



THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

6 June 2014

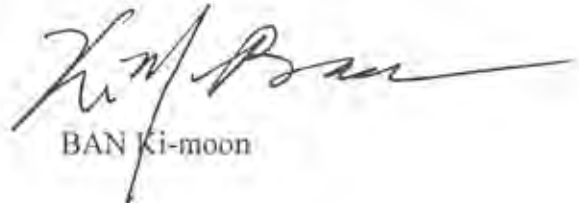
Estimada Embajadora,

I was honoured to be invited to pay tribute to the life and achievements of the late great Gabriel García Márquez. I thank you and the members of the Group of Friends of Spanish in the United Nations for organizing this moving and enlightening event.

As I look forward to my forthcoming visit to Latin America for the opening ceremony of the FIFA World Cup in Brazil and the Group of 77 and China Summit in Bolivia, I am reminded of my many memorable trips to the region, including to Colombia in 2011. I look forward to the day when I can return and, perhaps, visit Aracataca, the inspiration for the fabled town of Macondo.

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

Sinceramente,


BAN Ki-moon

Her Excellency
Ms. María Emma Mejía Vélez
Permanent Representative of Colombia
to the United Nations
New York

