

A message from the Secretary-General

Dear Colleagues: Since my first day in office, I pledged to set the highest of ethical standards. The good name of the United Nations is one of its most valuable assets, but also one of its most vulnerable. Integrity and accountability should be the guideposts for each and every one of us.



The UN Ethics Office provides excellent direction for many ethics questions that arise in our work. As vanguards of the humanitarian community, with all of its complexities and nuances, each of us has faced a time where the right course of action was hard to determine. Perhaps the facts were complex. Maybe many individuals could be affected by our decisions. Perhaps a “good” choice was just not obvious, or our personal interests conflicted with the best interests of the Organization. Maybe we did not have the information we needed to make an informed choice.

When you are unsure about the right course of action, step up and ask for advice. The Ethics Office will listen to your concerns and guide you. When you speak up, we can correct situations and prevent problems early on. Our Organization will not tolerate retaliation against anyone who reports misconduct or participates in an audit or internal investigation.

Remember, the eyes of the world are on us. That is why we must continue to conduct ourselves with unimpeachable integrity.

**Secretary-General
Ban Ki-moon**