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UN APPOINTS NEW MEMBERS TO THE GLOBAL ALLIANCE FOR ICT AND DEVELOPMENT

United Nations, 15 June -- The United Nations announced a new chairmanship and new members of the Global Alliance for Information and Communications Technologies for Development of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA GAID), in a partial renewal of both its Steering Committee and Strategy Council.

Mr. Talal Abu-Ghazaleh, CEO of Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Organization, has been appointed as the new Chairman. He will take over from Dr. Craig Barrett, Chairman of the Board of Intel Corporation. The new Chairman will be assisted by Mr. Ram n Garza (CEO,  ndigo Media) and Mr. Kamran Elahian (CEO, Global Catalyst Partners) as Co-Chairs in an arrangement aimed at ensuring a powerful leadership team to solidify UNDESA GAID successful functioning in the coming year and beyond.

Replacing one-third of the membership of both the Committee and the Council, the new members are expected to follow up on the strategic work towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) through ICT, initiated in the past years.

This will constitute a  Powerful, innovative team that will open strategic opportunities to meet key global challenges such as poverty eradication, the economic recession and climate change  , says Sarbuland Khan, the Executive Coordinator of UNDESA GAID while announcing new membership of the Alliance. Mr. Khan added that UNDESA GAID will focus on these global issues, as well as on governance and gender, and mainstream them in the context of the broader United Nations Development Agenda, in the coming year.

Members of UNDESA GAID are representatives from Governments, private sector, civil society and international organizations selected through worldwide consultations with all stakeholder groups to ensure gender, geographical and institutional balances.

The new members were appointed from a list of more than 90 nominations received from all stakeholders. The more than 90 applications for memberships, which is about three times the number of positions to be renewed, is a sign of the growing awareness of the contribution information and communication technologies (ICT) can make towards eradicating poverty and advancing development. It also symbolizes the recognition of UNDESA GAID s ability to bring together and partner with many competent and committed organizations, a diverse and innovative group of stakeholders representing all regions and issues.

As a result of this progress and success, UNDESA GAID decided to expand membership of both the Steering Committee from 15 to 20, and the Strategy Council from 65 to 76.

The Steering Committee is tasked to provide overall guidance for UNDESA GAID and help define the medium- and long-term priorities of the organization in conjunction with the Strategy Council. The Steering Committee also serves the Under-Secretary-General in an advisory capacity while, for its parts, the Strategy Council plays an advisory role in defining priorities and policy directions, and promoting further partnerships under the umbrella of the Global Alliance.



Mr.
Talal Abu-Ghazaleh,
Chairman



Mr.
Kamran Elahian, Co-chair



Mr.
Ram n A. Garza, Co-chair