

THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

23 August 2012

Excellency,


I wish to extend my warm congratulations to you and the people of your country on the 21st anniversary of the independence of the Republic of Uzbekistan. I had the privilege to witness first-hand its impressive historical and cultural heritage, as well as its well-known hospitality, when I visited in April 2010.

As Uzbekistan enters its third decade of independent statehood, it continues to make important strides as a member of the international community. While it is making progress towards the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals at home, its contributions are visible on the international stage in areas such as climate change, environmental protection and sustainable development, to mention just a few. In this regard, I would like to express my appreciation for the fruitful participation of your country's delegation in the recent United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, Rio+20.

Central Asia is on the verge of a new era, which calls for regional cooperation and finding joint approaches to resolving shared challenges. I continue to count on your leadership, together with the Heads of State of the other countries of Central Asia, in the search for mutually-acceptable solutions to the region's water and energy challenges.

A new set of security arrangements will be in place in Afghanistan by 2014. Your continued support to, and engagement in, regional efforts that seek to ensure the stability and economic development of Afghanistan and the region as a whole are of the utmost importance.

His Excellency
Mr. Islam A. Karimov
President of the Republic of Uzbekistan
Tashkent

SG to President Uzbekistan
Drafter: DPA
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Approved by: 
Date: 22 August 2012

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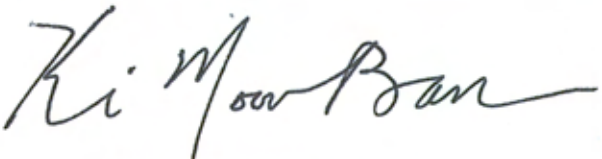
I offer my assurances that the United Nations stands ready to further develop our cooperation, not only for the benefit of the people of Uzbekistan but also for peace, stability and prosperity throughout Central Asia and beyond.

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


BAN/Ki-moon

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