



THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

6 January 2005

Excellency,

The World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), at its first phase in Geneva in December 2003, asked me to establish a Task Force to review the adequacy of existing financial mechanisms in meeting the challenges of Information and Communication Technologies for development. It also decided that the review should be completed by the end of December 2004 and submitted for consideration to the second phase of the summit.

I had asked Mr. Mark Malloch Brown, the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme, to lead this Task Force in collaboration with the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the World Bank. I am very pleased to be able now to transmit to you the report of the Task Force on Financial Mechanisms for Information and Communication Technology for Development. I welcome this valuable contribution to the preparatory process of the Summit. The Task Force did a remarkable job in producing a very useful report in a very short period of time. The report reviews trends, analyzes existing mechanisms and identifies gaps and promising practices.

I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the Chair, the members of the Task Force and the Expert Group for the dedication, time and effort they devoted to this important task.

I have sent a similar letter to Mr. Yoshio Utsumi in his capacity as Secretary-General of the World Summit on the Information Society.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. Annan', is located below the text of the letter.

Kofi A. Annan

His Excellency
Mr. Janis Karklins
President of the Preparatory Committee
Permanent Representative of Latvia
Geneva