

26 April 2004

Dear Colleagues,

We firmly believe that the next two years are critical if we are to make the achievement of the MDGs a reality. And at country level, where it matters most, the UN will only be able to make the kind of impact we aspire to by working more effectively together. Your leadership and support as Regional Directors in this effort cannot be understated.

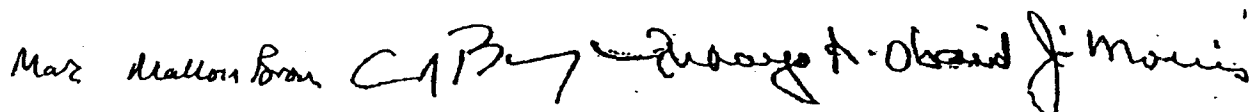
Following recommendations and conclusions from the Fourth Meeting of UNDG ExCom Regional Directors held in New York on 14 January 2004, as well as subsequent meetings among ourselves, we would like to reiterate the importance of the role that all UNDG Regional Directors have in ensuring the link between Executive Heads and UN Country Teams, supporting the vision of the Secretary-General.

To strengthen the effectiveness of UN Country Teams, Regional Directors are expected to provide genuine, collegial leadership and management to UN Country Teams on behalf of Executive Directors. Specifically, you are asked to demonstrate collective leadership in: 1) supporting UN country Teams' results; 2) assuring the quality of Country Teams' results; and 3) assessing the Country Teams' and Resident Coordinators' annual performance.

In January, you jointly developed workplans for your respective region, and we asked that you meet regularly as Regional Directors throughout the year to monitor progress. In this regard, we would like to receive information on your progress including dates of your planned meetings, your finalized workplan, and the outcome of your first meeting after January. We will also look forward to receiving a report from you at the end of the year, outlining results achieved and identifying challenges for the next year. Your regional meetings might include other key UNDG Regional Directors as appropriate. A copy of the Final Report of the January meeting, including preliminary workplans for each region, is attached for your ease of reference.

Thank you for your continued support and leadership and we look forward to learning more of your progress in the months to come.

Sincerely yours,



Mark Malloch Brown
Administrator
UNDP

Carol Bellamy
Executive Director
NICEF

Thoraya Ahmed Obaid
Executive Director
UNFPA

James Morris
Executive Director
WFP