



REPUBLIC OF KENYA

**CONGRATULATORY MESSAGE BY HIS
EXCELLENCY HON. WILLIAM SAMOEI RUTO,
Ph.D., C.G.H., PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF
KENYA AND COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF THE
DEFENCE FORCES, TO HIS EXCELLENCY BAN KI-
MOON UPON THE CONFERRAL OF CHIEF OF THE
ORDER OF THE GOLDEN HEART OF KENYA**

JULY 8, 2025

STATE HOUSE, NAIROBI

Your Excellency Ban Ki-moon,

1. On behalf of the people and the Government of Kenya, I extend my heartfelt congratulations to you upon receiving **our nation's highest honour, the Chief of the Order of the Golden Heart of Kenya**. This recognition is a testament to your extraordinary global leadership, tireless advocacy, and unwavering commitment to a just, peaceful, and sustainable world.
2. As the 8th Secretary-General of the United Nations, you distinguished yourself as a bridge-builder and a champion of the world's most vulnerable. Your visionary leadership placed climate change at the forefront of the global agenda, beginning with the 2007 Climate Change Summit and through sustained diplomatic efforts that mobilised unprecedented international action. Your legacy continues to inspire us as we confront the harsh realities of a changing climate here in Africa.
3. Your tenure also brought transformative change to the United Nations. You strengthened the institution's capacity to address crises, from food and energy insecurity to pandemics, while amplifying the voices of the poorest and the most marginalised. Your successful appeals for more resources during the global financial crisis helped shield millions from hardship, and your steadfast commitment to the Millennium Development Goals delivered tangible progress, particularly for Africa.



4. Equally remarkable is your lifelong advocacy for human rights and gender equality. The creation of UN Women and the numerous initiatives you championed to end violence against women reflect your deep conviction that sustainable development must be inclusive and just.
5. Later today, as we break ground for the Global Centre on Adaptation's new headquarters in Nairobi, we are reminded of your enduring commitment to climate action. This centre stands as a symbol of our shared resolve to build resilience and secure a sustainable future for generations to come.
6. Kenya is proud to honour you for your lifetime of service to humanity. May this award serve as our profound appreciation of your vision, dedication, and the lasting impact of your work.

Congratulations, Your Excellency.

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