



THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

6 July 2012

Dear Dr. Touré,

As you know, accelerating gender equality and the empowerment of women continues to be an important priority in my second term. Likewise, Member States in voting unanimously to establish the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, have raised the profile of United Nations activities to promote the rights of women and girls.

However, the representation of women in signature positions within the United Nations Common System that are highly visible, and responsible for much of our interaction on the ground at the country level, such as Resident Coordinators, is unimpressive. While we have made many strides, much work needs to be done. For instance, as of May 2012, I understand that the representation of women in Resident Coordinator positions stands at 36 per cent. I believe we need a more focussed and sustained effort to ensure a higher number of women Resident Coordinators.

As a member of the United Nations Development Group, you have a critical role to play in nominating and supporting female candidates for Resident Coordinator positions. As a first step, I call on you to increase the number of women that you are nominating for the Resident Coordinator Assessment Centre. I also encourage you to nominate more women candidates for Resident Coordinator positions brought to your attention, with a view to closing the existing gap in gender parity.

I am committed to selecting these qualified female candidates when they are submitted to me during the final stages of the Resident Coordinator selection process.

Let us together, demonstrate through our collective action, that the United Nations Common System can rise to this challenge.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ban Ki-moon". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Ban" being the most prominent.

BAN/Ki-moon

Dr. Hamadoun I. Touré
Secretary-General
International Telecommunication Union
Geneva