

OCHA

(Kuwait)

THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

1 July 2009

Your Highness,

It has been an honour to have had the opportunity over the last year to exchange views with you on the numerous challenges facing our global community today. Your advice and recommendations have been valuable to me and the United Nations in trying to act as the common voice and conscience of its Member States. I write to you today to seek further support for the strengthening of the international humanitarian system.

We face a number of simultaneous and interlinked challenges. Firstly, the impacts of climate change are now undeniable. I am hopeful that we can come to a reasonable agreement on the way forward at the Copenhagen Conference at the end of the year, but the humanitarian consequences will continue to be felt for many years as natural disasters increase their frequency and intensity. I hope we can discuss this at the Climate Change Summit that I am organizing on 22 September 2009 in New York. Secondly, I remain concerned at the escalating conflicts around the world which affect too many innocent civilians, as we have seen recently in places such as Afghanistan, Gaza, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. Thirdly, the downturn in the global economy is likely to affect the most vulnerable people severely. Finally, as much this year as last, high prices for food remain of concern, further highlighting the need to encourage agricultural production, particularly in developing countries.

The combination of these crises is resulting in greater humanitarian needs for over a billion people – the poorest of the poor. Every year we release dozens of humanitarian appeals. In 2009 alone, we have requested almost US \$10 billion in funding. In order to disburse funds quickly, I rely on the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF), which has become an integral part of the humanitarian system.

His Highness
Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah
Amir of the State of Kuwait
Kuwait



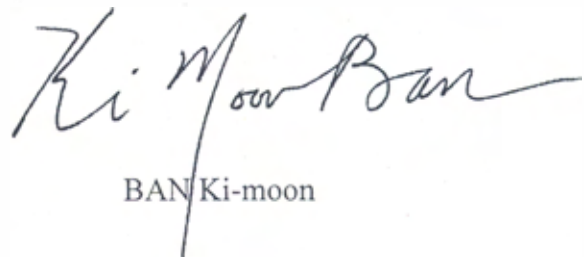
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It jump-starts life-saving relief operations following sudden disasters, fills critical gaps and increases the coverage of needs in emergencies facing funding shortfalls. Since its inception, the Fund has disbursed over US \$1.2 billion to help millions of victims of natural disasters and conflicts in 70 countries. The fact that it has been supported by 106 Member States, contributing US \$1.5 billion since 2006, is highly symbolic of the trust given to the CERF.

The Fund demonstrated its speed and adaptability in 2008. In response to Cyclone Nargis, the worst-ever catastrophe in Myanmar, over US \$20 million in emergency aid was approved on the same day the request was received in New York. CERF also proved its flexibility by setting aside a reserve of US \$100 million in response to the unprecedented requests for assistance as a result of the global food crisis. The Fund also helped mitigate gaps in assistance by allocating resources to poorly funded emergencies from Afghanistan to Zimbabwe.

I am grateful to the State of Kuwait for its generosity over the years in giving towards humanitarian aid. I am particularly encouraged by your recent decision to channel 10 per cent of the aid budget of the State of Kuwait through multilateral channels and I hope that the State of Kuwait will build on this to become a strong humanitarian partner of the United Nations in the Gulf. You may know that two years ago I appointed Mr. Abdulaziz bin Mohamed Arrukban as my Special Humanitarian Envoy with a view to improving dialogue and partnership with the relevant humanitarian authorities in the State of Kuwait and other Gulf countries. I would be most grateful if you could facilitate his work at this crucial time. In this context, I would like to solicit in particular your increased support to the CERF.

Please accept, Your Highness, the assurances of my highest consideration.



BAN Ki-moon

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EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL
CABINET DU SECRETAIRE GENERAL

REFERENCE:

1 July 2009

Excellency,

The Secretary-General would be grateful if you could kindly forward the enclosed letter to His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Amir of the State of Kuwait.

A copy of the letter is attached for your information.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.


Vijay Nambiar
Chef de Cabinet

His Excellency
Mr. Abdullah Ahmed Mohamed Al-Murad
Permanent Representative of the State of Kuwait
to the United Nations
New York

United Nations



Nations Unies

Executive Office of the Secretary-General
Cabinet du Secrétaire général

To: Mr. Nambiar

Please find attached for your approval and the SG's signature, four letters addressed to the HoS of Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and the UAE, requesting that the work of Special Humanitarian Envoy Arrukban is facilitated and that each country contribute to UN humanitarian programmes annually.

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

Nicholas Haysom
1 July 2009

cc: KWS

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**4 LETTERS FOR SG'S SIGNATURE
AS REQUESTED IN SG'S MEETING WITH
SPECIAL HUMANITARIAN ENVOY ARUKBAN ON 8 JUNE 2009**

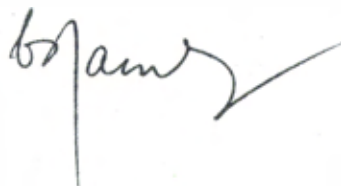
1. His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Amir of the State of Kuwait;
2. His Highness Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al-Thani, Amir of the State of Qatar;
3. The Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Abdullah Bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud, King of Saudi Arabia and Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia; and
4. His Highness Sheikh Khalifa Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the United Arab Emirates.

Drafter: OCHA

Proofread by: KG/SH

Approved by:

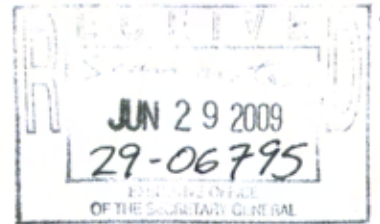
Date: 1 July 2009

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'b. amr', with a long vertical line extending downwards from the 'a' and a checkmark-like flourish at the end.

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COPY

Note to Mr. Nambiar



Please find enclosed four draft letters for the Secretary-General to be sent to the leaders of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar and United Arab Emirates, as requested in the Secretary-General's meeting with Special Humanitarian Envoy Mr. Abudl Aziz Arrukban on Monday 8 June 2009.

Thank you.

John Holmes
29 June 2009