



THE PRESIDENT  
OF THE  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

4 March 2008

Excellency,

Following my letter to Member States on 19 December 2007 announcing that I will convene a thematic debate on the Millennium Development Goals on **1 and 2 April 2008** on the theme "**Recognizing the achievements, addressing the challenges and getting back on track to achieve the MDGs by 2015**", I have the honour to circulate herewith the draft programme for the event. The programme includes the list of speakers for the opening and closing meetings and for the three panels focussing on the poverty and hunger, education and health Millennium Development Goals.

I have the honour to also circulate background papers for the three panel discussions taking place on **1 April 2008**. The papers provide useful information with regard to the current status in implementing the poverty, education and health goals. They highlight where the most intractable problems are, as well as identify successes and possible lessons learned. I hope that delegations will find this information useful.

The thematic debate will also consist of a plenary meeting in the General Assembly on **2 April 2008**. A list of speakers will be opened with the General Assembly Affairs Branch in accordance with General Assembly procedures. I would strongly encourage delegations to make concise statements, not exceeding five minutes.

Attaining the Millennium Development Goals by 2015 is a major priority for the General Assembly as well as the international community as a whole. This meeting will provide an opportunity at the midpoint for attainment of the goals to take stock of the progress so far, discuss solutions to the existing challenges, and renew commitments to attaining the goals by 2015. Given the importance of these issues, I would therefore once again like to encourage Ministerial-level participation in this event.

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

  
Srđjan Kerim

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