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The Royal Palace
Amman
Jordan

8 April 2015

Dear Secretary-General,

It is with deep regret that I must submit my resignation from the Independent Eminent Expert of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action.

After much thought and deliberation, I feel that I must now focus my efforts on Middle Eastern affairs, given the depth of the crisis that currently blights my region. As you may be aware, it was in response to my growing concern about the strength, pace and inclusiveness of development in the region, that in 2009 I established the West Asia-North Africa (WANA) Forum. The WANA Forum's mission was to provide a multi-stakeholder dialogue platform aimed at developing home grown solutions to pressing social, environmental and economic challenges.

On 1 January 2015, we re-launched ourselves as the WANA Institute, a Jordan-based, non-profit policy think tank. The Institute is striving to become a trusted source of progressive research and discourse in the areas of social justice, green economy and human security. Our goal is to promote a transition to evidence-based policy and programming, with a particular focus on strengthening civil society as a key player in development.

I hope very much to build on new interdisciplinary eco-social policies and institutions that will lay my region's problems to rest and build a prosperous future and so my time must be fully applied to promoting these ideas.

With warmest regards,

Yours sincerely

El Hassan bin Talal



Ban Ki-moon, Secretary-General of the United Nations