



Partnering with
the Philanthropic
Community
to promote
Education for All

28 February 2011
United Nations
New York

Media Advisory

CORPORATE AND PHILANTHROPIC LEADERS GATHER TO DISCUSS EDUCATION FOR ALL

**Press Conference and Special Event of UN Economic and Social Council,
28 February**

What Press Conference with high-level policy makers and representatives from the business community organized prior to the special event of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) on “Partnering with the philanthropic community to promote Education For All” (<http://bit.ly/guj8ks>). Representatives of corporate and partnerships communities will **announce commitments to education programmes globally**.

When 28 February, 1:45 to 2:45 pm (live webcast: <http://www.un.org/en/ecosoc/philanthropy>; <http://www.un.org/webcast>; and <http://www.un.org/en/ecosoc/facebook>). **TWITTER:** #MDG2 during the press conference and ECOSOC special event.

Where Dag Hammarskjöld Library Auditorium, United Nations Headquarters

Who **Michaëlle Jean**, 27th Governor-General of Canada and UNESCO Special Envoy for Haiti
Saad Houry, Deputy Executive Director, UNICEF (tbc)
Jaime Barclay, Sr. Philanthropy Specialist, Symantec Corporation
Matthew Bishop (moderator), American Business Editor and New York Bureau Chief, The Economist, and co-author of “*Philanthrocapitalism: How giving can save the world.*”
Carlos Dominguez, Senior Vice-president, Cisco
Hikmet Ersek, President, Chief Executive Officer, Western Union
Petra Nemcova, Founder, Happy Hearts Fund
Danielle Ryan, Representative, Cathal Ryan Trust.

SPECIAL EVENT, 3 to 6 pm (United Nations General Assembly Hall): 400 corporate, philanthropic and non-governmental organizations participants will share best practices and lessons to boost global funding for the education of girls and boys and train them for tomorrow’s knowledge economies. United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon will deliver an opening address and Ambassador Lazarous Kapambwe, ECOSOC President and Permanent Representative of Zambia to the United Nations, will chair the event.

Background

In 2008, at least 67 million children of primary-school age (4 to 11 years), and more than half of whom were girls, were not enrolled in school. If current trends continue, an estimated 57 million children will still be out of school in 2015.

At a time when most countries are implementing austerity measures to deal with large deficits in the aftermath of the economic and financial crisis, many sectors, including education, are facing budget cuts. These cuts will slow down the achievement of the Education For All goals.

At the same time, there is a rising concern that education systems are not adequately preparing students to meet the demands and challenges of the 21st century, namely adapting to the new technologies and responding to climate change. International learning assessments show that too many students are leaving school without acquiring basic competencies in key subjects, such as reading, writing, mathematics and science. Close to 800 million adults lack basic literacy skills, two-thirds of these are women.

Against this backdrop, partnerships will be critical to bolstering advancements in education. The private sector and the philanthropic community have a major stake in achieving the Education For All agenda. Over the last decade, the global philanthropy has become an important phenomenon. Private giving has provided billions of dollars of assistance to the world's poor and to advancing the Millennium Development Goals, including Goal 2 on achieving universal primary education. Against this backdrop, partnerships will be critical to improving access to education preparing young people for 21st century skills.

“Education for All” is an international initiative launched 21 years ago in Jomtein, Thailand and reiterated in Dakar, Senegal in 2000 by 189 countries and their partners to bring the benefits of education to “every citizen in every society.” Despite progress made since 2000, the international community is not on track for delivering on the goal of achieving a quality basic education for all by 2015.

For more information, contact

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This event is organized as part of the preparatory process for the 2011 Economic and Social Council's Annual Ministerial Review (AMR) on “Implementing the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to education”, to be held during its annual session in July 2011.

Media Accreditation: Journalists will have to receive UN accreditation to cover the press conference and the ECOSOC special event. **Contact:** Media Accreditation & Liaison Unit, United Nations Headquarters, L-248, New York, NY 10017, Telephone: (212) 963-6934 or (212) 963-6937, Fax: (212) 963-4642, Email: malu@un.org Web: <http://www.un.org/media/accreditation/>.