



THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

Letter to HE Ms. Gillard, MP  
Drafted by: DPA  
Read by: YYC  
Authorized by:  
*Brame*  
07/07/2011

8 July 2011

Excellency,

Thank you for your letter of 23 March 2011 inviting me to attend the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM), to be held in Perth in late October 2011. I would very much have liked to personally attend this important summit. I am, unfortunately, unable to change prior commitments and regret to have to decline your kind invitation.

The United Nations values our partnership with the Commonwealth. In 2009, I had the honour of participating in the CHOGM in Trinidad and Tobago, where we made a strong call for united action on climate change. In March this year, I held a fruitful discussion with Secretary-General Kamallesh Sharma on a number of issues, including climate change, the challenges of small island states, diseases, and gender equality. Last year, our two Organizations collaborated on electoral assistance to countries in the Asia and Pacific region, and I am pleased to note that officials of our Secretariats have remained in regular contact on key issues of common concerns, in particular Fiji.

Given the importance of the upcoming CHOGM, I have designated Ms. Noeleen Heyzer, Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, to represent me and deliver a statement on my behalf. You may wish to note that she was a member of the Commonwealth Commission on Respect and Understanding chaired by Professor Amartya Sen, which published its report "Civil Paths to Peace" in November 2007. I trust that she would make useful contributions in advancing the discussions on key international issues, including climate change and sustainable development.

Her Excellency  
Ms. Julia Gillard, MP  
Prime Minister of the Commonwealth of Australia  
Canberra

May I also express my sincere gratitude to the continued support of Australia for the United Nations. I look forward to visiting Australia ahead of my first-ever participation in the Pacific Islands Forum Summit in New Zealand this September.

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

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