



THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

15 July 2008

Dear Mr. President,

I would like to thank you for inviting me to brief the General Assembly on 18 July 2008 on the global food and energy crisis. On behalf of the High-Level Task Force on the Global Food Crisis, I am pleased to share with you the revised version of the Comprehensive Framework for Action (CFA). I would be grateful if you would circulate the CFA to Member States for their information before my briefing.

The CFA represents the consensus view of the United Nations system, including the Bretton Woods institutions and other relevant international organizations, on how to respond to the global food crisis in a coherent and coordinated way.

What we are facing today is an unprecedented challenge. In part, it is a humanitarian emergency that demands urgent food and food-related assistance for the world's poor and vulnerable. But soaring food prices are also emblematic of a larger structural crisis that will have an even worse impact on the world's food supply if immediate measures are not taken to stabilize global food markets, and to increase investment in agriculture in a sustained way. Global demand for food will only grow in the future and we must be prepared for that.

The CFA aims to bridge traditional divides between humanitarian and development assistance, and tackle all aspects of food security, including food aid and nutrition, smallholder farming and agriculture, local and regional food markets and global trade. It does not seek to prescribe specific policies and activities, but rather provides a range of options from which choices can be made by governments and institutions. It aims to give guidance and impetus to the many actors involved in working to address the global food crisis, so that, with appropriate assistance from the United Nations, Bretton Woods institutions, and other partners, they can address immediate needs, build resilience and contribute to longer-term food security.

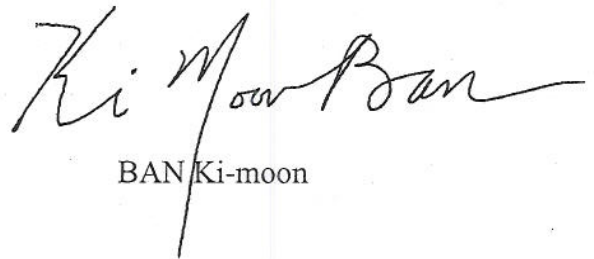
His Excellency
Mr. Srgjan Kerim
President of the General Assembly
New York

Although the CFA is not a funding document, it recognizes that there are major financial needs to be met if the desired outcomes are to be achieved. Aid financing must be part of this, but private sector and country investments remain critical to the process.

The CFA should not be viewed in isolation. It should be considered within the context of the first Millennium Development Goal of reducing hunger by 50 per cent by 2015, and used as an important tool for its achievement. The CFA must be further interpreted and used at the country level, in a flexible manner, to suit specific country needs and circumstances. The High-Level Task Force will continue to facilitate this process actively, and provide coordination to all stakeholders at the global level.

In keeping with my focus on the triple challenge of addressing climate change, realizing the Millennium Development Goals, and responding to the food and energy crisis, I would like to assure you of my continued commitment to improving food and nutrition security for the tens of millions of hungry people in the world.

Please accept, Mr. President, the assurances of my highest consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Ki-moon Ban". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

BAN Ki-moon