



THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

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8 May 2009

Dear Mr. President,

I would like to thank you for your letter of 24 April 2009, in which you extended to me an invitation to deliver the opening statement at the forthcoming interactive dialogue of the General Assembly entitled "Taking collective action to end human trafficking", to be held at the United Nations Headquarters on 13 May 2009.

I am pleased to accept your invitation to address this important gathering. I look forward to seeing you and all the distinguished participants at the event.

Please accept, Mr. President, the assurances of my highest consideration.


BAN Ki-moon

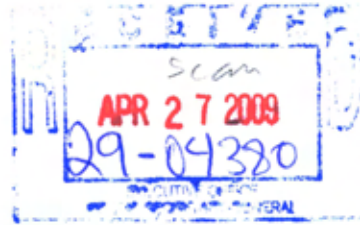
His Excellency
Mr. Miguel d'Escoto Brockmann
President of the General Assembly
New York

MAY - 8 2009

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THE PRESIDENT
OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY



24 April 2009

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Dear Mr. Secretary General,

I would be honored if you would deliver an Opening statement at the upcoming interactive thematic dialogue of the UN General Assembly entitled: "Taking collective action to end human trafficking", to be held here at UN headquarters on 13 May 2009.

The dialogue is being convened at the request of Member States (Egypt, Philippines, Bahrain, Nicaragua and Belarus), and in collaboration with the members of UN GIFT. Various other Member States have since expressed their interest participating and promoting this event.

The dialogue will build upon the significant gains achieved over the past two to three years and is meant to contribute towards further GA discussion and action to combat human trafficking.

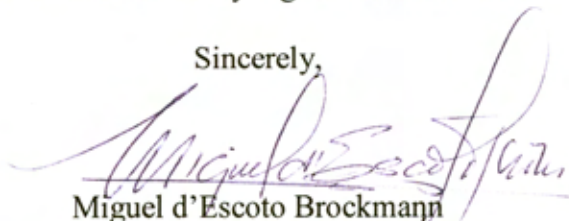
The dialogue will be divided into two separate, but interrelated panels. The first panel entitled "The State of Play: Where the UN system stands on human trafficking" will examine the existing UN legal framework, as well as identify the major gaps or constraints UN agencies and governments encounter on the ground. The second panel on "Best practices: What are the critical elements for success in combating trafficking in persons" will highlight best practices, including regional initiatives, instruments and cooperation. This panel will address ways to enhance the efforts already under way through improved standards, data collection and analysis. By building upon existing practices in certain regions, panelists will suggest ways to move forward collectively.

It is my sincere hope that you will honor us by delivering a statement during the morning Opening session. Your presence will send a clear and forceful message of the UN's commitment to end human trafficking, and will serve to spur the international community to consider practical and strategic steps for ending modern day slavery once and for all.

Please find attached a draft agenda for the day's proceedings.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration

Sincerely,



Miguel d'Escoto Brockmann

His Excellency
Mr. Ban Ki-moon
Secretary-General of the United Nations
New York



Interactive Thematic Dialogue of the U.N. General Assembly on "Taking collective action to end human trafficking"

UN Headquarters, New York
13 May 2009

Draft 24-04-09

OPENING SESSION:

10:00 - 10:30 AM

Introductory remarks by **H.E. Mr. Miguel d'Escoto Brockmann**,
President of the United Nations General Assembly

Address by **H.E. Ban Ki Moon**, Secretary General of the United Nations,
chair of the High-Level Task Force on Food Security

Keynote speech by **H.E. Dr. Theo-Ben Gurirab**, President of the Inter-
Parliamentary Union (TbC)

Based on suggestions from members of UN GIFT, the UN Global Initiative to Fight human Trafficking (UNODC, ILO, OHCHR, UNICEF, IOM), invitations have been sent to the following individuals to be featured speakers on day's panels.

PANEL I: The State of Play: Where the UN system stands on human trafficking

10.30 AM– 1:00 PM

Moderator: **Mr. Antonio Maria Costa**, USG UNODC (Italy);

Mr. Luis C. de Baca, Nominee for Ambassador-at-Large to Monitor and
Combat Trafficking in Persons, U.S. State Department (USA);

Ms. Eva Biaudet, OSCE Representative on human trafficking (Finland);

Ms. Joy Ngozi Ezeilo, UN Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons
(Nigeria);

Ms. Ndioro Ndiaye, Deputy Director General IOM (Senegal);

Mr. Kari Tapiola, ILO's Director of Standards and Fundamental Rights
(Finland).

Q & A

LUNCH BREAK
1:00 - 2:45 PM

*Panelists are invited to lunch offered by the PGA with selected Member
States and representatives of UN GIFT.*

PANEL II: Best practices: What are the critical elements for success in combating trafficking in persons

Mr. Robert Bilheimer, Director, Filmmaker (USA);

Ms. Saisuree Chutikul, CEDAW Committee member (Thailand);

Ms. Ruchira Gupta, founder and president of *Apne Aap* (India);

Dr. Aleya Hammad, Susan Mubarak Women's International Peace Movement
"End Human Trafficking Now" Initiative (Egypt);

Ms. Somaly Mam, Survivor director, AFESIP (Cambodia).

CLOSING SESSION

5.45 – 6.00pm:

Closing remarks by **H.E. Mr. Miguel d'Escoto Brockmann**, President of
the United Nations General Assembly



PERMANENT MISSION
OF THE KINGDOM OF
BAHRAIN
TO THE UNITED NATIONS



PERMANENT MISSION
OF THE REPUBLIC OF
BELARUS
TO THE UNITED NATIONS



PERMANENT MISSION
OF THE ARAB REPUBLIC OF
EGYPT
TO THE UNITED NATIONS



PERMANENT MISSION
OF NICARAGUA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS



PERMANENT MISSION
OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE
PHILIPPINES
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

New York, 2 April 2009

Excellency,

As General Assembly resolution 63/194 entitled "Improving coordination of efforts against trafficking in persons" invited all Member States to accelerate the consideration of the advisability of a global plan of action on preventing trafficking in persons, prosecuting traffickers, protecting and assisting victims of trafficking, we believe it is important to address you today on this important issue.

The need for a global plan of action that ensures a collective, comprehensive and coordinated approach towards combating trafficking in persons has been emphasized during the GA thematic debate on trafficking in persons on 3 June 2008. It has also been a demand advocated by several prominent intergovernmental organizations. The African Union Assembly of Heads of State and Government was a pioneer among intergovernmental bodies in devoting a unanimous decision in this regard during its eleventh Summit meeting held in Sharm Elsheikh on 30 June 2008, as well as the Non-Aligned Movement which has given a clear signal on the importance of the consideration of the matter in its final document adopted during the 15th ministerial conference in Tehran on 29–30 July 2008.

The need for initiating consultations in the General Assembly on the global plan of action has not been exclusive to one regional group or the other, it was a request by many countries from different regional groups of the UN, based on the need to build on existing regional plans of action, and to enhance the legal process established by the 2000 UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its supplementary protocol on trafficking in persons.

The Secretary-General has been requested by the above resolution to prepare by 1 June 2009 a background paper on how to achieve the full and effective coordination of efforts against trafficking in persons and to ensure the full and effective implementation of all relevant legal instruments. After the background paper is prepared, we believe it will be appropriate to start informal consultations or debate under the auspices of the President of the General Assembly on the issue of the advisability of adopting a UN Global Plan of Action, and on how to collectively put an end to trafficking in persons as a social and economic phenomenon, which violates all the basic norms, rights and fundamental freedoms of human beings. The debate should be based on the Secretary General's background paper to be prepared in accordance with resolution 63/194.

His Excellency Miguel d'Escoto Brockmann
President of the United Nations General Assembly
New York

cc: Antonio Maria Costa
Executive Director
United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
Vienna

We see this debate as a forum for Member States to discuss the issue from all angles and seek a proper way forward on how to work together towards the full elimination of the scourge. In so doing it is vital that we hear the voices of all interested parties: Member States, relevant UN specialized agencies, funds and programs and other international agencies and non-governmental organizations. It could be conceived as a two-day event starting with a meeting of the Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Trafficking in Persons in the UN headquarters in New York, to be followed by a debate of the General Assembly. Member States will be interested to hear and discuss the position of the Inter-Agency Group on this urgent issue with a view to a possible adoption of the global action plan at the 63rd session of the General Assembly.

We hope, Excellency, you will give this proposal your favourable consideration and support, and request that this letter be circulated as an official document of the General Assembly.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of our highest consideration.



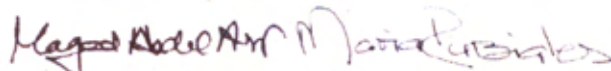
Tawfeeq Ahmed
Almansoor

Permanent
Representative
of the Kingdom
of Bahrain
to the United
Nations



Andrei Dapkiunas

Permanent
Representative
of the Republic
of Belarus
to the United
Nations



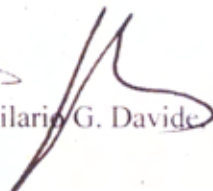
Maged A. Abdelaziz

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Nations



Maria Rubiales de
Chamorro

Permanent
Representative
of Nicaragua
to the United
Nations



Hilario G. Davide Jr.

Permanent
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of the Republic
of the Philippines
to the United Nations