



THE PRESIDENT  
OF THE  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

28 December 2016

Excellency,

As part of my commitment to transparency and openness, I have the honour to share herewith a memo from my recent meeting on 22 December 2016 with the Secretary-General His Excellency Mr. Ban Ki-moon.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter Thomson', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Peter Thomson

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

**Meeting between the President of the General Assembly and  
the Secretary-General of the United Nations**  
**Thursday, 22 December 2016**

A farewell lunch was hosted by the President of the General Assembly in honour of Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon on 22 December 2016. Both principals were accompanied by senior advisers from their respective offices.

At the luncheon, the President congratulated the Secretary-General on the historic achievements of the United Nations made possible through his leadership – most notably the Paris Agreement on Climate Change and the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda. The President recalled that Secretary-General Ban was an unrelenting force in raising global awareness of the catastrophic consequences of our planet’s warming, and in galvanising world leaders to act. His unceasing efforts ultimately led to the adoption of the Paris Agreement, which fittingly entered into force this year.

The President further recalled that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, together with the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, the Sendai Framework for Action, provides humanity with a universal master plan to end extreme poverty, increase prosperity, empower women and girls, and build peaceful and inclusive societies.

The Secretary-General expressed appreciation to the President of the General Assembly and gratitude to the dedication and strategic efforts of the Secretary-General’s senior advisers, including Deputy Secretary-General, as well as to Governments, UN Principals, and UN staff for the successes of his tenure.

The President noted that the work of the Secretary-General constitutes a solid basis to build upon in 2017, including on climate change and the Sustainable Development Goals. In this context, the President highlighted that he will convene, on 24 January 2017, a high-level event entitled “Building Sustainable Peace for All: Synergies between the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Sustaining Peace”.

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