



THE PRESIDENT  
OF THE  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

14 October 2008

Dear Ms. Barlow

I trust I find you well and busy as usual. The sixty-third session of the General Assembly, over which I have the honor to preside, is now well underway. Unfortunately, it coincides with the global financial crisis that is shaking the foundations of our societies. Those of us who have closely followed the correlation between human rights and globalization, poverty and global warming, are very concerned, but not surprised.

I have dedicated this sixty-third period of sessions of the Assembly to the poor and oppressed of the world. I believe that United Nations Member States recognize the gravity of the crises that we face and I am determined to instill a new sense of solidarity that will inspire action on a global scale. I am looking to leaders like you, who combine humanitarian vision with a practical approach to problem solving, to help me.

Existing structural problems relating to armed conflicts, poverty, global injustice, health, education, trade and the environment are aggravated by unprecedented energy, food and financial crises. Water and poverty are among the most powerful symbols of inequality in the world.

As I said in my opening address to world leaders, this confluence of large-scale, interrelated crises does not have to turn into tragedy. This is a time of tremendous opportunities to introduce corrective measures and to change our way of interacting with one another and with Mother Earth.

One of the priority issues for my Presidency is the need to achieve the goals of the United Nations Decade “Water for Life” (2005-2015). I firmly believe that our Assembly, as the most representative and democratic global political body, is the right forum to debate policy, affirm principles and provide answers for the global water crisis that you have worked so hard to put on our agenda.

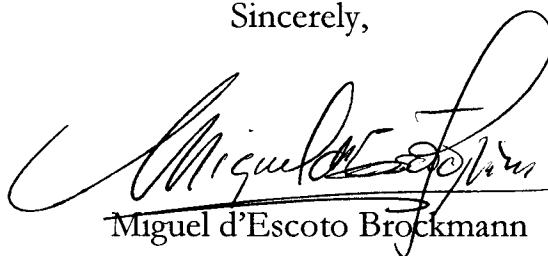
Ms. Maude Barlow  
Founder  
Blue Plant Project  
Ottawa

The Assembly should provide guidance to international development agencies to focus and redirect their actions towards water services that fulfill human needs, particularly for those who are already suffering the terrible consequences of scarcity.

Given your outstanding experience, your creativity and your leadership in water issues, I would like to appoint you as my Senior Advisor for this 63<sup>rd</sup> session of the General Assembly. I can promise you my full commitment to the water justice movement. I hope I can count on your invaluable assistance to me and my cabinet as I implement our common agenda for water justice around the world.

I am grateful for your support.

Sincerely,



Miguel d'Escoto Brockmann