



THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

10 March 2016

Sehr geehrte Frau Bundeskanzlerin,

I would like to thank you for your letter of 23 February 2016 and your detailed comments on the findings of the High-level Panel on the Global Response to Health Crises. Let me also take this opportunity to express my sincere thanks for your very kind support and warm hospitality during my visit to Berlin earlier this week. I appreciated our very positive exchange.

I shall shortly submit to the President of the General Assembly my report on the findings and recommendations of the Panel and appreciated your ideas on the way forward to implement these proposals.

I am grateful for the generous support provided by Germany to the work of the Panel, and the time and advice provided by your Government officials to members of the Panel. I was pleased that you found that the Panel's report covered many of the initiatives and proposals that you have advocated in your meetings. Your announcement of the significant earmarking of €600 million by Germany to strengthen basic health-care systems, with a focus on Africa, over the coming years was most welcome as it will contribute to adherence to the International Health Regulations.

I support your call for a strong and empowered World Health Organization to provide global leadership in the field of health crises and share your view that this requires important reform.

As you stated, the Ebola crisis experience highlighted the imperative to ensure that global health crises feature in the political agenda of the international community. It will be important to ensure monitoring of the implementation of agreed recommendations and I will give your proposal serious consideration. The views and advice of experts from all relevant fields affected by health crises should be an important factor in a monitoring exercise.

Her Excellency
Mrs. Angela Merkel
Chancellor of the Federal Republic
of Germany
Berlin

I have reviewed the feasibility and practicality of the Panel's recommendation to establish a high-level council on global public health crises. I believe that the challenges and resource implications of establishing this council are too great. More importantly, there are other existing mechanisms and less costly measures that can appropriately address the objectives that the Panel had stated. I will outline these measures in my forthcoming report. In this connection, I concur with your cautioning that the efforts of existing bodies such as the World Health Assembly not be duplicated.

I should like, again, to express my deep appreciation for the important support and advice that you have personally given me and the United Nations in this priority task. I look forward to working closely with you as we begin to advocate for and implement these critical reforms.

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

Mit besten Grüßen,

Kimoon Ban
BAN/Ki-moon

SG letter to Chancellor Merkel,
Re: High-level Panel on the Global
Response to Health Crises
Drafted by Ramesh Rajasingham
Reviewed by: Fatemeh Ziai
Proofread by: DH *FZ*
Approved by: _____

Date 10/03/16

CdC	SG
For SG's approval <input type="checkbox"/>	Approved <input type="checkbox"/>
For SG's attention <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Noted <input type="checkbox"/>
For SG's information <input type="checkbox"/>	Seen <input type="checkbox"/>
For SG's signature <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Signed <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Jan</i>
Date <u>10.3.16</u>	Date <u>10/3/16</u>
Comment (if applicable):	

16-01735. Revised letter to Chancellor Angela Merkel with amendments requested by the Secretary-General, for the Secretary-General's personal signature