

United Nations Nations Unies

OFFICE OF THE UNDER-SECRETARY-GENERAL
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS (DESA)
SECRETARY-GENERAL FOR THE CONFERENCE ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (RIO+20)
ROOM DC2-2320, 2 UN PLAZA, NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10017
TEL.: 1 (212) 963.5958 • FAX: 1 (212) 963.1010

REFERENCE: DESA-11/00079

27 January 2011

Dear colleague,

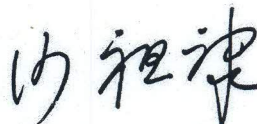
We would like to invite you to participate in an online discussion on *Education: Closing the Gap*, which will take place from 1 February to 4 March 2011. The e-Discussion is being jointly organized by the United Nations Department for Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA), the United Nations Development Group (UNDG), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF). It will be hosted by the UNDG MDG-Net forum.

The online discussion will bring together experts, policy-makers and practitioners for a global dialogue on the internationally agreed goals on education. Its aim is to attract multi-stakeholder participation, stimulate constructive debate, collect a diversity of viewpoints and develop a number of concrete recommendations and actions regarding the following key topics: (1) quality in education; (2) access to education; and (3) innovation in education.

The outcome document generated by this event will contribute to the 2011 ECOSOC Annual Ministerial Review on education which will be held in Geneva (Switzerland) in July 2011. As such, the online discussion presents a unique opportunity to have your voice heard, and to influence the deliberations of the United Nations ECOSOC Annual Ministerial Review through the formulation of critical policy messages for transmission to UN intergovernmental processes.

We hope you will make use of this opportunity to contribute to the global discussion on achieving education and learning for all. We encourage you to forward this invitation to colleagues who may be interested in following or participating in the discussion. If you are not already a member of UNDG's MDG-Net and would like to participate, please register by sending a blank email message to mdg-net@groups.undp.org.

Yours sincerely,



Sha Zukang
Under-Secretary-General
Secretary-General for the Conference on Sustainable
Development (Rio+20)