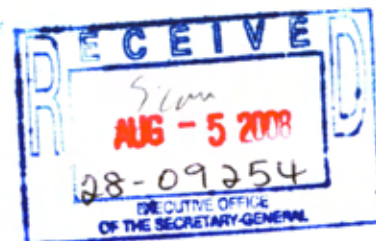




BA action 06/08/08

Malta

DS4



23 July 2008

Excellency,

I thank you for your letter dated 19 June 2008, informing me of the establishment of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) Africa Steering Group and proposing a way forward how to assist African countries in the attainment of the MDGs.

Malta feels that the coming years will be crucial for development and for the international community's credibility to deliver on its commitments made in 2005 concerning the volume and quality of aid. It will be even more important for developing countries in particular African countries which are facing new challenges and difficulties brought about by the rapidly escalating global food and oil prices. This scenario will make it more difficult for the African continent to achieve the MDGs by 2015.

It is therefore very important that the international community takes urgent and concerted action in order to avoid the larger political and security implications of this growing crisis. In this context, I welcome the three priorities outlined in your letter namely that Overseas Development Aid (ODA) commitments made in 2015 need to be increased collectively by the international community, development assistance should be accompanied by substantial improvements in quality and aligned with the priorities and requirements of African countries and to support private-sector efforts aimed at the eradication of poverty in Africa.

His Excellency Mr Ban Ki-moon
Secretary-General

AUG 15 2008

I would like to recall that Malta's Development Policy which was launched in October 2007, defines poverty eradication and the achievement of all the MDGs as priorities, to be addressed in a multidimensional way, both through the conduct of political and economic decision making, as well as through social and environmental factors related to different facets such as geography, climate and gender.

I am convinced that the meetings held in Tokyo, Accra and New York will serve as an instrument to the international community to facilitate and enable African countries get back on track towards the achievement of the MDGs by 2015.

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

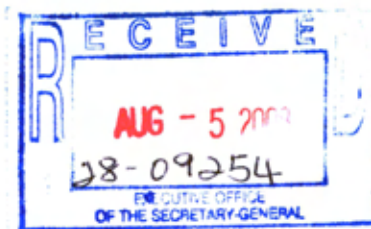


Lawrence Gonzi



Ir-Rappreżentant Permanenti ta' Malta

The Permanent Representative of Malta



4th August 2008

Dear Mr. Nambiar,

Please refer to the letter dated 19 June 2008 from H.E. Mr. Ban Ki-moon, Secretary-General of the United Nations, addressed to the Hon. Dr. Lawrence Gonzi, Prime Minister of Malta, concerning assistance to countries of Africa in their efforts to achieve the MDGs.

I would be grateful if you could kindly forward the letter enclosed herewith from the Prime Minister of Malta addressed to the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

A copy of the letter is attached, for your information.

Please accept the assurances of my highest consideration.

Saviour F. Borg
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Mr. Vijay Nambiar
Chef de Cabinet
Executive Office of the Secretary-General
Room S- 3830 United Nations
New York, NY 10017