

## **Press Release**

**(Beirut, April 7, 2006).** In the presence of H.E. Minister of Finance, Dr. Jihad Azour, and H.E. Minister of Social Affairs Ms. Nayla Mouawad, the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) is organizing, in partnership with the Arab NGO Network for Development (ANND), a “National Workshop on the MDGs Process in Lebanon” on **Tuesday the 11<sup>th</sup> of April, 2006, at 10:00 am, at Meridien-Commodore Hotel, Hamra, Beirut.**

H.E. Dr. Azour will present the preparations of Beirut 1, while H.E. Ms. Nayla Mouawad will put forth the National Plan for poverty alleviation. Mr. Al Fadh Shalak, director of the Council for Reconstruction & Rehabilitation, will present the developmental Plan of the years 2006-2009. The opening session will include statements by Dr. Mona Hammam, UNDP Resident Representative, and Mr. Ziad Abdel Samad, ANND Executive Director, in addition to a presentation by the Political Analyst, Dr. Paul Salem, who will highlight the influence of local and regional political conditions on the development process.

The Development Goals workshop aims at directing the civil society’s perspectives towards elaborating developmental strategies in Lebanon, and enhancing the dialogue between decision-makers and development stakeholders such as governmental institutions, UN Agencies, donors and the civil society, in order to integrate the MDGs within the national development policies and strategies.

The President of the Parliamentary Committee for Human Rights, H.E. Dr. Michel Moussa will participate in this two-days Workshop (11 & 12 April), putting forth the relation between the MDGs and Human Rights.

Several ambassadors will participate in this workshop in addition to Chiefs of UN Agencies, International Organizations, Representatives of governmental institutions, public and private sector, Universities and Civil Society Organizations.

We hope you will participate in this workshop that will shed the light on the steps taken at the country-level by the government headed by the late President of the Council of Ministers, Rafik Hariri, which launched a process to formulate a national strategy for poverty eradication in the course of the MDG campaign, and established a ministerial committee composed of the Ministers of Social Affairs, Youth & Sports, Education & Culture, Economy & Trade, and Finance.

Please find attached the detailed seminar agenda.

For further information please contact UNDP at :01/978702