

Progress Report by the President
on the Review of Work and Functioning of the Council
as of 15 September 2010

**Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

- I wish to begin by recalling that, in accordance with the mandate given by OP 16 of the UNGA Res. 60/251 for the HRC to review its work and functioning, the Council adopted Res. 12/1 which establishes an open-ended intergovernmental working group to carry out the task. The resolution also requests the President to undertake transparent and all inclusive consultations on the modalities of the review and report to the Council.
- Pursuant to this, I carried out extensive informal consultations with various delegations and relevant stakeholders, including 2 open-ended consultations on 30 August and 6 September, to discuss the modalities as well as the agenda and program of work of the review.
- Taking this opportunity today, I would like to refer to the paper on "*the proposed modalities of the review of the work and functioning of the HRC in accordance with OP 16 of UNGA Resolution 60/251*" which was circulated as the Chair's text and which, I understand, has been embraced by all of us as providing the overall parameter and guideline for the review process. I also appreciate the views and comments given by various delegations. I intend to take all these views and comments into account in working with all of you to move the review process forward.
- Based on the modalities, I have started consultation on the program of work of the 1st intergovernmental working group which will be held from 25-29 October this year. The first draft of the program of work was presented by me to the open-ended consultation on 6 September and was extensively discussed. I very much welcomed all the valuable inputs given to me by all delegations and stakeholders which I will bear in mind in developing a more detailed program of work to be adopted at the beginning of the working group meeting. My intention is to build consensus around the program of work. I will continue to work with all of you to ensure that the program of work provides enough space for everyone to engage fully in this process and that there is enough flexibility in time management so that there is sufficient time for discussion on all important issues.
- As many of you are aware, I made a trip to New York last week specifically to discuss the issue of coordination between the review processes in New York and Geneva, with a view to bring greater clarity to the coordination and timeline of the two processes, I would also like to take this opportunity to share with you an update on this.

- From my discussion with the PGA and the 2 facilitators (PR of Liechtenstein and PR of Morocco), the understanding that we have reached is that the review to be undertaken by the UNGA and the review by the Council are distinct processes but mutually reinforcing. Therefore, there needs to be a close coordination between the New York and Geneva and the outcome of the review in Geneva will feed into the review of status in New York. They agreed in principle that the finalization of the review to be undertaken by the UNGA should await the completion of the review in Geneva.
- The colleagues I met in New York also welcomed the fact that Geneva has already embarked on the review and they appreciated that the update given by me would help them to prepare for the review by the UNGA. Our colleagues in New York will probably begin substantive discussion on how they will approach their review after the completion of the 65th session of the UNGA.
- I informed them that we plan to conclude our review in June 2011, but if possible we will try to expedite our process bearing in mind the aim of the PGA to conclude the process within his Presidency, by July 2011. I will continue to work closely with the PGA and the facilitators in New York to formalize the shared understanding that I outlined to you on the coordination between the reviews in New York and in Geneva as soon as possible.
- I look forward to continue working closely with all of you to move forward the review process. I hope now we can begin discussion on substantive issues. Before the first working group meeting, I intend to convene one or two more open-ended consultations to finalize the draft program of work and perhaps to start the discussion on substantive issues. And to allow all of us to be better prepared for the discussion at the working group meeting, I would like to encourage all delegations and stakeholders to provide their concrete inputs and proposals well in advance of the meeting. All concrete proposals should be submitted by 15 October so that they can be made available via the HRC Extranet.
