



STAKEHOLDER FORUM

The role of national and local stakeholders in contributing to aid quality and effectiveness



**12-13 June 2008
Rome, Italy**

REFERENCE: DESA-08/

May 7, 2008

Dear Madam President,
Dear Mr. President,

We are pleased to invite you to nominate a member of your parliament to participate in the Stakeholder Forum on *The role of national and local stakeholders in contributing to aid quality and effectiveness*. The meeting, organized by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) in cooperation with the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) and the support of the Government of Italy, will take place in Rome, Italy, on 12 and 13 June 2008.

As you know, the 2005 World Summit mandated the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) to convene a biennial high-level *Development Cooperation Forum* (DCF). Following the official launch in Geneva last year, the first DCF will take place in New York on 30 June and 1 July 2008.

The DCF is expected to become a forum for dialogue and policy review of key development cooperation issues. It will review progress in development cooperation and identify obstacles, with the aim of improving the effectiveness of the international development cooperation system through policy guidance. Additionally, the DCF will offer a platform for sharing experiences in implementing national development strategies.

As part of the preparations for the DCF, the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) organized events in 2007 and 2008, including a High-Level Symposium in Vienna in April 2007 and a High-Level Symposium in Cairo in January 2008. The Stakeholder Forum in Rome will be prepared in close cooperation with institutions that represent the three constituencies of the meeting, namely parliamentarians, local government authorities and civil society and will conclude the preparatory events leading up to the DCF.

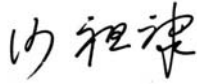
During the one and a half day programme, there will be an opportunity for parliamentarians to hold a special session dedicated to discussing their role in influencing the debate on development cooperation. The discussions will focus on monitoring and oversight of aid quality and touch upon issues of *budget support, aid conditionality, and tied aid*.

We very much hope that you will wish to appoint a member of your parliament to participate in this event. Given the specialized nature of the meeting, it would be highly desirable for your representative to be fully conversant with aid issues.

For more information on the Rome Stakeholder Forum, please refer to the enclosed *Draft Agenda* and Information Note. The information will also be available shortly on the ECOSOC website at: <http://www.un.org/ecosoc/newfunct/preparations.shtml>

Your early response would be greatly appreciated.

Yours sincerely,



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