

UNITED NATIONS



NATIONS UNIES

THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

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**MESSAGE TO THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED NATIONS
ASSOCIATION OF THE UNITED KINGDOM
Coventry, 13 April 2007**

It gives me great pleasure to send my greetings to the Annual Conference of the United Nations Association of the United Kingdom.

The work of the United Nations thrives on the support of citizens everywhere. This is especially true in the United Kingdom, a country with a long and distinguished history of engagement with our Organization and its mission. From debt relief to climate change, human rights to UN reform, the people and Government of the United Kingdom have proved reliable advocates for the most pressing issues on the United Nations' agenda.

For more than six decades, UNA-UK has helped cultivate this support. Through outreach, volunteer efforts, educational initiatives, conferences and seminars, your members have built a grassroots support base for the UN, its values and its vision. You have explained the UN to the UK, and helped convey the concerns of UK citizens to the UN.

Despite the relatively short time that I have been at the United Nations, it is already clear to me just how much your advocacy matters to our Organization. So I am delighted that UNA-UK is more active and more engaged than ever before. Your membership is growing, outreach among students and young people is on the rise, and your website is attracting unprecedented traffic.

These welcome trends coincide with an exciting period in the life of the United Nations. We are in the midst of reform and renewal. Late last year, a High-level Panel on UN System-wide Coherence ably co-chaired by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Gordon Brown, recommended ambitious changes to the way the UN system carries out development work. More recently, the General Assembly approved plans to restructure our peacekeeping and disarmament divisions.

In these early days in office, I hope to make the most of this momentum. Indeed, I am committed to a UN system that can advance the global security, development and human rights agenda in the most transparent, effective and professional way possible. As I work to realize this vision, I know I can count on the United Nations Association of the United Kingdom and your membership for continued guidance and encouragement.

Let me thank you all for that support, and let me wish you a most successful conference.