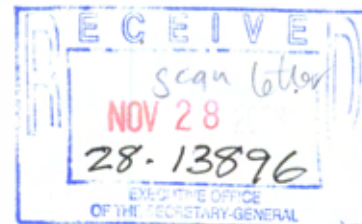


*Spain*

*Ambassador Permanent Representative of Spain
to the United Nations*

URGENT

To Mr Vijay K Nambiar
Chef de Cabinet - Under-Secretary.-General

From Juan Antonio Yáñez-Barnuevo

Date Thursday 28 November 2008

Dear Vijay,

This is to follow-up our telephone conversation of today.

On behalf of HE Mr Miguel Angel Moratinos, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Spain, please find enclosed a note (non paper) for the immediate attention of the Secretary-General in Doha.

Minister Moratinos will be arriving in Doha on Saturday the 29th in the afternoon and will be speaking at the Conference on Sunday the 30th in the morning.

Yours

Juan Antonio Yáñez-Barnuevo

Proposal for the appointment of a UN High Level Representative on the MDGs and organization of Ministerial Event on the MDGs

In the midst of a dire global economic and financial crisis, developed countries are likely to divert their attention to their domestic matters at the expense of the problems affecting developing countries. There is already evidence that donor countries are reducing their development aid spending. At the same time, as the crisis hits developing and emerging countries, their governments may focus on the macroeconomic and financing imbalances of their economies, thus reducing their efforts to attend the social and poverty needs of their populations.

All of this will have an impact on the achievement of their MDGs. Passed the mid-point towards 2015, progress in the Goals has been at best mixed; some regions have made important headway, but in others, particularly in Africa, many countries are still lagging behind. And for some MDGs progress has been scarce.

Therefore, if the MDGs are to be achieved, new impetus is needed to increase efforts up to 2015 of all stakeholders: partner countries, donor governments, international organizations, civil society and private sector. For this reason Spain, would like to propose the appointment of a new High Level Representative for the Achievement of the MDGs until 2015.

This is not completely a new position, but it will have some new tasks. In 2002 the former UN Secretary General Koffi Annan appointed Jeffrey Sachs as Special Adviser on MDGs, a position he held until December 2006. Mr Sachs's tasks included gathering and commissioning new research and developing novel approaches for costing and partnership on the MDGs. Thanks to his tireless efforts, Mr Sachs was instrumental in raising the attention of the international media and governments around the world on the MDGs, and in proposing practical means to achieve them.

The profile and tasks of the High Level Representative should differ slightly from those of the former Special Adviser. The HLR should be a senior political figure, preferably a former PM, well known and respected internationally, with enough political prestige and charisma so as to muster up the international community efforts towards the MDGs. He/she will work with (i) developing countries' governments to keep the focus and national efforts on the achievement of the MDGs and beyond; (ii) donor countries to maintain the financing levels for development; (iii) international organizations to better track progress on the MDGs; (iv) the international media to keep the attention and continue the pressure on governments to deliver. The HLR could put together a small group of *Friends of the MDGs*, made up of high profile figures, who would collaborate with him in the achievement of the Goals.

If this proposal would be acceptable to the Secretary General, the government of Spain would consider covering the costs of the appointments for the first two years.

UN Secretary General has announced the organization of another UN Special Session on the MDGs in September 2010 in NY, on the side of the UN General Assembly. Spain, which will hold the Presidency of the European Union during the first semester of 2010, would like to take the opportunity and to propose the organization of a ministerial meeting on the MDGs. This event would have the objectives of kick-starting

work to prepare for the Special Session, of raising the level of media attention, and of paving the ground for a successful Special Session in New York. It could also be an opportunity to announce the nomination of the High Level Representative on the MDGs. If this proposal would be acceptable to the Secretary General, Spain would be willing to host it in Madrid.