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1 March 2016

Dear Secretary-General BAN,

It is my honour to request that you consider granting an audience to Pastor E.A. Adeboye, who was named by Newsweek magazine as one of the fifty most powerful people in the world. Pastor Adeboye is the General Overseer of the Redeemed Christian Church of God (RCCG) that has a global membership of over 10 million people. He will be visiting New York from 22 to 23 June 2016.

The United Nations system as a whole has made great strides towards actively strengthening partnerships with religious leaders globally, with tangible results. UNFPA, the United Nations Population Fund, believes that the powerful influence of religious leaders can be a critical asset as we collectively work towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. Numerous UNFPA country programmes have maximized their impact by engaging faith leaders as partners and advocates, especially in catalysing social and behavioural change in their communities.

Pastor Adeboye is a demonstrated messenger of peace and in particular has been a strong supporter of the fight against HIV/AIDS and other major health challenges in Nigeria and the African continent. Please find as an attachment to this letter a brief biography for your information.

My office is fully at your service for any information or preparations, please contact my Special Assistant, Mr. Niyi Ojuolape at [ujuolape@unfpa.org](mailto:ujuolape@unfpa.org) or 212 297 4964.

With respect,

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Babatunde Osotimehin  
Executive Director

His Excellency  
Mr. BAN Ki-moon  
United Nations Secretary-General  
Room S-3800  
New York

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### **Biography: Pastor Enoch Adeboye**

Pastor Adeboye is the General Overseer of the Redeemed Christian Church of God (RCCG). With headquarters in Nigeria, the Church has more than 25,000 branches in over 150 countries and a membership of more than 10 million people.

Pastor Adeboye holds a PhD in Applied Mathematics from the University of Lagos where he was a Senior Lecturer, before becoming a Pastor, and was appointed as the General Overseer of the Church in 1981. Adeboye has stated that his aim is to put a church within five minutes of every person on Earth.

In 2008, *Newsweek* magazine named Adeboye one of the fifty most powerful people in the world. He is married to Foluke Adeboye, also a pastor, with whom he has children. He also has numerous National and International awards and was named among the Centenary Awardees of his country in 2014.

Andrew Rice, writing in *The New York Times*, calls the RCCG "one of Africa's most vigorously expansionary religious movements, a homegrown Pentecostal denomination that is crusading to become a global faith". The church's leaders preach that in the future "In every household there will be at least one member of Redeemed Christian Church of God in the whole world."

Widely respected across the globe, Pastor Adeboye preaches peace and seeks to use the platform of religion to bring the message of peace to the world. In times past, he has been of tremendous support and assistance to the Government of Nigeria in quelling religious tension and disturbances.