

THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

26 September 2014

Excellency,

I wish to congratulate you warmly on the occasion of your election as President of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan.

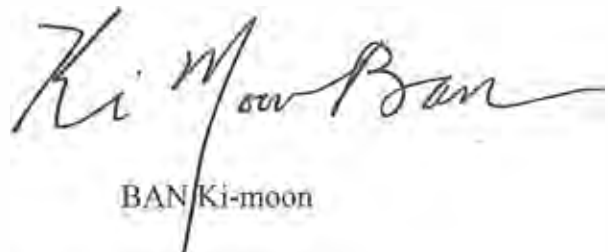
Your taking office is a historic event, signifying a major step in building a vibrant society and a prosperous and stable Afghanistan. It is my hope that it will be accompanied by a further consolidation of the sovereignty and stability of Afghanistan, as well as fresh progress towards sustainable development and growth, in accordance with the wishes and aspirations of the Afghan people.

I am confident that under your leadership the cooperation between the United Nations and Afghanistan, whose membership dates from the first days of the Organization, will continue to be strengthened. Please be assured of the commitment of the United Nations to assisting Afghanistan in addressing the challenges and opportunities ahead, in the spirit of partnership and collaboration.

As you begin the formation of a new government of national unity, I wish you all the best in this very important task. I am convinced that its strength lies in the values of common purpose and shared responsibility. I look forward to working with you and your Government, for the benefit of a durable peace in Afghanistan and prosperity for its people.

In view of the General Debate of the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly currently in progress, I am unable to attend the scheduled inauguration. I have asked my Special Representative for Afghanistan and Head of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan, Mr. Jan Kubiš, to participate on my behalf and to represent the United Nations. His delegation will include Mr. Nicholas Haysom, my incoming Special Representative for Afghanistan.

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



BAN/Ki-moon

His Excellency
Dr. Ashraf Ghani Ahmadzai
President of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan
Kabul

President Afghanistan
Drafter: DPKO
Proofread by: AK/MZ
Approved by:



Date: 26 September 2014