

**Office of the Secretary General**

Distr.: General
30 March 2009

Original: English

Secretary-General Opens the 8th Model United Nations Summit

Following is the text* of UN Secretary-General Tiffany Lam's remarks to the Opening Session of the 8th Model United Nations (MUN), in Burbank, CA today, 30 April:

Ambassadors, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Welcome to the 8th annual Model United Nations Summit! I hope you are all excited as I am to be here at the new location in Burbank! These next four days will be keeping you busy and offering up new experiences to you! Hopefully, you'll be enjoying yourselves while you keep in mind some important issues facing us today: such as Diseases; Refugees; Governmental Corruption.

We must act decisively to prevent these already prominent issues from spreading further in our world. We must understand that these world issues are real problems that demand immediate solutions. As we speak, brothers and sisters of our own human race are being traded to others for the mere price of a few coins. Pirates and pirates to be are plotting their next seizure of another government's property for their own good. Now is the time to respond to these inexcusable acts against humanity. These are the times to rise up and speak out with our voices to make a difference in a deteriorating world. Our world is deteriorating, and people who should be our equals are suffering because we have not taken the steps to truly realize the everyday pain they endure. This will change! We will make every effort to create a change for the families suffering in the Gaza strip, torn apart by the unjust acts of the Hamas Terrorists. We will leave no stone unturned when addressing the topic of feeding every adult and child who is hungry. For complete goodness will come one step at a time: each goal accomplished sets us closer to a more united world, and to our ultimate goal of global peace.

The following days shall hold some of the greatest opportunities to speak up and influence a change. For some, speaking up to modify what has already been set in stone by law and carried out by force can be difficult. For those people out there, I say unto you: You CAN - for this is your world, and your opportunity. For the confident others who strive to make a difference, I say unto you: realize that when you are speaking, your words should not leave you empty hearted, but more aware to the real situations occurring around you. Model United Nations brings you an opportunity to make change. Seize it! This is an opportunity to step into other people's shoes and trip on their cracks and rocks in the road. Realize that their road isn't paved as smoothly as yours. Change comes with refinement, and achieving goals - and if we can pave that rough road that they walk on, if we can pave it one inch at a time, then one day, their road will be smooth enough to help pave other roads.

* These prepared remarks may defer slightly from actual delivery.

During the Summit, it is very important that we do as much as we are able! When I say “do” I don’t mean work hard and tire ourselves out. I mean that we should all live for every moment! Believe it or not, the four days we spend here will go by very fast. All of us here are lucky to be able to participate in such a great program and I want all of us to benefit from it as much as possible! We aren’t going to bring much back from the Summit if we just sit in committee and let others do the talking while all we do is observe, honestly, I believe it is more exciting to partake in the debate and interact with the other Ambassadors! It is a privilege for us to be able to be here at the Summit and a great opportunity for us to widen our horizons! All of us are lucky to be offered the chance of being a delegate; some are not so fortunate to have this program available to them. Seize this chance at being able to step into another’s shoes and role play their position! I would think that it would be a terrible feeling to leave the Summit with regrets...I have been told by past MUN-ers that they left wishing they had done “this” or done “that” and I don’t want ANY of us to feel that way. Live for every second; Make the best of every moment; Leave no regrets behind.

I’m looking forward to spending four eventful days with all of you! It’s nice seeing everyone again and I hope you’re prepared for one amazing Summit! Ambassadors, work hard, do your best, and have fun!

###