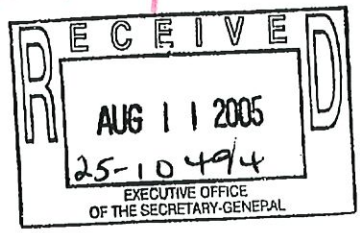


DESA

KSK

UN1804

Lee ym



Note to the Secretary-General

Subject: International Year of Microcredit Gala Awards Dinner: "Celebrating the Unsung Heroes of Poverty Eradication" (8 November 2005)

As you know, DESA has been cooperating with UNDP/UN Capital Development Fund in various activities and events related to the International Year of Microcredit. I have been asked to transmit to you an invitation to make the opening address at the premier event of the International Year: **the Gala Global Microentrepreneurship Awards Dinner: "Celebrating the Unsung Heroes of Poverty Eradication"**, to be held on 8 November at 6:30 pm at United Nations Headquarters. The dinner will bring together government and business leaders, the heads of various UN agencies and Bretton Woods institutions, and other celebrities to honour poor and low-income men and women throughout the world who have struggled, and successfully established, microbusinesses through sometimes very difficult experiences. They are the "unsung heroes", and the Year of Microcredit will pay tribute to their personal contribution to poverty eradication.

One of the most successful activities of the International Year of Microcredit, the Global Microentrepreneurship Awards Programme, was launched with Citigroup support in November 2004. This year, the awards will celebrate microentrepreneurs in 32 countries. At the Gala Dinner, awards will be handed out to five regional winners. Michael Douglas, Ambassador of Peace for the UN, who recently filmed a public service announcement for the UN on microfinance, has been invited to be the Master of Ceremonies for the event, and globally eminent personalities have been asked to offer the awards including Angelina Jolie, Chelsea Clinton, Gilberto Gil, and your wife, Mrs. Nane Annan, who has been an ardent supporter of the Year. The Gala will be part of a three-day "Forum on Building Inclusive Financial Sectors", the culminating United Nations event of 2005 celebrating the Year of Microcredit and the importance of microfinance in eradicating global poverty.

The organizers feel it is critical that you represent the United Nations at the Gala. The authority that you represent will underline and strengthen the partnerships that have been initiated and built between the UN and the private sector over the Year. Your presence will have a far-reaching impact and will also demonstrate that the United Nations understands that access for poor and low-income people to quality financial services is necessary to eradicate poverty. It should encourage the private sector to provide capital to extend the reach of microfinance globally, and thus help the world will move one step closer to achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

Attached is a summary note for the Gala Awards Dinner and a summary of highlights from the Year. Your staff may contact me or Ms. Christina Barrineau, Chief Technical Advisor for the Year in UNCDF, for any additional information about the International Year of Microcredit, including the Awards Dinner.

*not
with a check*

Jose Antonio Ocampo
Jose Antonio Ocampo
9 August 2005

