



Steering Committee Meeting

Sunday, 18 May 2008

Board Room, Level 3
Kuala Lumpur Convention Center
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Background Note for Discussion on Vision for the Future of UNDESA-GAID

The mission of the Global Alliance for ICT and Development of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs is to be an inclusive, cross-sectoral, multi-stakeholder platform for promoting the use of ICT to achieve the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals. Over the last two years, the Global Alliance has adopted a Business Plan, Flagship Partnership Initiatives, Regional Networks, Stakeholder Networks and Communities of Expertise, and continues to focus its work on the areas of governance, entrepreneurship, health and education.

The Global Alliance is well placed to further the United Nations Development Agenda in being a key contributor to the achievement of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society, by bringing multi-stakeholder input to the Economic and Social Council and the Commission on Science and Technology for Development.

It has also successfully organized important international meetings, including the Global Forum on Youth and ICT for Development in Geneva, as well as other advocacy and awareness-raising meetings, such as the meeting of ICT leaders and innovators in Silicon Valley last February 2007, which paved the way for the successful launch of the Connect Africa Initiative in Rwanda. Last March 2008, a meeting among business leaders and technology social entrepreneurs examined how social networking tools (Web 2.0) and entrepreneurship can be leveraged for development.

The Global Alliance has acquired a strong brand recognition as an innovative and open United Nations initiative, and has launched initiatives, networks and communities that leverage on the power of ICT as a critical enabler of development.

Looking ahead, a lot remains to be done in the areas of international development and social progress, particularly in the context of the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The world is now at the midpoint between the adoption of the MDGs and the target date of 2015. The results of national and international development efforts in relation to MDGs have been

mixed and, given the current rates of progress, many countries will be unable to meet the MDGs by 2015.







Indeed, ICT has now become an even more critical part of the strategic instruments in development efforts. As accelerator, driver, multiplier and innovator, ICT must be deployed more effectively to assist in the massive scaling up and inter-linkage of development interventions and outcomes inherent in the MDGs.

There are more opportunities for dialogue, collaboration and partnerships among different stakeholders, and the Global Alliance must endeavor in being the global platform that provides the ICT for development community with the opportunity for cross-sectoral policy dialogue and for catalyzing multi-stakeholder action-oriented partnerships.

The purpose of the session on “*Discussion on vision for the future for GAID*” is to engage the members of the UNDESA-GAID Strategy Council in an interactive discussion on the future orientation for the Global Alliance and the appropriate strategies it should undertake. The **new membership** in the **Strategy Council** and **Steering Committee** and the **engagement of youth leaders** in the work of the Global Alliance offers tremendous opportunities for injecting new vision and ideas and for formulating new approaches and solutions.

Issues for Discussion

The session is intended to be open, free-flowing and interactive. Some possible questions that members may wish to address may include:

-  *What are the new trends and issues that may impact the future of ICT for development and need the attention of the Global Alliance to foster multi-stakeholder dialogue and cooperation?*
-  *What in your view should be the key focus areas for the Global Alliance in the next two years?*
-  *How can the Global Alliance contribute to the integration of ICT in national level development policies and strategies?*
-  *How do we foster public-private partnerships and how can the Global Alliance accelerate the pace of partnership-building on ICTD?*
-  *What are the respective roles and expectations of the principal stakeholders of the Global Alliance and how can we effectively make them complementary to each other in support of the ICT for MDGs agenda? How do we promote deeper understanding and cooperation among all stakeholders?*
-  *How can the Global Alliance be a more effective multi-stakeholder platform for dialogue on ICTD? How can the Global Alliance undertake longer term planning and better integration and consolidation of its policy dialogue, advocacy, awareness-raising and partnership-building activities?*