

**THE SECRETARY-GENERAL**

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**MESSAGE TO HUMAN SECURITY NETWORK
MINISTERIAL MEETING
Bangkok, 1 June 2006**

*Delivered by Mr. Kim Hak-Su
Executive Secretary, United Nations Economic and Social
Commission for Asia and the Pacific*

It gives me great pleasure to convey my greetings to the eighth ministerial meeting of the Human Security Network.

Recent years have seen the emergence of holistic, people-centred thinking on security. This notion of “human security” seeks far more than the absence of violent conflict. It embraces the right of individuals to live in freedom and dignity, free from poverty and despair. It encompasses human rights, good governance, access to education and health care, and it seeks to provide each individual with the opportunities and choices to fulfil his or her potential.

The Human Security Network has proved an effective advocate of this approach. At the 2005 World Summit, efforts by member governments of the Network helped ensure that world leaders took away with them the message that we cannot have security without development, we cannot have development without security, and we can have neither without respect for human rights and the rule of law. In the Summit’s Outcome Document, Member States also committed themselves to discussing and defining the notion of human security. This important pledge must now be crystallized into action. Your Network’s planned review of the human-security related aspects of the World Summit Outcome can provide useful guidance to UN Member States as they work to do so.

The attention given to human security at the World Summit also highlighted the need for a coordinated and global approach. We live in an increasingly interdependent world. Threats travel more easily across borders. Terrorism, nuclear proliferation, environmental degradation and AIDS are but a few such “problems without passports”. Recently, that realization has been rendered even more acute by the spread of avian flu. That is why I especially welcome your meeting’s focus on global health problems such as HIV/AIDS, SARS and avian flu, as well as on the terrible scourge of land mines.

The Human Security Network complements the United Nations’ own work for human wellbeing. We look to partners everywhere, from governments, to civil society to networks such as yours, to join this effort.

It is in this spirit that I wish you a productive and successful meeting.