

THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

22 December 2014

Excellency,

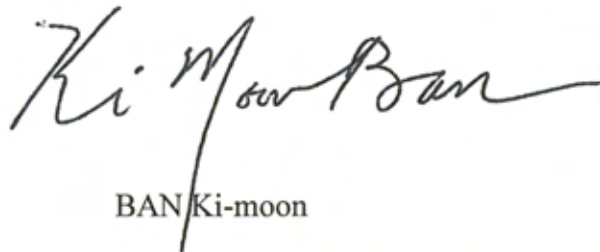
I wish to congratulate you on the historic announcement made by the United States and Cuba on 17 December 2014 on the restoration of diplomatic relations and the release of several persons in both countries.

One of the central purposes and principles of the United Nations is to encourage friendly relations among states. In this regard, the United Nations celebrates both the decision to restore diplomatic ties and the commitment shown by the United States and Cuba to promote mutual steps to normalize their relations.

In your statement of 17 December 2014, you recalled the difficulty of achieving change in the life of nations. Borrowing your words, I welcome the determined choice of the United States to "cut loose the shackles of the past so as to reach for a better future" for the peoples of the United States, Cuba and the Americas.

The United States and Cuba took a decisive step on 17 December 2014. I would like to convey my personal support and that of the United Nations for the subsequent stages of this process.

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


BAN/Ki-moon

His Excellency
Mr. Barack Obama
President of the United States of America
Washington, D.C.

Presidents Cuba and US
Drafter: DPA
Proofread by: JR/MZ/UN/SLG
Approved by:

Date: 22 December 2014