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## NOTITS

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Udenrigsministeriet  
Sydgruppen

Til: Udviklingsministeren J.nr.: HUM  
CC: Bilag: 17.C.12.a.19  
Fra: Humanitær bistand og NGO-samarbejde Dato: 17. november 2005  
Emne: FN's flygtningehøjkommissær António Guterres

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Guterres begyndte officielt sit virke den 15. juni d.å. (CV vedlagt). Han har givet et meget positivt indtryk præget af engagement og åbenhed for dialog. Guterres har givet udtryk for, at UNHCR grundlæggende er en sund og velfungerende organisation, hvor der ikke er behov for en masse nye initiativer, men snarere for at få implementeret og konsolideret allerede eksisterende. Guterres er opmærksom på, at UNHCR løbende skal forbedre sig og har således givet sin støtte til resultatbaseret administration, hvilket er en dansk mærkesag.

I forhold til en anden dansk mærkesag - beskyttelse af flygtninge i nærområderne – har Guterres givet lidt mere uklare udmeldinger. Nærområdeaktiviteter falder ind under UNHCR's såkaldte Convention+ initiativ (som tidligere højkommissær Lubbers lancerede). Guterres ønsker at "mainstreame" Convention+ i UNHCR uden dog at specificere, hvorledes dette skal ske. Fra dansk side har man givet signal om, at "mainstreaming" er positivt, hvis dette betyder en styrket indsats på landeniveau.

Med til signalforvirringen er, at Guterres angiveligt har udtalt over for en gruppe afrikanske lande, at Convention+ er "by the North and for the North". Dette betragtes som en meget uheldig bemærkning, da de afrikanske lande i forvejen er skeptiske over for Convention+ tankegangen, da de frygter denne vil indebære, at udviklingsbistand til deres egne statsborgerne vil blive givet til flygtningegrupperne i stedet, for at forhindre at disse flygtningegrupper bevæger sig mod eksempelvis Europa.

På den anden side taler Guterres meget engageret om overgangen mellem humanitær bistand og udviklingsbistand, idet han ser denne overgang som et væsentligt element i konfliktforebyggelse. Dette er ligeledes en af bevæggrundene bag Convention+ (og nærområdeinitiativet).

Hvor Guterres således står i forhold til Convention+ vil de næste måneder vise. Klare signaler fra Danmark om hvilken vej UNHCR bør gå er vigtigt – ikke mindst fordi Danmark betragtes som en af de ledende støttelande for Convention+ initiativet.

Humanitær bistand og NGO-samarbejde



## High Commissioner António Guterres

Mr. António Guterres joined the UN High Commissioner for Refugees on June 15, 2005, succeeding Mr. Ruud Lubbers of the Netherlands. A former Portuguese prime minister, Mr. Guterres was elected by the UN General Assembly to a five-year term and is the UN refugee agency's 10th High Commissioner.

As High Commissioner, he heads one of the world's principal humanitarian agencies, with more than 6,000 staff in over 115 countries providing protection and assistance to some 17 million refugees and others of concern. The UN refugee agency's total budget for 2005 is more than \$1 billion.

When Mr. Guterres first arrived at UNHCR, he told staff members he was joining the agency with conviction, humility and enthusiasm. "Conviction because I truly believe in the core values of this office and I want to struggle to make them prevail all over the world. Humility because I have a lot to learn, and will be depending on all of you for that. Enthusiasm because I would not be able to choose a more noble cause to fight for."

Before joining UNHCR, Mr. Guterres spent more than 20 years in government and public service. He served as the Portuguese prime minister from 1996 to 2002, during which he spearheaded the international effort to stop the atrocities in East Timor. As president of the European Council in early 2000, he co-chaired the first EU-Africa summit and led to the adoption of the so-called Lisbon Agenda. He also founded the Portuguese Refugee Council in 1991, and was part of the Council of State of Portugal from 1991 to 2002.

From 1981 to 1983, Mr. Guterres was a member of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, as well as chairman of the Committee on Demography, Migrations and Refugees. In addition, he has been active in Socialist International, acting as the organisation's vice-president from 1992 to 1999 before taking over as its president till June 2005.

Mr. Guterres was born on April 30, 1949 in Lisbon and educated at the Instituto Superior Técnico, where he is an invited professor.

He is married and has two children.