

United Nations  Nations Unies

OFFICE OF THE UNDER-SECRETARY-GENERAL
Department of Economic and Social Affairs
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21 January 2008

Dear colleague,

We would like to invite you to participate in an online discussion on the theme *Achieving Sustainable Development*, to be held in two parts. The first discussion will be moderated by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN/DESA) and is being organized jointly by the Department for Economic and Social Affairs (UN/DESA) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

The purpose of the moderated online forum is to bring together experts, practitioners and policy-makers, from within and outside of the UN system, to discuss and identify challenges countries face in integrating the goals of economic growth, social development and environmental protection (Part I: 4 - 22 February) and (2) concrete policy initiatives that can help States to achieve sustainable development (Part II: 25 February - 14 March).

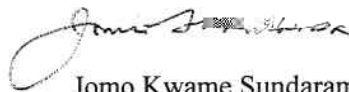
The outcome of the forum will constitute an important contribution towards this year's Annual Ministerial Review (<http://www.un.org/ecosoc/conferences/annual>) on the same theme, to be held in New York in July 2008 during the Substantive Session of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).

Our aim is to attract global, multi-stakeholder participation in this important and timely discussion, in order to reveal a diversity of viewpoints and stimulate constructive debate. We encourage you to pass along this invitation to colleagues who may be interested in following or participating in the discussion.

If you require any further information, or have any questions, please contact my colleague Cheryl Stafford, Office for ECOSOC Support and Coordination, UN/DESA, at +1 (917) 367-3116 or stafford@un.org.

I do hope you will seize this opportunity to contribute to the UN intergovernmental process that takes place through the *World Summit on Sustainable Development* and in particular to the *World Summit on Sustainable Development* that will secure the future of our planet.

Yours sincerely,



Jomo Kwame Sundaram
Assistant Secretary-General
for Economic Development