



THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

28 July 2008

Dear Mr. President,

As you are well aware, the summer is getting very hot. Inside our offices, the air conditioners are working at full power, consuming a lot of energy, and producing related greenhouse gas emissions.

I have, therefore, decided to take this opportunity to promote practical action within United Nations headquarters that will result in reduced emissions and increased staff awareness as well as that of the United Nations Missions in New York about climate change issues.

I am announcing a “Cool UN” for the month of August during which the United Nations Building Management will turn up thermostats from 72 to 77° F in our offices and from 70 to 75° F in the conference rooms. During the weekends, the air conditioning systems will be switched off completely. During this same period, I am announcing a more relaxed dress code on the premises, encouraging staff and delegations to wear lighter clothing.

This I believe can serve as an example of some simple steps we can take to lead by example in the global fight against climate change.

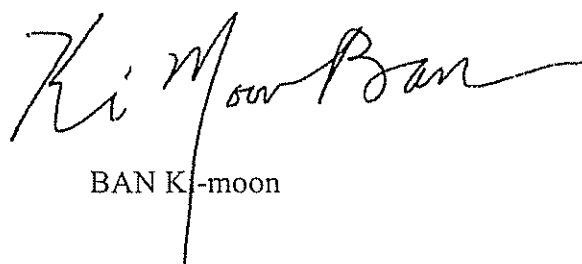
For now, the “Cool UN” will be a trial, lasting the month of August. Depending on the experience, I plan to extend it, and also to apply a similar, but opposite initiative in the winter, allowing us to turn down the thermostats by five degrees Fahrenheit.

In light of your strong and pro-active role in convening the General Assembly debates on climate change during the past several months, I would like to invite you to support this campaign by bringing it to the attention of Member States and encouraging them to follow the guidelines of the campaign that I will soon announce.

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

I am confident that your support as the President of the General Assembly can make an important contribution to the achievement of the objectives of the "Cool UN" campaign, which is expected not only to save energy and result in reduced emissions, but also to raise the profile of the climate change challenge and increase public awareness at this critical juncture when the international community needs to take urgent actions to respond to the dangerous climate change.

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



BAN Ki-moon