

## ROUTING SLIP

## FICHE DE TRANSMISSION

TO:  
A: Chef de Cabinet, Mr. Mulet

FROM:  
DE: Richard Amdur

Room No. — No de Bureau  
Extension — Poste  
Date

18 May 2016

FOR ACTION		POUR SUITE A DONNER
FOR APPROVAL		POUR APPROBATION
FOR SIGNATURE		POUR SIGNATURE
FOR COMMENTS		POUR OBSERVATIONS
MAY WE DISCUSS?		POURRIONS - NOUS EN PARLER?
YOUR ATTENTION		VOTRE ATTENTION
AS DISCUSSED		COMME CONVENU
AS REQUESTED		SUITE A VOTRE DEMANDE
NOTE AND RETURN		NOTER ET RETOURNER
FOR INFORMATION		POUR INFORMATION

Please find attached, for your approval,  
a written message to the Oslo Forum,  
14 - 15 June 2016, Thank you.

Log # 15-11302

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UNITED NATIONS



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**THE SECRETARY-GENERAL**

**MESSAGE TO THE OSLO FORUM**

**Oslo, 14-15 June 2016**

It is a pleasure to greet the Oslo Forum. I commend the Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue and the Royal Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs for hosting this important gathering. It offers a welcome opportunity for the mediation community to share experiences on a practice that, for many good reasons, tends to take place quietly, without fanfare.

The theme for the Forum this year is – “Adapting to a new conflict landscape” – which reflects the growing magnitude of global challenges and the qualitative change in the nature of the problems we face. It was against this background that I commissioned a number of policy reviews aimed at enabling the United Nations and the wider international community to more effectively address major threats to international peace and security. While these reviews covered different realms, important common messages emerged: the importance of prevention; the need for long-term political solutions; and the immense value of partnerships.

There is a collective sense that our toolbox has not kept pace with the changing security landscape. Some experienced mediators have even wondered whether their practice is becoming ineffective in an increasingly complex conflict landscape. The United Nations policy reviews point toward three ways in which we can fortify mediation to meet the tests of today.

First, let us invest in prevention and mediation. Mediation can only work if it is coupled with determined diplomacy. Yet, in some important cases, divisions among Member States are at their deepest since the end of the Cold War. We must ensure that mediation processes get the political and financial support they need in practice, not only in public statements.

Second, mediators need space and time throughout the conflict cycle: early, when violence is rising; during a negotiation process, and well after a peace agreement has been reached to avoid a relapse into conflict. United Nations officials also need to be able to talk to a wide range of actors – including those that some governments will not engage.

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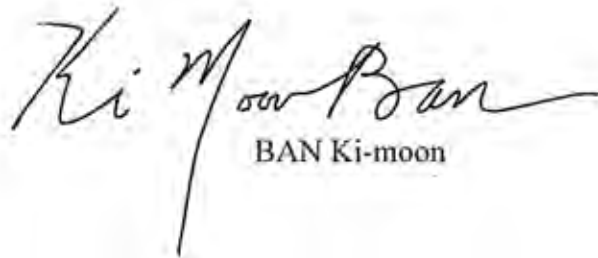
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Third, we must strengthen our partnerships. The United Nations is working more and more closely with regional and subregional organizations, civil society, academics and others engaged in mediation activities. But we still have to do more to make these connections produce results in real-life mediation processes.

The United Nations is fully committed to the reform agenda we have set for ourselves, including by strengthening our own mediation capacities and applying lessons to current situations, such as those in Syria, Yemen, Afghanistan and Burundi.

The support of the mediation community will be crucial in keeping these issues on the agenda and advancing our understanding of them. I welcome your thoughts on how we can do better, and offer my best wishes for a fruitful forum.

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



Hand delivered on 28/12/15.

ACTION CWS (w/Reply Form & booklet)

COPY DSG  
cdc  
Mr. Feltman  
AL  
RA

  
**ROYAL NORWEGIAN  
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS**  
*Minister of Foreign Affairs*

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Oslo, 14 December 2015

*Dear Mr. Secretary General.*

Invitation to participate in the Oslo Forum, 14-15 June 2016

I am writing to invite you to the 2016 edition of the Oslo Forum, which will be held at Losby Manor, near Oslo, on 14 and 15 June 2016.

The Oslo Forum 2016 will be co-hosted by the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue, and we would be honoured to offer you a prominent speaking role during the event. It is a unique opportunity for senior conflict mediators, high level decision makers and key peace process actors to share their experiences, identify challenges and reflect on their own and others' practice. The Forum takes place in a discreet and informal setting, allowing frank and open discussions under the Chatham House Rule, and providing an opportunity for conflict parties to advance their negotiations.

Previous participants have included Kofi Annan, Jimmy Carter, Aung San Suu Kyi, Catherine Ashton, Juan Manuel Santos, Fatou Bensouda, Martti Ahtisaari, Olusegun Obasanjo, Jeffrey Feltman and many other luminaries.

The Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue will gladly consult with your office on the necessary arrangements, including your travel and accommodation.

I am looking forward to having the honour of your company in Oslo.

Yours sincerely,

  
Borge Brende

H.E. Mr Ban Ki-moon  
Secretary-General of the United Nations  
New York City

SC/108/002

# The Oslo Forum

## Improving the Mediation of Armed Conflict

### A global series of mediation retreats

The Oslo Forum is widely acknowledged as the leading international network of conflict mediation practitioners. Co-hosted by the Royal Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue, the Oslo Forum regularly convenes conflict mediators, peacemakers, high level decision makers and key peace process actors in a series of informal and discreet retreats.

The Oslo Forum features an annual global event in Oslo and is complemented by regional retreats in Africa and Asia. The aim is to improve conflict mediation practice through facilitating open exchange and reflection across institutional and conceptual divides, providing informal networking opportunities that encourage coordination and cooperation when needed, and allowing space for conflict parties to advance their negotiations.

### Sharing experiences and insights

Mediation is increasingly seen as an effective means of resolving armed conflicts and the growing number of actors involved testifies to its emergence as a distinct field of international diplomacy. The pressured working environment of mediation rarely provides opportunities for reflection. Given the immense challenges in bringing about sustainable negotiated solutions to violent conflict, mediators benefit from looking beyond their own particular experiences for inspiration, lessons and support.

The uniquely informal and discreet retreats of the Oslo Forum series facilitate a frank and open exchange of insights by those working at the highest level to bring warring parties together. By convening key actors from the United Nations, regional organisations and governments, as well as private organisations and prominent peacemakers, the retreats also provide a unique networking opportunity.

### Where politics meets practice

Participation is by invitation-only. All discussions are confidential and take place under the Chatham house rule. Sessions are designed to stimulate informed exchanges with provocative inputs from a range of different speakers, including conflict party representatives, war correspondents, outstanding analysts, thinkers and experts on specific issues.

Participants have included **Kofi Annan**, former Secretary-General of the United Nations; **Daw Aung San Suu Kyi**, General Secretary of the National League for Democracy in Myanmar; **President Martti Ahtisaari**, President and Chairman of the Board of the Crisis Management Initiative and former President of Finland; **President Mohammad Khatami**, former President of the Islamic Republic of Iran; **Gerry Adams**, President of Sinn Féin; **Dr Surin Pitsuwan**, Secretary-General, Association of Southeast Asian Nations and former Foreign Minister of Thailand; **Dr Salim Ahmed Salim**, former Secretary general of the Organisation of African Unity and Special Envoy of the African Union; and **Ambassador Thomas Pickering**, former US Under-Secretary of State for Political Affairs. The Oslo Forum is proud to have hosted several Nobel Peace Prize laureates.

The retreats refrain from making public recommendations, aiming instead to define and advance conflict mediation practice.



PERMANENT MISSION OF NORWAY  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

H.E. Mr. Ban Ki-moon  
Secretary-General  
United Nations  
New York

Your ref.:

Our ref.:

Date: 23 December 2015

Excellency,

Attached, please find an invitation from H.E. Mr. Børge Brende, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Norway, to participate in the Oslo Forum, taking place in Oslo, Norway, 14-15 June 2016.

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

May-Elin Stener  
Ambassador  
Chargé d'Affaires a.i.

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