**Message of the UN Secretary-General’s Envoy on Youth, Ahmad Alhendawi**

**Ferney Voltaire International Model United Nations Conference,**

**Geneva, January 10, 2014**

Ladies and Gentlemen, Dear Friends,

It is a great pleasure to greet the hundreds of students gathered this week at the Headquarters of the International Telecommunication Union.

First I would like to thank Dr. Hamadoun Touré, Secretary-General of the ITU, as well as the ITU family and all others involved in organising this annual event, for their long standing support to youth development.

The Ferney Lycée International Model United Nations conference is an invaluable exercise. It is an opportunity to take an in-depth look at the most pressing challenges of our time, to explore ways to build collective responses to collective challenges in a continuously interconnected world.

You come together at a time when the international community is working to get closer to reaching a global binding agreement on Climate Change.

This year, the UN Secretary-general Ban Ki-moon is convening a global climate summit, bringing together Heads of State and Government, as well as business, finance, civil society and local leaders, as part of a global effort to mobilise action and ambition on climate change.

This summit will be an important platform to build a solid foundation towards reaching a global climate agreement in 2015.

This is why we need you, the youngest generation the world has ever known, to partner with us in our work; Use your power as voters and as consumers, to lead positive change and build a sustainable and equitable future for all.

I have met several people whose dedication and commitment to upholding the values of the UN Charter trace back to their first experiences attending simulation exercises such as yours.

Today, I believe it is your turn to use the knowledge and skills you have acquired at this conference, to continue to help tackle real-world issues.

I urge you to join forces with like-minded people and groups to generate positive change.

I encourage you to continue working WITH the United Nations, wherever your future career path may take you, for the spirit and values of the UN are universal.

I trust you have had fruitful debates and successful negotiations, and would like to leave you with a quote from Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, who said about the future of Climate Change ‘We always have a plan B, but we don’t have a Planet B”.

Thank you.