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16 August 2010

H.E. Mr. BAN Ki-Moon  
Secretary-General  
United Nations, New York 10017

Excellency,

I am writing to invite you to attend the New York International Ceremony for the World Harmony Run, a global relay that promotes and strengthens international friendship and understanding by passing a flaming torch from hand to hand, transcending political and cultural boundaries. The ceremony will be on **Monday, 23 August, at 1:00 p.m. at Dag Hammarskjold Plaza** (47th Street between 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenues).

This year we were honoured to be able to support the **International Year for the Rapprochement of Cultures** highlighting the importance of both cultural diversity and cultural exchange. H.E. Dr. Davidson Hepburn, President of the 35th session of UNESCO's General Conference, commented, "By carrying a torch to over 100 nations this year, World Harmony Run reinforces the goals and objectives of 2010: International Year, and provides a chance for all participants to expand their awareness and living experiences of other cultures. It is indeed an excellent opportunity to develop an appreciation of diversity through art, culture and sports. This communal sharing of our hopes and dreams is fundamental for building the foundations of peace and harmony."

We would be deeply grateful if you could join UN Ambassadors, members of the diplomatic corps and hundreds of international runners to celebrate this wonderfully rich and diverse coming together of peoples and cultures that has taken place so far this year. **The day will also mark the completion of the USA's 48 continental states relay and will draw attention to the continuation of runs in other regions of the world.**

Past supporters have included spiritual leaders such as Pope John Paul II and Mother Teresa, Heads of State such as President Mikhail Gorbachev and President Nelson Mandela, Olympic athletes such as Carl Lewis, Nobel Laureates and professors, community leaders and thousands of others who have taken a step for global harmony.

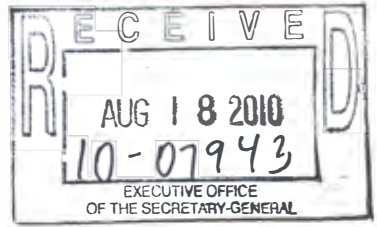
The World Harmony Run was founded in 1987 by peace visionary, Sri Chinmoy, who led Peace Meditations at the United Nations from 1970 until his passing in 2007.

Kindly let us know if you will be able to join us, and whether you would like to offer brief remarks. We sincerely hope you will be able to share with us this significant occasion. **To better suit your busy schedule, an alternate time and place to hold the torch and to receive several of the International Harmony runners, can be easily and gratefully arranged.**

Accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

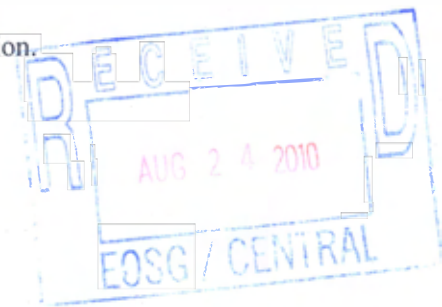
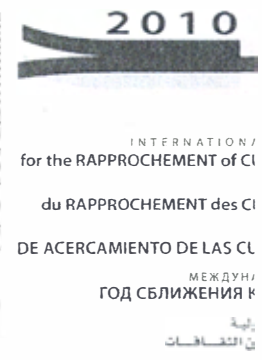
(Mr.) Salil Wilson  
Executive Director  
Cell: +1-646-327-2812

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The World Harmony Run proudly supports this UNESCO/United Nations initiative for 2010:





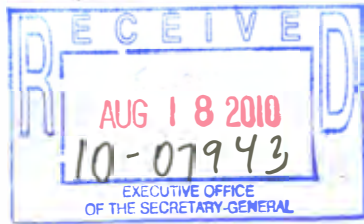
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