

## Talking Points

H.E Mrs. Luisa Dias Diogo  
Prime Minister of Mozambique  
Informal Meeting of the General Assembly  
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Thank you President Eliasson.  
Excellencies,  
Permanent Representatives,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a pleasure to be with you today, in this informal meeting of the General Assembly. As you must be well aware, the Secretary General's High-Level Panel on UN System-wide Coherence has concluded its first meeting earlier this afternoon, following about two days of extremely fruitful deliberations.

This High Level Panel has been put in place in implementation of the Outcome Document of the 2005 Summit. As we gathered at this historic Summit last year, we underscored our recognition that the United Nations brings together a unique wealth of expertise and

resources on global issues, and we commended the extensive experience of various development related organisations of the UN system, in their diverse and complementary fields of activity, and their important contributions to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and other development objectives established by various UN conferences.

Since its establishment, the United Nations has provided a universal home for all Member States. The body of internationally agreed norms, values and legal agreements negotiated and developed within the UN is a major accomplishment that defines the international community today. This, together with the unique neutrality the UN brings to its operational role, imbues the institution with its enduring legitimacy and relevance.

The challenge before the Panel is to respond to the call of World Leaders to bring system-wide coherence, recognising that the UN's operational role stems from its normative mandates.

As you have been informed by the Secretary General, the High Level Panel has been set up in February 2006, and is composed of a number of eminent personalities. I have the honor to be one of the co-chairs, together with H.E Mr. Shaukat Aziz, Prime Minister of Pakistan, and H.E Mr. Jens Stoltenberg, Prime Minister of Norway. They both are on their way to meet with members of the Chief Executives Board (CEB) in Spain. Joining us in this afternoon's meeting are five distinguished members from the Panel: H.E President Ricardo Lagos Escobar, Mr. Mohamed El-Ashry, Mr. Robert Greenhill, Mr. Jean-Michel Severino, and Mr. Keizo Takemi.

We believe the work of the Panel provides a unique opportunity to address some of the pressing issues on our agendas as Member States, with regards to the issues of development, humanitarian assistance and the environment. The Panel members agreed in their meeting to be bold and ambitious, but realistic in their mission. The aim of the Panel is to attain agreement on how the UN system can be organized to better deliver on our needs ... on our plans ... and in fulfilling our development objectives.

We have only had our first and preliminary discussions, and we will continue our deliberations in the coming months, at dates to be confirmed. Still, we feel it is worthwhile to give you an insight into what we have discussed.

Let me share with you some of the main issues that were addressed in the High Level Panel's preliminary deliberations:

- This is a time of immense global challenges that confront our common endeavors – uneven progress in poverty reduction and development in general in many parts of the developing world, natural and manmade disasters that vastly outstrip our capacity to respond, and increasing environmental degradation that threatens the sustainability of our future well being.
- There is a need to develop a vision of what an efficient, credible UN system is ... and how it should be equipped to achieve the MDGs and the internationally agreed development goals - and then work to define a series of steps to reach such a vision.

- Panel members reaffirmed the relevance and centrality of the United Nations as the multilateral, universal organization, entrusted by Member States in the field of development.
- The Panel envisaged a consideration of the broader development architecture, particularly taking into account the relationship between the UN system and the Bretton Woods Institutions, as well as other development agencies.
- The Panel also recognized that some of the work undertaken by the UN system has been characterized by a lack of coherence, duplication and fragmentation, with organizations often working in silos, hampering effectiveness and efficiency, and hindering the system ability to leverage the full breadth and force of the UN's experience and expertise. The objective is to have a more seamless and efficient system. In that framework, we have had a first discussion of issues related to financing, including the need for predictable and long term financing, to coherence and effectiveness, as well as to

the governance of the system by the Member States.

- While the current system is perceived as very complex, the opposite – a monolithic structure- is also not desirable. There is value in a range of views and ideas, as well as different sorts of expertise. There is a need to look at gaps, but also to assess where too many organizations are engaged in a particular issue.
- Country ownership of the development process is key: primarily for recipient countries. Responsibility for developing country strategies rests with countries themselves - the UN needs to provide assistance and to develop capacities and highlight best practices.
- Accountability is a key issue: There is a need for better measurement of results and efficiency, and common and shared data. Such accountability needs to reflect mutual responsibility of all partners.
- There is a need to strengthen and empower the Resident Coordinator System in its role, to bring more coherence of the UN System at country level.

- There is a need to recognize the continuum between disasters and development and particularly address the 'transition' phase.
- The need for the UN to have adequate stand-by resources was underlined, as there was no room for delay in emergency humanitarian situations.
- Mainstreaming environment into development decision-making, in the pursuit of sustainable development, was perceived to be an important issue. There is a need to understand how environmental issues threaten development, and raise awareness with regard to the seriousness of environmental challenges.

The Panel members recognize that the time is short, and that there is a high level of expectation and interest in the outcome of its work. We agreed to put in place an inclusive consultation process that would ensure engagement and commitment of various constituencies and stakeholders, and help develop relevant and realistic recommendations. In that context, the Panel will undertake consultations with Member States here in New York, on the margins of ECOSOC in Geneva,

and through visits to country programs. Additionally, the Panel will gather additional inputs through workshops and hearings on specific themes, such as the financing of UN development activities, the functioning of the Resident Coordination system, among other issues.

Since the Panel's establishment, the engagement of Member States and other stakeholders has grown exponentially. The interest and engagement must continue in order to build a sense of ownership among all the stakeholders. We look forward to continuous interaction with Member States, to ensure that the Panel report adequately addresses all relevant issues of concern to our common development agendas.

Thank you very much.