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TO: Mr. Vijay Nambiar
A:

FROM: Richard Amdur
DE:

Room No. – No de bureau	Extension – Poste	Date
NL-3015U	3-9220	24 May 2010

FOR ACTION		POUR SUITE A DONNER
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YOUR ATTENTION		VOTRE ATTENTION
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AS REQUESTED		SUITE A VOTRE DEMANDE
NOTE AND RETURN		NOTER ET RETOURNER
FOR INFORMATION		POUR INFORMATION

Please find attached for your approval and signature a foreword for *a Guide for Youth Delegates.*

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Youth

UNITED NATIONS NATIONS UNIES

THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

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FOREWORD TO GUIDE FOR YOUTH DELEGATES

May 2010

The creativity, energy and passion of young people are indispensable for tackling global challenges. Whenever I spend time with young people – my role affords me the pleasure and honour to meet frequently with youth from around the world – I am always impressed by the contributions they make to their communities, and inspired by the insight and devotion they bring to the issues on the United Nations agenda.
The Member States of the Organization have also acknowledged the importance of youth in meeting the trials of our day, including through the decision of the General Assembly to proclaim the International Year of Youth: Dialogue and Mutual Understanding, starting on 12 August 2010.

An important mechanism for the participation of young people in the work of the United Nations is the Youth Delegates Programme. By including young people in national delegations to United Nations meetings, Governments help them to gain a better understanding of the intricacies of negotiations, the challenges of achieving consensus and the patience required to win diplomatic progress. These skills help young people no matter what course they choose in life. Moreover, this time spent representing the youth of their countries in the international arena can also inspire and encourage young people to participate more deeply at home, in the political life of their own societies, thereby counteracting the immense social costs of excluding young people.

I attach great importance to the Youth Delegates Programme. It creates civic role models for young people around the world and brings new perspectives to discussions in the General Assembly. However, some regions continue to be underrepresented among the youth delegates; I encourage Member States to do more to bring young people aboard and achieve a more equitable geographical balance.

Half the population of the world is under the age of 25. We need to harness the spirit of youth around the world to address the tough challenges we face. This Guide is meant to inspire more Member States to support youth participation at intergovernmental meetings and to allow the voices of young people from all over the world to be not only heard, but acted upon.

Ki Moon Ban

BAN Ki-moon

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EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL
CABINET DU SECRETAIRE GENERAL

REFERENCE:

25 May 2010

Excellency,

The Secretary-General would be grateful if you could kindly forward the enclosed letter to His Excellency Mr. Manmohan Singh, Prime Minister of the Republic of India

A copy of the letter is attached for your information.

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

Vijay Nambiar
Chef de Cabinet

His Excellency
Mr. Hardeep Singh Puri
Permanent Representative of India
to the United Nations
New York

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Note to the Chef de Cabinet

Request for the signature of the Secretary-General to the Foreword of the publication, *Guide to Youth Delegates to the General Assembly*

Every year a number of Member States include youth representatives in their delegations to the General Assembly. Youth delegates have enriched the debate and policy dialogue at the General Assembly and have strengthened existing channels of communication between the United Nations and young people. Upon return to their home countries, youth delegates often work to promote the elaboration and implementation of youth policies at the national level and encourage young people to participate more fully in national and international development.

However, some regions continue to be under-represented among the youth delegates. This is an imbalance that DESA believes can be addressed by providing concrete and practical information to Member States about the Youth Delegates Programme. To facilitate this, DESA has drafted an updated version of the *Guide to Youth Delegates to the United Nations*, originally published in April 2006, to assist Member States in developing youth delegate programmes.

In light of the importance that DESA attributes to youth delegates, I would like to recommend that the Secretary-General consider signing the Foreword to the updated *Guide to Youth Delegates to the United Nations.* This would send an important signal to Member States, and DESA believes that an endorsement of the Youth Delegates Programme by the Secretary-General would result in wider regional representation of youth and ultimately in the increased participation and inclusion of youth in the intergovernmental process, nationally and in their own communities.

沙祖康

Sha Zukang
7 May 2010

cc: Deputy Secretary-General
Mr. Michael Meyer

DESA-10/2206

Foreword

Young people's creativity, energy, and intellect are essential for tackling the global challenges of the present and future. As Secretary-General of the United Nations, I have been honored to meet with young people from around the world. I am always impressed by the contributions they make to their communities, and am inspired by the insight, devotion and energy that they bring to the work of the United Nations. I am not alone in acknowledging the importance of youth to addressing the world's challenges. This recognition was also shown in the General Assembly's decision to proclaim the International Year of Youth: Dialogue and Mutual Understanding, from 12 August 2010 – 11 August 2011.

An important mechanism for youth participation in the work in the United Nations is the Youth Delegates Programme. Every year since taking office, I have had the opportunity to meet with the official youth delegates to the General Assembly. It is always refreshing to hear their views and their inputs bring greater dynamism and a wider perspective to the discussions of the General Assembly. Yet, each year, I am saddened by the fact that some regions continue to be under-represented among the youth delegates. I hope that we can soon achieve a more equitable geographical balance to represent the 1.2 billion young people around the world.

By including young people in national delegations to United Nations meetings, Governments not only fulfil their commitments to youth participation, they also create civic role models for young people around the world. The opportunity for a young person to represent the youth of their country inspires and encourages them to participate in their society's development, counteracting the immense potential social costs that can be created through social exclusion of young people and lack of opportunities for participation.

My hope is that this Guide will inspire more Member States to support youth participation at intergovernmental meetings and through doing so will allow the voices of young people from all over the world to be heard and acted upon.

BAN Ki-moon
United Nations Secretary-General