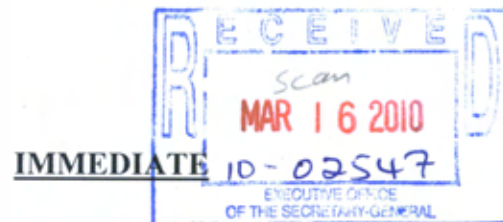


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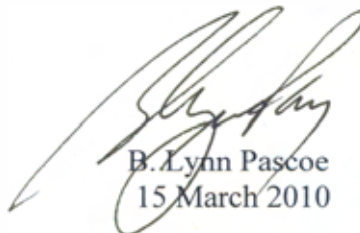
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Note to Mr. Nambiar

**REQUEST FOR A JOINT MEETING BETWEEN
THE DEPUTY SECRETARY-GENERAL AND SENIOR DELEGATIONS OF
EQUATORIAL GUINEA AND GABON**

1. The Special Adviser of the Secretary-General and Mediator of the border dispute between Equatorial Guinea and Gabon, Mr. Nicolas Michel, will hold the next mediation meeting with delegations of both countries at United Nations headquarters in New York from 18 to 20 March 2010.
2. In the absence of the Secretary-General during that period, Mr. Michel would like to request that the Deputy Secretary-General hold a joint meeting with the delegations of Equatorial Guinea and Gabon, preferably at the beginning of the mediation session on 18 March. At the proposed meeting, the Deputy Secretary-General would not address substantive issues but simply welcome the parties and encourage them to conclude the mediation process successfully in the near future. Please note that the Equatorial Guinean delegation is expected to be led by the Minister of External Relations, Mr. Pastor Ondo Bile, and the Gabonese delegation by the President of the Constitutional Court, Ms. Marie-Madeleine Mborantsuo.
3. We would appreciate if you would secure the Deputy Secretary-General's approval of this request, at her earliest convenience. Attached for her consideration are draft talking points and a background.



B. Lynn Pascoe
15 March 2010

cc: Mr. Nicolas Michel
Ms. Patricia O'Brien

DRAFT TALKING POINTS FOR
THE DEPUTY SECRETARY-GENERAL'S MEETING WITH
JOINT EQUATORIAL GUINEA AND GABON
DELEGATIONS

UN Headquarters in New York, 18 March 2010

- **Excellencies, I am pleased to welcome you and your delegations again here at United Nations Headquarters in New York, in the absence of the Secretary-General, who is currently travelling abroad.**

- **I would like to take this opportunity to reiterate the United Nations' commitment and that of the Secretary-General's personally to make every effort to assist your two countries in resolving pending issues in order to reach an agreement in a timely manner.**

- **That is the reason why the Secretary-General has continued to make the services of his Special Adviser and Mediator in the dispute, Mr. Nicolas Michel, available to both countries in order to move the mediation process forward.**

- I welcome the commitment of the authorities of Equatorial Guinea and Gabon to pursue the peaceful resolution of their border dispute through the International Court of Justice, with the assistance of the United Nations.
- I would therefore like to encourage your two delegations once again to pursue your efforts with perseverance and determination.

EG

- Thanks -
- Resolving peacefully
- A peaceful solution
- Long-term to submit to ICJ
- Future friendly
- Some are in a position to themselves - #

Gabon

- Thanks
- Res. through peace - reg's world
- Supports the long-term
- Reasonable time
- In western zone we have a longer history.

Background for the Deputy Secretary-General's
meeting with joint Equatorial Guinea and Gabon
senior delegations
UN Headquarters in New York, 18 March 2010

Mediation of the border dispute between Equatorial Guinea and Gabon

The longstanding dispute between Equatorial Guinea and Gabon regarding, in particular, sovereignty over the Mbanié, Cocotiers and Congas islands, and the delimitation of their maritime and land boundaries, dates back to 1972. It has remained a source of periodic tension between the two nations over the years. The islands are believed to have substantial offshore oil deposits. In response to a request by the authorities of Equatorial Guinea and Gabon, in July 2003, the Secretary-General appointed a Special Adviser and Mediator, Mr. Yves Fortier (Canada), to help mediate a peaceful agreement on the border dispute between the two countries.

Despite several unsuccessful initiatives by the former Secretary-General to reach a negotiated settlement of the dispute between 2003 and 2006, through the UN mediation, the Secretary-General decided to renew his good offices. In June 2008, the parties agreed to discontinue the search for a negotiated resolution of their dispute, but to seek, with UN assistance, a judicial settlement through the International Court of Justice (ICJ). To that end, the new Secretary-General's Special Adviser and Mediator of the border dispute, Mr. Nicolas Michel, has engaged both parties in a process designed to conclude a special agreement ("compromis") to bring the case before the ICJ.

The efforts by the Mediator now seem to be entering a final phase. The parties last met in Geneva on 25 and 26 January 2010 where substantial progress was made on the draft proposed special agreement. However, the most difficult provision of the special agreement, namely the subject matter of the dispute, is still under discussion. The next high level mediation meeting is scheduled to take place at UN Headquarters in New York, from 18 to 20 March 2010.

DPA is currently funding the Mediator's good offices until May 2010, through the Trust Fund for Preventive Action.