

THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

20 January 2016

Excellency,

I wish to extend to you and to your Government my sincere gratitude for your leadership in combating climate change. This was essential in ensuring the successful adoption of the Paris Agreement at the twenty-first session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in Paris, France, on 12 December 2015.

The adoption of the Paris Agreement caps a remarkable year of multilateral achievements for people and the planet. It provides a solid foundation for the low-carbon, climate-resilient transformation of the global economy. This transformation will help secure a future that is safer, healthier and more prosperous for all.

It is my great honour to invite you to participate in the high-level signature ceremony of the Paris Agreement that I will host at United Nations Headquarters in New York on 22 April 2016, as mandated by the Paris outcomes. Your participation and signature, along with that of other world leaders, will make the world's collective commitment to tackling climate change official. It will also facilitate the early entry into force of the Paris Agreement and provide for the smooth finalization of the operational details needed to give effect to the provisions of the new Agreement.

His/Her Excellency  
Mr./Ms. [Head of State/ Government]  
of XXX  
City

I look forward to welcoming you to New York on 22 April 2016. In the meantime, I urge you to continue providing political oversight and guidance during this crucial phase. We must accelerate ambitious climate action on the ground and pave the way for the effective implementation of the Paris Agreement. Let us continue to leverage our collective strength to build a promising future for this and future generations.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

BAN Ki-moon