



THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

26 March 2013

Dear Colleagues,

With only about 1,000 days to go to the 2015 deadline for the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), we are at a critical moment in the global development agenda. We need a concerted effort to boost progress and consolidate the gains made in the achievement of the MDGs.

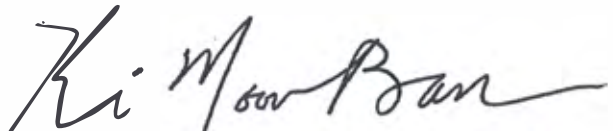
Accordingly, in November 2012, members of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB) agreed to use the semi-annual meetings to review and strengthen support to MDG progress. The objective is to draw CEB members' attention to bottlenecks at the country level and, wherever possible, to better align or step up support to address them. Each CEB session will focus on a limited number of countries and MDGs. This will allow the CEB members to leverage their strengths in supporting acceleration towards specific MDG targets.

The first discussion on this initiative will be held at the next session of CEB on 5 and 6 April 2013 in Madrid, Spain. Ghana, Niger and the United Republic of Tanzania will be the first set of countries to be considered in this endeavor. It will draw upon the MDG Action Plans prepared by these countries using the United Nations Development Group MDG Acceleration Framework (MAF). The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the World Bank have been coordinating the preparations for this initiative.

I would like to encourage you to consider how your organization can best contribute to this initiative. UNDP and the World Bank have already initiated contacts with CEB members to determine their scope of engagement at all levels.

Any question that you may have on this initiative and its preparations can be addressed to Mr. Jos Verbeek at the World Bank (jverbeek@worldbank.org), Mr. Shantanu Mukherjee at UNDP (shantanu.mukherjee@undp.org) and Ms. Phyllis Lee at the CEB Secretariat (leep@un.org).

Yours sincerely,


BAN Ki-moon

Chief Executives Board Members

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Note to the Deputy Secretary-General

Letters by the Secretary-General to CEB Members on the MDG review and acceleration session in Madrid

1. Please find enclosed, for your approval, a draft letter from the Secretary-General to the members of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB). The letter refers to CEB session on “MDG review and acceleration” to be held at on the 6th of April 2013, in Madrid.
2. In November 2012, CEB members agreed to hold a session on “MDG review and acceleration” at their semi-annual meetings. The objective is to draw CEB members’ attention to particular bottlenecks at the country level and, wherever possible, to better align or step up support to address them.
3. UNDP and the World Bank have been coordinating the preparations for this initiative at global and national levels, in collaboration with the CEB Secretariat.
4. The letter encourages CEB members to contribute to this initiative through concrete interventions and support at country level. The content of the letter has been consulted with UNDP and the CEB Secretariat. Once it is signed, it will be sent to the CEB Secretariat for distribution.



Lenni Montiel
22 March 2013

cc: Ms. Malcorra