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EXECUTIVE OFFICE  
OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

NOTE TO MS. MALCORRA

Invitation to the Secretary-General to participate in a public service activity  
on Nelson Mandela International Day, 18 July 2014

In observance of this year's Nelson Mandela International Day on Friday, 18 July, the Department of Public Information (DPI), with the support of the Permanent Mission of South Africa to the United Nations, plans to organize a public service activity that will include caring for trees in collaboration with MillionTreesNYC. The programme is part of "PlaNYC," a sustainability and resiliency blueprint for New York City. The overall goal of MillionTreesNYC is to plant and care for one million new trees across the City's five boroughs over the next decade.

In its resolution that established the Day, the General Assembly recognized Mr. Mandela's values and his dedication to the service of humanity. In response to that resolution, and a call by the Mandela Foundation, DPI and the Permanent Mission of South Africa plan to organize 67 minutes of public service to mark the Day.

To this end, the Department will urge staff at Headquarters and in the field, through its network of UN information centres, to take part in a public service activity that contributes to the common good. Staff will be encouraged to spend 67 minutes of their time on the Day, either individually, or through arrangements with local public institutions, civil society groups, and educational institutions, in activities that primarily benefit their local community.

We would be honoured if the Secretary-General could lead this effort and join a group of UN staff and volunteers in the MillionTreesNYC activity, any time between 10:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. on 18 July.

MillionTreesNYC has identified numerous trees within the vicinity of the Secretariat building that require immediate care. This area covers the block between 43<sup>rd</sup> and 44<sup>th</sup> Street on First and Second Avenues. Arrangements are being made with MillionTreesNYC for the supply of all tools and other materials needed for the care of these trees.

As this is the first commemoration of the Day after the death of Mr. Mandela, we hope that the Secretary-General will be able to take part. The activity also provides an opportunity for the Secretary-General to highlight his focus on sustainable development and climate change. The Secretary-General's personal engagement, moreover, will help to build stronger interaction and mutually beneficial partnerships with the host city.

Thank you.

  
Peter Launsky-Tieffenthal  
26 June 2014

cc: Ms. Ambiehl  
Mr. Amdur  
Mr. Chang  
Mr. Dujarric

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