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EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL
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3 April 2009

Dear Mr. Salemo,

Thank you for your letters of 12 March 2009, in which you invited the Secretary-General and me to participate in the Annual Convention of the Global Alliance for International Advancement, to be held from 9 to 11 May 2009 at the Waldorf Astoria.

On behalf of the Secretary-General and in my own name, I thank you for your kind invitation. However, I regret to inform you that owing to scheduling reasons, we will be unable to take part in this event. Nevertheless, allow me to take this opportunity to convey our wishes for a successful Convention.

With thanks for your kind understanding.

Yours sincerely,

Yeocheol Yoon

Special Assistant to the Secretary-General
and Chief, Scheduling Office

Mr. George Salemo
Chief Executive Officer
Global Alliance for International
Advancement
New York

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GLOBAL ALLIANCE FOR INTERNATIONAL ADVANCEMENT

Mr. Ki-moon Ban
Secretary-General
Executive Office of the Secretary-General
One United Nations Plaza
New York, NY 10017

March 12, 2009

Dear Mr. Ki-moon Ban,

We are pleased to invite you to the Global Alliance for International Advancement's Annual Convention at the Waldorf=Astoria on May 9th, 10th and 11th of 2009. The theme of our convention is based on the principles of "*building the global community*" and we consider you an integral component of this process.

Our convention will consist of a variety of workshops, panels, roundtables, luncheons and receptions and we would be delighted if you were to participate at our event. Our exhibition space will provide an expansive showcase of organizations and businesses around the world making concerted efforts in the area of human rights, gender equality, poverty reduction, sustainable economic development, access to education, healthcare access, combating disease, environmental protection, and others. We expect approximately 800-1000 attendees each day, including corporate entities, NGO's, UN agencies and institutions of higher learning, creating a truly global community.

Additionally, we will be hosting a Gala Dinner with an awards ceremony honoring selected individuals and organizations as "Defining the Global Citizen." To be held in the Grand Ball Room of the Waldorf=Astoria, this magnificent event will honor those individuals and organizations that embody the ideals and characteristics of a Global Citizen.

We would be honored if you were to join us at GAIA's 2009 Annual Convention and look forward to hearing from you. If you have any questions or concerns please contact Mr. Pedro Dalmau at 212-986-1900 ext. 2040.

Respectfully,

George Salemo
Chief Executive Officer
Global Alliance for International Advancement