



**Presentation of the MDG eNabler**  
**by Mr. Sergei Kambalov, Executive Coordinator of GAID**  
(transcript of an oral presentation)

Mr. Chairman, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen.

We have today a MDG eNabler to present to you.

We are all concerned about the pace of MDG achievement. We are all determined to do our best to achieve these goals by 2015. We are all looking for a lever to boost development and to speed up the process. We believe that we have found a lever that we can use, and this is ICT for Development.

If we look at the situation now, we can identify multiple factors that lead to the present difficulties and uneven pace towards the MDGs. The two major ones are: resources and capacity. We cannot do anything about resources because it is up to governments, but we believe that we can address capacity constraints for boosting the MDG process.

There are two factors that constraint capacity: inadequate access to knowledge and inadequate ability to use this knowledge. What we are presenting today is a set of tools and resources to address these two constraints. Access to knowledge is addressed by the Matrix of ICT solutions for MDG advancement, by a Meta-portal - a “yellow pages” tool that helps people find what is available today on the web and transform information into useful knowledge for those who need it most.

Once you have knowledge about the tools that are available today, the Strategic Planner helps you use this knowledge to achieve your objectives. The analogy that we like to use is that this set of tools is a GPS for using ICT for Development, which means that you still need a vehicle and a driver. It also means that it does not do the job for you but it tells you how you can get to the point you want to reach in the most efficient way, as well as where you can get coffee for yourself or petrol for your car as well. It does not instruct you, and you can always choose another road - but it does help you get where you want to be.

Another important thing to note is that this tool is not intended to be used by ultimate beneficiaries, rather by development practitioners who are working day and night to help the ultimate beneficiaries.

The Matrix for ICT Solutions for MDG Advancement

To achieve each MDG, a government needs to undertake a large number of specific actions. There are thousands of ICT-based tools available on the market today to help in this task. Our main objective is to deliver them to those who need them, to link people



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with these tools. This is what the Matrix is going to be doing. We use the analogy of Amazon.com, where instead of MP3 players and other gadgets, on the virtual shelves of this Matrix we have ICT-based tools and solutions for very specific problems and tasks that development practitioners are facing every day.

The tools and solutions proposed are not something “potential” - they are available in the market today, and are proven, scalable and replicable. Of course, the UN cannot recommend a particular technology, we cannot be seen as a vehicle for commercial interest of producers. For this reason, we are not going to endorse or recommend, we are going to present a tool and help the potential user with reviews by previous users and experts. Development practitioners will make their own decisions and choices.

We are going to provide links to existing initiatives and programmes of many institutions, such as UN agencies and others, who are already working on specific development issues today. We are not inventing, we are not producing this knowledge, we have no capacity to do this, rather we are consolidating this knowledge and making it available in a very user-friendly way for those who need it most.

This can only be done in a grand collaboration with the industry, civil society, academia and development practitioners of all types. We are going to organize it as a sort of a “managed wiki” process: we are going to receive information and vet it through a process of experts and peer review so that the information presented is credible.

We believe that the only way this project can succeed is if it brings together everyone out there who is engaged in this area. It is not duplication or competition - it is engagement, collaboration and consolidation of all our efforts. In this context, and the Chairman referred to our support to the Broadband Commission: we believe that the Broadband Commission is about a medium, our project is about content to be delivered through this medium, so it is a perfect complementarity and potentially a powerful synergy - if we do it right.

Once you have knowledge about tools that are available on the market today, the next step is that you need to know how to use them. This is where the Strategic Planner comes in. It is a tool that is developed for us by a group of academic researchers led by Professor Umar from the University of Pennsylvania. It is an intelligent agent guiding someone through the process of selecting appropriate tools for a specific area, country, condition and project. If your country is not ready for the solution you choose, the Planner will tell you the steps you have to undertake before, and how much it will cost to you, etc.

Those who wish to test it, following the example of H.E. Mr. Ivanovski, Minister of Information Society of Macedonia, who was the first tester of the tool, can get access to the prototype. Let us know if you are interested.



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This set of tool is unique for four reasons. It is unique because its home is the United Nations, which ensures universality, legitimacy and neutrality, it is a product of a multi-stakeholders approach, it is a “one-stop shop” and it is free.

We are presenting this tool to you because, as stressed by the Secretary-General, it can only be done as a common effort of all development practitioners. The success of the project is predicated on your contribution, your collaboration and this why the Chairman invited you here and why this Project is presented to you.

Thank you.