



THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

24 August 2012

Excellency,

It is with profound sorrow that I learned of the untimely death of His Excellency Mr. Meles Zenawi, Prime Minister of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia.


I wish to express my deep condolences and sincere sympathy to Your Excellency, the bereaved family, the Government and the people of Ethiopia, as you strive to cope with this tragedy.

This is a great loss for Ethiopia and the family of nations. A skilled mediator and true intellectual, Prime Minister Meles was a remarkable leader who served his country and the international community for close to two decades.

Prime Minister Meles was a visionary who will be remembered for his exceptional leadership and advocacy of African issues within and outside the continent, as well as for fostering the economic growth and development of Ethiopia.

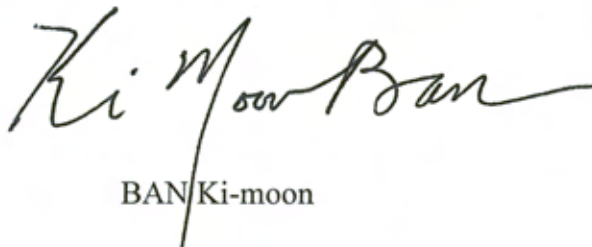
I will remember, with gratitude, the unwavering commitment of Prime Minister Meles working with the United Nations on numerous global peace and development challenges, most recently in Somalia, the ongoing negotiations between Sudan and South Sudan, the Millenium Development Goals and climate change.

His Excellency
Mr. Hailemariam Desalegn
Acting Prime Minister
of the Federal Democratic Republic
of Ethiopia
Addis Ababa

SG to Acting PM Ethiopia
Drafter: DPA
Proofread by: US/DP/HF
Approved by: 
Date: 23 August 2012

Prime Minister Meles leaves behind a long legacy of major achievements. The United Nations stands together with the people of Ethiopia at this difficult moment.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Ban Ki-moon". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Ban" being more prominent and the last name "Ki-moon" written in a more connected, flowing style.

BAN Ki-moon