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.

I commend you for focusing on the food security crisis. In recent years, we have witnessed the collapse of food security for the world’s most vulnerable communities. For the first time in history, the number of hungry people in the world has risen to one billion.

Many factors have played a part in creating this crisis. Farmers face volatile markets which offer prices that are sometimes too low to cover their costs. Seeds and fertilizers can be too expensive. And when times are difficult, women -- who do most of the farming in the world’s poorest communities -- must make stark choices between childcare and income-earning. Disproportionate numbers of women and children experience undernutrition.

But there is some good news. World leaders have agreed on a comprehensive approach to food security, and on a programme of long-term investment. I am pressing hard to push this effort forward, to help those at risk enjoy food and nutrition security, and to build up their resilience in the face of today’s grave economic, climatic and environmental threats.

We are connected as a human family as never before, opening up vast new possibilities. None of the problems we face – climate change, poverty, the proliferation of deadly weapons -- 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.

Young people have much to contribute, not only in influencing our path for the future but in making a difference today. As you move forward in life, I urge you to keep learning more about the work of the United Nations and to share your knowledge and commitment with others. Extraordinary times open 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
Dear Ms. McMillan,

Further to your letter of 16 February I am pleased to send you the Secretary-General’s message to the Peel District School Board 15th Annual Student Model United Nations Conference, along with our best wishes for a successful event.

Best regards.

Ruxandra Ferascu
Communications and Speechwriting Unit
Executive Office of the Secretary-General
United Nations
Tel. 212 963 4092
Fax. 212 963 5965
Email: ferascu@un.org

Peel MUN foodsecurity.doc
February 16, 2010

His Excellency Ban Ki-moon
Secretary General of the United Nations
Room NL-2058, United Nations
New York, NY 10017

Dear Mr. Secretary General:

The Peel District School Board is hosting its 15th annual Student Model United Nations for secondary school students on May 7, 2010.

Over 250 students participate in this event, and gain valuable knowledge and experience by researching their chosen countries. The topic of this year's Model UN is Food Security.

My purpose for writing is to ask for a letter of greeting to include in our delegate package. Your message will be read by all of the participants and your endorsement will be very motivational for everyone involved.

If possible, we would like to receive your letter before April 26. Please send the letter to my attention at the address listed below. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me at 905-890-1010, ext. 2461. Thank you very much for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Shannon McMillan
Communications Assistant
Communications and Strategic Partnership Support Services
HJA Brown Education Centre
5650 Hurontario St.
Mississauga, ON, Canada
L5R 1C6
Email: shannon.mcmillan@peelsb.com
Fax: 905-890-1112
To: His Excellency Ban Ki-moon  
Secretary General of the  
United Nations  
Room NL-2058, United Nations  
New York, NY 10017

From: Shannon McMillan  
Peel District School Board  
HJA Brown Education Centre  
5650 Hurontario St.  
Mississauga, ON, Canada  
L5R 1C6

Date: February 16, 2010

Subject: Letter of greeting request

Dear Mr. Secretary General:

Please find enclosed a request for a letter of greeting for the Peel District School Board's 15th annual Student Model United Nations event.

Due to your busy schedule, I am faxing our request for your convenience/records, and I have also put our request in the mail.

I look forward to your reply.

Sincerely,

Shannon McMillan  
Communications Assistant  
Communications and Strategic Partnership Support Services  
HJA Brown Education Centre  
5650 Hurontario St.  
Mississauga, ON, Canada  
L5R 1C6  
Email: shannon.mcmillan@peelsb.com  
Fax: 905-890-1112

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February 16, 2010

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