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The Executive Director

Reference: EXO /PP/MU/jk

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Mr Ban Ki-moon
Secretary General
United Nations Headquarters
10017 New York
United States of America

08 July 2008

Dear Mr. Secretary-General,

I am writing to express my most sincere appreciation for the great leadership you provided during the recently concluded High-Level Meeting on AIDS (10-12 June 2008, New York).

Your presence in a number of official and broader events demonstrated once again your strong personal commitment to AIDS response. Your powerful calls to sustain and step up the commitment and financing to AIDS response and to end the stigma and discrimination against people living with HIV resonated far and loud.

I am greatly encouraged by your vision that "halting and reversing the spread of AIDS is not only a Goal in itself; it is a prerequisite for reaching almost all the others". Indeed, it was shared by leaders and representatives of governments and civil society, who recognized AIDS as a long-term development challenge requiring a sustained exceptional response. As we heard time and again, while progress is being made in all regions of the world, more needs to be done to achieve universal access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support.


I believe that the outcome of deliberations of the High-Level Meeting will provide a most valuable contribution to the upcoming High-Level Meeting on MDGs, to be held under your leadership this September. A comprehensive Summary of the High-Level Meeting by the President of the General Assembly captures the main issues and recommendations that emerged during the meeting.

Finally, let me also express my deep appreciation for your kind words commending UNAIDS and my service as its Executive Director. It has been a true honour to have the opportunity to lead this innovative partnership of the UN system. Please rest assured that I will continue to serve the AIDS cause in the future, whatever my new capacity will be.

Please accept, Secretary-General, the assurances of my highest consideration.

20 AVENUE APPIA
1211 GENEVA 27
SWITZERLAND

Tel +41 22 791 3666
Fax +41 22 791 4187
www.unaids.org


Peter Piot