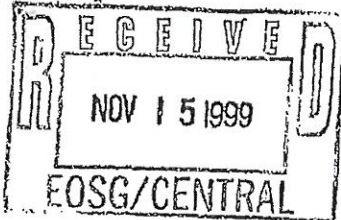


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PRIORITY

Note to the Secretary-General

SG
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R/11

Subject: 1999 Fall session of ACC, New York, 29-30 October

9914484

1. The dates you have approved for the Fall session of ACC in New York are Friday and Saturday, 29 & 30 October. We will ensure that we conclude the meeting before lunchtime on Saturday (to give you a bit of the weekend).
2. The session would open on Friday (29th October) at 10 a.m. with the 'private meeting' lasting perhaps till 11:30 a.m. We assume that you would wish to give the customary briefing on recent political developments, including Kosovo and East Timor. You might also wish to highlight the dialogue you have initiated through your opening statement at the 54th General Assembly session on the right of 'intervention' and the responses so far from governments. The theme of "prevention" you have stressed in your Annual Report is also very relevant to the ACC membership and might be touched on during the private meeting and pursued throughout the session. Should you wish any other Executive Head to provide a briefing on a particular issue, we would initiate the necessary consultations to ensure that she/he is informed well before the meeting.
3. The formal session that will follow has two principal items on the agenda (apart from a range of issues on which ACC wishes to be informed on follow-up actions being taken), namely:
 - (a) The demands placed on national and international systems by the new global environment - The institutional and programmatic capacity of the UN system to respond flexibly and effectively to the challenges of the next century; and
 - (b) Follow up to the Beijing Platform for Action and gender mainstreaming.
4. On the latter, there will be a Note prepared by the Division for the Advancement of Women as well as a draft statement, to be issued by ACC, which has been prepared through inter-agency processes.
5. In the context of the former, as agreed by ACC members, the Committee will attempt to bring to conclusion, with some practical recommendations, the discussion initiated at the Spring session and continued at the retreat in regard to the challenges before the international community at the beginning of the new millennium and the ability of the UN system to address them. The note, summarizing the discussions at the retreat, forwarded by you to the Executive Heads, has elicited a very positive - in some cases (FAO) very detailed - response. In order to ensure a concrete outcome of these discussions, a number of steps have been initiated:

9914783

The Agenda as proposed in para 3 seems short and straightforward but when read in conjunction with para 5, the proposals appear overburdened. Please review and streamline. Members of ACC review must be given an initial term, reference, which could be amplified following the fall session. A meaningful basic document they cannot add at lunch or breakfast. See page 7

Reinicke may be invited - but it should be in the context of (3e) rather than studies for the Millennium Report. I think you have vetted the report on the approach and are certain of its relevance to ACC work.

- (a) We have been consulting with John Ruggie on ways to arrange for a number of studies under preparation, which are expected to provide inputs into your Millennium Assembly Report, to be fed into the preparations for the ACC session. In this regard, we have asked Mr. Wolfgang Reinicke who is working on behalf of Better World Foundation on a project on "Issue Management", to prepare a short paper for the consideration of ACC. Following your report on reform, this matter has been of interest to ACC members many of whom addressed it also during the retreat. Indeed, the Director-General FAO has specifically requested that it be taken up in the context of the forthcoming ACC discussions. Should you agree, we could invite Mr. Reinicke to make a presentation to ACC immediately following lunch and before ACC concludes its discussion on this agenda item. ~~ETA~~ 2/10
- (b) With regard to improvements in the functioning of the ACC machinery, (follow up on Dr. Idris' proposal and the discussions at the retreat) as you indicated, we consulted with Mr. Franklin Thomas who has agreed to join Messrs. Blix and Rafee Ahmed to review the current state of affairs and prepare a paper for the consideration of ACC next year. A letter informing the Executive Heads of these arrangements is attached for your approval.
- (c) The "review team", in order to pursue its work, would require to consult with ACC members. However, such interaction should preferably take place outside the formal sessions of ACC. In this context, we have been considering the possibility of a breakfast meeting devoted to this issue, prior to the opening of ACC on 29 October and wonder whether you would be available to host it. Alternately, if you are unable to host the breakfast, either Mr. Mayor or Mr. Somavia could be requested to host it jointly with Dr. Idris. In addition, and subject to your approval, we could invite the team to the ACC lunch to pursue the discussions with the Executive Heads at different tables. ETA

Breakfast for "Review Team" and ACC Heads.

6. The Organizational Committee will be meeting at the end of this week to finalize the ACC agenda and its annotations. We shall look forward to an opportunity to brief you on the agenda, programme of work and other arrangements, prior to the ACC meeting. In the meantime, we would greatly appreciate your guidance, in particular, on the following:

- (a) the letter to Executive Heads (attached) informing them on the arrangements for the review of the functioning of ACC and its machinery.
- (b) the proposal to invite Mr. Reinicke to introduce his paper on "Issues Management" to the ACC during the afternoon session on 29 October.
- (c) the proposed breakfast meeting to enable the "review team" to consult ACC members and its attendance at the lunch to be hosted by you for the Executive Heads on Friday 29 October.

Patrizio Civili Shaukat Fareed

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27 September 1999