

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

January 5, 2007

Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon
United Nations Secretary-General
799 United Nations Plaza
New York, NY 10017-3505

Dear Secretary Ban:

We congratulate you on your recent confirmation as the eighth Secretary-General of the United Nations. The United Nations has lofty goals of promoting peace and human rights but, as you are well-aware, the organization has been plagued by mismanagement and corruption.

We are pleased to hear that your top goal as Secretary-General is to restore trust by upholding “the highest levels of efficiency, competence and integrity.” Your predecessor, Kofi Annan, sought a number of reforms including:

- modernizing and reforming business practices;
- overhauling the process for planning and allocating funding and resources;
- pursuing internal evaluation and coherence in the UN system;
- enhancing staff mobility; and
- implementing results-results based management.

These reforms are long-overdue but have unfortunately been blocked by the General Assembly’s repeated calls for reports. There are plenty of reports that state the problems of the UN and offer clear solutions—it is time to act on real reform.

While we are confident that you will continue the work of the Secretary-General, we would like you to also consider broader reforms. For instance, the proliferation of mandates has led to much managerial confusion and waste. A comprehensive review and adoption of sunset clauses on new mandates will allow the UN to streamline the allocation of funds and utilize personnel for the most urgent matters.

In the wake of the Oil-for-Food scandal, senior UN officials are now required to file financial disclosure forms. While Secretary-General Annan chose to file his report, he refused to make this report public, once again calling into question his integrity. We would urge you to make such reports public so that member states can have full confidence in the Secretariat.

Again, congratulations on your new position. Nations around the world will rely on your leadership to fulfill the promise of the United Nations. Our country looks forward to working with you for the goals of peace, protection of human rights, and improving the lives of those in poverty.

Scott Garrett

Rep. Scott Garrett

Gene Green

Rep. Gene Green

Peter King

Rep. Peter King

Shelley Berkley

Rep. Shelley Berkley

Jeb Hensarling

Rep. Jeb Hensarling

Jo Ann Davis

Rep. Jo Ann Davis

Louie Gohmert

Rep. Louie Gohmert

John T. Doolittle

Rep. John Doolittle

Pete Sessions

Rep. Pete Sessions

Bill Shuster

Rep. Bill Shuster

Thaddeus McCotter

Rep. Thaddeus McCotter

Marsha Blackburn

Rep. Marsha Blackburn

Bob Inglis

Rep. Bob Inglis

Thelma Drake

Rep. Thelma Drake