



THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

4 January 2010

Dear Mr. Varney and the Young People of Australia,

I write to thank you for your outstanding efforts to support the United Nations.

People around the world are connected as a human family as never before, opening up vast new possibilities. But we also face multiple threats, from poverty, hunger and climate change to the spread of deadly weapons and disease and the biggest economic crisis since the founding of the United Nations. None of these problems can be solved by any single nation acting alone. The youth of the world have a crucial role to play in addressing them all.

I always draw strength from my meetings with young people, and from the passion and insights they bring to our work for peace and progress. Youth delegates to the 2009 session of the General Assembly, including the Australian youth representative, forcefully articulated the perspectives of young people. At the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen, young leaders showed themselves strongly committed to solving climate-related challenges.

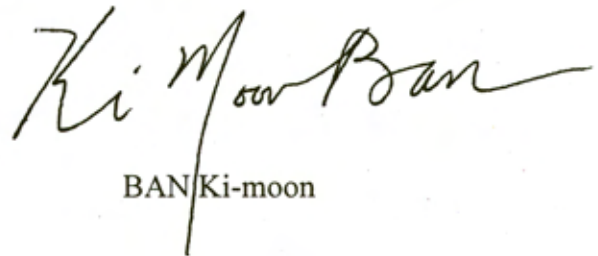
With this letter, I hope to encourage young people throughout Australia to take up the mantle of global citizenship. By getting involved in your communities, and by speaking out about your concerns and aspirations, you are showing the world that young people are not only leaders of tomorrow, but also important contributors of today.

Mr. Chris Varney  
Australia's 2009 Youth Delegate  
to the United Nations  
Canberra

SG letter to DPR Australia  
Drafter: DESA  
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Date: 30/12/09

Extraordinary times such as these open extraordinary opportunities for change. Thank you for supporting the aims, principles and work of the United Nations. I look forward to what you will do to help us meet the trials of our age and shape the world for good.

Yours sincerely,

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