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DESA

**Note to the Secretary-General**

**(Through Ms. Bárcena)**

**Consultative Forum for Migration**

Peter Sutherland is meeting in Geneva on Thursday with many of the key countries that form the constituency for the Consultative Forum for Migration. Ahead of the meeting, he would like your guidance on how to proceed on one critical issue: whether to take the forum through the normal GA and Second Committee process or to create a semi-autonomous forum with a "light link" to the UN (SG and SRSG on the Board, small support unit in the Secretariat, and an annual report to the Secretary-General that could be shared with the GA and ECOSOC).

Jose Antonio Ocampo believes that the process must move ahead through the Second Committee and wants DESA to serve as the Secretariat. As you are aware, UNCTAD and IOM are stirring the pot and have expressed concerns about their role. On the other side, there are a number of countries that have come forward already supporting Peter's "light link model" as the only possible way to bring in the major doubters, including the U.S. and some key Europeans.

Peter would like your endorsement of his model for Thursday. The DSG, Alicia, and I have discussed the issue and we believe that you should advise Peter to go into Thursday's meeting with an open approach, laying out the key parameters that would ensure the Forum's success (informal, non-binding, organized thematically, etc...). Then, he could pose as a question to those countries what the Forum's link should be to the GA and/or ECOSOC. We could advise him that he is welcome to build support on the margins for his model, but that all formal statements should reserve judgment on both your and his positions. We would then see where we are after Thursday – if the core group leans heavily one way or the other, it may make your decision easier.

RO

Robert Orr  
25 July 2006

cc: The Deputy Secretary-General