

**THE SECRETARY-GENERAL**

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**MESSAGE TO THE DELEGATES
OF THE CRANS MONTANA FORUM
HOMELAND & GLOBAL SECURITY FORUM**19th Annual Session - Brussels, 25 October 2017**Mr. António Guterres**

It is a pleasure to convey my greetings to the Homeland and Global Security Forum.

You gather as the world faces both quantitative and qualitative changes in global risk.

Tensions over nuclear weapons are at their highest level since the Cold War. More countries are experiencing violent conflict today than at any time in nearly thirty years. Extreme weather and other impacts of climate change are taking a growing toll, from the Caribbean to California. The perils of cyberattacks have moved from the frontier to the front door.

Meanwhile, threats have grown more complex, and are fuelling each other in ways that are feeding radicalization, destabilizing regions and forcing mass cross-border displacements of people. We see rising intolerance and declining trust in political establishments.

Such dangers are testing the capacities of the international community. We need to come together in more concerted and coherent fashion to ease suffering, uphold human rights, keep violence from escalating and prevent instability in the first place.

Despite these challenges, I remain convinced that this is also an era of enormous opportunity.

We have the vision, as articulated in the landmark 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Paris Agreement on climate change and other recent accords. We also have the tools and technologies that can transform lives for the better. Collective action has generated remarkable inroads against poverty and significant advances in health and education.

Our shared duty and challenge is to take international cooperation to new heights. As we do so, we must never lose sight of our fundamental norms and principles, which bind us together in common cause and which safeguard the most vulnerable members of the human family.

The United Nations will continue to count on your leadership, solidarity and support. Please accept my best wishes for a successful gathering.