



## Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative

NGO in Special consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations

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*Executive Committee*  
B.G. Verghese  
*Chairperson*

*P.H. Parekh*  
*Treasurer*

Mr. David Morrison  
Director of Communications  
United Nations Development Programme  
One United Nations Plaza  
New York, NY 10017

By Fax: (212) 906 5364

June 27, 2006

Maja Daruwala  
*Director*

### **Re: UNDP Information Disclosure Policy**

Dear Mr. Morrison:

#### *Members*

R. V Pillai  
Anu Aga  
K. S Dhillon  
B. K Chandrashekar  
Mool Chand Sharma  
Harivansh  
Bhagwan Das  
Poonam Muttreja  
Sanjoy Hazarika

I am writing to you in my capacity as Director of the Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative, a human rights organisation which focuses on promoting the right to information and accountability. My purpose in writing is to urge the UNDP to complete the processing of a request for information pursuant to the UNDP Information Disclosure Policy which was made by Professor Alasdair Roberts in June 2004, more than two years ago.

Our understanding of the UNDP disclosure policies is that they are well thought through and indicate a willingness to be transparent however the long delay in responding to Professor Roberts' request seems to demonstrate little on the ground commitment to seriously implementation and in fact the whole incident creates cause for much concern.

We join others in the belief that long delays in responding to requests for information are a common means by which the goals of national access to information laws are thwarted. And point out again that inconsistency between UNDP's implementation of its own disclosure rules and its calls for government openness undermines the credibility of the UNDP.

The need for the UNDP to respect its own policy commitments is particularly important in light of its emphasis on the need for governments to develop a culture of accountability and transparency.

We trust that UNDP will provide a quick response to Professor Robert's request for information, and one which is consistent with the requirements of its Information Disclosure Policy.

Yours truly,

Maja Daruwala