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THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

MESASGE TO THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE ASSOCIATION OF  
FORMER INTERNATIONAL CIVIL SERVANTS

New York, 21 May 2009

*Delivered by Ms. Netta Avedon, Chief, Human Resources Services, OHRM*

It gives me great pleasure to send greetings to who have gathered for the annual meeting of the Association of Former International Civil Servants.

You gather at a time when the world faces a number of serious multiple crises. In the blink of an eye, we have seen a housing crisis in the United States turned into the biggest global economic crisis in the history of the United Nations. Our world is warming faster than the world's top scientists had forecast. We face a possible cascade of nuclear proliferation, as well as extremism and terrorism. If we fail to deal effectively with these crises, there is a real prospect of instability and insecurity as governments are weakened, and as people lose faith in their leaders and their own futures.

Some of these challenges are new, of course. But practiced hands such as you will surely recognize others, or at least aspects of them or the factors that link them. Like my predecessors as Secretary-General, I have been stressing the need for global solidarity in addressing these challenges. I have been calling on Member States to take multilateralism to the next level. I want to see a new multilateralism take hold – one that is focused on delivering global goods such as health, education, freedom from hunger, peace. A multilateralism that combines power with pragmatic principle. And one whose instruments of service – the United Nations above all – have the authority and the funding needed to do the jobs asked of them.

UN staff are of course my main allies in carrying out that vision. But I continue to rely on the achievements, wisdom and institutional memory of those who came before -- former civil servants such as you, whose formal careers with the Organization may have ended but who remain vital members of the UN community. Thank you for your service and you for staying in touch with the Organization and with each other. Please accept my best wishes for a memorable gathering.

MAY 22 2009

29-05139



Ruxandra Ferascu/NY/UNO  
20/05/2009 12:26 PM

To Netta Avedon/NY/UNO, Catherine Pollard/NY/UNO,  
cc  
bcc  
Subject Secretary-General's message for AFICS, 21 May

Dear Ms. Avedon and Ms. Pollard,

Please find attached the Secretary-General's message to the Annual Assembly of AFICS, along with our best wishes for a successful event.

Best regards.

Ruxandra



afics21may09.doc



TO: Mr. Vijay K. Nambiar  
A: Chef de Cabinet

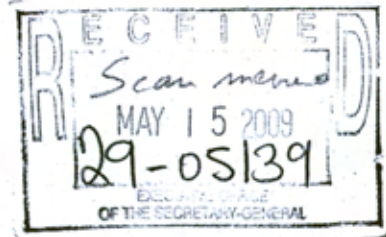
DATE: 14 May 2009

THROUGH:

S/C DE:

FROM: Catherine Pollard

DE: Assistant Secretary-General  
Office of Human Resources Management



SUBJECT: Request for a Message from the Secretary General to the Annual ✓  
OBJET: Assembly of the Association of Former International civil ✓  
Servants (AFICS) ✓

The Association of Former International Civil Servants (AFICS), NY, will hold its Annual Assembly, on 21 May 2009. As has been the practice in the last couple of years, may we request you to provide us with a Message from the Secretary-General to the Assembly. The Message will be delivered by Ms. Netta Avedon, Chief, Human Resources Services, LDSD/OHRM.

For easy reference, I am attaching a copy of the message delivered last year.

The assistance of your Office in this matter would be greatly appreciated.

MAY 19 2009





## THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

MESSAGE TO THE ANNUAL MEETING  
OF THE ASSOCIATION OF FORMER INTERNATIONAL CIVIL SERVANTS  
New York, 22 May 2008

*Delivered by Ms. Netta Avedon  
Chief, Staff Development, OHRM*

I am delighted to convey my warmest greetings to this Assembly of the Association of Former International Civil Servants.

This annual gathering is a highlight of your association's calendar. It provides an opportunity to exchange notes with former colleagues and to reconnect with old friends. It is also an occasion to renew ties with the broader UN community, and brush-up on the Organization's current activities.

But your visit is equally exciting for all of us as well. To us, you are former international civil servants on paper only; in practice you remain valued members of the UN family. Your presence today simply confirms your active and engaged participation in our community, and in the UN's work for a more peaceful and prosperous world.

This support and engagement is needed now more than ever. The demands on today's UN are unprecedented both in size and in scope. From climate change to food security, peacekeeping to peacebuilding, the world is turning to our Organization for solutions to the international community's most intractable problems.

I am sure you will be proud to know that the present generation of UN staff is proving worthy of these tasks. They have risen to the challenge and are driving our progress. However, there is much that they can learn from all of you. Your accumulated wisdom and institutional memory complement their own youthful energy and dedication. That is why I welcome and encourage regular contact between us. Indeed, I see you as ideal mentors and guides to a whole new generation of international civil servants.

At the same time, my colleagues and I count on you to be strong public advocates for the United Nations. Many of you already defend and explain our Organization through speeches, talks, articles and other outreach efforts. I am grateful for this support and encourage every one of you to contribute to this effort. In that spirit, I wish you a most successful Annual Assembly.

United Nations



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## ROUTING SLIP

## FICHE DE TRANSMISSION

TO: **Ms. Catherine Pollard, Assistant Secretary-General**  
 A: **for Human Resources Management**

TROUGH:

FROM: *Maha El-Bahrawi*  
 DE: **Maha El-Bahrawi, OIC**  
**HR Services/LDSD/OHRM**

Room No. -- No de bureau <b>S-2527</b>	Extension - Poste <b>3-8081</b>	Date <b>14/05/2009</b>
FOR ACTION		POUR SUITE A DONNER
FOR APPROVAL	<b>x</b>	POUR APPROBATION
FOR SIGNATURE	<b>x</b>	POUR SIGNATURE
FOR COMMENTS		POUR OBSERVATIONS
MAY WE DISCUSS ?		POURRIONS-NOUS EN PARLER ?
YOUR ATTENTION		VOTRE ATTENTION
AS DISCUSSED		COMME CONVENU
AS REQUESTED		SUITE A VOTRE DEMANDE
NOTE AND RETURN		NOTER ET RETOURNER
FOR INFORMATION		POUR INFORMATION

**Request for a Message from the Secretary General to the Annual Assembly of the Association of Former International civil Servants (AFICS)**

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