



THE PRESIDENT  
OF THE  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

15 January 2008

Excellency,

Further to my letter of 10 December, I would like to update you on the preparations for the thematic debate entitled “Addressing Climate Change: The United Nations and the World at Work”, that will take place on Monday and Tuesday 11 and 12 February 2008.

For your information, please find attached a background paper, prepared in consultation with the Secretary-General, which, together with the Secretary-General’s report, as requested by Member States in General Assembly resolution 62/8, should serve as a substantive input to this thematic debate. A detailed programme of the debate is also attached. These documents are also available on the website of the President of the General Assembly.

I am pleased to confirm that the thematic debate will consist of a brief opening ceremony followed by two consecutive interactive panel discussions in the morning and afternoon of the first day. There will be no list of speakers for the panels. Delegations are encouraged to engage in an open and interactive discussion with panellists, special guests, representatives of civil society and non-governmental organizations.

As previously announced, a plenary meeting of the General Assembly, to be held on Tuesday, February 12 will provide an opportunity for Member States to further discuss climate change, including the Secretary-General’s report. I would like to encourage Member States to be represented at this thematic debate at a ministerial level as appropriate. A list of speakers will be established in accordance with General Assembly procedures. I strongly encourage concise statements that do not exceed five minutes to allow as many delegations as possible to participate in the discussions.

All Permanent Representatives and  
Permanent Observers to the United Nations  
New York

It is also my pleasure to inform you that Sir Richard Branson, Chairman of the Virgin Group, kindly agreed to be a keynote speaker at a luncheon on Monday, 11 February 2007, to which you and ministers or other senior representatives are kindly invited to attend. Individual invitations will follow.

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



Srgjan Kerim