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EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL
CABINET DU SECRETAIRE GENERAL

REFERENCE:

19 September 2008

Dear Mr. Deen,

I thank you for your letter of 16 September 2008, asking if the Deputy Secretary-General could represent the Secretary-General at the ceremony to be held on 22 September 2008, during which H.E. Mr. Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, President of the Federative Republic of Brazil, will be presented with the Inter Press Service International Achievement Award 2008.

As you may be aware, the period of the General Debate of the General Assembly is a very busy one for all concerned, including Senior Advisers to the Secretary-General. I regret to inform you that the Deputy Secretary-General will be unable to attend the ceremony for scheduling reasons.

Please accept our best wishes for a successful event.

Yours sincerely,

Vijay Nambiar
Chef de Cabinet

Mr. Thalif Deen
UN Bureau Chief &
Regional Director
Inter Press Service
New York

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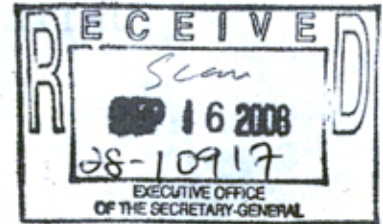
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16 September 2008



Mr Vijay Nambiar
Under Secretary-General & Chef de Cabinet
United Nations

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Dear Mr Nambiar:

Thanks very much for responding to our Director General's invitation to Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon to speak at the IPS International Achievement Award ceremony for Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva at the delegate's dining room on September 22.

We realize the time constraints on the Secretary-General in accepting our invitation-- particularly on the eve of the opening of the high level segment of the General Assembly. We understand his decision to decline the invitation.

Since we are honouring a head of state, we would much appreciate if the Secretary-General could designate the Deputy Secretary-General to be present and speak on his behalf.

In a longstanding tradition, virtually all past Secretaries-General have either spoke at our award ceremonies or a senior official designated by him has participated in the event. We would be privileged to have this tradition continued next week.

As you already know, IPS has for the last 40 years focused primarily on issues relating both to developing countries and specifically the United Nations, including MDGs, gender empowerment, poverty eradication, population, climate change and sustainable development. We consider ourselves an integral part of the U.N.'s political and economic agenda.

We would therefore much appreciate the U.N. Secretariat's physical presence at our award ceremony.

Thanking You

Thalif Deen
UN Bureau Chief &
Regional Director
Inter Press Service