



## Hydroaid contribution for UN TeamWorks

E-discussion on the theme of “Addressing ongoing and emerging challenges for meeting the Millennium Development Goals in 2015 and for sustaining development gains in the future”

03 February - 16 March, 2014

[www.unteamworks.org/amr2014](http://www.unteamworks.org/amr2014)

### **Description**

UN DESA’s Office for ECOSOC Support and Coordination (OESC) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), in close cooperation with other UN system partners are organizing an e-discussion on the theme of “Addressing ongoing and emerging challenges for meeting the Millennium Development Goals in 2015 and for sustaining development gains in the future” to be held from 3 February to 16 March.

The purpose of the e-discussion is to engage experts, practitioners and policy-makers from various regions and stakeholder groups in a global dialogue on specific aspects of the theme of the ECOSOC Annual Ministerial Review (AMR) through the mechanism of an electronic discussion. Since 2008, UN DESA has held, in collaboration with UNDP, e-discussions on the respective AMR themes.

With the 2014 theme for the AMR being “Addressing ongoing and emerging challenges for meeting the Millennium Development Goals in 2015 and for sustaining development gains in the future,” the e-discussion on the same theme will provide ECOSOC with constructive inputs and policy recommendations for strengthening efforts towards achieving the internationally agreed development goals, particularly the MDGs by 2015, and for sustaining and continuing development gains in the context of the post-2015 development agenda.

The e-discussion provides a unique opportunity for the broader development community to formulate critical policy messages and an action agenda for the AMR. Contributions made by e-discussion participants will be channeled into various parts of the AMR, particularly the Report of the Secretary-General on the AMR theme, but also through the regional preparatory meetings and the National Voluntary Presentations.



## Phase I

### **2014 AMR Part I (3 - 16 February): Facilitators of development progress, including in the achievement of MDG**

[www.unteamworks.org/node/421482](http://www.unteamworks.org/node/421482)

#### **Introduction**

Dear Colleagues,

We warmly welcome you to Part I of the e-discussion “Addressing ongoing and emerging challenges for meeting the Millennium Development Goals in 2015 and for sustaining development gains in the future”, which will take place between 3 February to 16 March 2014. This e-discussion, moderated jointly by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), is part of the 2014 Annual Ministerial Review (AMR) process.

The AMR is being organized at a critical moment before the 2015 deadline, as countries strive to accelerate progress while also drawing upon the lessons of the previous years to help articulate the successor development agenda – one of whose priorities will be to sustain amounts and rates of progress. This first phase of the e-discussion will focus on the importance of the elements that can enable and facilitate the achievement of the MDGs and other elements of development progress.

This first part of the e-discussion will address the role of strong institutions in enabling development at the national level; the importance of stable and enduring policy frameworks and an environment that facilitates sound policy-making, and; the importance of a stable social and political environment for development that takes into account peace, security and good governance, the rule of law and a rights-based approach to development.

In the context of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), this Part I will examine the distinct changes in policy, legislation or institutional arrangements that have been significant in helping to propel them forward. It will also address the need to pinpoint the steps that are necessary to accelerate the achievement of the MDGs, including through the MDG Acceleration Framework (MAF), especially for the lagging goals and regions. The importance of strong regional and global support arrangements will be emphasized, particularly through enhanced global partnerships for the implementation of the MDGs, accelerating progress and sustaining development gains.



In the overall context of the Global Partnership for Development, the role of multi-stakeholder partnerships, as well as coordination arrangements adopted by government agencies, donor partners, civil society and the private sector for better coherence and impact, will be also discussed. This will include the current challenges related to effective aid, trade and technology transfer. These will be examined both in the context of MDG acceleration and of steps that will need to be taken for sustaining development gains in future.

Considering the above, we would like to present before you the following three questions to guide this phase of the e-discussion:

- **How can the role and importance of strong, stable and enduring institutions, policy frameworks and an environment that facilitates sound policy-making be assessed? How can these be fostered, strengthened and supported?**
- **What are the changes in policy, legislation and institutional frameworks, or concrete interventions that have accelerated progress in the MDGs? What are some of the specific interventions?**
- **On the basis of lessons learned in the efforts to build a global partnership for development, what are the fundamental obstacles to effective aid, trade, technology transfer, and other components of an enabling international environment? What factors need to be addressed to develop a renewed and more effective global partnership for development?**

If you wish to participate in the discussion join us through the online UN platform '[Teamworks](#)' where you can post comments and access relevant resources related to the e-Discussion.

We look forward to your insights and concrete examples to help illuminate your points, and wish you all a fruitful and stimulating discussion!

Kind regards,

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## Hydroaid contribution – 15<sup>th</sup> February 2014

In response to the invitation to this e-Discussion on “Addressing ongoing and emerging challenges for meeting the MDGs in 2015 and for sustaining development gains in the future” – phase I – we would like to write a few words about our experience in the field of cooperation. Hydroaid – Water for Development Management Institute – is a non-profit Association working for development since 2001 whose main purpose is vocational training as a way for transferring know-hows and fostering capacity building in developing and emerging countries. We believe training is the fundamental basis for any development process to be successful in the long run and to bring effective benefits to population in need of fighting poverty and adverse living conditions. And although it requires time and resources, we think training is also a key element for accelerating development as it ensures that the subjects that are beneficiary of cooperation projects and external aid are able to maintain the achieved benefits, develop and eventually improve them by taking control of their own development path.

Particularly in the context of our current experience in Ethiopia, within the European WATSAM Project FED/2011/279-318 that Hydroaid is leading since 2012, we have detected a clear will from the side of our beneficiary partners to gain higher skills and control over the local water resource management system, the object of our intervention. The WATSAM Project is also focused on enhancing collaboration among local entities and stakeholders by promoting partnership development and experience sharing with Italian water organization that so far has proven to be very useful and productive. As we monitor the progress made for improving our next steps, and for answering the questions presented above, we can highlight a few elements from this experience that we hope will be helpful to others too:

- A significant awareness over development issues is already present and needs to be encouraged and supported in order to focus efforts on the line of the MDGs. This can be accomplished through increased actions in favor of training;
- Technical knowledge must be matched by appropriate planning skills for avoiding dispersive and uncoordinated operations resulting in waste of resources;
- Planning principles that could facilitate decision making are often lacking at local and intermediate levels. Awareness raising and development efforts should be directed at demanding integrated planning guidelines for different levels of administration: national, regional and local;
- A sound planning framework would also represent a reference for the many subjects, both internal and external, involved on common scenarios. In the case of Ethiopia, we witness a number of interventions operated by local authorities as well as by foreign agencies, NGOs, cooperation associations, international organizations, private and public stakeholders, institutions... that could be complemented and better combined thanks to a thorough coordination policy addressing partnership and planning as key priorities for advancing development.