



UNITED NATIONS  
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS  
SECRETARIAT OF THE GLOBAL ALLIANCE FOR ICT AND DEVELOPMENT

Room DC2-1442, Two United Nations Plaza, New York, N.Y., 10017  
Telephone: (1-212) 963-5796 Fax: (1-917) 367-4340



Website address: [www.un-gaid.org](http://www.un-gaid.org)

26 October 2009

Dear Mr. Berman,

In view of your leadership and experience in applying information and communication technologies (ICT) to improve people's lives, it gives me great pleasure to invite you to be a member of the High-level Panel of Advisers (terms of reference attached) of the Global Alliance for Information and Communication Technologies and Development (GAID).

The Secretary-General of the United Nations established the Global Alliance in March 2006, to meet the need for an inclusive, multi-stakeholder global forum and platform for policy dialogue and partnership-building to promote the use of ICT for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), and to enable and catalyze multi-stakeholder partnerships for action under the GAID umbrella. The Alliance has been formed on the basis of worldwide consultations within and outside the United Nations system.

The Global Alliance functions primarily as a decentralized network open to the participation of all stakeholders, including governments, business, civil society and international organizations. The policy dialogue it engages in is geared to promote exchange of experience, knowledge-sharing and best practice. The Alliance builds on, and seeks to link up, existing initiatives and networks and promote synergies among them, so as to avoid duplication and foster mutual reinforcement of on-going efforts.

The Alliance addresses core issues related to the role of ICT in economic development and eradication of poverty, employment and enterprise in pro-poor growth scenarios, with particular focus on health, education, gender, youth, and the disabled and disadvantaged segments of society. Groups of participants are encouraged to coalesce around specific topics of mutual interest in collaborative networks.

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Mr. David Berman  
President  
David Berman Communications  
[berman@davidberman.com](mailto:berman@davidberman.com)  
Ottawa, Canada

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Since its inaugural meeting generously hosted by the Government of Malaysia in Kuala Lumpur on 19-20 June 2006, the Alliance has steadily moved forward with its work. It has adopted a Business Plan. Several meetings of the Steering Committee and Strategy Council have taken place. Flagship partnership initiatives, communities of expertise as well as regional networks have been launched. The Alliance has organized three Global Forums and several events to examine cutting-edge issues in ICTD for Development and bridge the gap between technology innovators and the development community. The Alliance also contributed to mainstreaming ICT in the United Nations Development Agenda through events at sessions of the Economic and Social Council and the Commission of Science and Technology for Development. I invite you to find more information on these achievements on our website: <http://www.un-gaid.org/>.

We should be grateful if you would kindly confirm your acceptance to participate in the High-level Panel of Advisers and provide the GAID secretariat ([gaid@un-gaid.org](mailto:gaid@un-gaid.org)) with your contact information, in order to facilitate future interaction with the Alliance.

I look forward to working with you closely in making this important initiative a truly global effort with clear and tangible results.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurance of my highest consideration.



Sarbuland Khan  
Executive Coordinator, Secretariat  
Global Alliance for ICT and Development (GAID)