



THE PRESIDENT
OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

19 December 2007

Excellency,

Having reached the midpoint for attainment of the Millennium Development Goals, there is broad agreement on the necessity for urgent action to ensure that the goals are met by 2015.

During the General Debate Member States identified the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals as a priority for the 62nd session. Pursuant to this, I intend to convene a thematic debate on 1st and 2nd of April 2008 on the theme "*Recognising the achievements, addressing the challenges and getting back on track to achieve the MDGs by 2015.*"

Throughout 2008, there will be a series of meetings on international development issues. The thematic debate will provide the Assembly with the opportunity to contribute to the overall strategic direction of the development agenda.

The thematic debate will focus on the poverty, education and health MDGs, where progress is most urgently required and where experience suggests that positive results have a catalytic effect on the other Goals. The discussions over the two days will focus on the most intractable problems, identify lessons learnt and possible additional measures to ensure the attainment of the Goals by 2015.

On the first day of the debate, there will be an opening plenary meeting addressed by the Secretary-General and keynote speakers. In the morning session a panel discussion will focus on the poverty and hunger MDG and in the afternoon, there will be two concurrent panel discussions focusing on education and the health Goals respectively. The second day will be devoted to a plenary meeting in the General Assembly.

It is my pleasure to invite your delegation to participate in this thematic debate and to encourage representation at ministerial level.

Early next year, I will circulate more details of the event, including a program and concept paper.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

All Permanent Representatives and
Permanent Observers to the United Nations
New York

Srgjan Kerim

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Srgjan Kerim', written over a faint printed name.