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EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL
CABINET DU SECRETAIRE GENERAL

REFERENCE:

8 August 2014

Excellency,

Further to your letter of 17 June 2014 to the Secretary-General, I am pleased to send you the Secretary-General's message to the Assilah Forum Symposium: "Sustainable Development In Difficult Times: the Role Of Multilateral Organizations"

I wish to take this opportunity to convey the best wishes of the Secretary-General for a successful event.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard Amdur".

Richard Amdur
Director of
Communications and Speechwriting

His Excellency
Mr. Mohammed Benaïsa
Secretary-General
The Assilah Forum Foundation
Assilah

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THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

**MESSAGE TO ASSILAH FORUM FOUNDATION SYMPOSIUM:
"SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN DIFFICULT TIMES:
THE ROLE OF MULTILATERAL ORGANIZATIONS"
Assilah, Morocco, 12-14 August 2014**

I am pleased to send greetings to all participants at this year's Assilah Festival, and thank the Centre for International Relations and Sustainable Development for its support.

We are living through deeply troubling times with violent conflict disfiguring the lives of many people in parts of Africa, the Middle East and beyond. Dangerous sectarianism has fanned the flames of conflict in Syria and is driving people from homelands they have inhabited since antiquity in northern Iraq. While conditions vary in different conflicts, all share the same disregard for human life and the same flawed view that security for one can be achieved at the expense of another.

These conflicts frequently throw progress and development into reverse, jeopardising the hard work of countries and their people, supported by UN agencies, non-governmental organizations and other partners. In these trying circumstances, it becomes more difficult to raise the standard for sustainable development and the importance of tackling climate change. But champion them we must, for hunger, poverty and increasingly unpredictable weather patterns are all too often the catalysts for conflict.

At the turn of our new century in 2000, world leaders pledged support for a 15-year plan to achieve eight Millennium Development Goals to meet the needs of the world's poorest. We are now barely 500 days away from the deadline. We have made enormous strides, but much more needs to be done as we take stock of our achievements globally and define a post-2015 development agenda.

We must also adopt a new, meaningful legal climate agreement by 2015. To set the stage for results, I have invited leaders from around the world to a Climate Summit on 23 September in New York. But it will take more than leaders of governments – it will take activists, business leaders and ordinary citizens coming together in support of our planet and its future.

Culture has enormous power to bring people together and foster an appreciation of our common humanity. I hope that this great festival can inspire people to play a greater role in advancing our vision of a life of dignity for all.

Please accept my best wishes for a memorable and productive festival.

RECEIVED

AUG 14 2014

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Hand-delivered to the SG
at the Aspen Ministers Forum dinner
on 19/06/14
Rec'd in CRU
on 20/6/14
from R.O.

The Assilah
Forum Foundation



مؤسسة
منتدى أصيلة

Assilah, Morocco, 17th June 2014

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H.E. Mr. Ban Ki-Moon
Secretary-General
The United Nations
New York, NY - U.S.A.

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JUN 20 2014
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EXECUTIVE OFFICE
OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

Dear Mr. Secretary General,

The Assilah Forum Foundation, a non government non-profit organisation (NGO) is hosting in Assilah, Morocco, from 12th to 14th August, 2014, a symposium on "Sustainable Development in Difficult Times: The Role of Multilateral Organisations".

This symposium is being organised in collaboration with the *Center for International Relations and Sustainable Development (CIRSD)*, a think-tank established by H.E. Mr Vuk Jeremic, who served as President of the 67th Session of the UN General Assembly.

The symposium will be attended by political leaders and development and climate change specialists from all parts of the globe, including our dear friend Jeffrey Sachs, Director of the Earth Institute at the University of Columbia.

We would be most grateful if your Excellency, as in past occasions of the Foundation, would oblige us by sending a message reflecting on the UN policy and future action in promoting sustainable development and climate change.

With warmest personal regards,

Mohamed Benaïssa

Former Minister for Foreign Affairs
and Cooperation of Morocco
Secretary General
The Assilah Forum Foundation

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