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REFERENCE: DESA/HLE-MDGs/1

The Secretary-General of the United Nations presents his compliments to the Permanent Representatives and Permanent Observers to the United Nations and has the honour to provide additional information on the informal High-level Event on the Millennium Development Goals that the President of the General Assembly and he will jointly convene on 25 September in New York. This information regarding the High-level Event is contained in an annex to this note.

Further to the invitations issued to Heads of State or Government to the High-level Event, the Secretary-General would appreciate it if the Permanent Representative or Permanent Observer could communicate to the Secretariat, if this has not been communicated already, the name and title of the high-level official who will speak for their delegation. The Secretary-General would also appreciate it if the Permanent Representative or Permanent Observer could inform the Secretariat in which of the three thematic roundtables the high-level official will speak, indicating a first and second choice. Every effort will be made to accommodate such preferences.

The Secretary-General avails himself of this opportunity to assure the Permanent Representatives and Permanent Observers to the United Nations of his highest consideration.

17 July 2008

S. B.

Annex enclosed

Annex

High-level Event on the Millennium Development Goals 25 September 2008, New York

I. Introduction

1. The Secretary-General and the President of the General Assembly will convene a High-level Event on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) on 25 September 2008. The main objectives of this event are to review progress and take stock of existing gaps at mid-point in the global effort to achieve the MDGs by 2015, identify concrete actions needed to scale up efforts to this end, and help ensure the MDGs and international targets remain on track and the momentum is maintained beyond the 2008. The High-level Event will be convened in the context of the 63rd General Debate (23 September to 1 October) and will immediately follow the High-level meeting on Africa's development needs (22 September).

2. The High-level Event will be a critical part of the 2008 calendar of major events focused on implementation of existing development commitments and on the effectiveness of development cooperation in supporting achievement of agreed development goals.

3. The High-level Event will be held in parallel to the General Debate. It will begin with a short opening session in the General Assembly Hall from 8:45 to 10:00 am, immediately followed by the General Debate. The President of the General Assembly, the Secretary-General and selected guest speakers will address the opening session. The decision to hold a short opening session takes into account the *Eid al-Fitr* observance on 30 September, which means that many more speakers for the General Debate will have to be accommodated during the first week.

4. There will be three parallel round tables on Poverty and Hunger; Education and Health; and Environmental Sustainability. In addition, Gender Equality and the Global Partnership for Development will be addressed as cross-cutting issues in all three round tables. The three parallel round tables will immediately follow the opening session to maximize interactive engagement on the issues by Heads of State/Heads of Government and other invited stakeholders. The three morning sessions will continue into the afternoon.

5. A background note by the Secretary-General with five sections (one for each of the three themes of the round tables as well as for the cross-cutting themes) and supporting background documentation, including the Report of the MDG Africa Steering Group, the Report of the MDG Gap Task Force and the MDG Report 2008, will be available to facilitate discussions.

6. The closing of the High-level Event will take place in the Trusteeship Council from 5:30 p.m. The Secretary-General will provide a summary of the main themes and issues arising from the opening segment and the discussion in the three round tables. The summary will also reflect the outcomes of key partnership events organized in the margins of the High-level Event.

7. Given the limitation of time, Member States will be able to speak in only one of the three round tables. They will however be allowed to attend and follow the discussions in all other round tables. A three minute limit will be placed on interventions to ensure that everyone has an opportunity to speak once.

Summary Programme

Time	Programme
8:45 a.m.– 10:00 a.m. General Assembly Hall	Opening plenary session
10:00 am – 1:00 p.m. (location tbc)	Parallel thematic round tables <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Round Table on Poverty and Hunger• Round Table on Education and Health• Round Table on Environmental Sustainability
3:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. (location tbc)	Parallel thematic round tables (Continued) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Round Table on Poverty and Hunger• Round Table on Education and Health• Round Table on Environmental Sustainability
5:30 p.m. – 5:45 p.m. Trusteeship Council	Closing plenary session

II. Participation in the Round Tables

8. Member States are invited to inform the Secretariat of their choice of a round table, indicating a first and second choice, in case there is over-inscription for any particular round table. Every effort will be made to accommodate such preferences. Delegations are requested to provide the name and title of their respective high-level official who will speak at the round table as soon as possible to allow time for the appropriate arrangements to be made.

9. In order to ensure equitable geographical balance in the three round tables, the maximum number of participants from each regional group shall be distributed as follows:

- African States 18 Member States
- Asian States 18 Member States
- Eastern European States 8 Member States
- Latin American and Caribbean States 11 Member States
- Western Europe and other States 9 Member States

10. A Member State which is not a member of any of the regional groups, the Holy See, in its capacity as Observer State, and Palestine, in its capacity as observer, may participate in any one of the round tables.

11. Inscriptions in the round tables shall be on a first-come, first-served basis, taking into account the maximum number for each regional group and on the understanding that the total number of Member States participating in each round table shall not exceed 64. Inscriptions for the round tables can be made with the General Assembly Affairs Branch (room S-2994B; tel. (212) 963-2333; fax (212) 963-3783).

III. Outcome

12. The primary outcome of the High-level Event will be the Secretary-General's summary of the way forward, based on the discussion in the three round tables, taking into account the opening segment and outcomes of key partnership events organized in the margins of the High-level Event. There will also be a compilation of the outcomes of the key partnership events, reflecting fresh and renewed commitments, and announcements of new initiatives and action by stakeholders. These outcomes will be posted on the website for the High-level Event at <http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/2008highlevel>

IV. Partnership events

13. Partnership events by a variety of constituencies are expected to take place in the margins of the High-level Event. There will likely be a range of event types: from special events with guest speakers, to multi-stakeholder discussions; to press launches of new initiatives. These events will aim to share success stories and lessons learned; provide opportunities to forge new partnerships; and commit to concrete next steps to fill in gaps/scale-up efforts.

14. Due to security and space constraints, most of these events will take place outside of the main UN building, and before the day of the High-level Event. Member States should note that there are serious space constraints and they are encouraged to organize joint rather than individual partnership events.

15. Information on partnership events will be posted on the High-level Event website.

V. Focal points

16. The High-level Event is organized under the overall guidance of the Deputy Secretary-General and coordinated by the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs. For further information or clarification about arrangements related to the High-level Event, please contact the relevant focal-point in the attached table.

Focal points for arrangements related to the High-level Event

Item	Focal Point	
Organizational matters	Mr. Thomas Stelzer	+1.212.963.5064
Analytical work	Mr. Jomo Kwame Sundaram	+1.917.367.3504
Official MDG Data	Ms. Francesca Perucci	+1.212.963.0212
<i>Thematic Round tables</i>		
Poverty and Hunger	Mr. Jean-Pierre Gonnot	+1.212.963.3256
Education and Health	Ms. Hania Zlotnik	+1.212.963.3179
Environmental Sustainability	Ms. Kathleen Abdalla	+1.212.963.0902
<i>Cross-cutting Issue</i>		
Gender Equality	Ms. Carolyn Hannan	+1.212.963.3104
Global Partnership for Development	Mr. Rob Vos	+1.212.963.4838
Civil society engagement	Ms. Elisa Peter	+1.917.367.3474
Non-Profit/Philanthropic engagement	Mr. Amir Dossal	+1.212.963.6121
Private Sector engagement	Mr. Georg Kell	+1.212.963.1490
Compilation of partnership events	Mr. Donald Lee	+1.212.963.8762
Plenary meeting secretariat	Ms. Margaret Kelley	+1.212.963.0725
Protocol	Ms. Alice Hecht	+1.212.963.7170
Security	Mr. Clarence Pugh	+1.212.963.9339
Media	Ms. Pragati Pascale	+1.212.963.6870