

UN2079



THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

19 June 2006

Dear Archbishop Tutu,

I am delighted by your participation in the first meeting of the Advisory Committee on the Prevention of Genocide, and want to offer you a very warm welcome to United Nations Headquarters. I regret that, because of my attendance at today's opening of the Human Rights Council in Geneva, I am unable to join you in person.

Preventing genocide is among the principal tasks of the United Nations, and one to which I have attached particular significance. Throughout my career, I have seen the terrible consequences of international failures to react promptly in the face of genocide and massive violations of international human rights and international humanitarian law. These failures caused untold suffering that ought not to have taken place -- suffering that should have been prevented.

Those experiences now inform the vital work of the Advisory Committee. You bring formidable expertise to this endeavour, and I will count on your support and advice as we strive to bolster genocide prevention in the United Nations. It is my hope that your deliberations will lead to concrete recommendations, and I very much look forward to your report in October.

With my sincere wishes for a fruitful discussion,

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. Annan'.

Kofi A. Annan

His Eminence
Archbishop Desmond Tutu
The Desmond Tutu Peace Trust
Cape Town