

Phase II: Opening Message – The importance of culture for promoting sustainable development and achieving the MDGs

Dear colleagues, partners and friends,

We warmly welcome you to Phase II of the e-discussion “**Building the future we want with science, technology and innovation (STI) and culture**”, which will take place to between **5 and 19 March**, moderated jointly by UNDP, through the MDG Achievement Fund (MDG-Fund) and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) as part of the 2013 Annual Ministerial Review process. The second part of the E-discussion will be focused on culture and development.

The international community has agreed that the development approach followed so far, despite the progress made, has exposed its limits. As the UN Secretary-General Mr. Ban Ki Moon stated recently, “we cannot continue to burn and consume our way to prosperity” while poverty

