



THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

10 October 2008

Dear Mr. Mitropoulos,

I wish to thank you for your letters dated 12 and 24 September 2008 in which you request my support for the extension of the six-month mandate of Security Council resolution 1816 (2008) and convey the concerns of the Round Table of international shipping associations and the International Transport Workers' Federation.

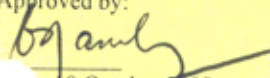
I remain seriously concerned about the dangers posed by piracy to seafarers plying the Gulf of Aden and I am acutely aware of its impact on the ability of the United Nations to deliver humanitarian assistance to those who most need it. In this regard, I welcome the recent decision of the European Union to establish a coordination mechanism that will strengthen the efforts by Member States to address piracy along the coast of Somalia. I also welcome the initiative of individual Member States to provide protection to World Food Programme (WFP) ships bearing humanitarian supplies over the course of the last year.

I support the proposal to request an extension of the mandate of resolution 1816 (2008) for a further period of six months from December 2008 and will convey the same to the Security Council together with the concerns raised by international shipping and seafaring organizations. I am encouraged that the Security Council adopted on 7 October 2008 resolution 1838 (2008) on this issue.

However, we must do more and act quickly to fight this terrible scourge. We must address piracy in a more strategic and comprehensive manner with protection for WFP vessels at the core of this strategy. I also note that efforts to address this issue must be done in a manner consistent with relevant international laws and mindful of the territorial sovereignty of the Federal Republic of Somalia.

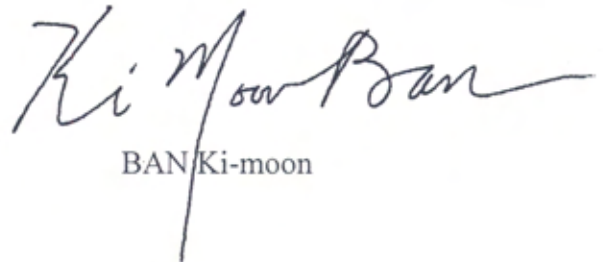
Mr. Efthimios E. Mitropoulos
Secretary-General
International Maritime Organization
London

SG IMO
Drafter: DPA
Proofread by: KM/MZ
Approved by:


10 October 2008

I look forward to receiving the outcome of your consultations with representatives of navies of interested governments, which may assist the Security Council in its deliberations on the passage of a renewal of resolution 1816 (2008).

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Ban Ki-moon". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Ban" being more prominent and the last name "Ki-moon" written in a more connected, flowing style. The signature is positioned above the printed name.

BAN Ki-moon