


TO: All Heads of Departments and Offices in Offices Away  
A: from Headquarters

28 July 2009

(FOR)   
FROM: Angela Kane  
DE: Under-Secretary-General for Management

SUBJECT: **Smoke-free United Nations premises**  
OBJET:

1. You will recall that I briefed the Senior Management Group last week on the steps that have been taken as well as those being considered at UN Headquarters to implement General Assembly Resolution 63/8 on “Smoke-free United Nations premises”.
2. Following the adoption of the Resolution, certain measures have been put in place to implement the Resolution at the New York Headquarters premises: tobacco products are no longer sold, “No smoking” signs have been posted at all building entry points and exterior smoking areas have been set up. We will also embark on an information campaign over the next few weeks. I am aware that some of you have implemented or are implementing similar measures in your respective duty stations.
3. Additionally, the United Nations Medical Services Division offers to all UN staff members a six-week monitored smoking cessation programme with individual follow-up. The programme includes provision of nicotine patches, motivational advice, lung function testing, blood carbon monoxide levels, and blood pressure monitoring. For more information, please contact the Medical Services Division at the New York Headquarters (Ms. Susan Hufnagel, Assistant Head Nurse, at 3.9009).
4. The Secretary-General is fully committed to implementing the smoking ban at all United Nations premises, and I am writing to urge your support in this regard. We have received positive feedback from staff in support of the measures already taken. However, the incidence of smoking within the UN premises is still quite high, and staff members have expressed serious concern for their health as a result of being exposed to second-hand smoke. Others have offered to reach out to smokers and remind them about the ban. We plan to create a “Friends of smoke-free United Nations premises” group and would like to invite staff to join this community effort. The active and personal engagement of Senior United Nations officials is critical to make the no-smoking environment a reality. I count on your support to call on your staff to abide by the smoking ban; take a stance in promoting a smoke-free United Nations; and discourage those that are in breach of this policy. It would be most helpful if you could point out the harmful impact of second-hand smoking and request smokers to extinguish their cigarettes.

5. An information circular (IC) on no-smoking policy is currently being prepared where the responsibility of the Directors-General of UNOV, UNOG and UNON and the Executive Secretaries of all regional commissions to implement the ban on smoking at their respective duty stations is highlighted.

4. I appreciate your cooperation in this regard. Please disseminate this information widely within your respective offices.

cc: The Deputy-Secretary-General  
Mr. Nambiar  
Mr. Kim  
Mr. Sach