



THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

Condolences

RoK

19 March 2009

Excellency,

Allow me to pay my deepest respects to you for your outstanding leadership and tireless efforts to bring peace, security and development to the Republic of Korea and the international community as a whole amid the difficult global circumstances especially brought on by the recent economic and financial crisis.

I wish to offer congratulations on the achievements of your recent visits to New Zealand, Australia and Indonesia. The New Asia Initiative, which you have proposed during these visits, will contribute to strengthening cooperation among Asia-Pacific nations. Your vision for taking the lead in addressing regional issues is greatly appreciated.

As the Secretary-General of the United Nations coming from Korea, I was deeply saddened by the recent terrorist attack on Korean tourists in Yemen. I would like to convey my heartfelt condolences to the Korean Government and people, particularly the families who lost their loved ones. No act of terrorism, regardless of its objectives or manifestation, should ever be tolerated. I am extremely concerned about the recent increase in international terrorism against civilians, the complexes and staff members of the United Nations, and those of other international organizations.

His Excellency
Mr. Lee Myung-bak
President of the Republic of Korea
Seoul

MAR 19 2009

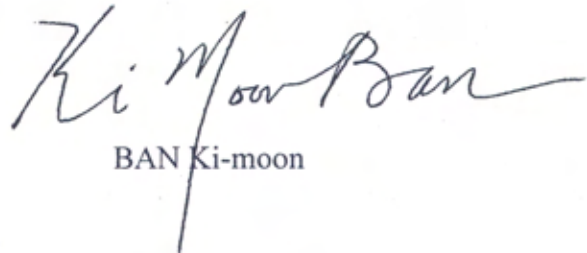
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At the Symposium on Terrorism last September, which was the first occasion the United Nations dealt with this issue at its Headquarters, I stressed that strong leadership is critical in responding to global terrorism. In this regard, I commend the response immediately undertaken by the Korean Government following the terrorist attacks. Additionally, I wish to take this opportunity to express my appreciation for the Korean Government's decision to dispatch its naval ship to the sea near Somalia.

As Secretary-General of the United Nations, I am exerting my utmost efforts and giving top priority to ensuring that the will of the international community to tackle global issues such as climate change and the Millennium Development Goals does not falter due to the current financial and economic crisis. With this in mind, I would like to reiterate the significance of the upcoming G-20 Summit, to be held in London early next month. I will participate in this meeting to voice the concerns about the developing nations that are most severely affected by the economic downturn. At the same time, I will emphasize the importance of "Green Growth" as a viable global solution to overcome the current economic crisis and attain sustainable development.

In this regard, I highly appreciate the outstanding efforts made by the Korean Government in addressing climate change and the economic crisis based on "Green Growth" strategies. I have high expectations that Korea, as a member of the Troika, will make critical contributions to the G-20 Summit, and am looking forward to meeting you again on that occasion.

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



BAN Ki-moon