



THE PRESIDENT
OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

29 February 2008

Excellency,

In the Outcome Document of 2005, Member States agreed on the importance to make the United Nations more efficient, effective, transparent and accountable to Member States. With this vision in mind, the membership decided on a number of measures to improve the management of the Organization.

As we complete the third year of the adoption of that milestone resolution, it is time for Member States to take stock of the progress achieved so far, which includes the implementation of decisions on management reform taken since then, and to renew their political commitment to achieve the outstanding goals set in 2005.

It is against this background that I decided to convene a thematic debate on the 8 and 9 of April on the theme: "Toward a common understanding on management reform". The goal of the debate is to provide Member States with the opportunity to discuss, in an informal setting, central concepts of management reform and to relate them to a strategic vision of the future of the United Nations. As with previous debates, the discussions will be interactive and the outcome will be an informal chair's summary to be distributed to Member States.

The thematic debate will be divided in two parts. On the first day, 8 April, delegations will be given the opportunity to present their positions on relevant issues on management reform. On the next day, an interactive dialogue with the Secretariat and among Member States will take place. I am, therefore, inviting the Secretary-General and the senior management of the Organization to actively participate in the debate.

Among the many relevant areas of management reform that will be discussed, I would also invite Member States to present their views on three interrelated issues of crucial importance to the process of transforming decisions of Member States into delivered activities: the way mandates are formulated, implemented and evaluated; the planning and budgetary process of the Organization; and, the management of human resources.

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

Member States have widely expressed the view that they should be the driving force behind management reform. I strongly encourage delegations and all the interested groups to have a pro-active approach to this debate, and to present their views on how to improve the management of the Organization. The work of the "Four Nations Initiative" is an important example in this regard, since it puts forth a number of useful views and recommendations.

I believe management reform is in the best interest of all of us. I sincerely hope that this event will stimulate a constructive dialogue and will receive your enthusiastic support. It is within this spirit that I also would like to encourage your personal participation in the debate.

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



Srgjan Kerim