



UNITED NATIONS

MEDIA RELEASE

Attn: News Editor / Chief Reporter

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Statement Attributable to the Spokesperson for the Secretary-General On Parliamentary Elections in Bangladesh

New York: On the eve of Bangladesh's highly significant parliamentary elections on 29 December 2008, the Secretary-General reiterates his call for a peaceful electoral process. He appeals to all political parties to continue to demonstrate responsibility, participate fully and honour the will of the Bangladeshi people. The Secretary-General encourages the Caretaker Government and the Election Commission to continue their efforts to ensure that the elections are conducted in a free and fair atmosphere.

The Secretary-General wishes to stress that a stable post-election climate will be vital for the effectiveness and sustainability of the nation's democracy. He urges all political parties, irrespective of their performance in the elections, to work together in a spirit of dialogue and compromise, to address the challenges facing the nation. Such cooperation should include an enhanced role for the opposition in Parliament.

The Secretary General's High-Level Panel for the parliamentary elections is visiting Bangladesh for a second time and will report to the Secretary-General on the conduct of the electoral process and developments in the immediate post-election period.

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