



THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

9 February 2012

Excellency,

I would like to thank you for your letter dated 12 December 2011 introducing to me Mr. Dennis Karpes, co-founder of the Naga Foundation. I share your views that desertification and drought pose an enormous threat to human and natural life.

As you are aware, the international community recognized the threat of desertification at the Rio de Janeiro Earth Summit in 1992, and agreed to mobilize action to combat it through the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), a treaty with 194 Parties as of today. The Convention was built on the premises of partnerships and the involvement of organizations such as the Naga Foundation. I commend the work carried out by the Naga Foundation by using the "contour trenching" method.

In this respect, I am requesting that Mr. Luc Gnacadja, Executive Secretary of UNCCD, enter into contact with Mr. Dennis Karpes to explore ways for deeper involvement of the Naga Foundation in the processes and the implementation of the UNCCD. I look forward to seeing progress in this area and I thank you for your engagement on this important agenda.

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

Ki Moon Ban
BAN Ki-moon

His Excellency
Dr. Jan Peter Balkenende
Former Prime Minister of the Kingdom
of the Netherlands, Partner at Ernst & Young,
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and Internationalisation at Erasmus University
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To: H.E.
Dr. Jan Peter Balkenende
Drafter: Melchiade Bukuru SMG
Authorized: *[Signature]*
Date: 9 February 2012