



THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

10 January 2008

Excellency,

I write in furtherance of previous communications and consultations between my Office and the Group of 77 and China concerning my proposal to reconfigure the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa (OSAA) in relation to the Office of the High Representative of the Least Developed Countries, Land Locked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States.

Following various consultations with the African Group, we have reached a common understanding which I believe would also find acceptance within the Group of 77 and China on how best to pursue efforts meant to put in place required institutional arrangements with a view to improving synergies and ensuring timely and coordinated mechanisms for better implementation and follow-up of programmes.

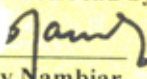
In this regard, the understanding reached entails that the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa is not being abolished; that the resources allocated to the Office in support of its approved mandates will not be diminished; and, that the integrity of legislated programmes will remain intact, in conformity with resolution A/Res/62/236 on Programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009.

Consequently, I wish to assure both the Group of 77 and China of my strong support for the development agenda, including the need for dedicated effort in addressing the special needs of Africa, as illustrated by the MDG Africa Steering Group that I established to scale up the implementation of Millennium Development Goals in Africa.

His Excellency
Mr. Munir Akram
Permanent Representative of Pakistan to
the United Nations and Chairman of
the Group of 77 and China
New York

Letter to Amb. Akram
(28-00350)

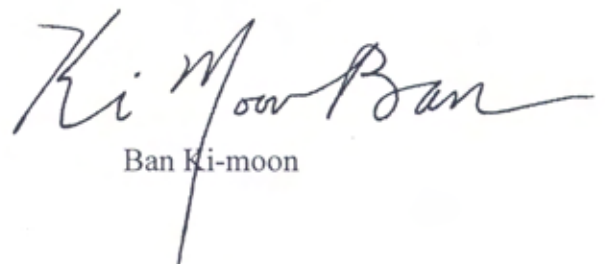
Drafted by Mr. Onanga
Reviewed/read by TM/ho


Vijay Nambiar 11/1/08
date

I trust that the reconfiguration of OSAA and the Office of the High Representative under the same leadership with enhanced authority will help establishing stronger linkages with all actors in the UN system while also providing a more visible platform for better advocacy by expanding inter-agency coordination and contacts.

Against this background, I shall shortly proceed to announce the appointment of the senior official who will head the new Office of the Special Advisor on Africa and High Representative for LDC, LLDC and SIDs, at Under-Secretary-General level. It is my sincerest hope that the new leadership will enjoy the cooperation and support of the Group of 77 and China, as well as the Group's collaboration in advancing effort that seek to bring greater attention to timely and coordinated implementation of our collective agenda for development.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.



Ban Ki-moon