

THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

9 May 2009

Excellency,

I would like to extend to you my warmest congratulations and sincere best wishes on your inauguration as the President of the Republic of South Africa, following the peaceful elections held in your country. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank you again for the good meeting we had during my recent visit to South Africa.

The elections represented a positive stride towards the consolidation of democracy not only in South Africa, but in the region at large. The high voter turnout rate is a testimony to the deep sense of democratic duty amongst South Africans and crucial in ensuring that elections remain a democratic instrument of peaceful transition.

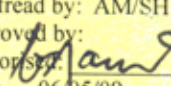
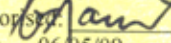
I trust that under your leadership, South Africa will continue to make progress and play an active role in African and international affairs. I look forward to continuing the excellent cooperation that exists between the United Nations and South Africa, as well as with the African Union and the Southern African Development Community – three organizations of which South Africa is a key member.

I wish you every success in carrying out the important responsibilities of your higher office and look forward to working with you as we endeavour to advance the cause of global peace, climate change, security and development.

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


BAN Ki-Moon

His Excellency
Mr. Jacob Zuma
President of the Republic of South Africa
Pretoria

SG letter to Zuma
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