

DESA

UNITED NATIONS



NATIONS UNIES

THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

—
**MESSAGE TO THE EIGHTH SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE
OF THE PARTIES TO THE UNITED NATIONS
CONVENTION TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION**
Madrid, 12 September 2007

I send warm greetings to all participants in the high-level segment of the Eighth Session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification. Allow me also to thank Spain for hosting this important conference.

Your focus on the links between desertification and climate change is timely and pressing. These twin threats interact with each other at a variety of levels. They are two major manifestations of the same problem. And together they seriously threaten our ability to reach the Millennium Development Goals by 2015.

Greenhouse gas emissions from human activities are causing our world to get warmer. We are already experiencing the impact of climate change, with adverse effects felt in many areas. And for people living in dry areas, especially in Africa, changing weather patterns threaten to exacerbate desertification, drought and food insecurity.

Global warming is expected to lead to a further rise in the number of extreme weather events, such as droughts and heavy rains, which will have a dramatic impact on already weakened soils. This trend will, in turn, worsen desertification and increase the prevalence of poverty, forced migration and vulnerability to conflicts in affected areas. Conversely, concerted efforts to combat desertification -- by reclaiming degraded land, combating soil loss and restoring vegetation -- can help curb greenhouse gas emissions, strengthen the resilience of affected countries and build their capacity to adapt to climate change.

I have convened a high-level informal dialogue on climate change in New York for the 24 of September. I expect that the dialogue, and your gathering today, will help build momentum ahead of upcoming negotiations under the UN Framework Convention in Bali this December.

I am also heartened that the Intergovernmental Intersessional Working Group has completed a draft of the Ten-year Plan and Framework to Enhance the Implementation of the UNCCD. Its adoption can help energize our seminal fight against desertification.

Desertification and climate change pose unrivalled challenges to humanity. They demand an unprecedented response from all of us. I hope your gathering will take the bold decisions needed to help advance this fight.

In that spirit, I wish you most successful conference.



27-11137

Nathan Henninger/NY/UNO

11/09/2007 03:44 PM

To Melchiade Bukuru/NY/UNO@UNHQ

cc Ruxandra Ferascu/NY/UNO@UNHQ, Ali
Ahsan/NY/UNO@UNHQ, Annika Savill/NY/UNO@UNHQ,
Gerald Bennett/NY/UNO@UNHQ

bcc

Subject Message of the Secretary-General to the eighth session of
the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations
Convention to Combat Desertification



Dear Mr. Bukuru,

Please find attached the message of the Secretary-General to the eighth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, to be delivered by Mr. Grégoire de Kalbermatten in Madrid on 12 September 2007.



UNSG CCD Msg [Final].doc

Thank you.

Sincerely yours,

Nathan

Nathan Henninger
Communications and Speechwriting Unit
Executive Office of the Secretary-General
United Nations
Tel. 917 367-6025
Fax. 212 963 5965
Email:henninger@un.org
Melchiade Bukuru/NY/UNO



Melchiade Bukuru/NY/UNO

10/09/2007 02:41 PM

To henninger@un.org

cc

Subject COP.8 Madrid

Dear Mr. Henninger,
Greetings from Madrid.

Just to check with you on the status regarding the message from the SG to the High Level Segment of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification.

The High Level will open after tomorrow, Wednesday.

Thank you for your feed back.

Melchiade Bukuru

Chief of UNCCD Liaison office, UNHQ

Tel: (212) 963-4871

Fax : (917) 367-3441



Melchiade Bukuru/NY/UNO

24/08/2007 05:47 PM

To Nathan Henninger/NY/UNO@UNHQ

cc Ali Ahsan/NY/UNO@UNHQ, Annika Savill/NY/UNO@UNHQ,
Gerald Bennett/NY/UNO@UNHQ, Kaori
Minami/NY/UNO@UNHQ, Ruxandra

bcc

Subject Re: Message of the Secretary - General to COP.8

Dear Nathan,

Thank you for your message.

As suggested a couple days ago, I suggest that the message from the Secretary - General to the COP be delivered by the Head of the UNCCD Secretariat, Mr. Gregoire de Kalbermatten, OIC.

We look forward to receiving the said message in due course.

Thank you

Melchiade Bukuru

Chief of UNCCD Liaison office, UNHQ

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Nathan Henninger/NY/UNO

Nathan Henninger/NY/UNO

21/08/2007 02:36 PM

To Melchiade Bukuru/NY/UNO@UNHQ

cc Annika Savill/NY/UNO@UNHQ, Ali Ahsan/NY/UNO@UNHQ,
Gerald Bennett/NY/UNO@UNHQ, Ruxandra
Ferascu/NY/UNO@UNHQ, Kaori Minami/NY/UNO@UNHQ

Subject Re: Message of the Secretary-General to COP.8

Dear Mr. Bukuru,

Further to our conversation, I am pleased to inform you that the Secretary-General will provide a message, to be delivered by either a representative or the Head of the UNCCD Secretariat, at the High Level Segment of the eighth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (COP.8), to take place in Madrid on 12 September.

Sincerely yours,

Nathan

Nathan Henninger

Communications and Speechwriting Unit

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United Nations

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Melchiade Bukuru/NY/UNO



Melchiade Bukuru/NY/UNO

15/08/2007 10:59 AM

To Nathan Henninger/NY/UNO@UNHQ

cc

Subject Fw: Message of the Secretary-General to COP.8

Dear Nathan,
Thank you for following-up on the matter we just discussed.
Best regards

----- Forwarded by Melchiade Bukuru/NY/UNO on 15/08/2007 10:58 AM -----



Melchiade Bukuru/NY/UNO

15/08/2007 09:50 AM

To Ruxandra Ferascu/NY/UNO@UNHQ

cc

Subject Message of the Secretary-General to COP.8

Dear Ruxandra,
In conformity with past practice, the Secretary-General may wish to send the attached message to the eighth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (COP.8) due to take place in Madrid from 3 to 14 September 2007. The message would be delivered to the High Level Segment on 12 September 2007 by the Head of the UNCCD Secretariat or any other Authority the Secretary-General may wish to designate.
The draft of that message is herewith attached.
Best regards

Melchiade Bukuru

Chief of UNCCD Liaison office, UNHQ

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Website: www.unccd.int

[attachment "COP.8 Message from Secretary General sent to his off.doc" deleted by Nathan Henninger/NY/UNO]