

## **The High Level Panel**

### **Terms of Reference**

1. The past year has shaken the foundations of collective security and undermined confidence in the possibility of collective responses to our common problems and challenges. It has also brought to the fore deep divergences of opinion on the range and nature of the challenges we face, and are likely to face in the future.
2. The aim of the High-Level Panel is to recommend clear and practical measures for ensuring effective collective action, based upon a rigorous analysis of future threats to peace and security, an appraisal of the contribution that collective action can make, and a thorough assessment of existing approaches, instruments and mechanisms, including the principal organs of the United Nations.
3. The Panel is not being asked to formulate policies on specific issues, nor on the UN's role in specific places. Rather, it is being asked to provide a new assessment of the challenges ahead, and to recommend the changes which will be required if these challenges are to be met effectively through collective action.
4. Specifically, the Panel will:
  - a. Examine today's global threats and provide an analysis of future challenges to international peace and security. Whilst there may continue to exist a diversity of perceptions on the relative importance of the various threats facing particular Member States on an individual basis, it is important to find an appropriate balance at a global level. It is also important to understand the connections between different threats.
  - b. Identify clearly the contribution that collective action can make in addressing these challenges.
  - c. Recommend the changes necessary to ensure effective collective action, including but not limited to a review of the principal organs of the United Nations.
5. The Panel's work is confined to the field of peace and security, broadly interpreted. That is, it should extend its analysis and recommendations to other issues and institutions, including economic and social, only insofar as they have a direct bearing on future threats to peace and security.