

United Nations  Nations Unies

THE PRESIDENT OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

LE PRESIDENT DE L'ASSEMBLEE GENERALE

4 September 2003

This is one of my last initiatives as President of the Fifty-seventh session of the General Assembly. I am very pleased that you have responded positively to my invitation, and I hope that our discussion will provide us with new interesting ideas and recommendations which will enable us to fulfill expectations and become more effective in preventing armed conflict.

I am pleased to welcome here today our distinguished guests:

Mr. Jan Egeland Under Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs

Mr. Danilo Türk Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs

Mr. Paul van Tongeren Executive Director of the European Centre for Conflict Prevention

Dr. Andres Serbin from the Coordinadora Regional de Investigaciones Economicas y Sociales (CRIES) in Argentina

Mrs. Raya Kadyrova from the Foundation for Tolerance International in Kyrgyzstan

Mr. Emmanuel Bombande from the West Africa Network for Peace-building (WANEP) in Ghana

Dr. Mary B. Anderson President of the Collaborative for Development Action

All of you have received a printed programme of our open meeting with the list of speakers, short annotations of speeches and expected goals. Concerning the programme I suggest one small change that is necessary due to a time limitation of H.E. Mr. Jan Egeland so that we will start our interactive discussion immediately after the first part of the programme approximately at 11:00 a.m. We will have a coffee break at 11:30 a.m. when Mr. Egeland needs to leave. This will give us an opportunity to ask Mr. Egeland a few questions before he leaves and to continue in our interactive discussion after the coffee break.

Thank you and I give the floor now to Mr. Danilo Türk, Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs.