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EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL
CABINET DU SECRETAIRE GENERAL

REFERENCE:

16 July 2007

Dear Representative Ros-Lehtinen,

I am writing on behalf of the Secretary-General to thank you for your letter of 5 July 2007. The Secretary-General places high value in engaging with members of the United States Congress in a productive and sustained dialogue. Your interest in the United Nations is very much appreciated. The Secretary-General looks forward to meeting you, and the other members of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, this week in Washington.

Regarding the issue of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), please be assured that the Secretary-General is committed to addressing thoroughly and objectively recent allegations surrounding its activities in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK).

When these issues first came to light earlier this year, he took swift action by calling for an audit by the United Nations' Board of External Auditors. Now that auditors have completed a preliminary phase of their work, he has asked them to continue their audit, including a field visit to the DPRK. It is vital that these allegations be answered as UNDP's donors, and the global public, need to have full trust in how the United Nations operates with their money.

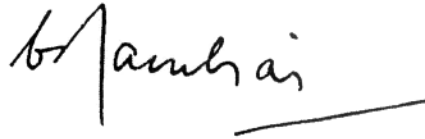
As for the case of Mr. Artjon Shkuratj, the Ethics Office, which is responsible for implementing the whistleblower policy, is currently examining his case according to the procedures established in ST/SGB/2005/21. For the whistleblower policy to work as it was intended, the Ethics Office must be able to conduct its work free from any interference from the Secretary-General's office.

The Honorable Ileana Ros-Lehtinen
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C.

Please be assured that we will continue to follow this issue very closely and take all necessary steps.

I look forward to continuing to work together in the months and years on making the United Nations more transparent, accountable and effective.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "V. Nambiar", with a horizontal line underneath it.

Vijay Nambiar
Chef de Cabinet