

New York, 27 May 2006

Excellency,

We wish to bring to your attention an urgent problem that has arisen in the context of management reform. You are well aware of the background to our negotiations on the Secretary General's report "Investing in the United Nations: for a stronger Organization worldwide" and the difficult path they have pursued. You know the depth of feeling on the issues and the many efforts that have been made to find agreement.

There is now a resolution tabled by the Group of 77 and China in the Fifth Committee which the Group of 77 and China believes could be the basis for consensus. We have to underline that this draft resolution is not acceptable to us. By convention, those who propose resolutions in the Fifth Committee do so when they believe conditions for adoption without dispute have been established. That is not the case now.

We stand ready to work for true consensus on a mutually agreeable text. We are prepared to conclude our discussions in the Fifth Committee by reporting back to you that we were unable to reach a consensus. Forcing a decision on a non-consensual resolution would trigger a vote. This would leave us no alternative but to vote against the Group of 77 and China draft resolution. We are concerned that a vote under these circumstances could entail considerable disadvantages for the United Nations, for this proposal and for the budget process.

Therefore, we hope that you could continue to assist us in taking this forward in a way which permits us to find consensus on this important issue.

H. E. Jan Eliasson  
President of the 60th session of the United Nations General Assembly

New York

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H.E. Ambassador

Permanent Mission of Austria to the United Nations  
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