



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
NEW YORK CITY COMMISSION FOR THE UNITED NATIONS,
CONSULAR CORPS AND PROTOCOL
2 UNITED NATIONS PLAZA, NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10017

MARJORIE B. TIVEN
COMMISSIONER

Alicia Bárcena
Under-Secretary-General
Department of Management
The United Nations
New York, NY 10017

November 13, 2007

Dear Ms. Bárcena:

I write in response to your letter to Mayor Bloomberg of November 5, 2007.

As you know, and as outlined in the Mayor's letter to the Secretary-General dated October 30, 2007, the City has been working with the United Nations for more than two years in an effort to improve the safety of the United Nations buildings. We appreciate the various steps the United Nations has taken in this regard, and we acknowledge receipt of the United Nations' draft Fire Safety Plan, which will be reviewed by the New York City Fire Department. We also agree with your suggestion that our technical experts meet to review, item by item, the status of the outstanding violations. Further, we are readily available to assist in the drafting of an Emergency Action Plan. Last week my office contacted your staff to schedule these meetings for this week, and we await confirmation of proposed meeting dates.

Regarding the additional commitments you have made in your letter of November 5, 2007, there are two specific deadlines set out in the October 30, 2007 letter that your response indicates will not be met, specifically:

- Compartmentalization and separation between buildings: The Mayor's letter stated that the commencement of the construction of the building separation and compartmentalization project should occur no later than January 8, 2008, construction to be entirely completed by July 1, 2008, and we will assess the project by March 31, 2008. In previous meetings with the UN we had been told those dates were achievable. Your letter states only that a contract will be awarded by mid-December 2007 to meet the agreed timeline to complete the project by July 2008. That is not satisfactory.

- Smoke detectors: The Mayor's letter stated that 50% of the work should be completed by January 8, 2008 and 100% by March 31, 2008, dates the UN had previously agreed were achievable. Your letter states that the contract would be signed by the end of November 2007 and work completed 24 weeks after contract signing. That is not satisfactory.

As we previously advised you, if the deadlines set out in the Mayor's October 30, 2007 letter are not met, including the deadlines referred to above, the City will have no choice but to direct the cessation of all public school visits to the United Nations, and if warranted, the City will take additional action as well. We hope very much not to have to take these steps, but as the Mayor and the Secretary-General discussed during their recent conversations, and as reiterated in the Mayor's letter, the City must do everything necessary to create a safe environment, of which the UN is certainly a vital part.

In light of this I very much hope you can take the appropriate action to be sure that the above deadlines, all of which had previously been agreed to by the UN, will be met.

Sincerely,



Marjorie B. Tiven
Commissioner

cc: Hon. Dr. Condoleezza Rice, Secretary
United States Department of State

H.E. Mr. Ban-Ki Moon, Secretary-General
The United Nations

Hon. Zalmay Khalilzad, Ambassador
The United States Mission to the United Nations

Hon. Michael R. Bloomberg, Mayor
The City of New York