

Höba (for Sophie G)

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## Invitation to the opening of 2017 Mannheim Forum



# MANNHEIM FORUM 2017

ACTION C W J

Mannheim, 13.12.2016

16-10698

EOSG/CENTRAL

Dear Mr. Ban Ki-Moon,

COPY RA (email)

My name is Tobias Palmowski and I am an undergraduate student in economic studies at the University of Mannheim in Germany. I am part of the Speaker Relations Committee of the Mannheim Forum, a student-run conference which takes place annually in March and attracts over 500 attendees and prominent speakers from politics, business, media, and cultural institutions.

**On behalf of the Mannheim Forum, it is my pleasure to invite you to be our guest of honor and to give the opening speech to our 2017 conference.**

The Mannheim Forum is an accredited non-profit student initiative at the University of Mannheim and was founded in 2012 with the goal of establishing an annual interdisciplinary student conference encompassing six different themes (economics, politics, technology, business, culture, and security). The Forum offers students a unique opportunity to interact with renowned decision-makers and debate socially relevant issues, developments, and problems. Through interactive podium discussions, talks, and workshops participants have the chance to think outside of the box and gain insights into areas outside of their field of study. The three-day program is augmented by social events such as an opening reception, a concert, and a closing party.

The **Opening of the Mannheim Forum** starts traditionally with an one hour lecture or an discussion. On this occasion there are the first ideas given and all of the participants of the congress are trying to learn new things about the topic. The guest of honor is clearly invited to represent his own interpretation of the theme and to allow the audience to take part of his thoughts and the experiences he has made.

In previous years the Mannheim Forum has examined themes such as "Resources," "Power," "Time," and "(without) Borders?". For 2017 we have chosen the topic "**New beginnings from upheaval**". Upheavals within this context concern a fundamental transition that is or has taken place. Often this will involve an intense struggle between conflicting traditional ideologies and new ideas within the societies that surround us, as the people within them and their attitudes are constantly shifting. Therefore, the aim of the 2017 forum is to seek answers to where these major upheavals are taking place and how we should react to them? Is it possible for a society to experience a fundamental change and then just continue and adapt to these new circumstances after losing everything taken for granted up unto that point? There are multiple current and urgent issues that should be of concern and interest to all of us, therefore we would like to explore these pertinent themes further and their impact on the world. This will be done from six different perspectives over the course of three days. Some responses may be controversial, some may be enlightening, some may be surprising, but what isn't up for discussion is that the 2017 Mannheim Forum will be engaging because the importance of the issues demands it.

Since 2007 you have been the UN Secretary-General. For 9 years, you have seen so many parts of global politics, crises, war, but also peace and you have tried to find the best compromises for everyone. You have seen the rich and the poor people in our world and

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everytime you have been to any kind of event, you stood up for human rights, for children, for the poor ones and the disadvantaged people in our world.

If a student, at my age, thinks about the UN, inevitable one thinks about Ban Ki-Moon. For those nine years, you tried to accomplish these things that really matter. Way off all party politics, you knew how to find the right and sometimes critical words, to call things by their real name and not to shy away from dictators and those people how are disregarding human rights. To my mind, you are one of the few people in our world at all, who are able to understand what "new beginnings from upheaval" really means for our whole world, which opportunities are going to open up now and in the future and which challenges we will have to face. If you can word all these things in an opening speech for our congress, giving us an insight in your vision, it would be of inestimable value for me personally and for all the members of our congress.

✓ The opening would take place on the 16th of March 2017 in the Congress Center Rosengarten at Mannheim.

The Mannheim Forum would be pleased to cover costs associated with your travel to Mannheim as well as accommodation and meals during the event.

We would be honoured if you would accept this invitation to speak at the 2017 Mannheim Forum. Please let me know at your convenience if you will be able to join us for the event, and do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions. I would be happy to discuss further details with you either by phone or email.

Thank you in advance for your consideration, and I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely

Tobias Palmowski

Speakerrelations

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To:  
Cc:  
Bcc:  
Subject: Fw: Official Invitation to 2017 Mannheim Forum

From: Stephane Dujarric/NY/UNO  
To: SGCentral/NY/UNO@UNHQ  
Date: 13/12/2016 01:33 PM  
Subject: Fw: Official Invitation to 2017 Mannheim Forum  
Sent by: Marcia Soares Pinto

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Stephane Dujarric (Mr.)  
Spokesman for the Secretary-General  
United Nations Headquarters | Room: S-233  
New York, NY, 10017  
E: dujarric@un.org | T: +1.212.963.6172 | Sk: stephdujarric  
—— Forwarded by Marcia Soares Pinto/NY/UNO on 13/12/2016 01:33 PM ——

From: Tobias Palmowski <palmowski@mannheim-forum.org>  
To: dujarric@un.org  
Date: 13/12/2016 10:28 AM  
Subject: Official Invitation to 2017 Mannheim Forum

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Dear Mr. Dujarric,

My name is Tobias Palmowski and I am an undergraduate student in economic studies at the University of Mannheim in Germany. I am part of the Speaker Relations Committee of the Mannheim Forum, a student-run conference which takes place annually in March and attracts over 500 attendees and prominent speakers from politics, business, media, and cultural institutions.

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Please find the official invitation attached to this email

Sincerely

**Tobias Palmowski**  
Rednerakquise & inhaltliche Konzeption

**Mannheim Forum e.V.**  
akkreditierte Studenteninitiative der Universität Mannheim



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