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NOTE TO MR. MALLOCH BROWN

Subject: Country-level monitoring of Millennium
Development Goals (MDGs)

I refer to your note to the Secretary-General of 2 November, following up on the discussions at last month's meeting of the ACC regarding the above subject.

This is to inform you that the Secretary-General agreed to your proposal, and has sent the attached letter to the members of the ACC.

S. Iqbal Riza
20 November 2001

Copy to:
Mr. Civili
Mr. Doyle
Ms. Maurás

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THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

16 November 2001

Dear Mr. Diouf,

I am writing following the conclusions of the meeting of the Administrative Committee on Coordination held in New York on 19 and 20 October 2001. You will recall our discussion of the New Africa Initiative (now re-named the New Partnership for African Development) and our conclusion during that discussion that we needed, in the words of Jim Wolfensohn, a "scorekeeper" in the context of country-level monitoring of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

As you are aware, the United Nations Development Group has already prepared a guidance note to United Nations Country Teams on achieving the MDGs at the country level. These reports will be an important, system-wide tool to enhance country ownership of the goals. They will demonstrate the commitment of the United Nations system in supporting national and international efforts in achieving these goals. This represents an important collaborative effort and will complement the work of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs at the global level and the Economic Commission for Africa at the regional level in Africa. Extensive work has already been undertaken in the development of indicators, together with my office, the funds and programmes of the United Nations, and the World Bank.

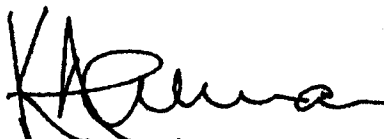
On Saturday during our retreat, the issue of how as a system we campaigned for the Millennium Development Goals featured very centrally. Reflecting on that discussion, I suspect that the "scorekeeper" role is important but not sufficient. The country-level reports on progress towards the Millennium Development Goals must be the grist for a campaign in developing countries to improve their policy performance in meeting the goals. They must also be an important basis for an international campaign to mobilize additional ODA resources as well as to address related financing issues such as trade access.

Mr. Jacques Diouf
Director-General
Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations
Rome

If the energy that I felt in the room on Saturday morning is not to be lost, we need to have one of us act not just as "scorekeeper" but "campaign manager" for our endeavour. I believe Mark Malloch Brown, by his institutional position as Chair of UNDG and by his experience of campaigns, is best suited for this role. As Jim Wolfensohn suggested Mark to be the "scorekeeper", I suggest we also add this second function and ask Mark to move rapidly to put a campaign in place involving as many of us as possible.

I hope you will agree with this approach and that you will join me in championing these goals. I look forward to your support for this exciting new opportunity for the United Nations and our combined role in a rapidly changing world.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. Annan', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Kofi A. Annan