



THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

2 September 2014

Excellency,

I refer to our recent telephone conversation of 20 August 2014. It is my hope that, together with the African Union, the World Bank Group and the Islamic Development Bank Group, the United Nations will launch in the weeks to come a new regional initiative for countries of the Horn of Africa. I would like to invite you to join me in supporting this initiative and in visiting the region from 27 to 31 October 2014 to formally launch this initiative.

As you well know, the Horn of Africa region has many security and development challenges which have origins and consequences that go well beyond individual countries. It is also a region with many human assets and resource endowments, and some of the most dynamic economies in the world. The joint visit will engage the leaders of countries in the region as well as key regional organizations, such as the Intergovernmental Authority on Development, to reinforce the promising steps many of them are taking to collaborate with their neighbours in searching for durable peace, security and prosperity.

The initiative builds on two previous regional initiatives by our respective Organizations and the World Bank Group aimed at addressing some of the key drivers of instability in the Great Lakes Region (May 2013) and the Sahel (November 2013). These initiatives recognize the link between security and development, and the importance of giving hope to vulnerable citizens, including women and children, that would empower them to overcome poverty and deprivation.

The Horn of Africa initiative draws on analysis undertaken through the United Nations-World Bank Group collaboration and consultation with governments and partners. The analysis indicates that we should focus on: (a) the over 2 million refugees and 5 million other forcibly displaced peoples, who have increasingly experienced displacement and extreme poverty for over a generation; (b) borderlands to improve security, trade, livelihoods (including pastoralism), service delivery, and centre-periphery relations; (c) intermodal transportation and information and communications technology; (d) the regional implications and opportunities of the recent rapid development of extractive industries, particularly oil, gas and minerals; and (e) the role of the private sector and other non-state actors in delivering solutions.

Her Excellency
Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma
Chairperson of the African Union
Commission
Addis Ababa

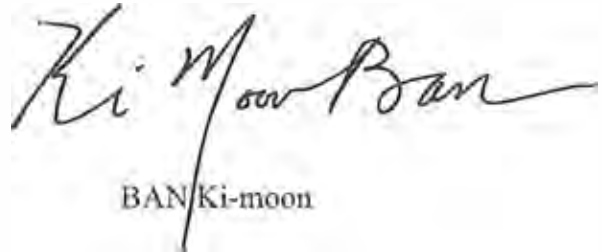
SG to AU Chair Dlamini-Zuma
Drafter: COSG (VK/ES/KM)
Reviewed by: EOSG/World Bank
Proofread by: JW

Approved by: [Signature]
Date: 3 Sept 2014

I propose that we begin the trip in Ethiopia, followed by stops in Somalia and Kenya. Though not located in the Horn of Africa, the Central African Republic deserves our attention, so I propose that we stop there as well. The Central African Republic needs our full support as it transitions from the current conflict and the new United Nations peacekeeping operation in that country which will reach deployment capability in September 2014. On our departure from Bangui, we will make a half-day stop in Cameroon to consult with that country's leadership on the development in the Central African Republic. The joint United Nations-World Bank planning team, co-led by Mr. Victor Kisob of my office and Mr. Colin Bruce of the World Bank, will be following up with your office to provide additional details on the trip.

I look forward to discussing these matters with you in the margins of the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly.

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



BAN/Ki-moon