

UNITED NATIONS



NATIONS UNIES

THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

MESSAGE TO PRAGUE MODEL UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE
Prague, 11-14 March 2011

Congratulations on taking part in the Model United Nations. This exercise will give you a full taste of the complexity of international relations -- the intricacies of negotiating among diverse peoples and perspectives, the challenges of achieving consensus, the patience required to win progress. These skills will help you in whatever course you choose in life.

I trust you have all heard the saying, "united we stand, divided we fall". That adage captures this moment in international affairs. No single country or group, no matter how powerful, can take on the major issues of the day alone. In an era when challenges spill over borders and have global reach, our future depends on how well we work together.

We must unite to overcome climate change, and create a greener, more sustainable world for all. We must work in unison to defeat extreme poverty and build a more just and prosperous world. And we must stand up for human beings in crisis -- people caught up in war or disaster, or those whose fundamental rights are being infringed.

You are an important part of the solution. The world needs your active engagement. Use the knowledge and skills you gain from this Model UN and other pursuits to advance the objectives of the United Nations. After all, you will soon be the government officials who will negotiate peace; the community leaders who will help feed and shelter the vulnerable; the entrepreneurs and innovators who will get carbon emissions under control; the lawyers and human rights defenders who will fight injustice, impunity and intolerance.

Please keep working with us, pushing us and inspiring us. Carry the torch of the timeless values articulated in the UN Charter, including by joining national organizations that support our work. Above all, help shape our world for the better; help us through these testing times; and help the United Nations deliver what the world needs at this crucial moment. Please accept my best wishes for a rewarding experience.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Ki-moon Ban".
BAN Ki-moon

Message to Prague MUN
Drafter: RA
Proofread by: LW/EW
Approved by:
Authorized:
Date: 31/1/2011

Signed on 31 Jan. 2011