



23 May 2008

Dear Mr. Minister,

Thank you for your letter of 25 April 2008 with regard to the investigation concerning Ms. Eveline Herfkens, which was undertaken by the UNDP Office of Audit and Investigations and finalized on 20 May 2008. Given the role of the Government of the Netherlands as an “involved party”, and following your request, I would like to provide you with the main outcome of the investigation. Through this letter I refer to the part of the investigation report that pertains to the involved party aspect i.e. the examination of the assistance provided by the Netherlands Government during the period Ms Herfkens was employed as a staff member by UNDP.

Ms. Herfkens has acknowledged that following her appointment with UNDP on 1 November 2002 the Government of the Netherlands provided the following financial benefits to her:

- Rent of a three room apartment in Manhattan
- Relocation from the Netherlands to New York in November 2002 and from New York to Maryland in January 2006.
- Continuation of her enrollment with the Netherlands national pension scheme.

With regard to the benefits paid to Ms. Herfkens by the Government of the Netherlands, the investigation found that UNDP provided Ms. Herfkens with a copy of the applicable UN Staff Regulations and Rules relating to her appointment and Ms. Herfkens signed an acknowledgement of having received them. These rules included staff regulation 1.2(j): “No staff member shall accept any honour, decoration, favour, gift or remuneration from any Government.”

The investigation also found that:

- The Government of the Netherlands should have known that the provision of these benefits to Ms. Herfkens was not in accord with United Nations Staff Regulations.
- There was no evidence that UNDP management was aware that Ms. Herfkens was receiving Government benefits at the time.

His Excellency
Mr. Maxime Verhagen
Minister of Foreign Affairs
Kingdom of the Netherlands



- The investigation also found that neither Ms. Herfkens nor the Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to the United Nations intended to make the payment of these benefits a secret.
- UNDP fulfilled its obligations of informing Ms. Herfkens of the Staff Rules when it provided her with a copy of the Rules and received an acknowledgment that she had received them. UNDP accepts that the lack of a systematic induction may have contributed to Ms. Herfkens' not being sufficiently aware of the prohibition of receiving benefits from a Member State.

The investigation acknowledges that possible deficiencies in Ms. Herfkens' induction and subsequent problems with the administration of her office at the time she was taking on her responsibilities in 2002 appear to be the result of the haste in which this completely new MDG Campaign Office was set up. The investigation also found no evidence suggesting that Ms. Herfkens had actual knowledge of the prohibition relating to the support she was getting from the Government of the Netherlands. Overall Ms. Herfkens appears to have unknowingly breached the Staff Regulations, in good faith and without mal-intent.

Former UN Secretary-General Annan announced the launch of the Millennium Campaign and the appointment of Ms. Herfkens as his Advisor to assist him with the promotion of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in 2002. I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the important and effective work that Ms. Herfkens has undertaken as Founder and Executive Coordinator of the Millennium Campaign and Advisor to the then Secretary-General. She has been instrumental and creative in building a coalition, in particular in developed countries, to campaign for the engagement of citizens and Governments to support the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals in terms of aid, trade and debt relief. Her work has received wide recognition, in particular from a group of European donors that continue to support the work of the Millennium Campaign, with still much work to be done at the half-way point in the achievement of the MDGs.

As a close and longtime partner in the fight against poverty, I am confident that Ms. Herfkens will remain an advocate in the global effort to achieve the MDGs, and we will count on her continued support in this effort.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kemal Derviş', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Kemal Derviş