Dear Colleagues and Members,
 The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Department for
Economic and Social Affairs (UN/DESA) are delighted to be teaming up to hold a four-week online discussion in preparation for the first Annual Ministerial Review, to be
launched by the Economic and Social Council this July.
 Mandated by the 2005 World Summit, the Annual Ministerial Review will assess, at
several levels, progress in the implementation of the internationally agreed development
goals, including the MDGs. The aim is to help advance implementation by tracking
progress more effectively, producing action-oriented ministerial declarations and
fostering collaboration and partnership. This first year, the focus will be on MDG 1, to
eradicate extreme poverty and hunger.
 The purpose of this moderated online forum is to bring together experts in the field,
from within and outside of the UN system, to discuss particular aspects of the fight
against hunger and poverty and to explore how partnerships can be leveraged in the
efforts to overcome these scourges. The discussion presents an opportunity for the
broader development community, in particular those working at the country level, to
provide a valuable contribution to the UN intergovernmental process that takes place
through the ECOSOC family of organizations. It will also enable participants to engage
with diverse actors and experts to identify common challenges and potential solutions
that might be valuable to their work.
 We encourage you to seize this opportunity to share your insights from the field with
the Council and to learn from one another.
 The discussion will run from 14 February to 14 March 2007 on UNDG’s MDG-Net.