

9 November 2006

Dear Resident Coordinators,

It is with great pleasure that I share with you the final Report of the High-level Panel on UN System-wide Coherence in the Areas of Development, Humanitarian Assistance and the Environment, which was officially presented today to the Secretary-General and the UN General Assembly.

As you all know, the Panel, consisting of 15 members from developing and developed countries, was set up after the 2005 World Summit, at which world leaders requested the Secretary-General to come up with proposals to improve UN system policy and operational coherence in the areas of development, humanitarian assistance and the environment. We all know, and have experienced, that the UN has become too fragmented and, unfortunately, the duplication of work has reduced efficiency in many cases. Ambitious and far reaching reforms are therefore necessary if the UN is to deliver on its promises and maintain its legitimacy and important position at the heart of the multilateral system. Today, more than ever, the world needs legitimate, inclusive and effective multilateralism to steer globalization and economic forums a direction that enhances the well-being and security of all.

The report we now have in front of us underlines the indispensable role the UN has in sustainable development, in both the normative and operational senses. It also stresses, however, that for the UN to become more than the sum of its parts, it has to “deliver as one” and change the way it operates at headquarters, in each region, and in each country.

As RCs, you know more than anyone else the practical challenges involved in ensuring improved coordination and strengthened system-wide coherence. Many of you have engaged in direct discussions with panel members during the regional and thematic consultations: I want to convey to you that the work you are doing and the constraints you are facing were acknowledged by the panel members, who all expressed sincere admiration for the way you tackle the daily challenges in coordinating the UN’s work at country level.

To All United Nations Resident Coordinators



-2-

If the Panel's recommendations are implemented in the right spirit and with imagination and flexibility, it will strengthen the UN's ability to support countries in pursuing the Millennium Development Goals and enhancing human development. It will ensure that the excellent normative work we are doing is translated into our operational activities at country level and that the synergies between the two are reinforced. Follow-up to the Panel's recommendations will also give you greater authority as RCs and the resources to do the job that is expected of you. As you will see in the Report, the Panel recommends the establishment of five "One UN" Country pilots in 2007, backed by a new funding mechanism. Subject to positive assessments, the pilots would be expanded in coming years. We are currently looking at how the first pilots should be launched. I encourage you to explore the interest of your host government to participate in this or the next phase of the pilot initiative.

In terms of next steps, some recommendations in the Report will require approval through the usual intergovernmental processes. Others will not. We are determined to move forward and introduce the necessary changes and reforms where we can.

I look forward to hearing your views, receiving your feedback on the content of the Report, and working together to ensure we move ahead in a thoughtful and effective manner.

Warm regards.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. Derviş', written in a cursive style.

Kemal Derviş
Chair