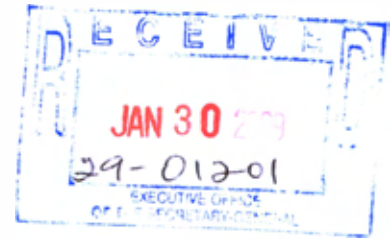


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Australia



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PRIME MINISTER
CANBERRA

27 JAN 2009

Dear Secretary General

Thank you for your letter of 22 December 2008 regarding the High Level Meeting on Food Security which you are jointly convening with the Prime Minister of Spain in Madrid on 26-27 January 2009.

I congratulate you and Prime Minister Zapatero on your initiative in hosting the meeting and thereby seeking to maintain the international community's focus on the serious food security challenges continuing to affect the developing world. The meeting will also provide continuity to the important initiatives launched at the Rome Conference in June 2008.

Australia strongly supports the outcomes of the Rome Conference and the G8 Summit, including the call to create a Global Partnership on Agriculture and Food. In taking forward a new Global Partnership, it will be important to take into account the commendable work of the UN High-Level Task Force on Food Security, as well as the Food and Agriculture Organization, the World Food Programme, the World Bank and the International Fund for Agricultural Development.

My Government looks forward to continuing to work with you to address these serious global issues and, to this end, the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, the Hon Tony Burke MP, will travel to Spain to participate in the High Level Meeting.

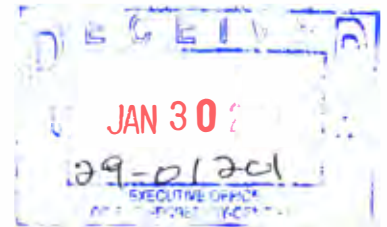
I have written in similar terms to Prime Minister Zapatero.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "KR", followed by a long horizontal flourish.

Kevin Rudd

HE Mr Ban Ki-moon
Secretary-General
United Nations
NEW YORK



Note No. 053/2009

The Permanent Mission of Australia to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and has the honour to refer to the previous Secretary-General's letter dated 22 December 2008 to the Prime Minister of Australia, the Hon Kevin Rudd MP, regarding the High Level Meeting on Food Security.

The Permanent Mission of Australia has the further honour to deliver a copy of the Prime Minister's reply to the previous Secretary-General's letter. The original of the Prime Minister's reply will follow as soon as possible.

The Permanent Mission of Australia to the United Nations avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Secretary-General of the United Nations the assurances of its highest consideration.



NEW YORK

29 January 2009

Australia



PRIME MINISTER
CANBERRA

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Secretary-General
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NEW YORK