



THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

24 March 2006

Dear Ms. Wald,

Last week, the General Assembly voted overwhelmingly to establish a new Human Rights Council, fulfilling the intention expressed by heads of state and government at last September's World Summit. The move gives us a historic opportunity to build a stronger and more effective United Nations framework for promoting and protecting human rights worldwide. The Council will be the intergovernmental counterpart of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, which the Summit resolved to strengthen and whose regular budget the Assembly has agreed to double over the next five years. Taken together, these two decisions should enable us to revitalize the Organization's human rights machinery.

Meanwhile, let me express my personal gratitude to you for all your hard work. With the support of such tireless advocates for human rights, the United Nations need not lose sight of the highest principles on which it was founded. The victims of human rights abuses worldwide demand no less. I look forward to your continued support in this vital cause.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. Annan', written in a cursive style.

Kofi A. Annan

Ms. Mary Wald
Director
thecommunity.com
Napa