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THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

**MESSAGE TO THE SECOND ANNUAL SUMMIT
OF CHINA GREEN COMPANIES**

Beijing, 22 April 2009

It is a pleasure to send greetings to all the participants in this gathering.

As innovative business leaders, your vision and dynamism are essential for building a greener economy that offers significant benefits to your fellow citizens and the world at large. I am encouraged that some of you are engaged in the United Nations Global Compact and its “Climate and Water initiative – Caring for Climate” and CEO Water Mandate. I hope the rest of you will join these valuable initiatives and help demonstrate how innovation and business leadership can be part of the solution to major global challenges.

One of the paramount challenges of our time is climate change. The science is clear and alarming. Evidence continues to mount that our planet, our prosperity and our very stability are all at risk.

Governments will meet in Copenhagen in December for crucial climate change negotiations. It is imperative that they “Seal the Deal” on a new climate agreement. Such a deal must be ambitious, fair and effective in reducing emissions. It must also help developing countries with the resources and technology they need to lower emissions and adapt to the effects of climate change.

If the talks fail, hundreds of millions of people, including in China, could face terrible adverse consequences. But with a new climate framework in hand, businesses and governments can unleash a new wave of innovation and investment in green technologies.

This is the year of climate change. Leadership at the highest levels, including from the business community and entrepreneurs, is urgently needed to protect the planet, save lives and build a more sustainable global economy for all. I will count on your support not only in fighting global warming, but in transforming this threat into an opportunity for economic renewal and long-term prosperity. We must act now, before it is too late.

I salute your entrepreneurial spirit, and encourage you to continue doing all you can to build a greener, more sustainable world. Please accept my best wishes for a successful summit.