

Conclusions and Recommendations

" Millennium Development Goals Electronic Center "

Secretariat General – Riyadh

14-15 June 2010

The seminar "Millennium Development Goals Electronic Center (MDG e-Center)" was hosted by the Secretariat General of the Gulf Cooperation Council at its headquarters in Riyadh on the 14th and 15th June 2010.

The Seminar was inaugurated by three opening speeches , by H.E Saudi Economy and Planning Minister, H.E Secretary General of the GCC and H.E the Chairman of UN GAID.

The first session of the seminar was co-chaired by H.E Assistant Secretary General for Economic affairs Mr. Mohamad Obaid Al Mazrooei on Behalf of H.E the Secretary General and by Mr. Talal Abu-Ghazaleh, the Chairman of GAID.

Some eighty experts from key Ministries, Departments and institutions concerned with ICT and development fields from all countries of the GCC participated in the Seminar.

UNGAID Task Force members, Mr. Sergei Kambalov, Mr. Sarbuland Khan and Prof. Amjad Umar, introduced and made detailed presentations on the UNGAID MDG eCenter. These were followed by very lively interactive discussion during which participants made valuable suggestions for inclusion in the further development of the Center.

The participants were informed about next steps. The project will be presented to the heads of states and governments at a special event to be held during the High-level Plenary meeting of the United Nations General assembly on 20-22 September 2010. A prep-com meeting will be held in New York at the United

Nations Head Quarters on 26th July 2010, to prepare for the September summit. The center will be launched and become operational in March 2011 in 1.0 version and an advanced 2.0 version will be released in early 2012.

Based on the discussions and suggestions the following key conclusions and recommendations were adopted by consensus:

Participants welcomed the establishment of the UNGAID MDG eCenter and expressed strong support for this unique initiative led by the Chairman of UNGAID under the honorary chairmanship of the United Nations Secretary-General.

They recognized the value and relevance of the project for the implementation of their national development plans and programmes. They expressed appreciation, in particular for the Matrix as a new and comprehensive source of eSolutions and the advanced character of the ICT tools with their wide-ranging capabilities and applications.

The following specific recommendations were made to enhance and strengthen the Center:

- 1- To request the UNGAID leadership, which is mandated by the UN Secretary General, with the help of the task force to develop guidelines for country-specific applications.
- 2- To develop and make available an Arabic version of the Center as one of the six official languages of the UN.
- 3- Ask UNGAID to produce a short note for all interested users describing the Center as a new invention, highlighting its unique features and its value added for economic development.
- 4- To develop as proposed by the UNGAID Chairman, an executive MBA program on MDG eSolutions and the Center and provide it online through

high education institutions in order to facilitate reach to users in remote areas.

- 5- To call on UNGAID to organize, after the official launch of the Center, in cooperation with the League of Arab States a forum for all Arab countries to build on the positive outcomes of the present GCC seminar.
- 6- Request on governments, after the launch of the center, to designate a focal point in every ministry concerned with development, as well as a country node for coordination and interacting with the GCC secretariat and the MDG eCenter, to be authorized to make changes in the country page.
- 7- To post all seminar documents and presentations on the GCC website:
www.GCCSG.org
- 8- The participants stressed the need to assure that information and data are authorised, comprehensive and useful for users to facilitate effective decision making, including by encouraging the project undertaken by UNESCO and TAGORG to develop information society indicators portal as a dynamic continuously updated repository relying on official data available or to be developed.
- 9- The Participants suggested that the center provides regional applications and coordination programs with the national development programs.
- 10- To adopt the statements made by UNGAID Chairman, the Minister of Economy and Planning of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and GCC Secretary-General as the official documentation of the Seminar to be published and posted on UNGAID website in Arabic and English languages.

- 11- To publish the statements and all the very useful contributions made by the participants as part of the outcome of the Seminar.
- 12- The Federation of GCC Chambers values the efforts exerted by the UNGAID team and the work done to establish the MDG e-Center, and expressed the willingness to cooperate with the UNGAID for the purpose of success of the project, and to liaise with the UNGAID on matters related with the GCC private sector.
- 13- To request the UNGAID Chairman to report to the UN Secretary-General Mr. Ban Ki-Moon, in his capacity as the Honorary Chair of UNGAID and the eMDG Center the positive outcome of the Seminar.
- 14- To provide advisory and capacity building support services by the Center.
- 15- UNGAID experts confirmed that the center is compatible and in compliance with internationally recognized quality standards, and will continue to do so.
- 16- After completion of the due process and the MDG e-Center is officially launched, a trilateral coordination committee shall be launched at the GCC Secretariat General, including the Federation of GCC chambers, UNGAID and GCC SG. It will undertake the on the ground implementation and coordination between GCC governments and GCC business community, and will organize seminars and workshops for awareness and implementation of the MDG e-Center.