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EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL
CABINET DU SECRETAIRE GENERAL

REFERENCE:

16 February 2012

Dear Ms. Ducci,

On behalf of the Secretary-General, I would like to thank you for the invitation from the International Labour Organization (ILO) dated 24 January 2012, for him to address the 101st Session of the ILO's International Labour Conference, to be held in Geneva either from 7 to 8 June, or from 11 to 13 June 2012.

Unfortunately, the Secretary-General will not be able to attend the Conference, in view of prior commitments and pressing demands already on his schedule during the said dates. However, I am pleased to inform you that he has decided to send a written message for this important occasion, the text of which will be delivered to your office closer to the date of the event.

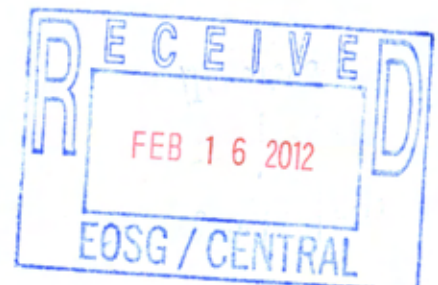
It would be appreciated if you could bring this response to the attention of Mr. Juan Somavia, Director-General of the International Labour Organization.

Yours sincerely,

KIM Won-soo

Deputy Chef de Cabinet and
Special Adviser to the Secretary-General

Ms. Maria Angelica Ducci
Executive Director
Office of the Director-General
International Labour Organization
Geneva



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EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL
CABINET DU SECRETAIRE GENERAL

REFERENCE:

10 February 2012

Dear Mr. Somavia,

On behalf of the Secretary-General, I would like to thank you for your letter dated 24 January 2012, inviting him to address the 101st Session of the International Labour Organization's International Labour Conference, to be held in Geneva either from 7 to 8 June, or from 11 to 13 June 2012.

The Secretary-General appreciates your kind invitation. Unfortunately, I regret to inform you that he will not be able to attend the Conference, in view of prior commitments and pressing demands already on his schedule during the said dates. Nevertheless, allow me to take this opportunity to convey his best wishes for a successful event.

Yours sincerely,

Two comments:

1) Let's address this letter to the deputy DG of ILO.

2) given that this is,

Mr. Somavia's last conference, ^{can} we consider sending SG's message.

and the importance of the theme,

KIM Won-soo

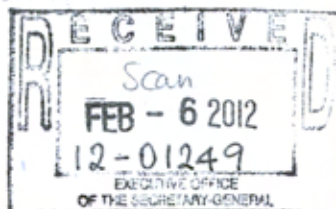
Deputy Chef de Cabinet and
Special Adviser to the Secretary-General

Mr. Juan Somavia
Director-General
International Labour Organization
Geneva

ACTION
COPY

YHC/MMM

ASP regret



International Labour Office

The Director-General

24 JAN. 2012

Dear Secretary-General,

I am pleased to invite you to address the 101st Session of the ILO's International Labour Conference during the period 7-8 or 11-13 June 2012.

The overarching theme will be promoting decent work for young people. We aim to provide a forum where their experience and their proposals for the world of work will be heard and heeded. Prior to the Conference we are also planning a consultative process to secure the views and proposals of young people.

The promotion of decent and productive work for young people is one of the most pressing political, social and economic challenges of our time, nationally and globally.

This emerged clearly in your statement to the L20 Summit in Cannes where you observed that unemployment is rising almost everywhere and more and more young people have no jobs and few prospects of finding one. You have been acutely aware of the explosive social impact of widening economic inequalities and growing poverty.

The unemployment rate for young people globally is now on average, two to three times that of adults. And we face the prospect of a long-lasting global jobs recession as the current rate of global jobs growth at 1 per cent or less per year will not replace the 30 million jobs lost since the crisis began in 2008 which is on top of the pre-existing deficit of jobs and decent work.

With over 75 million officially unemployed young people, not to speak of the underemployed, those who have abandoned the search for work, dropped out of studies or who are in informal and vulnerable work, I am certain you will agree that it is time for a determined effort to rekindle hope, a sense of fairness and a belief in progress through the world of work in building a motivated, creative and productive generation of young workers, professionals and entrepreneurs.

Mr Ban Ki-moon
Secretary-General
United Nations
NEW YORK, NY 10017

ACTION
COPY

440/MBM



International Labour Office

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Mr Ban Ki-moon
Secretary-General

We are looking to the Conference to produce a strong tripartite consensus on innovative and creative concrete proposals to guide policy development and practical action on youth employment and decent work in diverse national and regional situations. The analysis will be situated in the framework of broader measures to foster job intensive growth patterns centred on investment in the real economy.

Beyond youth unemployment, the Conference will also discuss a standard on social protection floors and it will also address the need for more vigorous implementation of fundamental principles and rights at work. Both these areas are important in themselves in time of crisis. They are also key dimensions of initiatives to support the successful and sustainable insertion of youth in the world of work and their buy-in on societal goals.

Observing that people are protesting because they are anxious, angry and indignant you went to the heart of the matter "... this is a call for human dignity – the dignity and respect that comes from decent work." Your presence would send a strong signal of personal commitment to young people the world over. Your commitment will be invaluable in forging a solid global partnership on youth employment. Your call for decent work from the platform of the International Labour Conference will be critical in keeping the global focus on decent work as an enabling factor of stable and sustained economic growth and social cohesion.


To conclude on a personal note, let me say how honoured I would be to welcome you to my last International Labour Conference as Director-General.

I very much hope that you will be with us in June.

With my best personal regards,

Yours sincerely,

bc R. Trud. Sup.



Juan Somavia