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New York, April 15th, 2016

Monsieur le Secrétaire général,

En sa qualité de membre du Conseil de sécurité de l'ONU, ma délégation organise le vendredi 22 avril 2016, de 15h à 18h, à la salle de conférence 7, une réunion en Formule Arria sur le thème "**Eau, Paix et Sécurité**" sous la présidence de Son Excellence Monsieur Macky SALL, Président de la République du Sénégal.

J'ai grand plaisir à vous inviter à rehausser de votre présence cette rencontre en vue notamment de partager les vues et perspectives du Secrétariat sur cette importante thématique.

En annexe, une note conceptuelle sur les motivations et objectifs du débat.

Veuillez agréer, **Monsieur le Secrétaire général**, l'assurance renouvelée de ma haute considération.


Fodé SECK
Ambassadeur, Représentant Permanent

Son Excellence
Monsieur BAN Ki-Moon
Secrétaire Général
de l'Organisation des Nations Unies
New York

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INVITATION



*The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Senegal
to the United Nations
cordially invites you to
an Arria Formula Meeting on Water, Peace and Security
under the Chairmanship of
H.E. Mr. Macky Sall, President of the Republic of Senegal*

*on 22 April 2016
3 p.m. -6 p.m.
Venue: Conference Room 7 (CB)
United Nations Headquarters
(Format 1+1)*

Date: April 22, 2016

Time: 3-6 PM

Venue: Room 7 (CB)

Keynote Speaker:

Briefers:

I- BACKGROUND

For thousands of years, the abundance of water resources from rivers, lakes and seas made it possible for human civilizations to grow and prosper.

Overall, there are, today, 263 transboundary lakes, rivers and aquifers in the world, within the territory of 148 countries, accounting for an estimated 60% of global freshwater flows.

However, with the fast growth of population, industrialization, agriculture, urbanization with their associated pollution, and the impact of climate change, water stress and scarcity is growing threatening social, economical and even political gains in many parts of the world.

The World Water Development Report of UNESCO released on March 2015 indicates that abstraction of water will increase by 50% from the current 3800 billion cubic meters (BCM) to 5700 billion cubic meters (BCM) by 2050. And the gap between supply and demand will be particularly alarming in emerging and developing countries, as fierce competition for access to water may trigger tensions, crises and even armed conflicts both within and between nations.

Each of the last three Secretaries general of the United Nations has sounded, loud and clear, notes of caution about these alarming trends.

Boutros Boutros-Ghali proclaimed in 1991 that "the next war will be fought over water".

Kofi Annan added in 2002 that "fierce national competition over water resources has prompted fears that water issues contain the seeds of violent conflict but could be a catalyst for cooperation" He also pointed out that "if the entire world's peoples work together, a secure and sustainable water future can be ours".

Ban Ki-Moon, emphasized that “water is a classic common property resource. No one really owns the problem. The solutions have to come through international cooperation. There is no other option”.

And last September the whole world adopted, among the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), goal 6 whose target 6.5 states “by 2030, implement integrated water resources management at all levels including through trans-boundary cooperation as appropriate”

It is against this background that, Senegal, drawing on its 44 years experience of engagement in water cooperation with three other riparian countries of the river Senegal, has deemed it useful and timely to push for a greater recognition of the linkages between water, peace and security.

It is worth recalling that Senegal is member of the Joint UN-World Bank Summit Level Group on Water, recently launched by Secretary General Ban Ki-moon and President Jim Yong Kim, and whose inaugural meeting is scheduled on 21st April 2016.

Senegal is also Vice-President of the Global High Level Panel on Water and Peace launched last September 2015 in Geneva and whose second plenary meeting took place in Dakar, a few days ago (5-6 April 2016).

By way of advocacy and dialogue on his initiative on “Water – Peace – Security”, the President of the Republic of Senegal has decided to hold an Arria Formula meeting of the Security Council on Friday 22nd, while participating at the first meeting of the Joint UN/World Bank group on Water and at the signing ceremony of the Paris Agreement on Climate.

II - OBJECTIVES

Unilateralism has already shown its limits. So, the international community should promote a concerted and peaceful approach that would enable most concerned countries to work together in order to find solutions that **give due respective interests**.

In many parts of the world, such approach has already been adopted by countries for their best interests even though new avenues should be explored to strengthen prevention of conflict in this regard.

This arria meeting will be an opportunity to reflect on:

- Linkages between water-peace-security;
- best practices and experiences that already exist on water-cooperation;
- the cooperation between the United Nations and regional or sub-regional organizations involved in water resources management;
- the contribution of the Department of Political affairs in supporting mediation processes at the request of concerned countries;
- the role of UN Water or any other relevant UN Agency working on this issue;
- the role of the Peace Building Commission in building and developing capacities for countries in post-conflict situations that are facing challenges in terms of management of or cooperation on water resources;

- A better protection of water resources during armed conflicts.