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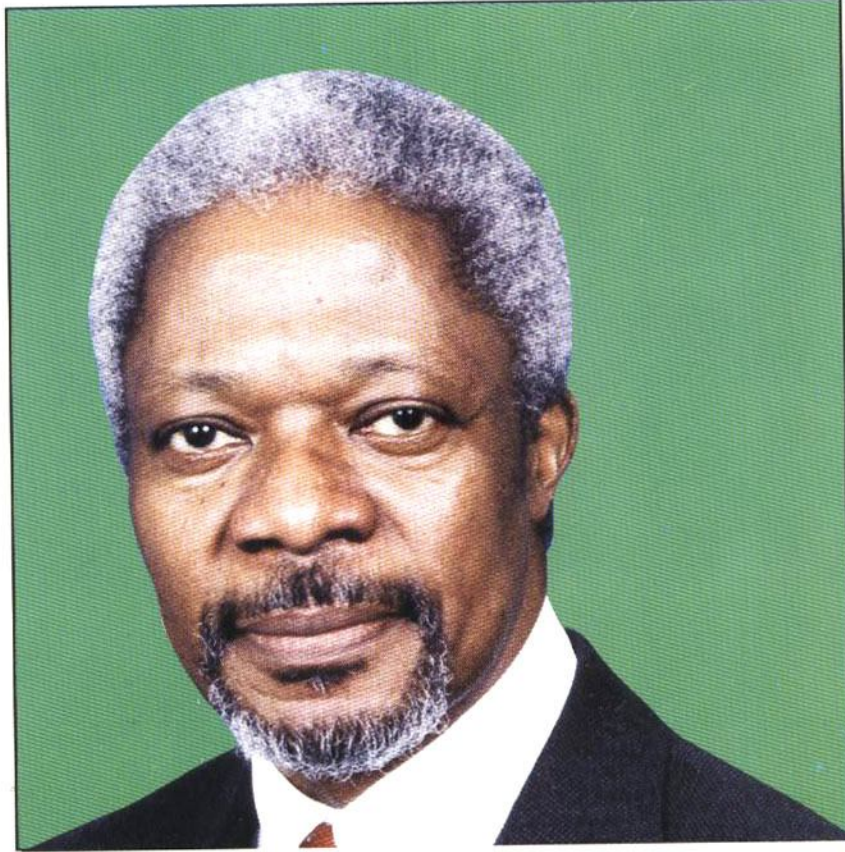
HON. DR. KOFI A. ANNAN

ON HIS CONFERMENT OF

**THE HONORARY DOCTOR OF LAWS (LLD)
(HONORIS CAUSA)**

**OF THE UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI
AT NAIROBI, KENYA**

17TH OCTOBER 2008



HON. DR. KOFI A. ANNAN

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His Excellency, Dr. Kofi A. Annan was born in Kumasi, Ghana, on 8th April, 1938 and is fluent in English, French and several African languages. He and his wife, Nane, between them have three children.

He studied at the University of Science and Technology in Kumasi but completed his undergraduate works in Economics at Macalester College in St. Paul, Minnesota in 1961. Between 1961 and 1962 he pursued masters degree studies at the Graduate Institute of International Affairs. In 1972 he earned Master of Science degree from the renowned Sloan School of Management at Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Dr. Annan's first employment was in the United Nations system as he was appointed an administrative and budget officer with the World Health Organization in Geneva. This was followed by an engagement in the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, before entering the mainstream United Nations in New York where he held diverse but responsible posts.

No doubt, because of the route he walked into the United Nations as he worked with a Specialized Agency and then a regional commission before central organization, he developed special appreciation not only of the issue of prominent peace and security politics but also social and economic ones within the United Nations Charter. Arising from these predispositions

Dr. Annan is identified with several career highlights during his tenure at the United Nations.

One of his priorities as he became Secretary-General of the Organization on 1st January 1997, was a comprehensive programme of reform aimed at revitalizing the United Nations and making the international system more effective. His efforts to strengthen the Organization's management, coherence and accountability involved major investment in training and technology, the introduction of a new whistleblower policy and financial disclosure requirement, as well as steps aimed at improving coordination at the country level. This was, no doubt the outcome of his intimate knowledge of the entire United Nations System, comprising the core organization and specialized agencies.

He was a constant advocate of human rights and respect for the rule of law. It is recalled, rather forcefully, that his "Global Compact" initiative, launched in 1999 has become the world's largest effort to promote corporate social responsibility, a concept that has now been widely embraced by the private sector and broadened to mean corporate social investment. It will be recalled too, that he played a central role in the creation of the Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria.

Dr. Annan creatively established the dynamic paradigm of Millennium Development Goals, especially in relation to African development needs. In the process he also sought to bring the United Nations closer to the global public by forging ties with civil society, the private sector and other partners. Because of his outstanding performance in socio-economic matters as Secretary-General, several organizations have sought his leadership in similar matters after he retired from the position of Secretary-General of the United Nations on

31st December, 2006. Thus, he was chosen to lead the newly formed Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA) and he became a member of the Global Elders and President of the Global Humanitarian Forum based in Geneva. He was also named chair of the Prize Committee for the Mo Ibrahim Prize for Achievement in African Leadership.

The distinction of Dr. Annan as an exemplary world statesman has also been realized in the fields of peace and security as a central concern of the United Nations, on behalf of humanity. He undertook wide-ranging diplomatic initiatives in an effort to preserve peace and security or to contain volatile situations.

Before becoming Secretary-General of the United Nations he was Under-Secretary General for Peacekeeping. In that capacity he also served as Special Representative of the Secretary-General to former Yugoslavia, that is, in 1995-1996. He also facilitated the 1990 repatriation from Iraq of more than 900 international staff and other non-Iraqi Nationals. In 1998 he helped ease tension in explosive political transition to civilian rule in Nigeria. That same year he visited Iraq in an effort to resolve the impasse between that country and the Security Council over compliance with resolutions involving weapons inspection and other matters, an effort that helped to avoid outbreak of hostilities, which were already imminent. In 1999 he was directly and deeply involved in the historic process by which Timor-Leste gained independence from Indonesia.

Dr. Annan was responsible for certifying Israel's withdrawal from Lebanon in 2000 and, in 2006 his efforts contributed to securing a cessation of hostilities between Israel and Hezbollah.

Also in 2006 Dr. Annan mediated a settlement of the dispute between Cameroon and Nigeria over the Bakassi Peninsula through implementation of the judgment of the International Court of Justice.

The Honorable Dr. Annan is always conscious of the bigger context within which international problems must be seen. Thus, in 2005, at his urging, the UN member states established the two new intergovernmental bodies, namely: The Peace-building Commission and the Human Rights Council.

Needles to say, the foregoing list of outstanding achievements is simply selected highlights from a rich career of the Honourable Dr. Annan. Many of us are aware that whenever he approached some of the most complex international situations skeptics watched him prepared to dismiss him as an African and a failure; on the other hand a successful Dr. Annan was applauded as a skillful diplomat and a valued citizen of the World.

One is reminded, in the same vein of the statement attributed to the distinguished Albert Einstein that "if my theory of relativity is proved valid, Germany will claim me as a German and France will declare me a citizen of the world. But if the theory is proved wrong then France will declare that I am a German while Germany will declare that I am a Jew".

Thus, skepticism notwithstanding the world community repeatedly rejoiced in the successful diplomatic initiatives of the Hounourable Annan.

One would pardon Kenyans if they were skeptical over what Dr. Annan could do the resolve the utter chaos and lawlessness that engulfed Kenya following disagreement over the declared results of presidential election on 27th December 2007. The

country was described as being “on the brink of a precipice” as bands of opposing militia and marauding youth groups seemed to take control in most parts of the country in an orgy of violence that left about 1,200 people dead and approximately 350,000 displaced and in camps manned by humanitarian organizations. All national institutions including our universities were hopelessly paralyzed with staff and students held hostage under the chaos and violence.

Initial diplomatic initiatives seemed hopeless until, with a panel of prominent leaders chaired by the Honourable Dr. Annan, with the mandate of both the United Nations and the African Union, took charge with extraordinary diplomatic dexterity. On 29th January 2008 the panel chaired by Dr. Annan was able to bring together representatives of the two opposing sides to a negotiating table under circumstance of widespread mistrust, skirmishes, disorder and hopelessness.

It was no mean feat that the negotiating team under Dr. Annan secured a political settlement with the political leaders of the two opposing sides signing an agreement on 28th February, 2008. The formula of a grand coalition government was an innovation, which will be debated with a view to its replication under different circumstances, in Africa and beyond. It took both the exceptional diplomatic craftsmanship of Dr. Annan and exemplary statesmanship of the two leaders, His Excellency Mwai Kibaki who was accepted as President and the Rt. Honourable Raila Odinga who accepted the position of Prime Minister.

Kenyans-on-the-street sought ways of recognizing and honouring Dr. Annan. One person told the press that Uhuru Park, which is associated with the struggles for political solidarity in Kenya be re-named “Kofi Annan Uhuru Park”

as a living monument to remember Dr. Annan's exceptional commitment and diplomatic creativity which saved Kenya, as a state from total collapse. Kofi Annan helped save Kenyan lives and institutions.

The people of Kenya will rank the crisis here among the most dangerous national and international challenges to diplomatic acumen that the Honourable Annan ever handled. For his achievements which preceded the Kenyan crisis Dr. Annan has been awarded several national and international prizes. One of these is the Nobel Peace Prize awarded to him jointly with the Organization of which he was Secretary-General, in 2001. The following 31 such awards are examples presented in chronological order:

- Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, (Kumasi), Honorary Doctor of Science, August 24, 1998.
 - United Nations Mandated University for Peace, Honorary President, 1999.
 - Lund University, Honorary Doctor of Law, 1999
 - National University of Ireland, Doctor of Law, January 22, 1999
 - Technische Universität Dresden, doctor honoris causa, April 27, 1999
 - Howard University, honorary doctorate of humane letters, May 8, 1999
 - University of Notre Dame, Doctor of Letters, honoris causa, May 21, 2000
 - Seton Hall University, John C. Whitehead School of Diplomacy and International Relations, Honorary Doctorate, February 2001
 - Brown University, Doctor of Laws, honoris causa, May 28, 2001
 - Liberty Medal International Selection Commission,
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Liberty Medal, July 4, 2001

- Free University of Berlin, doctor honoris causa, July 13, 2001
- Nobel Foundation, The Nobel Peace Prize, jointly presented to Kofi Annan and the United Nations, 2001.
- Northwestern University, Doctor of Laws, June 21, 2002
- 2002 winner of the "Profiles in Courage Award," given by the JFK memorial Museum.
- University of Pittsburgh, honorary Doctor of Public and International Affairs degree October 21, 2003.
- Ghent University (Belgium), doctor honoris causa March 21, 2003
- Carleton University, Legume Doctor, honoris causa, March 9, 2004
- University of Ottawa, Doctor of the University Degree, March 9, 2004
- University of Pennsylvania, Doctor of Laws, honoris causa, May 16, 2005
- Grand Collar of the Order of Liberty (Portugal), October 11, 2005
- The George Washington University, Doctor of Public Service, May 5, 2006
- University of Tokyo, Honorary Doctorate May 18, 2006
- Order of the Dutch Lion, Grand Cross, 2006
- Georgetown University, Doctor of Humane Letters, honoris causa, October 30, 2006
- University of St. Gallen, Switzerland, Max Schmidheiny Foundation Freedom Prize (originally awarded 2003, but postponed due to Annan's illness), November 18, 2006
- Princeton University, Crystal Tiger Award, November 28, 2006
- Inter Press Service, International Achievement Award for Annan's lasting contributions to peace, security and

- development, December 19, 2006
- Olof Palme Prize, 2006
 - Honorary Knighthood from Queen Elizabeth II (GCMG), 2007
 - MacArthur Foundation, MacArthur Award for International Justice

For his diverse diplomatic successes a great many institutions around the world have recognized Hon. Annan and awarded honours and prizes. This University recognizes that the paradigm of peace making and institutional creativity he applied to Kenya will on the one hand be replicated in different countries. At the same time the model will be widely debated by scholars and diplomats leading to creative understanding of socio-political and diplomatic challenges in different countries and regions.

MR. CHANCELLOR SIR, I am greatly privileged to request you to honour by conferring the degree of Doctor of Laws (LL. D) (Honoris Causa) of the University of Nairobi, upon The Honourable Dr. Kofi A. Annan.

**LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, THE HON. DR.
KOFI A. ANNAN.**