



THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

27 April 2006

Dear Mr. Chairman,

Over the last several days, I had the opportunity to discuss with Member States my report on "Investing in the United Nations: for a stronger Organization worldwide".

It is apparent that there are some concerns related to proposals 20 and 21. While my sole purpose was to propose more efficient working methods for the intergovernmental process, I recognize that these two proposals have provoked concern and resistance.

Certainly they should not be allowed to stand in the way of consensus or lead to a departure from the valuable and well-established practice of avoiding divisive votes on budgetary matters. Neither should they be an impediment to achieving progress on other aspects of reform. Accordingly, the Committee may wish to set aside proposals 20 and 21.

With this contentious issue set aside, I would urge the Committee to proceed quickly to an agreed resolution adopted by consensus that allows the programme of work on the management reforms to continue without delay.

Please accept, Mr. Chairman, the assurances of my highest consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "K. Annan".

Kofi A. Annan

His Excellency
Mr. John Ashe
Chairman of the Fifth Committee of
the General Assembly
Permanent Representative of Antigua and
Barbuda to the United Nations
New York