

Dear Colleagues,

We warmly welcome you to Phase I of the e-discussion “*Addressing ongoing and emerging challenges for meeting the Millennium Development Goals in 2015 and for sustaining development gains in the future*”, which will take place between **3 February to 16 March 2014**. This e-discussion, moderated jointly by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), is part of the 2014 Annual Ministerial Review (AMR) process.

The AMR is being organized at a critical moment before the 2015 deadline, as countries strive to accelerate progress while also drawing upon the lessons of the previous years to help articulate the successor development agenda – one of whose priorities will be to sustain amounts and rates of progress. This first phase of the e-discussion will focus on the importance of the elements that can enable and facilitate the achievement of the MDGs and other elements of development progress.

This section will address the role of strong institutions in enabling development at the national level; the importance of stable and enduring policy frameworks and an environment that facilitates sound policy-making, and; the importance of a stable social and political environment for development that takes into account peace, security and good governance, the rule of law and a rights-based approach to development.

In the context of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), the section will examine the distinct changes in policy, legislation or institutional arrangements that have been significant in helping to propel them forward. It will also address the need to pinpoint the steps that are necessary to accelerate the achievement of the MDGs, including through the MDG Acceleration Framework (MAF), especially for the lagging goals and regions. The importance of strong regional and global support arrangements will be emphasized, particularly through enhanced global partnerships for the implementation of the MDGs, accelerating progress and sustaining development gains.

In the overall context of the Global Partnership for Development, the role of multi-stakeholder partnerships, as well as coordination arrangements adopted by government agencies, donor partners, civil society and the private sector for better coherence and impact, will be also discussed. This will include the current challenges related to effective aid, trade and technology transfer. These will be examined both in the context of MDG acceleration and of steps that will need to be taken for sustaining development gains in future.

Considering the above, we would like to present before you the following three questions to guide this phase of the e-discussion:

- **How can the role and importance of strong, stable and enduring institutions, policy frameworks and an environment that facilitates sound policy-making be assessed? How can these be fostered, strengthened and supported?**

- **What are the changes in policy, legislation and institutional frameworks, or concrete interventions that have accelerated progress in the MDGs? What are some of the specific interventions?**
- **On the basis of lessons learned in the efforts to build a global partnership for development, what are the fundamental obstacles to effective aid, trade, technology transfer, and other components of an enabling international environment? What factors need to be addressed to develop a renewed and more effective global partnership for development?**

We look forward to your insights and concrete examples to help illuminate your points, and wish you all a fruitful and stimulating discussion!

Kind regards,

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