



**Remarks by Mr. Kassym-Jomart Tokayev
“Dedication of the John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Reading Room
and Opening of the Exhibition on International Philanthropy”**

**Palais des Nations, League of Nations Museum, UNOG Library
Monday, 10 September 2012 at 14:40**

**Secretary-General,
Ambassador King,
Ambassador Martinelli,
Mr. Rockefeller,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Let me begin by welcoming Secretary-General Mr. Ban Ki-moon to UNOG and to this unique Library and centre of international research and understanding. His personal participation in this special event and his efforts to promote and strengthen public-private partnerships are giving new life to the work started over a hundred years ago also by men of vision such as John D. Rockefeller, Jr.

It is altogether fitting that Mr. Rockefeller's great grandson, Mr. Michael Rockefeller has joined us today for the

inauguration of this magnificent reading room in honour of his great-grandfather, in commemoration of his generous philanthropy. It allowed the Library, including its League of Nations Museum and Archives, to become one of the greatest resources of International Geneva. This event serves as a link between past and present, reminding us that the roots of what is today the United Nations were laid here. It also serves as a link with the future; modernizing, so that future generations can study and learn from the lessons of the past.

The incredible power of philanthropy, when joined in partnership with multilateral organizations, is showcased in an exhibition entitled *For the Well –Being of Mankind: Philanthropy and Multilateralism*, displaying unique archival documents from the League of Nations, which we will also be opening in several minutes downstairs in the League of Nations Museum.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

It is my honour to present the Secretary-General of the United Nations Mr. Ban Ki-moon.