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REFERENCE:

7 November 2008

Dear Mr. Touré,

On behalf of the Secretary-General, I thank you for your letter of 21 October 2008, confirming your invitation for him to attend the opening day programme of International Telecommunication Union's Telecom World 2009, on 4 October 2009 in Geneva.

I wish to inform you that we are unable to determine on the Secretary-General's participation at this early stage. However, rest assured that the invitation will be kept in mind as his programme for the indicated period develops. Closer to the date of the meeting, we shall revert with a definite response.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Vijay Nambiar'.

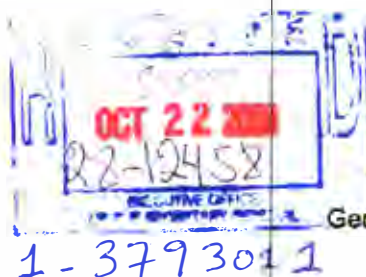
Vijay Nambiar  
Chef de Cabinet

Mr. Hamadoun I. Touré  
Secretary-General  
International Telecommunication  
Union  
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The Secretary-General



Geneva, 21 October 2008

His Excellency  
Mr. Ban Ki-Moon  
Secretary-General  
UN Headquarters  
NEW YORK, NY 10017  
USA

Sir,

I am honored to confirm my invitation to you to attend the opening day programme of ITU TELECOM WORLD 2009 on 4 October 2009, which I mentioned to you during the CEB Spring meeting in Bern. A formal invitation, with the full programme of the opening day, will be forthcoming from the President of the Swiss Confederation, the patron and co-host of the Event in Geneva.

Under the theme "**Open Networks, Connected Minds**", ITU TELECOM WORLD 2009 will spur discussions and reinforce the commitments made by Heads of State and Government at each of the two phases of the World Summit on the Information Society (Geneva 2003 and Tunis 2005) to achieve equitable communications to everyone by bridging the digital divide. As you know, one of the outcomes of the 2005 World Summit convened by the UN was the recognition of the role of Information communication technologies (ICTs) as a tool to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by 2015.

ITU TELECOM WORLD will gather political leaders, public figures, business leaders, International organization and civil society representatives. You will doubtlessly have an opportunity to call on the world community to further invest in ICTs as a tool to consolidate the economic gains towards the MDGs. This event is also an engine of social corporate responsibility in using ICT for sustainable economic development. This will be an opportunity to renew your challenge to all stakeholders, during your historic visit to ITU in 2007, to use ICTs to combat climate change in order to prevent natural disasters.

Another important strategic issue to be discussed at the Event is Cybersecurity. We must strengthen the security of networks while enhancing the protection of personal data and privacy through national action and international cooperation. These achievements will create a more confident and secure environment for access to and use of ICTs to facilitate global trade.

Although ITU TELECOM WORLD is in the Fall of 2009, I would be grateful if you could express your willingness to attend. I look forward to welcoming you to Geneva next year.

Finally, I have asked Mr. Houlin Zhao, ITU Deputy Secretary-General, who is representing me at current Fall Session, to personally deliver this invitation to you and to convey my best wishes for a successful meeting.

Accept, Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Dr. Hamadoun I. Touré

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