

UNDG MDG NETWORK

Dear Colleagues,

It is our pleasure to welcome you to the launch of the fifth annual Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) Annual Ministerial Review (AMR) e-discussion. The 2011 AMR is focusing on 'Education: Closing the Gap', and this year's online forum will examine three key aspects of the theme: (I) quality in education, (II) access to education and (III) innovation in education. As noted in the invitation message from Mr. Sha Zukang, Under Secretary-General of the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the views and recommendations that emerge from the discussion will become an important contribution to AMR preparations and inform the development of critical policy messages transmitted through UN intergovernmental processes and a reference resource for MDG-Net members.

Each phase of this e-discussion will last approximately a week and a half and be guided by a guest moderator. Tomorrow **Dr. Mmantsetsa Marope** the Director of the Division for Basic to Higher Education and Learning at UNESCO will launch the first phase of the e-discussion around quality in education seeking to discuss policy options for improvements in educator's capacity and work conditions in the context of resource constraints and experience sharing with key interventions for retention of secondary school. Expanding upon this, in the second phase examining access to education **Dr. Nicholas Alipui** from Director of UNICEF Programmes will lead an inquiry and debate for examples on how education can mitigate social disadvantages in particular looking at experiences targeting integrated approaches on education and women's and children's health and what concrete steps can be taken to get and keep girls in school. Concluding the e-discussion **Mr. Nicholas Burnett** the Principal and Managing Director at the Results for Development will guide us in a dialogue on innovation in education focusing on how non-state actors can contribute achievement of education and learning for all and which innovations, including technology and new financing arrangements are needed to make education appropriate for the modern world.

The goal for this e-discussion is to go beyond generic recommendations and to include evidence based experiences that provides insight into what has worked and what has not. As such we are seeking your knowledge and views on these topics and invite you to share your knowledge. Given the diversity of challenges and opportunities countries face, we are expecting a wide range of responses, experiences and recommendations. As the facilitator and moderators, we look forward to reading your views, responding to your questions and guiding what we are sure will be a productive and stimulating discussion.

Best Regards,

The MDG-Net Facilitation Team
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Millennium Development Goals: Yes we can!

