

UNITED NATIONS



NATIONS UNIES

THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

MESSAGE TO THE HIGH SCHOOL MODEL UNITED NATIONS  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY DAYS  
Oxford, 7 - 9 March 2011

04 Feb 2011

Congratulations on taking part in the Model United Nations. This experience will give you a full taste of the complexity of international relations -- the intricacies of negotiating among diverse peoples and perspectives, the challenges of achieving consensus, the patience required to win progress. These skills will help you in whatever course you choose in life.

I trust you have all heard the saying, "united we stand, divided we fall". That adage captures this moment in international affairs. No single country or group, no matter how powerful, can take on the major issues of the day alone. In an era when challenges spill over borders and have global reach, our future depends on how well we work together.

We must unite to overcome climate change, and create a greener, more sustainable world for all. We must work in unison to defeat extreme poverty and build a more just and prosperous world. And we must stand up for human beings in crisis -- people caught up in war or disasters, or those whose fundamental rights are being infringed.

You are an important part of the solution. The world needs your active engagement. I urge you to use the knowledge and skills you gain from this Model UN and other pursuits to advance the objectives of the United Nations. After all, you will soon be the government officials who will negotiate peace... the community leaders who will help feed and shelter the vulnerable ... the entrepreneurs and innovators who will get carbon emissions under control ... the lawyers and human rights defenders who will fight injustice, impunity and intolerance.

But, of course, your influence is already making a difference. Recent events around the world demonstrate once again the power of young people to take the initiative and turn the tides of history. Technology, awareness, activism and a commitment to social justice are all combining to provide young people with a voice like never before. The world must take account of those voices and the legitimate aspirations of young people everywhere for opportunity and dignity.

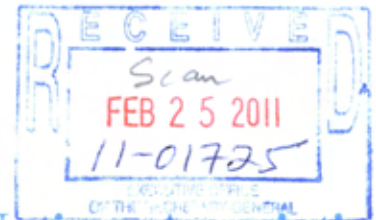
Please keep working with us, pushing us and inspiring us. Above all, help shape our world for the better; help us meet the collective tests of our times; and help the United Nations deliver what the world needs at this crucial moment. Please accept my best wishes for a rewarding Model UN.

BAN Ki-moon



11-01725

7-9 March  
Oxford



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Dr. Ban Ki-moon  
Secretary-General  
United Nations  
New York, NY 10011, United States of America

4<sup>th</sup> February, 2011

*Dear Secretary-General,*

*High School Model UN General Assembly days ✓*

Before my retirement I was, for 23 years, the Executive Director of the United Nations Association of the United Kingdom. I became involved with the County Education Authority in Oxfordshire, where I live, which led to us organizing annual Model United Nations days for over 100 17-year-old students over the past 21 years. The activity has attracted so much interest that we now run three such days every March, involving upwards of 350 students. From last year we have also involved students from abroad and, next month, we shall welcome groups from France, Germany, Sweden, the Russian Federation and the United States of America.

I now chair the UNA Branch in West Oxfordshire in what is currently our Prime Minister's parliamentary constituency.

I am writing on behalf of Nick Peters, the International Education Officer for Oxfordshire, and myself (I act as President of these model General Assemblies, with a student Deputy President) to ask whether there is any chance, please, that you could send us a message of support of these days which I could read out to the students before we gave a copy to each of them to keep? It would be wonderful if you could. We would need it by the end of this month, please.

Nick and I came to hear your lecture in Oxford this week, queued for 50 minutes to gain entry and were told that the venue was full with no places left. Our warm congratulations on attracting so wide and interested an audience.

*Yours sincerely,*  
*Malcolm Harper*

Malcolm Harper