



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

**Thematic Debate**  
**“Addressing Climate Change:  
The United Nations and the World at Work”**

*Programme as of 7.2.08*

**Monday, February 11<sup>th</sup> (Trusteeship Council Chamber)**

**9.30 Opening Session**

Statement by Srgjan Kerim, President of the General Assembly  
Statement by Ban Ki-moon, Secretary-General of the United Nations  
Address by Michael R. Bloomberg, Mayor of the City of New York

**10.15 -13.00 Panel “Rising to the Challenge: Partnerships on Climate Change”**

Moderator: Timothy Wirth, UN Foundation

Chen Ying, China Enterprise Confederation  
Fiona Harvey, Financial Times  
Letizia Moratti, Mayor of Milan  
Hans-Gert Poettering, President of the European Parliament  
Youba Sokona, Sahara and Sahel Observatory  
Martin Khor, Third World Network

**13.15-14.45 Lunch (Delegates Dining Room, 4<sup>th</sup> floor, upon invitation)**

Keynote address by Sir Richard Branson, Chairman of Virgin Group

**15.00-17.30 Panel “Responding to a Multifaceted Challenge : The UN at Work”**

Moderator: Ricardo Lagos, Secretary-General’s Climate Change Envoy

Sha Zukang, United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs  
Achim Steiner, United Nations Environment Programme  
Kemal Dervis, United Nations Development Programme  
Josette Sheeran, World Food Programme  
Monique Barbut, Global Environment Facility

**17.30 Closing Remarks** Yvo de Boer, Executive Secretary UNFCCC

**7.00 Dinner hosted by Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon for Ministers**

## Special Guests

Jacques Diouf, Food and Agriculture Organisation

Pamela Flaherty, Citigroup Foundation

Jerome C. Glenn, The Millennium Project, Washington

Abdoulie Janneh, Economic Commission for Africa and Coordinator of Regional Commissions, United Nations

Michel Jarraud, World Meteorological Organisation

Mats Karlsson, High-level Committee on Programmes, Chief Executives Board for Coordination, United Nations

Emilio Lèbre La Rovere, Federal University of Rio de Janeiro

Mohan Munasinghe, Munasinghe Institute for Development

Robert Orr, Office of the Secretary-General, United Nations

Umberto Vattani, President of the Italian Trade Commission

Vincent Pérez, Alternergy, Singapore

Meenakshi Raman, Friends of the Earth International

Kandeh Yumkella, United Nations Industrial Development Organisation

Xia Yingqi, Science Park Beijing

## **Tuesday, 12 February (General Assembly Hall)**

10.00 a.m. - 1.00 p.m. Plenary meeting

3.00 – 6.00 p.m. Plenary meeting

Concluding remarks by the President of the General Assembly