



28 January 2009

Dear Colleagues and Members,

Thank you for joining the e-discussion on *Global Public Health* that will be launched on MDGNet. The Department for Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) are pleased to again have the opportunity to bring a wide array

of stakeholders to ECOSOC through this open online multi-

stakeholder forum.

This e-discussion is being organized to help prepare for the 2009 Annual Ministerial Review (AMR), to be held during the High-level Segment of ECOSOC in July in Geneva. Established to assess progress in the implementation of the internationally agreed development goals, this year's Review will focus on global public health.

These and other health care challenges could be mitigated through partnerships. Non-governmental, private and civil society groups have already made a significant contribution to achieving public health goals. We must further harness and focus the energies of communities, NGOs and the private sector.

In this spirit, all actors have an equal voice in this discussion. Only by sharing bold ideas, challenging one another, and agreeing on coordinated and coherent action can we hope to overcome the obstacles to better health outcomes.

The recommendations and proposals that emerge from this e-discussion will be made widely available on the internet and at the ECOSOC Substantive Session and will help to frame the Secretary-General's report on the Annual Ministerial Review.

We will continue to work closely with the Council and