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"If I can be of service in  
 any part of the world  
 I will gladly do all  
 in my power."

Nano Nagle, Foundress  
 Sisters of the Presentation

August 9, 2007

His Excellency Mr. Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon  
 UN headquarters  
 New York, NY 10017

Dear Mr. Ban Ki-Moon,

We would like to thank you on the appointment of Ms. Noeleen Heyzer as the Executive Director of the Economic Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP). She is a woman to be recognized for her role in advancing the rights of women and gender equality as Executive Director of UNIFEM. Congratulations on nominating her.

We are particularly appreciative of your appointment of Ms. Heyzer to ESCAP as she will be the first woman to ever be appointed Director of the biggest of the UN's five regional commissions.

Given the critical role UNIFEM plays in advancing women's rights, particularly on the ground, and the support UNIFEM has enjoyed from women's organizations around the world, we urge that consultation with women's groups be part of the process for recruiting a new Executive Director for UNIFEM. The new Executive Director should unquestionably have demonstrated leadership and substantial experience in women human rights and gender equality. We stand ready to work with you to identify outstanding candidates from around the world. We look forward to hearing from you about how this process will proceed.

Sincerely,

*Sharon Altendorf PBVM*  
 Sharon Altendorf, PBVM

