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Dear Members of the Leading Group,

Along with the Secretary-General of the United Nations, I take great pleasure in inviting you on Informal event on the potential of voluntary innovative sources of development finance, June 3th, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3 to 6 pm in the United Nations Headquarters (ECOSOC Chamber – NLB) in New York City.

The General Assembly, in its resolution 64/193 of 21 December 2009, recognized the potential of various voluntary innovative sources of financing to supplement traditional sources of financing, stressed that those funds should be disbursed in accordance with the priorities of developing countries and should not burden them unduly, and encouraged the Secretary-General to organize an informal event in 2010, within existing resources, on the potential of voluntary innovative sources of development finance.

The main purpose of the meeting will be to provide a platform for an informal interactive discussion at a high political level on the full range of issues related to promoting innovative sources of finance towards the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by 2015. To this end, the meeting should seek to take stock of the progress achieved in mobilizing financial resources through existing innovative mechanisms that are already in operation and explore new initiatives and proposals in the area of innovative financing for development.

The proposed themes of the panel discussions are: (1) “Mechanisms of innovative development financing in operation”; and (2) “Innovative development financing initiatives under development”.

I look forward to seeing you in New York.

With my warmest regards,

Philippe Douste-Blazy

N.B: Please find attached the UN publication entitled “Innovative Financing for Development: the I-8 Group Leading Innovative Financing for Equity [L.I.F.E.]”.