



THE DEPUTY SECRETARY-GENERAL

27 June 2008

Mr. President,

I have the honour to inform you that I will represent the United Nations at the upcoming Summit of the African Union, scheduled to take place in Sharm El Sheikh from 30 June to 1 July 2008.

In this regard, the Secretary-General has asked me to convey to you his warmest greetings and wishes for a very successful Summit. He also looks forward to meeting with you in Hokkaido in the margins of the G8 meeting to discuss issues of common concern to the African Union and the United Nations.

As I briefed you in Yokohama during the TICAD-IV meeting, the MDG Africa Steering Group, established by the Secretary-General, has just adopted a series of concrete recommendations aimed at accelerating the achievement of the Goals in Africa as a means to help meet Africa's development needs. The recommendations set specific responsibilities for both African nations and their partners. They are founded on dollar-based projections from commitments made by G8 nations at Gleneagles.

We are grateful for your support of this important undertaking and are encouraged that the AU is considering endorsing these recommendations as Africa's approved strategy to reach the Goals.

It is envisaged that we seize the opportunity of the Summit in Sharm El Sheikh to organize a press briefing to launch the recommendations in Africa in order to ensure their better understanding and support. H.E. Mr. Jean Ping, Chairperson of the Commission, and Mr. Donald Kaberuka, President of the African Development Bank Group, have been contacted and have assured us of their support and participation.

His Excellency  
Mr. Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete  
President of the United Republic of Tanzania  
Dar-es-Salaam

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Against this backdrop, the Secretary-General would be most grateful to your Excellency if you could consider lending your support to this endeavour by presiding over the press briefing. Subject to your approval, my staff will liaise with your office in order to finalize the arrangements for this important event.

I look forward to receiving your confirmation and to seeing you again in Sharm El Sheikh soon.

Please accept, Mr. President, the assurances of my highest consideration.



Asha-Rose Migiro