



THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

22 November 2006

Dear Mr. Matsuura,

As you are aware, on 9 November 2006 I received the final report of the High-level Panel on System-Wide Coherence in the Areas of Development, Humanitarian Assistance, and the Environment from the Panel's co-Chairs, Prime Ministers Aziz, Stoltenberg and Diogo. I subsequently presented the attached report to Member States during an informal meeting of the General Assembly. The report includes only minor amendments from the version that I shared with you at the Chief Executives Board (CEB) retreat last month.

In the coming weeks the report will be issued as an official General Assembly document, with a transmittal note outlining my initial assessment of the Panel's recommendations, modalities for their follow-up, and the areas where we can move forward without delay. These areas include the establishment of the five pilot 'One Country Programme', initiating the process leading to a consolidated United Nations gender architecture, improvements in the area of the United Nations business practices, and the review of the CEB. I will also be transmitting the report to my successor, His Excellency Mr. Ban Ki-moon, to enable him to formulate specific proposals on how the Panel's recommendations should be taken forward.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to each one of you for the time, effort, and in many cases, resources, that your organizations have devoted to supporting the Panel in its deliberations and consultative process. Your inputs were absolutely essential for the Panel to undertake its work, build an understanding of the intricacies of the United Nations system, and formulate the ambitious, yet realistic, recommendations that they have put forward. The members of the Panel have expressed their gratitude and admiration with regard to the quality of support they have received.

Mr. Koïchiro Matsuura
Director-General
United Nations Educational,
Scientific and Cultural Organization
Paris

Taking the Panel's recommendations forward will be challenging. Even though the Panel's proposals aim to realign and revitalize the United Nations, this can only be realized through collective leadership and ownership within the United Nations system, and strong and sustained support from Member States. This places a great responsibility on the executive leadership of the United Nations system, and the support and encouragement of the new Secretary-General will be essential. In this regard, I was very encouraged by the positive reaction to the Panel's work that was expressed during our CEB retreat at the Greentree Estate last month. I have taken this to be a positive signal from you about our prospects for implementing the necessary reforms to strengthen the coherence and coordination of the United Nations system.

In this regard, I will be proposing to the Secretary-General-designate some modalities to be established in the Secretary-General's office to support the implementation of the report and your effort to move forward our common reform agenda. In the meantime, I would ask that you keep me informed on steps that you are already taking to implement recommendations of the report. Obviously, the proposals for inter-agency reorganization including the proposals for establishment of a Development Policy Coordination Group, as well as those at the field and regional level, will require a leadership and collaboration members of the CEB if they are to be addressed and implemented successfully.

Your constructive inputs and unified support will also be vital with regard to the critical inter-governmental consideration of the Panel's report next year. As you are aware, it has been suggested that towards the end of the year a process of informal consultations be undertaken on the Panel's report with various stakeholders and Panel members in order to build a broad-based common understanding of its objectives, contents and proposals. Your views at these envisaged informal consultations will be essential.

It would also be important that each of your organizations' governing bodies formally receives the report, and has the opportunity to formally consider its relevant recommendations. I would therefore be grateful if you would transmit the Panel's report to your respective governing bodies for their consideration.

In closing, I would like to express my personal gratitude for your support during the Panel process and for unanimously welcoming the broad thrust of its recommendations, as expressed at the CEB retreat. It is clear that unless there is a real effort to realign and consolidate the United Nations system, it will be progressively marginalized. Thus, I urge you all to continue working with the new Secretary-General to make sure that the recommendations of the report are turned into action.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. Annan', with a stylized, cursive script.

Kofi A. Annan