



THE PRESIDENT  
OF THE  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

12 March 2009

Excellency,

Following the initiative by Member States (document A/63/500), and in keeping with the priorities of the sixty-third session outlined in my inaugural address, I have the honour of submitting to your Excellency a brief description of the format and panels for the upcoming Interactive Thematic Dialogue on Access to Education in Emergency, Post-crisis and Transition situations—caused by Man-made Conflicts or Natural Disasters to be held here at New York headquarters in the Trusteeship Council Chamber on 18 March 2009.

The various panels will afford a unique opportunity to Members States to engage a broad range of education practitioners and stakeholders in an open, collaborative and constructive dialogue. By bringing together a broad array of practitioners and specialists, delegations will have access to newly emerging trends and knowledge, grounded in real life experiences in variety of contexts and settings.

I am confident that the day's proceedings will prove instrumental in moving forward consideration by the General Assembly of key issues relating to education in emergencies and that it will contribute to a broader shared understanding of the vital and multifaceted role that education plays during emergencies.

Lastly, I wish to emphasize the open and interactive character of the day's proceedings. All Member States are specifically asked to refrain from reading prepared statements. Not only will this allow more Member States and voices to participate in the day's discussion, it will also facilitate more candor and frankness—essential elements for the success of any dialogue initiative. Those States that wish to submit in writing prepared statements for distribution are welcome to do so. The views expressed in the prepared statements will be reflected in the final summary and the complete text will be posted on the President's website.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration and esteem.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Miguel d'Escoto Brockmann".

Miguel d'Escoto Brockmann

All Permanent Representatives  
and Permanent Observers  
to the United Nations