

SG message to  
Humanitarian Awards Dinner  
of UNA-NY  
Drafter: JJ  
Proofread by: RA/AS  
October 2015  
Authorized:

*Signed  
for  
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## THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

### MESSAGE TO UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION OF NEW YORK HUMANITARIAN AWARDS DINNER New York, 22 October 2015

I am delighted to send greetings to the many true friends and supporters of the United Nations attending the UNA-NY Humanitarian Awards Dinner.

On behalf of the entire United Nations system and all our staff, I sincerely thank you for your advocacy and allegiance. We are doing everything possible to live up to the high expectations you have of our Organization.

The General Assembly has just concluded its momentous seventieth anniversary high-level session. It opened on a note resounding with international solidarity as Member States adopted the visionary 2030 Agenda, including 17 Sustainable Development Goals. Their aim is ambitious but achievable: to end poverty and usher in a life of dignity for all people. I have called on all partners – including governments, the private sector and the all-important members of civil society – to help us to quickly translate paper promises into practical progress.


This is critical in today's world, where inequality is growing, trust is fading, and impatience with leadership is widespread. Human suffering today is higher than it has been in a generation. One hundred million people require humanitarian assistance. At least sixty million have been forced to flee their homes or countries. I pay tribute to the courage of the many relief workers who are risking their own safety to help others.

People are on the move as never before. Our response to international migration and the flow of refugees must be based on international law, human rights and basic compassion. Promoting tolerance across societies is essential to preventing the rise of violent extremism. The world must unite against brutal extremist groups, which are committing egregious crimes, especially against women and girls. At the same time, States fighting terror must vigilantly guard against committing any human rights violations, which are morally wrong and strategically counterproductive.

For seven decades, the United Nations has proved the value of multilateralism, defeating deadly diseases, defending human rights and fostering collective action to create a better future for "succeeding generations," as its Charter so memorably states.

In this effort, I am deeply grateful to all of you. I pay special tribute to tonight's honourees: President, and CEO of Gucci, Mr. Marco Bizzarri, UNICEF Executive Director, Mr. Anthony Lake, and my own wife, Mrs. Ban Soon-taek, to whom I owe more than I could ever say.

Let us resolve to continue advancing in our mission for peace, development and human rights for all people.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Ki Moon Ban". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Ki" and last name "Ban" being more prominent than the middle name "Moon".

BAN/Ki-moon