

United Nations  Nations Unies

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REFERENCE:

28 April 2008

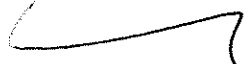
Excellency,


We refer to your letter of 22 April 2008 regarding the late issuance of documentation to the Fifth Committee and share your concerns. We wish to assure you that the Secretariat will make greater effort to facilitate the deliberations of Member States.

We wish to also assure you that the Secretariat takes deadlines very seriously. We do not wish to make excuses, but there have been, in a number of cases, legitimate reasons for delay (e.g. greater need for consultations than anticipated, particularly where policies and procedures are involved, delayed receipt of information from offices away from Headquarters, vacancies, increased workload). With respect to reports on peacekeeping, the increased complexity and changing circumstances have made it extremely difficult for us to meet all the deadlines. We are taking steps to address these issues. Nevertheless, we have attempted to ensure that the reports also meet the necessary standards of quality to facilitate decision-making and in this regard, reports so far reviewed this year show that their quality has indeed improved.

We understand that the Under-Secretary-General for General Affairs and Conference Management will be responding on the dates of submission by Departments of documents and the dates of issuance. In the meantime, we have instructed our respective staff to pay greater attention to time management and planning, particularly since our reports frequently require consultations with many departments and offices away from Headquarters. We wish to assure you of our intention to show greater improvement.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of our highest consideration.


Warren Sach
Office-in-Charge
Department of Management


Jane Holl Lute
Assistant Secretary-General
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Department of Field Support

His Excellency
Mr. Hamidon Ali
Permanent Representative of Malaysia
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cc: Ms. Alicia Bárcena

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