



THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

DPA

7 May 2007

Dear Mr. President,

The five Governments of Central Asia have reached a consensus on the establishment of a United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan. While initiating this proposal, the governments of the region took into consideration the multiple threats that face Central Asia, including international terrorism and extremism, drug trafficking, organized crime and environmental degradation.

In keeping with the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and the recommendations of the High-level Panel on Threats, Challenges and Change on the need to strengthen the United Nations capacity for conflict prevention, I wish to inform the Members of the Security Council about my intention to establish this Centre. The Centre would be established in parallel with the phasing down and closure of the United Nations Tajikistan Office of Peace building.

The functions of the Centre would include:

- To liaise with the Governments of the region and, with their concurrence, with other parties concerned on issues relevant to preventive diplomacy;
- To monitor and analyze the situation on the ground and to provide the Secretary-General of the United Nations with up-to-date information related to conflict prevention efforts;
- To maintain contact with the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, Commonwealth of Independent States, Shanghai Cooperation Organization and other regional organizations, encourage their peace-making efforts and initiatives, and facilitate coordination and information exchange with due regard to their specific mandates;

His Excellency
Mr. Zalmay Khalilzad
President of the Security Council
New York

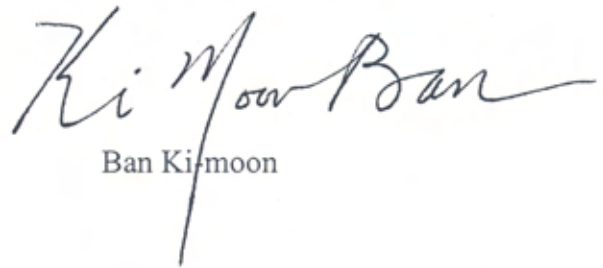
27-06050



- To provide a political framework and leadership for the preventive activities of the United Nations country teams in the region. Also, to support the efforts of the Resident Coordinators and those of the United Nations system, including the Bretton Woods institutions, in promoting an integrated approach to preventive development and humanitarian assistance;
- To maintain close contact with the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan to ensure a comprehensive and integrated analysis of the situation in the region.

I should be grateful if you would bring the present letter to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

Please accept, Mr. President, the assurances of my highest consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Ki Moon Ban". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Ki" and last name "Ban" being more prominent than the middle name "Moon".

Ban Ki-moon

5940.

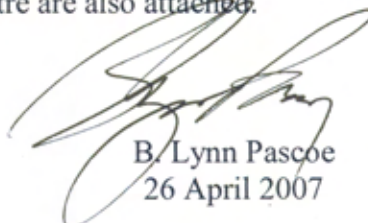
LAG

Note to the Secretary-General



UNITED NATIONS REGIONAL CENTRE FOR PREVENTIVE DIPLOMACY
FOR CENTRAL ASIA

1. As you know, Central Asia is a strategically important region, but one of the most vulnerable in the world. The five countries, severely afflicted by poverty and social polarization, face challenges from Islamic extremism and violence, interethnic tensions, and disputes over borders and natural resources. Rule of law is tenuous, and the authoritarian governments commit violations of human rights. As the ongoing crisis in Kyrgyzstan shows, leadership succession in the coming years will be traumatic and potentially violent.
2. Notwithstanding the presence of several regional organizations (OSCE, CIS, SCO) in the Central Asia, efforts at conflict prevention there have proven to be inefficient. The Foreign Minister of Slovakia, former Secretary-General of OSCE and UN SRSG in Tajikistan, Mr. Jan Kubis, who was recently in New York, strongly confirmed this view.
3. We intend to take concrete steps, therefore, to enhance our capacity to prevent conflict, strengthen democratic transition, and promote human rights in the region. The establishment of a UN Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan, would be a major step in this direction.
4. The idea to establish the Center in Ashgabat has the support of the five Governments of the region, and they have indicated their receptiveness to the proposal. The Centre would provide an opportunity to assist the countries as a catalyst for democratic change, development of civil society, and respect for human rights. The countries would benefit from the diplomatic and technical assistance of the Centre in managing tensions and preventing conflict.
5. The Centre would be small (four international staff members) and cost effective. It may be established in parallel with the phasing out of the United Nations Tajikistan Office of Peace building (UNTOP), which successfully completed its mandate and would be closed by the end of the year.
6. The idea of the Centre was raised in 2005, when the Secretary-General wrote to the Security Council stating his intention to establish the UN Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy in Ashgabat. The proposal received broad support in the Council, but remained on hold pending the response of the United States delegation. At that time the US had reservations regarding Turkmenistan as a venue under former President Niyazov. In the preparation of this Note, we reconfirmed with Russia, China, and the US their support for the Centre in Ashgabat.
7. If you concur with this proposal, attached please find a draft of your letter to the President to the Security Council informing him about your intention to establish such a Centre. The proposed terms of reference for the Centre are also attached.



B. Lynn Pascoe
26 April 2007

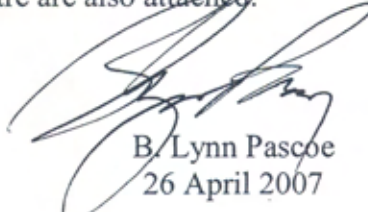
cc: Mr. Nambiar
Ms. Kane
Mr. Goryayev

Note to the Secretary-General

**UNITED NATIONS REGIONAL CENTRE FOR PREVENTIVE DIPLOMACY
FOR CENTRAL ASIA**



1. As you know, Central Asia is a strategically important region, but one of the most vulnerable in the world. The five countries, severely afflicted by poverty and social polarization, face challenges from Islamic extremism and violence, interethnic tensions, and disputes over borders and natural resources. Rule of law is tenuous, and the authoritarian governments commit violations of human rights. As the ongoing crisis in Kyrgyzstan shows, leadership succession in the coming years will be traumatic and potentially violent.
2. Notwithstanding the presence of several regional organizations (OSCE, CIS, SCO) in the Central Asia, efforts at conflict prevention there have proven to be inefficient. The Foreign Minister of Slovakia, former Secretary-General of OSCE and UN SRSG in Tajikistan, Mr. Jan Kubis, who was recently in New York, strongly confirmed this view.
3. We intend to take concrete steps, therefore, to enhance our capacity to prevent conflict, strengthen democratic transition, and promote human rights in the region. The establishment of a UN Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan, would be a major step in this direction.
4. The idea to establish the Center in Ashgabat has the support of the five Governments of the region, and they have indicated their receptiveness to the proposal. The Centre would provide an opportunity to assist the countries as a catalyst for democratic change, development of civil society, and respect for human rights. The countries would benefit from the diplomatic and technical assistance of the Centre in managing tensions and preventing conflict.
5. The Centre would be small (four international staff members) and cost effective. It may be established in parallel with the phasing out of the United Nations Tajikistan Office of Peace building (UNTOP), which successfully completed its mandate and would be closed by the end of the year.
6. The idea of the Centre was raised in 2005, when the Secretary-General wrote to the Security Council stating his intention to establish the UN Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy in Ashgabat. The proposal received broad support in the Council, but remained on hold pending the response of the United States delegation. At that time the US had reservations regarding Turkmenistan as a venue under former President Niyazov. In the preparation of this Note, we reconfirmed with Russia, China, and the US their support for the Centre in Ashgabat.
7. If you concur with this proposal, attached please find a draft of your letter to the President to the Security Council informing him about your intention to establish such a Centre. The proposed terms of reference for the Centre are also attached.



B. Lynn Pascoe
26 April 2007

cc: Mr. Nambiar
Ms. Kane
Mr. Goryayev

xx May 2007

Dear Mr. President,

The five governments of Central Asia have reached a consensus on the establishment of a United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan. While initiating this proposal, the governments of the region took into consideration the multiple threats that face Central Asia, including international terrorism and extremism, drug trafficking, organized crime and environmental degradation.

In keeping with the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and the recommendations of the High Level Panel on Threats, Challenges and Change on the need to strengthen the United Nations capacity for conflict prevention, I wish to inform the Members of the Security Council about my intention to establish this Centre. The Centre would be established in parallel with the phasing down and closure of the United Nations Tajikistan Office of Peace building (UNTOP).

The functions of the Centre would include:

- To liaise with the Governments of the region and, with their concurrence, with other parties concerned on issues relevant to preventive diplomacy;
- To monitor and analyze the situation on the ground and to provide the Secretary-General of the United Nations with up-to-date information related to conflict prevention efforts;
- To maintain contact with the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) and other regional organizations, encourage their peace-making efforts and initiatives, and facilitate coordination and information exchange with due regard to their specific mandates;

His Excellency
Mr. Zalmay Khalilzad
President of the Security Council
New York

- To provide a political framework and leadership for the preventive activities of the United Nations country teams in the region. Also, to support the efforts of the Resident Coordinators and those of the United Nations system, including the Bretton Woods institutions, in promoting an integrated approach to preventive development and humanitarian assistance;
- To maintain close contact with UNAMA to ensure a comprehensive and integrated analysis of the situation in the region.

I should be grateful if you would bring the present letter to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

Please accept, Mr. President, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Ban Ki-moon

Chris,
He has approved the
draft (communicated via cable).
Pls submit for UN's to
authorise signature.
Many thanks ON

United Nations



Nations Unies

Executive Office of the Secretary-General
Cabinet du Secrétaire général

To: Mr. Nambiar,

Please see attached for your approval and SG's signature a letter addressed to the President of the Security Council regarding the UN Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia.

Thank you.


Andrew Gilmour
3 May 2007

cc: Mr. Kim Won-soo

*It seems a good proposal that
apparently has broad support both
regionally and internationally.*

27-06050