

**Ad hoc working group on revitalization
of the General Assembly
Thematic meeting 2**

6 April 2006

Statement

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Madame and Mister Co-Chairpersons,

The decision of the General Assembly on clustering its agenda items is a promising step forward. Due to that we have managed to cut significantly the number of plenary meetings of the Assembly without a visible damage to the quality of the consideration of agenda items. Moreover, this decision helped us to concentrate not on the prepared statements but on the drafting comprehensive and action-oriented draft resolutions on the acute issues. In this regard **we support the idea of convening special thematic meetings** of the General Assembly after December in the resumed part of the session. The only point of our concern is the necessity to observe fully the Rules of Procedure of the General Assembly. We have to decide - will it be special sessions or emergency special sessions or ordinary plenary meetings on the relevant agenda items.

We have a very simple answer to the question "How could the General Assembly play a more robust role in the implementation of major UN world summit decisions?" We consider the outcome documents of the UN summits just as the frameworks of our cooperation for five or fifteen years. The most important thing is to **elaborate realistic forward-looking joint measures aimed at the fulfillment of the goals** set out in these documents. This is exactly what we are trying to do in a working group co-chaired by distinguished Ambassadors of Belgium and Mali. That is why we do not support the suggestions to simply repeat the language of the World Summit outcome document in the resolution on promotion of development. We should go further and try to identify the optimal possible measures on how to fulfill our agreements.

We need to work hard to **improve the quality of the General Assembly resolutions**. In the Executive Boards of UNDP/UNFPA and UNICEF we have a tradition of adopting **decisions with a minimal preamble part**. We simply recall previous decisions. Why not use this good practice in the General Assembly? We will save time and avoid unnecessary lengthy debates at the drafting stage.

In the operative part co-sponsors should concentrate on specific practical measures - not on the general words of support and cooperation. By doing this we can highlight our most important actions and measures.

We are convinced that that the work of the General Assembly can and should be made more visible to the public. We welcome in this regard the creation of web-cites of all main committees of the General Assembly. But much more can be done. **The President of the General Assembly and the Chairmen of its main committees should maintain regular close links with the media**, describing the priority issues on the agenda of the General Assembly sessions and commenting the most important decisions and resolutions. **The Department of Public Information should intensify its contacts with the national mass-media of member-states** to provide the population with the most updated information on the activities of the Assembly. But the most important tool in this regard - **the quality of our decisions**. When we established the Peacebuilding Commission or made other important steps on the UN reform there was no lack in attention to the General Assembly decisions.