



THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

WHO
Haiti

17 February 2010

Dear Dr. Chan,

I would like to thank you for your letter of 14 January 2010 and for the outstanding efforts undertaken by the World Health Organization in the aftermath of the devastating earthquake that hit Haiti on 12 January 2010.

I mourn with you the victims of the worst natural disaster in the recent history of Haiti and unprecedented tragedy for the United Nations, including my Special Representative, Mr. Hédi Annabi, and **his** Principal Deputy, Mr. Luiz Carlos da Costa, along with many other colleagues who sacrificed their lives in striving for a better world.

I concur with you regarding the need for immediate and efficient humanitarian assistance, while ensuring that local structures are not sidelined but supported by close interaction with Haitian partners.

As you know, the United Nations family, including MINUSTAH and WHO, are doing everything they can to facilitate and coordinate the extraordinary relief effort and the flow of international assistance to Haiti. A significant logistical effort is underway to support this endeavour, to which I trust the dispatch of your team will make an important contribution.

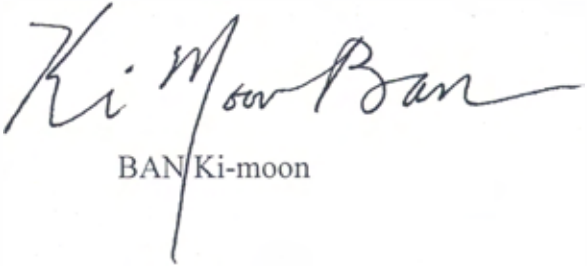
In this context, I would like to extend my gratitude to WHO for its rapid and effective response. Your immediate provision of medical expertise and supplies, focusing on the rescue of survivors and emergency treatment of the wounded, was critical to save many lives. I understand that WHO and its partners are now moving to post-operative care and I appreciate your efforts on disease surveillance, especially with the rainy season fast approaching. The rehabilitation of those who were injured also needs to be ensured.

Dr. Margaret Chan
Director-General
World Health Organization
Geneva

10-01492 / 10-00533 -

I look forward to your continuing leadership in buttressing the effort of the United Nations system to address the most urgent needs of Haiti and to provide the necessary support for the medium and long-term recovery of the country.

Yours sincerely,



BAN Ki-moon

United Nations



Nations Unies

Executive Office of the Secretary-General
Cabinet du Secrétaire général

To: Mr. Nambiar:

Please find attached for your approval and SG's signature a letter addressed to Dr. Margaret Chan, Director-General WHO, in reply to her letter of 14 January, regarding the response from WHO in the aftermath of the devastating earthquake that struck Haiti on 12 January.

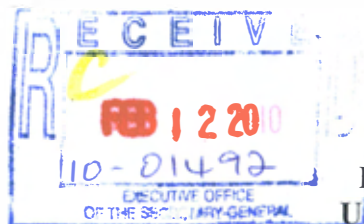
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nicholas Haysom'.

Nicholas Haysom
17 February 2010

Cc: KWS

10-01492

1536
ACTION NH (Wilson)
COPY UN



Immediate
Unclassified

Note to Mr. Nambiar

Letter from the Secretary-General to the Director-General of the ✓
World Health Organization (WHO) ✓

Please find attached for the Secretary-General's signature a draft letter responding to a letter from Dr. Margaret Chan, the Director-General of WHO, regarding the response from WHO in the aftermath of the devastating earthquake that struck Haiti on 12 January. 10-00533

A. L. R.

Alain Le Roy
11 February 2010

cc: Mr. Holmes
Ms. Malcorra

1550



**World Health
Organization**

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In reply please

refer to: DGO

Your reference:

His Excellency
Mr Ban Ki-moon
Secretary-General of the United Nations
New York, NY 10017
USA

and

President William J. Clinton
UN Special Envoy to Haiti

JAN 18 2010

14 January 2010

Dear Mr Secretary-General,

Dear Mr President,

I should like to thank you for your leadership in the face of this terrible tragedy. There are still no clear estimates of the numbers of dead and injured following the earthquake that struck Haiti on 12 January, but it is clear we are facing a disaster of major proportions that requires an exceptional response.

WHO is mobilizing all its resources at all levels to meet **the challenges** of bringing **humanitarian assistance to Haiti**, and is working closely with the Ministry of Health and humanitarian partners in the response operations. Health priorities are needs assessments; search and rescue care; trauma care for badly injured survivors; preventing communicable disease outbreaks; restoring health systems; making **sure** hospitals are up and running, setting up field hospitals; coordinating efforts; AIDS treatment, and restoring water and sanitation

WHO is rapidly deploying its best staff to help the people of Haiti. Right now, a first team is on its way including specialists from the WHO/PAHO Regional Office in Washington, including logisticians to open up supply chains and put cold chains in place, water and sanitation engineers to help restore networks, communicable **disease specialists**, experts in trauma care, and public health officers. They will be joined tomorrow by colleagues from HQ including logisticians and water and sanitation engineers. In these efforts, we must be careful not to disrupt the existing health systems by hiring their staff or creating parallel services; we must work with existing structures, **staff** and systems.

We will rely heavily on the Dominican Republic to bring in staff, supplies and equipment to Haiti and are setting up a field office there. The Government of the Dominican Republic is extending assistance and has waived visa requirements. We gratefully acknowledge their solidarity and support.

.../2.

منظمة الصحة العالمية • 世界卫生组织

Organisation mondiale de la Santé • Всемирная организация здравоохранения • Organización Mundial de la Salud

H.E. Mr Ban Ki-moon, UNSG, and

President William J. Clinton, UN Special Envoy to Haiti, New York

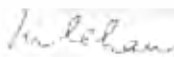
The earthquake has exacted a heavy toll on our UN colleagues. Many have perished in the disaster. We cannot expect staff who have lost houses, possessions, loved ones - who themselves are victims of this catastrophe - to participate in the rescue attempt.

We talked with our partners in the Global Health Cluster this afternoon. They look to WHO for help and guidance. WHO is urgently assessing the risks of communicable and other diseases in the aftermath of the earthquake. This assessment will be ready very shortly and will be shared with all partners.

WHO's most urgent priorities are to help the Ministry of Health to coordinate needs assessments; to help coordinate relief operations (setting priorities, guiding the allocation of resources, establishing strategies and defining activities - who will do what where); and to engage with the military to tap their logistics capacity, heavy equipment, expertise and experience to move in swiftly following major disasters. But they need to know where to go and what to do. WHO will take a lead role in this regard; and lastly, once the acute phase of the operation is over, to work with the Government and partners on recovery and reconstruction efforts - assessing, rebuilding and helping the people of Haiti on the road to recovery.

WHO is fully committed to support you as you lead the international community in responding to this tragic disaster.

Yours sincerely,



Dr Margaret Chan
Director-General