

**Speech by
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Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is an honour and a pleasure to be with you today.

As you know, the Secretary-General of the United Nations established the High-Level Panel, and appointed me Chairman, on 4 November. The Panel held its first meeting from 5 to 7 December in New York, and its second meeting from 13 to 15 February in Switzerland.

We originally were expected to deliver our report on 15 August, but we have extended our deadline to 1 December, as our preliminary discussions indicated that we would need more time to do our work effectively.

The Terms of Reference gave the Panel three objectives:

- To assess current and future threats to international security
- To evaluate whether the instruments and institutions of collective security are up to the task of meeting those threats
- And to recommend policy and institutional changes to ensure that collective action will be effective in providing peace and security.

As the Secretary-General has emphasized recently this is not a Panel on UN Reform. It is a Panel on building collective security for the twenty-first century.

Of course, the Panel may tackle the reform of institutions, including the Security Council, the Economic and Social Council, the General Assembly and the Trusteeship Council. But it will do

so only if it deems it necessary for meeting the new challenges of international security.

The Panel recognizes the scope of its challenge, the short time frame, and the high expectations from UN members and from public opinion.

For this conference I would like to highlight four challenges that the Panel faces – challenges that we hope your insight will help us to overcome.

First, a key challenge for the Panel is to reconcile the concerns of state security and human security. We acknowledge that many of today's security threats cut across national boundaries and that there are circumstances under which outside intervention may be necessary for preventing crisis or protecting people. In addition, the Panel recognizes that security threats are not posed by states alone, but by various non-state actors. But how do we expand collective security, which after all is traditionally focused on the security of states, to encompass the new challenges of today?

Second, we started this exercise with everyone agreeing on the value of multilateralism. That is not a debatable point. The challenge, however, is to put forward proposals for policy and institutional change that will promote the attainment of multilateral response. The onus is on us to convince the doubters that a collective response is indeed more efficient and more effective and is in their interest.

A third key challenge that we face is the lack of consensus about the threats to peace and security. Certain countries have different priorities concerning threats, and many countries feel that their major concerns are not being addressed. At our first two meetings, the Panel recognized that we must validate different perceptions of threats in order to build support for a new collective security regime. This has led us to take a non-hierarchical approach to threats and we will examine such key threats as civil war, inter-state rivalries, poverty, infectious

disease (in particular HIV/AIDS), weapons of mass destruction, terrorism, and international organized crime.

This is all and good, but we also know that this validation is not enough – for we must show the interconnections among threats and create a new consensus that we face common threats.

This leads to a fourth challenge. While the Panel wants to include a variety of threats and to treat them in a balanced way, we must also try to recognize our comparative advantage, and not repeat discussions and reinvent the wheel in addressing each of these threats. Where there are good, solid proposals moving forward in other forums, reports or initiatives, we should have no qualms about endorsing them.

I would like to conclude by sharing with you a flavor of our most recent deliberations. At our second meeting in Switzerland, the Panel's discussions highlighted issues such as prevention, early warning, and the need for coordination, both within the United Nations and between the United Nations and outside actors such as the international financial institutions and regional organizations and security alliances. The Panel emphasized the role of regional organizations, while noting that an emphasis on regional solutions should not displace collective responsibility at the international level. The Panel also noted that today's security institutions suffer from a reputation for double standards, and that the lack of equity in response to common challenges makes a mockery of what we hope to accomplish.

In closing, I would like to thank His Excellency, Mr. Qian Qiqian for organizing our meeting. I look forward to hearing your insights over the next several days.