

13 August 2008

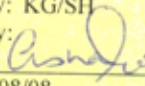
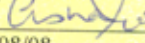
Excellency,

I have requested my Special Adviser, Mr. Ibrahim Gambari, to personally deliver this letter to you in continuation of the dialogue we began during my visit to the Union of Myanmar in May of this year. As mentioned in my letter of 12 June 2008, I am hopeful that out of our good discussions during my first visit to your country will grow lasting trust and confidence and a stronger partnership between the Union of Myanmar and the United Nations, in full respect for the national sovereignty of the Union of Myanmar.

As I have said publicly, I have been encouraged by the openness and flexibility demonstrated by your Government in cooperating with the United Nations and the international community in response to the devastation caused by Cyclone Nargis. I was heartened in this regard by the report I received from my Emergency Relief Coordinator following his recent visit on the progress being made in assisting the victims of the cyclone.

In this context, following our last discussion, I look forward to the prospect of visiting the Union of Myanmar again as the situation allows. To that end, I hope to build on our recent collaboration through the continued engagement of my Special Adviser in order to deepen and broaden our mutual efforts in the implementation of the Good Offices mandate entrusted to me by the General Assembly. At this juncture in the development of the Union of Myanmar, expectations are high that our efforts over the past two years should intensify in order to further advance in tangible terms the objectives of national reconciliation, democratisation and respect for human rights in the Union of Myanmar, as mandated by the General Assembly.

His Excellency
Senior General Than Shwe
Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council
of the Union of Myanmar
Nay Pyi Taw

SG letter to Senior General
Than Shwe
Union of Myanmar
Drafter: DPA
Proofread by: KG/SH
Approved by: 
Authorised: 
Date: 12/08/08

In light of the increasing international attention on the Union of Myanmar, I believe that it is in the interest of the Union of Myanmar to seize the opportunities of this and future visits by my Special Adviser to further demonstrate the commitment of your Government to the Good Offices process through tangible results. This is especially important as the period leading to the planned elections in 2010 will be crucial to the success of your efforts in leading the Union of Myanmar towards civilian and democratic rule in a way that is inclusive of all the people of the Union of Myanmar and is acceptable to the international community.

In this regard, there are four areas, at this point, that merit closer cooperation and which I hope you and your Government will address in partnership with my Special Adviser, including:

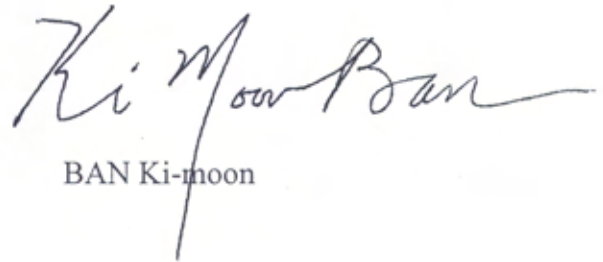
- 1) the resumption of an enhanced dialogue between your Government and Daw Aung San Suu Kyi;
- 2) the consideration of a proposal to establish a broad-based national mechanism to address socio-economic concerns, especially in the aftermath of Cyclone Nargis;
- 3) the consideration of ways to enhance the credibility of the process leading to elections by 2010; and
- 4) the consideration of ways to further regularize and facilitate the Good Offices process.

I look forward to meeting with you again to discuss any progress on these issues which are critical to establishing a sound and stable basis for the future of your country. For that purpose, my Special Adviser, with the broad support of the international community, is prepared to visit the Union of Myanmar as frequently and for as long as necessary over the next months to continue to work with your Government and the people of the Union of Myanmar with a view to achieving tangible results in the above areas.

In conclusion, allow me to reiterate that the United Nations recognizes that the responsibility for the future of the Union of Myanmar ultimately lies with its people and Government. That is why I call on your vision and leadership to seize the opportunity of my Good Offices to make further concrete progress in the implementation of relevant resolutions of the General Assembly.

I look forward to our continued close cooperation with you and your Government on a broad range of issues of mutual interest to the Union of Myanmar and the international community, in the interest of durable peace, prosperity and democracy for the people of the Union of Myanmar.

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

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