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UNITED NATIONS NATIONS UNIES

THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

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MESSAGE TO THE CONNECT AFRICA SUMMIT

Kigali, 29 October 2007

It is a great pleasure to send my greetings to this Connect Africa Summit. On behalf of the United Nations family, I express my appreciation to President Kagame and the Government of Rwanda for hosting the Summit at this strategic time.

I commend Dr. Hamadoun Touré, Secretary-General of the International Communication Union, for his leadership. Thanks also go to Dr. Craig Barrett of the Intel Corporation and Chairman of the United Nations Global Alliance for ICT and Development, for mobilizing the private sector, and to the World Bank for its commitment to connecting Africa.

This meeting illustrates the power and potential of public-private partnerships. It joins together the African Union, the African Development Bank, the UN Economic Commission for Africa, African governments and the private sector to address the barriers to connectivity in the region.

The partnership augurs well for the hopes and aspirations of all of the people of Africa in a better future. The World Summit on the Information Society set a clear course of action for advancing the Information Society and for achieving the Millennium Development Goals – our common vision to build a better world for all in the 21st century.

Narrowing the digital divide is part and parcel of our global efforts to achieve development for all. Information and communication technologies have much to contribute to the fight against poverty, disease, hunger, illiteracy and environmental degradation.

They can empower women and poor people in underserved communities.

They enable young people everywhere to more effectively act as catalysts for change – locally and globally.

And they can accelerate progress towards our development goals by improving the efficiency and accountability of governments, facilitating the delivery of health services, nurturing and disseminating knowledge and education, and creating business opportunities for entrepreneurs.

These benefits must be made available to all segments of society, in urban and rural areas, and in all regions, especially in Africa, the one region not on track to meet the Goals by 2015. That is why we must redouble our efforts and form a true partnership for development. The Goals can still be achieved if we all work together – governments of rich and poor countries alike, civil society, the private sector, and the international development community.

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To help fill the implementation gaps in Africa, I recently convened the Millennium Development Goals Africa Steering Group, bringing together leaders of major multilateral and intergovernmental development organizations. The Group is focusing on three major challenges: identifying effective mechanisms for implementing commitments in the areas of health, education, agriculture and food security, infrastructure, and statistical systems; improving aid predictability and effectiveness; and strengthening our joint efforts at the country level.

Information and communication technologies can be key enablers for meeting each of these challenges. I am encouraged by your determination to act, as evidenced by your engagement in this Summit, with its focus on implementation.

Together, let us harness the power of information and communications technologies to advance our shared objective of ending the scourge of poverty once and for all, in Africa and around the world.

I wish you every success at this forum, and I look forward to learning about its outcome.

Ruxandra Ferascu/NY/UNO
18/10/2007 06:42 PM

To Diane Loughran/NY/UNO
cc Caroline Lombardo/NY/UNO@UNHQ, Jian Tan/NY/UNO@UNHQ, Kaori Minami/NY/UNO@UNHQ, Kay Govia/NY/UNO@UNHQ, Nikolai Zaitsev/NY/UNO@UNHQ,
bcc
Subject Re: Fw: Draft SG message to Connect Africa Summit (29 Oct)

Dear Diane,

Please find attached an approved text of the above-mentioned message.

Kind regards.

Ruxandra

SG message to Connect Africa Summit.doc

Diane Loughran/NY/UNO

Diane Loughran/NY/UNO
17/10/2007 07:36 PM

To Annika Savill/NY/UNO@UNHQ
cc Ruxandra Ferascu/NY/UNO@UNHQ, Kaori Minami/NY/UNO@UNHQ, Nikolai Zaitsev/NY/UNO@UNHQ, Caroline Lombardo/NY/UNO@UNHQ, Jian Tan/NY/UNO@UNHQ, Kay Govia/NY/UNO@UNHQ
Subject Fw: Draft SG message to Connect Africa Summit (29 Oct)

Dear Annika,

Dear Annika,

Further to Nikolai's email below in which he attaches a draft SG message for the Connect Africa Summit, I wish to forward comments received late this afternoon from Mr. Patrick Hayford. My apologies for sending this late. His changes are mostly cosmetic - indicated in track form where he moves the last paragraphs to the beginning, and he also highlights the intergovernmental component to addressing Africa's development.

With many thanks,
Diane

07-10 Connect Africa_SG msg_rev1.doc

Diane Loughran

Nikolai Zaitsev/NY/UNO
17/10/2007 03:46 PM

To Annika Savill/NY/UNO@UNHQ
cc Ruxandra Ferascu/NY/UNO@UNHQ, Kaori Minami/NY/UNO@UNHQ, Diane Loughran, Caroline Lombardo, Jian Tan, Kay Govia
bcc
Subject Draft SG message to Connect Africa Summit (29 Oct)

Dear Annika,

I am sending you, attached, the draft SG message to Connect Africa Summit, for your review and finalization. The message will be read by the USG Sha in Kigali on 29 October 2007. Let us know if you or your colleagues have any questions.

Nikolai.

07-10 Connect Africa_SG msg_rev1.doc

Nikolai Zaitsev
Chief of Office
Office of the Under-Secretary-General
for Economic and Social Affairs
United Nations, New York
2 UN Plaza, DC2-2314
Tel: 212-963-3136
Fax: 212-963-1010
Email: zaitsev@un.org

----- Forwarded by Nikolai Zaitsev/NY/UNO on 17/10/2007 03:42 PM -----

Nikolai Zaitsev/NY/UNO
17/10/2007 03:04 PM

To Kaori Minami/NY/UNO@UNHQ
cc Kay Govia, Annika Savill/NY/UNO@UNHQ
Subject Re: Fw: Reply to the "Connect Africa Summit" on 29-30 October in Kigali

Kaori,

On 5 October, Mr Sha sent a letter to the President of Rwanda informing him that he will attend the conference, represent the SG and read his message. A copy of this letter plus a cover letter to the Ambassador of Rwanda are attached. There are no expectations any more of a video-message, but only of a message to be read.

Nikolai

Document.pdf

Nikolai Zaitsev
Chief of Office
Office of the Under-Secretary-General
for Economic and Social Affairs
United Nations, New York
2 UN Plaza, DC2-2314
Tel: 212-963-3136
Fax: 212-963-1010
Email: zaitsev@un.org

Kaori Minami/NY/UNO

Kaori Minami/NY/UNO
17/10/2007 02:23 PM

To Nikolai Zaitsev/NY/UNO@UNHQ
cc Teresa Lenzi/NY/UNO@UNHQ
Subject Fw: Reply to the "Connect Africa Summit" on 29-30 October in Kigali

Nikolai -

Has DESA replied to this invitation please?

Thank you.

Kaori

Kaori Minami
Executive Office of the Secretary-General
United Nations
Phone: (212) 963-2117

----- Forwarded by Kaori Minami/NY/UNO on 17/10/2007 02:23 PM -----

Annika Savill/NY/UNO
05/10/2007 10:01 AM

To Adriana Ribeiro/NY/UNO@UNHQ, Kaori Minami/NY/UNO
cc Ruxandra Ferascu/NY/UNO@UNHQ
Subject Re: Fw: Reply to the "Connect Africa Summit" on 29-30 October in Kigali

At this stage, I believe the idea was to reply to the letter only.

A written message from the Secretary-General could be appropriate, if they request one. There should definitely not be a video message.

Annika Savill
Deputy Director, Speechwriting
Executive Office of the Secretary-General
United Nations
Room S-3850D
New York, NY 10017
Tel: 1 212 963 6475
Fax: 1 212 963 5965
Email: savill@un.org

Kaori Minami/NY/UNO

Kaori Minami/NY/UNO
05/10/2007 09:46 AM

To Annika Savill/NY/UNO@UNHQ
cc Ruxandra Ferascu/NY/UNO@UNHQ, Adriana Ribeiro/NY/UNO@UNHQ
Subject Fw: Reply to the "Connect Africa Summit" on 29-30 October in Kigali

Annika -- would a video message be possible? please see below.

thanks
Kaori

----- Forwarded by Kaori Minami/NY/UNO on 05/10/2007 09:45 AM -----

Adriana Ribeiro/NY/UNO
05/10/2007 09:44 AM

To Kaori Minami/NY/UNO@UNHQ
cc Guido Bertucci/NY/UNO@UNHQ, Nikolai Zaitsev/NY/UNO@UNHQ, Jian Tan/NY/UNO@UNHQ
Subject Fw: Reply to the "Connect Africa Summit" on 29-30 October in Kigali

Dear Kaori,

As requested, I am writing to you to find out if we should prepare a video message for the Secretary-General which will be played at the above-mentioned meeting. If not, kindly let us know so that we will prepare a text message which will be read by the USG of DESA.

Thank you for your attention and let me know if you have further questions.

With best regards,

Haiyan Qian

Haiyan Qian, Chief, Knowledge Management Branch
Division for Public Administration and Development Management
Department of Economic and Social Affairs
United Nations
Two UN Plaza, Room 1756, New York, NY 10017
Tel: 212-963-3393; Fax: 917-367-0589; E-mail: qianh@un.org
Website: www.unpan.org

----- Forwarded by Maria T Aranas/NY/UNO on 04/10/2007 09:50 AM -----

Sent from my BlackBerry Wireless Handheld
Kaori Minami
----- Original Message -----

From: Kaori Minami
Sent: 03/10/2007 18:57 EDT
To: Nikolai Zaitsev
Cc: Teresa Lenzi; Yeocheol Yoon; Sebastien Lawson
Subject: Reply to the "Connect Africa Summit" on 29-30 October in Kigali

Dear Nikolai,

As mentioned to you in my previous e-mail, the SG will not be able to attend the "Connect Africa Summit"
on 29-30 October in Kigali.

It would be much appreciated if DESA (perhaps with the help of the GAID office) could send a reply to the letter
from the President of Rwanda and ITU, on behalf of the Secretary-General.

We would be happy yo take a look at the draft.

Many thanks.

Kaori Minami
Scheduling Office of the Secretary-General

Connect Africa -- Rwanda Pres..pdf Connect Africa - ITU.pdf

Kaori Minami
Executive Office of the Secretary-General
United Nations
Phone: (212) 963-2117

United Nations Nations Unies

OFFICE OF THE UNDER-SECRETARY-GENERAL
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS (DESA)
ROOM DC2-2320, 2 UN PLAZA, NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10017
TEL : 1 (212) 963.5958 • FAX: 1 (212) 963.1010

REFERENCE: DESA-07/203

5 October 2007

Excellency,

On behalf of the Secretary-General, I would like to thank you for your letter of 11 July 2007, inviting the Secretary-General to attend the Connect Africa Summit to be held in Kigali, Rwanda on 29-30 October 2007.

The Secretary-General has expressed his support for the summit's initiative, which represents an important step in overcoming the digital divide and to help countries to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, and the Action Plan and Agenda for the Information Society of WSIS.

Unfortunately, due to long-standing commitments, the Secretary-General regrets that he is unable to attend the summit. He has requested that I attend the meeting and deliver a message on his behalf.

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

沙祖康

Sha Zukang
Under-Secretary-General

His Excellency
Mr. Paul Kagame
President of Rwanda

United Nations Nations Unies

OFFICE OF THE UNDER-SECRETARY-GENERAL
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS (DESA)
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TEL.: 1 (212) 963.5958 • FAX: 1 (212) 963.1010

REFERENCE: DESA-07/210

5 October 2007

Excellency,

I would like to request the use of your good office to forward the enclosed letter to the President of Rwanda.

I am pleased to attach a copy for your perusal.

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

沙祖康

Sha Zukang
Under-Secretary-General

His Excellency Mr. Joseph Nsengimana
Ambassador
Permanent Mission of Rwanda
New York

The President
REPUBLIC OF RWANDA

11 July 2007

related cases
#27-03403

JUL 24 2007
EXECUTIVE OFFICE
OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

His Excellency Ban KI-MOON
The Secretary-General of the United Nations

Dear S.G Ban Ki-Moon,

THE "CONNECT AFRICA" SUMMIT

It is with pleasure that I provide to you, Mr. Secretary-General, an update on ICT and its role in African development since the 8th AU Summit this year in Addis Ababa, where science and technology was one of the main thematic issues discussed.

Subsequent consultations have since taken place with the view of building appropriate infrastructure that can allow our continent and its sub-regions to realise the vision of a strong ICT sector. One such consultation involving, among others, the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) - the main coordinator, the UN Global Alliance, the World Bank, the ADB, Intel Corporation, and the Government of Rwanda, recommended that the "Connect Africa" Summit be hosted in Kigali, on 29-30 October, 2007. Kindly find attached the concept and objectives of the Summit.

As demonstrated at the 8th AU Summit, there is a consensus that it is high time the ICT sector on our continent is accorded high and urgent priority. It is in this context that it was recommended in the noted consultations that African Heads of State and Government and other World leaders be invited to the "Connect Africa" Summit. Experts from among our multilateral and bilateral partners, the private sector, and relevant regional bodies will also attend this Summit.

The purpose of this letter, Mr. Secretary-General, is to extend an invitation to you to honour this important meeting with your presence. I have learnt from the Director General of the ITU of the priority that you attach to information and communication technologies (ICTs) as a tool for achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

As I look forward to welcoming you to Kigali, please accept, Mr. Secretary-General, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Sincerely,

PKKagame

27-09254

The Secretary-General

ACTION YYC
COPY DSG f.i.

International Telecommunication Union

RECEIVED
JUN 29 2007
SECRETARY OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

Geneva, 22 June 2007

Mr. Ban Ki-moon
Secretary-General
UN Headquarters
New York, NY 10017 USA

Dear Mr. Secretary-General,

Further to our discussions during the Spring 2007 Session of the CEB in Geneva and the retreat in Mont Pélerin, followed by the coordination with your office, I would be very grateful if you could visit ITU Headquarters during your next trip to Geneva.

We are ardently aware that leaders at the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) in Geneva (2003) and Tunis (2005) agreed to a set of targets, including ten ICT connectivity goals to be achieved by 2015.

We find ourselves with less than eight years until 2015; and, unless we take urgent action, we are at serious risk of not achieving these goals. Your visit would be a potent symbol of the significant role of information communication technologies (ICT) as a catalyst to help realize the United Nations Millennium Development Goals.

During our last discussions, you became particularly interested in my initiative for regional ICT "Marshall Plans" starting with Africa. We are moving ahead and Connect Africa will be launched during a summit in Kigali, Rwanda on 29-30 October 2007.

This high-level summit will be held under the patronage of His Excellency Mr Paul Kagame, the President of Rwanda, and organized jointly by ITU, the African Union, the World Bank Group and the United Nations Global Alliance for ICT and Development. Heads of State and Government, Ministers, CEOs of ICT companies and heads of financial institutions and international and regional organizations are expected to participate.

I take this opportunity to thank you again for expressing a firm intention to honor the Connect Africa with your presence in Kigali. I would certainly brief you on the summit on the occasion of your visit to ITU.

I look forward to welcoming you to ITU along with all the elected officials and the staff.

With my best personal regards,

Dr. Hamadoun I. Touré

International Telecommunication Union • Place des Nations • CH-1211 Geneva • Switzerland
Tel: +41 22 730 5111 • Fax: +41 22 733 7256 • Email: sgo@itu.int • www.itu.int

<Office of the Secretary General CorLOG ID: 27-08403 / 29 Jun 2007 16:52:17>

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