Note to Ms. Linda Taylor

Message of the Secretary-General to the first Asian Mayor's Forum in Tehran

1. Attached hereby is a proposed Secretary-General's message to the Asian Mayor's forum that has been requested through the Office of the Resident Coordinator in Tehran. The Resident Coordinator supports this request.

2. The text has been cleared by Mr. Meyer. We seek the Mr. Nambar's approval before the message is dispatched to Tehran.

Parfait Onanga-Anyanga
17 November 2008
It gives me great pleasure to send greetings to all the participants in the first Asian Mayors Forum.

Urbanization changes forever the way we use land, water and energy. Done well, it can bring people choices and help them thrive. Done poorly, it reduces safety, despoils the environment and exacerbates the marginalization of those who are already suffering and excluded. Asia is urbanizing rapidly, even more rapidly than Africa, with approximately 41 per cent of its inhabitants now living in cities. By 2050, Asia will host 63 per cent of the global urban population, or 3.3 billion people. The provision of basic services and decent and affordable housing is no longer just a sectoral objective; it is a strategic means for attaining the Millennium Development Goals.

The United Nations and its agencies have been focusing on these issues. Earlier this month the fourth session of the World Urban Forum, took place in Nanjing, China. Coinciding with that, UN-Habitat released its *State of the World Cities Report*, with the theme of ‘harmonious cities’. As the report says; our rapidly urbanizing world cannot claim to be harmonious if slum dwellers do not enjoy opportunities to find jobs and improve their living conditions. Nor will it be harmonious if the growth and expansion of urban areas comes at the expense of the natural environment. In response to these challenges, I would like to urge national and local governments to promote harmonious urbanization by supporting pro-poor, inclusive and equitable urban development and by strengthening urban governance structures and processes.

Cities have tremendous potential to be places where balanced development prevails, where diverse people live in harmony, and where healthy living conditions coexist with low levels of energy consumption, resource-use and waste. The concept of harmonious urbanization should guide our work. This forum is well placed to contribute significantly to our shared goal of making our cities healthier, safer, economically vibrant and more just and equitable for all.

I wish you every success in your deliberations.

END
In The Name of God

Date: 28 Oct, 2008

H.E. Mr. Knut Ostby,
Distinguished Resident Coordinator of the United Nations
to the Islamic Rep of Iran

Excellency,

With ref. to our letter No. F/207 dated Oct. 6, 2008, as Your Excellency are aware; United Nations have nominated present century as the "Epoch of the Cities".

Secondly, Your Excellency was informed that the goal of the 1st Asian Mayors Forum due to be held in Tehran-The Capital City of the Islamic Republic of Iran on November 19-20, 2008, is: "Asia for Citizen; Integration for a Better Life".

Therefore, we request Your good office if H.E. Mr. Ban ki-Moon, Distinguished Secretary General of the UNO would send a message to the 1ST Asian Mayors Forum-Tehran, supporting Asian Integration, and encouraging Local Governance & Public Participation.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration

Mahmoud Mohammadi
Former MP & Secretary of Asian Mayors Forum