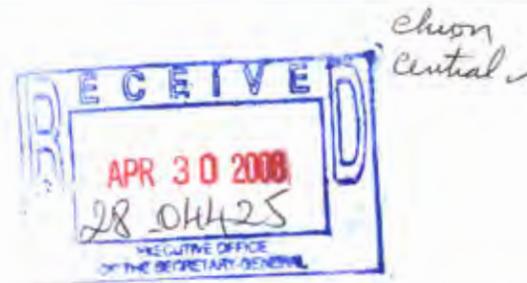


Sustainable Dept



Note to Mr. Sha

Participation in the Ministerial Roundtable on Investing in Africa
16th session of the Commission on Sustainable Development

1. I refer to your note of 21 April 2008 by which you conveyed to me the invitation of the Bureau of the Commission on Sustainable Development to deliver a keynote address at the Ministerial Roundtable on Investing in Africa on 14 May 2008. I am pleased to confirm my acceptance of the invitation.

2. This event provides an important opportunity to further inter-governmental discussions on critical issues relating to the development of Africa and to stress the commitment of the United Nations in this regard.

Asha-Rose Migiro
28 April 2008

Note to the Deputy-Secretary-General

Keynote address at the Ministerial Roundtable on Investing in Africa
16th session of the Commission on Sustainable Development

1. The Bureau of the 16th session of the Commission on Sustainable Development, through Mr. Sha Zukang, Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, has invited the Deputy-Secretary-General to deliver a keynote address at the Ministerial Roundtable on Investing in Africa, which is scheduled to take place at 4:00 p.m. on 14 May 2008.
2. The 16th session of the Commission for Sustainable Development is important as it addresses key issues affecting prospects for Africa's development and achievement of the MDGs, such as agriculture, rural development, desertification, drought, land, water and sanitation. The recent food crisis and ongoing negotiations on climate change are centrally linked to combating poverty and hunger in Africa and thus increases the profile of discussions in the Commission.
3. As the Chairmanship of this session is held by the Minister of Environment and **Tourism** of Zimbabwe, it is expected that participation at Ministerial level may be limited from EU and JUSCANZ countries. However, an address by the Deputy Secretary-General would send a strong signal of the need to focus on the critical issues on the Commission's agenda rather than its chairmanship. I would, therefore, recommend that the Deputy Secretary-General accept the invitation to address the Ministerial Roundtable on Investing in Africa.
4. A proposed draft reply is enclosed for your consideration. I will coordinate with Stefania Piffanelli the preparations for your speech in due course.


Birgitte Alvarez-Rivero
25 April 2008

Isarex per review
BAR for advice
CC PO
23 April

DSG



Note to the Deputy Secretary-General

Participation in the Ministerial Roundtable on Investing in Africa 16th session of the Commission on Sustainable Development

The 16th session of the Commission on Sustainable Development will focus on the crucial issues of agriculture, rural development, land, drought, desertification and Africa, and will review the Commission's early decisions on water and sanitation. It will be held from 5 to 16 May 2008.

With Africa prominently on its agenda, the Commission is expected to attract high-level participation from African Member States.

The Ministerial Segment, which will be opened by the Secretary-General, will feature two Ministerial Roundtables, with one focusing on investing in Africa to achieve the MDGs, and the other on the linkages among the thematic issues.

The Bureau of the Commission on Sustainable Development has requested me to communicate an invitation to you to deliver a keynote address at the Ministerial Roundtable on investing in Africa, which is scheduled for 4:00 p.m. on 14 May 2008.

I recommend your participation in this event as it provides an important opportunity to highlight urgent issues relating to the development of Africa, including the need to increase official development assistance, expand market access for exports from Africa, and strengthen the global partnership with Africa. If your schedule permits, the Commission would be most pleased if you also could stay and participate in the roundtable discussion.

I would appreciate it if you could confirm your participation in the Ministerial Roundtable. The Department would, of course, provide a draft of your address.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Sha Zukang".

Sha Zukang
21 April 2008