



United Nations
Department of Economic and Social Affairs



International
 Labour
 Organization

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Dear colleagues,

We are pleased to invite you to participate in an e-discussion on *Jobs, Decent Work and Inclusive Growth* to be held from 8 February to 14 March 2012, organized by the International Labour Organization (ILO), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA).

The world employment outlook is grim. Unemployment stands at more than 200 million and is increasing. Two workers in five worldwide live below the global poverty threshold of \$2 per person per day and many do not take home wages for their work. Labour market conditions differ between developed and developing countries. Lacking the safety nets that most workers in developed countries enjoy, workers in the developing world rely upon labour as their main asset and so finding a paid job is their only way out of poverty. Women and young people are disproportionately affected, with youth unemployment two to three times the adult rate worldwide. Without concerted action at the global and national levels to address these challenges, growing economic and social exclusion might lead to greater unrest and instability.

The year 2012 will be an important turning point for addressing the worst consequences of the global jobs crisis. It is also an opportune time to look at possible solutions to the persisting structural problems in labour markets of many economies that – if not tackled – are not likely to be solved with the economic recovery. In July, ministers from around the world will convene for the Annual Ministerial Review at the UN Economic and Social Council in New York, to assess their progress on the international development agenda. In particular, they will focus on the promotion of productive capacity, employment and decent work as tools for reducing poverty, moving towards sustainable development and achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

The e-discussion on *Jobs, Decent Work and Inclusive Growth* presents an important opportunity to shape the contours of the debate in July and influence the resulting agreement among participating government ministers. By interacting online with experts, practitioners and scholars from around the world to formulate critical policy messages and concrete recommendations for the 2012 Annual Ministerial Review, you can help to ensure the agreement reflects a diversity of contexts, experiences and perspectives.

We hope you will join us for the e-discussion in February and encourage you to forward this invitation to colleagues who may be interested in participating. If you are not already a member of UNDG's MDG-Net, UNDP Poverty Reduction or Gender Networks and would like to participate, please register by sending a message to support.amr@unteamworks.org.

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