



THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

29 April 2011

*Dear Director General Ordzhonikidze,*

As you complete a decade of distinguished service with the United Nations, I wish to place on record my great appreciation for your dedication and for your performance as Director-General of the UN Office at Geneva and Secretary-General of the Conference on Disarmament.

Geneva is one of our most diverse and dynamic duty stations, and your efforts to ensure its smooth and effective functioning have been a significant contribution to our global mission.

I have also been pleased to work with you in advancing the disarmament and non-proliferation agenda, which is one of my top priorities. I know we both welcome the recent momentum in this area, in particular on nuclear disarmament and nuclear security. I would like to recognize in particular your role in our efforts to revitalize the Conference on Disarmament.

On a more personal level, let me add that I have always appreciated your contributions as a member of the Senior Management Group and your participation in our annual retreats. I also thank you for the wonderful hospitality that was always extended to me during more than a dozen visits to Geneva.

Thank you again for your long-standing service to the United Nations, which reaches back to your earlier years with the Russian Foreign Ministry, and which, I am sure, will continue as you move on to other pursuits. Please accept my congratulations on a job well done, as well as my best wishes for health and happiness in the years ahead.

*With my best wishes  
for you and family,*

Yours sincerely,

*Ban Ki-moon*  
BAN Ki-moon

Mr. Sergei Ordzhonikidze  
Director-General  
United Nations Office at Geneva  
Geneva