



THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

25 February 2010

Excellency,

I will have the pleasure of chairing the United Nations Global Compact Leaders Summit from 23 to 25 June 2010. This event, to take place in New York, will represent the largest high-level gathering ever convened on the topic of business in society.

In this regard, I wish to explore your consideration with respect to inviting His Excellency Mr. Barack Obama, President of the United States of America, to deliver either the opening address, which will take place in the United Nations General Assembly Hall, or the closing address, which will take place at Marriott Marquis Times Square in New York.

I expect approximately 1,500 chief executive officers, government officials, and heads of United Nations agencies and civil society organizations to attend this event, which will focus on the role of business in achieving more sustainable and inclusive markets and in reaching the Millennium Development Goals.

The event will mark the tenth anniversary of the United Nations Global Compact, which today stands as the world's largest corporate responsibility initiative, with nearly 7,000 business participants and stakeholders from 140 countries.

In recent years, the United Nations Global Compact has attracted the participation of many important companies from the United States of America, whose chief executive officers are actively involved in the initiative. These companies include Coca-Cola, DuPont, Ford, General Electric, Intel, Merck, and Microsoft.

Her Excellency  
Ms. Susan E. Rice  
Permanent Representative of the United States  
of America to the United Nations  
New York

H.E. Ms. Susan Rice  
Drafter: Georg Kell  
Authorized: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date: 25 February 2010

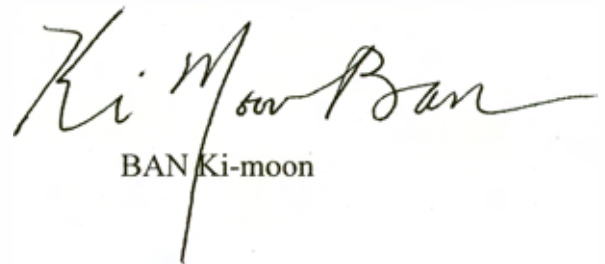
A handwritten signature in dark ink, likely of Georg Kell, is written over the 'Authorized' line.

Overall, the Summit will provide a powerful platform to underscore the critical role the private sector can play in achieving development goals; the importance of ethics in business practice and commerce; the contributions that business can make in areas such as human rights, the environment, and anti-corruption; and the potential for corporations headquartered in the United States of America to lead the responsibility agenda.

I wish to invite His Excellency Mr. Barack Obama to speak on these and related themes. In this regard, I seek your counsel on how to most effectively make the direct request to President Obama.

Finally, I am aware that Mr. Georg Kell, Executive Director of the United Nations Global Compact Office, has briefed you on the overall nature and objectives of the Global Compact initiative. He stands by to provide a further briefing to you and your staff on the United Nations Global Compact Leaders Summit.

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



BAN Ki-moon