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September 25, 2008

His Excellency
Ban Ki-moon
Secretary-General of the United Nations
New York

Dear Mr. Secretary-General:

At the Rome Food Conference in June and at the G-8 Summit in Japan in July, world leaders agreed to meet global emergency food needs; invest in improved agricultural production, productivity, and research; and promote a more open global market for food and agricultural goods, in part by encouraging countries to lift restrictions on movements of grain and other food items. We need to act decisively to implement those commitments and work together to build a Global Partnership for Agriculture and Food to coordinate support for credible developing country-led agriculture growth plans.

This year, the United States and the United Kingdom announced approximately \$5.5 billion over two years and \$1.4 billion over five years respectively to improve global food security. Others (Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development members, new donors, and emerging economies) need to do their part by ensuring, for example, that funds are quickly mobilized to pay for seeds and fertilizer in time for the next planting season in 30 countries identified by the World Bank Rapid Response Programme and the United Nations. We likewise ask vulnerable countries to accelerate their development plans, increasing their own investment in agricultural systems, including markets and trade.

We also seek your urgent support in responding to the growing food crisis in the Horn of Africa, where already nearly 17 million people need immediate humanitarian assistance. The United Kingdom and the United States are providing \$178 million and over \$1.0 billion respectively, in humanitarian assistance to the people of the Horn of Africa this year. Other countries have also responded generously, but the needs remain great and are likely to grow. We ask you to join us in meeting these pressing humanitarian needs.

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The attendance of so many world leaders at the 63rd United Nations General Assembly offers a crucial opportunity to continue to work together to tackle these challenges. Individually and collectively, we must assure vigorous implementation of our commitments to tackle this problem over the weeks and months to come.

Yours sincerely,

Gordon Brown

Gordon Brown

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "George W. Bush". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping initial "G" and a long, horizontal tail stroke.

George W. Bush