



Foreign Affairs Committees of
Denmark, Finland, Iceland,
Norway and Sweden

Copenhagen, 5 November 2009

Dear Friends,

The Nordic Offices of UNDP, UNFPA and WFP and the Nordic National Committees of UNICEF kindly address the Foreign Affairs Committees of the five Nordic countries.

It continues to be an important objective for the Nordic UN liaison offices to enhance the relationship between the UN and the national Parliaments in the Nordics. To this end we have successfully conducted field visits for Nordic Parliamentarians to Zambia (2004), Malawi (2006), Mozambique (2007) and Nicaragua (2008).

As you will recall, we invited the Foreign Affairs Committees to give feedback on the format, timing and usefulness of the joint UN field visit earlier this year. In response we have received some very positive comments. We have therefore decided to continue with this undertaking.

For 2010 we are pleased to revive the trip to Liberia, which was postponed from 2009. Representatives from the Nordic Parliaments are invited to participate in the trip, which will take place in the week from 18-22 January (excluding travel time).

While not a priority country for all Nordic countries, Liberia is a post-conflict country and thus offers an opportunity for a first hand view of the serious challenges faced by a country which is restructuring after a civil war. In addition, Liberia has put special emphasis on achieving gender equality (MDG 3) as an integrated aspect of the current post-conflict development of the country which is an area of special interest to the Nordic countries.

We are also pleased to announce already at this time, that the 2011 trip will focus on a country where climate change and development interface – more details will follow. This trip will also take place in the third week of January and we hope that you will include this in your tentative planning for 2011.

We look forward to receiving an indication as to the interest in participating from each of the Nordic Foreign Affairs Committees and, in the affirmative, an identification of the participants and possibly alternate participants as well. We would be happy to welcome up to three participants from each Foreign Affairs Committee.

We look very much forward to our continued collaboration on this once-a-year opportunity to provide member of Nordic Parliaments with first hand impression of the work of the UN in the field.

Please direct your responses to the respective national focal points:

Finland – Johanna Liukkonen, +358 9 1666 853, johanna.liukkonen@undp.fi
Sweden – Monica Lorensen, +46 854 523 250, monica.lorrensson@undp.se
Norway - Line Hegna, + 47 2306 0829, line.hegna@undp.no
Iceland – Erika Jørgensen, +45 3546 7130, erika.joergensen@wfp.dk
Denmark – Pernille Fenger, +45 3546 7033, pernille.fenger@unfpa.dk

We are looking forward to your reactions.

Yours sincerely,



Jakob Simonsen
Director
UNDP Nordic Office



Erika Jørgensen
Director
WFP Nordic Office



Pernille Fenger
Chief
UNFPA Nordic Office



Steen Andersen
Secretary General
UNCIEF (on behalf of the Nordic national
Committees)