

# United Nations Nations Unies

THE PRESIDENT OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

LE PRÉSIDENT DE L'ASSEMBLÉE GÉNÉRALE

18 November 2002

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The idea of organizing a panel discussion on Afghanistan emerged as a result of my personal efforts to seek ways for revitalization of the meetings of the General Assembly, and at the same time to promote live interactive discussion of important international questions which are on the General Assembly's agenda. On my view this panel perfectly suits both of these intentions. Firstly, I strongly believe that this panel discussion could lead to specific conclusions from post conflict reconstruction in Afghanistan, thereby providing new recommendations for future UN activities in this domain and secondly I believe that if we succeed to achieve these goals, we will have proof that our revitalizing efforts work.

The proposal to organize an interactive dialogue with interested Member States has received overwhe

I fully agree with these suggestions and I ask you to help me and Under-Secretary-General Mr. Prendergast to lead our discussion in this direction so that we will be able to achieve our goals. For the purpose of strengthening the interactive character of our panel, I decided not to accept speeches or declarations except those prepared by panelists for their introductory remarks. On the other hand I would like to encourage lively interactive dialogue from all of you - the delegates and panelists.

Thank you.