

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



Copenhagen, October 25, 2012

Dear Chairman,

On behalf of the United Nations system in the Nordic countries, we are pleased to invite members of the Foreign Affairs Committee in each of the five Nordic countries on a field visit to Bangladesh January 21-26, 2013.

The visit will allow members to view UN programme support to Bangladesh at first hand and get a sense of the tremendous development progress the country has experienced in recent years. In 2010, Bangladesh was ranked third out of 95 countries for the greatest progress achieved and for having doubled its Human Development Index since 1980. A development achievement that deserves attention and that shows it is possible to overcome poverty and hunger through joint effort.

The UN has previously organized successful field visits for Nordic parliamentarians to increase knowledge of, and interest in, the UN system and its work in developing countries. Country visits have included Zambia (2004), Malawi (2006), Mozambique (2007), Nicaragua (2008), Liberia (2009), Nepal (2011) and Burkina Faso (2012). In each case, we received positive feedback from participants on the usefulness and value of these visits.

Despite considerable progress challenges remain, and Bangladesh is one of the world's most densely populated, disaster-prone and climate-vulnerable countries. The programme will include field visits to a number of UN projects and programmes and provide an opportunity to see first-hand how the UN is assisting the government of Bangladesh in mitigating its challenges and building up sustainable resilience in areas of disaster management, early warning systems, disaster risk reduction, gender equality and women's participation, urban and rural poverty reduction, human rights advocacy and legislative support, food security and sexual and reproductive health.

Please let us know if any Committee members are interested in participating in the field visit to Bangladesh and kindly let us know by no later than November 14, 2012. It will be useful if you can forward a list of names including possible alternate participants.

Please do not hesitate to contact us in case you have any questions. UNDP/Mette Fjalland, +45 3546 7155, mette.fjalland@undp.org, or UNFPA/Pernille Fenger, +45 3546 7033, fenger@unfpa.org

We are looking forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Mette Fjalland, Director of UNDP Nordic Office.

Director
UNDP Nordic Office

Handwritten signature of Pernille Fenger, Chief of UNFPA Nordic Office.

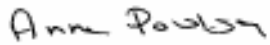
Chief
UNFPA Nordic Office



Steen Andersen
Executive Director, UNICEF Denmark
(on behalf of the Nordic National
Committees of UNICEF)



John Christensen
Head of Centre
UNEP Risø Centre



Anne Poulsen
Director
WFP Nordic Office