

Message by the Secretary General to the
UNGAID High-level Breakfast Meeting

21 September 2010

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you all on behalf of the Secretary-General of the United Nations to this important meeting. The Millennium Development Goals are the principal vehicle for securing a better future for those who suffer in poverty, hunger and disease today. We must achieve them by 2015.

I have no doubt that if given the opportunity, every human being has the potential to better his or her life. Information and Communication Technologies can provide access to knowledge and opportunity for those who do not have it. They can help level the playing field.

ICT can empower farmers to have better access to market, increasing their opportunity to be part of the global supply chain. ICT can enable students to get better access to education materials. Doctors can use ICT to provide health care to those in need, including in remote areas. ICT is also an essential tool in protecting our environment and monitoring global change. More and more ICT is being used to track public finance for MDG related projects.

The potential of ICT for the MDGs and for sustainable development are vast and remain untapped. The digital divide between developing and developed countries in some areas is narrowing, but remains wider in others. The Global Alliance for ICT and Development can make a great contribution to assisting developing countries in achieving the full potential offered by ICT by moving from advocacy to action.

I welcome the GAID membership, under the leadership of its Chairman, Mr. Talal Abu Ghazaleh, to launch web-based knowledge tools and information resources, providing tangible and practical benefits to developing countries in their efforts to advance MDGs.

I invite all stakeholders to join GAID membership in this noble endeavour.