



The Education Outreach Cluster of the Department of Public Information will present a series of video chats in preparation for the Global Model United Nations (GMUN) conference. The video chats, starting 24 June, will bring together UN officials and experts and GMUN delegates from different parts of the world to discuss issues related to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the work of the First, Second, Third and Fourth Committees of the United Nations General Assembly.

Each video chat will last from 30 minutes to one hour. The first half will be the speaker's presentation, followed by a Q and A session between the students and the speaker. Delegates will type in their questions in the chat for the speaker to answer.

How to register: Send an email to education-outreach@un.org with the following information:

Name:

Country of Origin:

Email address:

Please indicate which chat session you would like to participate in, and put "GMUN live video chat" in the subject line in your email.

The first 25 GMUN delegates to register for each video chat will be accepted. You will be notified by email if you have been accepted and instructions on how to participate will be sent to you. All that you need is a laptop and desktop computer with internet access.

So far, we have the following speakers lined up, and we are updating our list on a daily basis for the next few weeks.

Schedule for video chats:

Date: Wednesday, 24 June 2009

Time: 11:00 AM – 12:00 AM (EDT)

Topic: UNRWA and the achievement of the MDGs (focusing on the Middle Eastern region).

Speaker: Mr. Andrew Whitley, Director of the New York Representative Office of UNRWA (the *United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East*)

Bio: Mr. Whitley is Director of the New York Representative Office of UNRWA (the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East), where he is responsible for the Agency's relations with the UN System and with the US and Canadian Governments. In the course of a 14-year career with the United Nations, Mr. Whitley previously served with the Geneva-based trade and development organization UNCTAD, as Chief of the Secretary-General's Office, and then with the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, holding senior posts in the UN Missions administering East Timor and Kosovo, as they prepared for their independence. Mr. Whitley is a graduate from Cambridge University in the UK.

Date: Wednesday, 24 June 2009

Time: 4:30 PM – 5:30 PM (EDT)

Topic: The ongoing global financial crisis and its impact on the achievement of the MDGs in the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries, and small island developing states.

Speaker: Under-Secretary-General Cheick Sidi Diarra

Bio: Mr. Diarra is Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States. Prior to this appointment, Mr. Diarra was serving as the Permanent Representative of Mali to the United Nations in New York. He has over 25 years of professional experience in international relations, law and development. He has been an active advocate for the cause of Africa, the least developed countries and landlocked developing countries as his country uniquely represents all three groups of countries. Mr. Diarra obtained masters degrees in international public law and international relations from Dakar University in Senegal.

Date: Thursday, 25 June 2009

Time: 8:00 AM – 9:15 AM (EDT)

Topic: How arms availability and armed violence negatively impact development and fulfilling the Millennium Development Goals - what the UN can do about it.

Speaker: Mr. Daniël Prins, Chief of Conventional Arms Branch, UN Office of Disarmament Affairs

Bio: Mr. Prins heads the Conventional Arms Branch of the UN Office of Disarmament Affairs in New York. From 1993 to 2007 he was a diplomat for the Dutch government.

Prior to joining the Foreign Service, he was a lecturer in International Security at the Royal Netherlands' Naval College.

Date: Thursday, 25 June 2009
Time: 2:00 PM – 3:00 PM (EDT)

Topic: The impact of South-South Cooperation on the MDGs.

Speaker: Mr. Yiping Zhou, Director of the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation (UNDP)

Bio: As Director of the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation (SU/SSC), Mr. Zhou is responsible for the promotion and coordination of South-South cooperation in the global South and on a United Nations system-wide basis. Prior to assuming his current position, Mr. Zhou served as Deputy Director and Senior Policy Adviser of the Special Unit for SSC from 1997 to 2004; Regional Programme Officer of UNDP's Regional Bureau for Asia and the Pacific from 1992 to 1997; and Project Management Officer at the Office for Project Services (UNOPS) from 1985 to 1992.

Date: Friday, 26 June 2009
Time: 11:00 AM – 11:30 AM (EDT)

Topic: The current global financial crisis and its impact on achieving the MDGs.

Speaker: Mr. Salil Shetty, Director of the Millennium Campaign

Bio: Mr. Shetty joined the United Nations in October 2003 as Director of the Millennium Campaign after two decades as a recognized civil society leader. In the last four years, Mr. Shetty has played a pivotal role in building up the global advocacy campaign for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals in over 50 countries. Prior to joining the UN, Mr. Shetty was the Chief Executive of ActionAid - a leading international development NGO.

Date: Tuesday, 30 June 2009
Time: 10:00 AM – 11:00 AM (EDT)

Topic: Children of conflict and the achievement of the MDGs.

Speaker: Ms. Susan Bissell, Chief of the Child Protection section, United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

Bio: A native of Canada, Ms. Bissell is Chief of Child Protection section at UNICEF in New York. Ms. Bissell first served UNICEF in 1989 in what was then called DIPA – the Division of Information and Public Affairs. After completing a Masters degree in law, economics and international relations and a doctorate degree in public health and medical

anthropology, Ms. Bissell came back to UNICEF in 2001 as the Chief of Child Protection in India. In 2004, she transferred to the Innocenti Research Centre where she has managed the Implementing International Standards Unit. The many studies for which Ms. Bissell has been responsible include a 62-country study on the implementation of the general measures of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, and global research on the Palermo Protocol and child trafficking.

Date: Wednesday, 1 July 2009

Time: 11:00 AM – 11:40 AM (EDT)

Topic: The impact of the current financial crisis on achieving the MDGs and the role of private sector in the achievement of the MDGs.

Speaker: Mr. Georg Kell, Executive Director, United Nations Global Compact

Bio: Mr. Kell is the Executive Director of the United Nations Global Compact, the world's largest voluntary corporate citizenship. Following extensive experiences in Africa and Asia as a financial analyst, Mr. Kell began his career at the UN in Geneva, where he worked from 1987 to 1990 with the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD). In 1990, he joined the New York office of UNCTAD, which he headed from 1993 to 1997. In 1997, Mr. Kell became a senior officer in the Executive Office of UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan, responsible for fostering cooperation with the private sector. He has served as head of the UN Global Compact since 2000. A native of Germany, Mr. Kell holds advanced degrees in economics and engineering from the Technical University of Berlin.