Dear Ms. Ashrov,

Further to your letter requesting a message from the Secretary-General for your upcoming Model United Nations conference, we are pleased to provide you with this text.

All the best wishes for a successful event.

Sincerely,

Liz

Elizabeth Wanic
Communications and Speechwriting Unit
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THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

MESSAGE TO THE
OXFORD INTERNATIONAL MODEL UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE
(OxIMUN)
Oxford, 29 October 2010

On behalf of the entire United Nations system, I congratulate you for taking part in one of the most practical, hands-on experiences in international diplomacy for young people.

As you participate in this Model United Nations exercise, you will get a full taste of the complexity of international relations. You will gain a better understanding of the intricacies of negotiations, the challenges of achieving consensus, and the patience required to win diplomatic progress. These skills will help you in whatever course you choose in life.

People around the world are connected as a human family as never before. This opens up vast new possibilities for common progress. But we are also living through an age of multiple crises. The agreed deadline for achieving the Millennium Development Goals, 2015, is nearly upon us, yet many countries are not on track. Climate change is a potentially catastrophic threat, especially for the world’s poorest and most vulnerable people. Discrimination against women and girls remains widespread even though we know that women’s empowerment is the key to prosperity. And we continue to live under the shadow of nuclear weapons.

None of these problems can be solved by any single nation acting alone. Never has the imperative of acting together been so self-evident. More and more people are coming to understand this fundamental fact.

Half the population of the world is under the age of 25. We need to harness the spirit of youth around the world to address the tough challenges we are facing. Extraordinary times create extraordinary opportunities for change. This is such a moment. Help us meet the trials of our age and shape the world for good.

BAN Ki-moon
Ban Ki Moon  
Secretary General  
c/o Ruxandra Ferascu  
Communications and Speechwriting Unit  
Executive Office of the Secretary-General  
United Nations  
Tel. 212 963 4092  
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Dear Mr. Moon,

Please accept this invitation to prepare a video message for the 8th annual session of the Oxford International Model United Nations conference, to be held at the University of Oxford on the afternoon of Friday 29th October 2010.

The University of Oxford, with its array of historic colleges constitutes the milieu behind debate at OxiMUN- with twelve committees running simultaneously from 30th-31st October. Oxford invariably provides a unique and distinctive atmosphere in which to practice diplomacy, and participants consistently remark that debate is among the most challenging across the Model UN circuit. Thus, in 2010 we aim to maintain this reputation and continue to attract a diversity of over 450 delegates.

You will be speaking to students from top-ranking Universities during our Opening Ceremony at the Oxford Union Debating Chamber on the afternoon of Friday 29th October. The opening ceremony marks the beginning of our annual conference, which will host International and UK University students from around the globe, including delegations from Universities in the Middle East, North and South America, West Africa, China and Europe.

You will be invited to deliver a message welcoming our young leaders to the world of diplomatic strategy, conflict resolution and your experiences at the United Nations. The theme of the Opening Ceremony will be 'Diplomatic Game Theory', since many of our participants intend to pursue a career in diplomacy on behalf of their respective countries, your message will provide the ideal opportunity to challenge and engage the next generation of diplomats on the global issues we face.

Please do not hesitate to get in touch with any questions

Yours sincerely,

Li Ashrov  
Secretary General  
OxiMUN 2010  
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