



THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

2 February 2009

Excellency,

It was an honour to meet you in Cairo recently, and to discuss the activities of the Egyptian Red Crescent Society regarding Gaza, among other topics.

As you know, the main purpose of my visit to the region was to support efforts for an immediate end to the fighting in the Gaza Strip and the immediate delivery of urgent humanitarian supplies to those in need. In this context, I applaud your efforts to coordinate the activities of the United Nations family of agencies, funds and programmes, as well as of national and international non-governmental organisations.

The United Nations has issued a flash appeal for USD 613 million to meet the immediate needs of the people of Gaza. I agree that it is necessary to put in place mechanisms to avoid waste and duplication in the period of recovery and reconstruction ahead. The United Nations will work with the Government of Egypt and others in mobilising the resources of the international community for the forthcoming donors' conference in Cairo.

I would also like to take this opportunity to reiterate here my strong commitment to achieving gender balance and empowering women in all fields, including in conflict prevention and resolution, in accordance with Security Council resolution 1325 of 2000 and the other pivotal texts agreed upon by the international community.

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

BAN Ki-moon

Her Excellency
Mrs. Suzanne Mubarak
First Lady of the Arab Republic of Egypt
President of the Egyptian Red Crescent Society
Cairo