordance with resolution 60/288, in order to ensure overall coordination and coherence in the counter-terrorism efforts of the United Nations system;

¹ A/62/898.

12. *Decides* to interact with the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force on a regular basis, in order to receive briefings and reports on its current and future work, assess the work being undertaken on the Strategy implementation efforts, including the work of the Task Force and offer policy guidance;

13. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-fourth session a report on progress made in the implementation of the Counter-Terrorism Strategy which could contain suggestions for its future implementation by the UN system, as well as the implementation of the present resolution;

14. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-fourth session an item entitled “The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy” in order to examine the report of the Secretary General requested in the previous paragraph as well as implementation on the part of Member States.