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THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

**MESSAGE TO SECOND GLOBAL FORUM
ON HUMAN RESOURCES FOR HEALTH
Bangkok, 25 January 2011**

The Second Global Forum on Human Resources for Health comes at a time of considerable optimism. We are making significant inroads against deadly diseases, such as malaria and polio, and beginning to control the spread of HIV/AIDS. At last September's United Nations Summit on the Millennium Development Goals, world leaders prioritized global health with an ambitious but achievable Global Strategy for Women's and Children's Health.

Governments and a wide range of partners pledged more than \$40 billion to help implement the strategy, but we will only achieve good, measurable results if we devote far more attention to skilled health personnel. That means training and deploying up to 3.5 million new community health workers, birth attendants, nurses and doctors. It means ensuring that health workers have the educational opportunities, back-up and tools they need, as well as incentives that will motivate them to work for the most vulnerable.

Two years ago, in Kampala, the First Global Forum highlighted the dangers of failing to offer access to health workers and the prevention, diagnosis, treatment and care they provide. The Progress Report prepared for this Forum shows us that there is now greater understanding of what needs to be done, and growing commitment to increase the size and capacity of domestic health workforces in developing countries.

But there is still much to do. An estimated one billion men, women and children are still denied ready access to basic healthcare from a skilled health worker. Fifty-seven countries lack the minimum number of health workers they need to deliver essential health services.

This Forum understands the issues. Your task – our task – is to work together to accelerate progress on implementing the Kampala Declaration and Agenda for Global Action. A skilled and motivated health workforce is central to a strong health system that can provide universal coverage, improve the quality of people's lives and help countries to achieve the Millennium Development Goals.

Global health is prominent among the priorities for 2011 that I recently outlined to Member States. I look forward to working with you across this agenda, and I wish you a rewarding and successful meeting.