

United Nations  Nations Unies

OFFICE OF THE UNDER-SECRETARY-GENERAL

Department of Economic and Social Affairs

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14 January 2009

Dear colleague,

We would like to invite you to participate in an online discussion on the theme *Global Public Health*, to be held in two parts between 29 January and 26 February 2009. The discussion will be hosted on MDGNet (<http://www.undg.org/index.cfm?P=99>), and is being organized jointly by the Department for Economic and Social Affairs (UN/DESA) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), in collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO).

The purpose of the moderated online forum is to bring together experts, practitioners and policy-makers, from within and outside of the UN system, to discuss: (1) strengthening health systems (29 January - 11 February), and (2) emerging and future health challenges (12 - 26 February).

The organizers aim to attract global, multi-stakeholder participation to this important discussion, to collect a diversity of viewpoints, stimulate constructive debate and develop a number of concrete recommendations and actions. We encourage you to forward this invitation to colleagues who may be interested in following or participating in the discussion.

The outcome of the forum will contribute towards the 2009 Annual Ministerial Review (<http://www.un.org/ecosoc/newfunct/amr.shtml>) on the same theme, to be held in Geneva in July during the Substantive Session of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).

If you require any further information, or have any questions, please contact my colleague Cheryl Stafford, Office for ECOSOC Support and Coordination, UN/DESA, at +1 (917) 367-3116 or stafford@un.org.

I do hope you will make use of this opportunity to contribute to the United Nations intergovernmental process that takes place through ECOSOC, and more broadly, to help create opportunities for all people to live healthier lives.

Yours sincerely,



Jomo Kwame Sundaram
Assistant Secretary-General
for Economic Development