



THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

7 July 1998

Dear Mr. Arlacchi,

Following the successful Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly on Countering the World Drug Problem, I am writing to share with you two documents presented to me at that time, which I have also sent to all Heads of State or Government.

This spring, young people from all over the world gathered to discuss drug abuse prevention in Paris and Banff, Canada. These youths, many of whom work on the front lines of drug control, produced the enclosed *Youth Charter for a Twenty-First Century Free of Drugs* and *Vision from Banff*.

I was presented with copies during the Special Session by some of the authors - most of them in their teens and early twenties - who asked me to circulate them to the leaders of all Members States. While the documents speak for themselves, I would like to draw your attention to Section 10 of the *Vision*: '... all of us felt that the problems we young people face with respect to drugs are very similar the world over. We want our leaders to join together with us in taking action to prevent drug abuse among young people.'

I feel we owe it to them to match the seriousness of their commitment and not throw in the towel. I know that I can count on your continued leadership in ensuring that we build on the action plans adopted at the Special Session.

Yours sincerely,

Kofi A. Annan

Mr. Pino Arlacchi  
Executive Director  
Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention  
Vienna

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