



Reference: GV/V 659/2009

Geneva 09 June 2009

UNCTAD

To H.E. Ambassador Sihasak Phuangketkeow,  
Permanent Representative of Thailand to the  
United Nations and other International  
Organizations In Geneva, Chairman of the Group  
of 77 and China in Geneva

Excellency,

I have been mandated to write to you, in my capacity as Chairman of the Ambassadors, Permanent Representatives of the African Group in Geneva, regarding a letter that you seemingly addressed on May 6, 2009, on behalf of the Group of 77 and China in Geneva, to H.E. Mr. Ban Ki-Moon, Secretary General of the United Nations, concerning the position of UNCTAD Secretary General.

The African Group, meeting this day June 9, 2009, expresses its astonishment that this letter was drafted and addressed to the highest UN authority, in the name of the G77 and China and therefore on behalf of the members of the African Group, without prior consultation or approval of the latter. For this reason, the African Group considers that the said correspondence in no way represents its views nor, therefore, the position of the entire G77 + China Group of which Africa is an important partner.

The African Group wishes to draw the kind attention of the Chairman of the Group of the G77 and China to the fact that all decisions, positions and initiatives emanating from that Group should be based on the points of views and prior consent of all its constituent members.

The African Group Members reserve the right to raise this issue at the next meeting of the G77 + China.

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

Abdelwahèb JEMAL  
Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Tunisia  
in Geneva, Chairman of the African Group in  
Geneva

CC : Permanent Delegation of the African Union - Geneva



Attachment B

Kobsak  
Chutikul/UNCTAD/GVA/UN  
O

10.05.2009 07:58

To Kwabena.Baah-Duodu@unctad.org,  
Khalil.Rahman@unctad.org,  
Taffere.Tesfachew@unctad.org, "Mongi Hamdi"

cc

bcc

Subject: Game plan

Gentlemen,

Pursuant to G77 mtg on Friday, suggested lines of immediate action in the short term for your consideration are:

1. Consolidation of solidarity and cohesion of ASEAN as defenders of and spokesman for legitimate interests of Asia. Timely information and points should be provided to ASEAN missions in Geneva for transmission to their respective missions in New York. Apparently an ASEAN Geneva Committee (AGC) meeting is scheduled for Monday. Thai Mission as chair should invite SG to attend to make presentation. Other matters on the agenda should be dealt with before arrival of SG. After the meeting, by Monday evening, AGC should send a detailed communication to chair of ASEAN New York Committee (Thai PR) cc'd to all Asean missions. Thai Geneva mission could be assisted by us in drafting this detailed communication which apart from expressing strong support for reappointment of SG and providing the rationales, should also rebut points raised by the other side at G77 mtg, and also make point that its too late to consider any other candidacies apart from the fact that it would be contrary to established practice and tradition. On the basis of this communication, Thai PR in NY will be asked to send a short letter to UNSG signed by all 10 ASEAN PRs urging closure by end of week and outlining negative consequences of prolonging the matter (Khalil and Miguel have undertaken to provide a draft). (Miguel) should also quickly compile names and emails of relevant staff/focal points in each ASEAN mission in GVA to whom info can be sent for immediate onward transmission to NY). ASEAN NY missions want to be helpful but say they lack background and timely info to make forceful and pertinent arguments and presentations. They must also be adequately prepared if other Groups were to come to them to negotiate some 'compromise'.

2. Indonesian PR should be given even fuller, separate briefing by our team so that when he comes to NY for CSD, he can adequately represent Unctad and SG's interests. Pls find out his coordinates and itinerary so that I can find opportunity to meet him and for Thai PR to arrange some lunch meetings.

3. As for GVA Asian Group mtg, since Thai PR will be away in Bangkok for whole of the week, the mtg could be scheduled for sometime in week of 18 May (hopefully it will be over by then, but the Group can still endorse UNSG's appointment with eye to GA session). In the meantime, we can continue to exude confidence that Asian Group stance is a "given" although we shall not invoke it until absolutely necessary in order to preserve maturity and solidarity among regional groups. Pls alert Amb Sihasak that DSG Migiro will also be in Bangkok 14-15 May.

4. Solid core of ASEAN can be added to with addition of select countries -- Bangladesh (Khalil), Tunisia (Mongi), Morocco (Mongi), Ethiopia (Tes), Bhutan (Karma thru Tes), Qatar (Awni?), Oman (Fatimah thru Tes), Brazil and Argentina (Miguel and Lucas) as well as African countries in Amb Baah-doudu's network. All these countries should be urged to speak out at any new G77 mtg that might be held this week. I and Mohamed will reinforce with them from NY end, so pls alert us to any contacts made and what follow up to be taken with each/who.

5. Continued monitoring of developments in African Group and holding on to coalition partners put together by Amb Baah-Doudu remains extremely vital. It is important that our friends should communicate their views to NY counterparts. But given that NY Africa Group has decided to revert to capitals and taking into account different personal relationships and different Ministries from which the two sets of PRs may come, it would be important to urge GVA PRs that their supportive views should be fully transmitted also to their capitals in timely manner. It seems a pity that something that may have had its origin from at best a handful of disgruntled staff should have been allowed to morph out of proportion to the extent that a whole continent is held hostage and subject to being viewed as unreasonable demandeurs, with danger of serious rifts between regions, and prospect of undermining an organisation that works for interests of all developing countries especially Africa. Would something

like an iron-clad written commitment that in four years time it would be Africa's turn for at least 2 consecutive terms and that UNSG would commit to continue being sensitive to African concerns be sufficient to satisfy the Group in NY and provide them a path to climb down?

6. From this end I shall continue to liaise with EOSG for earliest closure. However, I suspect that with relatively non-confrontational stance taken by G77 mtg on Friday asking "merely for more time", EOSG may relent and agree to more time. We shall know on Monday, depending on when Sudan informs EOSG. A little more time might in fact eventually prove useful for is if it takes the steam out of mischievous maneuverings leading up to the GA session. But I shall also impress upon them that more time could also give more chances for more complications to come up, more demands to meet, more bargains to be extracted. Delay and uncertainty would also affect the proper functioning of Unctad at a time of global crises with important meetings coming up. With each passing day the prerogative of the UNSG would also be diluted, how can it be a prerogative if it cannot be exercised and is subject to a virtual veto? As for the Ivory Coast candidate, the UNSG was already aware of it when he made the decision to reappoint Dr Supachai since the Ivorian NY PR had written to him on 6 April. The bottom line is that the matter should not be allowed to drag on beyond this week, especially in light of the fact that UNSG is scheduled to leave Friday 15 May for a week-long trip to Bahrain and Geneva (WHO conference).

7. A point we can keep stressing to all is that with regard to post of UNCTAD SG discussed at G77 mtg, there was consensus that (1) it is UNSG's prerogative (2) that there is no question with regard to merit and performance of Dr Supachai, and (3) tradition of geographical rotation to be preserved (which for us means also that 2-terms is part of tradition).

--

Please kindly discuss among yourselves and present a considered course of action for SG's consideration soonest Monday morning. Many thanks.

---

Message delivered by CC BlackBerry Gateway Service

11 May 2009

## Note

1. Pursuant to a request of Mr. Tesfachew Taffere, Chief of Office of the Secretary-General of UNCTAD, a meeting was convened today at 9 am at the office of Mr. Kwabena Baah-Duodu, Senior Adviser of the SG of UNCTAD to discuss an email from Mr. Kobsak Chutikul, Special Adviser to the SG of UNCTAD, dated 10 May 2009. The subject of the email is "Game Plan" (hereinafter referred to as the "Game Plan email"). Mr. Chutikul sent this email from New York during his mission there. Following staff members participated at this meeting: Mr. Tesfachew Taffere, Mr. Kwabena Baah-Duodu, Mr. Chris MacFarquhar, Mr. Mongi Hamdi, Mr. Miguel Bautista and myself.
2. The "Game Plan email" from Mr. Chutikul relates to the appointment of the Secretary-General of UNCTAD which is on the agenda of the current 63<sup>rd</sup> UN General Assembly (item 105j). At the outset of the meeting, I observed that this email appeared to outline strategies and actions to be taken by staff members in support of reappointment of Mr. Supachai Panitchpakdi for a second consecutive term as SG of UNCTAD. Mr. Chutikul requested the recipients of Mr. Chutikul's email to discuss among themselves and present a considered course of action for Mr. Supachai's consideration. Since the email contained advice to some staff members to campaign certain member States to win their support, I decided to remind the staff members present at the meeting of the importance of bearing in mind their respective obligations as UN staff members under the UN staff rules, staff regulations and the UN Charter.
3. I also observed during the meeting that in the past few days, I myself had responded to a number of emails sent by Mr. Chutikul from New York relating to Mr. Supachai's reappointment. In doing so, I had acted in good faith, trusting Mr. Chutikul's information and believing that my actions were in line with the intent of the Secretary-General of the United Nations. However, with the "Game Plan email", it was necessary to draw a line between what would and would not be consistent with the obligations of staff members under staff rules, regulations and the Charter. I explained to them that as the Officer-in-Charge of the Division of Management of UNCTAD, I considered it my responsibility to remind them of such obligations. The staff members present at this meeting indicated that they, too, had acted in good faith thus far. I informed the meeting that I would take up the matter with Mr. Supachai.



Khalilur Rahman

O-i-C of Div of Management

Attachment D

Mongi  
Hamdi/UNCTAD/GVA/UNO  
03.06.2009 10:37

To: Khalilur Rahman/UNCTAD/GVA/UNO@UNGVA  
cc  
bcc  
Subject: Re: Fw: Game plan

Khalil,

Thank you for reminding staff to adhere to staff rules and regulations. As I indicated to you, all along, I have been complying with the staff rules and regulations.

With thanks,  
Mongi

Khalilur Rahman/UNCTAD/GVA/UNO

Khalilur  
Rahman/UNCTAD/GVA/UNO  
03.06.2009 10:13

To: Mongi Hamdi/UNCTAD/GVA/UNO@UNGVA  
cc  
Subject: Re: Fw: Game plan

Dear Mongi,  
Thanks for passing by this morning. I should like to reiterate that I am truly impressed by your scrupulous adherence to staff rules and regulations in regard to this matter. This is what I urged colleagues to do at the 11 May meeting, and later informed Dr. Supachai accordingly on 14 May.  
Cheers, Khalil

Mongi Hamdi/UNCTAD/GVA/UNO

Mongi  
Hamdi/UNCTAD/GVA/UNO  
12.05.2009 12:42

To: Khalilur Rahman/UNCTAD/GVA/UNO@UNGVA  
cc  
Subject: Fw: Game plan

Khalil,

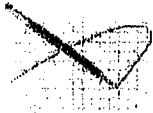
In regard to this matter, I have been trying to be of assistance in line with the intent of the UNSG, and will act, as necessary, only in accordance with applicable staff rules and regulations.

Mongi

----- Forwarded by Mongi Hamdi/UNCTAD/GVA/UNO on 12.05.2009 10:36 -----

Taffere  
Tesfachew/UNCTAD/GVA/UNO  
10.05.2009 10:07

To: Kobsak Chutikul/UNCTAD/GVA/UNO  
cc: Chris.MacFarquhar@unctad.org, "Khalilur Rahman" <Khalil.Rahman@unctad.org>, Kwabena.Baah-Duodu@unctad.org, Miguel.Bautista@unctad.org, Mongi.Hamdi@unctad.org, Taffere.Tesfachew@unctad.org  
Subject



Kobsak  
Chutikul/UNCTAD/GVA/UN  
O  
08.05.2009 01:20

To Taffere.Tesfachew@unctad.org,  
Khalilur.Rahman@unctad.org, miguel.bautista@unctad.org  
cc  
bcc

Subject NAM Note Verbale

Gentlemen, please see attached NAM Note Verbale sent out to all NAM Missions today. In light of this new development, it is the assessment of Thai and some ASEAN Ambassadors that the picture has become clear - - UNCTAD SG post has become an innocent bystander caught in the middle of a bigger struggle. It is being used as a political football with the aim of at least scoring points if not the goal. The goal seems to be to insist on geographical rotation of posts, and undermining the practice/tradition of two continuous terms, with the real target being UN-SG (and his perceived western backers). The motives appear to be a combination of geopolitical, ideological and personal factors. The key players are PRs of Sudan, Cuba, Nicaragua, Libya. At the moment it appears to be confined to the New York playing field.

We have to de-link UNCTAD from this game. We have to mobilize constituencies in Geneva to insist on the different context, tradition, practices of UNCTAD, and to make this clear to Missions in New York. Can we coach Indonesia PR as TDB Chair and as Asian to stand up for Asian rights as well as press for de-linking UNCTAD, especially when he comes to New York next week to attend CSD? Can we get China to speak up more on behalf of Asia in the interests of all developing regions?

I will continue to press EOSG to move quickly, but its difficult for me to tell them things like "you are the real target" or "you are next". They may think adopting a conciliatory approach is the best strategy, or to let the regional groups consult and work things out first. I will keep trying to impress upon them that the more time is given, the more opportunity for mischief, as we have been telling them all along, and as has become apparent now. But we can't just wait for them to act. And it has reached the stage that even if they act and send out the Notification now, the struggle might continue right up to the GA.

So I guess its Red Alert time; all hands needed on deck.



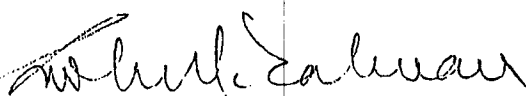
NAM\_166\_2009[1].pdf

14 May 2009

**Note**

1. This morning I met briefly with Secretary-General Mr. Supachai Panitchpakdi and informed him of my advice to the staff members at a meeting on 11 May 2009 to bear in mind their respective obligations under the UN staff rules, staff regulations and the UN Charter. That meeting was convened at the request of Mr. Tesfachew Taffere, Chief of Office of the Secretary-General of UNCTAD following an email from Mr. Kobsak Chutikul, Special Adviser to the Secretary-General dated 10 May 2009 with the following subject matter: "Game Plan". This email contained, inter alia, advice by Mr. Chutikul to some staff members to campaign certain member States to win their support in favour of Mr. Supachai.

2. I also noted to Mr. Supachai that I had learnt that Mr. Chutikul reportedly misunderstood my advice to the staff as 'scaring' the staff members present at 11 May 2009 meeting, and therefore urged him to speak personally to Mr. Chutikul.



Khalilur Rahman  
O-i-C of Div of Management



Attachment G

Miguel  
Bautista/UNCTAD/GVA/UN  
O  
29.05.2009 17:50

To Khalilur Rahman/UNCTAD/GVA/UNO@UNGVA  
cc  
bcc  
Subject Fw: kitty

Dear Khalil,

FYI.

Miguel



UN  
UNCTAD

Mr. Miguel R. Bautista  
Chief, Group Liaison Unit  
Intergovernmental Support Service (ISS)  
Telephones: +41(22) 917 5633  
Fax: +41(22) 917 0056  
miguel.bautista@unctad.org  
Palais des Nations - E. 8113

--- Forwarded by Miguel Bautista/UNCTAD/GVA/UNO on 05/29/2009 05:49 PM ---

Kobsak  
Chutiku/UNCTAD/GVA/UN  
O  
05/29/2009 03:58 PM

To Miguel Bautista/UNCTAD/GVA/UNO@UNGVA  
cc  
Subject Re: kitty

Tes made very good point to Africans and Africa day reception Wednesday that if Africans so concerned about deficit and two terms, why did they not think of challenging Pascal Lamy's second term instead of picking on a fellow developing country, is it because he's white, TT asked. Apparently the Africans were speechless. Gauze in fact last year offered to be on Lamy's campaign team (Lamy had campaign funds from the French) and got his mistress in the mission hired by WTO. Gauze also now facing paternity suit for child born to another Ivorian mistress. The woman is married to a white Swiss but the baby was born completely black. Seems Gauze in desperate need of source of income to settle suit and pay upkeep (info from Gabriel who's now in Abijan talking with FM who Gauze completely by-passed and left in dark in getting verbal consent from Pres to run, FM is from former rebel group that joined national govt of unity). Pls spread as appropriate.

Yuefen  
Li/UNCTAD/GVA/UNO  
12.05.2009 12:34

To Taffere Tesfachew/UNCTAD/GVA/UNO@UNGVA, Kobsak  
Chutikul/UNCTAD/GVA/UNO@UNGVA, Khalilur  
Rahman/UNCTAD/GVA/UNO@UNGVA

cc

bcc

Subject requested infor.

Dear All,

I was in meetings the whole afternoon yesterday and also this morning. Sorry about it.

From the capital, still the attitude is support in the S-G. I was told that the reason why they invited the S-G to launch TDR in China beyond his first term was a proof of China's support. They do not see major threat to this outcome either. (these are quotations)

Meanwhile, the Mission here is monitoring closely the developments. You might be aware no regional group meetings have been announced.

Both the Mission here and MOFCOM in Beijing received official note verbal from Cote d'Ivoire and think the Amb. is the official candidate of the African Group. The Mission would also like to have proof of UN S-G's semi-official recommendation of our S-G's extension.

I'll forgo some details.

Cheers.

Kobsak Chutikul/UNCTAD/GVA/UNO

10.05.2009 07:58

To: [Kwabena.Baah-Duodu@unctad.org](mailto:Kwabena.Baah-Duodu@unctad.org),  
[Taffere.Tesfachew@unctad.org](mailto:Taffere.Tesfachew@unctad.org), [Miguel.Butista@unctad.org](mailto:Miguel.Butista@unctad.org)

Sub: Game Plan

Message delivered by ICC BlackBerry Gateway Service

Gentlemen,

Pursuant to G77 mtg on Friday, suggested lines of immediate action in the short term for your consideration are:

1. Consolidation of solidarity and cohesion of ASEAN as defenders of and spokesman for legitimate interests of Asia. Timely information and points should be provided to ASEAN missions in Geneva for transmission to their respective missions in New York. Apparently an ASEAN Geneva Committee (AGC) meeting is scheduled for Monday. Thai Mission as chair should invite SG to attend to make presentation. Other matters on the agenda should be dealt with before arrival of SG. After the meeting, by Monday evening, AGC should send a detailed communication to chair of ASEAN New York Committee (Thai PR) cc'd to all Asean missions. Thai Geneva mission could be assisted by us in drafting this detailed communication which apart from expressing strong support for reappointment of SG and providing the rationales, should also rebut points raised by the other side at G77 mtg, and also make point that it is too late to consider any other candidacies apart from the fact that it would be contrary to established practice and tradition. On the basis of this communication, Thai PR in NY will be asked to send a short letter to UNSG signed by all 10 ASEAN PRs urging closure by end of week and outlining negative consequences of prolonging the matter (Khalil and Miguel have undertaken to provide a draft). (Miguel should also quickly compile names and emails of relevant staff/focal points in each ASEAN mission in GVA to whom info can be sent for immediate onward transmission to NY). ASEAN NY missions want to be helpful but say they lack background and timely info to make forceful and pertinent arguments and presentations. They must also be adequately prepared if other Groups were to come to them to negotiate some 'compromise'.

2. Indonesian PR should be given even fuller, separate briefing by our team so that when he comes to NY for CSD, he can adequately represent Unctad and SG's interests. Pls find out his coordinates and itinerary so that I can find opportunity to meet him and for Thai PR to arrange some lunch meetings.

3. As for GVA Asian Group mtg, since Thai PR will be away in Bangkok for whole of the week, the mtg could be scheduled for sometime in week of 18 May (hopefully it will be over by then, but the Group can still endorse UNSG's appointment with eye to GA session). In the meantime, we can continue to exude confidence that Asian Group stance is a "given" although we shall not invoke it until absolutely necessary in order to preserve maturity and solidarity among regional groups. Pls alert Amb Sihasak that DSG Migiro will also be in Bangkok 14-15 May.

4. Solid core of ASEAN can be added to with addition of select countries -- Bangladesh (Khalil), Tunisia (Mongi), Morocco (Mongi), Ethiopia (Tes), Bhutan (Karma thru Tes), Qatar (Awni?), Oman (Fatimah thru Tes), Brazil and Argentina (Miguel and Lucas) as well as African countries in Amb Baah-doudu's network. All these countries should be urged to speak

out at any new G77 mtg that might be held this week. I and Mohamed will reinforce with them from NY end, so pls alert us to any contacts made and what follow up to be taken with each/who.

5. Continued monitoring of developments in African Group and holding on to coalition partners put together by Amb Baah-Doudu remains extremely vital. It is important that our friends should communicate their views to NY counterparts. But given that NY Africa Group has decided to revert to capitals and taking into account different personal relationships and different Ministries from which the two sets of PRs may come, it would be important to urge GVA PRs that their supportive views should be fully transmitted also to their capitals in timely manner. It seems a pity that something that may have had its origin from at best a handful of disgruntled staff should have been allowed to morph out of proportion to the extent that a whole continent is held hostage and subject to being viewed as unreasonable demandeurs, with danger of serious rifts between regions, and prospect of undermining an organisation that works for interests of all developing countries especially Africa. Would something like an iron-clad written commitment that in four years time it would be Africa's turn for at least 2 consecutive terms and that UNSG would commit to continue being sensitive to African concerns be sufficient to satisfy the Group in NY and provide them a path to climb down?

6. From this end I shall continue to liaise with EOSG for earliest closure. However, I suspect that with relatively non-confrontational stance taken by G77 mtg on Friday asking "merely for more time", EOSG may relent and agree to more time. We shall know on Monday, depending on when Sudan informs EOSG. A little more time might in fact eventually prove useful for is if it takes the steam out of mischievous maneuverings leading up to the GA session. But I shall also impress upon them that more time could also give more chances for more complications to come up, more demands to meet, more bargains to be extracted. Delay and uncertainty would also affect the proper functioning of Unctad at a time of global crises with important meetings coming up. With each passing day the prerogative of the UNSG would also be diluted, how can it be a prerogative if it cannot be exercised and is subject to a virtual veto? As for the Ivory Coast candidate, the UNSG was already aware of it when he made the decision to reappoint Dr Supachai since the Ivorian NY PR had written to him on 6 April. The bottom line is that the matter should not be allowed to drag on beyond this week, especially in light of the fact that UNSG is scheduled to leave Friday 15 May for a week-long trip to Bahrain and Geneva (WHO conference).

7. A point we can keep stressing to all is that with regard to post of UNCTAD SG discussed at G77 mtg, there was consensus that (1) it is UNSG's prerogative (2) that there is no question with regard to merit and performance of Dr Supachai, and (3) tradition of geographical rotation to be preserved (which for us means also that 2-terms is part of tradition).

—  
Please kindly discuss among yourselves and present a considered course of action for SG's consideration soonest Monday morning. Many thanks.

---

Message delivered by ICC BlackBerry Gateway Service