

Dear Colleagues,

We warmly welcome you to Phase I of the e-discussion “*Addressing ongoing and emerging challenges for meeting the Millennium Development Goals in 2015 and for sustaining development gains in the future*”, which will take place between **3 February to 16 March 2014**. This e-discussion, moderated jointly by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), is part of the 2014 Annual Ministerial Review (AMR) process.

The AMR is being organized at a critical moment before the 2015 deadline, as countries strive to accelerate progress while also drawing upon the lessons of the previous years to help articulate the successor development agenda – one of whose priorities will be to sustain amounts and rates of progress. This first phase of the e-discussion will focus on the importance of the elements that can enable and facilitate the achievement of the MDGs and other elements of development progress.

This section will address the role of strong institutions in enabling development at the national level; the importance of stable and enduring policy frameworks and an environment that facilitates sound policy-making, and; the importance of a stable social and political environment for development that takes into account peace, security and good governance, the rule of law and a rights-based approach to development.

In the context of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), the section will examine the distinct changes in policy,

- **What are the changes in policy, legislation and institutional frameworks, or concrete interventions that have accelerated progress in the MDGs? What are some of the specific interventions?**
- **On the basis of lessons learned in the efforts to build a global partnership for development, what are the fundamental obstacles to effective aid, trade, technology transfer, and other components of an enabling international environment? What factors need to be addressed to develop a renewed and more effective global partnership for development?**

We look forward to your insights and concrete examples to help illuminate your points, and wish you all a fruitful and stimulating discussion!

Kind regards,

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