

UNITED NATIONS



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09/10/08

THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

MESSAGE TO CONCERN WORLDWIDE
CONFERENCE ON FIGHTING HUNGER

Dublin, 16 October 2008

Concern Worldwide's Conference on Fighting Hunger convenes at a time when the unprecedented global food crisis threatens to get even worse. We face an immediate challenge to feed the most vulnerable groups today. At the same time, we face a generational challenge to ensure global food and nutritional security for ourselves and for our children.

In addressing the food crisis, we know that the world faces many challenges simultaneously: an unfolding financial and credit crisis, higher energy prices, climate change, and the race to reach the Millennium Development Goals. That makes it even more crucial that we respond to the global food crisis in a coherent, concerted and coordinated way – one that bridges the traditional divide between humanitarian and development assistance, and tackles all aspects of food security.

We need not only immediate international support to food aid and nutrition assistance, but also a major reform of the food system. We need to ensure a wider range of available tools; eliminate impediments to the purchase and movement of food for humanitarian purposes; and build links between food assistance and local agriculture production. We need to improve investment in the productive potential of the planet's 450 million smallholder farmers; increase food availability in poor communities; and use increased flows of public and private financing to integrate them into local and regional food markets. We need to address the weaknesses in global food markets and advance the debate on how global trade systems can work more effectively for low income countries and their citizens.

Since the world woke up to the food crisis earlier this year, progress has been made in combating its effects. But even as some food prices have dropped globally, they remain generally far too high for the world's poor. While aid agencies are working to scale up their efforts, opportunities for production in current planting seasons in some parts of the world have been missed, because of lack of resources to provide extra seeds and fertilizer. Meanwhile, in many countries, indications are that humanitarian needs will continue to increase. Though some policies have improved, continuing under-investment in agriculture and rural development will perpetuate food crises in years to come.

I applaud Concern Worldwide's efforts to bring senior policy makers and activists together in the fight against hunger. The challenges ahead are daunting, but not

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insurmountable -- if there is political commitment to work together to address both the effects and the root causes. I encourage you to move with a renewed sense of urgency. The world's poorest and most vulnerable cannot wait.

Annika Savill/NY/UNO
09/10/2008 07:32 PM

To info@concern.net

cc Brian Grogan/OCHA/NY@OCHA, Ruxandra
Ferascu/NY/UNO, Nathan Henninger/NY/UNO

bcc

Subject URGENT, AS REQUESTED BY TOM ARNOLD:
SECRETARY-GENERAL'S MESSAGE TO CONCERN
WORLDWIDE CONFERENCE ON FIGHTING HUNGER,
Dublin, 16 October 2008



SDOC3369.pdf concernirelandhunger2008.doc

Kindly ensure this reaches Tom Arnold. Attached correspondence refers.

Best regards,


Annika Savill
Executive Office of the Secretary-General
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Room S-3850D
New York, NY 10017
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Note to Mr. Robert Orr

Re: Concern Worldwide Letter

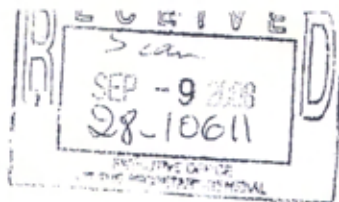
1. I would like to recommend that the Secretary-General does a brief written message as proposed (the original letter is attached).
2. Ireland has made food/hunger a national priority (i.e. history) and it would seem odd if the Secretary General refuses, given especially that his predecessor is on the agenda.

Thank you,


Georg Kell

17 September 2008

Ref: 28-10611



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worldwide

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Mr Ban Ki Moon
Secretary General
United Nations
2 United Nations Plaza, DC2-612D
New York, NY 10017, USA

ACTION
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4th September 2008

Dear Secretary General,

Thank you for the kind invitation to attend the UN Private Sector Forum on the MDGs and Food Sustainability on 24 September. I was delighted to accept and look forward to it. The leadership you and your UN colleagues have provided in response to the Food Price Crisis has been very important and focusing the Forum on Food Sustainability is another example of that leadership.

Concern Worldwide, Ireland's largest humanitarian organisation, is also attempting to provide leadership in the fight against hunger. As part of our programme to mark the 40th anniversary of our foundation, we are organising a major international conference 'Fighting Hunger' in Dublin on 16th October. As you will see from the attached programme, your predecessor, Kofi Annan and your Special Adviser, Professor Jeffrey Sachs, head a distinguished list of speakers.

The conference is aimed at senior policy makers and activists in the fight against hunger and fits well with your calls for greater political and public attention to be given to the issue. The conference will be held some weeks after the publication of the Irish government's Hunger Task Force report which will propose a programme through which Ireland can play an international leadership role in the fight against hunger.

We will be producing a booklet in association with the conference. President Mary McAleese has agreed to write the opening message welcoming delegates. I would like to ask if you would be willing to add a message which would stress the importance of urgent and concerted action in the fight against hunger. It would be fitting if the message were to outline the initiatives you and the UN have already taken to respond to the Food Price Crisis and what are the next urgent next steps which need to be taken.

If you are willing to contribute the message I would be happy to discuss in more detail with your staff how your message could be of optimum value as part of our conference.

Concern Worldwide: Committed to a world without poverty


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Directors: Evanna Barry, Anne Cummins, Brendan Duffy, David Gwynn-Morgan, Patrick Harte, P.J. Howell, Mary Humphreys, Paul Joffe (British), Sally-Anne Kinahan, Ged King, Tom Levin, Mary Lison, Patrick McManus, Jim Miley (Chairperson), Eamonn Moore, Nick North, Tom O'Higgins, Frances O'Keeffe (Secretary), Chinedu Onyejelem, Nora Owen, David Regan, Jan Rotte (Dutch), Mark Shinnick, John Treacy. Chief Executive: Tom Arnold

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On a more personal note I look forward to meeting you on 24th September. We have a friend in common, Mr Tae-Hee Yoon, who has spoken warmly of your friendship. I also had the good fortune to visit South Korea in early June to speak at a conference on the future of South Korea's aid programme. Arising from that visit, I have arranged for two Korean interns to spend some months in Concern. I think this should be a very useful way of building relationships between South Korea and Ireland.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Tom Arnold". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Tom Arnold
Chief Executive

FIGHTING HUNGER

AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE HOSTED BY CONCERN WORLDWIDE

World Food Day 16th October, 2008

Royal Hospital Kilmainham, Dublin

Chair: **Tom Arnold**, Chief Executive Officer, Concern Worldwide

Keynote Address: **Kofi Annan**, Chairperson of the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa

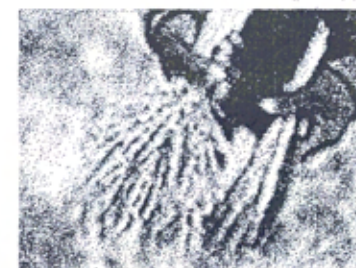
Response: **Peter Power TD**, Minister of State for Overseas Development, Ireland

Programme

- Session 1: **Fighting Hunger – The Challenge for Politics**
Session 2: **Fighting Hunger in an era of High Food Prices**
Session 3: **African Leadership in Fighting Hunger**
Session 4: **Innovation in Fighting Hunger**

Contributors include:

- | | |
|--------------------------|---|
| Jim Miley | Chairman, Concern Worldwide |
| Jeffrey Sachs | Adviser to UN Secretary General |
| Joachim von Braun | DG, International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) |
| Mary Robinson | Former UN High Commissioner for Human Rights |
| Agnes Kalibata | Minister for Agriculture, Rwanda |
| Bibi Giyose | Advisor Food and Nutrition, New African Partnership for Development (NEPAD) |
| Brendan Rogers | Assistant Secretary General, Department of Foreign Affairs, Dublin |
| Sheila Sisulu | Director, World Food Programme (WFP) |
| Akin Adesina | Vice President, Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA) |



CONCERN
worldwide

9am - 4.30pm followed by a wine reception
By invitation only. RSVP to fightinghunger@concern.net

www.concern.net