Letter dated 30 November 2006 from the Secretary-General to the President of the Security Council

Over the past 20 years, the Lord’s Resistance Army’s (LRA) insurgency has caused the death and abduction of thousands of civilians, displaced more than 1.5 million people in northern Uganda and severely disrupted humanitarian operations in southern Sudan. Its presence and activities in the north-eastern part of the Democratic Republic of the Congo also represent a serious security threat for the civilian population and the region.

I believe that the regional dimension of the LRA activities, which is receiving increasing international attention, requires a comprehensive and sustained approach pursuant to Security Council resolutions 1653 (2006) and 1663 (2006), which, inter alia, requested that I provide recommendations on how United Nations agencies and missions in the Great Lakes region could more effectively address the problem of LRA. To that end, I have decided to offer my good offices to the countries of the region and, following consultations with the Government of Uganda and other Governments in the region, to appoint Joaquim Chissano, former President of Mozambique, as my Special Envoy for the LRA-affected areas.

In carrying out my good offices initiative, the Special Envoy will facilitate the search for a comprehensive political solution to address the root causes of the conflict in northern Uganda and the implications of the LRA activities in the region, including the Democratic Republic of the Congo, southern Sudan and northern Uganda. He will help develop a cohesive and forward-looking policy approach among all external actors. Taking into account the independent nature of the judiciary process, my Special Envoy will also liaise with the International Criminal Court, United Nations missions in the Great Lakes region and regional actors concerned on matters pertaining to the indicted LRA leaders.

I should be grateful if you would bring the present letter to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(Signed) Kofi A. Annan