



THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

Central

US
Youth

15 June 2010

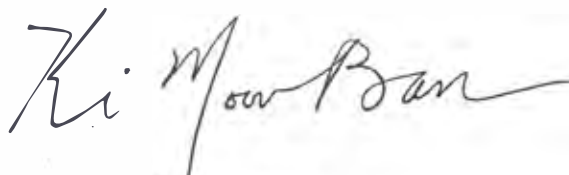
Dear Mrs. Obama,

I have the honour to invite you to deliver the keynote address at the global launch of the International Year of Youth. The event will take place on 12 August 2010 – International Youth Day – from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the United Nations Headquarters in New York.

Under the theme “Dialogue and Mutual Understanding”, the International Year of Youth provides an important opportunity for all to increase commitment to youth, promote their participation and enhance intercultural dialogue and understanding among them. The event aims to celebrate the Year in the spirit of its theme through a variety of contributions, including presentations from high-level Government and United Nations representatives, young civil society leaders, performers and activists. I am attaching a background note on the event, for your information.

You have demonstrated long-standing dedication to engaging young people in public discourse and action, and have also expressed your confidence in their ability to contribute to social development. Your participation in the event would bring attention to an often overlooked segment of society and would provide a global platform to further promote your message of supporting youth engagement. I would be grateful if you could kindly confirm your availability at your earliest convenience.

Yours sincerely,


BAN Ki-moon

Mrs. Michelle Obama
First Lady of the United States of America
Washington, D.C.

10-05321

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POSTAL ADDRESS - ADRESSE POSTALE : UNITED NATIONS, N.Y. 10017

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EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL
CABINET DU SECRETAIRE GENERAL

REFERENCE:

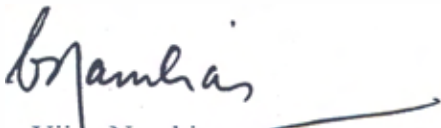
15 June 2010

Excellency,

The Secretary-General would be grateful if you could kindly forward the enclosed letter to Mrs. Michelle Obama, First Lady of the United States of America.

A copy of the letter is attached for your information.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.


Vijay Nambiar
Chef de Cabinet

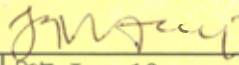
Her Excellency
Ms. Susan E. Rice
Permanent Representative of the United States
to the United Nations
New York

ROUTING SLIP

FICHE DE TRANSMISSION

TO: **Mr. Nambiar**
A:

FROM: **Parfait Onanga-Anyanga**
DE:



Room No. / No de Bureau
NL-3006

Extension / Poste
75493

Date
15-Jun-10

FOR ACTION		POUR SUITE A DONNER
FOR APPROVAL		POUR APPROBATION
FOR SIGNATURE		POUR SIGNATURE
FOR COMMENTS		POUR OBSERVATIONS
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Attached please find a letter addressed to Mrs. Michelle Obama inviting her to deliver the keynote address at the launch of the International Year of Youth, for the signature of the SG.

The letter has been drafted by DESA and reviewed by ODSG.

Thank you.

10-05321



GLOBAL LAUNCH OF THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF YOUTH

Date: Thursday, 12 August 2010

Time: 10:00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m.

Total duration: 3 hours

Venue: United Nations General Assembly Hall (tbc)

On 12 August 2010, the United Nations will launch the International Year of Youth to generate much needed attention for youth participation and youth development at local, national and global levels. The global launch, taking place at UN Headquarters in New York, is a collaborative event organized jointly by UN entities working in the field of youth and will consist of presentations by high-level Government and UN officials, youth leaders and activists as well as performances by artists committed to the ideals of the UN and the empowerment of young people towards positive social change. In addition, UN Offices around the world will also conduct events on 12 August to demonstrate the UN system's commitment to youth development, signifying the global spirit of the Year.

Target Audience:

Governments, UN system, youth-led and youth-focused organizations, other civil society organizations, media and private sector entities.

Context:

In December 2009, the United Nations General Assembly adopted resolution 64/134 proclaiming the year commencing 12 August 2010 as the International Year of Youth under the theme "Dialogue and Mutual Understanding". The resolution calls upon Governments, civil society, individuals and communities worldwide to support activities at local and international levels to celebrate the Year.

The International Year provides an important opportunity to increase commitment to youth, promote youth participation and enhance intercultural dialogue and understanding among youth. The Year calls upon Governments, the United Nations system, and civil society to recognize the contributions that youth make to society and to address the challenges they face. It encourages young people to dedicate themselves to fostering progress, including the attainment of the UN Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and to devote their energy, enthusiasm and creativity to the promotion of inter-generational and cultural understanding.

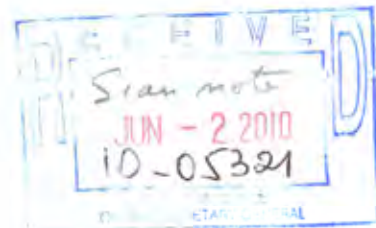
For more information on the International Year of Youth, please contact: Ms. Nicola Shepherd, UN Focal Point on Youth at shepherdn@un.org, Tel: 917-367-9282 or visit <http://social.un.org/youthyear>.

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Note to the Chef de Cabinet

Invitation from the Secretary-General to First Lady Michelle Obama to deliver the keynote address at the launch of the International Year of Youth ✓

The global launch of the International Year of Youth: Dialogue and Mutual Understanding will take place at UN Headquarters on 12 August 2010 (International Youth Day) from 10.00 am – 1.00 pm. My Department is organizing the launch in cooperation with a number of other UN funds, programmes and specialized agencies. The launch event will consist of high-level statements, a panel discussion among youth and adults as well as performances by young people. Regional and country-level launch events will take place in other duty stations around the world.

I would like to recommend that the Secretary-General extend an invitation to the First Lady of the United States of America, Michelle Obama, to deliver the keynote address at the global launch. The First Lady has a long-standing interest in young people and has repeatedly expressed her commitment to youth. On her first solo visit to Mexico in April 2010, the First Lady supported her intentions to focus her international agenda on youth engagement by affirming that today's youth "have an unprecedented ability to organize and to mobilize, to challenge old assumptions, and to bridge old divides, and to find new solutions to our toughest problems". Her message resonates with the principles of the World Programme of Action for Youth as well as the theme of International Year of Youth, "Dialogue and Mutual Understanding".

My Department has already informally contacted the Permanent Mission of the United States to enquire about Mrs. Obama's availability and it was suggested that the Secretary-General issue a formal invitation.

I would be most grateful if the Secretary-General could extend an invitation to the First Lady of the United States of America. Attached please find a draft invitation.

沙祖康

Sha Zukang
1 June 2010

cc: Deputy Chef de Cabinet