



THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

19 October 2004

Dear Mr. van Tongeren,

Thank you for your letter of 30 September informing me about the ongoing activities leading to the Global Conference on the role of the Civil Society in the Prevention of Armed Conflict and Peace Building.

I am heartened to see that the European Centre for Conflict Prevention (ECCP), together with a wide international network of NGOs, has already made good progress in the preparation of the integrated global programme of consultation and discussions that will culminate in the conference to be held in New York in 2005.

The United Nations system supports the objective of the conference to establish a global partnership so as to prevent armed conflict by engaging civil society, from the grassroots all the way to the global level. My report on the Prevention of Armed Conflict (A/55/985-S/2001/574) recognized the increasingly important role played by civil society organizations in the prevention of armed conflict and urged Non-Governmental Organizations with an interest in conflict prevention to organize an international conference of local, national and international NGOs on their role in conflict prevention and future interaction with the United Nations in this field. Member States followed by adopting General Assembly resolution 57/337, which invites civil society to continue to support efforts for the prevention of armed conflict.

For prevention strategies to become more effective, all actors - civil society, governments and UN agencies- have to work together. The 2005 Global Conference will present an opportunity to bring together these different actors in an innovative framework and will contribute to maintaining conflict prevention and peace-building at the top of the international political agenda.

I have asked Mr. Danilo Türk, Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs, to continue working with you in the months leading to the Conference and to discuss further UN support to the process, as well as to the publication "People Building Peace II".

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "K. Annan".

Kofi A. Annan

Mr. Paul van Tongeren
Executive Director
European Centre for Conflict Prevention
The International Secretariat
for the Global Partnership
Utrecht