

OBJECTIVES

E-discussion, “Building a future for today’s youth: improving access to education” on Facebook

16 February to 16 March 2011

The objectives of the e-discussion are to:

- 1. Provide a platform for youth to express themselves.** It is by voicing their concerns that youth will be able to mobilize national authorities to find a solution to their problems.
- 2. Mobilize Governments and the international community to improve and bring visibility to education within the context of global economic challenges.** Bringing increased attention to the long-term benefits of education and its role as a sustainable solution to the global economic recession is vital in realizing Millennium Development Goal (MDG) 2 and the other Education For All (EFA) goals, reflected in the ten principles of UNAI.
- 3. Demonstrate the link between education and all the other MDGs.** Education is key to realizing all MDGs. Providing quality education can significantly reduce the spread of HIV/AIDS, lower infant and child mortality rates, increase gender parity, improve maternal health and ensure sustainable development by investing in the greatest resource of any country – its people.
- 4. Demonstrate the centrality of education for sustainable development. Education empowers people with the knowledge and skills to improve themselves.** It also builds knowledge societies and facilitates freedom of expression, access to information and respect for cultural diversity. It empowers individuals with the skills and knowledge they need to shape the future and protect the earth’s resources. There are strong links between a life-skills approach to education and broader human development. Quality education is thus a prerequisite for the achievement of inclusive, innovative and sustainable societies which can contribute intellectually and creatively to address priority issues with which our world is faced.
- 5. Highlight the role of the United Nations Academic Impact (UNAI) and its member institutions** in encouraging activities by institutions of higher education and research in support of the MDGs.