



THE PRIME MINISTER



THE SECRETARY GENERAL

22 December 2008

Dear Mr/Mrs,

One of the commitments made at the High Level Conference on World Food Security in Rome, in June 2008, was to convene a follow-up High Level Meeting on Food Security to continue working on the United Nations Comprehensive Framework For Action to address the food security crisis and to establish a detailed road map that helps guarantee that commitments made at the Rome summit are actually fulfilled.

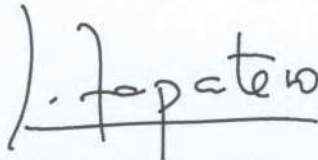
Recent events, such as the current international financial crisis have turned our attention from other emergencies such as the food crisis that resulted from the latest rise in food and oil prices, and had a particularly dramatic impact on developing countries. We run the risk that these crises repeat themselves and reverse critical gains made during recent years towards reducing worldwide poverty and hunger, threatening progress made towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals in 2015. Faced with this dramatic situation, Governments, donors, regional organizations, multilateral development financial and non-financial organizations, private sector and civil society, must place world food security and agriculture once again as a top priority.

Therefore, it is with great honour that we invite you to participate at the High Level Meeting on Food Security (www.ransa2009.org) that will be held on 26 and 27 January 2009 in Madrid (Spain). The framework of this Meeting will be the Comprehensive Framework for Action produced by the UN High Level Task Force (HLTF) on the Global Food Security Crisis. The main goal will be to offer participants the platform to follow up Rome summit discussions and agree on concrete medium and long-term policies and actions that can help us move one step forward towards world poverty and hunger eradication (MDG1). Invitations have also been extended to chairs of multilateral development financial and non-financial organizations, regional organizations, private sector and civil society.

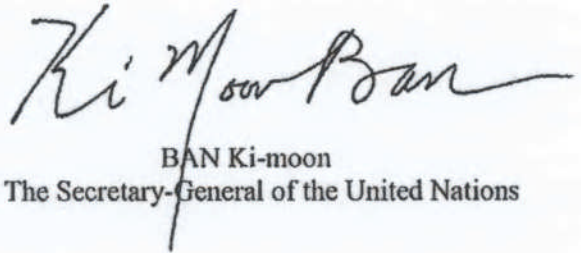
The Meeting will take the Right to Food as one of its starting points. Discussions will address issues such as: country level coordination on food and nutrition security and agricultural policies; agricultural research; private sector participation on agricultural and food security policies (including CSOs). Inter-governmental commitments to reducing hunger and the gender dimension of food security will be cross-cutting issues in each discussion. The Meeting will also contribute to development of a global partnership that encourages all relevant stakeholders to commit themselves to a more unified approach, strengthened coordination, and a more concerted action to improve food and nutrition security outcomes at all levels. It is our wish that this Meeting helps promote these issues into the international development agenda. We enclose a Concept Note summarizing the main goals and expected results from the Meeting. During the next weeks we will provide a detailed agenda of the Meeting.

We very much hope that you can join us on 26 and 27 January 2009 in Madrid for this important Meeting to discuss and provide a coordinated response to the fight against hunger.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Zapatero', with a horizontal line drawn underneath the name.

José Luis Rodríguez Zapatero
President of the Government of Spain

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ban Ki-moon', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

BAN Ki-moon
The Secretary-General of the United Nations