



THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

15 June 2009

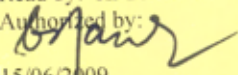
Dear Mr. Annan,

I write to thank you for your letter dated 10 March 2009, inviting me to be a speaker at this year's annual meeting of the Global Humanitarian Forum entitled "Human Impact of Climate Change: New Challenges for Humanitarianism and Sustainable Development", scheduled to be held on 23 and 24 June 2009 in Geneva.

I welcome the Forum's continued work to address the challenges of climate change and your personal commitment to further this agenda. I am also grateful to you for keeping me informed of the Forum's activities. The humanitarian dimensions of climate change are increasingly being recognized in the debate. It is important for us to define action-oriented policy solutions and to clarify the options among the substantive elements to be included in a Copenhagen agreement in December 2009.

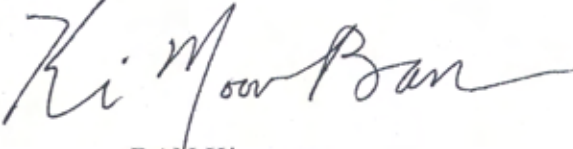
We are looking ahead towards intensive months of Government negotiations as we strive to seal a deal in Copenhagen. In support of this goal, I will convene a summit on climate change on 22 September 2009 in New York. The challenge and hence the magnitude and complexity of these negotiations is unprecedented, necessitating political attention and direction from the highest levels. In addition, the UN system is gearing up to ensure its readiness to support the implementation of an ambitious climate change regime delivering as one. In this context, I greatly appreciate your continued support and look forward to your advice on these important issues.

Mr. Kofi A. Annan
President
Global Humanitarian Forum
Geneva

Letter to Mr. Annan
Drafted by: KM, JA, CCST
Read by: KM/MM/JA/VN
Authorized by:

15/06/2009

It is an honour for me to have received your kind invitation. Regrettably, I have to inform you that I will be unable to take part in the 2009 Forum. However, Mr. John Holmes, Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief, and Mr. Achim Steiner, Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, will be participating in this important event as senior representatives of the United Nations. Allow me, nevertheless, to take this opportunity to convey my best wishes for a successful event and let me reassure you that climate change will remain a high priority for the United Nations work.

Yours sincerely,



BAN Ki-moon