THE PRESIDENT
OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

New York, 16 April 2013

Excellency,

I have the pleasure to inform that I will convene the high-level thematic debate as mandated by the General Assembly Resolution A/RES/67/202 adopted in December 2012 on **'Entrepreneurship for Development'**. This event will be held at United Nations Headquarters in New York on Wednesday, 26 June 2013.

The thematic debate will discuss promoting entrepreneurship in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication at the national, regional and international levels. It will also focus on the role of the United Nations and the international community in fostering entrepreneurship as a tool for development.

The main aim of the high-level thematic debate is to discuss ways to create enabling environments that help entrepreneurs expand their activities, as well as to share best practices, identify gaps and develop new ideas and initiatives. The debate will especially focus on the entrepreneurship as a tool for empowerment, specifically of young people and women and on the importance of education for entrepreneurship.

This one day interactive debate will include plenary segment, followed by two panel sessions in the afternoon. I am pleased to share with you the attached concept paper.

Member States are invited to participate at the highest possible level, as well as to include, if possible, in their delegations representatives of the business sector, young entrepreneurs in particular.

Detailed program of the debate will be circulated in due course.

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

Vuk Jeremić

All Permanent Representatives and
Permanent Observers to the United Nations
New York

High-Level Thematic Debate
67th Session of the United Nations General Assembly

'Entrepreneurship for Development'

New York, 26 June 2013

Background

In December 2012, the General Assembly adopted resolution A/RES/67/202, on Entrepreneurship for Development. The resolution requested the President of the General Assembly to convene a high-level thematic debate to discuss promoting entrepreneurship in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication at the national, regional and international levels. The HLTD will also focus on the role of the United Nations and the international community in promoting entrepreneurship as a tool for development.

Over the past few years, the General Assembly has intensified its efforts to maximize the impact of the UN's development agenda. The 67th session in particular plays an important role in the Post-Rio+20 discussions and in moving the sustainable development agenda forward.

To achieve the Millennium Development Goals, we must work towards developing human capital in all countries and societies, and across sectors. Bringing impoverished segments of population into the marketplace is a critical step on the path out of poverty and towards economic growth.

Yet the benefits of entrepreneurship extend beyond pure economics. By creating new businesses that provide desired goods and services, or by using entrepreneurial principles to create social ventures, entrepreneurs have the unique ability to find sustainable solutions to poverty, improve social conditions, and address environmental degradation. Entrepreneurship is a powerful driver of sustainable development.

As entrepreneurs become more self-sufficient and empowered, they are more likely to seek higher levels of education and better living conditions for themselves and their families. Entrepreneurship has the power to help build societies in which people have the confidence, skill, and desire to solve the problems that they see around them.

Entrepreneurship provides many solutions to the challenges of the 21st century. These challenges are complex, and require innovative responses and creative approaches. As we look towards elaborating the post-2015 development agenda, we must harness the ideas and talents of people across the world—particularly women and youth—who can think outside the box and pursue opportunities in paradigm-changing ways.

Objectives of the High-Level Thematic Debate

In many countries around the world, particularly developing countries, aspiring entrepreneurs can face overwhelming challenges when they start up a business. This could be due to difficult regulatory frameworks, high administrative burdens, a lack of financial support, and/or entrenched social barriers. The main objective of the high-level thematic debate is to discuss ways to create enabling environments that help entrepreneurs expand their activities, as well as to share best practices, identify gaps and develop new ideas and initiatives.

A multi-stakeholder approach to promoting entrepreneurship is necessary to prepare aspiring entrepreneurs to solve complex, interlinked, and fast-changing problems. Promoting entrepreneurship works best when all stakeholders contribute their strengths. Governments, civil society, academia, and the private sector all have an important role to play in supporting entrepreneurship and enabling people to exercise their talents.

The debate will bring together a diverse and comprehensive range of experts to identify trends and challenges to promoting entrepreneurship and creating fertile environments for business growth. By showcasing initiatives, strategies, and policies that have empowered people to establish both business and social enterprises, the event will foster dialogue on how to best harness the entrepreneurial spirit and potential.

HLTD Format

This one day interactive debate will include plenary segment on "Entrepreneurship for development" with panelists remarks, followed by two panel sessions in the afternoon.

First panel session will focus on "Entrepreneurship Education", while the second panel will discuss "Entrepreneurship as a tool for Empowerment".

The high-level thematic debate will include participation of UN member and observer states, UN officials, eminent representatives from civil society, business sector and academia.