

United Nations  Nations Unies

THE PRESIDENT OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

LE PRESIDENT DE L'ASSEMBLEE GENERALE

11 July 2001

**Letter of H.E. Mr. Harri Holkeri,
President of the 55th Session of the General Assembly,
to all Permanent Missions and Permanent Observer Missions to the
United Nations, New York**

Excellency,

This is to inform you that the next meeting of the Open-ended Working Group on the Causes of Conflict and the Promotion of Durable Peace and Sustainable Development in Africa will be held from 30 July to 3 August 2001 (mornings only).

During the July meeting of the Working Group, in addition to preparing the report, we need to take sufficient time to review experiences and look at other possible options on how to continue monitoring the implementation of the Secretary-General's recommendations. Due to the limited time at our disposal, this implies that we will not take up any new issues for consideration as previously foreseen in the programme of work.

In order to facilitate our discussions, I am enclosing a note concerning the forthcoming meeting.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Yours sincerely,

Harri Holkeri

Annex:

Some possible options for modalities to monitor the implementation of the recommendations contained in the Report of the Secretary General on The Causes of Conflict in Africa and the Promotion of Durable Peace and Sustainable Development as prepared by the Bureau

At the outset the Bureau would like to stress that monitoring the implementation of the recommendations contained in the report of the Secretary-General on the Causes of Conflict in Africa and the Promotion of Durable Peace and Sustainable Development is very important and should continue. However, it seems that the working group format as such is not the most effective tool for monitoring the implementation of the recommendations in the SG's report.

Many have raised the need to review the effectiveness of the working group as a tool for monitoring, given the experiences gained during the last two years in the working group and to look for possible alternative ways to carry out the monitoring.

To facilitate consideration of this issue and possible different alternatives and options for monitoring, the Bureau would like to propose the following comments and suggestions:

- As a basis for our approach we should link the consideration of possible alternative modalities to monitor the recommendations in the SG's report to other ongoing processes concerning Africa.
- The Ad Hoc Working Group might take a one year 'time-out' in order to take full advantage of the forthcoming appraisal of the UN-NADAF in 2002. In the meantime we will also benefit from the outcome of the ECOSOC High-Level sessions and any decision made there. The final decision on how to continue to monitor the implementation of the SG's recommendations would be taken only after the completion of the appraisal in 2002.
- The Inter-Departmental/Agency Task Force under the leadership of Mr. Ibrahim Gambari, Special Adviser to the Secretary-General, possibly expanded and strengthened, would monitor the implementation of the recommendations and report to the General Assembly, which would address the issues raised in the report and make proposals on actions required to accelerate implementation.
- There are several ongoing monitoring mechanisms, such as the SG 's report to the 56th GA session; debate under this agenda item in the General Assembly; constant updating and strengthening of the web site by OSCAL. In the event that a decision would be taken not to hold a meeting of the working group in 2002, the monitoring could continue through these processes.
- Member States might wish to consider consolidating and merging all agenda items on Africa for consideration in the General Assembly plenary meeting under one agenda item and in one session over a period of a few days.