

UNITED NATIONS



NATIONS UNIES

THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

MESSAGE TO THE SAN DIEGO CHAPTER OF THE UNITED NATIONS
ASSOCIATION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
ON UNITED NATIONS DAY
24 October 2016

It gives me great pleasure to convey my warmest greetings to UNA-USA San Diego as you gather to celebrate United Nations Day. As you mark your seventieth anniversary, I wish to thank you for your strong and long-standing support. Your advocacy has been – and will continue to be – of great importance in connecting the global and the local, and informing the world about the ideals and objectives of the United Nations and why our work matters in the United States and across the world.

This year's observance of United Nations Day occurs at a time of transition for the world and for the United Nations.

Humanity has entered the era of sustainability – with a global commitment to fulfil the great promise of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In this, the seventy-first year of the Organization, we have 17 goals to propel us towards a better future for all on a healthy planet. The world is also moving beyond the mindset which viewed the burning of fossil fuels as the path to prosperity. At a time of record heat, Member States have embraced the Paris Agreement on climate change in record time. This landmark measure will enter into force on 4 November 2016. Across that historic threshold lies our best chance for greener, cleaner, low-carbon growth.

The United Nations is also in transition, from its eighth Secretary-General to the ninth. I have been honoured to serve “we the peoples” for the past ten years. Together, we have put in place some solid foundations for shared progress – which we must build on by working even harder to empower women, engage youth and uphold human rights for all. But we have also suffered enormous heartbreak – including unresolved conflicts causing immense suffering throughout the troubled Middle East, South Sudan, the Sahel and beyond. On these and other frontlines of violence and disaster, courageous United Nations staff continue to rise to the occasion and respond to the plight of the vulnerable.

Thank you again for working so actively and creatively to deepen the global citizenship the world needs at this time. I am sure that my successor, Secretary-General-designate António Guterres, will welcome your support as we pursue our global mission of peace, sustainable development and human rights.

Please accept my best wishes for a memorable United Nations Day celebration.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ki-moon Ban".
BAN Ki-moon