

**The Honorable
Barack Hussein Obama
President of the United States of America**

WASHINGTON, D.C.

Budapest, 20 January 2009

Dear Mr. President,

I am writing to congratulate you on your inauguration as the 44th President of the United States of America.

I am pleased to reiterate, as I have already expressed in my letter of 5 November 2008, I believe that the successful cooperation between Hungary and the United States in the past can serve as a solid base for building a fruitful bilateral relationship in the future, as well. Hungary is a staunch ally of the United States in promoting a common vision about a safe and prosperous world free of poverty and dictators and able to defend and promote values that we all cherish. I was glad to learn about your message on the anniversary of the 1956 revolution and freedom fight. Ideals of freedom and taking down walls are deeply rooted in the hearts and minds of both Hungarians and Americans.

Mr. President,

Global issues as environment protection will surely dominate our agenda for the next couple of years and even decades. Leaders of the world are responsible for finding the ways to leave our planet to our children in a better shape than we have inherited it.

I have proposed the creation of a network of environmentally conscious presidents, for whom environmental protection, as well as the promotion of sustainable, renewable sources of energy is a top agenda item. The group, which includes presidents from most of the continents, has since met several times. I would like to take this opportunity, Mr. President, to draw your attention to this network.

Please accept, Mr. President, the assurances of my highest consideration.



László Sólyom