

# Achieving the Internationally Agreed Development Goals Dialogues at the Economic and Social Council

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## CONTENTS

<b>Glossary of Acronyms</b>	<b>XII</b>
<b>Preface</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Introduction</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>1. Achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration, as well as implementing the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits: progress made, challenges and opportunities</b>	<b>7</b>
<b><u>Overview</u></b>	<b>7</b>
<b>The State of the World Economy</b>	<b>10</b>
Mr. Kofi Annan Secretary-General United Nations	
<b>Progress, Challenges and Opportunities for Achieving the Internationally Agreed Development Goals</b>	
H.E. Mrs. Tarja Halonen President of the Republic of Finland	
<b>Strengthening the Role of the Economic and Social Council</b>	
H.E. Mr. Gérard Latortue Prime Minister of the Republic of Haiti	
<b>The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs): Issues and Challenges</b>	<b>19</b>
Mr. Jeffrey D. Sachs Special Adviser of the Secretary-General on the Millennium Development Goals Director, United Nations Millennium Project Director, The Earth Institute at Columbia University	
<b>Towards Achieving the MDGs: Addressing Absorptive Capacity Constraints</b>	<b>22</b>
Mr. François Bourguignon Chief Economist and Senior Vice President The World Bank	

**Voices against Poverty: The Role of Employment in Achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)**

Mr. Juan Somavia  
Director-General  
International Labour Organization (ILO)

**Voices against Poverty: Refugees and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)** 28

Mr. António Guterres  
High Commissioner for Refugees

**2. High Level Policy Dialogue on Current Developments in the World economy and International Economic Cooperation in the context of Achieving the Millennium Development Goals** 31

**Overview** 31

**The World Economic Situation and Prospects** 33

Mr. José Antonio Ocampo  
Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs  
United Nations

**Current Developments in the World Economy and International Trade** 36

Dr. Supachai Panitchpakdi  
Director-General  
World Trade Organization

**Mixed Signal: Ten years left before 2015** 38

Mr. Jean-Louis Sarbib  
Senior Vice President and Head of the Human Development Network  
The World Bank

**Global Growth Performance and its Challenges** 42

**Mr. Carlos Fortin**  
Officer-in-Charge, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)

**The World Economy: Situation and Challenges** 48

Mr. Reinhard Munzberg  
Special Representative of the International Monetary Fund to the United Nations

**3. The Eradication of Poverty and Hunger** 51

**Overview**

**On the Paradox of Poverty and Hunger amidst Plenty**

Mr. Jacques Diouf  
Director-General

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

<b>The Rural Problematique</b>	<b>61</b>
Mr. Gary Howe Chief Development Strategist International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)	
<b>The Need for a Fair Process of Globalization</b>	<b>64</b>
Mr. Eddy Lee Senior Adviser on Economic and Social Policy International Institute for Labour Studies International Labour Organization (ILO)	
<b>A Social Perspective</b>	<b>66</b>
Mr. Johan Schölvinnck Director Division for Social Policy and Development Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) United Nations	
<b>Dialogue on Progress, Challenges and Opportunities for Achieving the Internationally Agreed Development Goals</b>	<b>67</b>
Mrs. Charlotte McClain-Nhalpo Commissioner, South African Human Rights Commission (SAHRC)	
<b>Focusing on the Linkages between the Development Goals</b>	<b>72</b>
Mr. Mark McGillivray Senior Research Fellow, Project Director United Nations University (UNU)	
<b>The Gender Dimension</b>	<b>73</b>
Mrs. Joan Holmes Member of the United Nations Millennium Project Task Force on Hunger President of the Hunger Project	
<b>Making the MDGs Relevant for Indigenous Peoples</b>	<b>74</b>
Mrs. Victoria Tauli Corpuz Member United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII)	
<b>4. The Health and Development Nexus</b>	<b>79</b>
<b><u>Overview</u></b>	
<b>Mainstreaming Sexual and Reproductive Health Women's Empowerment and Gender Equality</b>	
Mrs. Thoraya Ahmed Obaid Executive Director	

United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)	
<b>Seizing the Opportunity to Achieve the Millennium Development Goals</b>	<b>83</b>
Dr. Victor Ortega Deputy Director UNAIDS, New York Office	
<b>The Challenges of Addressing Malaria, HIV/AIDS and Tuberculosis</b>	<b>85</b>
Dr. Agnes Binagwaho Co-Coordinator of the HIV/AIDS Task Force of the UN Millennium Project	
<b>New Approaches in Health Systems to Attain the MDGs</b>	<b>86</b>
Mrs. Lynn P. Freedman, JD, MPH Associate Professor Mailman School of Public Health, Columbia University Lead Author, UN Millennium Project Task Force on Child Health and Maternal Health	
<b>5. Global Partnerships and Financing of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)</b>	<b>91</b>
<b><u>Overview</u></b>	<b>91</b>
<b>Mobilizing International Resources for Development</b>	<b>94</b>
Mr. José Luis Machinea Executive Secretary The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)	
<b>Financing the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs): Opportunities and Challenges</b>	<b>97</b>
Mr. Stefano Manservigi Director-General for Development Directorate General for the European Commission	
<b>6. Building State Capacity to Meet the MDGs: Human Rights, Governance, Institutions and Human Resources</b>	<b>99</b>
<b><u>Overview</u></b>	
<b>Importance of Good Governance for Successful Strategies to Achieve the MDGs</b>	<b>102</b>
H.E. Mrs. Tarja Halonen President of the Republic of Finland	
<b>The Role of Institutions in Achieving the United Nations Development Agenda</b>	<b>103</b>
Mr. José Antonio Ocampo Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs United Nations	
<b>The Millennium Development Goals and Human Rights</b>	<b>104</b>

Mrs. Mehr Khan Williams  
Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights

**Democratizing the MDG Agenda** 106

Professor Rehman Sobhan  
Chairman  
Centre for Policy Dialogue

**7. Education and Literacy** 113

**Overview** 113

**Educational Strategies for Quality Improvements**

Mrs. Beverly Jones  
Sr. Vice-President and Director of Global Education Programs  
Academy of Educational Development

**Intractable Challenges in Advancing Education and Literacy** 118

Mr. James E. Page  
Adjunct Research Professor  
School of Canadian Studies, Carleton University

**Eliminating Gender Disparity in Primary and Secondary Education** 121

Mrs. Geeta Rao Gupta  
President  
International Center for Research on Women (ICRW)

**8. Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women** 125

**Overview** 125

**Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women at the Local Level** 126

Mrs. Rachel Mayanja  
Assistant Secretary-General  
Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women

**The Role of UNIFEM in achieving the MDG on Promoting Gender Equality and Empowering Women** 127

Mrs. Noeleen Heyzer  
Executive Director  
United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM)

**The Beijing Plus 10 Review: Contribution of the 2005 World Summit Towards Enhancing Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment** 129

Mrs. Charlotte Bunch  
Executive Director  
Center for Women's Global Leadership

<b>9. Environmental Sustainability</b>	<b>133</b>
<b><u>Overview</u></b>	<b>133</b>
<b>Centrality of Environmental Sustainability in Achieving the MDGs</b>	<b>135</b>
H.E. Mr. Rogatien Biaou Minister of Foreign Affairs of Benin	
<b>A Paradigm Shift on Environmental Sustainability and Development</b>	<b>136</b>
H.E. Mrs. Brigitte Girardin Minister of Development Cooperation and de la Francophonie Republic of France	
<b>International Debate on Environmental Sustainability – Focusing on UNEP Governing Council</b>	<b>139</b>
Mr. Prayono Atiyanto Chargé d'affaires, Permanent Mission of the Republic of Indonesia to the United Nations, on behalf of H. E. Mr. Rachmat Witoelar, Minister of Environment of the Republic of Indonesia	
<b>Nature's Capital and the Millennium Development Goals</b>	<b>141</b>
Dr. Klaus Toepfer Executive Director United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)	
<b>Sustainable Urbanization</b>	<b>143</b>
Mrs. Anna Tibaijuka Executive Director United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT)	
<b>Training and Capacity Building in the Field of Environmental Sustainability: UNITAR's Activities</b>	<b>146</b>
Mr. Marcel A. Boisard Executive Director United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR)	
<b>10. National Strategies to Achieve the MDGs</b>	<b>151</b>
<b><u>Overview</u></b>	
<b>National Implementation of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)</b>	<b>153</b>
H.E. Mr. Sidi Ould Didi Minister of Economic Affairs and Development of Mauritania	
<b>The Experience of Barbados in Achieving the Millennium Development Goals</b>	<b>157</b>
H.E. Mr. Christopher Fitzherbert Hackett Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Barbados to the United Nations	

<b>The Experience of Kenya in Achieving the Millennium Development Goals</b>	<b>161</b>
H.E. Professor Judith Mbula Bahemuka Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Kenya to the United Nations	
<b>Redressing Development Cooperation to attain the MDGs</b>	<b>163</b>
H. E. Mr. Abdullah M. Alsaidi Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Republic of Yemen to the United Nations	
<b>The Experience of Brazil in Achieving the Millennium Development Goals</b>	<b>164</b>
Mr. Frederico S. Duque Estrada Meyer Minister Plenipotentiary, Permanent Mission of Brazil to the United Nations, on behalf of H.E. Mr. Ronaldo Mota Sardenberg, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Brazil to the United Nations	
<b>The Experience of Mauritania in Achieving the Millennium Development Goals</b>	<b>167</b>
H.E. Mr. Hamadi Ould Meimou Commissioner for Human Rights, Poverty Alleviation and Integration of Mauritania	
<b>11. Contributions of Nongovernmental Organizations</b>	<b>171</b>
<b>Annex 1: Report of the Secretary-General</b>	<b>183</b>
<b>Annex 2: President's Summary of the High-Level Segment of the Substantive Session of ECOSOC 2005</b>	<b>221</b>
<b>Annex 3: Programme of the ECOSOC High-Level Segment Events</b>	<b>233</b>
<b>ECOSOC High-Level Segment Preparatory Meetings</b> 16-17 March, and 5 April 2005	
<b>ECOSOC High-Level Segment</b> 29 June – 1 July 2005	

**Department of Economic and Social Affairs**  
Office for ECOSOC Support and Coordination

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**The views expressed in this publication are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs.**

## **DESA**

**The Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat is a vital interface between global policies in the economic, social and environmental spheres and national action. The Department works in three main interlinked areas: (i) it compiles, generates and analyses a wide range of economic, social and environmental data and information on which States Members of the United Nations draw to review common problems and to take stock of policy options; (ii) it facilitates the negotiations of Member States in many intergovernmental bodies on joint courses of action to address ongoing or emerging global challenges; and (iii) it advises interested Governments on the ways and means of translating policy frameworks developed in United Nations conferences and summits into programmes at the country level and, through technical assistance, helps build national capabilities.**

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This book has been prepared by the Office for ECOSOC Support and Coordination, Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations. The Secretary-General's report to the High-Level Segment of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) on "Towards Achieving Internationally Agreed Development Goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration" and the President's Summary of the ECOSOC High-Level Segment are attached as annexes. The book also draws upon the debates and outcomes of the Council's session as well as on a series of roundtables organized in preparation for the session. The roundtables and panels were sponsored by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), World Food Programme (WFP), World Health Organization (WHO), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), DESA/Division for Public Administration and Management, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (UNHCHR), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), DESA/Division for the Advancement of Women, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Millennium Project, Commission on Science and Technology, UN ICT Task Force, International Land Coalition (ILC), United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF), Office of the High-Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (OHRLLS), International Labour Organization (ILO), European Commission, United Nations Volunteer (UNV), International Organization for Migration (IOM), Office of the Special Adviser on Africa (OSAA), Office of the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women (OSAGI), NGO Section of the Office for ECOSOC Support and Coordination, Department of Economic and Social Affairs. Their support is acknowledged with thanks.

# CONTENTS

<b>Glossary of Acronyms</b>	<b>xii</b>
<b>Preface</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Introduction</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>1 Achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration, as well as implementing the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits: progress made, challenges and opportunities</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Overview</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>The State of the World Economy</b>	<b>10</b>
Mr. Kofi Annan Secretary-General United Nations	
<b>Progress, Challenges and Opportunities for Achieving the Internationally Agreed Development Goals</b>	<b>13</b>
H.E. Mrs. Tarja Halonen President of the Republic of Finland	
<b>Strengthening the Role of the Economic and Social Council</b>	<b>16</b>
H.E. Mr. Gérard Latortue Prime Minister of the Republic of Haiti	
<b>The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs): Issues and Challenges</b>	<b>19</b>
Mr. Jeffrey D. Sachs Special Adviser of the Secretary-General on the Millennium Development Goals Director, United Nations Millennium Project Director, The Earth Institute at Columbia University	
<b>Towards Achieving the MDGs: Addressing Absorptive Capacity Constraints</b>	<b>22</b>
Mr. François Bourguignon Chief Economist and Senior Vice President The World Bank	
<b>Voices against Poverty: The Role of Employment in Achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)</b>	<b>25</b>
Mr. Juan Somavia Director-General International Labour Organization (ILO)	
<b>Voices against Poverty: Refugees and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)</b>	<b>28</b>
Mr. António Guterres	

High Commissioner for Refugees

<b>2</b>	<b>High Level Policy Dialogue on Current Developments in the World economy and International Economic Cooperation in the context of Achieving the Millennium Development Goals</b>	<b>31</b>
	<b>Overview</b>	<b>31</b>
	<b>The World Economic Situation and Prospects</b>	<b>33</b>
	Mr. José Antonio Ocampo Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs United Nations	
	<b>Current Developments in the World Economy and International Trade</b>	<b>36</b>
	Dr. Supachai Panitchpakdi Director-General World Trade Organization	
	<b>Mixed Signal: Ten years left before 2015</b>	<b>38</b>
	Mr. Jean-Louis Sarbib Senior Vice President and Head of the Human Development Network The World Bank	
	<b>Global Growth Performance and its Challenges</b>	<b>42</b>
	Mr. Carlos Fortin Officer-in-Charge, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)	
	<b>The World Economy: Situation and Challenges</b>	<b>48</b>
	Mr. Reinhard Munzberg Special Representative of the International Monetary Fund to the United Nations	
<b>3</b>	<b>The Eradication of Poverty and Hunger</b>	<b>51</b>
	<b>Overview</b>	<b>51</b>
	<b>On the Paradox of Poverty and Hunger amidst Plenty</b>	<b>53</b>
	Mr. Jacques Diouf Director-General Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)	
	<b>The Rural Problematique</b>	<b>61</b>
	Mr. Gary Howe Chief Development Strategist International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)	
	<b>The Need for a Fair Process of Globalization</b>	<b>64</b>
	Mr. Eddy Lee Senior Adviser on Economic and Social Policy International Institute for Labour Studies International Labour Organization (ILO)	

	<b>A Social Perspective</b>	<b>66</b>
	Mr. Johan Schölvinck Director Division for Social Policy and Development Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) United Nations	
	<b>Dialogue on Progress, Challenges and Opportunities for Achieving the Internationally Agreed Development Goals</b>	<b>67</b>
	Mrs. Charlotte McClain-Nhalpo Commissioner, South African Human Rights Commission (SAHRC)	
	<b>Focusing on the Linkages between the Development Goals</b>	<b>72</b>
	Mr. Mark McGillivray Senior Research Fellow, Project Director United Nations University (UNU)	
	<b>The Gender Dimension</b>	<b>73</b>
	Mrs. Joan Holmes Member of the United Nations Millennium Project Task Force on Hunger President of the Hunger Project	
	<b>Making the MDGs Relevant for Indigenous Peoples</b>	<b>74</b>
	Mrs. Victoria Tauli Corpuz Member United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII)	
<b>4</b>	<b>The Health and Development Nexus</b>	<b>79</b>
	<b>Overview</b>	<b>79</b>
	<b>Mainstreaming Sexual and Reproductive Health Women’s Empowerment and Gender Equality</b>	<b>81</b>
	Mrs. Thoraya Ahmed Obaid Executive Director United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)	
	<b>Seizing the Opportunity to Achieve the Millennium Development Goals</b>	<b>83</b>
	Dr. Victor Ortega Deputy Director UNAIDS, New York Office	
	<b>The Challenges of Addressing Malaria, HIV/AIDS and Tuberculosis</b>	<b>85</b>
	Dr. Agnes Binagwaho Co-Coordinator of the HIV/AIDS Task Force of the UN Millennium Project	

	<b>New Approaches in Health Systems to Attain the MDGs</b>	<b>86</b>
	Mrs. Lynn P. Freedman, JD, MPH Associate Professor Mailman School of Public Health, Columbia University Lead Author, UN Millennium Project Task Force on Child Health and Maternal Health	
<b>5</b>	<b>Global Partnerships and Financing of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)</b>	<b>91</b>
	<b>Overview</b>	<b>91</b>
	<b>Mobilizing International Resources for Development</b>	<b>94</b>
	Mr. José Luis Machinea Executive Secretary The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)	
	<b>Financing the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs): Opportunities and Challenges</b>	<b>97</b>
	Mr. Stefano Manservigi Director-General for Development Directorate General for the European Commission	
<b>6</b>	<b>Building State Capacity to Meet the MDGs: Human Rights, Governance, Institutions and Human Resources</b>	<b>99</b>
	<b>Overview</b>	<b>99</b>
	<b>Importance of Good Governance for Successful Strategies to Achieve the MDGs</b>	<b>102</b>
	H.E. Mrs. Tarja Halonen President of the Republic of Finland	
	<b>The Role of Institutions in Achieving the United Nations Development Agenda</b>	<b>103</b>
	Mr. José Antonio Ocampo Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs United Nations	
	<b>The Millennium Development Goals and Human Rights</b>	<b>104</b>
	Mrs. Mehr Khan Williams Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights	
	<b>Democratising the MDG Agenda</b>	<b>106</b>
	Professor Rehman Sobhan Chairman Centre for Policy Dialogue	
<b>7</b>	<b>Education and Literacy</b>	<b>113</b>
	<b>Overview</b>	<b>113</b>
	<b>Educational Strategies for Quality Improvements</b>	<b>115</b>
	Mrs. Beverly Jones Sr. Vice-President and Director of Global Education Programs	

Academy of Educational Development

**Intractable Challenges in Advancing Education and Literacy** 118

Mr. James E. Page  
Adjunct Research Professor  
School of Canadian Studies, Carleton University

**Eliminating Gender Disparity in Primary and Secondary Education** 121

Mrs. Geeta Rao Gupta  
President  
International Center for Research on Women (ICRW)

**8 Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women** 125

**Overview** 125

**Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women at the Local Level** 126

Mrs. Rachel Mayanja  
Assistant Secretary-General  
Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women

**The Role of UNIFEM in achieving the MDG on Promoting Gender Equality and Empowering Women** 127

Mrs. Noeleen Heyzer  
Executive Director  
United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM)

**The Beijing Plus 10 Review: Contribution of the 2005 World Summit Towards Enhancing Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment** 129

Mrs. Charlotte Bunch  
Executive Director  
Center for Women's Global Leadership

**9 Environmental Sustainability** 133

**Overview** 133

**Centrality of Environmental Sustainability in Achieving the MDGs** 135

H.E. Mr. Rogatien Biaou  
Minister of Foreign Affairs of Benin

**A Paradigm Shift on Environmental Sustainability and Development** 136

H.E. Mrs. Brigitte Girardin  
Minister of Development Cooperation and de la Francophonie  
Republic of France

**International Debate on Environmental Sustainability – Focusing on UNEP Governing Council** 139

Mr. Prayono Atiyanto



Chargé d'affaires, Permanent Mission of the Republic of Indonesia to the United Nations, on behalf of H. E. Mr. Rachmat Witoelar, Minister of Environment of the Republic of Indonesia

**Nature's Capital and the Millennium Development Goals 141**

Dr. Klaus Toepfer  
Executive Director  
United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

**Sustainable Urbanization 143**

Mrs. Anna Tibaijuka  
Executive Director  
United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT)

**Training and Capacity Building in the Field of Environmental Sustainability: UNITAR's Activities 146**

Mr. Marcel A. Boisard  
Executive Director  
United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR)

**10 National Strategies to Achieve the MDGs 151**

**Overview 151**

**National Implementation of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) 153**

H.E. Mr. Sidi Ould Didi  
Minister of Economic Affairs and Development of Mauritania

**The Experience of Barbados in Achieving the Millennium Development Goals 157**

H.E. Mr. Christopher Fitzherbert Hackett  
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Barbados to the United Nations

**The Experience of Kenya in Achieving the Millennium Development Goals 161**

H.E. Professor Judith Mbula Bahemuka  
Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Kenya to the United Nations

**Redressing Development Cooperation to attain the MDGs 163**

H. E. Mr. Abdullah M. Alsaïdi  
Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Republic of Yemen to the United Nations

**The Experience of Brazil in Achieving the Millennium Development Goals 164**

Mr. Frederico S. Duque Estrada Meyer  
Minister Plenipotentiary, Permanent Mission of Brazil to the United Nations, on behalf of H.E. Mr. Ronaldo Mota Sardenberg, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Brazil to the United Nations

**The Experience of Mauritania in Achieving the Millennium Development Goals 167**

H.E. Mr. Hamadi Ould Meïmou  
Commissioner for Human Rights, Poverty Alleviation and Integration of Mauritania

<b>11 Contributions of Nongovernmental Organizations</b>	<b>171</b>
<b>Annex 1: Report of the Secretary-General</b>	<b>183</b>
<b>Annex 2: President’s Summary of the High-Level Segment of the Substantive Session of ECOSOC 2005</b>	<b>221</b>
<b>Annex 3: Programme of the ECOSOC High-Level Segment Events</b>	<b>233</b>
<b>ECOSOC High-Level Segment Preparatory Meetings</b> 16-17 March, and 5 April 2005	<b>233</b>
<b>ECOSOC High-Level Segment</b> 29 June – 1 July 2005	<b>240</b>

## GLOSSARY OF ACRONYMS

AED	Academy for Educational Development
AGOA	African Growth and Opportunity Act
AICESIS	International Association of Economic and Social Council and Similar Institutions
APCI	African Productive Capacity Initiative
APWA	All Pakistan Women's Association
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
AU	African Union
BPFA	Beijing Platform For Action
BPoA	Brussels Programme of Action
BRAC	Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee
CAP	Consolidated Appeals Process
CBOs	Community Based Organizations
CCA	Common Country Assessment
CEDAW	United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women
CFA	Commission for Africa
CISS	Commission on Intervention and State Sovereignty
COMESA	Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa
CONGO	Conference of NGOs
COPDES	The Presidential Commission on the MDGs and Sustainable Development
CSW	Commission on the Status of Women
DAC	Development Assistance Committee
DDR	Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration
DESA	Department of Economic and Social Affairs
DRC	Democratic Republic of the Congo
EBA	Everything but Arms
ECA	Economic Commission for Africa
ECE	Economic Commission for Europe
ECHA	Executive Committee on Humanitarian Affairs
ECLAC	Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
ECOSOC	Economic and Social Council
ECOWAS	Economic Commission of West African States
ESCAP	Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
ESCWA	Economic and Social Commission for West Asia
EU	European Union
FALP	Functional Adult Literacy Programme
FAO	United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization
FDI	Foreign Direct Investment
FTI	Fast Track Initiative
G-8	Group of Eight
GC/GMEF	Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GFATM	Global Fund to Fight HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria
GHS	Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labeling of Chemicals
GNI	Gross National Income
GNP	Gross National Product

GSTP	Global System of Trade Preferences
GSP	Generalized System of Preferences
GWP	Gross World Product
HDI	Human Development Index
HDR	Human Development Report
HIPC	Heavily Indebted Poor Countries
IALS	International Adult Literacy Survey
ICESCR	International Covenant on Economic Social and Cultural Rights
ICRW	International Center for Research on Women
ICT	Information and Communications Technology
IDA	International Development Association
IDEAL	Institute for the Development of Education, Arts and Culture
IF	Integrated Framework
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
IFF	International Financing Facility
IFIs	International Financial Institutions
IGO	Inter-Governmental Organizations
ILC	International Land Coalition
ILO	International Labour Organization
IMF	International Monetary Fund
IOM	International Organization for Migration
IPAs	Investment Promotion Agencies
IRENE	Informal Regional Network
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
ISP	Internet Service Providers
ITC	International Trade Commission
IWRM	Integrated Water Resources Management
JITAP	Joint Integrated Technical Assistance Program
LDAs	Least Developed Areas
LDCs	Least Developed Countries
LICUS	Low Income Countries Under Stress
LRRDF	Linking Relief, Rehabilitation and Development Framework
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
MFIs	Multilateral Financial Institutions
MSE	Medium and Small Enterprises
NEPAD	New Partnership for Africa's Development
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organizations
NmGs	National Millennium Goals
NORAD	Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation
ODA	Official Development Assistance
OECD	Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development
OHRLLS	Office of the High Representative for Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States
OSAA	Office of the Special Advisor on Africa
OTI	Office of Transition Initiatives
PPPs	Public-Private Partnerships
PRS	MDG-based Poverty Reduction Strategies
PRSP	Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper
PRTRs	Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers
PTT	Public Telephone and Telegraph
SIDS	Small Island Developing States
SADC	Southern African Development Community

SDRs	Special Drawing Rights
SMEs	Small and Medium Enterprises
SNPA	Substantial New Programme of Action
SOEs	State-Owned Enterprises
STDs	Sexually Transmitted Diseases
SWAP	Sector- Wide Approach Programmes
TNCs	Transnational Corporations
TSP	Transport Sector Programme
TRIPS	Trade Related Intellectual Property Rights
UEMOA	Union Economique et Monetaire Ouest-Africaine
UN	United Nations
UNAs	United Nations Associations
UNCDF	United Nations Capital Development Fund
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNDAF	United Nations Development Assistance Programme
UNDESA	United Nations Department of Social and Economic Affairs
UNDG	United Nations Development Group
UDHR	Universal Declaration of Human Rights
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environmental Programme
UNEO	United Nations Environmental Organization
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNIFEM	United Nations Development Fund for Women
UNFIP	United Nations Fund for International Partnerships
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNHSP	United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
UNITAR	United Nations Institute for Training and Research
UNLD	United Nations Literacy Decade
VAT	Value Added Tax
VOIP	Voice Over Internet Protocol
WCAR	World Conference Against Racism
WDM	Wave Dimension Multiplexing
WFO	World Family Organization
WFP	World Food Programme
WFS	World Family Summit
WFUNA	World Federation of United Nations Associations
WHO	World Health Organization
WME	Women Micro Entrepreneurs
WSSD	World Summit on Sustainable Development
WTO	World Trade Organization

## PREFACE

At the Millennium Summit in 2000, Member States adopted a Declaration that set a number of concrete and time-bound goals with the aim of improving the lives of people living in extreme poverty. The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) have helped to generate a new development momentum by providing a common framework for the entire United Nations system and the larger development community.

Since 2000, major progress in the achievement of the MDGs has been made in several areas. Nonetheless, the overall progress has been uneven. If the MDGs are to be met, a more ambitious strategy has to be pursued. Efforts to achieve the MDGs need to be closely linked to implementing the broader United Nations development agenda produced by the major United Nations conferences and summits held in the 1990s and 2000s, and the agenda itself must be pursued in a coherent and comprehensive way.

Against this backdrop, the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) devoted the High-Level Segment of its 2005 substantive session to the topic of achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration, and implementing the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits. The session brought together a large number of high-level participants, including government representatives, international organizations, regional institutions, as well as civil society and the private sector, to take a comprehensive, critical look at the progress made on development objectives and identify specific actions for the way forward. The session provided the opportunity to assess the progress, challenges and opportunities in the implementation of the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits, and highlight how their implementation can contribute to the achievement of the MDGs. In my view, the deliberations of the High-Level Segment have made a significant substantive contribution to the economic and social aspects of the outcome document that will be adopted by the Heads of State and Government at the 2005 World Summit.

This book is a compilation of the proceedings—statements, issues papers, summaries of high-level roundtable dialogues—of the ECOSOC High-Level Segment as well as its preparatory meetings held in 16-17 March 2005. It also features the contribution of civil society provided through the organization of the NGO/Civil Society Forum in March 2005 and its active participation in the High-Level Segment. The richness of the material reflects the complexity and depth of the discussions and highlights the increasing vitality and relevance of ECOSOC as a critical forum for addressing economic and social issues and its growing role in driving the implementation of the development agenda.



JOSÉ ANTONIO OCAMPO  
Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs  
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## INTRODUCTION

The substantive session of Economic and Social Council held in July 2005 made a significant contribution towards the preparations for the 2005 World Summit for the Review of the Millennium Declaration scheduled for September. The work of the Council throughout the year was uniquely focused on the theme of achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration.

The session itself must be seen against the backdrop of a period when the strong growth in the world economy of the previous year has slowed down since the beginning of 2005. The widening external imbalances across major regions cast a shadow on the otherwise relatively favorable external economic environment for developing countries. Despite positive trends in rising commodity prices and the growth in world trade, and the low cost of external financing, many countries, in particular in Sub-Saharan Africa, have made little headway towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Moreover, their debt burden continued to be a heavy drag on development. The current slow and uneven record in achieving the internationally agreed development goals clearly indicates that in many developing countries a “business as usual” approach is no longer tenable. This implementation deficit in achieving the development goals is a challenge that must be overcome by both developed and developing countries working together in tandem.

Against this background, all efforts of the ECOSOC starting with its preparatory sessions early in the year aimed at bringing together all stakeholders in a wide-ranging dialogue on how to energize the implementation of the development goals, and thereby also contribute in a substantive way towards the 2005 World Summit.

The contribution of the Council was organized around clearly identifiable events that brought together governments, civil society actors, the private sector as well as the United Nations family, including key international organizations. The first was a series of an expert level preparatory meetings held from 16 to 17 March 2005 and on 5 April 2005; the second were a series of side-events at the margins of the key segments of the Council and; the last were the main segments of the substantive session itself-all devoted to the theme of “Achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration, as well as implementing the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits: progress made, challenges and opportunities”. This eleven-chapter publication draws from and highlights some of the vibrant and rich discourse at these events.

The High-Level Segment of the Economic and Social Council for 2005 was successful in several ways. It attracted record participation of heads of state and government, and over 45 ministers and high-level officials. The participation of the heads of UN system organizations and the representatives of civil society equally enriched the experience.

The 2005 session was also marked by key innovations, as part of the continuing effort to improve the working methods of the Council and to strengthen it further. For instance, The “Voices against Poverty” event that featured presentations by the Nobel Laureate



Professor Joseph Stiglitz, of Columbia University; Juan Somavia, the Director-General of the International Labour Organization; and Mr. Antonio Guterres, the High Commissioner for Refugees sent four powerful messages: the systemic basis for widespread poverty, typified by the unfair system of global trade and finance remained intact; although employment remained the central link between economic growth and poverty eradication, the phenomena of jobless growth called for deliberate policies to redress this situation; a key offshoot of poverty is the proliferation of conflicts that has generated millions of refugees and internally displaced persons for whom achieving the Millennium Development Goals was a remote chance, and; the Council had a unique role in coordinating views and actions that enjoined all stakeholders in all these areas and should be facilitated to accomplish its charter mandate.

In the High-Level Segment, the tone of the debate was set by the report of the Secretary-General to the Council that advocated the integration of the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals into the wider effort to implement the United Nations Development Agenda, centered around a few main elements, including: the importance of clear timelines for achieving the ODA target of 0.7%; the necessity for a fresh approach to defining debt sustainability, as outlined in the report of the Secretary-General; the terms under which a truly development-oriented trade round should be completed; innovative sources of financing for development; the right to development; ways to improve national and global governance; and the need to build on the growing consensus that exists on the proposed reforms of ECOSOC and on further strengthening the role of the United Nations, messages that found strong resonance with most members of the Council. The wealth and breadth of the discussions are contained in the President's Summary that will be made available to the 2005 World Summit.

An important lesson from the session is that side events during the Council session continue to be an invaluable forum for Member States, civil society groups and all other stakeholders to further the development dialogue in an informal setting as a way of promoting better understanding of development issues and of promoting consensus by bringing key players together. A typical example was the traditional ECOSOC luncheon\* hosted by the President ECOSOC, that this year discussed the theme: "Achieving the MDGs in conflict situations", attended by the President of Finland, the Prime Minister of Haiti, the Secretary-General, the Presidents of the General Assembly and the Security Council, and several Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Development. This was a very important advocacy opportunity on behalf of Haiti and a firm demonstration of the contributions that the Council and its Ad Hoc Advisory Groups are making in post-conflict situations.

The warm and cordial atmosphere that prevailed during the entire session, and the very open and frank exchanges among the high officials, especially in the well organized and attended side events, did contribute significantly to creating positive understanding, a spirit that should benefit future development dialogue-all endeavours that will hopefully promote consensus building on the parameters of an ambitious, yet realistic, outcome for

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\* This luncheon was co-sponsored by the International Peace Academy and UNDP on 29 June 2005.

the High-Level Plenary Meeting of the Sixtieth Session of the General Assembly, especially in the field of development-and situate the Council as a viable and yet flexible development forum in the United Nations system in which the normative and operational arms converge.

To conclude, the key messages from the session are: First, the MDGs will be achieved only in the context of effective implementation of the broad United Nations development agenda emerging from the United Nations conferences and summits and only if there is real commitment and political will on all sides to an effective and working global partnership for development. The 2005 World Summit provides a strategic opportunity to solidify such a partnership for sustained action over the next decade. Second, to transform ECOSOC into an effective platform for policy dialogue, greater system-wide participation and more practical modalities for conducting the development dialogue should be encouraged. Third, a coherent and effective monitoring mechanisms to review the implementation of the agreed development goals needs to be put in place, for instance by convening an annual ministerial meeting to discuss national strategies to implement commitments from both recipient and donor perspectives. Fourth, although the strong nexus between peace and development is now conventional wisdom, there is still need to ensure timely development support to help in the prevention of conflicts-a task for which ECOSOC is well suited within the United Nations system. And finally, it is also time to look in specific terms at and to make conscious efforts to build on the coordination function of the Council, as envisaged in the Charter, with the close involvement of both the intergovernmental as well as the secretariat components of the system.



H.E. Mr. Munir Akram  
President of the Economic and Social Council  
Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the United Nations



## Chapter 1

# **ACHIEVING THE INTERNATIONALLY AGREED DEVELOPMENT GOALS, INCLUDING THOSE CONTAINED IN THE MILLENNIUM DECLARATION, AS WELL AS IMPLEMENTING THE OUTCOMES OF THE MAJOR UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCES AND SUMMITS: PROGRESS MADE, CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES**

## **Overview**

The major United Nations conferences and summits that were held over the past decade-and-a-half generated an unprecedented global consensus on a shared vision of development. These conferences served to evolve a comprehensive framework for the developmental challenges that cut across a vast array of interlinked issues. One key point was the Millennium Summit, held in 2000, at which the General Assembly adopted a series of challenging time-bound goals and targets. Five years later, the 2005 World Summit offers an important opportunity to take bold steps towards achieving these goals. Following is a synopsis of the contributions contained in this chapter.

In *the State of the World Economy*, the Secretary-General presents a positive view of the world economy. He notes that the growth is widespread among developing countries and economies in transition. There is also a resurgence of growth in sub-Saharan Africa. However, he emphasizes that the biggest challenge is to translate growth into development for all. Economic growth is vital, but not sufficient by itself. He hopes that the World Summit will boost the achievement of the development goals and advance the broader development agenda so that more and more developing countries will participate in the global economic governance.

H.E. Mrs. Tarja Halonen, President of the Republic of Finland, in her contribution, *Progress, Challenges and Opportunities for Achieving the Internationally Agreed Development Goals*, calls for more attention on demographic threats, infectious diseases and epidemics as well as women's status. It also highlights the social dimension of globalization, citing the work of the World Commission on the Social Dimension of Globalization. In making advance towards the achievement of the goals, it underscores the importance of the role of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).

Noting the importance of development in bringing about peace and security, H.E. Mr. Gérard Latortue, Prime Minister of the Republic of Haiti, in his contribution, *Strengthening the Role of the Economic and Social Council*, presents ten recommendations to the Economic and Social Council so that the Council could assume the important role. The recommendations highlight the coordinating role of the Council in economic and social issues and present ideas for the focuses of its work, including the creation of a more equitable economic system, donor coordination and solving debt

problems. It also highlights the vulnerability of the Small Island Developing States (SIDS).

Based on the outcome of the Millennium Project, Mr. Jeffrey Sachs, Special Adviser of the Secretary-General on the Millennium Development Goals, in his contribution, *The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs): Issues and Challenges*, underscores that ending extreme poverty in this generation is technically, scientifically and economically feasible. It calls for three types of core investments: investment in people, in the environment and in infrastructure. These investments needs will be met by the Official Development Assistance (ODA) generated by the 0.7 per cent target. Several possible quick wins, such as the provision of bed-nets against malaria, are presented. It sends a strong message that these are possible, if only we start now.

Mr. François Bourguignon, Chief Economist and Senior Vice-President of the World Bank, in his contribution, *Towards Achieving the MDGs: Addressing Absorptive Capacity Constraints* analyses the need to improve absorptive capacity in order to achieve MDGs, in particular to deal with the front-loading of aid that is being envisaged. Using a simulation model on Ethiopia, it demonstrates that in addition to the multiplication of aid amount, other conditions must be met to achieve the MDGs. They include: improvements in governance, strengthening institutions, and improving the business climate. It also calls for the donors to improve the quality and alignment of aid with national strategies.

### **Voices against Poverty**

Concrete proposals are made in order to achieve the Millennium Development Goals. The first focuses on financial requirements, the second, on the creation of decent jobs, and the third, on the issue of refugees.

Professor Joseph Stiglitz, Professor of Finance and Economics, Columbia University, and Nobel Laureate in Economics in 2001, in his contribution, *The Challenges of Meeting the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)*, proposes three initiatives that could be taken at the international level to generate more resources for meeting the MDGs beside ODA. The first is a fair trade mechanism that would promote development. The second is the global financial stability that could be produced by changing the global reserve system. It proposes the global greenback system as a reasonable alternative. The third is innovative finance, focusing on compensation for environmental services. It proposes that “abortive deforestation” be recognized and compensated for within the framework of the Kyoto Protocol.

Mr. Juan Somavia, Director-General of the International Labour Organization (ILO), in his contribution, *The Role of Employment in Achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)*, focuses on the need to create opportunities for decent jobs. It notes that there is a global jobs crisis, shown by jobless growth. It highlights the need to move the issue of productive employment and decent work up the policy agenda in order to achieve the internationally agreed development goals and to address social insecurities. It also calls for the expansion of the scope for the decent-work vision to all, not just to young people, as initially called for in the Millennium Declaration.

Mr. António Guterres, High Commissioner for Refugees, in his contribution, *Refugees and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)*, presents the problems faced by refugees and displaced persons, which are seldom included in the debate on development. Their cases seldom appear in national MDG strategies. Little attention has been given to the relationship between conflict and the MDGs. In addition, there is a huge gap between relief and development. Providing humanitarian assistance will not be sustainable without an effective development strategy.

## The State of the World Economy<sup>1</sup>

By Mr. Kofi Annan  
Secretary-General  
United Nations

The state of the world economy remains robust. One of the more striking aspects of the strong growth we have seen in recent years is that it is widespread among developing countries and economies in transition. Another is the resurgence of growth in sub-Saharan Africa. Many African countries are achieving annual per capita growth of 3 per cent, and are expected to reach more than 5 per cent this year.

These are promising trends. But they are not free from risks, such as higher oil prices and, especially, current global economic imbalances in the trade and fiscal areas, which could stall momentum.

And our biggest challenge is still with us: to translate growth into development for all. In most developing countries, we continue to see high rates of unemployment and under-employment. In Africa, the current and even projected rate of growth is just not enough to achieve the Millennium Development Goals.

The message is clear: economic growth is vital, but not sufficient by itself. If economic growth is to make greater inroads against poverty, there is a need for smarter policies, more resources and closer partnerships. Only then will the global economy bring people in from the margins. Only then will the benefits of globalization reach all people, including those who need it most.

The World Summit offers a once-in-a-generation opportunity to give a major boost to our efforts to reach the development goals. It is also a chance to advance the broader development agenda and the larger challenges of development that confront us, in particular such core issues as growing inequality, persistent gender inequality, and increasing the participation of developing countries in global economic governance.

Today, there is reason to feel encouraged.

I hope other donors will follow the lead of the European Union, which has agreed to a substantial increase in official development assistance over the next decade, including a timetable for reaching the 0.7 per cent target for Official Development Assistance (ODA) by 2015. I am especially pleased that half this increase is to be used in Africa.

The commitment of the Group of Eight countries to reach agreements on significant debt relief for the poorest countries is another very promising step.

I hope similarly strong political will can be brought to bear to successfully conclude the Doha trade negotiations, so that developing countries can compete in the global trading system on a fair and equal basis.

Of course, it is not just developed countries, but also developing countries that must do their part. That means devising national strategies bold enough to meet the development

goals. It also means promoting accountable and transparent governance, adopting policies that will stimulate the private sector, and investing in human capital through education and health.

Such steps are vital. But as I stressed in my report, "In Larger Freedom", development will be neither meaningful nor sustainable unless, at the same time, we also ensure security and respect for human rights. After all, developing countries suffer disproportionately from armed conflict, the proliferation of small arms and denials of human rights. Their development prospects would also be dealt a blow should there be a collapse of the international regimes which currently hold in check the spread of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons. An expensive arms race would likely divert even more funds from development than such expenditures do already. And any actual use of a nuclear weapon would have devastating effects on the world economy as a whole.

My report has stressed these and other links. My hope is that Member States will recognize that if they want others to cooperate on issues to which they give priority, they themselves must extend a helping hand on issues to which others give priority. We must move ahead on all three fronts -- development, security and human rights -- together and simultaneously.

The 2005 World Summit is also an opportunity to fortify ECOSOC itself.

As a central body for articulating development policy and ensuring policy coherence, this Council has unique strengths. It is well-placed to promote an integrated approach to development. It is the only organ mandated to coordinate the activities of the UN system and to engage with non-governmental organizations, which are our increasingly vital partners. Along with its extensive network of functional and regional commissions, ECOSOC has many assets to build on. Its overriding task now is to follow through on the development commitments that have emerged from UN conferences and summits of the past decade and a half. The proposals in my report, "In Larger Freedom" focus on three related dimensions of this "implementation challenge".

*First*, we need to bring the various strands of implementation together. We need to engage leaders, policymakers and all the capacities available in the UN system, so that our regular reviews of progress lead to concrete, mutually reinforcing action. Therefore, I have suggested that the Council hold annual ministerial level assessments. If approached in an inclusive participatory way, they could help maintain momentum toward the goals.

*Second*, we need to connect, in a much more systematic manner, policy discussions and operational activities on the ground. There is a need for a platform, an event, a gathering that brings together all key development actors and where all aspects of development cooperation can be addressed in terms of their consistency and coherence, their responsiveness to the policies being advocated, and their effectiveness in generating and sustaining significant results for countries. It is with this in mind that I have called on the Council to convene a biennial, high-level Development Cooperation Forum.

*Third*, we need to respond to threats and challenges in the economic and social area with the same urgency that is brought to peace and security crises. Whether we are confronting a devastating tsunami in Asia, a famine in Africa or a debt crisis in Latin America, our responses must not only offer immediate relief, but also address the broader development



dimensions. We cannot predict, but we can and must prepare, through effective early warning and a strong culture of prevention. These, too, are "coordination" tasks for which ECOSOC is well-suited. But it is certainly not the kind of coordination that can wait the annual substantive session of ECOSOC. That is why I have recommended that the Council should hold timely meetings to respond to events that may seriously affect development progress.

Such steps are intended to make the Council more flexible and dynamic, and ultimately more relevant to those who look to it for guidance. I have also called on ECOSOC to reinforce its links with the Security Council, in order to deal more systematically with the economic and social dimensions of conflicts. In the same vein, I have suggested that ECOSOC work closely with the proposed Peacebuilding Commission, building on the efforts that ECOSOC has made over the years to sensitize the world to the special economic and social challenges facing countries emerging from conflict.

The draft Summit outcome put forward by the President of the General Assembly earlier this month is an important step towards decisive action in September. Despite differences among Member States, we can see that agreement is within reach on many of the main issues and proposals, including those of direct concern to ECOSOC. We must now spare no effort, in the crucial period ahead, to make sure that the 2005 World Summit succeeds in taking bold steps toward making poverty history.

## **Progress, Challenges and Opportunities for Achieving the Internationally Agreed Development Goals<sup>2</sup>**

By H.E. Mrs. Tarja Halonen  
President of the Republic of Finland

The High-Level Segment of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) is an important part of the process intended to estimate how the principles approved and the promises given at the Millennium Summit and other UN conferences and summits in the 1990s and the 2000s have come true. This meeting is fundamental to the preparations for the 2005 World Summit in September.

Secretary-General Kofi Annan based his report “In Larger Freedom” on a broad concept of security – that is the interrelation between development, security and human rights. This approach and comprehensive policies aiming at a virtuous circle of positive development, emphasize increasingly the role of the ECOSOC and its responsibility in building the future. The Economic and Social Council must measure up to its role and assume its responsibility. The ongoing process is an opportunity that must not be missed.

I am pleased to note that a lot of progress has been made in attaining the goals and objectives that have been jointly agreed at UN conferences and summits. However, there is still much work to be done concerning many issues that are important to development. Demographic threats, infectious diseases and epidemics call for a much more decisive approach. The recent special UN session on HIV/AIDS was fairly outspoken about this.

Women are the majority in the world, not the minority. We cannot afford to ignore this resource. There is much to be done in implementing the recommendations of the Final Act of the Beijing conference. Women’s rights, prevention of violence against women and promoting gender equality are of vital importance in promoting human rights and development. Poverty so often wears the face of a woman. If the status of women is not improved, we cannot make progress in eradicating poverty either. Mainstreaming equality issues in all action — including the work of the UN — remains a timely and urgent goal.

The promoting of development, security and human rights strengthens the potential for more equitable and more sustainable globalization, and it works both ways. With more efficient management of globalization and with more just rules, we can make globalization a way of achieving the UN's millennium objectives.

We can and we must reform globalization. This was the fundamental notion behind the World Commission on the Social Dimension of Globalization, which was set up by the ILO. I had the honour of co-chairing the World Commission with the President of Tanzania, Benjamin Mkapa.

The concept of social dimension has now become accepted worldwide. Last December, on the basis of a joint Finnish/Tanzanian initiative, the UN General Assembly unanimously approved a resolution whereby the report of the World Commission “A Fair

Globalization: Creating Opportunities for All” was approved as one of the basic documents for the preparation of the UN summit next September. Of course, the ILO and many other UN agencies and regional organizations have taken up the recommendations of the report. The recommendations of our Commission have been adopted as part of the globalization work of the African Union. The European Union has stressed the importance of the social dimension of globalization – most recently in the conclusions of the June European Council meeting. I believe that our report is part of a process in which globalization will be made fair and will create opportunities for all. I hope that the report of the World Commission will provide concrete content for the outcome of the UN summit in September.

The efficient implementation of the development goals of the Millennium Declaration will help the developing countries to join the process of globalization. The nation-state still remains the most important actor in globalization. Alongside national action and national responsibility, efficient multilateralism and jointly agreed rules are vital to efforts to minimize the disadvantages of globalization. Corporate social responsibility in globalization should also be highlighted more clearly.

The aims of international intergovernmental institutions, non-governmental organizations and the private sector have drawn closer to each other. Our shared goal is to eradicate poverty and to alleviate economic inequality. There is still much to improve in the methods of cooperation and in removing overlapping functions. By virtue of its mandate, this is a permanent challenge for ECOSOC.

A step forward in this respect was again taken at the recently concluded Dialogue on Financing for Development. Coherence is a requirement for cooperation at all levels. It is important to increase economic investments in development cooperation and use also other measures to boost the economic activity of developing countries.

The international community has more clearly expressed its willingness to help solve the debt problems of developing countries. The recent decision by leading industrialized countries to cancel debts of the countries that are the poorest and the most indebted is a significant step. Finland is also prepared to support the implementation of this decision.

In order to be sustainable, the development of a nation must grow on its own merits, the nation must stand on its own feet. Strong democratic states that respect human rights, provide good governance and social justice create the basis for economic enterprise.

People, especially young people, dream about providing for themselves and their families a proper living through decent work. Unfortunately, it is a dream that often still remains just a dream. Making employment a global objective alongside economic growth has still not been achieved. Promotion of employment has been referred to in the charters of many international organizations, but all too often employment takes second place in day-to-day activities. We need to examine the impacts that globalization has on employment and political will to cure unemployment. Cross-border movement of people needs also our attention.

Only states and regions with sufficient economic capacity are able to develop well-functioning economic activity and economic exchange. Consequently, economic and trade-policy organizations have to come to terms with the developing countries,

especially those that are least developed. Agriculture and the textile sector have a key role here.

Sustainable development, including environmental issues, must be integrated even more closely into national and international development programmes. It is important to remember that the major steps in eradicating poverty are still clean water, sufficient nutrition, decent homes and decent work. Climate change has also social consequences.

We need the UN to have a strong role in the management of global environmental issues. I consider it highly important that this autumn we could take a decision to start negotiations with a view to establishing a UN agency for environment.

The reform of the work of the Economic and Social Council must now be undertaken as part of the reform of the UN system as a whole. Although the reform of the Security Council has attracted most of the attention, it must not be allowed to overshadow other issues. ECOSOC must boldly address the problems of countries ravaged by crises and poverty. It must also have a serious look at its own house and be ready for the reform. This is essential for ECOSOC to be able to regain the authority given by the UN Charter – and to be able to play its role in the implementation of broad security and of the broad development agenda.

The Council plays an important part in the promotion of global dialogue and partnerships. This requires closer cooperation with the Bretton Woods institutions and with the World Trade Organization as well as with civil society and the private sector. On the other hand, the Council must boost guidance of the work of the UN's operative agencies to eliminate overlaps and to optimize the use of the available but often limited resources.

I welcome the Secretary-General's proposal on creating a Peace Building Commission, and so does the European Union. It is important for the UN to be able to provide more efficient support for the transition of countries in crisis towards peace and social construction. This work will require guidance on the part of both the Security Council and ECOSOC.

I feel it is highly important for the European Union and other regional organizations to take an active part in globalization, in defending its achievements and in correcting its shortcomings. The conclusions of the June European Council meeting confirm that the 2005 World Summit is important for us Europeans and that we expect much from it.

The European Council has reiterated its strong support for an efficient multilateral system and for the reform of the UN as an institution. The European Union has also decided to increase its public development aid and has set clear numerical goals for the ODA increase. We hope that other developed countries will take up the challenge efficiently and as soon as possible.

When Finland takes up the Presidency of the European Union about one year from now, the UN and the Millennium Development Goals will have a high priority in our work. One of the very first tasks of Finland's Presidency will be to coordinate the cooperation between the EU Member States in the UN Economic and Social Council. For this reason too, I appreciate the opportunity to attend this meeting, and I will convey the results of discussions here to my European colleagues.

Let's make the World Summit this September a positive and effective development experience for all of us and for the United Nations. We must work together to translate goals into reality. The September summit is a continuation of the Millennium Summit – a process towards a safer and a fairer world for us and for our children.

## **Strengthening the Role of the Economic and Social Council<sup>3</sup>**

By H.E. Mr. Gérard Latortue  
Prime Minister of the Republic of Haiti

The target has been placed very high in the fight against poverty and hunger. It deserves the mobilization on a worldwide scale. We have all read the reports of the various conferences of Rome in 1996, the Millennium Summit in 2000, Lao in 2002, and Madrid and Johannesburg in 2002.

In Haiti, with the help of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Resident Representative, we have set up an exceptional program for the development of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), by going to all regions of the country and sensitizing the local population about the development challenges. I think this is a unique experiment for Haiti, and I want to thank the UNDP office for having agreed to share this with us in the spirit of the MDGs with the entire Haitian population. We have to recognize that five years after the Millennium Summit, the international community had the chance to define the objectives and the timetable for the promotion of development and the fight against poverty. We have to recognize that MDG progress is insufficient on a global scale.

In Haiti, in particular, encouraging results are to be noted in the stock-taking of gender issues and gender equality. More than 52% of our population is made up of women, and I have to emphasize the dynamism of our Ministry of Women's Affairs. They have established a very dynamic program for the advancement of the women's rights, empowerment of women and the creation of jobs for women especially in the rural areas. We have also made quite considerable progress, at least in the Caribbean region, in fighting the epidemic of HIV/AIDS as well as in strengthening world partnership to combat this pandemic. Since March 2004, we've established a strong partnership, cooperating with the international community based on the sectoral and global priorities of the government of Haiti. In view of facilitating strong coordination between donors we've also established a special coordination structure that meets on a regular basis to discuss the financial requirement and the use of funds and see if they are meeting the targets for which partner agencies are responsible.

As a representative of one of the poorest countries on our planet, I reaffirm the importance for my country to benefit above all from the action being taken by the international community against hunger and against the devastating effects of poverty. It is vital for us to make some practical recommendations by knowing that the entire

international community will also make precise recommendations so that the international community will make development its priority on the same lines as peace and security in the world. If it is true that there can be no development without security, it is equally true that security without development will only be wishful thinking.

When we see the masses, the impoverished shanty towns surrounding third-world capitals, we realize that these slums, these centers of poverty, constitute a permanent threat to peace and security. It is time for us to wake up and, at the international level, we should be able to give to development an importance at least equal to that given to security. I'd like to see ECOSOC assume within the UN system an equally important role as the Security Council, because we could do everything to maintain peace, but if there is no development, this peace will only be temporary and wishful thinking.

I have prepared a list of ten brief recommendations on which ECOSOC should focus:

*First*, the creation of a more equitable economic system that will promote productive employment and the generation of income, especially in the rural areas in order to avoid the rural exodus and the expansion of shantytowns around the main urban centers which are potential and permanent sources of violence.

*Second*, the setting-up of basic infrastructures for development that primarily will give access to energy, and the construction of roads linking the centers of agricultural production to the trading centers.

*Third*, the promotion of technical standards in the establishment of educational facilities, with the view of creating a professional work force which would be able to raise the standard of living.

*Fourth*, the promotion of Small-and Medium-sized Enterprise (SME), in particular focusing on agricultural production. This would be assisted by market access and the establishment of networks to foreign markets. This would aid in increasing the value-added element of production so that we can encourage exports of products. The promotion of small-and medium-sized industrial businesses and the transformation of agricultural products are extremely important and should require more attention by the international community.

*Fifth*, the mobilization of donors to support financing of government priorities by recipient countries as this is essential for the success of international donor cooperation. This should also be linked with improved coordination with the objective of avoiding duplication and promoting effectiveness of aid. Coordination of donor activity is an essential factor for the success of international cooperation. This is an extremely important role that could be played by ECOSOC in the context of the United Nations. We know the competition in the UN bodies, so we should preach as much as we can for a better international coordination.

*Sixth*, the strengthening of the coordination functions of the Economic and Social Council so that it is equally important and effective as the Security Council in the field of the peace and security.

*Seventh*, the efforts to identify new sources of finance which could be modeled on the “action against hunger and poverty” of President Inacio Lula Da Silva of Brazil. Unfortunately, Haiti lacks funding for such a programme.

*Eight*, the promotion of an open, universal, rule-based and predictable trading system that promotes development. This could also include trade agreements with the European Union through the Cotonou agreement and through America with the Caribbean-based initiative. There is also a whole area of possibilities becoming available to open markets of the countries of the North to the countries of the South. We have the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) that the US has set up to encourage businesses in African countries.

*Ninth*, the rapid and definite solution to the debt problem. In this regard, the debate at the High-Level Segment of ECOSOC emphasized the needs of African and Asian developing countries. However, Small Island Developing States (SIDS) should also be included as they are vulnerable to natural disasters such as floods and typhoons.

*Tenth*, my last recommendation, the harmonization and coordination of the work of UN agencies, funds and programmes as there is a duplication of efforts at the country level. This would require a review of mandates of UN agencies and should streamline the development work of the United Nations system.

In conclusion, I wish to express my concern and also the concern of a large number of economists from the third-world and developing countries and from the Least Developed Countries (LDCs), above all, with regard to the marginalization of the LDCs in the world economy and the constant deterioration of the economic and social situation in spite of all our conferences, in spite of all the arrangements taken by the Brussels Programme of Action (BPoA) in 2001. I call upon the international community to do its utmost for the success of this conference.

Finally, my last word, the word that really comes from the heart, is to express my concern for the vulnerability of the Small Island Developing States and to call upon the international community to support the implementation of the follow-up of the Mauritius conference for the implementation of the Programme of Action that was accepted in Barbados several years ago.

## The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs): Issues and Challenges<sup>4</sup>

By Mr. Jeffrey D. Sachs

Special Adviser of the Secretary-General on the Millennium Development Goals

Director, United Nations Millennium Project

Director, The Earth Institute at Columbia University

The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) can be met, but only if we change our approach to achieving them. Very recently, I went with the great African singer Youssou N'Dour to a village in Senegal, about one hour from Dakar. In this village of 7,000 people, almost everyone has malaria, even though we know how to control the disease through use of long-lasting, insecticide-treated bed-nets and effective medicines such as artemisinin-based combination therapy. Donors have been working in the village for three years. Yet in that time, they have only distributed 400 bed-nets to this community. Why? Because they are trying to sell the bed-nets through social marketing to people who cannot afford them. When we went to this village, we brought a donation of 3,000 bed-nets from Sumitomo Chemical Company, which produces the nets, and distributed them to the community. In one day, seven times more people received bed-nets than after three years of social marketing.

This is today's reality. The international system tries to sell essential, life-saving commodities to people who have no money. It is possible to control malaria in Africa and to achieve the MDGs, but only if bed-nets, key social services, and core infrastructure are provided for free to people who cannot afford them.

Let me give another example. Some weeks ago, I was in a village in Kenya. The head of the village hospital pleaded for help in hiring more nurses, which were much needed since the hospital had only one nurse for every 80 patients. A visit to the ward revealed the conditions in which sick people were treated. There were three patients to a bed. Often one of them had tuberculosis, one of them had AIDS and one of them had malaria. When I wrote to donors last year, requesting the emergency funding necessary for Kenya to rehire 4,000 nurses who had been laid off because of budget constraints in IMF supervised programs, I received a reticent response. The letter I received from the World Bank stated that the situation needed to be studied, because the Bank was not sure that the human resource strategy was appropriate. Kenya can afford a mere \$6 per person per year for health costs, in contrast with the \$6,000 per person per year spent in the U.S., and development partners haven't figured out how to help it hire the nurses it needs but can't afford.

In Koraro, a village in Ethiopia's Tigray province, there is no water because the short rains have failed every year for the last five years. The world hasn't done enough to limit harmful global climate change, and as a result Ethiopians die of hunger due to insufficient rains. It is said that Ethiopia is not meeting the MDGs because it's not



implementing good governance strategies. But the bed of Koraro's so-called perennial river is dry, villagers have to dig about 6 feet below ground to find water for their fields, and their limbs are thin from under-nutrition. Despite these crippling material conditions, rich countries still insist that the problem is bad governance, and then wonder why the MDGs aren't being met.

The fact of the matter is that getting bed-nets to those who need them is not rocket science. Neither is getting them the necessary combination of drugs to fight malaria, a diesel water pump, or a vehicle so that a mother dying in childbirth can get to a hospital in time. The Millennium Project has identified the basic steps that must be taken to change the lives of the poorest people on the planet so that they can survive; so that their children can survive; so that they can grow enough crops; so that their drinking water is clean enough to keep children healthy and in school. But instead of undertaking this work in a comprehensive way, development partners and rich countries try to sell bed-nets to the poorest of the poor, and continue to tell them that they suffer from bad governance. Rich countries don't fulfill a promise made 35 years ago to give just 70 cents out of every \$100 of rich-world income.

The truth is that we have reached a crossroads. The UN Millennium Project and others have given rigorous proof that 0.7% out of rich-world income, spent on key social services, basic infrastructure and environmental management could save millions of lives. Such is the stark choice that the nations of the world face this year. We need to decide what kind of world this is. Do we care how many millions of people are dying every year? Do we care how many children aren't in school? Do we care how much chronic malnutrition exists because of a lack of basic irrigation and basic soil nutrients? Do we care how much our climate is changing as a result of our actions? We hear time and again from the media and rich-world governments that everything is the poor countries' fault. But we in this chamber remember the commitments that we have made together. Poor countries are obligated to practice good governance, and rich countries are obligated to help poor countries make the basic investments to keep their children alive. The rich world is not honoring this commitment.

The UN Millennium Project identified a practical plan to meet the MDGs and it has received a lot of rhetorical support. But rhetoric means nothing for the billion-plus people living in extreme poverty. The international system can have all the wonderful reports and high-minded rhetoric in the world, but there won't be the slightest change until bed-nets and water pumps actually reach the villages.

When is the world going to do things, and not just talk about them? The Report of the Commission for Africa, spearheaded by British Prime Minister Tony Blair, stated last week, "right now Africa could absorb an extra \$25 billion." It didn't say in five years, or in 10 years, it didn't mention absorptive capacity, or stress the importance of capacity training. It said an extra \$25 billion a year, right now. That is just what the UN Millennium Project found in our report. I applaud the British government for leading its wonderful commission. But it is all words so far, until the rich world follows through. It doesn't cost a lot of money to save millions of lives every year; it's not even a penny on the dollar. But it costs something, and the world isn't providing it.

Very briefly, there are three kinds of core investments needed. First, there's investing in people—meaning health, education, nutrition and family planning. Second, there's investing in the environment—meaning soils, land, water and biodiversity. And third, there's investing in infrastructure—meaning roads, motor transport, telecommunications, power and ports. The UN Millennium Project evaluated the costs, and we showed that these needs can be met by the 0.7% target. The Project spelled out an organizational framework centered on MDG-based poverty reduction strategies. Several quick wins are possible. Malaria could be controlled with the mass distribution of bed-nets and effective anti-malarial drugs. School meal programs could be implemented in place in every place with extreme hunger, using locally produced foods. User fees for schools and clinics could be dropped immediately with donors making up the financing difference. These quick wins can be achieved immediately if we want to achieve them. But then presidents are advised not to plan for a health system because they don't have the money for it. The IMF puts budget ceilings in place or tells governments to freeze payrolls, rather than telling donors to increase their funding.

Our report does not call for a single new promise or commitment. It just states that countries should follow through on what they have already promised to do. I would urge you to tell the Secretary-General and your own nation's leaders in September that we do not need reports every year, telling us that business as usual is not working. If the international system doesn't change, that's what we'll continue hearing. If we want change, we need to hold all donors accountable for 0.7%. Anyone who expects to lead, either as a United Nations Security Council member or in another capacity, must show commitment to 0.7. We need reporting that shows what is and isn't being done, by whom, when and on what timetable.

It is within our power to end extreme poverty on this planet, in this generation. It is technically, scientifically, and economically feasible. By 2025 we could be done with the poverty that kills. By 2015, we could be halfway there, with the MDGs. But, if we continue on the path we are on today, the suffering will continue, and we will find our world becoming more and more dangerous. I am certain that this is not the course that the United Nations wants to follow.

## Towards Achieving the MDGs: Addressing Absorptive Capacity Constraints<sup>5</sup>

By Mr. François Bourguignon  
Chief Economist and Senior Vice President  
The World Bank

### Achieving the MDGs

One of the key concerns of both developing and developed countries is the quantity of aid required for achieving the MDGs. The Millennium Project Report has helped focus world attention on resource requirement, donor commitments, and strengthening aid effectiveness. The report correctly states that serious progress towards meeting the MDGs in low-income countries requires moving away from 'business as usual'. There is now widespread support for some of the key actions that need to be taken if the international community is to achieve the MDGs together by 2015. These include:

- MDG-based Poverty Reduction Strategies (PRS) must be more ambitious, have *strong country ownership*, and place Governments and civil society at the center.
- Growth strategies must be a core component of the PRS. Without sustainable growth income, poverty targets will not be met. Moreover, growth strategies must include ideas for improving the business climate of the country in question; the role of international trade liberalization, both by OECD and developing countries; and revisiting the debt burden and innovative mechanisms for debt relief.
- Aid to developing countries must be made more effective. Donors must ensure that their aid delivery is aligned with recipient needs and strategies and minimize costs of compliance. Aid from donors must be fully predictable, by being transparently committed, and by being harmonized among donors.
- Recipient countries on their part should ensure a firm commitment to their respective poverty reduction strategies, and be publicly accountable. To that end, recipient nations must strengthen domestic governance and institutions. Recipient countries must be made fully accountable domestically as well as within the international community regarding the use of aid.
- Aid without commensurate absorptive capacity is meaningless. Developing countries with the help of development partners must build capacity to utilize ODA effectively.

### Building Absorptive Capacity

Absorptive capacity refers to the ability of developing countries to efficiently spend foreign aid money. That is, it refers to the incremental return from additional aid. As the

volume of aid increases, the return from it must increase. However, more often countries face an absorptive capacity constraint. As the level of aid increases, there is a reduction in the additional return/output that countries get from aid. This reflects the lack of capacity in a country to absorb, or to effectively use the aid. Different countries have different capacities of absorption, depending on the state of their economy—economic policies distorting prices, prevailing institutions—poor administration can hamper efficient aid absorption, lack of coordination among policies, lack of accountability to the domestic public, state of governance—ODA does not reach intended beneficiaries and socio-cultural factors. If MDGs are to be achieved, the absorptive capacities of developing countries need to be improved.

### **Illustrating Absorptive Capacity: The Case of Ethiopia**

*Front-loading aid for the MDGs:* An issue that arises regarding accelerating aid disbursements for the MDGs is how much aid should be ‘front-loaded’, i.e. disbursed up front, and how much should wait until there is more absorptive capacity in place. One of the major concerns to governments over disbursement of aid to achieve the MDGs is whether the large levels of aid required can be effectively absorbed. There are both macro- and microeconomic constraints to aid absorption. This example in particular looks at labor market constraints, macro-economic (Dutch disease) constraints, and basic infrastructure constraints. In order to address these questions, a model is used that links MDG performance to the provision of different public services (in health, education, and water-sanitation), public infrastructure, per-capita income, and other economic indicators. The MDG model draws on detailed sector studies undertaken by the Government and the World Bank.

Model simulations were used to examine a set of alternative scenarios from expansion in public infrastructure and MDG-related services, with external grants covering the financing gap. Meeting the first MDG—to reduce by half the incidence of income poverty in 2015 from 1990 levels—will require higher economic growth. One key to raising growth is substantial investment in basic infrastructure, particularly roads, energy, and water. Reaching the other human development MDGs will require spending to boost the quality and quantity of public MDG-related supply of services. According to model simulations, for the main scenario, which achieves the different MDGs via a combination of front-loaded expansion in infrastructure spending and growth in MDG services at a constant rate, foreign grant financing requirements will rise from around 16\$ per capita at present, to around \$60 per capita in 2015, or nearly 40 percent of annual GDP in foreign grants. This is roughly twice the average level of ODA per capita in sub-Saharan Africa that was reached during the early 1990s.

The model finds that as more resources are front-loaded, MDGs can be met, although with consequences for competitiveness of traded goods and sharp wage differentials. The model seeks to illustrate consequences of front-loading which require consideration when countries plan aid-financed, long-term public investment programs.

From the analysis of the simulation results, the following main conclusions can be drawn:

- *First, careful sequencing* of public investment is important for minimizing the total cost of reaching the MDGs. Investment in basic infrastructure must be made a

priority for higher productivity growth, and “network effects” that can improve linkages across and within regions and sectors. Among the MDG services, accelerating education spending is a priority. It must be a priority as skilled labour can be produced only with a lag and is a binding constraint on absorptive capacity. Priority in sequencing should be accorded to public investment in services that generate important positive externalities. This will also help in lowering investment costs of other MDGs.

- *Second*, the macroeconomic impact of large aid flows on the export/tradeables sector needs to be considered. Aid flows often get diverted into the non-exporting/non-tradeables sector and cause the exchange rate to appreciate (Dutch disease). This might lead to a severely reduced export sector, which is vital source of future economic growth. This poses a potentially serious tradeoff for MDG-oriented poverty reduction strategies, and more importantly, underscores the importance of pushing further trade liberalization, and market access in OECD countries.
- *Third*, large-scale front-loading of aid (in areas other than infrastructure) can result in the rise of real wages for skilled labour (or those with secondary education). A country that wants to achieve the MDGs would need to train more teachers, more nurses, and more health workers. And in doing so, it would rely on people who have secondary education. As the demand for skilled workers in the economy rises, so it would increase the wage of those workers. And at the same time, it would divert skilled workers from the private sector to put them to work in the vocational sector, or in the training sector, or in the health sector. This might drive skilled labour out of the private sector into the vocational sectors, which might have a negative impact on the economy, as the private sector is a major contributor to increased economic growth. On the other hand, front-loading also has different welfare implications: greater front-loading secures earlier success to social outcomes, the marginal benefits from which might outweigh rising costs.
- *Fourth*, improvements in the underlying governance and institutional structures may have the effect of securing productivity improvements in public service delivery (health, water, and sanitation, among others). Whether such gains suggest more or less front-loading of expenditures depends on the relative weight of behavior and price effects on supply. This does not constitute a reason to delay public investment, however, pending efficiency gains. Rather, it suggests that the same constraints to absorptive capacity—labor costs, macroeconomic constraints, infrastructure congestion—help guide the investment path.
- The results from the model do not suggest that simply tripling or quadrupling aid can achieve the MDGs in Ethiopia. Several other conditions, which may be even more important, must also be met, including improving governance, strengthening institutions, and improving the business climate. Serious steps by donor countries to improve the quality and alignment of aid with national strategies, and the harmonization of administrative procedures are also needed.

## Concluding Remarks

There is a series of reports which are unanimous in their support for the the need for scaling up the development agenda, both in the terms of development assistance and in terms of the policies being pursued in the country and the need for good and rigorous strategies. It is important that such a scaling-up also be complemented by proposals for implementation, for practical ways of dealing with this scaled-up development strategy – both on the part of donors as well as on the side of the recipient countries. On this, there already exists a general agreement on the strategy to proceed in that direction. This agreement is shared by all the development banks. The World Bank will definitely do its part in this agenda. The example of Ethiopia demonstrates the kind of practical work developed in one specific country. The international community should move systematically toward facilitating the design of MDG-related strategies and should indeed make 2005 a successful development year.

## Voices against Poverty: The Role of Employment in Achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)<sup>6</sup>

By Mr. Juan Somavia  
Director-General  
International Labour Organization (ILO)

The report of the Secretary-General entitled, “Achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration, as well as implementing the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits: progress made, challenges and opportunities” (E/2005/56) outlines that the multilateral system has, since the 1990s, “generated an unprecedented global consensus on a shared vision of development”. Indeed, the UN Development Agenda did not evolve out of thin air. It represents the consolidation of progress – the intellectual and the political progress – made in forging a modern, up-to-date consensus on the commitments and actions necessary to move into a liveable 21<sup>st</sup> century.

It constitutes a clear signpost for the future. I think that it is the overall policy framework for the millennium and the MDG review that will take place in September. As we are meeting we are seeing hopeful signs in many areas – higher commitments of ODA, more and better debt relief, a renewed focus on Africa, much more support for the MDGs.

But we all know that we have a very long way to go. That’s why we’re here, as we mark the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the United Nations and focus on reform, to make it more efficient and effective in responding to the needs of today. All international organizations must converge on that objective.

For different reasons in different countries, there is today deep-seated anxiety and uneasiness. For many, things are out of their control. The rules don’t seem fair. Priorities

appear out of balance with people's needs. In a general sense, there is a breakdown of trust in authorities. Many of you feel that in terms of governments also.

People then look for scapegoats and targets. Regional integration has become a target, international institutions have become a target, migration has become a target. Governments have become targets for elections in a legitimate way and globalization has become a target. But realistically, we all know that globalization is neither the answer to every problem nor the cause of every evil. Most people aren't camped out on ideological extremes. They live in the middle, struggling between fear and hope.

This is what the World Commission on the Social Dimension of Globalization highlighted so clearly. People don't have an ideological view on globalization. They want to know whether it delivers for their country or for themselves. They have a very practical view on whether it is working for them or not. And I want to thank President Halonen, who is co-Chair of the Commission who did a wonderful job in putting together conclusions that are balanced, but are realistic and necessary in order to make globalization fair.

The ILO sees these challenges of globalization with an in-built balance. It comes from being the only multilateral organization in the international arena that includes the productive system in its decision-making bodies.

We bring together governments, but we also bring along working people. Our delegates of the International Labour Conference include the networks of over 300 million organized workers throughout the world-and the largest global network of business organizations large and small. And we all have different linkages with society. These are the real actors of the economy and that obliges us to have our feet very much grounded in real life. And it is very difficult for anybody to run away with the ball, because with this composition, somebody is going to say, "You are exaggerating, that's not the way we look at it". So this in-built balance is very much a part of the fact that ILO policies tend to be rather common sense, once the three parties agree.

Now, what is this tripartite structure hearing? I must say that I think civil society has it right. That it is about making poverty history. Let me just mention that there is a white band that is the representation of the Millennium Campaign. I would simply congratulate those who have launched this campaign and ask all of you to be very much a part of it by wearing the white band as an indication of your commitment to everything that we're doing.

But what are they saying? Because it's not just about: "Look, we want to get out of poverty". What they're saying is: "We know how to get out of poverty". They say: "I don't want pity or charity. I want opportunity, so give me a fair chance at a decent job". It's pretty simple: "Give me a fair chance at a decent job".

The Millennium Declaration points us in the right direction—calling for us to "give young people everywhere a real chance to find decent and productive work".

For the ILO's tripartite constituents, that means work that respects core labour standards, offers social protection, ensures voice and organization for workers and employers, and promotes policies for employment and enterprise creation.

It places a particular focus on the enabling environment necessary to promote innovation, creativity and entrepreneurship, with gender equality as a cross-cutting issue. Sometimes when I talk about workers' rights, people say, "Yes, they are rights". Let me tell you, everybody in this room has to ensure that their rights as workers are protected, that you do have access to some sort of social security. That if there is a conflict, your voice can be heard and respected. So this is not some far-away thing; this is very much a part of what we do.

But in the ILO, we've said you can't have decent work if you don't have work. So we have put enormous emphasis on the generation of work. This is not invented by an international bureaucracy. It stems from the real life of people, from the demands of individual families and communities.

The Secretary-General's report puts on the table the importance of expanding that decent-work vision to all, not just to young people, but to all women and men.

Why is this essential? Because, in fact, what we have today is a global jobs crisis. Some countries are managing the jobs crisis better than others, but it is present everywhere. The levels of uncertainty are reality worldwide for very different reasons. I think that it demands a global response, but national action is essential, as has been said by so many of the speakers before.

Moving productive employment and decent work up the policy agenda is critical to achieving the internationally agreed development goals and to addressing the social insecurities that are at the root of many of our concerns about international security.

Let me give some figures. Over the past decade, global unemployment has grown by 31 per cent – while the employment intensity of growth has declined almost everywhere. Last year, for example, global growth was a healthy five per cent. In other words, world output increased by nearly four trillion dollars. Yet global unemployment was reduced by only 500 thousand people. A four trillion dollar reduction of global unemployment by half a million people. The jobless growth phenomenon is very clearly described there. Almost 90 per cent of jobs created in some regions are in the informal economy, with all that that implies.

The unemployment rate for young people remains two, three, four times higher depending on the country's adult rate, not to speak of the impact on child labour because of unemployed parents. These are the symptoms of the global jobs crisis. If we care to listen, it is the most pressing political issue of our time, for individuals, for their families, for communities.

After all, we know that no politician anywhere in the world today can run for office without offering something tangible in the field of work. And yet, delivery is difficult, and failed campaign promises feed popular unrest, and we see this all around us. We all know that ultimately no society can achieve sustained progress unless it builds a solid productive fabric – a productive fabric able to create and share wealth in a virtuous spiral of quality growth that delivers better lives for people and more security for people.

So many things are at stake if we don't tackle this problem. The credibility of democracy that we're seeing in Latin America where polls link a lack of jobs to democracy not



delivering. The viability of open markets and open societies – we are seeing it with the ideological and populist reactions against globalization. The durability of regional integration—there is some linkage with this issue and the events that we’re seeing in Europe. The relevance of international organizations – are we tackling the right issues? I can’t imagine a better issue than the global jobs crisis on which the coordinating function of ECOSOC can be utilized and demonstrated. It would demonstrate that the international system is linking to people and trying to solve one of the main issues that is on the minds of people everywhere. In many ways the security of our world is at stake if we don’t address energetically the global jobs crisis.

## **Voices against Poverty: Refugees and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)<sup>7</sup>**

By Mr. António Guterres  
High Commissioner for Refugees

Although green and fertile, Palorinya in northern Uganda is a desolate place. Last week, I met hundreds of refugees there—mainly women and children—who had fled their homes in Southern Sudan with their meager belongings. The families sought safety, food, shelter, and water, and waited patiently in temporary shelters. Fortunately, they could enjoy the hospitality of the local community, despite its poverty.

The refugees spoke despairingly of why they had to flee their homes and what this meant for their families and livelihoods.

I did not ask them, but I doubt they knew about the Millennium Development Goals or the outcome of international conferences.

Much progress has been made towards the MDGs in several regions of the world, including in Uganda, but in our quest for solutions to the problems, are we listening to the voices of the people like those I met in Palorinya? How is it that such a large group of refugees and other displaced persons seems to fall through the cracks?

Clearly, I am not in a position to speak on behalf of the poor. I can, however, convey the messages of fear, desperation, and, most importantly, of hope I heard from those who are voiceless to the international community.

Millions and millions of people are excluded from society are fleeing their homes, are discriminated against, are stateless. They are the victims of human rights violations, war and conflict. Rather than benefiting from the protection of states they are denied that protection—if not effectively persecuted by them.

These people often do not enjoy their most basic rights and the benefits of all our combined efforts to attain the Millennium Development Goals. As we all know, “access” is a crucial dimension of the MDGs. After all, the best designed programme is ineffective if people do not have access to it.

From this perspective, I am struck by three issues in particular.

*First*, national MDG strategies seldom refer to displaced persons. A recent review of Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSPs) and UN Development Assistance Frameworks (UNDAFs), for example, found that displaced persons are often depicted as a strain, an impediment, a threat- all negative terms. Of the PRSPs, only 10 per cent reflect the needs of refugees, one third include returnees in the country of origin, and less than half mention people suffering from internal displacement.

To ensure access for the most vulnerable we must make sure that the voices of all groups of people are taken into account and recognize that they have the skills and potential to attain the MDGs in order to enjoy human security.

*Second*, as many of the poorest people live in countries in conflict or just emerging from it, I am concerned by how little attention has been given to the relationship between conflict and the MDGs. This is why the Secretary-General clearly stresses the indivisibility between security, development and human rights. I could not agree more with Jeffrey Sachs when he writes in the Millennium Project report that "Without effective strategies to forestall conflict, a significant number of national MDG-based strategies will likely be thrown off course..."

*Third*, there is a huge gap between relief and development. Humanitarian agencies have made insufficient efforts to engage in and contribute to the discussions and policy formulation on the MDGs. We have also been inattentive to the voices of the people. Providing lifesaving humanitarian assistance will not be sustainable without an effective development strategy.

From the perspective of my Office, whether it is the eradication of extreme poverty, achieving universal primary education, or promoting gender equality and environmental sustainability, each of the MDGs is just as important to humanitarian as to development actors.

In conflict and post-conflict situations, in particular, humanitarian assistance must help lay the basis for longer-term development to attain the MDGs, as MDGs strategies and programmes must include a conflict prevention lens. Only through such an approach can we reduce the odds—50 per cent—of a country sliding back into violence in the five years following the end of a conflict.

Freedom, democracy, the respect for human rights and good governance are essential tools for success in such countries. But for these values to flourish, globalization must give them a chance. We need a different, more humane globalization, able to create opportunities for all and a better global governance system. That is the guidance we can all find in the Secretary-General's report "In Larger Freedom".

Facing the courage and resilience of the voiceless people, I must say if we cannot deliver on our promises then our institutions and lofty ideals are empty.

## Notes

- 1 From the ECOSOC 2005 high-level segment, "Achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration, as well as implementing the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits: progress made, challenges and opportunities," 29 June 2005.
- 2 From the ECOSOC 2005 high-level segment, "Achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration, as well as implementing the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits: progress made, challenges and opportunities," 30 June 2005.
- 3 This text is an edited, transcribed document of the keynote statement of the Prime Minister of Haiti during the ECOSOC 2005 high-level segment, "Achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration, as well as implementing the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits: progress made, challenges and opportunities," 30 June 2005.
- 4 This text is an edited, transcribed document of the keynote statement of Mr. Jeffrey Sachs during the ECOSOC 2005 preparatory meeting, "Achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration, as well as implementing the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits: progress made, challenges and opportunities," 16 March 2005.
- 5 This text is an edited, transcribed document of the keynote statement of Mr. François Bourguignon during the ECOSOC 2005 preparatory meeting, "Achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration, as well as implementing the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits: progress made, challenges and opportunities," 17 March 2005.
- 6 From the ECOSOC 2005 high-level segment, "Achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration, as well as implementing the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits: progress made, challenges and opportunities," 29 June 2005.
- 7 From the ECOSOC 2005 high-level segment, "Achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration, as well as implementing the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits: progress made, challenges and opportunities," 29 June 2005.

## Chapter 2

# HIGH LEVEL POLICY DIALOGUE ON CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS IN THE WORLD ECONOMY AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION IN THE CONTEXT OF ACHIEVING THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS

## Overview

The anticipated growth of the world economy for 2004-2006 is not only the strongest for the past few years but is unusually widespread among developing countries and economies in transition. Even with a deceleration, developing countries as a group are expected to grow at a rate approaching 6 per cent in 2005-2006, while the economies in transition will remain above 5 per cent. Growth in Africa is expected to be higher in 2005-2006 than in 2004. This higher economic growth in many developing countries is partially attributable to the improvements in economic policies within these countries. In addition, domestic demand is playing a more important role because of these countries' more stable economic and, in some cases, political conditions. However, the outcome is also a result of an international economic environment that, for most developing countries, is more favourable than any since the 1970s.

International trade can be a powerful and effective driver for poverty alleviation and economic well-being. But, its efficacy depends upon a large number of factors. Key among them is a successful conclusion of the Doha Round of trade negotiations. Last year, substantial progress was made in some of the most difficult and controversial areas. Among the advances made, members agreed to launch negotiations on trade facilitation, but not on three other new issues which did not get the support of the full membership. Members also significantly bridged gaps in the agriculture negotiations - including a historic agreement to eliminate export subsidies by a date to be agreed upon. However, agreement on the Doha Development Agenda can only be concluded realistically by 2006 if solid advances are made at the Sixth WTO Ministerial Conference to be held in Hong Kong this December.

Besides, development strategies aimed at speeding up investment and growth, and generating employment and in the process reducing inequality and eradicating poverty are crucial. Macroeconomic balance and prudent fiscal and monetary policies are a necessary but not a sufficient condition for this to happen. What is required is broad-based growth- and policies to promote investment. Market forces and the private sector must be the privileged agents of the strategies but they must be supported by an active, effective, efficient and honest public sector. Also, when setting the agenda for future economic negotiations, and when implementing existing disciplines and commitments, the impact on the policy space of developing countries should be kept in mind. Moreover,

developed countries, need to scale up their aid to low-income countries, as pledged in the Monterrey Consensus.

Chapter 2 focuses on current developments in the world economy and its impact on development, particularly the achievement of the MDGs.

*The World Economic Situation and Prospects* points out that the unusually higher economic growth in many developing countries is partially attributable to the improvements in economic policies within these countries themselves. In addition, domestic demand is playing a more important role because of these countries' more stable economic and, in some cases, political conditions. However, the outcome is also a result of an international economic environment that, for most developing countries, is more favourable than any since the 1970s. However, the continued rise in oil prices coupled with macroeconomic imbalances, especially in the US, could be detrimental to the global economy as a whole.

In the *Current Developments in the World Economy and International Trade* it was emphasized that the historic commitment of world leaders to establish the Millennium Development Goals has reiterated the plain and simple fact that the essential ingredient to making the world a better place to live is international cooperation. The role of international trade in this context is clear since it has long been an accepted proposition that an open and non-discriminatory multilateral trading system can contribute to development. The contribution of international trade and the multilateral trading system is not limited to poverty alleviation. Increased market access for all traded goods combined with an effective rules-based multilateral trading system can also assist the efforts to achieve the other health and environment related MDGs.

In the *Mixed Signal: Ten years left before 2015* it is asserted that the outlook on the global economy looks more promising than for some years and that these gains were widespread—all developing regions grew faster in 2004 than their average over the last decade. Yet, progress toward the achievement of the MDGs has been slower and more uneven across regions than originally thought, with Sub-Saharan Africa falling far short. Therefore business as usual will not do. During the next 10 years, the international community must scale-up proven approaches in health and education, as well as strengthen economic reforms, and improve governance and accountability.

*The Global Growth Performance and its Challenges* stresses that development strategies aimed at speeding up investment and growth, and generating employment, and in the process reducing inequality and eradicating poverty are crucial. It moreover avers that calls for the consideration of the issue of policy space does not equate to demanding a license to renege on international economic commitments freely entered into. What it means is that when setting the agenda for future economic negotiations; when implementing existing disciplines and commitments; and when interpreting rules, the question of the impact on the policy space of developing countries should be kept in mind.

*The World Economy: Situation and Challenges* points out that in order to meet the MDGs, it is necessary that all partners do their share. Developing countries should adopt sound macroeconomic, structural, and sectoral policies. But a healthy global economy

and adequate support from the developed world are equally important. Implementation is paramount. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) stands ready to do its part.

## The World Economic Situation and Prospects<sup>1</sup>

By Mr. José Antonio Ocampo  
Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs  
United Nations

According to the mid-year update of the *World Economic Situation and Prospects 2005*, the world economy has behaved broadly in line with what we projected in January 2005. Global economic growth has slowed, with Gross World Product (GWP) is expected to expand at a rate of 3 1/4 per cent in 2005 and 3 1/2 per cent in 2006, following 4.1 per cent in 2004.

The anticipated growth of the world economy for 2004-2006 is not only the strongest in the past few years but is unusually widespread among developing countries and economies in transition. Even with a deceleration, developing countries as a group are expected to grow at a rate approaching 6 per cent in 2005-2006, while the economies in transition will remain above 5 per cent. The developing countries, in particular, are showing greater resilience than in the past to the deceleration in economic growth in the developed world. Growth in Africa, for example, is expected to be higher in 2005-2006 than in 2004.

Long-standing disparities in growth among developing regions remain, but they are less than on most previous occasions and all developing regions are performing well by their respective standards of the past few decades. South Asia has joined East Asia in growing in the range of 6-7 per cent while Africa and Latin America are expected to exceed 5 and 4 per cent respectively in 2005-2006. Among sub-groupings, the least developed, the landlocked and the sub-Saharan African countries (excluding Nigeria and South Africa) are all expected to average growth approaching 6 per cent over these two years. Looking back, output per capita rose by more than 3 per cent in 2004 in almost half the developing countries and these countries accounted for over 80 per cent of the developing world's population.

This higher economic growth in many developing countries is partially attributable to the improvements in economic policies within these countries themselves.

In addition, domestic demand is playing a more important role because of these countries' more stable economic and, in some cases, political conditions. However, the outcome is also a result of an international economic environment that, for most developing countries, is more favourable than any since the 1970s.

International trade grew by some 11 per cent in 2004 and is forecast to increase by a further 8 per cent in 2005. At the same time, the international prices of many of the exports of developing countries, notably oil but also many other commodities, have risen

in the past couple of years. Oil prices, as everybody knows, have more than doubled but non-oil commodity prices have increased by more than a quarter in dollar terms and by about 10 per cent in real terms. In the cases of both oil and non-oil commodities, prices remain below their long-term averages and the recent improvements have been partially offset by the depreciation of the United States dollar. Nevertheless, the higher prices have yielded a short-run benefit. The price increases of the recent past are not expected to continue, but neither are prices expected to fall to their previous levels so that there will be some continuing benefit to exporters for the immediate future. The significant weight of Chinese demand is, as we know, a major factor behind high commodity prices.

Conditions for many developing countries have also improved in international financial markets. Financial flows to developing countries are increasing, their costs are low by historical standards and non-debt-creating flows, notably FDI, are assuming greater importance. For countries without access to international financial markets, ODA has reversed its decline and commitments by several donors suggest further increases in the years ahead. Similarly, there has been some further progress towards reducing the debt burden of some of the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPCs).

Despite these improvements, however, the net transfer of financial resources from developing countries continues to increase—from over \$270 billion in 2003 to a record of over \$350 billion in 2004. Admittedly, this net transfer overwhelmingly reflects a buildup of foreign exchange reserves by a number of countries with trade surpluses rather than the capital outflows and debt service payments that characterized the 1980s and some of the 1990s. Nevertheless, this extensive accumulation of reserves raises the question of whether the international financial system could be reformed in such a way that the countries concerned would not feel the need to use these resources in a way that yields few tangible developmental benefits beyond the “self-insurance” from future financial crises.

Contrary to our expectations, the price of oil has continued to increase, having recently crossed the threshold of \$60 per barrel. Oil prices, as we all know, can have a critical bearing on the growth of the world economy, and the persistence of higher oil prices is one of the factors that is dampening global growth: the longer the present levels of oil prices persist, the greater the damage to global economic growth. Slower global growth, in turn, is expected to reduce the upward pressure on oil prices but, given the tight supply and the slow installation of additional capacity, oil prices are unlikely to decline substantially. If we again prove wrong in our forecast and oil prices increase yet further, a more substantial global economic slowdown seems likely. Otherwise, the world economy seems to be adjusting to higher oil prices without large adverse effects.

At the present time, a greater risk of a sudden and disruptive shock to the world economy seems likely to stem from the large and widening global imbalances: the current account deficit of the United States is expected to rise to over \$700 billion in 2005 and to remain in that range in 2006. Reflecting this deficit, and despite some strength in recent weeks, the US dollar has depreciated vis-à-vis other major currencies over the past few years. So far, however, this depreciation does not appear to have had much corrective effect on the imbalances. As long as the large United States deficit persists, there will be a risk of adverse reactions, either by policy makers or by markets. There are, for example, dangers

of increasing protectionism in some areas. In financial markets, there is the persistent possibility of a new wave of weakening of the dollar, including a chance that it could take place in a disorderly manner. Such disorderly adjustment would have severely disruptive effects on world trade, global financial markets and, ultimately, global economic growth.

Both analysis and evidence to date suggest that the depreciation of the United States dollar is not sufficient to reduce the imbalances to sustainable levels. A more comprehensive and long-term set of measures is required. Importantly, these measures should involve both deficit and surplus countries and should, above all, avoid contractionary effects on developing countries. To achieve these objectives, there is a need for more concrete international economic coordination specifically aimed at rectifying the imbalances. The present would be an ideal opportunity to begin such corrective action, precisely because the world economy as a whole is in a relatively strong position.

The current economic strength of many developing countries demonstrates that substantial progress is possible under the right domestic and global economic conditions. A deterioration in the external environment stemming from the global imbalances would have an untoward effect on both the immediate prospects of developing countries and their longer term development, including their efforts to achieve the internationally agreed development goals. It is from this perspective that addressing the global imbalances should be seen as part of the long-term global development agenda that is the theme of this session of ECOSOC.

Particularly after the weak growth at the beginning of the millennium, the improvement now being achieved by many developing economies is unlikely to be sufficient to enable all of them to achieve the internationally agreed development goals; further improvement in growth is necessary, and any loss of momentum would be detrimental. At the same time, in many smaller countries, notably in Africa, economic growth itself continues to languish and an even more substantial improvement is required for such countries to achieve the longer-term objectives that are the focus of the present session. Discussions this morning should identify ways and means—at both the national and international levels—to ensure that the necessary further improvements in growth are achieved.

At the same time, we all recognize that economic growth alone, while necessary, will not be sufficient to ensure long-term development. The present period of robust global growth opens a window of opportunity for accelerating the implementation of the global development agenda set at the global conferences of the 1990s and at the Millennium Summit in 2000.



## Current Developments in the World Economy and International Trade<sup>2</sup>

By Dr. Supachai Panitchpakdi  
Director-General  
World Trade Organization

The historic commitment of world leaders to establish the Millennium Development Goals has reiterated the plain and simple fact that the essential ingredient to making the world a better place to live is international cooperation. The role of international trade in this context is clear since it has long been an accepted proposition that an open and non-discriminatory multilateral trading system can contribute to development. A successful conclusion of the Doha Development Round of negotiations will assist all governments to achieve the MDGs.

Recent developments in the world economy have created a more accommodating environment for governments to exploit their comparative advantage. In 2004, the world economy recorded an overall excellent performance with the highest output expansion in more than a decade. According to the World Bank, developing countries shared fully in this expansion, as they experienced their fastest GDP growth in the last three decades. Trade growth was also very strong with the developing countries' share in world merchandise exports reaching a 50-year peak of 31 per cent. The two reasons for this success are the rise in commodity prices from robust global demand for raw materials and a strong expansion in the exports of manufactured goods. These two reasons explain the fact that all major developing regions recorded trade and current account surpluses in 2004. They have also contributed to the improved export performance of LDCs, which recorded their largest share of world merchandise trade since the mid eighties of 0.68 per cent.

China's emergence as one of the world's most important traders of manufactured goods has also had a positive effect on world trade. In 2004, its share of world exports doubled to 8 per cent from the level 10 years ago. On the import side, China's role as a market for raw materials rose sharply in recent years. In 2004, China's share of world fuels imports was about 4.5 percent, or three times larger than a decade ago.

The overall strong trade performance in 2004 was however clouded by the existence of large current account imbalances, in particular between the United States and East Asia. These imbalances widened further in the first half of 2005, a development which augurs considerable risks for the future expansion of the global economy and for trade in particular. The current US trade (current account) deficit is equivalent to 7% of world merchandise trade and a stabilisation of this deficit or its reduction through a slowdown of United States' imports could severely affect the prospects for global trade expansion.

There is a good reason to consider that 2004 could reflect a peak in terms of economic and trade developments. Most economic forecasters predict that global trade and output expansion, in both developed and developing regions, will be weaker this year than in

2004. Following the strong 9 percent growth of world trade in 2004, the WTO Secretariat projects real trade growth for 2005 to be 6.5%. This prediction is supported by data for the first quarter of 2005, which points to an even sharper than expected deceleration of trade in Western Europe and Asia. It is still too early to adjust this forecast downward, but the weak trade performance in the first quarter together with stronger than projected oil prices highlight its fragility.

The members of the WTO cannot wait for the economic environment to improve again. The results of their negotiating efforts are a vital input into the international community's efforts to achieve the MDGs. International trade can be a powerful and effective driver for poverty alleviation and economic well-being. But, its efficacy depends upon a large number of factors, key among them being a successful conclusion to the Doha Development Agenda negotiations.

We are at a critical phase in the Doha Development Agenda negotiations. Last year, substantial progress was made in some of the most difficult and controversial areas. Among the advances made, members agreed to launch negotiations on trade facilitation but not to negotiate on three other new issues which did not get the support of the full membership. Members also significantly bridged gaps in the agriculture negotiations - including a historic agreement to eliminate export subsidies by a date to be agreed. The WTO's Sixth Ministerial Conference will be taking place in Hong Kong this December. Everyone recognizes that this must be a pivotal meeting where real substantial progress can be made - building upon last year's successes. Only if we achieve very solid and ambitious advances at this meeting will we be able, realistically, to conclude the negotiations by 2006. Already preparations for this meeting are underway, but levels of engagement need to be intensified and stronger indications of willingness to compromise must be shown. Time is of the essence. A frank and realistic report will be provided to members next month on where the negotiations stand and what needs to be done to lead us to success in Hong Kong.

It is encouraging to note that developed countries, however, are not waiting for the Doha Round to be completed in order to improve market access opportunities for developing countries. In 2003 almost two-thirds of developing country exports entered developed country markets duty free. Similarly, almost three-quarters of exports originating from LDCs enter developed country markets duty-free. These figures have been rising steadily in the past three years. Despite these achievements, more can be done. A number of studies have shown that the residual level of protection in the developed countries is biased against products of export interest to developing and least developed countries. Furthermore, the support provided by developed countries' governments to their agricultural sector continues to condition market access for agricultural exports originating from developing countries.

Developing country governments have also been firm in their commitment to contribute towards developing a free and open trading system. Nevertheless, they also recognize that much work remains to be done to open their own markets, especially to products from other developing countries. Average tariffs in developing countries exceed that of developed countries. Reductions in these barriers will help further stimulate south-south trade.

The contribution of international trade and the multilateral trading system is not limited to poverty alleviation and MDG1. Increased market access for all traded goods combined with an effective rules-based multilateral trading system can also assist the efforts to achieve the other health and environment related MDGs. Success in achieving the MDGs, however, cannot be defined by trade negotiations. What matters is making trade work as a tool for development, which can only arise if openness is implemented in the context of coherent economic policies. A successful set of negotiations which addresses market access conditions and disciplined government support in agriculture, combined with debt relief and enhanced aid, will better position national governments to achieve the MDGs.

## **Mixed Signal: Ten years left before 2015<sup>3</sup>**

By Mr. Jean-Louis Sarbib

Senior Vice President and Head of the Human Development Network  
The World Bank

As we survey the global development terrain, with just ten years left before the MDGs fall due in 2015, we see that economic news for developing countries is better than for some years, but many of these same countries are falling behind in their efforts to achieve a set of goals which could transform the prospects of global humanity.

The outlook on the global economy looks more promising than for some years. Economic growth reached 3.8 percent in 2004—the fastest rate in four years, with developing countries surpassing growth figures in high-income countries.

Their gains were widespread. All developing regions grew faster in 2004 than their average over the last decade. Financial flows to developing countries during the last year reached levels not seen since the onset of the financial crises of the late 1990s. Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) totaled \$165.5 billion, up by \$13.7 billion in 2004. However the same countries continue to be magnets for this type of long-term investment, namely Brazil, China, Mexico and Russia.

Nonetheless, conditions for achieving better economic performance in Sub-Saharan Africa are improving: 12 African countries are currently experiencing growth spurts above the trends for the region - with average GDP growth over the last decade of 5.5 percent or more.

Over the last five years, many countries have shown improvement in economic policies and governance. Surging world trade and dramatic reductions of poverty in some countries provide grounds for hope in others.

The goal to halve poverty by 2015 will likely be met at the global level but not in Sub-Saharan Africa unless progress there can be accelerated quickly.

Unfortunately, progress toward the MDGs has been slower and more uneven across regions than originally thought, with Sub-Saharan Africa falling far short. Many

developing countries are falling behind in the race to sharply lower the numbers of deaths among pregnant women and children under the age of five by the year 2015. More than 11 million children died in 2002 before reaching their fifth birthday from preventable illness, while as many as 500,000 women perished during pregnancy or childbirth.

This situation is particularly distressing as many of the "technologies" needed to improve health are both available and affordable, and even in countries with little money and few health facilities to go with it, sensible and systematic efforts to improve health can work.

The recent 2005 Global Monitoring Report- by the World Bank and the EAU<sup>1</sup>-argues that faster progress towards the MDGs could be spurred if poor countries and their donors were to adopt a number of key measures, including: ensuring that development efforts are country-owned; scaling up development impact through country-owned and led poverty reduction strategies; improving the environment for private sector-led economic growth; strengthening fiscal management and governance, ease the business environment and investing in infrastructure with a special focus on small and medium enterprises that create the most jobs; scaling up delivery of basic human services and rapidly increase the supply of health care workers and teachers, provide larger and more flexible and predictable financing for these recurrent cost-intensive services, and strengthen institutional capacity; dismantling barriers to trade through an ambitious Doha Round, including major reform of agricultural trade policies - and also increasing "aid for trade"; doubling development aid in the next five years, in addition to improving the quality of aid, with faster progress on aid coordination and harmonization.

At stake are not just the prospects for hundreds of millions of people to escape poverty, hunger, and disease, but also prospects for long-term security and peace which are intrinsically tied to development.

As the international community reflects on how to speed up achieving these prospects, we must applaud the Group of Eight for the very uplifting news that it will cancel US\$40 billion in debt, owed by 18 of the world's poorest nations, most of them in Africa, and much of it owed to international institutions such as the World Bank.

This debt forgiveness is a very welcome sign of development progress ... but it cannot come at the expense of new development aid, and while applauding the generosity of the world's G-8 leaders, we must urge them to build on their debt relief initiative, and step up the amounts of long-term aid they provide to developing countries determined to achieve their National Millennium Goals (NmGs) over the course of the next 10 years.

As we look to the 2005 World Summit in September for a global re-dedication to the historic push to help all developing countries reach their 2015 MDG targets, the development community knows what it must do.

Business as usual will not do. It will bring incremental improvements in this sector or that project, but it will not push us forward with the giant strides that we will need to get as many countries to that profound milestone of 2015. During the next 10 years, we must include scaled-up, proven approaches in health and education, as well as strengthen economic reforms.

This means a chance for every child to go to primary school, a place to go for medicine and basic health care, clean water flowing from a tap, basic sanitation, and electricity at the turn of a switch. These basic services are taken for granted by citizens of developed countries. Yet in much of the developing world, these services are either unavailable or available only at low quality or high private cost. The human development outcomes at the core of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)-primary education, literacy, gender equality, good health-depend on access to these basic services.

Implementation is therefore crucial, and three hurdles bear particular note:

- i. Scaling up skilled providers-the doctors, nurses, and teachers needed to rapidly expand health and education services. In many developing countries the magnitude of doctor, nurse, and teacher shortfalls relative to ambitious MDG targets calls for pragmatic strategies for scaling up providers that represent a sharp change from traditional training systems. Such strategies include changes in recruitment standards to permit faster production of providers, maximum use of complementary, less skilled workers to leverage scarce skills, attention to international migration pressures, and incentives or rural recruitment strategies to ensure service delivery in rural areas. These strategies have enabled some countries to achieve impressive scale-ups of human development services.
- ii. Ensuring the sustained financing required to expand these recurrent cost intensive services. The challenge of achieving the MDGs at minimum global cost implies several distinct lines of action, aimed at both minimizing costs and maximizing the efficiency of financing. These include: lowering the marginal costs of expanded service delivery as much as possible, to leverage scarce skills and expand the provider workforce cost effectively; increasing the efficiency of service delivery; and increasing domestic spending on education, health, water, and sanitation in countries where budget support for these sectors is low, to minimize aid dependency; and lastly, mobilizing efficient donor support to fill remaining financing gaps.
- iii. Improving governance and accountability to make sure that extra resources bring about more effective service delivery. Achieving the MDGs will depend above all on developing countries' ability to achieve stronger public sector performance in delivering services. The challenge is essentially political. The evidence that aid works best where policies and governance are good is influencing aid flows, and this trend will intensify. While some donors suggest that a viable strategy in weak states is to bypass the public sector altogether, no OECD country has ever achieved universal health or basic education coverage with mainly private systems-in fact, most are heavily public.

Let me amplify the case of one scaled-up approach that is already producing results in primary education but which could do so much more with the right amount of money and support. In this urgent stock-taking year for development we see that more than 100 million children, the majority of them girls, are denied the chance to go to primary school. This, despite overwhelming evidence that teaching children how to read, write, and count boost economic growth, can arrest the spread of AIDS and break the cycle of poverty that haunts the lives of too many of the world's children.

At the Millennium Summit in 2000, world leaders agreed to remove the gender barriers preventing more girls going to primary and secondary school by 2005, and said every boy and girl should have the chance to get a quality primary school education by 2015.

To use this extra money for education wisely and effectively, the world's finance and development ministers asked the World Bank in 2002 to set up a now tried and tested means for doing this called the Education For All Fast Track Initiative (FTI). Built on the Monterrey compact, donor countries promised to provide increased aid in a coordinated and predictable manner while poor countries agreed to make primary education a national priority and draw up education plans that would get them to the 2015 target of primary education for all children.

At the moment, the rich world is not even close to meeting its commitment to children in developing countries. While developing countries warmed to the new compact, mobilizing political will and devising serious education plans, wealthy countries for the most part have still not made good on their promises of extra aid for education.

Still, we know the fast track initiative can work even with small amounts of support. Results in several countries prove it. In Nicaragua, \$3.5 million, from the Fast Track Initiative, enabled an additional 70,000 six year olds to go to school, improvement of teacher facilities and the number of children receiving a daily meal in school rose from 200,000 in 2004 to 800,000 in 2005. In the Gambia, \$4 million, from the Fast Track, made it possible to buy thousands of primary text books for better quality instruction in poor rural areas.

The creation of the Fast Track Initiative in 2002 demonstrated that both developed and developing ministers had the political vision and will to do something great to improve the lives of the young, our world's neediest citizens. While 13 countries currently benefit, the initiative could be expanded to help an additional 25 low-income countries in the coming year at an annual cost \$2 billion.

In a world tragically short of magic solutions, primary and secondary education remains some of the most dramatic development solutions available. And progress on education, as with many other development challenges, is possible when political will and resources come together.

Already recognized for having played a significant role in promoting better donor coordination and getting more kids into school, this tried and true program is still being starved of the necessary money and support to reach its achievable goal of helping every child to go to school by 2015.

The rich countries must now deliver on their commitments on aid, trade and debt relief, and the developing countries, especially in Sub-Saharan Africa, need to aim higher and do better in terms of their own policies and governance, and to make more effective use of aid.

It would be an auspicious prelude indeed to the upcoming Summit if the Prime Ministers and Presidents attending the G-8 summit in the United Kingdom next month were to seize the occasion to do something historic-to invest in the education and healthcare of a poor child today and help to create the distinct possibility of making poverty history. It is

for this reason that education has been rightly called both "the seed and flower" of development.

The World Bank has just launched a new global approach to help developing countries make faster progress in their fight against malaria. More than one million people, mostly children under five years of age, die every year from this disease. Drawing on recent successes in malaria control in Brazil, Eritrea, India, and Vietnam, the new Global Strategy and Booster Program reflects a need for decisive action on a large scale in order to achieve impact to counteract the inadequacy of global efforts to control malaria and the modesty of the Bank's current efforts relative to its potential.

Judging from initial demand from countries for more help in fighting malaria, the Bank's working assumption is that a total commitment of US \$500 million to US \$1.0 billion is feasible over the next five years, including co-financing that it anticipates from partners.

The Bank will mobilize its own financial and technical resources, as well as from the development community and private sector, to expand access to prevention and treatment, and to improve the underlying systems for sustainability. These efforts will increase the availability of insecticide, treated bed nets, anti-malarial drugs, and other commodities; support countries to lower taxes and tariffs on such items; improve and maintain long-term malaria control by governments and civil society groups; and build public-private partnerships for program design, management and evaluation.

There is still a chance to restore hope to all the children of the world who want to go to school, live a life free of disease and illness, and start a better life. The 2005 World Summit is an opportunity to achieve the profound improvements in economic and human welfare by 2015.

## **Global Growth Performance and its Challenges<sup>4</sup>**

By Mr. Carlos Fortin

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The last 18 months have been a good period for development and international development cooperation. With the global economy growing in 2004 at a fairly robust 4 per cent, developing country economies grew at a rate of 6.4 per cent, one of the highest of the last three decades. Even excluding the star performer, China, which grew at 9.5 per cent, the rate of growth of developing countries last year was 5.7 per cent. The rate varied in the different regions, but all of them shared in the overall growth. Asia led the pack with a rate of 6.9 per cent (6.0 per cent with China excluded). Latin America reached 5.7 per cent, a welcome recovery following five years of stagnation and crisis. Africa recorded its highest real GDP growth in about a decade at 4.6 per cent, marginally up from 4.3 percent in the previous year.

Global growth has continued into 2005, but at a slower pace, with a forecast expansion of GDP for the year closer to 3 per cent. Most of this deceleration is attributable to the slowdown in developed economies, but some developing countries are also showing signs of losing momentum. Still, developing economies as a whole are forecast to grow at 5 to 5.5 per cent in 2005.

At the same time, important steps are being taken to put in place an international environment which could decisively support the development efforts of developing countries. A major component here is the process of reflection and discussion leading to the September Summit that will review progress in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals and chart the future course. This is already moving forward the international consensus on development cooperation embodied in the Millennium Declaration, the Monterrey Consensus, the Sao Paulo Consensus and other international commitments. Central to this consensus-building effort are the United Nations Secretary-General report “In Larger Freedom: Towards development, security and human rights for all” and its supporting documents, the Report of the High Level Panel on Threats, Challenges and Change entitled “A More Secure World: Our Shared Responsibility” and the Report of the Millennium Project entitled “Investing in Development: A Practical Plan to Achieve the Millennium Development Goals”.

Meaningful movement is also taking place at the intergovernmental level. The decision of the Finance Ministers of the Group of Eight to propose the cancellation of the whole of the debt owed by Completion Point Heavily Indebted Poor Countries to the World Bank, the IMF and the African Development Bank is a significant step forward. Together with the growing acceptance of the need to substantially increase flows of concessional development assistance to developing countries, they decisively reaffirm the principle that, while development is primarily the responsibility of developing countries themselves, a conducive international environment is an essential pre-requisite for success.

There are therefore, grounds to hope that significant progress can be made in the period ahead towards the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals. Yet, at the same time, there are both potential pitfalls and a wider development agenda that needs attention.

To start with, the good growth performance of developing countries is essentially the result of the strengthening of world demand, notably from China, and the strong performance of the United States economy. This is particularly visible in Africa, where growth was largely due to higher prices for the region's non-fuel primary commodity exports and for petroleum, although better agricultural performance, owing to clement weather conditions, and improved political stability as well as increased levels of external resource inflows, via aid and debt relief, also contributed. The fact, though, is that the average growth rate in Africa masks considerable differences in country performances. Only 13 countries recorded real output growth of more than 5 per cent in 2004 and about two-thirds of these are either oil exporters or are recovering from a very low base. Once more, the vast majority of African countries fell short of the 7 per cent per annum growth rate necessary for attaining the MDGs - a target which was met by only six countries in



2004. Prospects for 2005 are for some further improvement, but one still substantially short of the level required.

Equally in Latin America the recovery took place on the back of export expansion and the improvement of terms of trade. Gains from changes in the terms of trade were very significant for oil and mining exporters, and lower but still relevant for agriculture exporters. On the other hand, some Central American and the Caribbean countries which export labour-intensive manufactures and are oil-importers suffered losses from terms of trade. Those countries managed to compensate this situation through higher exports in volume (owing to expanding imports from the US) and workers remittances.

With a GDP growth of rate of 7.1 per cent in 2004, East and South Asia recorded its highest growth since the Asian crisis. As already indicated, China was the country with the highest rate of growth, but growth was also strong in South Asia<sup>5</sup> (6.5 per cent), the ASEAN-4<sup>6</sup> (5.9 per cent) and the Newly Industrialized Asian economies<sup>7</sup> (5.7 per cent). Unlike in the other two continents, growth in this sub region was generally led by a combination of strong foreign demand and a robust domestic demand. The sub-region is to that extent somewhat less vulnerable to changes in the world economic performance, although other parts of Asia are not.

A worrying implication of the above is that any significant slowdown of world economic dynamism, and particularly of the growth rates of China and the United States, could set back the performance of Africa, Latin America and many countries of Asia. In the light of potential problems such as those stemming from the high prices of oil and the imbalances in current account affecting notably the United States, this is not a scenario that can be dismissed.

A second troublesome implication is that, even in the hypothesis of a smooth continuation of present trends, some parts of the world, notably Africa and the least developed countries, will simply not reach the growth rates needed to achieve the MDGs within the envisaged time horizon, let alone launch a balanced and rounded process of sustainable development. Here is where the need for a substantial increase in the availability of external resources looms large.

The debt relief initiative referred to above is a move in that direction, but it needs to be expanded in coverage both of countries and of types of debt. Most importantly, given the magnitude of the resources required, it must be supplemented with substantial progress on the trade front, allowing developing countries to take advantage of the opportunities offered by the international trading system and with a large increase in the availability of official development assistance. The latter need was recognized in the Monterrey Consensus and was reaffirmed by the G8 Finance Ministers. The UNCTAD secretariat, having advocated for the first time in its Report on "Capital Flows and Growth in Africa" in July 2000 the need to double official development assistance to Sub-Saharan Africa, is particularly happy that this approach has now become part of the generally accepted wisdom on development cooperation.

On the trade front, the way forward has been spelled out in sufficient detail in the Millennium Declaration, in the Monterrey Consensus, in the Sao Paulo Consensus and in

the Secretary-General's report to the 2005 World Summit. What is now needed is the political will to put those recommendations in effect.

But there is a further area of concern, and this has to do with the wider development agenda. International attention has so far focused primarily on the issue of poverty eradication, on the plight of the poorest countries and on salient social aspects of the development problematique, such as health and nutrition. This is right inasmuch as these are no doubt the most pressing and the most morally compelling dimensions of the problem. But they are not the only ones. Indeed, UNCTAD's research has shown that a substantially increased rate of economic growth is a necessary condition for the elimination of poverty, particularly in the least developed countries. It has also shown that different investment and growth strategies have different implications for the pattern of distribution of the benefits of growth, and that these in turn have different effects on poverty and on social entitlements. Thus, the question of what are the right development strategies that can put to good use the additional resources that may be made available becomes a central one.

The issue is clearly stated in the Secretary-General's report referred to above. Paragraph 30 reads:

*At the same time, we need to see the Millennium Development Goals as part of an even larger development agenda. While the Goals have been the subject of an enormous amount of follow-up both inside and outside the United Nations, they clearly do not in themselves represent a complete development agenda. They do not directly encompass some of the broader issues covered by the conferences of the 1990s, nor do they address the particular needs of middle-income developing countries or the questions of growing inequality and the wider dimensions of human development and good governance, which all require the effective implementation of conference outcomes.*

The references to the particular needs of middle-income countries and the issue of inequality are especially apposite. Middle-income developing countries still have formidable development problems to surmount, and they have a right to count on the international community to support their efforts. The entirely justified concern with the poorest countries should not detract from the need to pay attention to the development predicament of middle-income countries.

Equally important is the emphasis on the question of the distributional implications of different development strategies. It is by now well established that a development model that generates inequality is not only politically and socially unstable, but also economically less efficient than one that leads to more equality. What is sometimes less widely perceived is that it is inequality, rather than absolute poverty, that breeds social unrest, violence and even terrorism. By and large, the destitute do not revolt. It is those who seem to see an unbridgeable gap between their education and their aspirations and the insufficient opportunities for advancement offered by an unequal society that take up the path of violence. In turn, it is the combination of inequality and poverty that makes violence a mass phenomenon, a relation clearly spelled out by the High-Level Panel on Threats, Challenges and Change.<sup>8</sup>

What are needed therefore are development strategies that will speed up investment and growth, generate employment and in the process reduce inequality and eradicate poverty. Macroeconomic balance and fiscal and monetary responsibility are a necessary but not a sufficient condition. African countries have already by and large achieved it. What are needed now are growth- and investment-oriented policies. Market forces and the private sector must be the privileged agents of the strategies but they must be supported by an active, effective, efficient and honest public sector. Policies are needed to foster industry; not the old fashioned industrial policies of picking winners but what Joseph Stiglitz has called a modern industrial policy, a market-friendly but decisive set of policy interventions aimed at addressing market failures in the allocation of resources and steering investment and accumulation in desired directions.<sup>9</sup>

Stiglitz adds that the needed policies and strategies should be guided by a national vision of where the economy is going and where it should go. That vision, and the policies stemming from it, should be specific to the conditions, the history and the circumstances of each country, and should be owned by the national government and the civil societies of the country; in his words, "both the public and the private sector will need to ask, what will be the comparative advantages in the future, how can they, how should they, alter those comparative advantages through investments?"<sup>10</sup>

This, however, has a logical counterpart. If national governments are to assume control of their own development destinies, it follows that they should be able to use a range of policy instruments to devise and put in effect their chosen development strategies. This is the question of policy space. The Eleventh UNCTAD Conference was seized with this issue, and the Sao Paulo Consensus conceptualized it in the following terms: "The increasing interdependence of national economies in a globalizing world and the emergence of rule-based regimes for international economic relations have meant that the space for national economic policy, i.e. the scope for domestic policies, especially in the areas of trade, investment and industrial development, is now often framed by international disciplines, commitments and global market considerations. It is for each Government to evaluate the trade-off between the benefits of accepting international rules and commitments and the constraints posed by the loss of policy space. It is particularly important for developing countries, bearing in mind development goals and objectives, that all countries take into account the need for appropriate balance between national policy space and international disciplines and commitments".

The call for consideration of the issue of policy space therefore does not equate to demanding a license to renege on international economic commitments freely entered into. What it means is that when setting the agenda for future economic negotiations, when implementing existing disciplines and commitments and when interpreting rules, the question of the impact on the policy space of developing countries should be kept in mind. UNCTAD is evolving a programme of work relating the issue of policy space with the issue of policies to expand productive capacity and foster competitiveness in developing country economies.

There is yet a further corollary from the above, and this was also considered by UNCTAD XI. For the process of emergence and successful implementation of nationally rooted and owned development strategies to take place it is also important that the

governance process in the countries concerned be improved and perfected. An ineffectual or corrupt State can hardly generate or put into effect the right development policies and use productively the resources at its disposal. It should be noted that the Conference discussions included both governance at the national level and at the international level, the latter in terms of both the coherence and the transparency of the financial, monetary and trading systems, and the full and effective participation of developing countries in global decision making.

At the national level, the Conference's outcome on governance is comprehensive, referring, in addition to issues of economic governance, to such aspects as solid democratic institutions responsive to the needs of people, freedom, peace and security, domestic stability, respect for human rights, including the right to development, the rule of law, gender equality, and an overall commitment to just and democratic societies. UNCTAD, as a specialist economic organization of the system, has a number of programmes where a contribution is being made to improving economic governance. A particularly successful one is a programme on modernization of customs through the application of computerized procedures, the Automated System for Customs Data, ASYCUDA. This programme, active in over 80 countries, has, by reducing bureaucratic red tape and increasing transparency, succeeded in improving the efficiency and effectiveness of customs, raising the government revenue and reducing the possibility of dishonesty and corruption.

The importance of improving economic governance, i.e. the soundness and integrity of economic management by the government cannot be overstated. Indeed, it is often the case that it is this aspect of governance that is of most direct and immediate concern to the population. A recent publication of the United Nations Development Programme dramatically exemplifies this issue in the case of Latin America. The document, entitled *Democracy in Latin America*, reports the results of a public opinion survey covering 18 countries in the continent with a sample size of about 17000 respondents. A majority of the respondents (56.3 per cent) stated that they believe economic development is more important than democracy; and an equally sizable majority (54.7 per cent) said they would support an authoritarian government if it resolved economic problems. The imperative of accelerated development seems, therefore, to be relevant not only for moral, social or humanitarian reasons, but also as the only means to safeguard democracy, the rule of law and human rights in the long run.

To conclude, the future for once looks hopeful. The United Nations, seat of multilateralism, has taken a decisive lead and should continue to collectively guide the process, which nevertheless should be owned by national governments and national societies. The forthcoming Summit will be the embodiment of this partnership. Much has already been accomplished, but there is no room for complacency: there is still a long way to go. One of the greatest poets in the Spanish language, the Peruvian César Vallejo, wrote: "Hay, hermanos, muchísimo que hacer", "There is, my brothers, so much to be done". It is incumbent upon the international community now get on with the task.

## The World Economy: Situation and Challenges <sup>11</sup>

By Mr. Reinhard Munzberg

Special Representative of the International Monetary Fund to the United Nations

In order to meet the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), it is necessary that all partners do their share. Developing countries should adopt sound macroeconomic, structural, and sectoral policies. But a healthy global economy and adequate support from the developed world are equally important. Implementation is key. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) stands ready to do its part.

The global economy grew by an impressive 5.1 percent last year. Growth this year is expected to slow moderately to about 4.3 percent, but will remain relatively robust. Growth in sub-Saharan Africa reached an impressive 5 percent last year, the highest level in a decade. But more is needed to make decisive progress in poverty alleviation and meet the MDGs. Indeed, NEPAD targets the necessary level of growth at about 7 percent per year. Inflation remains relatively subdued. To date, higher oil prices have not significantly affected core inflation or inflationary expectations. The average rate of inflation in sub-Saharan Africa was below 10 percent last year, the lowest level in decades.

The International Monetary and Financial Committee noted at its last meeting that widening imbalances across regions and the continued rise in oil prices and oil market volatility have increased risks. There are substantial gaps in growth performance between the regions of the world. The U.S. current account deficit has increased significantly in recent years while emerging Asia continues to run large surpluses. Addressing global imbalances and restoring and sustaining balanced growth to the world economy require vigorous collaborative efforts.

Indeed, effective poverty reduction needs high and sustainable growth. Developing countries need to intensify their reform efforts, including through further development of their own poverty reduction strategies. This also requires well-targeted structural reforms to boost competitiveness and productive investment. Poor countries need to find ways to harness the benefits of foreign direct investment and private sector activity. They can lay the foundation by strengthening institutions and governance and by establishing predictable legal and regulatory frameworks.

Developed countries need to scale up their aid to low-income countries, as pledged in the Monterrey Consensus. The recent declarations to raise aid levels are to be applauded, and we welcome efforts by member states to find ways to generate innovative sources of finance. The IMF will continue providing assistance to help poor countries manage aid inflows and to strengthen their institutions and human resources to manage their economic and financial policies. We fully support the ongoing efforts to enhance overall aid effectiveness and to reduce transaction costs by simplifying and harmonizing donor procedures and requirements for aid delivery. We also encourage donors to align their support more fully with country-led poverty reduction strategies, consistent with the

principle of country ownership. IMF financing will continue to remain available for low-income countries, including at concessional rates. Regarding low-income countries, we are considering a new facility to cope with economic shocks, and for countries that do not borrow from us, how to enhance the IMF's role in signaling the strength of their policies to others.

Debt relief is important. The HIPC initiative has significantly cut the debt of 27 countries and freed up resources for social spending. But more can be done. The Group of Eight's debt relief proposal is a welcome development. We are examining the details, and we look forward to an early agreement by our members on those matters. In addition, debt sustainability analysis and effective debt management will be essential.

Developing countries need more trade in order to generate the kind of sustained and rapid growth that is needed for meaningful poverty reduction. Greater trade opportunities contribute to higher and more stable growth. The IMF supports an early completion of the Doha Round. To help countries cope with potential adjustment costs of trade opening, financing is available under our new Trade Integration Mechanism. We have also sharpened our surveillance of countries with potential trade-related vulnerabilities, and we continue to provide technical assistance in this area.

## Notes

- 1 From the high-level policy dialogue of the ECOSOC 2005 high-level segment, "Achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration, as well as implementing the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits: progress made, challenges and opportunities," 29 June 2005.
- 2 From the high-level policy dialogue of the ECOSOC 2005 high-level segment, "Achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration, as well as implementing the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits: progress made, challenges and opportunities," 29 June 2005.
- 3 From the high-level policy dialogue of the ECOSOC 2005 high-level segment, "Achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration, as well as implementing the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits: progress made, challenges and opportunities," 29 June 2005.
- 4 From the high-level policy dialogue of the ECOSOC 2005 high-level segment, "Achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration, as well as implementing the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits: progress made, challenges and opportunities," 29 June 2005.
- 5 Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.
- 6 Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines and Thailand.
- 7 Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China, Rep. of Korea, Singapore and Taiwan Province of China.
- 8 A More Secure World: Our Shared Responsibility, Report of the High-level Panel on Threats, Challenges and Change, December 2004, Paragraphs 44-45
- 9 Stiglitz, Joseph, "Development Policies in a World of Globalization" paper presented at the seminar "New International Trends for Economic Development" on the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of the Brazilian Economic and Social Development Bank (BNDES), Rio Janeiro, September 12-13, 2002.
- 10 Ibid., p 21.
- 11 From the high-level policy dialogue of the ECOSOC 2005 high-level segment, "Achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration, as well as implementing the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits: progress made, challenges and opportunities," 29 June 2005.

## Chapter 3

# THE ERADICATION OF POVERTY AND HUNGER

## Overview

It is an unacceptable paradox that in a world in which agricultural production is sufficient to feed the entire population, more than 800 million remain hungry and malnourished, and that obesity and waste co-exist with malnutrition and hunger. Hunger has a devastating impact on the lives and livelihoods of people suffering from it. It reduces productivity and working capacity; it makes people susceptible to disease and prevents children from learning. It thus compromises the growth of entire economies. Alleviating hunger is a pre-condition for poverty reduction.

Developed countries have a strategic interest as well as a moral obligation to improve the quality of life of people in developing countries. However, the quest for growth and poverty reduction remains the ultimate responsibility of national governments, and structural reform could help governments to provide for the needs of their citizens. Such reform should include the participation of poor segments of society through participatory and democratic mechanisms for resolving their problems. The right to food must be recognized as a fundamental human right, and governments should develop policies and development strategies centered on this basis. In this regard, the creation of a fair and conducive international trade environment, especially on agriculture, is essential for national growth and poverty reduction.

Reducing hunger and poverty requires a twin-track approach: Programmes and policies to support the productive sectors, especially agriculture and rural development where most of the poor derive their living need to be combined with programmes to enhance immediate and direct access to food for the most needy.

Harmonization between donors, alignment with recipients' national strategies and budgetary processes, and national ownership are requirements for improving the efficiency and effectiveness of resources mobilized for hunger and poverty reduction are utilized.

The reduction of poverty and hunger is a precondition for the achievement of the majority of the remaining MDGs, but the current trends suggest that the hunger goal could only be met as early as 2050, well beyond the 2015 deadline.

This chapter reproduces some of the topical presentations made on this subject and captures the key problems that were identified as well as the strategies that were mapped out to deal with them in the ensuing discussions.

The importance of access to work and sustainable employment was underscored. The prominence of agriculture as the main source of employment in rural areas was noted, and discussants outlined the need to put agriculture and agricultural policy as a high priority item on the policy agenda of national governments. Development strategies and economic policies that increase farm productivity above subsistence levels can provide



both a sustainable source of income for farmers as well as provide for improved food security at a national level. This can only be achieved, however, if there is sufficient profit potential for farmers to engage in commercial agriculture. For this reason, stable and remunerative commodity prices were seen as an important factor in boosting the levels of food production in developing countries.

Trade policy is clearly an important component in fighting poverty and hunger. The creation of a fair and conducive international trade environment, especially on agriculture, is essential for national growth and poverty reduction, while developing countries' abilities to respond to expanded opportunities need to be strengthened.

The need to change priorities in favour of the hungry using rights-based approaches was underscored. In this context the "Voluntary Guidelines to Support the Progressive Realization of the Right To Food in the Context of National Food Security" contain relevant issues that governments need to address in achieving food security. Implementation of the guidelines, through appropriate legislation, was recommended. In particular, the need to mobilize the civil society and pay added attention to the most vulnerable groups emphasizing employment generation, social safety nets and economic and social policies targeting the neediest was highlighted.

Democratic institutions and the right legal and justice frameworks at the domestic level, and good governance in order to ensure access to food and support food production was stressed. The role of the state in protecting the most vulnerable was emphasized as well as the need to take action to address disease, support pro-poor growth policies and stimulate the increase of agricultural productivity. The provision of infrastructure, peace and security, and protection of human rights and gender equality were all seen as part and parcel of an enabling strategy. The hope was expressed that the new poverty reduction strategy processes will pay more attention to food security, agriculture and rural development.

The fact that many developing countries do not have the administrative capacity to reform or to govern public aid received was pointed out. Thus, capacity- and institution-building, and assistance thereto, through partnership with the developed countries and through multilateral institutions, was emphasized. Selected regions and groups of countries, especially Sub-Saharan Africa and the LDCs, require targeted and customized responses. The NEPAD approach, which has made food security one of its priorities, was seen as a successful way of helping many citizens to secure their right to food that deserved further support from the international community.

Financing for development should address the important role of agriculture and rural development. The declining trend of public resources to those sectors should be reversed. Measures should be taken to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of development assistance. Despite the essential role of agriculture and rural development for poverty reduction, official development assistance in support of agriculture and rural development is extremely low compared to the level of agricultural subsidies in the rich countries.

The recent pronouncements made by various donors and donor groups concerning a substantial increase in official development assistance and the steps taken to increase its

effectiveness and efficiency as expressed in the Paris Declaration was welcomed. Other innovative financing mechanisms, including the International Finance Facility proposed by the United Kingdom and a levy on airline tickets, were also recommended.

The role of the Group of Eight in supporting the attainment of the MDGs, including reduction of poverty and hunger, was welcomed. In particular, its recent decision to cancel debts of some of the world's poorest countries was lauded. It was underlined that debt forgiveness must be used for development and poverty reduction purposes.

The role of private direct investment was stressed. Therefore, developing countries need to take steps to promote and attract investment. Employment generation is critical for the success of poverty reduction strategies, and it should permeate the objectives of all programmes and policies. To this end obstacles which prevent the expansion of private sector activity should be removed. Small- and medium-sized enterprises have a vital role in poverty reduction, as these are a source of employment and income.

The role that women play in reducing poverty and hunger was also highlighted. Women should be empowered through education, one aspect of which is providing primary education to girls. Women also need secure access to land and credit.

The vulnerability of agriculture and rural livelihoods to disasters such as floods, droughts and other events caused by nature was noted. The links between *conflict, poverty and hunger* were also highlighted. Many conflicts are not a product of ideology or political motives, but rather originate in an effort to secure power and resources. Typically the hungry and poor are the victims of those conflicts. States should be held responsible for protecting their citizens through appropriate mechanisms and sanctioned if they fail. The prevention of conflict should have high priority in pursuit of MDG1, to avoid large migratory pressures and tensions. The proposed Peacebuilding Commission would have a role in assisting those suffering from the adverse impacts of conflicts.

## **On the Paradox of Poverty and Hunger amidst Plenty<sup>1</sup>**

By Mr. Jacques Diouf

Director-General

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

It is simply unacceptable that 843 million people in developing and transition countries should continue to be hungry, and that over a billion live on less than a dollar a day. Effective action against hunger and poverty has been impeded by the lack of political will to tackle the problem and the consequent failure to provide enough resources. However, there are now encouraging signs of a strengthening of resolve to fight against poverty and hunger, following the adoption of the Millennium Declaration, the formulation of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), and their reaffirmation at the Monterrey Summit in 2002.

Developing countries are acknowledging the need to commit more resources for development that benefit the poor. Donor countries are taking steps to increase official development assistance (ODA) to countries committed to poverty and hunger reduction.

The work of non-governmental and civil society organizations is creating a groundswell of public opinion against these scourges in both developing and developed countries alike. The United Nations Millennium Project's report and the various task force reports to the Secretary-General has called for specific steps to achieve the Millennium Development Goals. The Report of the Commission for Africa calls for a doubling of ODA to Africa by 2015. The activities of private foundations as providers of funds for critical initiatives are also worth noting. However, one aspect of international aid- global food aid- has plummeted by almost 30 percent from 2003 to 2004.

There is also an emerging consensus on effective approaches to poverty and hunger reduction: a twin-track approach is required that combines investments in productive activities with targeted programmes to provide the neediest with direct and immediate access to food and other basic goods and services. With about 75 percent of the poor and hungry in developing countries living in rural areas, promoting investments in agricultural and rural development, in particular, is fundamental. This "twin-track" approach was first presented by FAO, IFAD and WFP at the International Conference on Financing for Development in Monterrey, Mexico, in March 2002. It was further elaborated in FAO's publication "Anti Hunger Programme" in 2003 and its main elements are reiterated in the report of the Hunger Task Force of the UN Millennium Project. However, for its full implementation, three urgent requirements must be fulfilled:

- hunger reduction should be recognized as a key component of all national poverty reduction strategies;
- agricultural and rural development should be recognized as key engines of pro-poor growth and hunger reduction; and
- consensus on strategies to reduce poverty and hunger should be translated into concrete action to scale.

### **Prospects for meeting the hunger and poverty goals**

Some progress towards the two targets of MDG 1 has been made. The world appears on track to achieve a halving of the proportion of the population living in extreme poverty. Between 1990 and 2001, the proportion of people living in extreme poverty (less than 1 dollar a day) in developing countries declined from 28 to 21 percent, (by 129 million people) and is set to decline to 10 percent (622 million people) by 2015.

Concerning the hunger target in MDG 1, the proportion of people undernourished in the developing countries declined from 20 to 17 percent in the 1990s. Even if hunger reduction were still to be achieved by 2015, halving of the absolute number of undernourished people globally, which is the goal of the World Food Summit 1996, is unlikely. The absolute number of undernourished people in developing countries fell by only 9 million in the 1990s. Moreover, progress in hunger and poverty reduction at global level masks significant differences among regions, countries, and areas within national borders. Much of the global progress is accounted for by developments in China and India, with insufficient progress in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Countries with the highest levels of poverty must achieve very high rates of sustained economic growth to make a serious dent on poverty—a daunting task. Even within growing countries, there persist high levels of poverty and hunger. Particular groups of people suffer higher overall incidence of poverty and hunger and will not necessarily share the fruits of economic growth. They include children, female-headed households, indigenous and tribal peoples, and populations without sufficient access to natural, financial or human assets. Approaches to poverty reduction often neglect gender differentials in terms of women’s access to income, resources and services. To reach those untouched by economic growth and those who cannot take advantage of it, swift and targeted action is required. This will in itself have a positive economic impact and create a stronger basis for sustainable and broad-based economic growth.

### **Linkages between MDG 1 and the other MDGs**

Achieving the MDGs and other goals set by the conferences and summits of the 1990s requires the recognition that they are multidimensional, multisectoral and interdependent. To achieve a strong and lasting impact on poverty, it is necessary to understand how income, hunger reduction, education, health, gender, and environment interact so as to allow coordinated action on several fronts. Access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation (MDG 7) is closely related to reducing the incidence of poverty (MDG 1) and of major diseases (MDG 6), while hunger reduction (MDG 1) cannot be divorced from the achievement of universal primary education (MDG 2) and the goal regarding major diseases (MDG 6). Progress in meeting commitments on trade, debt and ODA (MDG 8) is essential to support the national processes to meet all MDGs.

It is well understood that extreme poverty is at the root of chronic hunger. Poor people do not possess the means to access and/or produce the food necessary for an active and healthy life and are more vulnerable to destitution following extreme events.

There is less recognition of hunger as an important cause of poverty. Hunger imposes human and economic costs on individuals and societies by adversely affecting the health and productivity of populations. It causes the loss of millions of productive life years as a result of the premature death, disease and disabilities it inflicts. Recent calculations show that the present discounted value of the combined costs of protein-energy malnutrition, low birthweight babies and micronutrient deficiencies (such as iron and iodine deficiency) throughout the lifetime of one cohort of undernourished children would add up to at least 5 to 10 percent of GDP of the developing world – roughly US\$500 billion to US\$ 1 trillion. The “hunger– low-productivity–extreme poverty” nexus acts as a trap that is hard for hungry people to escape.

The developing world is spending at least US\$30 billion a year, a sum which amounts to almost half of the entire official development assistance, to deal with the direct damage caused by hunger: treating the problem pregnancies and deliveries of anemic, underweight babies and the severe and frequent illnesses of children whose bodies and immune systems have been weakened by hunger. Eradicating hunger and extreme poverty could redress this drain on scarce financial resources. Investment in hunger reduction is too often seen as “welfare”, whereas, in practice, it is an investment with a potential for generating high economic returns.

## Elements of a strategy for meeting MDG 1

Meeting the targets of MDG 1 is a shared responsibility of rich and poor nations. Strategies for reaching the MDGs must be tailored to individual countries, but certain general elements are critical for success:

- Set targets and agree on coordinated actions in each country: This involves profiling the poor and hungry, agreeing on priorities, targeting, generating roadmaps and timetables, exploiting synergies among the goals, mobilizing resources and allocating them strategically. Nationally-owned Poverty Reduction Strategies are increasingly fulfilling this function, despite some perceived shortcomings, and are becoming principal national tools to achieve the MDGs. International cooperation should support such national efforts.
- Build capacity using bottom-up and participatory approaches: Local institutions are needed that are managed by and accountable to local people and communities. Local capacity building and skill development are key elements to the empowerment of poor people. Legal and property rights and access to resources must be enhanced, especially for vulnerable groups such as women and indigenous people. MDG-based strategies should be transparent and inclusive, working closely with civil society organizations, the domestic private sector and international partners
- Give priority to actions in hotspots: Programmes and investments must focus on poverty and hunger “hotspots” – those areas around the world and within a country where a significant proportion of people suffer from malnutrition and high incidence of poverty. Criticisms often include i) underestimating the importance of investment in such sectors such as agriculture, ii) failure to make the connection between poverty hunger, agriculture, economic growth, iii) lack of adequate inclusion of social targets, and iv) insufficient participation by the private sector and (lack of) consultation with vulnerable and disadvantaged groups. Implementation of plans of action for country groups or regions (e.g. NEPAD, the Brussels Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries, the Barbados Programme of Action for the Small Island Developing States etc) should be supported in the context of the strategies to achieve the MDGs, tailored to their specific contexts.
- Combine policies and programmes for social sectors with long-term development programmes: Poverty reduction requires a twin-track approach which combines, ideally within the same communities, (a) direct interventions and social investments to address the immediate needs of poor and hungry (social safety nets, conditional or unconditional cash transfers, health interventions, food and nutrition programmes) with (b) long-term development programmes to enhance the performance of the productive sectors (especially to promote agriculture and rural development), create employment and increase the value of the assets held by the poor (physical, human, financial). Coherence between policies and investments to increase productivity and economic efficiency and social sectors cohesion reinforce each other. Reducing inequalities in income and access to assets strengthens the impact of economic growth on poverty reduction. In accordance with the Millennium Declaration, efforts should be made to promote the right to adequate food and implement the related Voluntary Guidelines recently adopted by governments.

- Intervene directly to enable the neediest: Implementation of a twin-track approach in the context of hunger reduction means enabling the neediest to escape from the “hunger–low-productivity–extreme poverty” trap. This requires programmes to enhance direct and immediate access to food and good nutrition for the most vulnerable groups. Approaches to direct assistance must be context-specific. Initiatives such as school meals supplied by local production should be scaled up when good results have been obtained. Investment in health services (including access to reproductive health services and programmes to combat HIV-AIDS), sanitation and clean water programmes are essential complementary interventions.
- Use food assistance to strengthen human capital and build physical assets: This helps families build resilience to shocks and protect their livelihoods and opens up development opportunities. Human capital is often the only resource the hungry and poor actually own and in many cases is underdeveloped or remains untapped as a result of hunger. Food supported activities are used to develop and enhance skills, or to create physical assets, such as food storage facilities, water and erosion control structures that help communities face crisis and that are necessary to reach longer-term development aspirations.
- Focus policies and investments on rural areas and agriculture: The fight to meet MDG1 will be won or lost in the rural areas of developing countries, home to some 75 percent of the poor and hungry, who derive their livelihoods from agriculture and related activities. Enhancing food security in the rural areas entails scaling-up actions to improve the productivity of smallholder agriculture in ways which, in the first instance, contribute to improved standards of nutrition and thereby open opportunities for further performance improvements and broadening of participation in market-led growth. It also implies promoting sustainable use of natural resources; improving rural infrastructure, research and communications; facilitating the functioning of markets; and enhancing rural institutions. Productivity-induced agricultural growth has a wider impact on rural areas through the strengthening of off-farm activities, rural employment and wages. The development of rural strategies in the context of Poverty Reduction Strategies will help to target centers of poverty.
- Support a dynamic growth process: The promotion of rural development in a sustainable way can stem rural-urban migration, bring employment opportunities to rural areas, reduce regional income disparities, and ultimately fight deep poverty at its very source. Emphasis needs to be placed on diversification towards rural non-farm activities, including value-added production, and strengthening productive capacities of micro, small and medium enterprises, all processes in which women in rural areas play a major role.
- Strengthen poor urban livelihoods: Important as the rural space is for economic development and poverty reduction, it should be noted that the world population is “urbanizing” increasingly. Meeting the challenges of urban food security includes a number of interventions: pro-poor employment and asset generation combined with measures to assist the urban poor in meeting their basic needs such as housing, nutrition, clean water, safe food, health and primary education. In some cases, urban

agriculture can be a source of livelihoods and household food supplies, especially in formerly rural areas incorporated into cities.

- Accelerate progress towards an open and fair international trading system: Progress is particularly needed on issues of market access, export subsidies and trade-distorting domestic support in agriculture. Low-income countries must strengthen the competitiveness of their domestic food production and their compliance with sanitary and phyto-sanitary standards. They need trade-related financial and technical assistance. Furthermore, in view of the continuing distortions on world markets, they must be granted more “policy space” necessary to reduce poverty and hunger by developing their rural areas and agriculture. The agreements in WTO should contain strengthened provisions for safety nets at the international level, thus assuring reliable and affordable food imports, as provided in the Marrakech Decision.

### Financing the strategy

To be effective, actions and initiatives to achieve MDG 1 need to be adequately funded through a combination of public and private resources. Several initiatives bring the promise of a substantial increase in future resources available for the achievement of the MDGs. In conformity with the Millennium Compact, the New Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD) is giving priority to improved governance with an emphasis on inclusiveness, conflict prevention, and anti-corruption activities. The African peer review mechanism has been endorsed by the African Union as a key means for region-wide peer pressure for positive change. In the Maputo Declaration, African Heads of State and Government made a commitment to raise the share of their countries’ budgets allocated to agriculture and rural development to 10 per cent within 5 years. Many African countries have in place programmes and strategies to revitalize agriculture.

Many donor countries are pledging a substantial increase in development assistance: On 24 May 2005, the European Union announced that its member states - who now provide about US\$37 billion in ODA- would double ODA to developing countries by 2015. An agreement was recently reached by the G8 under which the World Bank, the IMF and the African Development Bank will immediately cancel all the debts, amounting to about US\$40 billion, owed to them by 18 countries which have reached their PRSP completion point, with more countries to be included in the list in the future.

These encouraging initiatives have still to be translated into concrete financing strategies. The following general issues and principles need to be considered in this context:

- Increasing effectiveness of Official Development Assistance: It is widely recognized that there is ample scope for increasing the effectiveness of ODA. The Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness, adopted in March 2005, calls for: *ownership*, i.e. aid should reflect recipient rather than donor priorities; *alignment*, i.e. aid should be aligned with recipient countries’ budgetary cycles and behind national strategies and programmes; and *harmonization*, i.e. there should be more donor coordination to exploit complementarities, combined with simplified procedures for disbursement.

- Ensuring complementarity of public resources, domestic and international: given the common purpose, ODA and public domestic resources for reducing poverty and hunger should be well coordinated and targeted. The key notion should be mutual accountability of donor and partner countries for development results. Therefore, recipient countries would strive to involve all stakeholders, including parliaments, in the formulation of national development strategies in a participatory manner. Donors would commit to providing timely, transparent and untied aid flows to allow partners to manage these resources more effectively.
- Ensuring additionality in public financing for development: It is important to ensure “additionality” in financing for development, whether cash or food aid, i.e. that these measures do not reduce other resources available to those or other developing countries and do not jeopardize the long-term financial viability of international financial institutions.
- Creating an environment conducive to private investment: public investments must be accompanied by policies that induce complementary flows of private investment. The quality and transparency of governance and public administration, political stability, reliance on market signals and macroeconomic discipline, are essential for stimulating private investment.
- Increasing resources for agriculture and rural development: it is urgent that the apparent consensus over the importance of agriculture and rural development for growth and poverty reduction is translated into commensurate resource commitments. Over the past 20 years we have witnessed a 57 percent decline in resources for these sectors from an average of US\$ 5.14 billion per year in 1983-1987 (2002 prices) to US\$ 2.22 billion in 1998-2002. Lending from international financial institutions and domestic public investment followed a similar pattern. To make matters worse, development-oriented food assistance has fallen significantly. Moreover, there is a growing recognition of the need for a better balance between social sector development and infrastructure investment in the allocation of both domestic and external resources.
- Making PRSPs more inclusive in addressing food security and rural development: Hunger reduction strategies have to be implemented in the context of Poverty Reduction Strategies (PRSP). However the implementation of the PRSPs in many countries still lacks focus on food insecurity and a clear appreciation of the potential of rural and agricultural development in reducing poverty. The result is insufficient budgetary allocations for these key areas. The dilution of institutional responsibilities for rural development and the inadequate empowerment of rural stakeholders have to be addressed in order to strengthen the political leverage for increased “rural” resources. Furthermore, there is a need for greater integration/coordination of PRSPs and existing national food security and rural development policies and strategies.
- Dealing with instability inherent in agricultural and other rural activities: financial instruments and risk management tools are needed which address the particular volatility of production, prices and incomes in agriculture in order to enhance incentives for private investment in agriculture and to reduce the vulnerability of



small farmers to various shocks. Partnerships among donors, governments, local communities and civil society hold the promise of strengthening the provision of rural financial services, mobilization of savings and remittances, and the enhanced access to rural credit by small farms and firms.

- Ensure effectiveness and efficiency of food aid: Non-market distorting food aid, carefully targeted to the needs of food insecure and vulnerable households and used to finance food for assets or food for education, qualifies as a form of development finance. Therefore, the general principles of funding for development also apply to food aid.
- Using debt relief for poverty and hunger reduction: debt relief holds the potential of substantially increasing investment in key sectors for achieving the MDGs, including education, health, participatory rural development, integrated nutrition programmes, and other rural poverty/hunger reduction initiatives.

In conclusion, more than lack of knowledge, there was inadequate political commitment and resources in the past for the struggle against poverty and hunger. Today, there are signs of strengthened political will and increased awareness of the need for action. The Rome-based agencies welcome the calls for gender equality, innovative research and increased agricultural productivity in Africa contained in the draft outcome document for this important event. However, they also note that the draft does not yet adequately recognize the very significant roles which food security, rural development and agriculture can play in reducing poverty in all its multiple and interdependent manifestations.

It is inescapable to surmise that the means and opportunity to fight hunger and poverty effectively are finally present. A failure to implement the proposals currently on the table would squander a most valuable opportunity. What is needed now is action that recognizes the role of agriculture and rural development in the fight against poverty and food insecurity.

## The Rural Problematique<sup>2</sup>

By Mr. Gary Howe

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The report of the Millennium Development Project brought us some good news and some bad news. The good news is that real progress is being made in some areas in reducing poverty and hunger. The bad news is that, overall, progress may not be fast enough to reach the MDG targets by 2015. The question is still open about whether present trends will allow MDG 1 to be reached in terms of the global aggregate performance, but it is very clear that in some areas there is little or no progress at all. In much of Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia, poverty and hunger are hardly declining. Even in the strong performers, there remain huge numbers of people in extreme poverty and hunger.

To reduce hunger and poverty we need to do more, and to focus on the core of the problem. We now know very well where the major problem is. Of the between 1.1 and 1.2 billion people living in extreme poverty today, three quarters live in the rural areas of developing countries. Rural people and rural countries are the poorest. Urban poverty is also very worrying, but this itself is partly a reflection of very poor conditions in rural areas. The conclusion seems inescapable – until we focus on the rural development issues of developing countries, in agriculture and in new rural employment and income opportunities, we will have major problems in really reducing global poverty and hunger.

Poor rural people are the majority of those who are being left behind by globalization, the people for whom the MDGs were adopted. But they are not being left out of globalization. On the contrary, they are people who have been terribly challenged by the successive waves of liberalization that have been an essential part of the globalization experience of developing countries. And they are the people who bear a large part of the burden of the tremendous distortions that developed countries have introduced into the global system of agricultural production and trade. The problem for the rural poor is not that they are outside of globalization, but that they are inside it on other people's terms.

The international development system has not served these poor rural people at all well. Between 1985 and 2002 ODA for agriculture in developing countries fell two-thirds in real terms. National support for agriculture and rural development frequently moved in the same direction. And, the area of agriculture is where aid incoherence is greatest. While ODA for agriculture in developing countries fell, subsidies for developed country agriculture reached record levels (at a ratio of about 100-to-1). Be it in terms of aid, be it in terms of trade, the rural populations of developing countries, especially the Least Developed Countries, have fared very badly, indeed, in the international system.

Not only do they have major difficulties in the international arena; at the national level, as well, they are faced by new forms of competition for the land and water that their livelihoods depend on. But the rural poverty issue is social and political as well as economic. Very poor rural people are disproportionately women and members of

minority ethnic groups. There can be no economic answer to the hard core of global poverty that does not simultaneously provide a social answer to gender and ethnic exclusion and marginalization mechanisms.

We have to realize that the majority of poor rural people do not depend on others for their income and food security. They make their own living on the basis of their own enterprises – as small-scale farmers, herders, fisherfolk, artisans and traders. Our task is not to increase their income and food security, it is to create the conditions in which they can do it better for themselves. So, what has to be done to concretely and effectively reduce the rural poverty that is at the core of global poverty?

First, the international trade regime in agricultural products needs to be made open and fair. The effects of the current practices of developed countries are well known. They are inconsistent with the basic principles of an efficient global economy. They benefit very few in developed countries. And they demonstrably penalize the poor. The question is not whether there is need for change, but when and how that change is going to take place. Discussions around gradual change processes should take the timetable of the MDGs into their frame of reference. This is not only a question of relations between developing and developed countries. There are very large potential gains to be made from reducing barriers to trade in and among developing countries themselves.

Second, there must be highly targeted programmes of collaboration with small-scale farmers in poor developing countries to enable them to take advantage of the hoped-for reduction in international trade distortions, and to cope better with competition in their own markets. If small-scale farmers are not equipped to manage the challenge of trade, there is a real prospect of a negative impact among the rural poor. The private sector must play a critical role in this, and developing and developed countries must work together to eliminate the barriers to private sector investment opening new opportunities for poor rural people.

Third, there must be a major increase in ODA and national investment for agricultural and economic development among poor rural people. Most of the rural poor are themselves entrepreneurs: they operate small farms, workshops, and trading enterprises. Improvement in these activities is the key to their income and food security. ODA has to target these people and their livelihoods, and it has to be increased. It may not be good enough simply to increase overall ODA. Specific earmarking is necessary. In this, the international development assistance could do well to follow the lead of NEPAD and the African Union: whose members have committed themselves to raising public investment in agricultural development to 10% of public expenditure.

Fourth, there is no single model for rural income development and poverty reduction. The cases of China, India and Vietnam show that it can be done. But they also show that there are many more ways of getting there than was thought in the late 80's and 90's of the last century. Not only is it necessary to give more support to developing countries to support better rural livelihoods, but it is necessary to support their capacity to *formulate* their own responses to specific country circumstances, and, of course, to *implement* them. In concrete terms, it means that international development cooperation and national leadership have to focus on PRSPs that reflect the national configuration of rural poverty problems – and on broad national rural and agricultural change programmes that bring

together policy change, institutional development and material investment at a level commensurate with the problem, which is huge. The issue is no longer the isolated success of projects that stand on their own. It is working together to develop and implement coherent national-scale programmes that make a difference.

Fifth, it is essential to underline the imperative need for the active participation of poor rural people and their organizations in the development of policies and programmes that are supposed to reduce their poverty. Supporting agricultural development is different from social service programmes: governments don't do agriculture; farmers do. No programme of support can succeed unless it supports what small-scale farmers, herders and fisher-folk want to, and can, do. Without *consulting* with them on their constraints, opportunities, and interests, no programme – large or small – can succeed. This is particularly true because reducing poverty in rural areas is not about agricultural development in general. It is about eliminating the specific obstacles faced by rural poor women, by marginalized rural ethnic groups, and by other poor rural people. These obstacles are very often quite special to each group. And it must be remembered that what is good for one group is not necessarily good for another. The adoption of a formal private land tenure system based on court-adjudicated registration, etc. might be very good for better-off rural people, for example. But at the same time it could be disastrous for the rural poor, who cannot afford title registration procedures, and who may be dependent upon keeping land and water resources in the common property, rather than private property, system. Participation is essential, but not only in the passive sense, It is essential that poor rural people be given support in building organizations that reflect and express their experiences and interests. The point is not a referendum on rural and agricultural development policy, but a robust process of informed consultation in which concerned groups can speak for themselves.

Sixth, and finally, the international community and governments in developing countries must develop a coherent safety-net strategy for rural areas. What we are discovering about the chronic poor is that often they cannot benefit directly from poverty reduction programmes aimed at increasing economic and livelihood opportunities. Reducing hunger will come from increasing the assets and opportunities of poor rural people – for many. But for some, this does not work. In the context of the HIV/AIDS epidemic, the numbers of people in such a situation are large and increasing. The stress of changes in economic system, and the catastrophic burden of disease, is challenging the ability of communities and families to maintain traditional local safety net systems. National replacements must be woven, ensuring that the major commitment to food aid every year, which was larger than ODA for agricultural development in 2002, complements the effort to raise income and production capacity though confronting the everyday emergency of communities unable to cope with the need to support the minority who will not be able to make it on their own.

There are few mysteries in poverty. Most global poverty is rural poverty. Rural poverty is rooted in the limited resources that poor people have to meet their income and food security challenges. The most acute poverty is among women and minority groups that are subject to specific and discriminatory mechanisms of exclusion. So, there is no mystery – except one. The only mystery is why so little has been done to focus on and solve these very clear problems. We hope that as the pursuit of the MDGs enters its

second phase, the rural problematique receive explicit recognition – and that targeted and specific responses will be supported, and not crowded out, by general mechanisms of assistance.

## **The Need for a Fair Process of Globalization<sup>3</sup>**

By Mr. Eddy Lee

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The ILO is fully committed to this overarching MDG of eradicating poverty and hunger. Several hundred million poor and hungry people in the world toil on the brink of survival. They are often also trapped in conditions of “un-freedom”; subject to exploitation, bondage, discrimination and deprived of voice and power. This is both morally unacceptable and economically irrational. Urgent remedial action is indeed required.

In terms of what this remedial action should consist of, we see an important role for policy and institutional reform at the global level. As argued in the report of the World Commission on the Social Dimension of Globalization established by the ILO, poverty and hunger cannot be eradicated without a fair process of globalization. This includes, in particular, a fairer and more open multilateral trading system that provides opportunities for poor agricultural producers in developing countries.

We also endorse the twin-track strategy that combines immediate social transfers with long-term development programmes. Action is indeed required on both fronts.

We believe that this strategy can be enriched through incorporating decent work as a key objective. The ILO’s Decent Work agenda comprises four interrelated elements--employment creation, the promotion of fundamental worker rights, social dialogue, and social protection. Progress in all these areas is essential for the eradication of poverty and hunger.

In terms of the first track of the strategy, direct interventions to address the immediate needs of the poor and hungry through income transfers and food and nutrition programmes obviously need to be strengthened. This is a basic part of the imperative to reduce poverty and socio-economic insecurity in the global economy. Towards this end the ILO is actively engaged in an effort to extend social security to all. It is also pertinent to note that the World Commission on the Social Dimension of Globalization set out the vision of a “global socio-economic floor” as an essential part of the institutional architecture required for a fair globalization.

But these direct interventions must occur within a coherent framework of policies. While it is true that a better-fed and healthier worker is also a more productive one, this economic gain will remain only notional unless the social transfers are combined with efforts to increase productive employment opportunities.

It is also important not to allow the first track to become merely a social palliative. To avoid this we need to also deal simultaneously with the non-income and non-food dimensions of poverty. We need to empower the poor and decent work is an important means of achieving this. A decent job confers not only an entitlement to income but also dignity and recognition. It also ensures participation in economic and social life. Moreover, fundamental worker rights, especially freedom of association, are vital for the empowerment of the poor. Therefore efforts to promote growth and the creation of productive employment must be accompanied by institutional reforms to empower the poor and increase their access to credit, productive assets, and education.

Turning to the second track of the strategy, it is clear that there must be a substantial increase in ODA in order to accelerate development and eradicate poverty and hunger. From an ILO perspective, such an increase in ODA would constitute a huge new opportunity to boost employment creation, especially in rural areas. This opportunity should be seized. Increased ODA would allow low-income countries to significantly expand public investment in infrastructure, especially rural infrastructure, and in social services. The employment creation potential of these expenditures should be maximized.

Investments in rural infrastructure can be achieved through the use of labour-intensive public works programmes that mobilize underemployed rural labour. Such programmes can also be deployed to support the social protection objective through introducing or scaling up self-targeting public employment-guarantee programmes. Similarly, the large increase in public expenditures on education, health, and other social services will boost the demand for teachers, nurses, and auxiliary workers. It is important to ensure an adequate supply response through stepping up training programmes.

As pointed out in the report of the Millennium Project, a key requirement for bringing about a significant reduction in global hunger and poverty is the launching of a Green Revolution for Africa. This is indispensable for raising agricultural productivity. This, in turn, is the ultimate basis for ensuring sustained employment creation and poverty reduction.

Here again, we need to maximize employment creation. We should recall the lessons of the Green Revolution in Asia and seek to minimize employment displacement through the inappropriate mechanization of production technologies. We should also provide safeguards against the marginalization of small farmers as large farms and agribusinesses capture most of the benefits of the introduction of the new technology. We should be careful to favour the choice of labour-intensive crops that are important to poor farmers as well as the use of economically viable, labour-intensive, techniques whenever possible.

In this connection it is again important to emphasize institutional reforms to empower the poor and strengthen their capacity to benefit from the opportunities opened up by new technologies and markets. This will require a significant role of the State in promoting this dimension of rural development. Markets never autonomously strengthen the capacity of the poor. Nevertheless, they can be harnessed, through intelligent public policies, as a powerful engine for bringing this about.

## A Social Perspective<sup>4</sup>

By Mr. Johan Schölvink

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The ten-year anniversary of the World Summit for Social Development was recently celebrated at the 43<sup>rd</sup> session of the Commission for Social Development. The Commission adopted an outcome which reaffirmed the basic tenets of Copenhagen: that people must be at the centre of development efforts. Economic growth is not an end in itself; social progress is what we want. The outcome further emphasized the mutually-reinforcing aspects of the MDGs and the Copenhagen Commitments by putting the three core issues of poverty eradication, full employment and social integration front and center. By doing so it interjected social integration and employment as the missing links in the MDGs and reminded stakeholders of the multidimensional concept of poverty.

The reaffirmation of Copenhagen was significant for several reasons. Firstly, unlike the conferences of Beijing and Rio, for example, where the constituency is visible and active in promoting their causes, the Copenhagen constituency is a group that is often mentioned – the poor, the unemployed and the marginalized – but is seldom heard from. It is a group that is for the most part scattered and disenfranchised, whose plight is defended by proxy at the Commission for Social Development, the intergovernmental body responsible for follow-up to Copenhagen.

Secondly, the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action emphasized eradication of poverty as an ethical, social, political and economic imperative. The Copenhagen Commitments acknowledged that policies to eradicate poverty must work in parallel: on the one hand to increase opportunities and access to resources; and on the other to reduce inequalities in the distribution of assets, wealth, opportunities, income and services. The 117 heads of state in attendance at the World Summit in 1995 made an unequivocal link between poverty, unemployment and social disintegration; between security and the rising gap between rich and poor. Even in a pre-9/11 world, they forewarned that, if we want to reduce social tensions and create greater social and economic stability and security, then we must address inequalities within and among countries; we must invest in social development.

Sadly, inequality has widened over the past decade, most prominently between the groups at the two extremes of the income ladder – the rich have become richer and the poor have become poorer. Unemployment rates have risen, and today half of the world's working population – and nearly 60 percent of the developing world's workers – are not earning enough to lift themselves and their families above the \$2 a day poverty line. Not surprisingly, conflict has increased, most notably in the least developing countries, of varying intensity and duration.

That the world's major financial and trade sectors are just beginning to call for more tolerant and pragmatic approaches to the poverty and development challenge is encouraging, but it is not enough. The significance of economic dimensions for society rest not on their economic merits, but rather on how they best promote policies to satisfy human and social needs. Poverty, after all, is a mix of poor health, unemployment, inadequate education and social protection. It is a lack of social mobility, access and organization in the poorest communities; a lack of participation of migrants, of youth and older persons, of indigenous persons and persons with disability.

Jeffrey Sachs says that the MDGs will take us only half-way there. So even if MDG #1 is met in 2015, there will still be 900 million people living on less than \$1 a day. How then do we improve the lives of those who are on the wrong side of the half? This requires more than focusing on the achievable. It requires embracing the total development agenda of the United Nations of which Copenhagen is an important component. Some time in the late 1960s, Arthur Koestler wrote a book entitled "Beyond Reductionism". Reducing the United Nations development agenda to the MDGs, no matter their galvanizing effect, and further reducing these MDGs to what is achievable, is an invitation to accept defeat in the face of appalling conditions of poverty and hunger. Copenhagen and the other conferences of the 1990s had a broader vision of development. It is my hope that ECOSOC's High-level Segment will keep this vision alive and not succumb to what is now called "modern UN man/woman".

## **Dialogue on Progress, Challenges and Opportunities for Achieving the Internationally Agreed Development Goals<sup>5</sup>**

By Mrs. Charlotte McClain-Nhalpo  
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Poverty and hunger are an affront to human dignity. The facts about hunger seem paradoxical: hunger and famine prevail in a world of plenty. This is not only a moral issue, but also a human tragedy—a crisis - that largely remains unaddressed. Today in our world of six billion people, one billion have 80 per cent of the income and five billion have under 20 per cent. FAO estimates that 840 million people suffer from hunger and malnutrition and many millions more are threatened by it. That, according to the Special Rapporteur on the Right to food- everyday, every seven seconds, another child under the age of 10 dies from hunger or hunger-related diseases. The reality is that enough food is produced to feed the world's population and that 80% of the world's hungry and malnourished live in rural areas, where food is produced. This suggests that more production of food does not necessarily guarantee that it reaches the plates of those in need. The critical issue is distribution and access to food.

What is most disturbing about this paradox is hunger and famine can be avoided. Society today already possesses sufficient resources, organizational ability and technology and has the competence to achieve the first MDG. And yet, we continue to see hunger and



malnutrition. There is nothing deeply mysterious about addressing hunger and famine. There is no one path, but rather a convergence of paths. And yet it still remains so hard to get there.

A growing body of evidence indicates that if we want to meet the MDGs, we can't continue business as usual. There is no way that with the current trajectory we can meet the vision set out almost five years ago, in September 2000, by world leaders to reduce global poverty, hunger, disease, illiteracy, environmental degradation, and discrimination against women by 2015.

It is common cause that hunger is both a violation of human dignity and an obstacle to social, political and economic progress. A consensus has emerged since the end of the Cold War on the importance of human rights, including realization of the right to development and promotion of a rights-based approach as a prerequisite for effectively combating poverty. And that what is needed is sustainable economic growth, which must focus on the poor, with human rights at the centre. In short, a comprehensive approach and a coordinated strategy that tackles many problems simultaneously across a broad front.

International law recognizes that everyone has the fundamental right to be free from hunger. Article 25(1) of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) guarantees everyone the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and his family, including food. Member States to the International Covenant on Economic Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), on the other hand, acknowledges the right of everyone to an adequate standard of living for himself and his family, including adequate food and bind them to take appropriate steps to ensure the realization of this right. The State Parties further acknowledge the fundamental right of everyone to be free from hunger. Article 1 of the Universal Declaration on the Eradication of Hunger and Malnutrition also states that every man, woman, and child has the unalienable right to be free from hunger and malnutrition in order to develop fully and maintain their physical and mental faculties. General comment 12 states that "state parties should take steps to respect the enjoyment of the right to food in other countries, to protect that right, to facilitate access to food and to provide the necessary aid when required".

The Guidelines on the Human Rights Approach to Poverty Reduction Strategies defines the right to adequate food as the right of all individuals to enjoy physical and economic access to adequate food or the means for its procurement. They further state that the right to food should be understood as the right to feed oneself rather than the right to be fed.

In a move to help improve the chances of the reaching the first MDG, the FAO Council last year, on the 23 November 2004, adopted Voluntary Guidelines to "support the progressive realization of the right to adequate food in the context of national food security." It is envisaged that these Guidelines will provide practical guidance to help countries implement their obligations relating to the right to adequate food.

Again, the Voluntary Guidelines are premised on a wide range of important human rights principles, including equality and non-discrimination, participation and inclusion, accountability and the rule of law, as well as the principle that all human rights are universal, indivisible, inter-related and interdependent.

The Guidelines are a human rights-based tool addressed to all states to help implement good practices in food security policies. They cover the full range of actions that need to be taken at the national level to construct an enabling environment for people to feed themselves in dignity and to establish appropriate safety nets for those who cannot. This landmark event further signifies universal acceptance of what the right to food really means.

The primary obligation to realize the right to food rests with national governments. The State's human rights obligations operate on three levels:

1. The Obligation to respect puts limits on the exercise of State power. The State cannot interfere with the livelihoods of individuals. (if there is national legislation that has such an effect then corrective steps must be taken).
2. The Obligation to Protect, require regulations against poor conduct by non- State actors that would hinder people from acquiring adequate, safe food. (Such regulations would cover food hygiene, quality labeling, land tenure).
3. The Obligation to Fulfill, requires action by the State to identify vulnerable groups and to design policies that improve their access to food producing resources or income (direct assistance, cash transfers, social safety nets).

National governments must do everything possible to ensure that people have the physical and economic access to enough safe, nutritious food to lead healthy and active lives. This does not mean that State must feed its people but rather that the State must respect, protect and fulfill the rights of individuals to feed themselves.

The right to food is subject to the principle of progressive realization and is obviously limited by the available resources but this does not remove the government's obligation to begin to take tangible steps.

Today there are 22 countries that have enshrined food rights in their constitutions. Unfortunately, no country has yet instituted specific legislative measures to implement the right to food.

To be effective such framework law on the right to food will need to address common areas such as land tenure, access to water, minimum wage levels, social safety nets, credit, rural markets, food production and food quality. It is my view, that such law should serve social justice and the community, and it must give effect to human rights and the basic principles of democracy.

However, having said that, as indicated in the leading economic and social rights case in South Africa – the *Grootboom* case, a mere adoption of a policy measure by the government is not on its own sufficient to realize socio-economic rights.

It is imperative that governments must strike a balance between the goal and the means; that is, the governments must set out how in the long, short and medium terms they plan to achieve the goals. Our goals should be linked to challenges, to set targets of what it is that we're trying to achieve, and then look at ways in which over time we can reach that target. Have a vision, have a plan!

Spell out in national budgets -what and how resources will be allocated and spent. Develop national strategies to implement the right to food and highlight some good practices that are linked to the MDGs. It is also important that where countries have PRSPs that there should be specific reference to food security as a measure towards combating poverty.

Of critical importance is the presence of national monitoring systems. These should be established to evaluate and assess the extent to which the right is realized in terms of food production processing, distribution, marketing and consumption of food.

The National Human Rights Institutions can play a role in addressing hunger and the right to food. They can and have already been very useful not only in relation to addressing violations, but in monitoring the respect of and the protection of the right to food as well as raising awareness about the right to food and other basic rights.

Other challenges that lie ahead of us in relation to the fulfillment of this right are the need to:

- i. Prioritize and recognize extreme cases such as famine and hotspots.
- ii. Strengthen governance and public accountability;
- iii. Address infectious diseases such as the HIV/AIDS pandemic. HIV/AIDS increases hunger and malnutrition directly by reducing the income and food security of affected households and by interfering with the intergenerational transmittal of agricultural skills.
- iv. Foster macroeconomic growth and stability;- According to the World Bank -By 2001 only East Asia and Pacific and Latin America and the Caribbean had fewer undernourished people than 10 years earlier, but the rates of malnutrition remain high in South Asia, and they are rising in Sub-Saharan Africa. Countries that have succeeded in reducing hunger had higher economic growth, especially in agriculture and in rural areas. They have also had lower population growth and lower rates of HIV infection.
- v. Invest in pro-poor health policies;
- vi. Create employment as a means of alleviating poverty and food insecurity;
- vii. Invest in the productivity and nutrition security;
- viii. Invest in raising agricultural productivity;
- ix. Invest in human capacity, particularly through education of women, the girl child, youth and very importantly farmers;
- x. Improve infrastructure. for example, improvements in water quality and sanitation;
- xi. Establish and strengthen social safety nets especially for the most vulnerable ( the elderly, people with disabilities, displaced and refugees);
- xii. Align existing national strategies with the MDG's; and

xiii. Highlight the role of private initiative and engage the business sector.

In conclusion, if we are serious about meeting the first MDG, we must ensure good governance, the rule of law, solid democratic institutions responsive to the needs of the people, improved infrastructure, peace and security, respect for human rights and gender equality. Furthermore, these components need to be complemented by a vibrant civil society, knowledge and capacity to implement and, perhaps most importantly, the political will to act and provide sufficient resources. And where states are not able to meet these through their own resources, then they must request international assistance. These are all necessary components towards ending extreme poverty and hunger. The impressive commitments made by many African leaders to pursue economic and political reforms are heartening. Through NEPAD, they will continue the agenda for the continent's renewal. Nepad has the potential to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development in Africa. The implementation of its plans and the achievement of its objectives have positive implications for the reaching the first MDG and the Right to Food on the continent. Moreover, in order to ensure that Africa advances more towards reaching the MDGs we will have to have fairer access to trade, improved donor harmonization and coordination as well as deeper debt relief, and an increase in aid to sub-Saharan Africa.

Unfortunately, hunger and poverty cannot be wished away by a magic wand. Idleness while children die and millions sleep hungry is unacceptable-we cannot continue to fail the poor. We must use what we have. And today tools such as the voluntary guidelines are in place to address the problems of hunger and food insecurity. We have no excuse not to act- individually and collectively. This dialogue must be translated into action. We all must recommit to doing the right thing. We also must look to the forthcoming G8 Summit to do more, to use this summit to reach consensus on what should be done in these areas.

## Focusing on the Linkages between the Development Goals<sup>6</sup>

By Mr. Mark McGillivray  
Senior Research Fellow, Project Director  
United Nations University (UNU)

Millennium Development Goal One (MDG1), involving the reduction of extreme income poverty and hunger, is arguably the most important of all the MDGs. Swift and co-ordinated efforts are needed to achieve this goal, especially in sub-Saharan Africa.

This document responds to the issues paper entitled *Swift and Co-ordinated Action is Needed to Halve Hunger and Extreme Poverty Everywhere by 2005*.

The Issues Paper makes a fundamental point regarding links or synergies between the MDG targets. It is true that the targets identified under MDG-1 (halving both hunger and extreme poverty) are interdependent. More precisely, they are *endogenously* related: poverty causes and is caused by hunger. But it is also true that *all* MDGs, One through to Eight, are linked in one way or other. Achieving the MDGs does, therefore, start from a recognition of their interdependence.

If we accept the preceding point then we must also accept that while each goal requires a strategy tailored to its specific achievement, each goal should not be looked at in isolation. In particular, we need to better understand both the short- and long-run relationships between each MDG, as they apply both within and across countries, if we are to efficiently achieve the goals worldwide and sustain this achievement over time.

An associated benefit of this information is that it might point to a pivotal goal, that which is most causally linked with the others. Targeting or giving highest priority to this goal will promote the attainment of the other goals through the system of causal relationships.

Understanding and basing policy interventions around the causal relationships among the MDGs is, therefore, crucial. Two further points are worth emphasising, however briefly.

The first is that we should not overlook microeconomic and macroeconomic policy and institutional settings in designing and implementing policies designed to achieve the MDGs. While growth alone is clearly not enough to achieve the MDGs, we cannot achieve these goals worldwide and sustain this achievement if we do not have sustained world-wide economic growth.

The second concerns financing. It is obvious that the MDGs cannot be achieved without substantial increases in international financing, including official development assistance. But if international finance is to achieve the MDGs it needs to be allocated among and within recipient countries in a careful and systematic manner. An additional dollar of aid to one country does not have the same impact on poverty reduction and other developmental outcomes in that country as it does in all others. Some countries use aid

well, others do not. Some countries can absorb large amounts of external finances, whereas others face very tight absorptive capacity constraints. Donor allocation frameworks must be cognisant of these factors, otherwise additional financing might do more harm than good. At the same time, the international community needs to work hard to make aid work better in all countries, especially in the very poorest countries with low absorptive capacities. The MDGs will not be achieved worldwide without successfully addressing this issue.

## The Gender Dimension<sup>7</sup>

By Mrs. Joan Holmes

Member of the United Nations Millennium Project Task Force on Hunger  
President of the Hunger Project

As the Hunger Task Force report states, “gender equality is not simply socially desirable; it is a central pillar in the fight against hunger.”

The report’s recommendations are based on three fundamental recognitions: firstly, that gender discrimination is a common cause of hunger; secondly, that women are the major combatants in the battle against hunger— as food producers, nutrition providers, marketers of food, and decision-makers; and, finally, that despite the central importance of women in reducing poverty and ending hunger, women are by-passed by development, services, projects and programs.

As the report points out, women produce more than half of the food in Latin America and South Asia and 80% in Africa, and are also responsible for most of the household economy. A recent study points out that, from 1970 to 1995, women’s education accounts for almost 43% of the reduction in child malnutrition in developing countries. The second greatest factor is agricultural production, which accounts for 26% of the reduction.

Just as the importance of gender to ending hunger cannot be overstated, similarly, the magnitude of the challenge of effectively incorporating gender in the strategic initiatives to achieve the MDGs also cannot be overstated. An examination of the 10 key recommendations of the Millennium Project report reveals the importance of the gender issue. For example, the report calls for greater investment in science and technology, but fails to acknowledge that technology already in existence for hundreds of years has failed to reach women farmers. The majority of food being grown in Africa is being grown by women using short hoes and machetes – equipment appropriate to hundreds of years ago, and still in use today.

The very institutions we count on to make up for the structure for achieving the MDGs—the government ministries, the United Nations agencies, the research institutes, the international finance institutions, etc.—are in many cases top-down, hierarchical, patriarchal and non-participatory in their very nature. These institutions are perhaps well-suited to implementing technical solutions, but are not as well-suited to addressing

themselves to issues in the social domain, such as gender and all forms of social exclusion.

It will be easier to improve the environment of inequality between men and women that gives rise to so much of the child malnutrition in the world than to change it totally.

One factor that is strategically significant to ending hunger—and to meeting all the MDGs—it is to mandate that women be included effectively at the start of all processes and decisions that affect their well-being.

Our experience on the ground—in seven countries in Africa, three countries in Latin America, in India and in Bangladesh—is that unless it is mandated that women be included, the social forces are so strong that it just will not happen. If we continue to exclude women, we exclude the very people who have the most experience and who bear the primary responsibility for the actions critical to ending hunger. In closing, let us recall the Hunger Task Force and the Secretary-General called for a Green Revolution in Africa. It's important also to recall that the Secretary-General, when speaking at the Africa-France Summit in 2003, stated, "A Green Revolution in Africa will happen only if it is also a gender revolution".

## **Making the MDGs Relevant for Indigenous Peoples<sup>8</sup>**

By Mrs. Victoria Tauli Corpuz

Member

United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII)

A paragraph in the concept note prepared for this Roundtable states:

*Even within successful countries, there are pockets where poverty and hunger are persistently high and which will not share the fruits of economic growth. Particular groups of people suffer higher overall incidence of poverty and hunger, including children, female-headed households, indigenous and tribal peoples and landless populations.*

This is an important observation because averages are what we usually see in statistics presented on the MDGs. For instance, in terms of progress, the reports states that "between 1990 and 2001, the proportion of people living in extreme poverty (less than 1 dollar a day) has declined from 28 to 22 percent or by 137 million people." What is not commonly known is that this decline mainly happened in Asia, particularly in China and India. Most developing countries are not on track as far as meeting the MDGs is concerned. It is crucial therefore to disaggregate data and to probe more deeply into what is behind the figures presented. Because if this is not done, the reality for some groups of people will be masked and will not be addressed in an appropriate way.

Studies done by the World Bank, Inter-American Development Bank and the Asia Development Bank on the poverty situation of indigenous peoples show that they are

overrepresented among the world's poor and the poverty map coincides with their territories (Psacharopoulos & Patrinos, 1994; Plant, 1998, Plant, 2001). Some United Nations' bodies and agencies have figures which confirm these conclusions. Information from the UNICEF's Latin America and Caribbean office show that indigenous populations in the region are the poorest of the poor. Their data says that "in Guatemala, 87% of the indigenous population is poor, as compared to 54% of the non-indigenous population; in Mexico, that ratio is 80% vs. 18%; in Peru, 79% of the indigenous population is classified as poor, compared to 50% of the non-indigenous population; while in Bolivia, the ratio is 64% vs. 48%". (UNICEF News Note, November 2003). The 2004 Human Development Report concluded that indigenous peoples are more likely to be poor than non-indigenous peoples. It further said that in many countries, public spending in basic social services "systematically discriminates against minorities and indigenous peoples."<sup>9</sup>

Unfortunately, in spite of these empirical facts, these are not reflected at all in most of the country MDG reports of countries where indigenous peoples are found. The Secretariat of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues made a preliminary review of the MDG reports of 20 countries and they noted that 68% of these do not integrate nor respond to the situation and concerns of indigenous and tribal peoples. The MDG report of Bolivia, for instance, does not even make a reference to indigenous peoples. There is some deficiency in the way reports are made. This may lie with the guidelines for reporting. However, the UNDP, which is the body in charge of MDG reports, said that while there are guidelines, there is nothing which prevents countries from integrating important information on specific sectors.

There is growing pessimism, especially among indigenous peoples, that the MDGs can be achieved. In rare cases where these maybe achieved, indigenous peoples can again become the sacrificial lambs. In the Philippines for example, the government gives high priority to mining as one of the paths towards economic growth even if this may lead to more poverty and hunger, displacement, conflicts, and increasing violations of the rights of indigenous peoples to their territories and resources. In Kenya and Tanzania the Maasai people, many of whom are still pastoralists, find poverty in their midst worsening as their grazing lands are converted to agricultural lands.

For indigenous peoples, the following are some of the limitations of the MDGs. Firstly, these are not shaped within a human rights based framework. All the talk about a human rights based approach to development obviously has not influenced how the MDGs are shaped. For indigenous peoples, it is not feasible to talk of development without talking about respect for their basic collective and individual human rights. The goal to attain universal primary education for instance is not even couched in the language of the basic right to education. The same is the case with the target to halve the number of hungry people not seen within the right-to-food framework. Secondly, the structural causes of the problems addressed by the MDGs are not even discussed. The structural causes of indigenous poverty lies with a development paradigm which negates indigenous peoples' economic, political and socio-cultural systems, and permits discrimination and social exclusion, continuing colonization, and unsustainable debts of governments, among others. Thirdly, the indigenous peoples are invisible in the MDGs because what are



usually presented are the general averages within a country and these do not reflect the differentiated realities for specific groups of people.

In a speech made by the World Bank president, James Wolfensohn, at the fifth annual conference of the Parliamentary Network of the World Bank he said that *every year the most powerful nations of the world spend over 1,000 billion dollars in weapons, 350 billion dollars in subsidies for agriculture (in the north), but only 57 billion dollars in development aid*. This is what is perpetuated by the dominant development model which has to be seriously addressed for the MDGs to be achieved. MDG goal 8, to a certain extent, touches on these issues. However, this is one of the goals which has not established clear deadlines.

The following principles and recommendations could be considered by this High-Level ECOSOC meeting:

- i. Indigenous peoples should be made visible in the MDG reports in countries where they are found, the Secretary-General's report on the 5 year review of the Millennium Declaration and the MDGs, and reports of intergovernmental bodies. The concept note for this ECOSOC meeting says there is a need to profile the poor and the hungry and to identify hotspots. There is no doubt that indigenous peoples are hotspots for the MDGs. Preliminary profiling of indigenous peoples' poverty have been done by the World Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank, the Asian Development Bank and other United Nations agencies have already shown that indigenous peoples are the poorest of the poor. Data provided by these bodies should be used. This profiling, however, has to be done jointly with indigenous peoples. It has also been mentioned by the panelists that rural poverty, especially, poverty amidst small farmers, is the dominant face of poverty in most developing countries. Many indigenous peoples in the world today are still found in rural areas, and they are small-scale subsistence farmers, hunters and gatherers, pastoralists, small-scale artisans, forest-dwellers, and semi-nomadic and nomadic peoples. They are also the ones who still sustain socio-economic cultural systems which conform more to sustainable development principles. It is important therefore to highlight not only their poverty situations but also the actual and potential contributions they have in making this world more sustainable.
- ii. Need for data disaggregation based on ethnicity: This has been a standing recommendation by indigenous peoples in all the sessions of the Permanent Forum and a workshop on this was held in 2003. The results of this meeting can be downloaded from the website of the Permanent Forum which is [www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii](http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii). Indigenous representatives have been involved in designing, identifying variables and indicators, and choosing the questions to be asked, as well as in gathering and analysing data. They are the ones best equipped to identify issues of specific importance to them as they know the contexts that should be taken into consideration when indigenous-related data are gathered and interpreted. Some questions which can be asked are as follows:

How do conditions of living vary among and within indigenous peoples, and within and between countries?

- Why are such variations present?
- What are current and long-term trends?
- What are potential causal factors of inequities?
- What is the effectiveness of policies and interventions?

The involvement of indigenous peoples in generating data through participatory processes can further strengthen their capacity to evaluate their assets and problems, and design their own solutions. The improvement of data collection systems and development of research instruments and assessment tools constitute important foundation steps for building a body of scientific knowledge that is comprehensive, methodologically sound, and responsive to social needs, especially of the most marginalized and impoverished.

- i. The human rights-based approach to development should be the framework used in achieving the MDGs. The further development and operationalization of this approach is related to the earlier point. The report of the Workshop on Data Disaggregation says that: “the rights-based approach to development requires the development of a conceptual framework for rights based indicators, that are relevant to indigenous and tribal peoples. It should take into account not only a process of full, active and meaningful participation of indigenous and tribal communities at all stages of data collection, but also indicators that are of particular significance to indigenous peoples, such as access to territories (land and waters), access to resources, participation in decision-making, as well as issues of discrimination or exclusion in the areas of economic, social and cultural rights. Rights based indicators to be used for data collection and disaggregation on indigenous peoples should be capable of reflecting the current status of the realization of their human rights, be useful in policy articulation and prescription and should measure both the process and the outcome of development activities. They should be able to measure dimensions of the process of the realization of human rights, such as participation, non-discrimination, empowerment and accountability”.
- ii. Indigenous peoples should not be used as sacrificial lambs in achieving the MDGs. This is why data disaggregation and making indigenous peoples visible are essential. This is also why it is also crucial that the human rights-based approach to development undergirds the MDGs. The Millennium Declaration and the MDGs will be poorly judged even if these were achieved if indigenous peoples lost their territories, identities and cultures, and their survival as distinct peoples has been compromised. Indigenous peoples are already implementing their own visions of development which are captured in concepts and programs called, “autonomous development”, “development with identity”, “life-projects”, etc. Governments, intergovernmental bodies, NGOs and the private sector should ensure that they do not contribute in undermining these efforts. In fact, what is needed is for them to hold serious dialogues with indigenous peoples on how they can reinforce these initiatives and how they relate to the MDGs. This includes respecting the principle of free, prior and informed

consent and elaborating further on how this principle can be operationalized in a manner which is acceptable for indigenous peoples.

In conclusion, the Second Decade of the World's Indigenous Peoples (2005-2015) coincides with the remaining timetable for the MDGs. The Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues looks forward to seeing an active interface between these two processes.

## Notes

- 1 From the ECOSOC 2005 high-level segment roundtable 1, "Dialogue on the eradication of poverty and hunger," hosted by FAO, IFAD and WFP, 29 June 2005.
- 2 From the ECOSOC 2005 preparatory meeting roundtable 1, "Eradication of poverty and hunger," hosted by FAO, IFAD and WFP, 16 March 2005.
- 3 From the ECOSOC 2005 preparatory meeting roundtable 1, "Eradication of poverty and hunger," hosted by FAO, IFAD and WFP, 16 March 2005.
- 4 From the ECOSOC 2005 preparatory meeting roundtable 1, "Eradication of poverty and hunger," hosted by FAO, IFAD and WFP, 16 March 2005.
- 5 From the ECOSOC 2005 high-level segment roundtable 1, "Dialogue on the eradication of poverty and hunger," hosted by FAO, IFAD and WFP, 29 June 2005.
- 6 From the ECOSOC 2005 high-level segment roundtable 1, "Dialogue on the eradication of poverty and hunger," hosted by FAO, IFAD and WFP, 29 June 2005.
- 7 From the ECOSOC 2005 high-level segment roundtable 1, "Dialogue on the eradication of poverty and hunger," hosted by FAO, IFAD and WFP, 29 June 2005.
- 8 From the ECOSOC 2005 high-level segment roundtable 1, "Dialogue on the eradication of poverty and hunger," hosted by FAO, IFAD and WFP, 29 June 2005.
- 9 See Human Development Report, 2004

## Chapter 4

# THE HEALTH AND DEVELOPMENT NEXUS

## Overview

The delivery of healthcare services is unacceptably low across much of the developing world. Sub-Saharan Africa is the worst affected, but there are extreme and acute pockets of ill health in all poor countries, including in medium income countries. If current trends continue, few low-income countries will achieve the health MDGs. To attain the MDGs would require equity and access for the poor to health services, particularly for women and girls, as much of the burden of disease can be prevented or cured with known, affordable technologies. Donor countries can also enhance efficiency by requiring improvement in donor coordination and harmonization of donor policies. The United Nations has an important role to play in improving overall coherence and the challenge of ensuring maximum development impact.

Chapter four takes stock of where the international community stands with regard to the MDGs and other international development goals related to health as well as the measures needed to be taken in order to make progress and to address constraints in saving the lives of millions of people every year by providing adequate health care. Furthermore, this chapter also focuses on how opportunities presented by the World Summit in 2005 would be compelled to move the health and development agenda forward and to also generate the necessary political will. This momentum should not only focus on building political will, but also on important questions concerning financing and the future of international development.

The HIV/AIDS pandemic is still a grave threat to development and is the most pressing and greatest threat to global health and development. This disease affects women and Sub-Saharan Africa and poor Asian countries disproportionately. Substantial additional investments are needed, but have not been forthcoming at the rate and volume necessary to attain the MDGs. Furthermore, many countries lack the financial and administrative capacity to ensure that resources are disbursed in a timely manner and properly allocated. Building this capacity is essential not only in health but also in other areas. The United Nations has an essential role to play in supporting national efforts to enhance the delivery of health services.

Strengthening health systems lies at the heart of the challenge of scaling up of well-known effective interventions. In too many countries the health systems needed to do this either do not exist or have collapsed. Strong local health systems are needed to provide universal access to primary health care, including sexual and reproductive services. This requires that adequate and well qualified health workers be available in rural and urban areas in developing countries. However, this is hampered by the migration of well qualified health care staff from developing to developed countries as well as the death of health care workers from HIV/AIDS which have become additional burdens in the fight to tackle major diseases such as HIV/AIDS, TB, and malaria.

Collective, international responsibility should be welcomed, but action must start at the country level. Without well-trained staff in hospitals, clinics and communities there will be little chance of achieving the health MDGs or other goals, such as a massive roll-out of AIDS treatment.

Reproductive health services are also an integral part of functioning health systems and must be strengthened in the interest of millions, in particular women and children. Currently, there exists deep inequities in access to reproductive health services between and within countries. Universal access to reproductive health, including family planning, is essential for making progress on MDG 5 (Maternal Health) and requires sustainable and predictable financing. Furthermore, tracking progress and monitoring the impact continues to be important for informing policy and measuring performance. This is necessary as there is a wide gap in the maternal mortality. For example, the risk of a woman in sub-Saharan Africa dying during childbirth is 1 in 16, compared to 1 in 3,800 in the developed world, highlighting the lack of access to health services.

*Mainstreaming Sexual and Reproductive Health Women's Empowerment and Gender Equality* underlines the need for greater political leadership and investment is needed for women's rights and sexual and reproductive health. This requires national leadership and the active involvement of civil society and communities. The focus must be on capacity building, and leveraging resources, both national and international, to achieve our common goals.

*Seizing the Opportunity to Achieve the Millennium Development Goals* highlights the crucial aspect of capitalizing on the opportunities in the area of health promotion, disease prevention and mortality reduction. It furthermore focuses on the inter-linkages of health and development agenda.

*The Challenges of Addressing Malaria, HIV/AIDS and Tuberculosis* focuses on the broader socio-economic impact of these diseases and which measures could be taken at national, regional and international level to attain the MDGs.

*New Approaches in Health Systems to Attain the MDGs* emphasizes the importance of health as an integral part of the poverty reduction and development agenda. It also highlights that the critical issues is not a lack of medical knowledge nor scientific technology, but rather accessibility to health services. This section also focuses on MDGs 4 and 5 and made several recommendations for modifications.

## **Mainstreaming Sexual and Reproductive Health Women's Empowerment and Gender Equality<sup>1</sup>**

By Mrs. Thoraya Ahmed Obaid  
Executive Director  
United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)

The Secretary-General stated in his *In Larger Freedom* report, “at this defining moment in history, we must be ambitious. Our action must be as urgent as the need, and on the same scale.” This is particularly relevant in regard to poor sexual and reproductive health which accounts for up to one-third of the global burden of ill health among women of reproductive age, and one-fifth of the total global burden.

This means that every minute, one woman dies needlessly from complications of pregnancy and childbirth, and 20 women suffer illness and disability and another 10 people are newly infected with HIV/AIDS. The problem is not due to lack of know-how or resources. Effective interventions exist and more and more resources exist. The problem is political priorities.

Greater political leadership and investment is needed for women's rights and sexual and reproductive health. This was reinforced in the Stockholm Call to Action, which calls for Investing in Reproductive Health and Rights as a Development Priority. UNFPA is working to mainstream reproductive health and rights and gender into development and humanitarian efforts. This reinforces the links between development, security and human rights.

It is important to stress that the health MDGs to improve maternal and child health and reduce the spread of HIV and AIDS cannot be achieved unless greater attention and resources are devoted to sexual and reproductive health and women's empowerment and gender equality. This view is shared by the Millennium Project, the Commission for Africa and the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

The UN Millennium Project stresses that expanding access to sexual and reproductive health information and services is a “quick win,” a cost-effective action that can put countries on the road towards achieving the MDGs and produce real results in fighting poverty and improving the quality of women's lives in the short and long term.

Empowering women through education, legal rights, zero tolerance of gender-based violence, and sexual and reproductive health is also central to the fight against AIDS.

In the countdown to 2015, UNFPA is working to scale up coverage of HIV prevention and maternal and newborn health, with special attention to Africa. The UNFPA is working to strengthen efforts to link sexual reproductive health and HIV/AIDS. With a bold effort by partners and country ownership, the health MDGs can be reached in most countries.

But it cannot be business as usual. The international community needs a rapid and sustained increase in reproductive health coverage. Effective interventions need to reach more people, especially those who are poor and marginalized. This is important as international experience indicates that maternal deaths would fall by 73 per cent if coverage of key interventions became available. This was the case in countries as diverse as Sri Lanka, Thailand, Egypt and Honduras, which have dramatically cut maternal mortality rates.

Emergency obstetric care and skilled attendance at birth save the lives of mothers and babies. The needs for such services are highest in Southern Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa. Central to the achievement of the health MDGs is reproductive health commodity security. Family planning alone could reduce maternal deaths by 20 to 35 per cent by preventing unwanted pregnancy and reducing abortion. And condoms, along with behaviour change, are a vital tool in the fight against HIV and AIDS.

It is clear that special attention must be paid to fragile states where the challenges require focused efforts. Overall, the international community knows that addressing the high levels of maternal mortality and morbidity and HIV/AIDS in low-income countries requires stronger health systems—both in terms of infrastructure and human resources. The migration of health workers to developed countries and the death of health workers from HIV/AIDS are serious and growing challenges that must be urgently addressed.

This major 10-year effort in the countdown to 2015 must be country driven and country owned. National leadership and the active involvement of civil society and communities are key. The focus must be on capacity building, and leveraging resources, both national and international, to achieve our common goals.

Overall, the estimated cost for HIV prevention is \$10 billion annually by 2007. And for maternal and newborn health the cost is estimated at \$39 billion over a decade for 75 high need countries.

The challenge is to work together and ensure that the money is spent effectively to scale up services where they are needed most. UNFPA is committed to working with partners to achieve lasting results.

## Seizing the Opportunity to Achieve the Millennium Development Goals<sup>2</sup>

By Dr. Victor Ortega  
Deputy Director  
UNAIDS, New York Office

It is the importance of gaining a better understanding of the progress made and the challenges faced in attaining the MDGs. It is therefore crucial to get a better grasp of the opportunities that the international community has seized and – just as important – those that we failed to capitalize on, in the area of health promotion, disease prevention and mortality reduction.

### Health and Development

Health as a development goal has been accepted. The difficulty is to convince people outside conference rooms that health is also a prerequisite to the attainment of other development goals, particularly the Millennium Development Goals.

The inter-relationship between health and development has been clearly demonstrated by the AIDS epidemic. Unfortunately, many societies have experienced first-hand how AIDS incapacitated or decimated human resources, orphaned children, and instigated the vicious cycle of AIDS and poverty.

There is little disagreement that most of what is good for development is also good for defeating AIDS. For example, children who stay in school are at lower risk of becoming infected. A vibrant rural sector creates local jobs that keep families intact, gender equality creates security and opportunity for women, reducing the number of those who must resort to sex work for survival. However, the international community must also emphasize that the reverse is also true. If left unchecked, AIDS will invariably bring more poverty and further disasters in its wake.

### AIDS and Health international community

Within the health sector, an inadequate or ineffective response to AIDS will overburden health systems, infect or affect health care providers themselves, and impair the ability of countries to control other diseases.

Unfortunately, the international community has reason to be concerned. Data collected by WHO and UNAIDS showed that in 2004, there were more infections and more AIDS deaths than ever before. To underscore the urgency and importance of a more vigorous response to AIDS, UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan stated earlier this month that “the fight against AIDS may be the great challenge of our age and our generation... (and) only if we meet this challenge can we succeed in our efforts to build a humane, healthy and equitable world”.



## UNGASS-AIDS

The 2001 Declaration of Commitment on AIDS was – and remains – an important guidepost toward a comprehensive and effective response to AIDS.

In his report on the progress made in the implementation of this declaration, the Secretary-General noted that “despite encouraging signs that the epidemic is being contained in a small but growing number of countries, much of the world is at risk of falling short of the targets set forth.”

Those of you who were here on June 2 (for the review of the implementation of the declaration) were hopefully convinced that the only way – the only way – that we will get ahead of the epidemic is if there is universal access to HIV prevention and treatment.

### Investing in AIDS and Health

It is estimated that the funding that will be needed to reverse the spread of AIDS in the developing world will continue to increase – from \$15 billion next year to \$18 billion in 2007, then \$22 billion in 2008. This necessary investment should not be seen as a capricious one that would draw resources away from other health and development programmes. As noted by Dr. Piot during the review of the implementation of the declaration earlier this month “If the international community invest now in the right scale and the right manner in tackling the AIDS epidemic, we could free up scarce resources needed for health and development”.

### Leadership

Strong leadership, more than ever, is needed. UNAIDS is pleased to note that in almost 40 countries, heads of government are at the helm of national AIDS commissions. Equally remarkable, we have also seen exemplary leadership from civil society, including the business and religious communities. The donor community is also improving the coordination of efforts for collective effectiveness.

The importance of a broad-based, multi-sectoral and coordinated response cannot be overemphasized. A comprehensive response to AIDS is beyond the capacity of one sector alone. We need the active engagement of people and institutions outside the health sector or the public sector.

Finally, the challenge is to include a long-term horizon in our action on AIDS. Although the emergency response is still necessary given the millions of people who become infected with HIV and die from AIDS each year, the international community must take time, give more serious thought, and exert effort to put in place systems that will support longer-term sustainable solutions.

## The Challenges of Addressing Malaria, HIV/AIDS and Tuberculosis<sup>3</sup>

By Dr. Agnes Binagwaho

Co-Coordinator of the HIV/AIDS Task Force of the UN Millennium Project

Malaria, HIV/AIDS and Tuberculosis are big, rapidly growing and long term problems which interact with each other. At the national level, responses are inadequate and development gains are being reversed.

The socio-economic impact of these diseases is immense. It is estimated that malaria is slowing economic growth in Africa by about 1.3 percent a year. In terms of HIV/AIDS, in countries with an HIV prevalence rate of 8% or more, the cost on economic growth is estimated at 1 percent of GDP a year.

Malaria, HIV/AIDS and Tuberculosis are silent Tsunamis that occur every day in the poorest countries. Overall 10 million children die each year of preventable diseases. More children die of malaria every month in Africa compared to the deaths in the South-East Asian Tsunami. 38% of the deaths in children younger than age 5 years happen in the first month of life. 99% of prenatal mortality occurs in poor countries. 4 million newborns babies are dying yearly.

Nevertheless, opportunities exist to combat Malaria, HIV/AIDS and Tuberculosis. The world already has affordable tools such as bed-nets to fight malaria, vaccinations against disease, antiretroviral therapies to treat AIDS, fertilizers and agro-forestry to raise crop yields, bore wells to provide drinking water and diesel generators for village electricity. At a global level, under 5 mortality worldwide has dropped by 14% between 1990 and 2000 and the number of polio cases dropped from 350,000/yr in 1988 to 483 cases in 2001.

The MDGs can be achieved by 2015, even in the poorest countries, if swift, strategic action is taken. Responsibility for achieving the goals is both at the national and international levels. The global momentum around a common MDG agenda provides important opportunities. The key challenges facing the achievement of the MDGs are addressing the needs of the '*Off-track*' countries ; improving national, regional and global *governance* ; and *Reaching the poor* with services. This requires that health systems be strengthened and additional funds from domestic and external sources be secured. In addition, access to care must also be equitable.

*Effective administrative management* is also key. Migration and HIV/AIDS have a significant impact on human resource capacity. At the same time, information systems must be used for priority setting, monitoring, and evaluation.

*Nationally*, there is responsibility for policy (inter-sectoral, overall development), macro profiles of health (PRSPs, SWAPs), a true participatory process (sectoral ownership), the voices of women, children and the poorest being heard at all levels, and transparency, accountability, monitoring and evaluation.

*At the sub-regional, regional and global levels*, there must be ethical trade market and labor market rules; respect for the MDG framework; harmonised, coordinated and aligned stakeholders with country priorities and ownership; increased financial efforts (GFATM and IFF) and inter sectoral flexibility (sectoral approaches and budget support); new alliances and development of national capacity; the voices of women, children and the poorest heard at all levels; transparency, accountability, monitoring and evaluation.

The Task Force on Child Health and Maternal Health recognized that interventions outside the health sector – interventions necessary to reach the other MDGs – can have an enormous impact on health. But the Task Force is also convinced that the health sector should not be viewed simply as a *residual* category, where the side effects of development play out. Rather, the health sector must be understood as an *integral part* of the poverty reduction and development agenda.

## **New Approaches in Health Systems to Attain the MDGs<sup>4</sup>**

By Mrs. Lynn P. Freedman, JD, MPH

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Lead Author, UN Millennium Project Task Force on Child Health and Maternal Health

The Task Force on Child Health and Maternal Health recognized that interventions outside the health sector – interventions necessary to reach the other MDGs – can have an enormous impact on health. But the Task Force is also convinced that the health sector should not be viewed simply as a residual category, where the side effects of development play out. Rather, the health sector must be understood as an *integral part* of the poverty reduction and development agenda.

So the big message of the Task Force is this: the international community needs to give new and qualitatively different attention to health systems, with emphasis on the district health system, comprised of the community level through the first referral facility level. Put simply, health systems are in crisis. The international community needs to think differently, and to invest differently in health systems if we are to have any serious chance of meeting the MDGs.

The reason for this is that humankind has the technology to prevent or treat the primary causes of death of children and of women of reproductive age. The problem is that vast numbers of women and children, especially in sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia, do not have access to those interventions. The critical issue, therefore, is not lack of medical knowledge or scientific technology. The critical issue is availability, access to and utilization of known, effective, often even very simple life-saving interventions.

But scaling up to the necessary levels of availability, access and utilization is not just a question of multiplication, of taking the individual interventions and multiplying them

across a geographic area. Rather, it requires a new kind of attention to health systems, and to the systemic, very human, problems that now cripple them.

That is why the Task Force's central recommendations relate to how to improve and invest in health systems. It is important to note that health systems are not just mechanical delivery systems for delivering technical interventions the way a post office delivers a letter. Rather, health systems are *core social institutions because*:

- Neglect, abuse and exclusion by the health system have come to define the very experience of what it means to be poor.
- But the converse is also true: health claims – claims of entitlement to critical, life-saving interventions and to rights-respectful treatment – are assets of citizenship. Thus health systems are among the most fundamental building blocks of a democratic society.

In addressing the crisis afflicting health systems, the international community needs to tackle concrete operational issues, such as those surrounding human resources or drug supplies. But the international community also needs to work for a change in mind set – a fundamental shift -- in how we think about the role and value of health systems in overall strategies for poverty reduction and in the process of democratic development.

Two more key points from the Task Force on Child Health and Maternal Health report:

### **Targets and Indicators**

The Task Force looked carefully at the targets and indicators that were originally set for MDGs 4 and 5, and made several recommendations for modifications.

#### NEW TARGET: Universal access to reproductive health

For reaching both the child mortality and maternal health MDGs, a critical component of effective interventions is to ensure women's reproductive health over the life span. For example, for child mortality, the epidemiologic evidence demonstrates that birth spacing can have an enormous impact on child survival. It is estimated that with appropriate birth spacing, child mortality would decrease by some 20% in India and by 10% in Nigeria. India and Nigeria are the two countries with the highest number of child deaths in the world. The proportion of child deaths that could potentially be averted through access to family planning and optimum birth spacing is actually higher than through any single one of the disease-specific interventions available to us today.

For reduction of maternal mortality, access to family planning is also a critical intervention. If all women had access to the contraceptive methods that enabled them to achieve their reproductive goals, the number of maternal deaths would drop by an estimated 25 to 30 percent. Moreover, access to sexual and reproductive health is associated with multiple other crucial aspects of maternal health and well-being too – and, it is important to remember that MDG 5 is to “improve maternal health”, not simply to “reduce maternal death.”

Indeed, sexual and reproductive health can have huge impact on many other aspects of health and development, including many of the other MDGs. The most obvious are gender empowerment, education, and HIV. The evidence marshalled by the Millennium

Project secretariat and other Task Forces of the Millennium Project, demonstrates the importance of sexual and reproductive health for meeting the goals on poverty, hunger, environmental sustainability and slum dwellers as well.

Yet, despite the enormous potential for decreasing the number of deaths of women and children, and for meeting the MDGs, currently more than 200 million women have an unmet need for effective methods of contraception. Therefore, the Task Force and the Millennium Project as a whole recommended the adoption of a new target to be added to MDG 5, based on language that has already been agreed by the international community in the ICPD Programme of Action:

*Universal access to reproductive health by 2015 through the primary health care system.*

The Task Force recommended that the reproductive health target be measured with the addition of several new indicators, taken together with those already included in the original MDG Road Map. The new indicators include:

- *Proportion of demand for contraception satisfied (PDS);*
- *adolescent fertility rate*

**NEW INDICATOR:** Coverage of Emergency Obstetric Care

The Task Force recognized that women want to have children safely, and they desperately want those children to be healthy and to survive to live full and meaningful lives. The current indicators for MDG 5 are maternal mortality ratio and proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel. While both of these indicators serve important purposes, neither does an adequate job of tracking the changes in the health system that are necessary to meet the MDG target of 75 percent reduction of maternal mortality ratio.

Therefore, the Task Force also recommended the addition of another indicator for tracking progress on the maternal mortality reduction target of MDG 5:

- *Coverage of emergency obstetric care*

**NEW INDICATOR:** Neonatal Mortality Rate

Nearly 40 percent of child mortality occurs in the newborn period, in the first 28 days of life. The interventions needed to address neonatal mortality are actually quite different from those needed to address mortality among older children.

Therefore, in measuring progress on the MDG 4 target of reduction of the child mortality rate, the Task Force recommended an indicator be added to ensure that child survival interventions include those specific to newborns:

- *Neonatal mortality rate*

## **Equity**

Deep and profound inequity characterizes global health today. Inequity exists in all countries, including in some of the richest countries such as the USA.

The absolute numbers of child deaths and maternal deaths surely matter. But if the international community focus on health systems as a central part of poverty reduction

and development strategies, then addressing the disparities in health between rich and poor – and the disparities that fall along many other lines of social disadvantage – must be a central part of any strategy to meet the health MDGs.

The Task Force report shows how the structure and functioning of the health system itself often produces inequity. The Task Force concluded that addressing inequity is not a “trickle down” process. Overall improvements in health systems often do not reach the poorest, more disadvantaged, most marginalized in a society. Thus, inequity requires specific attention and focused action.

However, the Task Force was careful not to assume that just any measure labelled as “pro-poor targeting” will actually address inequity. Interventions aimed at poor people but deployed around a deeply inequitable structure are not sufficient. The fundamentally inequitable structures that characterize many health systems must themselves be tackled.

All countries, including donor countries, must look at how their policies –including policies outside the health sector – ultimately contribute to inequities in health. The crisis in human resources in health – the “brain drain” or “skills drain” that results from the movement of skilled health professionals from rural to urban areas and from poor countries to rich countries – is a perfect example of why we need a global perspective that lodges responsibility in rich countries as well as poor countries.

Ultimately, meeting MDGs 4 and 5, achieving dramatic improvements in child health and maternal health, requires the world to face squarely the basic fact that health is not simply a question of knowing the right technical intervention. It is a question of access to and distribution of the power and resources necessary to transform health systems to meet the needs of all people.

Hence the title of the Task Force report -- *Who's Got the Power?* -- poses the ultimate question. When those who have the power in households, in communities, in countries, and in the global system are held accountable for using their power to address inequity, to transform health systems, and to prioritize the lives of women and children -- only then will we meet the MDGs, in spirit and in fact.

## Notes

- 1 From the ECOSOC 2005 high-level segment roundtable 2, "Dialogue on health," hosted by WHO, UNFPA and UNAIDS, 29 June 2005.
- 2 From the ECOSOC 2005 high-level segment roundtable 2, "Dialogue on health," hosted by WHO, UNFPA and UNAIDS, 29 June 2005.
- 3 Based on a power point presentation for ECOSOC 2005 preparatory meeting roundtable 3, "Health and mortality" hosted by WHO, UNFPA, UNAIDS and UNICEF, 16 March 2005.
- 4 From the ECOSOC 2005 preparatory meeting roundtable 3, "Health and mortality" hosted by WHO, UNFPA, UNAIDS and UNICEF, 16 March 2005.

## Chapter 5

# GLOBAL PARTNERSHIPS AND FINANCING OF THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS (MDGS)

## Overview

The Millennium Development Goal (MDG) 8 evolves around two themes: Resource Mobilization for Development and Partnerships for Development. Chapter Five gives an overview of the discussions held during the ECOSOC High-Level Segment on achieving MDG 8.

In terms of *resource mobilization for development*, it was generally accepted that MDG 8 was about the responsibility of the international community in supporting developing countries in reaching Goals 1-7. Many types of resources could be emphasized, among them the official development assistance (ODA), debt relief, trade and foreign direct investment (FDI).

Quantifying ODA is a good starting point in determining the amount of support to the MDGs by donor countries. The European Union has been commended for having set the target of reaching 0.7 % of GDP as ODA by the year 2015 and 0.56 % of GDP as ODA by 2010, and encouraged the rest of the donor community to follow suit. An increase in ODA is seen as crucial for the poorest countries while for middle-income countries issues such as trade and FDI is of more importance for overall development. Although an increase in the quantity of ODA is seen as essential, the quality and modalities of aid is just as important for reaching the intended impact on the ground. ODA as it is currently disbursed is not highly oriented to the attainment of the MDGs.

Debt relief and humanitarian assistance have been counted as ODA. Although these areas are of great importance, they do not necessarily contribute to the long-term sustainable achievement of the MDGs. Also, a large amount of ODA followed donor country national interests and is also being spent on consultants, conferences and seminars. A large portion of ODA is donated to countries that do not have the biggest need for ODA. An increase in ODA is therefore not necessarily going to have an impact on the achievement of the MDGs. It is suggested that targets should be set for each donor in how and where they spend their ODA. A considerable amount of time is spent discussing the appropriate allocation of ODA within recipient countries. There is a need to spend ODA in sectors that would create economic growth and, thereby, the resources for subsequent investments in both social and economic sectors. ODA (including debt relief) would in this case be the foundation for future resources for growth and poverty reduction. This view is contested by others. Spending on social sectors such as health and education is a prerequisite for the establishment of a sustainable economic growth sector in providing the foundations of a country's human capital. The economic sector identified as the most important for attaining the MDGs is the agricultural sector followed by the stimulation of small and medium enterprises (SMEs).



There has been an international discourse on the word “debt” which had been seen as having a negative connotation. It was argued that debt could be a way of mobilizing resources as long as the debt was sustainable and was spent in income-generating areas. It was at the same time recognized that debt could be unsustainable. In Latin America for example, debt represented 3% of GDP. The World Bank had confirmed that debt relief was essentially used for social purposes, and it was strongly recommended that the released funds be used to create a balance between social investments and investing in a growing and developed economy so that a virtuous circle could be created that would generate new resources.

It is also important to question how to maximize the attractiveness of developing countries as well as making sure that FDI is useful for development. FDI is seen as having the potential of building infrastructure and providing basic services for development. Good governance and the rule of law securing predictability and transparency is also essential for foreign capital to accrue. However, the domestic investment and the stopping of capital flight is just as important.

For many developing countries trade is more important than aid, especially for middle income countries. The agricultural sector employed a majority of people in poorer countries which is why progress in the Doha development round in the area of market access to and agricultural subsidies in developed countries are seen as essential for the development of the economic sectors in developing countries.

With regard to *partnerships for development*, three ways to deliver services to citizens were identified: through a private effort, through a public effort or through public-private partnerships (PPPs). With private delivery, one often gets increased efficiency, and better coverage, but eventually a point would be reached where the profit motive of the company would conflict with the service goal of the government. Public delivery systems were often not efficient and service goals were therefore not reached. A subsidy would be necessary in those cases. Public private partnerships seemed to be an interesting alternative, but the parameters for what such a partnership entailed would still have to be defined. A suggestion is that essential elements for successful public-private partnerships for development need to include, among others, mutual goals and objectives; a mutual commitment to a common cause; choosing partners with the best possible expertise; trust and transparency between partners; open dialogue among partners; and mutual adherence to the criteria for success. There is still a need to identify ways for all stakeholders to benefit from entering into a partnership.

One area of successful PPPs is microfinance. The microfinance sector is becoming more and more important as part of the larger capital market. Microfinance institutions have helped improve conditions for public services and have enabled communities to grow and thrive. Larger international actors had started to partner with civil society organizations in delivering microfinance products especially to women since women are most often the main economic actors in poorer countries. Supporting female entrepreneurship is an important way to contribute to the attainment of several MDGs. The large private sector partners provide the international connections and the expertise while the local public or civil society partners provide delivery on the ground. Another example is the United

Nations Foundation-supported partnership for immunization where lower child mortality rates had already been observed.

On the *donor-recipient partnerships*, the relationship between donors and developing countries has an important role for development efforts to have an impact. There is a consensus on the need for coordination but developing countries are not in a position to coordinate the donors and many of the donors have different priorities. The national development strategies of developing countries are a starting point for both donors and recipients. For recipients, it means taking ownership and responsibility of national development, providing the necessary domestic resource mobilization as well as improving good governance and human resource mobilization. Donors should respect their partners' priorities and use the strategies as a point of entry and coordination. In order to effectively support national development strategies, donors should, when possible, provide their aid through direct budget support and provide predictable multi-year commitments.

To meet the Millennium Development Goal (MDG) 8, the following recommendations are fundamental:

- Donors should set targets for reaching 0.7% of GDP as ODA.
- Developing countries should have national development strategies with clear priorities.
- To increase aid effectiveness, donors should provide ODA within those national development strategies, preferably through national budgets.
- A balance between social and economic sectors in ODA disbursement is key as is the recognition of unique context of each country.
- The appropriate mix of resources (ODA, FDI and debt relief) should be determined according to each country's special circumstances.
- Debt relief should be provided as a foundation for economic growth.
- Developing countries should work towards maximizing their attraction of FDI through establishing good governance and rule of law.
- The international community should work within the framework of the Doha development round of the WTO to increase market access for developing countries to developed country markets as well as for removing other trade obstacles such as export subsidies and tariff escalations.

## Mobilizing International Resources for Development<sup>1</sup>

By Mr. José Luis Machinea

Executive Secretary

The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean  
(ECLAC)

Achieving the Millennium Development Goals calls for a joint effort on the part of developing and developed countries. Developing countries need to forge a fiscal covenant that will boost public revenues and enable the authorities to spend a higher proportion of this income on social programmes.

Developing countries will also need to create and/or strengthen social institutions as a prerequisite for improving coordination and for guaranteeing transparency, efficiency and accountability with respect to these social expenditures. The involvement of civil society in monitoring social expenditure is a necessary component of this process.

From a development perspective, it should be noted that Official Development Assistance (ODA), Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) and debt relief are usually not very good substitutes for one another. Most of the very poor countries, which need more ODA, are not attracting enough FDI, unless they have generous natural resource endowments.

ODA and debt relief could be comparable if a country is servicing its debt. When this is not the case, however, debt relief makes the debt payable, but it does not free up resources that could then be used to increase government expenditures.

### ODA

As is well-known, ODA pledges remain unfulfilled, and the downturn in ODA (which averaged just 0.25% of GNP in 2003) has only recently begun to reverse itself. Recent pledges by the European Union to increase its member countries' ODA are most welcome, but it is also of the utmost importance for donors to honour the commitments they have already made. As the Secretary-General has pointed out, there is no more room for pledges; it is time for action.

Clearly, ODA is crucial for the poorest countries. However, middle-income countries will also require resources in order to reduce socio-economic disparities within-country related to ethnic, demographic and geographic factors.

Additional resources are of crucial importance in helping developing countries to face the challenge of growing, improving their income distribution, and creating the necessary conditions to block the intergenerational transmission of poverty. In addition to reducing poverty and hunger, a key component of any development strategy is the implementation of social policies that foster investment in human capital and provide incentives for increased access to such assets as knowledge and education.

Priority investments include social programmes that provide conditional monetary transfers which are contingent upon primary and secondary school attendance, school feeding programmes, and nutrition and primary and preventive health-care programmes, especially for pregnant women and newborns. It is noteworthy that the region's most successful social initiatives, especially in the case of conditional transfer programmes, have been those in which women play a central role.

### **External debt**

The Latin American and Caribbean region continues to be marked by high levels of indebtedness and heavy dependence on external financing (which has been volatile) and on the prices of the commodities that it exports. Furthermore, it is highly vulnerable to natural disasters, which have repeatedly disrupted the development process in many countries.

The region's high level of external debt undermines its chances of embarking on a sustainable development path. The fact that the cost of the debt is prone to fluctuations is a major source of vulnerability for the region, since this heightens investment risk, making financial resources harder to attract. The burden of servicing the public debt (about 2.8% of GDP in 2003) seriously impairs the countries' capacities to implement social policies.

Within this context, the recent plan drawn up by the Group of Eight (G-8) finance ministers to cancel debts of 18 countries under the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) Initiative goes a long way towards helping these countries to deal with their debt burdens, which are seriously undercutting their Governments' ability to implement their public policies. The commitment made by the G-8 to preserve the financial capacity of the multilateral institutions as well as to address the costs of the proposed debt cancellation is also an important factor.

However, avoiding the build-up of unsustainable levels of debt in the future is just as important as dealing with the high levels of indebtedness existing in some countries now. Furthermore, high and volatile short-term capital flows increase the vulnerability of recipient countries, as has been demonstrated by events around the world and, in particular, by the Latin American and Caribbean region's experiences. Establishing a benchmark level of foreign debt could help reduce the region's balance-of-payments vulnerability. In financially open economies, prudential regulation of capital flows, either through the use of reserve requirements or taxes on external borrowing, or by means of direct regulations, is an extremely useful supplementary tool for avoiding excessive external borrowing during booms and preventing the liabilities structure from becoming skewed towards short-term obligations. In fact, as the lessons learned during the 1990s indicate, if a country does not have a solid financial system, there is no convincing argument for opening up its capital account at all.

Excessive external financing sometimes results in the insufficient development of domestic financial systems and, in particular, a lack of long-term domestic-currency financing. An integrated strategy will therefore entail the development of more effective domestic financial systems, which will in turn require- a sound set of prudential

regulations-the development of new instruments to narrow spreads, especially for small and medium-sized enterprises.

## **FDI**

Finally, FDI has been the largest and most stable source of capital inflows into Latin America and the Caribbean. After three years of declining rates, FDI rose in all regions during 2004. The increase registered for Latin America and the Caribbean amounted to more than 40%.

The biggest challenge for Latin America and the Caribbean, apart from continuing to increase FDI inflows, is to enhance the impact of FDI by defining national strategies that, in addition to facilitating its entry, will improve its quality in terms of technology transfer, the deepening of production linkages, promotion of human resources training and local business development. FDI that is directed entirely towards the exploitation of natural resources or the establishment of assembly factories forming part of global production networks is not enough to foster development. Creating linkages, adding value and incorporating knowledge are what a growth strategy is all about. Without these elements, the benefits derived from assembly industries, although they do play an important role in increasing employment, may be short-lived.

I should also add that greenfield investments in the region, and especially in South America, have fallen short of expectations.

I would also like to emphasize the crucial importance of coherence in any effort to mobilize resources for development. I mention this because, even though trade is not one of the topics to be addressed at this round-table discussion, it is important to note that last year's agricultural subsidies in OECD countries were four times higher than the level of ODA provided by those countries.

## **Financing the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs): Opportunities and Challenges<sup>2</sup>**

By Mr. Stefano Manservigi  
Director-General for Development  
Directorate General for the European Commission

In the view of the European Commission in relation to the question of financing the MDGs, three key issues should be highlighted.

The first is the issue of ownership. National development strategies supported by domestic resource mobilization should be the start of a very positive process. The second issue is the need for additional as well as the more efficient use of resources. The third issue is the question of aid modalities.

With regard to the question of ownership and the mobilization of domestic resources, the most important starting point is the Monterrey Consensus which reaffirmed the primary responsibility of developing countries to mobilize their own domestic resources. The question of ownership is critical because any kind of official development assistance (ODA) program should be placed in the context of the budget cycle of partner countries. Good economic governance is essential for a sound and transparent budget to facilitate the possibility of the provision of budgetary support.

Additionally, investment in human resources has to be high on the agenda, which is often not the case. It is critical not only to focus on improving access to social services but also to invest in human capital, which is investing in the future. Very often this kind of investment is considered a luxury.

The recommendation made by the Secretary-General in his report to the High-Level Segment that each country should elaborate its own national strategy is fundamental. The development cooperation of the European Commission, in particular with the African, Asian and Pacific (ACP) countries in the framework of Lomé and Cotonou Agreements is based on their national programmes.

With regard to the question of additional resources, as it is well-known, the European Union has committed itself to establish a new target towards reaching the 0.7% of its gross national income (GNI) by 2015 and an intermediate target of 0.56% of GNI by 2010. This is important because, in absolute terms, we will have 20 billion per year for development cooperation. The political message is that increased aid is feasible.

The commitment of the EU allows us to call on the others to show the willingness to make progress on reaching the 0.7%. We have tried to set the pace, but it will be important that others will follow because no one partner can do everything. But in addition to more money, it will also be critical to spend it better. In my view, we have all the instruments and all the principles agreed on coordination and coherence at the international level. The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development's (OECD) high-level forum on aid effectiveness is one in which agreement has been

reached on the need for coordination and coherence. However, while there is agreement on these principles, implementation still remains difficult. We must put aside the notion of each partner promoting its own agenda but instead use national ownership as the starting point and ensure that partners are in alignment with national priorities. Coordination should help our beneficiary countries to deal with the complexity of our procedures but also improve the way that aid is spent.

We consider the EU's development policy as a powerful tool to help beneficiary countries to take advantage of all the opportunities that globalization offers, but also to tackle the inequalities which have been created. For this reason, the European Union has focused special attention on the social sector not only on human resources-specifically the aspect of high education or basic education-but also social cohesion. In our view, social cohesion is as essential an element as infrastructure and good governance.

Finally, the question of aid modalities-how to do it? The European Commission believes in budget support because it is only through this mechanism that we can give to our aid more predictably. This approach also gives our partners the possibility to have a "contract" with us which lasts more than one year. It allows for better planning over time so that it is not only possible to build hospitals but also hire nurses and pay salaries. Budget support from this point of view is, in our opinion, the best way to support our developing partners, and to do it together would be even more important.

## Notes

- 1 From the ECOSOC 2005 high-level segment roundtable 3, "Dialogue on global partnerships and financing of the MDGs," hosted by UNCTAD, 29 June 2005.
- 2 From the ECOSOC 2005 high-level segment roundtable 3, "Dialogue on global partnerships and financing of the MDGs," hosted by UNCTAD, 29 June 2005.

## Chapter 6

# **BUILDING STATE CAPACITY TO MEET THE MDGS: HUMAN RIGHTS, GOVERNANCE, INSTITUTIONS AND HUMAN RESOURCES**

## **Overview**

One of the most critical issues emerging from each of the major international conferences and summits, including the Millennium Summit, has been the consensus on the central role of state capacities, governance systems and institutions in promoting economic and social development, increasing the access of services to the vast majority of the poor, promoting and enforcing human rights legislation; enhancing the participation of women in the development process, and protecting the quality of the environment.

Governments need to enhance their statistical and other capacities to enable the monitoring of the impact of MDG strategies in different segments of their populations, in particular, for the vulnerable, excluded and marginalized groups. Freedom of information, association and expression as well as citizen-government, dialogue is fundamental to pro-poor policies and policymaking processes.

The importance of the institutional framework, and of an enabling environment conducive to it, has also been highlighted by the International Conference on Financing Development. The Bretton Woods institutions, especially the World Bank, have pointed out that the underestimation of governance and institutions has brought additional challenges in market-led reforms of the previous two decades and thus stifled the realization of the full potential of market-led growth. The work of United Nations bodies has also led to similar conclusions that institutional arrangements, especially those that relate to public policies and programmes, have significant impacts on achieving the MDGs.

A close examination of the MDGs will reveal that out of eight goals, seven are social and or poverty related. This underscores that all institutions and institutional processes should put the poor at the centre of all decision-making, targeting the promotion of the rule of law, human rights, accountable and efficient public administration, sound economic policies and civil society.

Beyond political commitment, scaling up the necessary investments to this end requires building national and local capacity in development management, human resources and institutional integrity. The Millennium Project report suggests upfront investments in strengthening public sector management, building and renovating physical and social infrastructure to deliver services.

The efforts outlined above must rest on a broader effort to strengthen scientific and technological capacity. The Millennium Project report points to the need to build up indigenous institutions and skills to advance science, technology and innovation. Practical measures could include creating science advisory bodies to the national



government, expanding science and engineering faculties in universities and polytechnics, strengthening the development and entrepreneurial focus in science and technology curricula, promoting business opportunities in science and technology, and promoting infrastructure development as a technology learning process.

Achievements at the national and regional levels depend on and shape the implementation of international commitments. In this context, it is important to stress the need for developing countries to be given a more active and visible role in the decision-making process of many key international organizations – not only the United Nations but also the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund and the World Trade Organization (WTO).

The roundtable on "Building State Capacity to Meet the MDGs: Human Rights, Governance, Institutions and Human Resources" focused on the cross-cutting issues of human rights, good governance, institutions and human resources which underpin the achievement of all MDGs. It highlighted the mutually reinforcing relationship between the MDGs and other commitments contained in the Millennium Declaration, particularly human rights and good governance, and underlined the importance of strengthening institutional and individual capacities to meet the MDGs. The key discussion points are summarized below.

It was agreed that the MDGs reflect and build upon the human rights agenda in seeking to ensure an adequate standard of living for individuals, a commitment contained in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and international human rights instruments. It is important to see the MDG commitments not only in terms of producing development, but of implementing rights. Human rights and the MDGs are mutually reinforcing and complementary in their approaches. The MDGs support the realisation of human rights, and the protection of human rights is a precondition for sustainable achievement of the MDGs. Education and gender equality are good examples of this interaction: both are powerful tools for furthering development, as well as important goals in their own right. In both areas, states have obligations under international human rights law.

Participant felt that human rights should be integrated into all development policies, including poverty reduction strategies and national MDG plans. The essential elements of a rights-based strategy for achieving the MDGs are non-discrimination, participation and accountability. Non-discrimination involves identifying vulnerable and marginalised groups, such as indigenous peoples, minorities and persons with disabilities, and providing them with equitable access to services.

Regarding achieving meaningful participation, it was seen as a challenging task but essential for ensuring that development is pursued in a just and equal manner, and that policies address the needs of the poor and marginalised. Participation should include the right to express one's opinions freely, freedom of assembly and association, the right to information, and effective and equal access to justice.

On ensuring accountability, it is essential to build the capacities of specific rights-holders to claim their rights and of duty-bearers to fulfil their obligations. Human rights and good governance are also interlinked. The promotion of human rights requires firm and principled governance at all levels. At the same time, good governance can be said to be

meaningless without human rights. A conducive and enabling environment is also a precondition of economic and social development. Good governance should be seen as "MDG 9", and has been adopted as such in some national MDG strategies.

Strengthening democratic institutions and supporting civil society were perceived as essential for ensuring meaningful participation, which is central to both human rights and good governance. In this regard, hierarchical governmental structures should be "de-verticalised" into democratic, horizontal institutions of governance. A democratic governance system is characterized by transparency of processes and accessibility of information.

In order to strengthen civil society, education and civic instruction are essential. Special emphasis should be placed on providing primary instruction in local languages and building the capacities of the most marginalised. A society based on human rights must invest in the capacity of its citizens.

Sound economic and social policies are an important aspect of good governance. These entail enhancing public financial management, encouraging employment creation and ensuring social cohesion. Practical steps in this area can include e.g. a "people's budgeting" approach and social auditing of public services by the poor. Decent work should be a central objective of national development strategies and access to economic opportunity should be facilitated, especially for the poor and marginalised. Combating corruption, which weakens institutions and diverts resources from development, is essential for all efforts to achieve the MDGs.

It was asserted that an enabling international environment, including a more equitable trading system, was needed to support national efforts to achieve the MDGs. Regional initiatives, such as the African Peer Review Mechanism, are crucial for identifying challenges and best practices.

Building state capacity required both financial and human resources. In terms of external financial resources, investments, official development assistance (ODA) and debt relief are central. International governance relating to these issues should be enhanced and the access of developing countries to international financial institutions improved. Investing in human capacity, especially in the capacities of the most marginalised, through education and health care, is vital for combating poverty and for achieving the broader goal of equitable social development. The positive aspects of migration should be taken into account in poverty eradication strategies.

## **Importance of Good Governance for Successful Strategies to Achieve the MDGs<sup>1</sup>**

By H.E. Mrs. Tarja Halonen  
President of the Republic of Finland

These remarks will highlight the relevance of States' human rights obligations, and the importance of good governance for successful strategies to reach the MDGs.

Firstly, on the relationship between human rights and the MDGs: The MDGs reflect the human rights agenda in seeking to ensure an adequate standard of living for individuals, including better health, food, education and housing - all commitments contained in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the human rights covenants.

Poverty, for example, is not only deprivation of economic and material resources, but a denial of human rights. Poverty is closely linked to lack of participation, and clearly illustrates the interdependence of civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights.

Education and gender equality, on the other hand, have been widely recognized as some of the most powerful forces for furthering development. At the same time, they are important goals in their own right, and binding obligations under international human rights instruments.

As these examples show, human rights and the MDGs are closely intertwined and mutually reinforcing. The goals provide a potentially powerful motor for the realization of human rights. At the same time, a human rights-based strategy is a prerequisite for sustainable realization of the MDGs. A rights-based approach, focusing on individuals, fosters empowerment and national ownership.

In the efforts towards achieving the MDGs, it is essential to focus on the realization of all human rights for all. To accomplish this, we need to ensure that special attention is paid to marginalized and vulnerable groups. If we fail to do this, the effects can be devastating, as was made clear at the recent session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues. Thus, in pursuing strategies to achieve the MDGs, a human rights approach entails recognizing that development is about realizing people's rights, and not a question of charity.

In short, the essential elements of a rights-based approach are non-discrimination, participation, monitoring and accountability. The promotion and protection of human rights requires strong and principled governance at all levels. Economic and social development also needs a conducive and enabling environment. The MDG process provides an opportunity for building the capacity of States in both these areas simultaneously.

This can happen especially through strengthening democratic institutions and supporting civil society, since meaningful participation is key to both human rights and good

governance. Promoting the rule of law is equally important. Here, a special emphasis should be put on functional justice systems accessible to all.

Other crucial elements include promoting sound economic and social policies, including strengthening public financial management, encouraging employment creation, and ensuring social cohesion. Decent work must be made a global goal, and a central objective of national poverty eradication strategies.

Last but not least, we must mention corruption. Corruption diverts resources from development, weakens institutions and erodes the credibility of state action. Combating corruption is therefore essential for all efforts to achieve the MDGs.

## **The Role of Institutions in Achieving the United Nations Development Agenda<sup>2</sup>**

By Mr. José Antonio Ocampo  
Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs  
United Nations

The role of institutions in achieving the United Nations Development Agenda is a key issue and helps deepening the normative and analytical work that ECOSOC and UN-DESA are jointly undertaking and builds on the recent DESA Forum on “Integrating Economic and Social Policies to Achieve the United Nations Development Agenda” on 14 to 15 March 2005. Indeed, the positive or negative role of institutions in economic development was raised by several speakers and by many delegations during DESA’s March Forum. How institutions function and whether they help or hinder achieving the United Nations Development Agenda, including the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), is also a key concern in the Secretary-General’s Report and the United Nations Annual Report on Public Administration.

This is not surprising, for partnerships — both at the international and national levels — are what drives the MDGs. Without an enabling policy and institutional environment that incubates and nourishes such partnerships, the challenge ahead of us would be even more daunting. Then Senior World Bank Vice-President Nicholas Stern, and his colleagues have pointed out that underestimation of institutions and governance processes had undermined earlier market-led reforms.<sup>3</sup> Thus, in principle, a consensus is emerging about the significance and role of institutions and governance, widely interpreted to encompass socio-economic, environment and gender concerns.

But what exactly are we agreeing about? After all, an ardent pro-market social scientist is likely to see the role of institutions and government very differently, and with a different agenda, than someone with a broader perspective.

First, one cannot define policies abstracted from an institutional context and, thus, must take into account the governmental processes responsible for them.

Second, the mainstreaming of social, environmental and gender dimensions in economic decision-making must take place in institutions and through institutional processes with policies “in synch” with institutions. Institutions are the conduits for such mainstreaming.

Third, countries with a good human development record also have good institutions and governance, while countries with poor institutions and governance also have poor human development and economic growth records.

Finally, the UN Development Agenda underscores the importance of addressing employment and inequality to reduce poverty and achieve the MDGs. In the case of Africa, per capita growth was negative in the 1980s and 1990s, with only modest increases in the new millennium. With high or even growing unemployment, the ratio of self employment to total non-agricultural employment is highest in sub-Saharan Africa, as the informal sector has swollen with those seeking means for survival.

While necessary, economic growth alone will not ensure that the benefits of growth will be widely shared. And unless there are sufficiently effective and suitable institutions that can both formulate and implement appropriate development policies, no amount of political will or financial resources can do the job on their own.

Different experiences from Africa and elsewhere around the world demonstrate that it is possible to make major advances in policies and institutional improvements even at low levels of development. But a new mantra — that “institutions matter” — will not be enough. There are now all kinds of institutionalist arguments in support of all kinds of policy reform recommendations and related claims with “institutions” and “governance” often serving as an all-purpose black box, especially when more conventional arguments are deemed wanting.

## **The Millennium Development Goals and Human Rights<sup>4</sup>**

By Mrs. Mehr Khan Williams  
Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights

The MDGs offer one of the most important opportunities ever to realize the human rights of millions of people, including their right to development. The achievement of the goals is critical. But equally important are the processes by which they are achieved. How that is done will determine to a large extent the long-term sustainability of the goals and their contribution to the effective enjoyment of human rights. Properly carried out, the processes will in themselves build an environment conducive to the attainment of all rights by all people, which, after all, is the ultimate goal of all our endeavours.

The discussion is on building state capacity to meet the MDGs. There are key elements which provide the framework for the human rights approach. At a minimum, the rights-based approach must address three concerns: non-discrimination, meaningful participation and accountability.

- i. Non-discrimination is a central concern. A relatively easy way to reach the targets is to focus on providing access to services to those who can be easily reached. But if states are to follow a human rights approach, they must identify the poorest people who are currently the most marginalized and make sure that they are included. This will be more challenging, and perhaps also more expensive, but it is essential to do not only because it will help to ensure that marginalization and disparities do not increase. For example, in East Asia, the goal of primary education has been nearly achieved. But the children who are not yet in school are mostly ethnic minority girls who live in remote and poor areas. Research has shown that they form the bulk of the children in the region who are trafficked and exploited. States must ensure that data is disaggregated so that these children become visible, are appropriately targeted in development plans, and progress for them can be measured.
- ii. Turning to the issue of participation, the challenge is to craft meaningful means of participation that do not over-burden the development process. Community capacity to participate will have to be built and legal frameworks and policies created. Development practitioners know that people who benefit from development programmes should be involved in designing solutions that take into account their views and needs. But building appropriate participation is difficult. At a very minimum participation should include the right to express one's opinions freely, the right to assembly and association, to information and to access to justice.
- iii. A third key element is accountability. A human rights approach empowers people to make claims against those who have a duty to respond. It asks us to build the capacities of rights-holders to claim their rights and duty-bearers to fulfill their obligations. This must be done in a transparent manner through the creation of responsible, effective and efficient institutions. For example, in education, it might involve strengthening the capacity of the education authorities at both the national and sub-national levels to provide quality primary education to all children and to remove all barriers whether financial or cultural. It could range from the provision of toilets and clean water in schools to the provision of primary instruction in local languages. It also means that states will have to help children and parents as rights-holders to claim their right to education through human rights awareness-raising, participatory decision-making and a right to complain about progress by the ministry or by other duty-bearers.

Examples of how states are taking up these challenges and building sustainable progress towards the achievement of the MDGs abound. Among the most important are those that adopt rights-based strategies and rights-sensitive approaches to poverty reduction.

## Democratising the MDG Agenda<sup>5</sup>

By Professor Rehman Sobhan  
Chairman  
Centre for Policy Dialogue

The international community has publicly committed itself to attain the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by 2015. However many national governments have over the last three decades made commitments to their citizens to end poverty, and provide basic education and adequate health care to their citizens. The inability to deliver on commitments to meet the most basic of human rights to their citizens is, therefore, as much an abdication of the democratic responsibility of the member states as it is of the international community to channel its resources with sufficient care to reach those most in need across the world. The inability to respond to these basic human needs, therefore, reflects a crisis of democracy as well as a failure of making economic policy relevant to the concerns of the deprived and excluded. Unless these dysfunctions are tackled, the realization and, more importantly, the sustainability of the MDGs will remain in question. This presentation focuses on these two areas of crisis and suggests a set of initiatives which need to be addressed at the national and global levels if the MDGs are to remain relevant to the needs and concerns of the global poor.

The inability of governments to provide sufficient primary education coverage, elementary health care, end endemic hunger and correct gender injustice, suggests an insensitivity and lack of accountability to the needs of ordinary people, who in many countries practicing democracy constitute a voting majority. The first duty of an elected and accountable government is to respond to the universal demand for the most basic needs of their citizens. Failure to respond to such a democratic mandate suggests either an absence of democracy or a serious dysfunction of the democratic process.

For a functioning democracy to be more sensitive to the needs of voters than to privileged elites or special interest groups, budgetary priorities would have to be ensured so that that all children, both boys and girls, would be in school, immunized against infectious diseases of the poor, and provided with at least one nutritious meal a day at school. It would ensure that poor women do not die in child birth, and that sufficient work is available to those able to work. How far the MDGs have been realized in the past, or are on the way to being realized today, is as much an issue of distributive justice as it is of resource poverty. It is not surprising that the Human Development ranking of many countries is not commensurate with their levels of income. Meeting these human needs in any country is above all a matter of getting priorities right.

The dysfunctioning of democracy is the direct cause of the misallocation of resources and the malgovernance which deprives ordinary people of their most basic rights. In most societies across the developing world, there are schools and other institutions where teachers, doctors, and other public servants do not discharge their formal obligations to the citizens. Such failures originate in malfunctioning governance which in turn reflects a lack of democratic accountability. A well-functioning democracy takes a government to

task if schools and health systems malfunction, water supplies break down or power supplies are interrupted, and many such public services are illicitly commodified.

The crisis of democracy and governance is compounded by misdirected policies which have failed to address the structural injustices which have condemned large segments of people to live in poverty. The policy regimes which have driven most developing and transitional economies over the last two decades have emphasized growth but have given little attention to how the poor can be equipped to participate competitively in the market economy. The poor suffer from an insufficiency of assets which is needed to participate in the market. This compels the poor to enter the market as primary producers and sellers of labour which limits their opportunities to share in the value addition process which drives growth. Their educational levels leave the poor ill-equipped to participate in the information technology revolution. Most poor people do not want charity or even safety nets to survive. The poor want the same opportunities available to the elites, which would provide them with sufficient assets, education and good health to enable them to compete on more equitable terms in the market. The weakness of the MDGs lies in the fact that it does little to redress the injustices which could equip the poor to rise out of poverty.

In light of the above discussion, the following policy interventions are needed to deepen democracy and thereby provide a sustainable basis for the poor to escape from poverty as well as to participate on more equitable terms in the process of globalization:

The poor need to be equipped to directly participate in the development process through command over resources which help them to generate income. Policy interventions in this area include:

*i. Create opportunities for asset ownership.*

This would include:

- Agrarian reforms which invest ownership and/or more secure tenancy rights for the rural poor.
- Measures to ensure that the benefits of natural wealth, such as water or mineral resources which are nature's gift to a society, are shared by all citizens, particularly the local communities where the wealth is located. This should be realized through opportunities to acquire ownership and/or access rights in the disposition of such wealth.
- Creating opportunity for the poor to own corporate wealth in modern growth sectors of the economy, ranging from urban real estate to shares in the corporate sector, and to purchase equity in new corporate public issues.
- Using the privatization process to provide more opportunities for the poor and the workers in these enterprises to acquire equity rights in the state-owned enterprises (SOEs) or other public assets which are being divested.

*ii. Enhance the capacity of the poor to participate in the market.*

This process includes making provisions for:



- Facilitating collective action for selling labour services of the poor and their primary produce in markets of their choice and on more favourable terms.
- Helping the poor to move up the value addition chain as equity owners in agro-processing or service enterprises.
- Giving workers the opportunity to acquire shares in the equity of the enterprises where they work so that they can share in the value addition of their labour.

*iii. Enhance educational opportunities for poor people*

- This process would require upgrading the quality of educational institutions accessed by the poor, including, especially, educating them to participate in the IT revolution.
- The poor must be equipped to move up the education ladder to a point where they are able to avail themselves of opportunities for technical and higher education.
- While many countries have made progress closing the gender gap in education, much more attention must be paid to this process, especially at secondary school level.

*iv. Ensure functioning health systems and universal access to basic care.*

This requires measures to:

- Train, deploy and support a multi-level health workforce, with priority especially to those needed to reverse the longest persistent inequalities in sexual and reproductive health.
- Build or upgrade public health care facilities accessible to the rural and urban poor to a level available to the elite.
- Institute measures to universalize public health insurance or other subsidies to ensure universal access for the poor, and, especially, disadvantaged subgroups such as women, minorities, and geographically isolated communities.

*v. Democratizing Governance*

Such a process of democratizing governance would need to educate and organize the disempowered to share in the benefits of public services and to receive the full protection of the law. Such a process should focus on enhancing greater public accountability particularly to the deprived who need the services and protection of the state. This may be facilitated through:

- Peoples' budgeting which both makes budget more transparent as to their services to the poor and consults them on their needs.
- Social audits of public services by and for the poor.

- Redesigning fiscal policy to change the incentive structures for the poor.
- Educate the poor as to their human rights as incorporated in constitutions and/or protected by law. To this end, access to justice should be universalized as a human right and its denial should be made justiceable.
- Analyzing and meeting the differences of needs among subgroups of the poor, including male-female, minority status, etc.

vi. *Democratising Democracy*

The political process should be structured to enable the deprived in the form of the poor, women, minorities and others to attain representation in parliament which is at least commensurate with their numbers. This would require actions to:

- Emancipate the electoral process from the influence of private wealth.
- Secure greater public financing of both the electoral and political process.
- Implement measures for organizing the disempowered for collective action in the political arena.
- Promote major investments in the political education of the poor as to their political and human rights.
- Encourage greater investment in the strengthening of civil society organizations to contribute to the process of policy making, holding governments accountable, promoting transparency and conscientising the electorate.

In order to deepen democracy and widen economic opportunities institutions must be built or reconstructed to serve the deprived. The following initiatives are suggested:

- i. Investing the poor, women and minorities with a collective identity which is incorporated into legally empowered bodies of the marginalized. Such bodies may include:
  - Community-based organizations (CBOs) which can be legally incorporated and empowered to compete in the market for goods and services.
  - NGOs transformed into corporations which are directly owned by the poor which can strengthen the capacity of the poor to compete in the market economy.
- ii. Upgrading micro-finance institutions into macro-financial enterprises which are equipped to intermediate the saving of the urban sector toward the rural economy and specifically to the creditworthy poor. The process may be extended to developing dedicated mutual funds for investing the savings of the poor in the corporate sector.
- iii. Designing a new agenda for corporate governance which is focused on corporate initiatives to induct organizations of the poor into the ownership structure and value addition process of the corporate sector.

- iv. Developing special MBA programmes for training socially motivated entrepreneurs to manage the assets and enterprises of the poor.

The international order is structured to marginalize poor countries and, within them the poorer segments of society. The following areas of action for democratizing the international order are suggested:

- i. International institutions such as the World Bank, IMF and WTO which influence the policy discourse and patterns of international economic relations should be democratized through greater transparency and accountability to their constituents.
- ii. The World Fair Trade Movement should be strengthened and eventually transformed into a global corporate entity based on ownership of poor workers, artisans and traders which enables them to share more fully in the value addition process at the global level.
- iii. Resources committed to development assistance should be enhanced and a greater share of these resources should be redirected to empowering the poor to become owners of assets.
- iv. A global equity fund, drawing in both development assistance and private finance, should be designed to provide resources which enable the poor to enhance their equity stakes in the corporate sector in their respective countries and, indeed, in global corporate entities.
- v. Opportunities for enhanced market access (e.g. for LDCs) to the developed country markets should be utilized to leverage initiatives at the national and enterprise levels to ensure greater ownership of corporate wealth by the poor and by workers.
- vi. The MDG framework, including targets and indicators, should be further refined to capture progress in correcting injustices and in attaining the goals indicated above.

The above policy interventions need to be detailed and situated in a country context located within the specific political economy of each country. Such an agenda needs to become part of the global MDG and governance discourse. The MDG process should accordingly measure itself in terms of its capacity to end injustice by enhancing the capacity of the poor to participate more competitively in the global economy.

To conclude, good governance is meaningless without justice and human rights protection for all. No democracy is sustainable without democratizing political and economic opportunities for the dispossessed to share in the benefits of democracy. And finally, to live in a world at peace, without fear of terrorism, we need to heed these universal truths and to address our creative imaginations and energies to building more just societies within a more just world order.

## Notes

- 1 From the ECOSOC 2005 high-level segment roundtable 4, “Dialogue on building state capacity to meet the MDGs: human rights, governance, institutions and human resources,” hosted by DESA/Division for Public Administration and Management and UNHCHR, 29 June 2005.
- 2 From the ECOSOC 2005 high-level segment roundtable 4, “Dialogue on building state capacity to meet the MDGs: human rights, governance, institutions and human resources,” hosted by DESA/Division for Public Administration and Management and UNHCHR, 29 June 2005.
- 3 Nicholas Stern, *et al*, “The Role and Effectiveness of Development Assistance-Lessons from World Bank Experience”, 2002 Submission by the World Bank to the Monterrey Summit on Financing for Development.
- 4 From the ECOSOC 2005 high-level segment roundtable 4, “Dialogue on building state capacity to meet the MDGs: human rights, governance, institutions and human resources,” hosted by DESA/Division for Public Administration and Management and UNHCHR, 29 June 2005.
- 5 From the ECOSOC 2005 high-level segment roundtable 4, “Dialogue on building state capacity to meet the MDGs: human rights, governance, institutions and human resources,” hosted by DESA/Division for Public Administration and Management and UNHCHR, 29 June 2005.



## Chapter 7

# EDUCATION AND LITERACY

## Overview

The international community's first commitment to education as a basic human right is contained in Article 26 of the 'Universal Declaration of Human Rights' (adopted on 10 December 1948). International conferences and declarations, such as the International Conference on Human Rights, (Teheran on 13 May 1968) in its Proclamation of Teheran stated: 'The existence of over seven hundred million illiterates throughout the world is an enormous obstacle to all efforts at realizing the aims and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations and the provision of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. International action aimed at eradicating illiteracy from the face of the earth and the promotion of education at all levels requires urgent attention'. This urgency has been addressed regularly since then, especially since 1990 through many international conferences and their goal-setting. Most recently, the Millennium Development Goals adopted at the UN Millennium Summit in 2000 declared the world's targets for drastically reducing extreme poverty and placed education squarely among the essential means to do so.

Progress, however, is still modest. The Millennium Project Task Force on Education argues that the imperfect link between the political and technical levels is among the main factors for the lack of more significant progress. While goal-setting is essential to mobilize international attention, it must be followed by clear realizable targets identified at national, regional and local levels where specific progress can be measured. 'Achieving the MDG in education will require a major change in the approach to education at both the international and the country levels'.

The state of a country's education reflects its political, social and economic context. In 2005, the impact of globalization, insecurity and changing multilateral relations has made that context and the country's task more complex. Moreover, an increasing number of countries are directly and indirectly affected by conflict. Nearly half of the 104 million out-of-school children, two thirds of whom are girls, live in countries in conflict or post-conflict settings.

Data in the Education For All (EFA) Global Monitoring Report 2005 gives a good idea of the state of primary education. At the current rate and circumstances, the goal of universal and primary education by 2015 will not be met.

The World Development Report 2004 gave a grim picture of the challenges for providing quality education, that is: 'unaffordable access, dysfunctional schools, low technical quality, low client responsiveness, and stagnant productivity'. The language of instruction may be an obstacle to learning or teachers may not be trained to provide a curriculum in a second language. Schools themselves may be 'dysfunctional' for many reasons including teacher absenteeism due to lack of motivation, infrequent and low pay, and poor welfare, but also lack of continued in-service teacher training. The devastating

impact of HIV/AIDS on teachers and learners alike is increasingly taking a direct toll on the availability of schooling at all.

Concerns for the quality and relevance of education should be dealt with along side concerns for access and completion rates to ensure education for sustainable development and growth. Moreover, close attention to governance issues in education should be paid to ensure the effective delivery to recipients and beneficiaries of the education system. Equitable and effective school systems are not necessarily centralized or decentralized. According to a considerable body of national and international experience, success is best achieved through accountability, clear objectives, adequate resources and capable and motivated providers. The World Development Report 2004 argues that successful education systems need to include: (a) the effective voice of the poor in both the school system's objectives and the public resources that go to education; (b) a compact between policymakers and providers of schooling to balance the autonomy of schools and teachers with performance assessment; (c) schools (and school systems) must be enabled to manage for good performance—and, particularly, to find effective ways to train and motivate teachers; and (d) direct parent and community participation in schools' well-being and integration into the communities they serve. The provision of a school meal or a take-home ration may encourage children's, and particularly girls', enrolment and retention in school.

According to the estimates published by the EFA Global Monitoring Report, 2005, there are nearly 800 million adult illiterates in the world, representing 18% of the adult population. Regional differences and differences even within countries are great. Adult literacy is also more than a developing country issue. Both developing and industrialized countries have long recognized that their entire populations do not necessarily have the basic literacy skills they need, regardless of whether they have attended formal schools.

More than half of adults lacking any basic literacy skills are women. Low overall literacy rates inevitably mean even lower female literacy. Women in poverty in all regions of the world are more likely to have limited access to basic skills training and to be heads of lone parent families where the demands on them are great. Youth illiteracy is also very high. Rates are above 70% in all regions, although many countries do not reach the average. There are nearly 137 million youth with no basic reading and writing skills in the world. 85 million are female. The state of youth literacy is a reflection of a country's ability to deliver basic skills through formal schooling.

There is considerable evidence that basic literacy and numeracy skills are fundamental, if not causally-linked, to political, social and economic participation in society today. Higher levels of general education are also clearly linked to preparing individuals for today's changing formal and informal employment markets. Literacy and formal basic education, especially for girls and women, contributes greatly to enhanced well-being for families and communities. Education of mothers leads to better education for the next generation. Women's education has a critical impact on health, infant mortality, the reduction of risk of HIV/AIDS and improvement of livelihoods. The Millennium Project Task Force on Gender and Equality has issued the report "Taking Action: Achieving Gender Equality and Empowering Women", which highlights the vital importance of girls' and women's equal access and participation in all forms and levels of education.

While literacy is not a panacea for social or economic problems, it remains the foundation for all learning. No other Education for All or Millennium Development goal can be achieved if a learners' basic need for sustainable literacy skills are unmet. The United Nations Literacy Decade (UNLD) launched in 2003 provided an opportunity to place literacy for all age groups back on international development agendas and is central in all national development planning.

Greater emphasis should be placed on the provision of secondary education where not enough progress has been made in relation to primary education. While continuing the work in achieving universal primary education, the international community should focus on secondary education, which will provide incentives not only for parents to send their children to primary schools but will increase the completion rates at the primary level as well. Further, gender parity will more likely be attained if there is an increased transition rate from primary to secondary.

Education is an essential human capacity and this missed opportunity should be a source of energy to fuel the resolve of the international communities and national governments and civil society to live up to their commitments and promises.

*Educational Strategies for Quality Improvements* highlights some examples of reform efforts that led to greater quality and participation in country's education system.

*Intractable Challenges in Advancing Education and Literacy* describes the complexity and nature of the challenges affecting the achievement of primary education for all's goal, by 2015.

*Eliminating Gender Disparity in Primary and Secondary Education* stressed the important of access and participation of women in secondary education as a means to enhance women's empowerment and parity.

## **Educational Strategies for Quality Improvements<sup>1</sup>**

By Mrs. Beverly Jones

Sr. Vice-President and Director of Global Education Programs  
Academy of Educational Development

Many of the children left out of the movement towards Education For All (EFA) are poor and rural. In a recent article in the Economist on the poor state of education in Latin America, two reform efforts were held up as promising practices. One was a World Bank Project in Brazil. The other was Escuela Nueva that was initially developed in Colombia and has been adapted now in Nicaragua, Guatemala and Peru, among other countries.

El Simiente is a rural multigrade school in a very poor community. It has however attracted hundreds of national and international visitors who have learned of its reputation for quality. What makes it so interesting is the small cross-age groups of learners studying together. They work on workbooks and student guides prepared by the teachers.



Each room is filled with learning materials made or collected by teachers and parents. Every classroom has a library and the children read a book every day, often out loud to another student or to the teacher. It has an active student government with elected leaders and almost all the children involved in committees that support the school. The parents support the schools in many ways. El Simiente School has a fish pond with an extensive water supply system created by fathers of some of the students and used to teach science, sell fish and water the school garden. The school garden is used by the parents to sell vegetables and to prepare nutritious snacks for the children. The children have a tree nursery with thousands of trees that the community is using to reforest their community identity. The community has collected old typewriters. While the community only has intermittent power, they want their children to have keyboarding skills for the time they will have computers. The school committee has purchased a wheelchair for a handicapped child who is now mainstreamed into the classroom, leading children and teacher to say they are less nervous around handicapped people now. The parents have formed homework circles that meet after school and on weekends to help children who are learning disabled or who are behind in their work. The school director says that they have created a “school for life” which is preparing children for the future. If El Simiente can do it, all the other poor communities can do it.” The school, at the demand of the parents has expanded into higher grades, using the same model because the parents did not want their children to have to leave the community to continue their education. This is critically important and worth exploring further, since girls are another large part of those children left out of schooling, and the location of a school nearby for higher grades will help ensure that girls have the opportunity for secondary work.

The key factors of this reform are:

1. Policy space from the ministry to institute a reform that deviates from the ministry norm. This involves decentralization, flow-down of funding; flexibility on curriculum; changing ministry roles from supervision and monitoring to assistance to reach quality improvement;
2. Empowered teachers who are supported by technical assistants from the project, but more importantly and over time by the head masters and the ministries. Four to six schools are formed into clusters; in-service teacher education is provided in the classroom of one of the schools. Teachers form teaching circles and solve problems together, which provides a critical school –based support for teachers;
3. Links with teacher training institutes so that new teachers can intern in the new models. The findings since that time suggest that pre-service should be focused on giving the students less theory and getting them into real class situations as quickly as possible. The Academy for Educational Development (AED) worked with USAID funding with the Ministry of Education in Uganda to create a teacher development and management system that moved in-service closer to the classroom and linked pre-service to schools in a helpful way;
4. A true focus on activist learning. In Nicaragua, great attention is paid to the frequency with which children initiate comments in the classroom and responses are disaggregated for girls and the boys and reported back to the teachers so they can see how they are affecting the class;

5. Extraordinary involvement by the community in the schools. These non-traditional participants in the schools have received training for their new roles by the project's technical assistant team. All local education staff has also received mini-grants in response to their proposal for school projects;
6. Democratic student government. This model of schooling counts among its principles the introduction and support of student government. Children serve as officers and all children are on committees that are responsible for important aspects of the schools.

The findings of the model adopted at El Simiente show that measuring learning and providing feedback on the quality of the education experience both to individual teachers and the ministry is very important and needs great attention.

Encouraging results were found in the active student participation, which increased almost 34% over the past three years of the project in the multi-grade schools. Parent and community participation is over 90% in all the model schools. And the most important indicator for measurement of whether this is a quality enhancing reform is that students in the model schools are 20% more likely to complete primary education than in regular unassisted schools.

Finally on Nicaragua, the corporate sector was recently asked to join the project to improve schools. Groups such as the American/Nicaraguan Chamber of Commerce were already adopting schools, but they were only focused on “things” such as computers, building improvements, etc. These were all worthwhile efforts, but with some exposure to quality enhancing programs, contributions could be expanded and improved. The private sector is increasingly interested in the quality of the workforce and, thus the students that the education system is turning out.

In conclusion, meeting the challenge of the education and literacy goal requires that:

1. The policy environment must be conducive to reform and human and financial resources must be available;
2. Communities and parents should play a large role in demanding improved schooling. School report cards might be an effective mechanism wherein communities rate their schools and work together with the government to improve them;
3. Some of these reforms are working pretty well to reach the rural poor and girls who are out of school, but alternative delivery of schooling must be considered to be able to provide a quality education at lower cost and in a shorter period;
4. Providing accessible secondary education (near home or through distance learning) is essential to broaden the future of children.
5. Education cannot be improved in a vacuum: it needs to connect to the productive sector and civil society which can support it in funding and awareness raising and demand for higher quality and more relevant curriculum.
6. Better instruments to measure impacts and learning outcomes are needed.

## Intractable Challenges in Advancing Education and Literacy<sup>2</sup>

By Mr. James E. Page  
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The world community has been grappling with some of the seemingly intractable challenges in advancing both education and literacy amongst children, youth and adults, but especially amongst girls and women for a very long time. Despite these efforts, progress has been difficult to achieve. In fact, in parts of the world we seem to be losing ground.

Despite the earnest hopes and proposals for change expressed over the years by the history of meetings, declarations and goals, going back to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948, progress is still negligible.

We have learned quite a lot about the impediments to forward progress in literacy and adult education. For example, we have learned that societies reproduce themselves through their education systems and other forms of learning. Discrimination in a society can thus become so deeply ingrained that it is no longer recognized for what it is, which could explain why girls' participation in education is markedly lower than that of boys in seventy-one out of 175 countries. There are questions of culture, values, tradition and religion that will not be set aside easily if at all. They are profound and they are real. They are part of the challenge and they could take generations to change, if they can be changed at all.

Wars and civil strife, domestic violence and community crime, rampant disease and poverty are all sources of insecurity that affect the stable and predictable environment that favors teaching and learning. Without peace and security all of the pious wishes for human advancement, for equality of opportunity, for Education and Literacy For All, will continue to fall on infertile ground.

Parts of the world affected by this instability suffer compounded problems of: unaffordable access to education, dysfunctional schools, low technical quality, low client responsiveness and stagnant productivity.

International goal setting has led to such modest results due to the imperfect link between political and technical levels. Too often there has been a lack of clarity around the feasibility of some goals, which sometimes oversimplify complex social and economic circumstances, and so on.

But there are many positive things as well. The long list of Conferences and declarations also signifies that we have gained many insights into what can be done to advance literacy and adult learning, and we have had opportunities to share this intelligence.

We know that the development of literacy skills needs to be linked to the use of those skills in the real world. Literacy is not solely to be acquired; it must be practiced. As well, means of measuring the performance, of both learners and providers during the learning process, are essential to ensure the effectiveness of programmes. Tutors, trainers and teachers need to be motivated and they need to have access to learner-appropriate tools and techniques. The involvement of the community and of families is critical to educational attainment and success. These are but a few examples of what has been learned over the years and we know much more besides.

International gatherings and declarations have grown more frequent. This may suggest that this is because the challenges are increasingly more complex. As a result, the number and intricacy of international targets and goals for achievement has grown, while the essential connections between these statements of international concern and the achievement of success on the ground have not been properly explored.

It is hard not to be a bit cynical and to succumb to the view that many pronouncements and proclamations may have taken on a life of their own. Anyone who is outside of the international circle within which these things are discussed can find it to be an almost incomprehensible maze of statements, commitments, goals and strategies. The EFA goals, the MDG's, the Fast Track Initiatives, the UNLD Action Plan, to cite a few, cause the uninitiated person's eyes to glaze over. They have little or no meaning to literacy practitioners.

The reason may be that international efforts often are expressed in technical or bureaucratic language that runs the risk of masking the urgency of the privation and pain that results from illiteracy, low literacy and a lack of opportunities to learn. There is a divide between those who analyse and propose, and those who actually have to struggle forward against enormous difficulties in communities, in schools, at work and at home. *“Goals pronounced in an international forum by a leader may not withstand competing priorities on the domestic scene”*. One could also add that they may not withstand the scrutiny of those on the ground who actually have to deliver.

The literacy situations faced in Canada by Aboriginal peoples, by persons with disabilities, by youth-at-risk and by seniors all fit within the UNLD category of “excluded groups” and their literacy levels are considerably below national norms. Nonetheless the international taxonomy or hierarchy of objectives and goals seemed far removed from the hard task of dealing with real issues affecting real people.

Literacy is like a “chameleon” in several senses. Just as a chameleon can camouflage itself, literacy issues can blend into the policy and political landscapes so their importance can barely be discerned. This analogy may reveal something about the way we should be approaching literacy both internationally and nationally.

To take a simple example of which you are all aware, literacy should be a central concern for any government that is intent on strengthening its health care system and in promoting a preventative approach to health issues. Illiteracy and low literacy negatively affect the ability of governments and civil society organizations to share information on nutrition, diet and healthy lifestyles including the avoidance of illnesses such as HIV/AIDS. Illiteracy and low literacy limit a person's ability to care well for themselves, to read the

labels on medicines, to use drugs as prescribed, and to avoid using drugs in combinations that harm. We all know this and understand it.

However, international goals for literacy are mostly framed in terms of education and training. But literacy can be relevant to a national or a local government for reasons other than education, as a means to achieve other urgent public policy ends.

There is also another way to look at this analogy of literacy as being akin to a Chameleon. Just like the Chameleon changes colours when the background shifts so, too, do literacy challenges change depending on their context. Persons with disabilities face literacy challenges quite unlike those faced by Aboriginal peoples, and the solutions required to address their distinct needs differ as well. What works in family literacy is different from the success factors usually identified in workplace literacy.

One of the great challenges is to enhance the literacy of girls and women. Women and girls should not only be defined their femaleness alone. Some women are aboriginal peoples, other women are disabled persons, some girls are young persons at risk while others are victims of violence, some females are refugees from civil strife or war, others are economically poor and dispossessed. The 2003/4 “Global Monitoring report, Gender and Education for All: The Leap to Equality” was eloquent on this point.

The barriers or impediments to literacy faced by female persons in these different circumstances require different sensibilities and approaches. There is lots of evidence that progress in advancing education and literacy of women and girls can be better achieved stressing the particularity of situations in which they live and by building solutions around these different circumstances. The UNESCO’s LIFE proposal provides an outlet for a further elaboration of this approach. An old example of this approach is the Uganda government’s Functional Adult Literacy Programme (FALP) in Sub-Saharan Africa. The programme was based on the common sense recognition that everyday challenges are often complex, and that people have learned to consider various factors in their environment when resolving such issues. Specialists assisted literacy workers in dealing with problems related to agriculture, health or justice, for example. The project connected learning literacy to the activities the learner pursued in everyday life. This helped them to acquire literacy while developing another skill set. This also involved follow up activities in learners’ homes or in their workplaces where learning can be applied in real life situations. In 1999 Uganda assisted by the World Bank evaluated this programme and found that:

... the literacy programmes had equipped the learners with practical knowledge, especially in the areas of agriculture, crop and animal husbandry and handicrafts. Other benefits... included, stronger participation in the governance of their communities ....., the adoption of better health practices, and successful income generating activities.<sup>3</sup>

On another subject, a lesson from some of the research and analysis that has flowed from the International Adult Literacy Survey, not surprisingly, IALS found that literacy is not established for life by formal schooling. Education does not *fix or set* literacy levels forever. As IALS put it: “...levels of adult literacy are the result of what adults do, not necessarily what students do.” Much of the attention paid to literacy has been focused, quite rightly, on providing programmes and policies so people can acquire literacy skills.

We should never forget, however, that people are usually motivated to make the effort to acquire things, including skills, if they can benefit from them. That benefit can be social, cultural, or economic, in the interest of the individual, the family or the community. Skills are not acquired for their own sakes but for what can be done with them, for how they can be used. So while literacy is indeed a universal right and a social good, it is also rooted in the real world of choices and trade-offs. Providing people with opportunities to learn is important, but it only goes part way. In addition to the opportunity to learn there must be the motivation to learn. Once motivated to learn people must be motivated to use their skills, continuously throughout life, or they run the risk of losing those skills. Motivating people to acquire literacy skills and then ensuring they have opportunities to use those skills are simple prescriptions, but that must lie at the heart of whatever we do to deal with the literacy challenges the world faces.

## **Eliminating Gender Disparity in Primary and Secondary Education<sup>4</sup>**

By Mrs. Geeta Rao Gupta

President

International Center for Research on Women (ICRW)

It is certain that the global community is going to miss the deadline for the first part of the target for Goal 3 of the Millennium Development Goals – to eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education preferably by 2005 and in primary, secondary and tertiary education by 2015. Rather than dampening our spirits and discouraging us, this first missed deadline should serve to energize us to increase our efforts to meet the target by 2015. To succeed in doing so will require a substantial acceleration of efforts today at both the national and international levels. The Task Force on Education and Gender Equality of the U.N. Millennium Project laid out specific recommendations on what must be done to achieve this target that are listed in their two reports.

The first and most important recommendation made by the Task Force is that while we continue to work to meet the global commitment to universal primary education, we must invest today in increasing overall participation and reducing gender disparity in secondary education. In today's globalized and technologically advanced world, a primary education is not sufficient to equip women with the skills required to overcome the many constraints they face in the labor market or in the social context in which they lead their lives. There are five reasons to invest in secondary education today, even while we continue to invest in universal primary education.

*First*, because we have not made the same progress on secondary education as we have on primary education. Significant progress was made in overall enrollment rates for primary education between 1990-2000. A similar push forward, however, has not materialized in secondary education. In many parts of the world, secondary education is

still marked with very low enrolment rates. In South Asia the secondary gross enrolment rate is still only 50 percent and in sub-Saharan Africa it is only 32 percent.

*Second*, focusing on secondary education strengthens the pipeline that channels students through the education system and gives parents an incentive to send their children to primary school. Currently, we have an absorption problem because although the number of primary school graduates is rising steadily, in many parts of the world, the existing secondary education systems are not equipped to absorb this increase without additional resources. Without that absorptive capacity present, it will be hard to maintain high retention rates in primary school.

*Third*, gender parity in secondary enrolment is more likely to be attained with overall increases in gross enrolment rates at the secondary level. Although overall increases in secondary enrolment are not a sufficient condition to increase gender parity in enrolment, there is a positive correlation between higher enrolment rates and higher gender parity.

*Fourth*, because of the universalization of primary education, individuals with a secondary education are more likely to be able to access competitive economic opportunities. A poverty alleviation strategy, thus, must include a reduction of the costs of secondary education, so that poor children are not disadvantaged from access to such schooling and the resulting economic opportunities. In Tanzania, for example, education participation rates of the richest 20 percent of households are more than 20 times those of the poorest 40 percent of households. Lack of access for the poor to such an education will further exacerbate already existing inequities and poverty.

And *finally*, recent analysis undertaken at the International Center for Research on Women has shown that secondary education, much more than primary education, is associated with indicators of women's empowerment. For example, it was found that female secondary education is associated with better health outcomes for women: higher age at marriage, low fertility and mortality, good maternal care, reduced incidence of violence against women and female genital cutting, and reduced vulnerability to HIV/AIDS. Most importantly, higher education increases women's probability to be engaged in formal paid employment and leads to higher returns in paid employment. In fact, higher levels of education have greater economic returns for women than for men – in India the wage benefit for women with secondary education was double that for men. In addition, women with a secondary education are more likely to work in the formal employment market versus being engaged in informal work.

The Task Force identified four strategies to increase overall participation and gender parity in secondary education:

*First*, overcome the barriers imposed by cost that are particularly significant for girls by making secondary education more affordable by either eliminating or reducing user fees through for example, targeted scholarships for the poor.

*Second*, build schools closer to girls' homes to reduce the negative effect of distance of worries about safety on secondary school participation, and allow for flexible class schedules so that girls can more effectively meet the multiple demands on their time.

*Third*, make schools girls-friendly by improving their safety, design, and policies, by actions such as hiring more female teachers, building hygienic latrines for girls, ensuring well lit hallways and classrooms, and allowing married girls to attend school.

And *finally*, improve the quality of education for girls by using gender-equitable textbooks and by developing incentives for girls to pursue courses in mathematics and science so that they are more able to compete favorably in today's labor market.

Simultaneous to making investments in primary and secondary education for girls, governments must support literacy programs for adult women, particularly those that are combined with interventions to provide women with livelihoods and skills training. Such programs can be an important complement to interventions to increase their children's access to schooling because there is a large body of evidence that shows that providing education for illiterate mothers can facilitate better educational outcomes for their children. In fact, programs that foster life long learning opportunities for women are important if women are to equally participate in the dynamic societies in which they live.

In conclusion, the challenges that remain are to scale-up small pilot projects and to reach hard-to-reach populations. Scaling-up requires national commitment and investments in training of teachers and other personnel, infrastructure development, and the strengthening of educational systems. Donors, simultaneously, must translate their verbal commitments to the Fast Track Initiative into financial resources, and U.N. agencies must provide the necessary technical support to national governments to realize their goals. We know what must be done and the value of doing it – all that remains now is sustained action.



## Notes

- 1 From the ECOSOC 2005 preparatory meeting roundtable 2, “Education and literacy,” hosted by UNESCO and UNICEF, 16 March 2005.
- 2 From the ECOSOC 2005 preparatory meeting roundtable 2, “Education and literacy,” hosted by UNESCO and UNICEF, 16 March 2005.
- 3 Oxenham, John, et al. “Skills and Literacy Training for Better Livelihoods – A Review of Approaches and Experiences.” *Africa Region Human Development Working Paper Series*. (Africa Region: The World Bank, 2002), 107.
- 4 From the ECOSOC 2005 high-level segment roundtable 5, “Dialogue on the education and literacy,” hosted by UNESCO and UNICEF, 29 June 2005.

## Chapter 8

# GENDER EQUALITY AND THE EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN

## Overview

The Millennium Declaration, unanimously endorsed by 191 nations, emphasized the need to “promote gender equality and the empowerment of women as effective ways to combat poverty, hunger and disease and to stimulate development that is truly sustainable”. The forthcoming 2005 World Summit provides an opportunity to strengthen global commitments to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of women including fulfilling the obligations of the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), and achieving the goals of the Beijing Platform for Action and Security Council resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security.

A growing body of evidence confirms that when greater equality between men and women exists, “economies tend to grow faster, the poor move more quickly out of poverty, and the wellbeing of men, women, and children is enhanced.”<sup>1</sup> Support to local development provides the opportunity to address directly the inter-related dynamics of inequality and poverty. Gender sensitive implementation of the key recommendations of the Millennium Project – including those related to women’s employment, education, health, political participation, property and inheritance rights, and ending violence against women – will have a critical impact on the lives of women and their families at the local level.

Chapter 8 offers insights on how global and regional commitments to gender equality can be translated into meaningful change at the local level; how decision makers at the national level ensure that policies and programmes maximize opportunities to promote gender equality at the local level. The requisite institutions and partnerships can prove effective to furthering gender equality at the local level.

*Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women at the Local Level* highlights the steps needed to be taken to achieve gender equality through empowering women in all spheres of public life.

*The Role of UNIFEM in Achieving the MDG on Promoting Gender Equality and Empowering Women* focuses on the role of UNIFEM, as a catalytic organization, in linking local change with global norms and agreements and addressing multiple aspects of the MDGs at the local level, especially the goal of achieving gender equality and empowering women.

*The Beijing Plus 10 Review: Contribution of the 2005 World Summit towards Enhancing Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment* focuses on the role that can be played by the High-Level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly to fully integrate gender and to

see its centrality in all aspects of development – including the proposals that address threats and challenges to security, as well as the MDGS.

## **Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women at the Local Level<sup>2</sup>**

By Mrs. Rachel Mayanja  
Assistant Secretary-General  
Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women

At the Millennium Summit in 2000, our leaders agreed on a new vision of the world which is free of abject poverty, a world in which girls and boys are educated, a world in which deadly pandemics are controlled and better health care for mothers removes the shadow of death and illness, and a world in which both women and men enjoy equal rights and opportunities and hand on to the next generation the sustainable resources needed for happy and productive lives.

The Summit signed up to a set of tough but realistic goals – the Millennium Development Goals – which, if they were met, would take us very much nearer to making this vision a reality. The world’s leaders clearly identified “gender equality and the empowerment of women as effective ways to combat poverty, hunger and disease and to stimulate development that is truly sustainable.”

Thus, ensuring that women are fully empowered and included in all spheres of public life is crucial for making the vision of the Summit a reality. And we need to start at the local level.

The Millennium Declaration makes a strong case for democratic governance, of which local governance is a critical component. Participation in government, both at national and local levels, is a woman’s right. The involvement of women in local government, bringing different experiences and abilities to politics, improves the quality of governance.

Moreover, women’s interests should be represented in decision-making. It is recognized that women tend to draw more attention to the immediate needs of the community such as education, water and sanitation issues than their male counterparts.

Finally, women’s entry into local politics often challenges and influences the prevailing traditional attitudes and stereotypes regarding the role of women in society.

The 10-year review and appraisal of the Beijing Platform for Action (BPFA) revealed a general trend toward women’s increased political participation at the local level.

Yet it is also a fact that actual representation of women in national and local decision-making remains far lower than it should be, and progress far slower than we had hoped. Gender stereotypes and discrimination, and limited access to education and resources are

main obstacles to women's political empowerment. Strenuous legal and political measures are required to remove those obstacles.

At the international level, the CEDAW Convention obliges States parties to take all appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women in all spheres of private and public life and ensure that women are granted opportunities on an equal basis with men. CEDAW monitors Member States' efforts for the empowerment of women.

Whether through existing instruments or new initiatives, we must keep pressing ahead. The creation of gender-sensitive local governance and an enabling environment for the empowerment of women requires serious and sustained efforts at the national level. Without the full involvement of women, successful implementation of all the MDGs will suffer.

The challenges facing us in empowering women are great, but the opportunities for decisive action and speedy progress have never been better. Never before has a clearer understanding and agreement at the highest level existed about the close link between women's economic empowerment and political representation at both local and national levels, as well as the economic and social costs of discrimination against women. We must think within a dynamic framework of women's empowerment and the achievements of the international goals set forth by the Millennium Summit to be reviewed at the 2005 World Summit in September.

## **The Role of UNIFEM in achieving the MDG on Promoting Gender Equality and Empowering Women<sup>3</sup>**

By Mrs. Noeleen Heyzer

Executive Director

United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM)

The real challenge that emerges from securing global consensus on priorities for social and economic development is translating these into change at the local level. The nearly 180 countries that have signed CEDAW and the consensus on the Beijing Platform for Action all require action at the local level. The MDG promise of gender equality and women's empowerment cannot happen without fundamental changes in the options and opportunities that communities can access, and in the assumptions and stereotypes that have limited the choices for both women and men.

This process of bringing change from the global to the local – and from the local to global – is complex and dependent on many factors. So it challenges our proclivities for planning, results-based management, and concrete strategies. We know too little about how it happens and how it becomes sustainable.

UNIFEM, as a catalytic organization, has long had a focus on linking local change with global norms and agreements and addresses multiple aspects of the MDGs at the local level.

We do this through our management of the United Nations Trust Fund to End Violence against Women. Amongst the programmes we've supported in more than 90 countries are innovative efforts at strengthening community resolve to agree on zero tolerance toward violence against women. We have supported grantees that have organized teenage soccer players and their fathers to stand up for an end to violence in Central America, grantees that have secured commitments of rural communities to replace traditional ceremonies of female genital mutilation with coming-of-age ceremonies that celebrate young girls in East Africa, and many others. And we have worked with HABITAT in Latin America to provide awards to local communities that create safe localities for protecting women and girls against violence.

Gender responsive budgeting has also proven to be a key tool to spur action on gender equality and women's empowerment at the local level. We have brought together mayors, municipal councils, citizens and women's groups at the local level in South Asia and Latin America to analyze local budgets and to collectively determine that greater resources are needed to support women's empowerment. In one community, this resulted in a municipality multiplying the budget to improve women's empowerment by 15 times.

Our work on HIV/AIDS, supported by the Japanese Human Security Fund, has involved experimenting with Gender Empowerment Zones at the local level. We do this in the belief that gender inequality is a fundamental cause of HIV infection and its spread, and addressing it is key to prevention. In a rural community in Zimbabwe, we have been supporting a multi-disciplinary approach that involves other community and United Nations organizations in addressing the stigma and discrimination that HIV+ women face at community level, and also the burden of care that is placed on them as relatives fall sick and die. As a result of this effort, more men are now sharing responsibility for the care work, women are developing better livelihood options, and women report a reduction in stigma and discrimination and more easily reveal their HIV status.

Finally, we have been fortunate to have support from the Government of Italy to bring a stronger "women's rights and gender equality" approach to their impressive work on local level human development. We began our partnership with them in Cuba more than five years ago. That experience has now translated into a Central American-wide programme that demonstrates how change happens from the regional to the national and local contexts. It responds to new opportunities and challenges for local economies emerging from new trade agreements, including CAFTA and NAFTA. It highlights strengthening local women's entrepreneurship in the context of these agreements, but also links them to national level policy-making through – with Swedish support as well – bringing ministers of women's affairs together to develop a Central American women's agenda for economic empowerment in the context of new trade agreements.

## **The Beijing Plus 10 Review: Contribution of the 2005 World Summit Towards Enhancing Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment<sup>4</sup>**

By Mrs. Charlotte Bunch  
Executive Director  
Center for Women's Global Leadership

After the reaffirmation of the Beijing Platform for Action (BPFA), the one point of major agreement and constant reference in the Beijing Plus 10 (B10) review process was the need to take the BPFA and gender equality forward into the 2005 World Summit in September.

As the numbers of NGOs and government delegates who attended the review session just held by the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) in New York showed, women are one of the strongest constituencies that support and believe in the United Nations. Women still look to it for help in the advancement of our human rights and have expectations that the Summit will promote this cause as well.

Throughout the Beijing Plus 10 process, Governments and NGOs alike stressed that the MDGs and the broader vision of the Millennium Declaration cannot be achieved without gender equality and women's empowerment. Their success depends on implementing the BPFA and CEDAW (the women's convention) which outline both norms and strategies for realizing gender equality and women's human rights – norms and strategies that have evolved tremendously over the 30 years since the Mexico City International Women's Year conference.

Over and over, in the past decade, it has been demonstrated that women are key to ending poverty in communities, to children's well-being, to stemming the HIV/AIDS crisis, to peacemaking and peacekeeping, etc.

So too, the Millennium Declaration states that empowerment of women is an effective way "to combat poverty, hunger, disease and to stimulate development that is truly sustainable," and it resolves to combat violence against women and to implement CEDAW.

Yet, so little political capital and even fewer real resources have been expended toward these goals of gender equality that one has to question the commitment to this rhetoric. When every CSW resolution ends with the phrase "there are no resource implications," one asks: Are we serious about these issues? Clearly advancing the equal rights of all women in all our diversity requires the commitment of greater resources and political will.

Even in the road map of the Millennium Development Goals, where Goal 3 specifically calls for gender equality and women's empowerment, still there is only one concrete target set dealing only with equality of girls' primary education. And that target which was to be met in 2005 is far from having been achieved.

The Task Force on Goal 3 in its report, *Taking Action: Achieving Gender Equality and Empowering Women*, does, however, go much further and identifies seven strategic priorities “as the minimum necessary to empower women and alter the historical legacy of female disadvantage.” Those priorities are:

- Strengthen girls’ access to education secondary as well as primary
- Guarantee sexual and reproductive health and rights
- Invest in infrastructure to reduce women’s and girls’ time burdens
- Guarantee women’s and girls’ property and inheritance rights
- Eliminate gender inequality in employment
- Increase women’s share of seats in national and local governments
- Combat violence against girls and women.

These seven strategic priorities are a useful place to begin in concretely seeking to achieve gender inequality and women’s empowerment. Fortunately, Secretary-General Kofi Annan used these as the basis of his speech in the opening session of the CSW and hopefully his report for the Millennium Summit Review will also take up these themes.

One contribution of the Summit therefore would be to reinforce these priorities as central to all the MDGs. In particular, both the issues of violence against women and sexual and reproductive rights – issues that were central to the United Nations conferences of 1990s - are missing in the MDGs.

No issue better illustrates the insecurity that plagues half the world’s population than violence against women. Yet it is missing not only in the MDGs, but also in the High-Level Panel on Threats, Challenges and Change.

In fact, even more than MDGs, the Threats and Challenges report is missing an integration of the gender dimensions of questions of security in our world. One must ask whose security is it supposed to defend?

The second contribution of the Summit must therefore be to fully integrate the gender perspective and to see its centrality in all aspects – including the proposals that address the threats and challenges to security as well as the MDGs.

For example, macroeconomic policies and poverty reduction strategies cannot be gender-blind if they are to succeed in poverty eradication. HIV/AIDS strategies must take up the impact of violence against women on the spread of the infection, or they are doomed to fail. Implementing Security Council Resolution 1325 on women, peace and security must be seen as an integral part of peace keeping, etc.

Another contribution that the Summit can make is to bring back more forcefully the human rights-based grounding of the Millennium Declaration and the conferences of the 1990s.

Women rallied to the cry of women's rights as human rights, and the development of norms on matters like violence against women and women's housing, property and inheritance rights has advanced in the past decade.

But the mechanisms of accountability for these norms must be strengthened - both through the CEDAW Committee and throughout the human rights system where the integration of gender has been evolving in important, though incomplete ways, such as the recognition of unnecessary maternal mortality as a violation of the right to life and the acknowledgement of some forms of VAW as torture and, of course, of rape as a war crime.

Yet, just as women's rights have begun to make it onto the human rights agenda, one senses an erosion of support for human rights overall, which the summit should also address. (I note that in the Annex List of Major United Nations Conferences that accompanied the draft programme for these two days, both the World Conference on Human Rights in Vienna in 1993 and the World Conference Against Racism (WCAR) – also a human rights conference held in Durban in 2001 – were omitted from the list.)

After 30 years of women's conferences, gender-sensitive norms and strategies have been evolving through the conference programmes, national plans of action, CEDAW and other human rights recommendations, etc. This is a rich body of work to draw upon.

The national and international commitment to the resources and institutional infrastructure necessary to realize these evolving norms and strategies at every level – local to global - has not grown adequately. Clearly the B10 review showed that once again the actions of governments have not matched their promises.

Making gender equality and women's empowerment happen is not “rocket science”. There are many practical strategies to address this, but it requires deeper commitments not only to resources but also to changes in attitudes and institutions - deeper no doubt than any of us realized as we began this work.

For example, we need to look at why it has been so difficult – nationally and globally to even approach the goal set in Beijing of having a critical mass of at least 30% women in political decision-making. Why have only a handful of countries come close to this goal, and those only with some form of affirmative action?

The Millennium Summit not only provides an opportunity as part of its MDGs agenda, but also as part of the United Nations Reform discussion to address these questions of institutional change. Nationally as well as globally, we need both effective, results-driven gender mainstreaming, and effective, adequately resourced women's units to bring us closer to both achieving the MDGs and to realizing gender equality more broadly.

Measures need to be taken to upgrade and better resource the gender-related mechanisms within the United Nations and at the national level. In addition, work needs to be done to understand better how to integrate a gender perspective into all areas.

Women's rights advocates need to raise these issues in national level discussions of the MDGS, and of the Millennium Summit review as well as here at the United Nations.



The Summit review can set the tone for the next decade of global action. We must seek to ensure that it is a tone that sees gender equality and the human rights of women as center to all its deliberations on the MDGs, on the security agenda, on seeking to create a world that advances the goals of the United Nations: human rights, development, and peace.

## Notes

- 1 The World Bank, *Integrating Gender into the World Bank's Work: a Strategy for Action* (Washington, D.C.: The World Bank, January 2002), p. 1.
- 2 From the ECOSOC 2005 High-Level Segment of ECOSOC Roundtable 6, "Dialogue on gender equality and the empowerment of women," hosted by UNIFEM and DESA/Division for the Advancement of Women, 29 June 2005.
- 3 From the ECOSOC 2005 High-Level Segment of ECOSOC Roundtable 6, "Dialogue on Gender equality and the empowerment of women," hosted by UNIFEM and DESA/Division for the Advancement of Women, 29 June 2005.
- 4 From the ECOSOC 2005 preparatory meeting roundtable 5, "Gender equality and the empowerment of women," hosted by UNIFEM, 17 March 2005.

## Chapter 9

# ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

## Overview

Millennium Development Goal 7, “Environmental Sustainability”, includes specific targets related to the integration of the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programmes, and reversing natural resources loss (target 9), the provision of safe drinking water and basic sanitation (target 10), and improving the lives of slum dwellers (target 11). There is now increasing understanding that environmental sustainability underpins all the other Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and that it is the foundation on which sustainable economic development should be built. Chapter Nine provides an overall assessment in this regard and proposes the way forward.

The world fundamentally depends on natural systems and resources for its existence and development, and efforts to defeat poverty will be in vain if environmental degradation and natural resource depletion continue unabated. These trends disproportionately impact the poor, particularly, and increasingly make them more vulnerable to natural disasters and to conflict over land and other natural resources. This is highlighted in the case of desertification and deforestation, the rural poor, and the resultant rapid growth in urbanization. In particular, in sub-Saharan Africa, the region most in danger of not achieving the Millennium Development Goals, degradation of the environment is having a serious effect on agricultural production. The essays in this chapter consider the interplay between environmental degradation and the conditions of the poor. The effects of climate change, exacerbating natural resource loss, is also considered.

There is a growing recognition that the premise of economic growth preceding environmental conservation could not be sustained. The environment should not be regarded as a luxury, but quite the contrary, as an essential component in fighting poverty. It is becoming more evident that the economic value of natural resources is being underestimated. In terms of carbon sequestration the economic value of forest cover is only now becoming obvious, and other examples included the destruction of natural habitat, such as mangroves and coral reefs, through natural disasters.

The need for countries to mainstream environmental considerations into their national planning processes is increasingly recognized. The need to ensure coordination among ministries, in particular with Ministries of Finance and Planning, accompanies this recognition. With national priorities and strategies defined, the challenge remains building sufficient capacity at the national level and access to the necessary resources for effective implementation. The essays in this chapter present a number of ongoing activities in this regard.

The slums target (target 11) is a challenge for current and future cities world wide. The rapid trend of urbanization, particularly in developing countries, and the limitations that cities face in absorbing the influx of large numbers of people, result in the proliferation of

slums lacking access to adequate shelter and to basic services, such as clean water supply and adequate sanitation. There is a need to recognize that the urban context and the adoption of pro-poor, gender-sensitive, inclusive and equitable urban policies are critical to meeting all the goals of the Millennium Declaration. Chapter Nine highlights these challenges.

*Centrality of environmental sustainability in achieving the MDGs* elaborates the role of sound environmental management in achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). It draws on the situation of Africa, in particular Benin, in illustrating the argument.

*A paradigm shift on environmental sustainability and development* focuses on target 9 and emphasizes that sustainable environment is essential for development as well as for collective security of the world. In order to pursue this aim, it highlights a proposal by a group of governments on creating a body of experts on biodiversity, parallel to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) for the climate change, and another on the creation of the United Nations Environmental Organization.

*International debate on environmental sustainability – focusing on UNEP Governing Council* presents how the international debate has now come to consider the centrality of environmental sustainability in the consideration of sustainable development. It focuses on the outcome of the twenty-third session of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Global Ministerial Environment Forum, which took place in Nairobi, from 21-25 February 2005.

The value of environmental services should be recognized in terms of development assistance and also in planning policies. *Nature's Capital* presents recently issued data by the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment on the financial values of natural resources and environmental services, illustrating the importance of sound management practices and adherence to multilateral environmental agreements.

UN-HABITAT estimates that, by the year 2020, the slums population will grow from 1 billion to 1.6 billion people if no immediate measures are taken. Target 11<sup>1</sup> as proposed, is thus very limited and it covers only a small fraction of slum dwellers. *Sustainable Urbanization* highlights the narrow focus of target 11 and presents the case for a much broader and ambitious approach to address the slum challenge.

*Training and capacity building in the field of environmental sustainability: UNITAR's activities* explains the capacity requirements in addressing environmental sustainability, presenting the activities of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR). These activities respond to the needs of many countries, which face wide spread environmental degradation and increasing urbanization. The challenge is particularly felt at the local level, where much of the actions need to take place.

## Centrality of Environmental Sustainability in Achieving the MDGs<sup>2</sup>

By H.E. Mr. Rogatien Biaou  
Minister of Foreign Affairs of Benin

The discussion on environmental sustainability is of great importance, as it is becoming increasingly evident that the sustainable management of the earth's natural resources underpins our development, economic as well as social. Sound environmental management practices cut across all sectors, from oceans to the air that we breathe, from the food that we eat to the diseases that we suffer from. It impacts our everyday life and our achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

Linked closely with responsible environmental stewardship is the rapid trend towards urbanization and the limitations that cities face in absorbing large numbers of people. Urban populations already match rural populations and are growing at an increasingly high rate, especially in the developing countries where the influx of new urban populations is mostly targeting poor settlements and sprawling slums. Slums are being established on a daily basis and current projections are that there will be 25 mega-cities in 2015, each with more than 10 million inhabitants. People living in slums lack access to basic urban infrastructure and services such as clean water supply, sanitation and adequate shelter. It is estimated that in 2001, there were about 924 million slum dwellers. According to UN-HABITAT projections, the world will have 1,416 billion slum dwellers in 2020.

Take, for instance, Benin. UN-HABITAT estimates that out of a total urban population of 2,774,000, there were 2,318,000 slum dwellers in 2001. UN-HABITAT estimates that the rate of growth of Benin's slums to be over 5% a year and that the slum population will double in 13 years if no preventive measures are taken. This brings to the importance of addressing this issue immediately, and that target 11 on improving the lives of slum dwellers should not only be seen as a "cross cutting" target but also as a central priority for national and local authorities in cities of the developing world.

As the Millennium Project Task Force on Environmental Sustainability, commissioned by the Secretary-General under the leadership of Professor Jeffrey Sachs, concluded, "Quite simply, environmental sustainability is the foundation upon which achieving all the other MDGs must be built". The recently launched Millennium Ecosystems Assessment, for which UNEP provides the secretariat, indicates that most of the MDGs will not be reached by the sub-Saharan countries of Africa on the current trajectory. We continue to lose species at alarming rates, and withdrawal of water without which we cannot live - has doubled between 1960 and 2000. Clearly the financial cost suffered through continued unsustainable use of natural services provided by the atmosphere, forests, rivers, wetlands and coral reefs are enormous.

In addition, in Africa, 43% of the land is moderately to severely at risk from human-induced land degradation, and changing climate patterns exacerbate this problem. The people of Benin can attest to this. Consider that desertification affects 71% of Benin's

entire territory. Desertification is considered among the world's greatest environmental challenges, destabilizing societies by deepening poverty and creating environmental refugees who can often add stress to areas that may not be degraded. Desertification directly affects 80% of the most vulnerable rural dwellers and more than 250 million people, including 60 million in Africa. Whereas this problem has been viewed as an African phenomenon, countries in Asia are increasingly suffering from land degradation.

An energy consumption study conducted in Benin in 2000 found that an estimated 3 million tons of firewood are used per year. Bush and pasture fires and the rising urban demand for firewood and charcoal contribute to the deforestation of more than 80,000 hectares of forest cover each year. To curb this phenomenon, the government of Benin has developed and is implementing a firewood development project, encouraging the utilization of improved cooking stoves, slashing the cost of cooking gas and planting trees all over the country.

So to the people of Benin it is abundantly clear that worsening ecosystems will affect the world's ability to meet the MDGs, as ecosystems and human well-being and health are very much intertwined.

## **A Paradigm Shift on Environmental Sustainability and Development<sup>3</sup>**

By H.E. Mrs. Brigitte Girardin  
Minister of Development Cooperation and de la Francophonie  
Republic of France

The Millennium Development Goal (MDG) 7 has the objective of ensuring "environmental sustainability". Three targets have been identified to support MDG 7 in 2000.

The first two targets have quantified objectives: providing access to drinking water, improving living conditions in urban slums. These two objectives have been extensively debated in the Commission for Sustainable Development. The third target is more complicated and politically sensitive. It recommends to integrate the principals of sustainable development in national policies and to reverse the degradation of environmental resources.

The focus will be on the third target because it is important to emphasize that a sustainable environment is essential for development as well as for collective security of the world.

Reversing the degradation of environmental resources begins with the recognition that humankind is responsible for it. This is particularly relevant in regard to the issue of climate change. The work of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has demonstrated that actions of humankind are central to climate change. Therefore a policy framework needs to be developed and implemented, which should encompass new

technologies as well as more efficient use of energy. This is why we welcome the entry into force of the Kyoto protocol.

We need the same scientific expertise to analyze more subtly the loss of biodiversity. At the Conference on biodiversity in January 2005 in Paris, the President of the French Republic proposed the creation of a body of experts in this area, which would be similar to the IPCC. France has followed-up on this commitment by bringing together an international committee in June 2005 to study how such an international body in the field of biodiversity could be launched.

To crystallize this initiative would require a paradigm shift on environmental sustainability and development. Often these two issues are considered as antagonistic and compartmentalized. This problem is also brought out by the Secretary-General's report on High-Level Panel on Threats, Challenges and Change "*A more secure world: Our shared responsibility*" and even more by Dr. Jeffrey Sach's Millennium Project Report: *Investing in Development*. The daily survival of the poor is often closely linked to natural resources. Natural disasters affect more severely poor countries and destroy their infrastructures. The over-exploitation of national resources, like for example charcoal, which is the major cause of desertification in Sub-Sahara Africa, worsens the living conditions of the poor in these countries. Today, environmental degradation represents an obstacle to development which will worsen in the future. These are the underlining reasons why the international community should recognize that the fulfilment of Millennium Development Goal (MDG) number 7 is not only critical for ensuring environmental sustainability, but equality important for attaining the other Millennium Development Goals. As such, the international community should recognize its responsibility in regard to MDG 7.

Every country therefore has the responsibility of integrating environmental issues in its internal procedures in regard to development projects. This is the reason why the 2005 Johannesburg Plan of Action has requested that each country implements "a national strategy on sustainable development".

France has also presented a national strategy at the last meeting of the Commission of Sustainable Development, which has been reviewed by developed countries as well as developing countries. France is willing to share its experience and expertise with other developing countries in their efforts to review their national strategy for sustainable development. In this regard, environmental issues should not be considered separately from economic development.

Furthermore, the world is also collectively responsible to strengthen the environmental sustainable agenda at the global level. It is therefore essential that the World Bank integrates this dimension in the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP), which is negotiated with several developing countries. In this context, the international community must keep in mind the spirit of Johannesburg which balances economic, social and sustainable development dimensions.

This is the reason why France and the European Union emphasize the importance of strengthening environmental global governance. In this context, France shares the view of the Secretary-General, particularly in regard to the lack of coherence between global

environmental questions and development. France is therefore convinced that it is necessary to integrate the issue of environment into existing international institutions.

Today, the world should not be satisfied with the status quo. To crystallize the paradigm shift, an informal group of 26 countries started a debate in 2004 on the issue of a global environmental governance structure. The outcome of this debate has resulted in several observations which are similar to the view held by the Secretary-General. This group examined the added value of the United Nations Environmental Organizations as well as how to operationalize the issue of environmental sustainability:

- The United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP) should be transformed into the United Nations Environmental Organization (UNEO). This process should be complementary, should strengthen UNEP and be based on the Carthagène recommendations ;
- The headquarters of the UNEO should be in Nairobi. This organization would be the first specialized agency to have its headquarters in a developing country ;
- The legal autonomy of conventions should be preserved ;
- UNEO should not be in competition with the World Trade Organization (WTO).

Furthermore, the Group has identified key issues in regard to the future of global environmental governance which are:

- The strengthening of coherence and efficiency of the current structure in regard to environmental issues, including on a regional basis ;
- The scientific expertise and the warning systems and communication ;
- The answers to the specific needs of developing countries ;
- The effective use of financial resources so that additional funding can be mobilized ;
- The importance of institutional and legal aspects.

France welcomes the increasing number of countries supporting the idea of a UNEO. This was the case in the European Union, at the meeting of the European Council on 16 June and the Ouagadougou Summit of Francophone countries in November 2004. Many countries from all continents have also supported the creation of UNEO.

The September World Summit represents a unique opportunity to launch discussions on these key issues at the United Nations. We should not miss it.

## International Debate on Environmental Sustainability – Focusing on UNEP Governing Council<sup>4</sup>

By Mr. Prayono Atiyanto

Chargé d'affaires, Permanent Mission of the Republic of Indonesia to the United Nations, on behalf of H. E. Mr. Rachmat Witoelar, Minister of Environment of the Republic of Indonesia

The importance of promoting sustainable development cannot be over-emphasized. It is evident that environmental degradation and environmental management together with other development issues have been high on the agenda of the United Nations' major conferences and summits. As a result, commitments, promises, sets of goals and targets in promoting sustainable development always became the prominent features of these conferences and summits.

In reality, however, we continue to face challenges in promoting environmental sustainability brought about by calamities. The crux of the matter is how we could address the issue of environmental sustainability in the most practical terms and apply the strategy immediately. In this regards, Professor Jeffrey Sachs made a strong case.<sup>5</sup>

In the meantime, we also need to strategize for medium and long-term benefits. For that matter, national efforts based on different levels of development and capacities to achieve sustainable development are of great importance. Political will, supported by policies and enforcement of policies is needed. And investing in long-term measures such as education starting from an early age is one of the effective ways to instill sustainable development principles. In this regard, partnerships that aim at genuinely assisting developing countries are much needed.

This brings the attention to the outcome of the recently concluded twenty-third session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum (GC/GMEF) of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in Nairobi from 21-25 February 2005. The GC/GMEF adopted a number of key decisions, which cover many areas, namely water and sanitation, gender equality, scientific assessments and the outcome of the Mauritius International Meeting on Small Island Developing States. More importantly, the decisions addressed how it will be mainstreamed into the work programme of UNEP.

Another decision dealt with the Indian Ocean Tsunami disaster and early warning systems required to prevent a reoccurrence of this unprecedented tragedy. One of the important features that resulted from the GC/GNEF was the formal adoption of the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity Building. The Strategic Plan will help UNEP to focus its work in supporting developing countries at the national level in areas ranging from data gathering to environment law.

To put the results of the twenty-third session of GC/GMEF of UNEP into the perspective of the discussion on environmental sustainability, it is noted that the Ministers agreed on the necessity of prioritized actions in ensuring that environmental sustainability is a



central component of the successful implementation of the Millennium Development Goals. Some key recommendations related to Goals 1, 3 and 7 that may have relevance in the discussion of environmental sustainability are highlighted here.

Goal 1: Eradicating extreme poverty and hunger: On the issue of financing, the Governing Council agreed that further efforts should be made to provide an economic rationale for investment in environmental sustainability. Furthermore, the Governing Council recommended that the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity Building be financed and that innovative financial mechanisms should be further explored.

Goal 3: Promoting gender equality and empowering women – gender and environment. Gender equality should be mainstreamed at all levels in strategies, policies and programmes.

Goal 7: Ensuring environmental sustainability in relation to water, sanitation and human settlements. The Governing Council stressed the need to apply integrated water resources management (IWRM) to achieve environmentally sustainable water use with the aim of supplying clean water and adequate sanitation. IWRM is a common concept that in one way or another is taking shape in almost every part of the world, in line with national priorities and conditions. It could be applied in rural as well as urban environments and integrated into land-use planning policies.

We are increasingly convinced that the existing momentum has to be fully utilized to press forward and achieve sustainable development. There are the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) that comprehensively address the core issues of development and the blueprint for such development, the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, should guide us on the path to achieving the MDGs as elements of sustainable development.

We also cannot deny that individuals as well as organizations are showing tremendous willingness to reach out to developing countries. The tsunami disaster in the Indian Ocean and Southeast Asia region demonstrated that willingness very well.

The 2005 World Summit in September 2005 will provide an opportunity to review the implementation of the agreed goals of the MDGs, including Goal 7 on environmental sustainability, and the way forward. Achieving the targets of the MDGs in 2015 needs further political support at the highest level. Again, there has been a general consensus that the upcoming 2005 World Summit should not renegotiate the outcomes of previous United Nations major conferences and summits. That meeting should further accommodate the need to promote and develop innovative approaches as well as collaborative mechanisms to accelerate the achievement of the MDGs, including Goal 7. We cannot agree more with the views of Professor Jeffrey Sachs, who stated that immediate and practical actions should be taken.

## Nature's Capital and the Millennium Development Goals<sup>6</sup>

By Dr. Klaus Toepfer

Executive Director

United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

First of all, the High-Level Segment of ECOSOC of 2005 should send a clear message to world leaders gathering at the United Nations in September; namely that this 2005 World Summit is not only about reform, but about crucially important and interrelated issues such as poverty reduction, education, health, hunger and gender equality—in other words the UN Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). These are the real concerns affecting the everyday survival and life of the people of the world. When we look at these issues we must also look at the environment as one of the cornerstones for achieving these shared aspirations by the target date of 2015.

This is made clear in numerous reports written in the run-up to the 2005 World Summit, “In Larger Freedom”, the Secretary-General’s report<sup>7</sup> says: “We fundamentally depend on natural systems and resources for our existence and development”. It adds: “Our efforts to defeat poverty and pursue sustainable development will be in vain if environmental degradation and natural resource depletion continue unabated.” In other words, ecosystems and the services they provide support human livelihoods and human development.

We also have one of the interim reports of the UN Millennium Project, requested by the Secretary-General to further inform the Summit. One of its interim reports states:

*A considerable body of scientific data points to environmental degradation--the erosion of genetic diversity, the loss of species, the degradation of ecosystems, and the decline of ecosystem services - as a direct cause of many of the most pressing issues we face today including poverty, declining human health, hunger, undrinkable water, emerging diseases, rural-urban migration and civil strife.*

So the environment is not a luxury, not a Gucci accessory bag or a fancy silk tie affordable only when all other issues have been resolved. It is the oxygen breathing life into all the Goals. It is the red ribbon running around our common aspirations for a healthier, more stable and just world.

The environment is also economically critical for development. Only today we learnt from the Nobel Prize-winning economist, Professor Joseph Stiglitz, that the greenhouse gas removal services of tropical forests are worth up to \$60 billion a year. The economic importance of nature is also underscored in the recently published Millennium Ecosystem Assessment and its spin-off reports. The work of 1,300 scientists and experts from 95 countries, it has begun to put numbers on the value of individual ecosystems and the services they provide. The Assessment says that an intact wetland in Canada is worth \$6,000 a hectare versus \$2,000 a hectare for one cleared for intensive agriculture. Intact tropical mangroves, coastal ecosystems that are nurseries for fish, natural pollution filters

and coastal defenses, are worth around \$1,000 a hectare. If they are cleared for shrimp farms, the value falls to around \$200 a hectare. The Assessment also puts a value on peat bogs and marshlands. It estimates that the Muthurajawela Marsh, a more than 3,000 hectare coastal bog in Sri Lanka, is worth an estimated \$5 million a year as a result of services such as local flood control. Studies from Algeria, Italy, Portugal, Syria and Tunisia also point to the value of intact forests.

These estimates point to the fact that the value of the timber and fuel-wood from a forest is worth less than a third when compared with the value of their services, ranging from watershed protection and recreation to the absorption of pollutants like greenhouse gases.

Furthermore, there are other compelling figures. Data just released by the World Bank estimates that environmental damage is costing the Philippines at least US\$2 billion a year. The annual economic losses caused by water pollution were estimated at US\$1.3 billion, and the lack of management of fisheries resources is estimated to cost US\$420 million. Increased health costs of exposure to air pollution (particulate matter) in four urban centres alone were estimated to be over US\$400 million.

Climate change, a point also underlined in “In Larger Freedom”, is one of the twin pillars of the G8 meeting taking place in Scotland next week. Later in the year we have the first meeting of the parties to the Kyoto Protocol, the international treaty that is now in force for reducing greenhouse gas emissions. There are some really encouraging signs here, especially from private business. Indeed some of the world’s foremost companies, such as BP, Toyota and General Electric, are investing record amounts into cleaner energy technologies. We also have the initiatives by cities around the world, including well over 100 cities in the United States, who have signed up to Kyoto-like targets.

But right across the environmental agenda, more action is urgently needed. I believe that sound and solid investment in the environment will go a long way towards meeting international targets on poverty reduction, the supply of drinking water and fighting the spread of infectious diseases - indeed to all of the internationally accepted targets and objectives, especially the MDGs.

Therefore, a clear message should be sent from ECOSOC to the Heads of State meeting in September, and that message should read “we need financial and human capital but we also need natural or ‘nature’s capital’ if we are to overcome poverty and meet the MDGs.” We also need targeted investments in the restoration and rehabilitation of damaged and degraded wetlands, forests, mangroves, coral reefs and the like.

Anything less will undermine our attempts to defeat poverty and short-change current and future generations.

## Sustainable Urbanization<sup>8</sup>

By Mrs. Anna Tibaijuka

Executive Director

United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT)

From UN-HABITAT's perspective, the focus on the interaction between development, poverty reduction and environmental sustainability is of strategic importance. At its core, the Millennium Declaration, adopted in September 2000, was about bringing the vast majority of the world's population out of a poverty trap that robs them of their health, dignity and aspirations for fulfilling their human potential. In this declaration, the target of, "By 2020, to have achieved a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers" as proposed in the "Cities without Slums" initiative was listed under section III on development and poverty reduction. While framing the roadmap of the Millennium Declaration, this target was placed under Goal 7 on ensuring environmental sustainability, along with the target on water and sanitation. Thus Goal 7 on environmental sustainability clearly demonstrates the need to integrate principles of sustainable development with the provision of basic infrastructure such as water and sanitation, and improving the lives of slum dwellers.

This integration of sustainable development with the provision of adequate shelter and basic services was reiterated in 2002 at the Johannesburg World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD), where Heads of States and Governments, in paragraph 18 of the political Declaration, resolved through decisions on targets, timetables and partnerships, to speedily increase access to such basic requirements as clean water, sanitation, and adequate shelter.

Today, half the world's population lives in urban areas. And most of the growth of the world's population is taking place in urban areas of the developing countries. Thus achieving sustainable development is akin to making our human settlements sustainable. It is at this level that global goals become operational reality and impact on the lives of the poor. Strategically it is important for us to recognize that while the Millennium Development Goals are global, they can only be achieved through action at the local level. Poverty is not only a global issue. It is deeply rooted in local processes that matter most to the poor. For poverty reduction programmes to be effective, it is necessary to achieve the MDGs at the local level, set within the context of local reality, aspirations and priorities.

Our quest for meeting these targets on water, sanitation and slums is by no means an easy task. Today more than one billion people live in slums, some 1.1 billion people lack access to safe water and 2.4 billion people lack access to basic sanitation. We live in a world where 2 million children die needlessly every year for lack of water or for its poor quality. Millions of girls are forced to trade education for collecting water, or drop out from school for the lack of even minimal sanitation facilities. The severity of urban poverty is evident by the fact that so many urban dwellers suffer from one or more of the basic physical and social deficiencies captured by the definition of "slum dwelling".

These include lack of clean water and adequate sanitation, lack of sufficient living space and overcrowding, makeshift shelter construction, insecure tenure, and exposure to demolition and eviction.

Let us be clear about slums. They are not an abstract concept. They exist in our cities wherever there is insufficient water or sanitation, insecure tenure and lack of protection against the elements, lack of security, and the presence of conditions that breed disease. As slums are often not officially recognized as part of the city, slum dwellers are not provided with basic urban services. Many resort to buying water from water vendors, paying up to 50 times more per liter than those who benefit from piped water supply. Yet, slums are places where most people live on less than one dollar a day, where most children suffer from hunger, where child and maternal mortality is abnormally high, where children suffer disproportionately and women carry the greatest burdens. Slums are where education falls far short, where HIV/AIDS is rampant, and where the natural environment has been completely degraded.

Let me highlight the slums target. In the Millennium Declaration, adopted by the General Assembly in September 2000, it was agreed that “By 2020, to have achieved a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers as proposed in the “Cities without Slums Initiative”. When this Declaration was translated in the Millennium Development Goals, as cited in the Annex to the MDG Road Map<sup>9</sup>, the Goal 7, target 11 on slums was limited only to making significantly improvements in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers, without linking it to the “cities without slums initiative”, as was the case in the actual Millennium Declaration.

The outcome is a very restrictive target which is far too modest. It covers only a fraction – namely ten percent of the one billion slum dwellers that were already in existence by 2000. According to the analyses and projections of UN-HABITAT, by 2020 there will be 1.6 billion slum dwellers if no action is taken to prevent the formation of new slums. This realization dictates a much broader and ambitious approach to the slum challenge.

This anomaly was recognized at the recently concluded 13th session of the Commission on Sustainable Development. Paragraph (v) of the decisions adopted by the CSD-13 states that:

*Noting that the water and sanitation targets are to halve the proportion of people who lack access to safe drinking water and sanitation by 2015, and that the target for slum-dwellers is to improve the lives of at least 100 million slum-dwellers by 2020, support countries, including through UN-HABITAT, in their ability to provide data and information on existing slums with a projection on new slum formation by 2020, and thereafter to adopt and implement plans to achieve these targets, linked to poverty reduction strategies, national sustainable development strategies or other relevant policy plans.*

In pursuance of the decision adopted at CSD-13, UN-HABITAT has been working closely with Member States to provide guidance to monitor and gradually attain the “Cities without Slums” target. UN-HABITAT works closely with other United Nations organizations and national statistical offices to introduce specific questions and categories to household surveys and censuses, in order to ensure that slum dwellers are considered

in the sample of households. With the Monitoring Urban Inequities Programme, UN-HABITAT analyzes the huge development differences within cities, of which slums are a part, and translates them into policy results.

While meeting the slum target poses an arduous challenge for many countries, especially for countries in sub-Saharan Africa, preventing new slum formations as envisaged in the “cities without slums” initiative further compounds this challenge. This requires recognition of the urban context in meeting all the MDGs, and incorporating slum upgrading in the context of overall development strategies of housing and provision of basic infrastructure and services, as essential components of national plans, town and city development strategies and PRSPs.

For many developing countries, financial resources are required for slum upgrading and to prevent new slum formations. In response to this need, UN-HABITAT has established a slum upgrading facility. It is a technical advisory facility designed to assist Governments, local governments and community organizations in the development of their own slum upgrading, low-cost housing, and urban development projects. It supports projects that can attract capital primarily from domestic capital markets, utilizing, where necessary, seed capital grants and bringing in existing guarantee and credit enhancement facilities.

Recognizing that sustainable human settlements development requires increased international financial assistance for developing countries, especially countries in Africa, the “Commission for Africa”, popularly known as the Blair Commission, has highlighted the importance of rapid urbanization in Africa and the need to focus on financing slum upgrading. Specifically, the Commission for Africa (CFA) Report has identified two key challenges for Africa in the field of growth and poverty reduction, namely, (1) containing the HIV/AIDS pandemic and (2) managing urban development. The Blair report is proposing the capitalization of the Slum Upgrading Facility of UN-HABITAT at US \$250 million per annum over five years to provide a basis for leveraging private sector resources to invest in decent, affordable housing and basic urban services infrastructure – to avert what the report calls “chaotic urbanization”.

UN-HABITAT has also established a Water and Sanitation Trust Fund after the Johannesburg summit. Indeed water and sanitation are first logical steps towards improving slums, and thus the two initiatives complement each other. Through its programmes in Africa and Asia, the Fund has enabled UN-HABITAT to develop new partnerships and working relations with development finance institutions and is now supported by several donor Governments. This Water and Sanitation Trust Fund supports pro-poor approaches to the provision of water and sanitation in cities and towns of Africa and Asia. A special initiative to deliver the MDG targets on Water and Sanitation in secondary towns has been launched in the Lake Victoria region in Africa and the Mekong Delta in Asia. Both these areas include several Least Developed Countries.

In conclusion, let us remind ourselves that in adopting the Millennium Declaration, we had reaffirmed our commitment to sustainable development and eliminating poverty. Five years later, as we review the progress, it is clear that we are far behind in meeting the targets on water, sanitation and slums in many developing countries.

Let me reiterate the need to recognize that the urban context and the adoption of pro-poor, gender-sensitive urban policies are critical to meeting all the goals of the Millennium Declaration. If urban poverty is not directly addressed, it will be impossible to achieve lasting progress in such areas as health, education, nutrition, HIV/AIDS and other diseases. Sustainable development cannot be achieved without sustainable urbanization. Cities are much more than engines of economic growth. They are also reservoirs of poverty and places where stark inequalities are most tangible and visible. As a consequence, cities have become potential flashpoints of conflict, threatening global security. For cities to become shining examples of inclusiveness and equity as called for in the Millennium Declaration, we will have to commit more resources to improving the lives of the slum dwellers, support Members States in implementing policies and programmes to prevent new slum formations, and ensure provision of safe drinking water and adequate sanitation to all women, men and children.

## **Training and Capacity Building in the Field of Environmental Sustainability: UNITAR's Activities<sup>10</sup>**

By Mr. Marcel A. Boisard

Executive Director

United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR)

The activities of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) have expanded rapidly and considerably over the course of the last three years. Currently, UNITAR conducts some 150 diverse initiatives in the fields of training and institutional capacity-building. Each year, 10,000 participants benefit from such programmes, in addition to 15,000 who pursue courses by correspondence and through e-learning.

UNITAR's programmes in the field of environmental sustainability can be divided into three main categories. The first category is global in nature, involving the teaching and dissemination of international environmental law. The second category includes programmes for the implementation of international environmental legal instruments born out of the Rio Conference: climate change, biodiversity and desertification, and, more recently, the conventions relating to chemicals and waste management. The third type of programme aims at training local and municipal authorities. Below are four examples to demonstrate concretely how these programmes contribute to the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and are a follow-up to decisions reached at recent intergovernmental summits.

The training programme for the implementation of the Climate Change Convention is conducted in close cooperation with the Convention's Secretariat and in consultation with UNDP and UNEP. Financing is secured by the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the European Union and several bilateral donors. The programme was developed with the support of three specialized centres of world recognition, which have been established in developing countries: Colombo, Dakar and Pretoria. Under the aegis of UNITAR, these

three centres jointly developed a comprehensive approach to the political analysis of climate change and sustainable development. Each partner contributes its perspective on different factors of these issues, including a macroeconomic analysis, the evolution of policies concerning climate change, vulnerabilities, adaptation and mitigation. A matrix-based analysis, designed by one of the programme partners, is now used by all of them. It attempts to illustrate, in a global context, the actions and interactions of diverse human activities on climate development and climate change, which are essential parameters for environmental sustainability. The programme's medium and long-term objectives are to promote South-South cooperation, to train the trainers and to increase the capacities of developing countries to genuinely take part in the intergovernmental debate on climate change.

The second example is the training and capacity-building programmes for the management of chemicals and waste (Basel, Stockholm and Rotterdam Conventions, to which the Aarhus Convention can be added). These programmes touch upon several aspects of the management infrastructure and include:

- Preparation of National Profiles for the sound management of chemicals
- Action Plan Skills-Building and Training
- Risk Management Decision-Making training
- Development of Integrated National Programmes for the Sound Management of Chemicals
- Development of National Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers (PRTRs)
- Implementation of the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labeling of Chemicals (GHS).

These programmes are prepared in consultation with United Nations agencies working in the field of chemicals such as UNEP, ILO, WHO, FAO, UNIDO, OECD and soon, UNDP and the World Bank. They are financed by the GEF and bilateral donors, especially Switzerland.

UNITAR's objective is to help with the establishment of comprehensive national programmes that will lead to the creation of strategies promoting the sound management of chemicals. These programmes are intended to assist countries in evaluating their infrastructures' strengths and identifying their weaknesses, and in establishing their priorities, in addition to facilitating the dissemination of information and promoting the input of all partners to establish an action plan that encompasses as many synergies as possible.

UNITAR has been able to rapidly respond to countries' needs in this area thanks to the experience it has acquired, and to the original research on methodologies and appropriate capacity-building undertaken. In less than a decade, more than 100 countries have benefited in one way or another from UNITAR's activities in the field of establishing sound management of chemicals and the establishment of adequate infrastructures, including a number of industrial countries that have adopted UNITAR's methodology on their own initiative.



Environmental sustainability is neither the exclusive prerogative nor responsibility of states, but rather concerns all individuals whose daily actions have an effect on the Earth and its biosphere. Presently, close to 60% of humanity resides in cities. Municipal and regional authorities, which benefit from their proximity, have a significant role to play. In the context of a partnership initiative launched during the Johannesburg Summit, UNITAR developed and is conducting a decentralized cooperation programme. Through a network of ten associated centres, spread out on all continents, we are conducting training projects on sustainable urbanization. By this activity, which involves non-state actors and is undertaken in collaboration with UN-HABITAT, UNITAR works to promote practical and, occasionally, legal mechanisms so as to ensure access to basic services for all: water, waste management, hygiene and public health, transport, etc. We produced a report based on a synthesis of reflections and consultations from these projects, whose contents have been broadly adopted by a number of States. Our report was well received and has been recognized by many governments that passed a resolution reflecting its contents during UN-HABITAT's Board meeting in April 2005. The Commission on Sustainable Development at its thirteenth session reflected the purpose and spirit of that resolution and called upon international financial institutions to facilitate access to basic services for poor and under-privileged populations in urban and rural regions.

In association with the World Bank Group, more specifically the World Bank Institute and the International Finance Corporation, UNITAR initiated a programme to facilitate access to financing for sub-national authorities. A special emphasis is given to training local authorities in Africa, Asia, Latin America and in countries with economies in transition in Central and Eastern Europe.

Finally, the fourth concrete example of training and capacity-building activities involve information and communication technologies (ICT). The potential of such technologies defies the imagination. They can make very specific contributions to the implementation of sustainable development policies. Due to their abilities to gather, organize, disseminate a huge amount of different data, they are considered very useful and relatively inexpensive instruments. Environmental sustainability is faced with three major challenges: the multiplicity of problems, the variety of rules and customs underpinning governance, and the divergences of views amongst the principal partners. Modern technologies offer a system of information exchange and validation of relevant information, and support a participatory approach both with respect to decision-making and operations. They promote a "social dialogue" between decision makers and civil society, allowing the latter to not only acquire knowledge but also the possibility to voice their concrete and daily concerns to the relevant authorities. Environmental sustainability demands popular participation. Information and communication technologies make this possible.

Overall, these activities are satisfactory and are made possible by the great flexibility enjoyed by UNITAR due to its modest size. These activities are based on the following principles:

-Precise identification of needs and imaginative methodological approaches.

- Very concrete treatment of problems and search for solutions by way of comprehensive and strategic perspectives.
- Collaboration with all the relevant United Nations programmes and agencies.
- Regular dialogue with national authorities and local and regional government officials.
- Maintenance of an active network of cooperation with civil society, private enterprise and academic communities.

UNITAR's noted progress in the area of environmental sustainability over the last few years is a testimony to its ability to serve Member States well and is an affirmation of its role as a useful and efficient partner in collaborative efforts. UNITAR's success results from its minimal infrastructure, its ability to respond rapidly to requests, and its experience in developing pilot projects and evaluating innovative methodologies.

Financial support is provided by intergovernmental and national entities responsible for development and by contributions from large private international enterprises concerned with the issue of environmental sustainability. Their financial support is assured and, in many cases, expanding due to their significant concerns for efficiency and their desire to ensure that engagements undertaken are respected.

## Notes

- 1 "By 2020, to have achieved a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers."
- 2 From the ECOSOC 2005 High-Level Segment Roundtable 7, "Dialogue on Environmental Sustainability", hosted by UNEP and UN-Habitat, 29 June 2005.
- 3 From the ECOSOC 2005 High-Level Segment Roundtable 7, "Dialogue on Environmental Sustainability", hosted by UNEP and UN-Habitat, 29 June 2005.
- 4 From the ECOSOC 2005 Preparatory meeting roundtable 6, "Environmental Sustainability", hosted by UNEP and UN-Habitat, 17 March 2005.
- 5 From the keynote statement of Mr. Jeffrey Sachs during the ECOSOC 2005 preparatory meeting, "Achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration, as well as implementing the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits: progress made, challenges and opportunities," 16 March 2005.
- 6 From the ECOSOC 2005 High-Level Segment Roundtable 7, "Dialogue on Environmental Sustainability", hosted by UNEP and UN-Habitat, 29 June 2005.
- 7 Report of the Secretary-General, "In larger freedom: towards development, security and human rights for all," (A/59/2005), 21 March 2005.
- 8 From the ECOSOC 2005 High-level Segment Roundtable 7, "Dialogue on Environmental Sustainability", hosted by UNEP and UN-Habitat, 29 June 2005.
- 9 Report of the Secretary-General, "Road map towards the implementation of the United Nations Millennium Declaration," (A/56/326), 6 September 2001.
- 10 From the ECOSOC 2005 High-Level Segment Roundtable 7, "Dialogue on Environmental Sustainability", hosted by UNEP and UN-Habitat, 29 June 2005.

## Chapter 10

# NATIONAL STRATEGIES TO ACHIEVE THE MDGS

## Overview

The implementation of the Millennium Development Goals at the country level is key to improving the lives of the poor. In this regard, the Millennium Project's recommendations are practically-oriented and implementable. The Project highlights the need to overcome poverty traps and vulnerabilities by investing in people (health and education and food security), infrastructure, the improvement of governance, and the physical environment at the country level. These country level efforts should be supported through a partnership with the developed country to address broader issues like the need for greater resources and aid for development, reduction of trade barriers and debt relief.

Chapter ten focuses on national strategies to achieve the MDGs. Using the recommendations of the United Nations Millennium Project as a framework, this chapter focuses on what concrete decisions needed to be taken prior to the 2005 World Summit to empower countries to pursue goal-oriented development strategies as well as on which decisions needed to be reached at the summit to effectively support countries in the implementation of all internationally agreed development goals including the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

The 2005 World Summit should reconfirm the central role of the United Nations in the follow-up to the decisions made at this summit. In particular, ECOSOC should be strengthened and entrusted with the follow-up of the Summit. In addition, United Nations agencies, funds and programmes need to operate more effectively and in a more coordinated manner with more stable financing. In addition, the World Summit should pay special attention to the needs of vulnerable groups of countries, including Least Developed Countries (LDCs), Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDC). Furthermore, middle income countries also have big pockets of poverty and strategies should be developed to combat this.

The implementation of the Millennium Development Goals would require a strong commitment and national ownership of development strategies so that actions can be coordinated with sector specific strategies and need to support long-term development. National strategies also need to be more ambitious, reflect local conditions and go beyond the MDG targets. In the short term, national implementation strategies should focus on "quick-win" initiatives proposed by the Millennium Project, which should be combined with measures to ensure sustainability over the medium and long-term.

To ensure sustainability would require innovative financing and focus on mobilizing domestic resources to finance development. This should complement efforts to enhance coordination of Official Development Assistance (ODA). In this regard, it is important to note that ODA absorption capacity is sufficient in increasing investments in many

countries and in reaffirming the 0.7 % target of ODA. These national implementation plans could be complemented by regional initiatives, such as investments in infrastructure. These experiences, if successful, could be replicated, for example through South-South initiatives.

A number of key questions were posed by Mr. Mark Malloch Brown, Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and Chef de Cabinet of the Secretary-General of the United Nations during the High-Level Segment of ECOSOC on 29 June 2005:

- What are the key elements of MDG-based development strategies that countries need to prepare to plan the needed public investments to achieve the MDGs?
- How do donors need to organize themselves and their support to effectively support MDG-based national development strategies?
- What role should the United Nations system including the World Bank and IMF play in supporting the preparation and implementation of MDG-based national development strategies?
- Which decisions need to be taken at the September World Summit to allow all countries to prepare and implement MDG-based development strategies?

*National Implementation of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)* highlights the progress made by Mauritania's on two key areas: (i) National consensus on MDGs in Mauritania; and (ii) the progress in implementing these objectives.

*The experience of Barbados in achieving the Millennium Development Goals* focuses on the 2005 World Summit and recommends bold, concrete and substantive decisions to promote development, including the achievement of the MDGs. Furthermore, it highlights the vulnerability of Small Island Developing States (SIDS).

*The experience of Kenya in achieving the Millennium Development Goals* emphasizes the need to implement quick-wins in the short-term, within the framework of long-term development strategies and in partnership with developed countries.

*Redressing development cooperation to attain the MDGs* focuses on the need for partnership between developed and developing countries. On the one hand this would require addressing imbalances in the international trading system as well as combating corruption by developing countries.

*The experience of Brazil in achieving the Millennium Development Goals* highlights the manner to achieve the MDGs on an international level as well as the country's progress towards achieving the MDGs, including the first Brazilian Monitoring Report on the MDGs, which was published in September 2004.

*The experience of Mauritania in achieving the Millennium Development Goals* emphasizes the importance of a participatory process with all stakeholders (public sector, private sector, organizations of the civil society and socio-professional organizations) in attaining the MDGs. Furthermore, the support of development partners is necessary for

implementing a plan of action to attain the MDGs by a national program of good governance.

## **National Implementation of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)<sup>1</sup>**

By H.E. Mr. Sidi Ould Didi

Minister of Economic Affairs and Development of Mauritania

Thanks to the partnership between the government and the UNDP, Mauritania has played an important role in placing the Arab and African countries on the world stage, in particular, among relatively advanced countries that are building a national consensus on attaining the MDGs.

In terms of implementation of the MDGs, Mauritania has encouraging results, but additional efforts remain necessary. Two reports on the MDGs (2003 and 2005) have been undertaken by UNDP, with the assistance of the United Nations country team. Both reports came to the same conclusion: with the current trend, six out of eleven goals are envisaged to be achieved, while five goals are not likely to be attained.

This note has the objective of highlighting progress made by Mauritania's on two key areas: (i) National consensus on MDGs in Mauritania; and (ii) the progress in implementing these objectives.

### **i. National consensus on MDGs in Mauritania**

The main activity in this area is the formulation of a plan of action for the building of a national consensus on the MDGs in July 2003, which included an implementation timeline. As such, Mauritania was one of the first countries in the world and the only country in western Africa to have formulated such a programming framework.

In collaboration with the United Nations country team, UNDP undertook the national follow-up report on the progress on the implementation of the MDGs which was published in January 2003. This made Mauritania the 24<sup>th</sup> country in the world to have published such a report and the second to have accomplished this review successfully. The second report was a technical evaluation and was circulated at a national workshop on 10 June 2005.

The publishing of the first report had the objective of sensitizing national decision-makers and external partners on MDGs indicators that are off track in the health sector. To address this issue, a sectoral reorientation strategy was developed which linked the specific requirements to attain the MDGs. In this regard, the partnership with the World Bank has been particularly fruitful.

A report on the cost estimation on attaining the MDGs was made in 2004-2005 and was circulated on 10 June 2005 in the context of the same national workshop as mentioned

above, despite the fact that Mauritania is not part of the pilot group of African countries for the Millennium Project managed by Professor Jeffrey Sachs.

A preliminary review of national development strategies was carried out in the context of the national workshop, organized in October 2004. The objective of this workshop was to mainstream national development programmes to achieve the MDGs. As a first step, the national strategy on the health sector has been mainstreamed to attain the MDGs.

The Declaration adopted by the Council of Ministers which oversees the preparation of the PRSP in 2005 commits the government to fully integrating the MDGs in its this document.

Reform efforts have been carried out with the objective of aligning, and harmonizing the national statistical system to track the MDGs and poverty by: formulating specific statistical indicators, organizing a national workshop on aligning national statistical indicators in partnership with AFRISTAT, organizing a national forum dedicated to mainstreaming the MDG indicators, etc.

Two parliamentary committees have been set up to track the implementation of the MDGs, one at the Senate level, and the other at the National Assembly level. Furthermore, eight focal points for MDGs have been created at the key ministerial level, a group of MDGs at the Cyber forum level of civil society has been established and a research group on MDGs has been set up at the university level.

A great number of high level meetings on MDGs were organized, of which two extraordinary sessions of the National Assembly and the Senate and a “diner discussion” in which several key ministers, parliamentarians, high officials and eminent personalities of civil society took part.

Several national workshops with the objective of sensitizing and providing information on MDGs were organized in 2003 and 2004. The main workshops were focused on public civil servants, civil society and mayors of Mauritania, which was organized together with the Association of Mayors of Mauritania. Furthermore, a training session for the focal points of MDGs at the ministerial department level was undertaken as well as a session for officials from the education Ministry. Finally, a workshop was organized for journalists which comprised of four thematic issues concerning the MDGs.

Within the framework of activities for the general public, a billboard campaign was launched related to the theme of MDGs. Furthermore, ads were placed in the local newspapers on the importance of attaining the MDGs. A programme guide is also being prepared for television and radio broadcasted on a national level.

A project to encourage dialogue with civil society on the implementation of MDGs was undertaken in August 2004 to January 2005. This project brought together a gathering of key actors on the development of Mauritania, i.e. administration, elected officials, societal partners, political parties, economic actors. The dialogue fostered an understanding on how to attain the MDGs in Mauritania. Such an analysis is a prerequisite for consolidating democratic institutions and participative decision-making, which is also a requirement for the PRSP-II on the MDGs. This consensus has been integrated into the national assessment on the long-term development for the country.

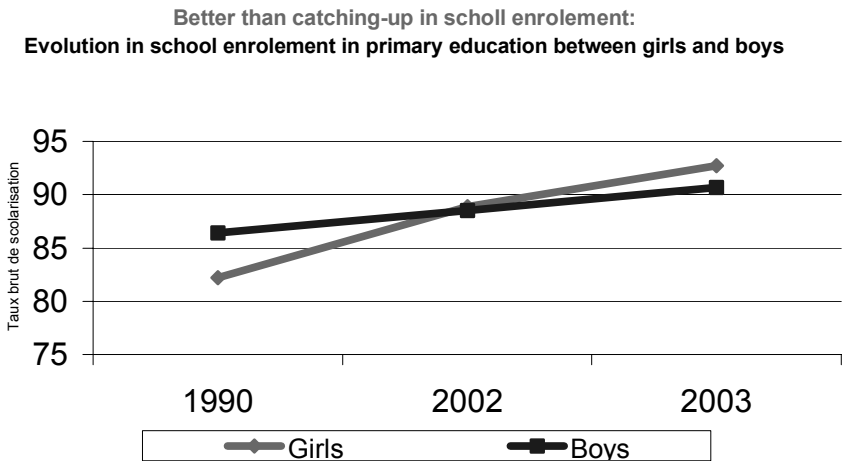
From the point of view of national ownership, two short term challenges have been identified: (i) the integration of the MDGs in the PRSP; and (ii) the sectoral review of the strategies and policies so as to align them with the MDGs.

## ii. Major evolutions since the publication of the first report on the MDGs

As noted in the introduction, the two reports that have been prepared on the progress in the implementation of the MDGs came to the same conclusion: with the current trend, six out of eleven goals are envisaged to be achieved, while five goals are likely not to be attained. The second report also underlined the progress which has been made since the publication of the previous report:

### Girls are going more often to primary school than boys:

At the end of the period, a spectacular catching-up in girls' enrolment was observed: the gross rate of schooling has thus, for the first time exceeded that of boys in 2002 and 2003. This positive trend is in line with the analyses carried out within the framework of the first report on MDGs, which has resulted in the likely attainment of the MDG goals of education.

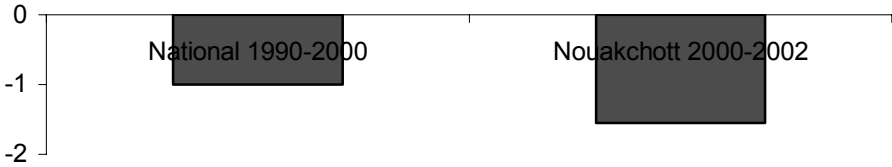


### Poverty decreases more rapidly in Nouakchott:

The results of the poverty survey carried out in 2003 in the case of Nouakchott indicated an acceleration in the rate of poverty reduction in the capital in comparison to the previous national survey. Thus, the poverty incidence in this city has been reduced from 25.1% in 2000 to 22% in 2002. This corresponds to a decline in the incidence of poverty by 1.55 percentage points per annum versus 1 percentage point per annum at the national level between 1990 and 2000.



### Rate of average annual growth in the incidence of poverty



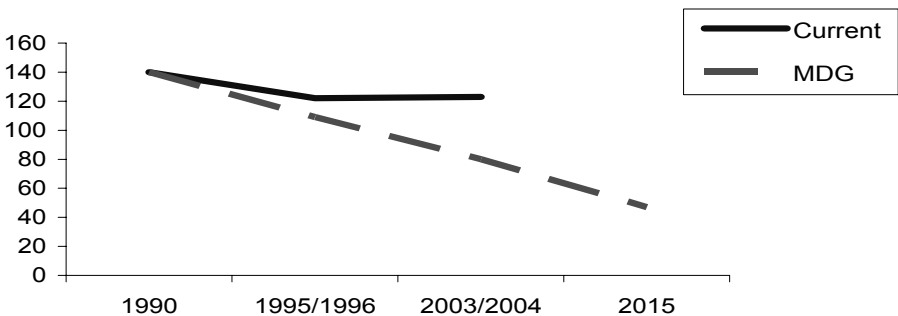
Deterioration in health performances:

Since the publication in February 2003 of the first report on MDGs, the health indicators have deteriorated.

The poverty survey carried out in Nouakchott in 2003 and the results were disseminated in 2004 indicated that the health status of the population slightly worsened in capital between 2000 and 2003. The mortality rate increased from 7.7 % in 2000 to 9.6% in 2003. The proportion of children who did not receive any vaccination went from 0.6% in 2000 to 4.5% in 2003.

The infant-child mortality rate has decreased, according to a national survey on infant-children mortality and malaria, carried out in 2004. The actual implementation of the national vaccination programme over the course of the last two years seems to have stalled (despite a recovery in 2005).

### Rate of child mortality: the current trend in comparison with the attaining the MDGs (according to official statistics)



## The Experience of Barbados in Achieving the Millennium Development Goals<sup>2</sup>

By H.E. Mr. Christopher Fitzherbert Hackett  
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Barbados to the United Nations

The record of actual achievement to date towards meeting the Millennium Development Goals, has been generally disappointing. This is a terrible indictment of the international community – in a world where the financial resources do actually exist, but rather than being used in support of development activities, billions are spent on the means to destroy life, rather than on preserving it.

Progress on the Millennium Development Goals must be made on a much broader front and at a much faster pace, otherwise the eminently laudable words of the Declaration will serve only as grim reminders of human needs neglected and of numerous promises unfulfilled. The five-year review of the Millennium Declaration is an opportunity for a major breakthrough. This point has been emphasized by many, including the Secretary-General, the Africa Commission and the authors of the Millennium Project Report.

The evidence has shown that for the most part developing countries have embraced most of their commitments, as set out in the Millennium Declaration and the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development, to reallocate and mobilize more domestic resources, reform institutions to suit national priorities, and adopt effective, nationally owned economic and social policies that can provide a spur to economic growth. Although more needs to be done, developing countries are taking seriously broader commitments to democracy, human rights and sound, accountable governance.

However, as the Secretary General stated in his last report on the “Implementation of the Millennium Declaration” “While these actions are all necessary to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, they are far from sufficient.” Developed countries must also fulfill their responsibilities by increasing and improving development assistance, concluding a new development-oriented trade round, embracing wider and deeper debt relief and fostering technology transfer. Indeed, if the vision behind the Millennium Declaration is to be realized, the Goals must be seen as a global deal that is built on mutual commitments and mutual accountability.

In this regard, special emphasis has to be placed on recommendations 7, 8, 9 and 10 of the Millennium Project Report, which are intended to provide the necessary resources and support towards the achievement of the preceding recommendations. Developing world knows first hand that without the means, the best of intentions, plans and strategies are meaningless.

If the recommendations of the MPR are considered within the context of the four reasons cited by the report for shortfalls in achieving the MDGs – Poor governance, poverty traps, pockets of poverty and areas of specific policy neglect – it is clear that actions by

developing countries alone, or conversely developed countries alone will not result in the breakthrough needed.

Without prejudging the Report of the Secretary-General which is scheduled to be released on Monday, it is important for us to embrace the recommendations contained in the MPR. A number of the recommendations made on governance reform at the national level and the integration of poverty reduction strategies in the national development planning processes are not new ideas, neither are those on ODA. They however, not only represent a restatement of good ideas, but also reflect a recognition of the urgency for action to be taken on them if the goals are to be achieved. It is therefore important for countries and groups of countries not to be selective in their endorsement of the recommendations, but see the ten recommendations as a package deal for the achievement of the MDGs.

The international community should prioritize those recommendations related to the flow of resources and technology and capacity development, recommendations 1, 2 & 3 that relate to the commitments of developing countries towards governance reforms, national ownership of development policies, along with those recommendations that call for a renewed partnership at the global level, also deserve our attention.

At the World Summit and indeed before the Summit in some cases the International Community should take bold, concrete and substantive decisions to promote development, including the achievement of the MDGs. These decisions should include:

- The adoption by developing countries of some PRSP type planning instrument. A number of countries have already prepared PRSP's and have even reached the so-called decision point. For those that have not yet prepared PRSPs, it seems to me that national ownership of their development strategies is paramount, for this will help to build the required public sector capacity.
- Public sector investment is critical to stimulating economic growth, and the quicker that developing countries get started with the implementation of this recommendation, the better will be their chances of creating the enabling environment at the national level that would facilitate the achievement of the MDGs. For public investments will provide opportunities for enhancing domestic partnership, innovation and diversification of the economy.
- A recommitment to the promotion of good governance at the national and international levels including the strengthening of governance, promotion of human rights, promoting social inclusion, engaging civil society and promoting the private sector.
- Mobilisation of resources both domestic and international is crucial. On the domestic side, developing countries need to do more to develop their capacity to take full advantage of the international capital markets which can be a source of external finance – on the international side, ODA is key.
- ODA - Implementation of the commitments to the 0.7% of GNI by 2015 as well as measures to increase the effectiveness of ODA.

- Some new innovative sources of financing to complement ODA commitments. These could draw on the proposals made at the Brazil Initiative last September, those contained in the UN/WIDER report, and other bilateral/national initiatives such as the UK proposed IFF.
- There needs to be a focus on trade as a longer-term source for resource mobilization, and assist developing countries in opening their markets. Moreover, international trade issues are too important to be left only to WTO. There is a need for the United Nations to play a greater role in ensuring that all of the issues in the trade and development (nexus) are fully and adequately addressed.
- Another issue on which some decision needs to be taken is the one of global governance. Far-reaching reform of the international financial system and the international economic institutions charged with the responsibility of administering global economic governance is required and needs to be accorded the highest international priority. If the international economic and financial system is to fulfill its goal of supporting global development it should be reformed to ensure that it is more democratic and representative, better equipped to prevent and resolve financial crises and empowered to mobilize financing for global development. This should include enhancing the voice and participation of developing countries in the decision-making process of the International Financial Institutions and the WTO.
- Other areas of focus relate to the vulnerabilities of Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and the issues of natural disasters and climate change. While SIDS contribute the least to global climate change, they are the most affected by its adverse effects, such as sea-level rise and the increase in the frequency and intensity of hurricanes and other extreme weather events. SIDS have suffered major setbacks in prospects for socio-economic development within hours of the passing of a hurricane or tropical storm. The devastating Asian tsunami in December 2004 was a solemn reminder of the instantaneous and grave impact of natural disasters. It is therefore important, even critical that the international community can put in place systems to support SIDS in the implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for the further implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action as well as the Hyogo Framework for Action. This will in turn assist SIDS in reducing their vulnerabilities and help them in their achievement of the MDGs.
- Debt - Comprehensive debt relief arrangements for all developing countries.
- The promotion of quick-win projects aimed at achieving immediate results.
- The establishment of financial arrangements for global scientific research and development for developing countries as proposed by the MPR.
- Give clear political directions that the Doha Round should have a clear development dimension.

In closing let me make a few points about a special category of countries, the Small Island Developing States (SIDS).

The Barbados Conference on the Sustainable Development of SIDS, and the more recent International Meeting in Mauritius, both served to heighten the awareness of the vulnerability of Small Island States, and the huge challenges that they face in undertaking their development. Thus, this group of countries needs the support of the international community in the implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action and the Mauritius Strategy in achieving the MDGs, given the uniqueness of their small size and vulnerabilities, social, economic and environmental, that pose special challenges for their development.

Some aspect of the Millennium Project Report recommendations should be particularly targeted to SIDS in their implementation. For example, SIDS should be considered for inclusion on the MDG fast-track countries identified for a rapid scale-up of ODA. (Recommendation #4).

Also some of the Quick win actions (Recommendation #5) should be targeted at a few SIDS, possibly some of those SIDS that experienced severe disasters in 2004 could be candidates for selection (Grenada and Tuvalu come to mind).

Recommendation #6 on the regional dimension is particularly relevant for SIDS given their small size. These countries should certainly seek to align their national strategies with regional initiatives, and this is something that can be started immediately without waiting for a summit decision. Indeed, the countries of CARICOM have started this process as part of their objective to establish a single market and economy (the CSME as a number of you may already have come to know it).

The developed countries can certainly help to empower SIDS in moving in this direction by targeting more of their assistance for regional programmes and projects.

On the issue of trade, which is an important topic, there is a need to integrate the concept of special and differential treatment in the architecture of the multilateral trading system. For SIDS are essentially too small to be truly competitive in international markets, and require support in enhancing their competitiveness. Thus, the multilateral trading system should fully take into account the economic vulnerabilities of SIDS, and increase the scope for acceptance of SIDS as a case for Special Treatment in WTO and the Doha Round.

## The Experience of Kenya in Achieving the Millennium Development Goals<sup>3</sup>

By H.E. Professor Judith Mbula Bahemuka  
Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Kenya to the United Nations

The recommendations of the Millennium Project Report are both bold and innovative and should be given the necessary consideration they deserve. Some of the recommendations are specific and directed to areas where immediate impact can be realized. The International Community should take advantage of these new ideas and start implementing immediately what we can do now.

The recommendations can be divided into two phases, what should be done in the long run:

The recommendations regarding quick-win actions should be implemented immediately. In fact, these are areas where the international community should have taken action a long time ago. However, I would like to caution that for the impact of the quick-wins to be sustainable, they have to be supported by other related infrastructure. For example, to ensure that free primary education is sustainable, we have to ensure that we have enough teachers and classrooms to maintain the required educational standards. The same goes for health services and agriculture among others.

In the long run, developing and developed countries should implement the rest of the recommendations. These will include:

- i. The development of MDG based PRSPs, involvement of all stakeholders in implementation, alignment to regional and sub-regional initiatives;
- ii. The development of an environment for the realization of the MDGs. This will include the realization of the ODA target of 0.7% of ODA by all developed countries, improving ODA effectiveness and efficiency;
- iii. The cancellation of the debt for all highly indebted poor countries and debt reduction for middle income countries;
- iv. Improvement of the market access for products of developing countries; and
- v. Capacity building and technology transfer and the funding of research specific to the special needs of developing countries.

The recommendation on the identification of MDG “fast track” countries should be further elaborated. However, care must be taken to ensure objectivity and fairness to all developing countries. The importance of coordination between the institutions should also be emphasized. This recommendation of the Millennium Project should be strongly supported and implemented.

### **Actions at the National Level**

Kenya prepared its first PRSP in 2001. The preparation of the paper involved all the stakeholders. After the election of the new government in 2002, the Government prepared the Economic recovery Strategy for Wealth and Employment Creation (ERS), which has the same status as a PRSP and is based on MDGs.

In order to ensure the monitoring and review of the realization of the MDGs, we are in the process of a needs assessment for all the goals. This exercise is near completion. The objective of the exercise is to:

- Identify interventions and the needed investments.
- Identify the necessary infrastructure, human and financial resources required to support and scale up interventions.
- Outline a financing strategy for all MDGs, including an assessment of the resources that can be mobilized domestically and what is required from external resources.

The current annual government budget is aligned and geared towards the realization of MDGs.

With regard to universal primary education, the Kenya Government since 2003 introduced free primary education for all school going children. The programme has been a major success and we appreciate the support given by both bilateral and multi lateral partners. The programme is yet to overcome infrastructural and human resources bottlenecks caused by the huge enrolment of children.

The Government of Kenya is also in the process of preparing a national health insurance scheme to cater for all Kenyans. However, progress has been held back by the massive amount of resources required to operationalize the scheme.

## Redressing Development Cooperation to attain the MDGs<sup>4</sup>

By H. E. Mr. Abdullah M. Alsaïdi

Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Republic of Yemen to the United Nations

World leaders pledged in September 2000 to work toward, among other things, reducing poverty, hunger and child mortality. Very little, it seems, has been realized since then. Nevertheless, the poor and destitute people of the world are facing new challenges.

This is despite global economic growth that has led to an unprecedented raise in the prices of commodities, deemed essential to modern development. The steep increase in the prices of oil will inevitably lead to lower growth rate in the best of circumstances, and may retard economic growth in the developing world.

To mitigate these factors, world leaders should, as a priority, exert greater efforts to readdress the imbalance in the international trading system. The developed world must also open their markets for the produce of developing countries, as well as fulfill their commitments enshrined in the Millennium Declaration.

Connected to that is the increasing scarcity of natural resources. Unless growth is dealt with within a global framework, the world will witness greater deprivation, instability, and strife between and among nations. As noted by Ms. Wangari Maathai, the first African woman prize winner, founder of Kenya Green Belt Movement, who said - "I think there is increasing recognition of how peace, democracy, and the environment are all interlinked... we have to manage resources like water, forests, land and oil. If not, we will lose the fight against poverty and then there will be no peace." She continued, "This is a matter of life and death."

Equally important is the recognition that emerging protectionism, and subsidies in a certain part of the developed world, which is a serious challenge to free trade.

Prime Minister Tony Blair's commission on Africa recommended "increased aid, debt relief, removal of rich country trade barriers and more action to stop multinational corruption and help return looted funds."

It is high time for the world leaders to transcend the normativity that characterize declarations emanating from world summitry. What is needed now is a move, as the Jeffrey Sachs Reports argued "to put the goals (of development) into reality."

Likewise, the developing world needs of working sincerely and transparently toward good governance, without which development cannot be attained nor can we, morally and convincingly argue for external assistance necessary for sustained development without genuine efforts in this respect. As such, the developing world faces the problem of corruption, which is obviously a by-product of bad governance; corruption has debilitating effects on development. So, unless developing countries deal with it in a firm and transparent manner, development will be illusory.



## The Experience of Brazil in Achieving the Millennium Development Goals<sup>5</sup>

By Mr. Frederico S. Duque Estrada Meyer  
Minister Plenipotentiary, Permanent Mission of Brazil to the United Nations, on behalf of H.E. Mr. Ronaldo Mota Sardenberg, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Brazil to the United Nations

The assessments and recommendations of the Millennium Project provide a useful blueprint and a detailed roadmap for the pursuit of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). In particular, it calls for urgent action in 2005 with a view to the achievement of the MDGs as a first step towards the eradication of hunger and poverty by 2025. Furthermore, “Quick win” initiatives, in particular, must be launched without delay.

As the international community move towards the September World Summit, the following issues need further attention:

*First* – addressing the particular situation of developing countries that are middle-income countries. The Millennium Project Report (MPR) makes reference to categories of countries not conforming to the established groupings within the United Nations setting. Although in some instances this might be useful for the sake of simplification, we should not lose sight of the complexities and nuances that are not captured by the categories utilized in the report. Priority action should be geared to “low-income countries”, with a particular focus on Sub-Saharan Africa. We agree with The Millennium Project report’s views on the emphasis on the mobilization of domestic resources in the case of those countries. However, there are “pockets of poverty” in “middle-income countries” that will require international assistance.

The MPR failed to examine more thoroughly the challenges faced by those “middle-income countries”, which have to deal with internal imbalances and structural vulnerabilities that are exacerbated by international inequities. This should caution against excessively simplifying the analysis and should also caution against taking for granted the achievement of MDGs in “middle-income countries”, which can face severe problems if international conditions in regard to trade and financial flows. We think that from now to September, further reflection should be given on how to put in place MDG-based strategies to cope with their “pockets of poverty”.

*Second* – exploring innovative financing mechanisms. The focus given by the Millennium Project Report on the need to substantially increase ODA and make its delivery more effective is important. However, this should not refrain the international community from exploring possibilities of new and additional sources of financing development – public or private, compulsory and voluntary, of universal or limited membership – in order to raise funds urgently needed to help meet the MDGs and to complement and ensure long-term stability and predictability to foreign aid. Meaningful

discussions on this issue will also take place at the upcoming ECOSOC spring meeting, at the High-Level Dialogue on Financing for Development and at the 2005 ECOSOC substantive session, therefore enabling concrete decisions to be taken at the September summit. Following-up on the New York Declaration on Action Against Hunger and Poverty which emanated from the World Leaders Meeting that convened on 20 September 2004 and is supported by 112 countries, and in the spirit of Resolution 59/225, a technical group composed of representatives of Brazil, France, Chile, Spain and Germany is working to further refine the ideas contained in its first report.

*Third* – providing support for regional initiatives. Important regional initiatives are being developed in Latin America such as the Investment Initiative for the Infrastructure in South America-IRSA and the Plan Puebla-Panamá for Mexico and Central America. South America also attaches great importance to the work of ECLAC and other regional and subregional organizations in the efforts to achieve the MDGs and other development goals. Successful regional experiences could provide valuable experiences that could be replicated in other regions. Those experiences and initiatives must be supported and strengthened. Concrete commitments in that regard should be made in the context of the September Summit in line with recommendation # 6.

*Fourth* – recognizing the role to be played by South-South cooperation. The exchange of experiences among developing countries may become essential for the formulation and implementation of policies aiming at achieving the MDGs. Effective national programme could become part of a south-south cooperation framework. As stated by Dr. Agnes Bingawaho, Executive Secretary of Rwanda's National Commission to Fight AIDS and Coordinator of the Millennium Project's Working Group on HIV/AIDS, Task Force on HIV/AIDS, Malaria and TB and access to essential medicines, the cooperation with Cuba has been crucial in increasing the number of doctors working in Rwanda. In the case of Brazil, a few experiences that could provide useful insights on how to enhance the ability of developing countries to achieve the MDGs, among which: (i) the Zero Hunger Programme; (ii) the "Bolsa-Escola" and "Bolsa-Familia" programme; and (iii) the national programme for HIV/AIDS control. However, financial resources required to scale up south-south cooperation to the level needed to impact on the achievement of the MDGs far exceed the possibilities of those developing countries in which successful experiences originated. On the other hand, scarcity of financial resources should not be an impediment for creative intervention. Therefore, enhanced inflows of international resources are essential to foster south-south cooperation. This would indeed be a concrete expression of Goal # 8 ("Develop a global partnership for development").

*Fifth* – Further engaging civil society. It is important not to overlook the contribution provided by civil society. As stated by H.E. Ambassador Munir Akram on the occasion of the NGO Forum on the MDGs, NGOs bring a "reality-based perspective to the process". Therefore we should organize the June informative hearings with representatives of non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations and the private sector that is called for in Resolution 59/145 in such a way that provides meaningful inputs and could be fed into the process leading up to the September Summit. On the basis of the experience we have had so far, the conclusion is that by working in partnership with civil society the discussion becoming more concrete in regard to, inter

alia, bridging the gender gap, providing sexual health and reproductive rights and protecting the environment for the present and future generations will be further enriched.

The International Community also needs to develop consensus on the mechanism for follow-up and monitoring of the agreements and commitments reached at the September Summit in order to ensure that the momentum to be generated by that meeting will be maintained and that the international community will remain engaged in the process.

Finally, the Brazilian progress towards the achievement of the MDGs has been impressive. In Brazil, the MDGs have been fully incorporated in the national Programme of Government. The first Brazilian Monitoring Report on the MDGs was published in September 2004. The process of reporting the progress of MDGs brought together decision-makers, experts, researchers, representatives of civil society, as well as the different agencies of the United Nations System that operate in Brazil.

- Goal 1 – Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger  
Brazil is on track, in spite of internal regional variations
- Goal 2 – Achieve universal primary education  
Brazil is on track
- Goal 3 – Promote gender equality and empower women  
Brazil has already met the target of eliminating gender disparity in all levels of education
- Goal 4 – Reduce child mortality  
Brazil is on track
- Goal 5 – Improve maternal health  
Brazil is on track
- Goal 6 – Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases  
Brazil is on track.
- Goal 7- Ensure environmental sustainability  
Brazil is on track; however there are major challenges to be overcome

In some cases, Brazil will reach the agreed goals ahead of time. This is the case, for instance, of Goals 2, Goals 3 and 4.

## The Experience of Mauritania in Achieving the Millennium Development Goals<sup>6</sup>

By H.E. Mr. Hamadi Ould Meimou  
Commissioner for Human Rights, Poverty Alleviation and Integration of  
Mauritania

The General Assembly in September 2005 intends to evaluate the progress achieved by the countries since the adoption in 2000 of the resolution of the General Assembly of the United Nations on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). It is for me a great pleasure to take this opportunity to present the experience of my country in achieving the MDGs, along with the progress on each goal, the needs for financing them and the prospects for their realization.

The Republic of Mauritania under the leadership of its President, H.E. Mr. Maaouya Ould Sid' Ahmed Taya made MDG 1, the eradication of poverty, the priority of the public policies of the country.

This priority was formally endorsed in 2000 through the “loi d’orientation” which has three major components: Eradication of poverty; reinforcement of national capacities and; promotion of good governance. The implementation of the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP) allowed a noticeable improvement of several social indicators, including the incidence rate of poverty which was reduced by 10 points in ten years, going from 56.5% in 1990 to 46.3% in 2000. The struggle against poverty had a considerable impact on all aspects of people lives, leading to a significant improvement in their living conditions in several areas, in particular the delivery of social services such as health, water and education. Illiteracy has also been greatly reduced as part of a vast national campaign. The policies surrounding the promotion of woman have improved the rights and status of woman in our society.

Mauritania, with the support of development partners, launched a plan of action to attain the MDGs by a national program of good governance which was developed and implemented in 2004. This programme includes a participatory process with all stakeholders (public sector, private sector, organizations of the civil society and socio-professional organizations). Several actions carried out in partnership with UNDP and other United Nations agencies helped to promote ownership of the MDGs by the actors of development and the beneficiaries. These actions led to:

- The formulation in July 2003 of a national plan of action for achieving the MDGs. Our country is thus one of the first to put in place such a programme.
- The sensitization of the decision makers on the MDGs and their integration in the programs of development.
- The launching of two parliamentary groups in support of the MDGs.

- The reinforcement of the NGO capacities through training courses organized in collaboration with UN-DESA.

The 2005 report on the implementation of the MDGs demonstrates that out of the eleven targets, six could be reached before 2015. They are: education; access to drinking water; reduction of poverty; reduction of hunger as well as, elimination of gender disparity. The five other targets relating to health and the environment would be reached only if the current trends are reversed.

The financial resources required for financing the MDGs requires assistance from the international community. This is why, it is important to stress the need and the urgency to find solutions adapted to the specific challenges arising in the least developed countries (LDCs). It is therefore critical to mobilize resources as well as promote an adequate environment to eradicate poverty in the context of both the implementation of the Brussels Programme of Action for the decade 2001-2010 and the Millennium Development Goals.

The policies to reduce poverty and attain the MDGs face obstacles which are linked to growth, the absorption and productive capacity as well as other factors such as terrorism, which by its nature or by its repercussions, can affect the citizens' life, the safety of countries, the fundamental values of societies, and the political, constitutional, economic and social institutions. Terrorism represents a permanent threat for peace, security and the stability of countries, and it acts against all efforts towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

After the first phase of implementation of the PRSP (2000-2004), major progress was made in attaining the MDGs. However, certain adjustments will need to be made within the framework of the next cycle of programming of the PRSP which will integrate the MDGs, namely:

- The strengthening of institutional mechanisms to encourage dialogue between the state and civil society organizations, include socio-professional organizations, on policy formulation and public policy issues;
- The improvement of the legal and institutional framework;
- The recognition of alternative development visions, and integrating these perspectives into civil society organizations and development programmes;
- The reinforcement of the institutional and technical capacities of the civil society;
- The follow-up on the mobilization of financial resources designated in priority for the fight against poverty and the achievement of the MDGs.

I take this opportunity to thank all partners of development for their support in achieving the MDGs in Mauritania.

## Notes

- 1 From the ECOSOC 2005 high-level segment roundtable 8, “Dialogue on national strategies to achieve the MDGs,” hosted by UNDP, 29 June 2005.
- 2 From the ECOSOC 2005 preparatory meeting roundtable 7, “Decisions needed to implement the Millennium Development Goals and other internationally agreed development goals at the country-level: How to advance an MDG-based approach to poverty reduction”, hosted by UNDP and the Millennium Project, 17 March 2005.
- 3 From the ECOSOC 2005 preparatory meeting roundtable 7, “Decisions needed to implement the Millennium Development Goals and other internationally agreed development goals at the country-level: How to advance an MDG-based approach to poverty reduction”, hosted by UNDP and the Millennium Project, 17 March 2005.
- 4 From the ECOSOC 2005 preparatory meeting roundtable 7, “Decisions needed to implement the Millennium Development Goals and other internationally agreed development goals at the country-level: How to advance an MDG-based approach to poverty reduction”, hosted by UNDP and the Millennium Project, 17 March 2005.
- 5 From the ECOSOC 2005 preparatory meeting roundtable 7, “Decisions needed to implement the Millennium Development Goals and other internationally agreed development goals at the country-level: How to advance an MDG-based approach to poverty reduction”, hosted by UNDP and the Millennium Project, 17 March 2005.
- 6 From the ECOSOC 2005 high-level segment, “Achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration, as well as implementing the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits: progress made, challenges and opportunities,” 30 June 2005.



## Chapter 11

# CONTRIBUTIONS OF NONGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

## Overview

There are at present 2719 non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). The increased participation and contributions of NGOs to various segments of ECOSOC is facilitated by the NGO Section through the outreach activities of the United Nations Informal Regional Network (UN-NGO-IRENE). In keeping with the practice over the years, and strengthened further by the preparatory work done by UN-NGO-IRENE, the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) this year again received valuable contributions from non-governmental organizations for the High-Level Segment of ECOSOC.

This chapter includes the proceedings and recommendations of the 2005 Annual ECOSOC NGO Forum held under the auspices of UN-NGO-IRENE/NGO Section/DESA in cooperation with the NGO Section/DPI, the Conference of NGOs (CONGO), the World Federation of United Nations Associations (WFUNA) and the Global Youth Action Network. The Forum reviewed the outcomes of the preparatory meetings held over the past year on the theme of the High-Level Segment of ECOSOC for 2005.

In addition, the chapter briefly describes the side events and roundtables that were held during the High-Level Segment. Of particular interest were the partnerships forged at the High-Level Breakfast Roundtable, some of which have already been translated into project initiatives as we go to print.

The Annex to the chapter lists 29 NGOs that presented statements to the High-Level Segment of ECOSOC, 4 of which were submitted by coalitions. 12 additional NGOs made oral statements. In an effort to highlight the work being done by NGOs towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), a few of the statements submitted by the NGOs are summarized to highlight their contribution towards the issues that were discussed, and were later reflected in the summary of the President of ECOSOC.

### **2005 ECOSOC NGO Forum**

Once the theme for the 2005 High-Level Segment of ECOSOC was adopted, the NGO Section began to assist NGOs in preparing their contributions. This included capacity building workshops, advisory missions and the dissemination of information on preparatory activities at the regional level through the collaboration of the UN-NGO-IRENE coordinators. This year, 27 preparatory forums were held.



NGO representatives and members of the private sector and academia participated in the 2005 ECOSOC NGO Forum on 10 March 2005.

The President of the ECOSOC, in his opening remarks, emphasized the need for enhanced partnerships between NGOs in the north and the south. He invited all participants to consider how best to use ECOSOC as a forum for civil society to make a real impact on the global Millennium Campaign to eradicate poverty. Ms. Eveline Herfkens, Executive Coordinator for Millennium Development Goals Campaign, in delivering the keynote address, cautioned that the world today was off track to achieve the MDGs. She stressed the need for the international community to reevaluate its approach, and urged civil society to mobilize the political will necessary to achieve the MDGs.

The Director, Office for ECOSOC Support and Coordination, emphasized the importance of the role of the tripartite partnership of state, civil society and the private sector, and noted with concern that the MDGs would not be achieved by 2015 unless there are changes in the development strategies and policies, especially related to governance, of developing countries that would enable them to generate quality economic growth and sustainable development.

The Forum made outstanding recommendations calling for all stakeholders to “*Think Bold and Do-able, Think Collective and Supportive, Think Coalitions*” in order to have *Goals Set - Goals Met*, focusing on the following areas:

- i. MDG 8-Partnership Development: The recommendations in the area of partnership development included, a) inclusive mobilization at all levels of civil society, particularly rural dwellers and marginalized groups; b) synergy between development actors and harmonization between donors; c) mobilization and local partnership campaigns to lobby governments and hold them accountable to their promises, encouraging them to turn goals set into goals met; d) synergizing civil society energies with national programs and ODA efforts; e) deepening United Nations relationships with the NGO community and civil society, especially with regard to achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs); and vi) participation and empowerment of people living in extreme poverty (MDG 1), through partnership activities.
- ii. ODA and development aid, especially the development of clear and transparent indicators: The recommendations included, a) encouraging and lobbying developed countries to devote 0.7% of GNP to international development aid; b) encouraging and lobbying developed countries to eliminate trade barriers and subsidies so as encourage economic opportunities, especially in agriculture, for rural and impoverished people; c) harmonizing efforts between aid agencies and economic authorities, including the World Bank and the WTO.
- iii. In the area of human rights and security: a) reaffirming the commitment to human rights, democratic governance and values of freedom, equality, solidarity, tolerance, and respect for nature and shared responsibility, and b) assuring human rights and security within the framework of the Millennium Declaration and the MDGs.

- iv. On MDG 3, and highlighting gender equality and Perspectives: a) a more comprehensive approach to gender with clear indicators for gender perspectives; b) the inclusion of gender principles and dimensions in all the MDGs and not only restricted to MDG 3.
- v. On MDG 7, emphasizing the promotion of environmental sustainability through education and good management of natural resources (including soil and water).
- vi. In the area of MDG 1, on the eradication of poverty and hunger, the recommendations included, a) renewing focus on rural development; b) engaging and empowering people living in poverty in rural areas; and c) sustainable energy sources and management of natural resources for the poor and rural people.
- vii. Emphasis on ECOSOC to become a “Development Cooperation Forum” as recommended by the recent Eminent Persons Panel and its report on Threats, Challenges and Change, which also emphasized the importance to engaging civil society and the NGO community in United Nations reform activities.
- viii. Regarding the achievement of the implementation of the MDGs as a whole the following were emphasized: a) the facilitation by governments of all stakeholders; b) the role of monitoring and evaluation processes; c) the integration of civil society in the campaign to achieve the Millennium Development Goals; d) the support of ECOSOC to civil society to implement the MDGs through a United Nations technical cooperation program that will be implemented with the support of UN-NGO-IRENE; e) the MDG Global Watch for partnership, and f) the important role of youth.

A unique example of the evolving cooperation between the United Nations and NGOs is the inter-departmental partnership that was manifested at the NGO Forum, where the Department of Public Information partnered with the NGO Section in hosting the Forum, and presented the 57th DPI Annual Report, ‘Civil Society takes Action’. The report was later presented before the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations during its May 2005 session by an NGO holding both DPI affiliation and ECOSOC consultative status. Through this partnership, ECOSOC received contributions from 1500 NGO with DPI affiliation out of which 700 of them have ECOSOC consultative status. Members of the Committee welcomed the increased cooperation and expressed their strong support for the increased contribution made by NGOs towards achieving the MDGs.

### **International Association of Economic and Social Council and Similar Institutions**

**(AICESIS) 9th International Meeting, 8-10 June 2005,**

**Paris, France**

The declaration adopted by the AICESIS congress expressed support for the achievement of the MDGs through the project “AICESIS-ONG-universities in progress”, which will make it possible to identify new tools as well as teaching and didactic programs to further the implementation of the MDGs. The declaration also highlighted that the Economic and Social Councils and similar institutions shall coordinate a system for observing the

effects of globalization in order to support the international community's efforts to promote a more humane form of globalization, and thereby help achieve the MDGs and the objectives in the action programme that came out of Agenda 21.

### **Events During the High Level Segment of ECOSOC**

The NGOs participated actively at the ministerial roundtables and side events that were held from 30 June to 1 July 2005.

The breakfast was also attended by UN-NGO-IRENE coordinators from India and Tunisia who supported the implementation of the project in their respective countries, including the important contribution towards the World Summit on Information Society in Tunis.

Another outcome of the Ministerial Roundtable Breakfast was the importance of planning a preparatory meeting to assess the needs of the Dominican Republic for the launch of the first phase of project "One Dollar For development" and to plan the Regional Summit on the Digital Solidarity Fund and Workshop on Public Sector / ICT Industry Relations and Procurement for October 2005.

The Ministerial / NGO Roundtable Breakfast on "NGOs Forging Powerful Partnerships: Political, Public and Private" held on 1 July 2005 aimed at proposing, reviewing and presenting pragmatic partnerships initiatives for the consideration of ECOSOC hosted by UNDESA and Fondazione Fondazione per la Ricerca sulla Migrazione e sulla integrazione delle Tecnologie (Formit), Virtue Foundation and World for World, received an overwhelming response. The breakfast emphasized multisectoral, multistakeholder presentation from over 100 participants from 28 member states, including 65 NGOs, and other representatives of civil society, the private sector and academia, as well as 7 United Nations officials. Participants discussed their respective innovative experiences and good practices to focus upon practical measures, funding mechanisms and processes to effectively strengthen partnerships between NGOs, Governments and the United Nations in implementing the internationally agreed Millennium development goals, especially in the Least Developed Countries (LDCs). The roundtable was organized around thematic clusters such as Collective Accountability, Collective Trust, Collective Hope, Collective Sharing, Collective Inspiration, Collective Being, Collective Strength, Collective Ability, Collective Conviction and Collective Expression, as enabling and strengthening factors towards building strong and effective partnerships.

Amongst various proposals and partnerships that were discussed during the breakfast, a few noteworthy outcomes emerged, including:

- i. "One Dollar for Development": The proposal put forth on 30 June to the First Lady of the Dominican Republic, Dra. Margarita Cedeno de Fernandez, was further strengthened by the support from the "Give Them a Hand Partnership Initiative" and that from the Presidential Commission. A preparatory meeting to assess the needs of the Dominican Republic for the launch of the first phase of the project and to plan a regional summit on the Digital Solidarity Fund and Workshop on Public Sector/ICT Industry Relations and Procurement for October 2005 was proposed for 11 July 2005;

- ii. The Public-Private Alliance for Rural Development was proposed as another way of building strong partnerships.
- iii. “Give them a Hand”: Built strong partnerships under the UN-NGO-IRENE umbrella in support of victims of natural disaster and towards supporting the work of the United Nations in achieving the MDGs, using art and culture as the medium;
- iv. Bankers without Borders: A proposal involving foundations and participants from the financial sector to look at building a strong partnership to facilitate micro-credit in an effort to meet the MDGs;
- v. Indigenous Art: One organization presented linkages between indigenous art and the MDGS, and suggested that this can be strengthened as an income generating opportunity for indigenous peoples.

The roundtable discussions also took into account the ICT challenge. Access to ICT can not only educate, entertain and enrich our lives but can also play a vital part in helping achieve the much broader goals of the Millennium Declaration be it poverty eradication, democracy, governance, sustainable development or in meeting the special needs of Africa. The building of human capacity specifically having as its focus services to the citizens as consumers was emphasized for better e-governance.

Discussing the broader aims that relate to NGO Partnerships at the public, private and civil society level, the roundtable came up with “10 commandments for partnership building”: The Commandments relate to: i) developing countries developing a healthy, uncomplicated climate for partnership adapted to the national context; ii) institutionalizing partnership; iii) defining precise plans for implementation of the MDGs with local plan objectives and inviting governments and the private sector to participate in the process; iv) the need for a change of mentality and for building legitimate confidence for durable partnerships; v) looking for positive partnerships that are more genuinely adapted to local specificities; vi) utilizing human, financial, economic and social resources, expertise, while respecting ethical values; vii) recognizing that partnership should meet the real needs of the local communities; viii) making partnership win/win for all; ix) reinforcing the capacities of the local communities and NGOs for equal partnerships; and x) the crucial need to have a United Nations technical cooperation programme to promote powerful and operational partnerships, and help implement partnership initiatives and pilot programmes and projects that would allow the effective realization of the MDGs with the enhanced support of UN-NGO-IRENE/NGO Section.

## **Ministerial Roundtable Luncheon on the Millennium Development Goals**

### **30 June 2005**

The World Family Organization (WFO) and UN-NGO-IRENE NGO Section of DESA jointly organized a ministerial roundtable luncheon on 30 June 2005 about “Working the Millennium Development Goals at the Local Level and in the Family”. In her welcoming address, Dr. Deisi Kuzstra, President of WFO and UN-NGO-IRENE/Latin America Regional Coordinator thanked the NGOs for their work during the World Family Summit (WFS) held 6-9 December 2004 and jointly organized by WFO, the UN-NGO-

IRENE/NGO Section and the Government of China, on “Comprehensive Family Policy: Achieving the Millennium Declaration with and for the Family”. The Summit was an excellent example of partnership as it was attended by representatives from government, academia, the media, the private sector, the United Nations and NGOs, and resulted in the Sanya Declaration. The Declaration, formulated with the extensive help of the UN-NGO-IRENE/NGO Section Project Coordinator, was adopted by the participants and was circulated at the Substantive Session of ECOSOC for 2005. As keynote speaker, H.E. Mr. Joao Alves Filho, Governor of Sergipe State of Brazil, emphasized the need to increase efforts in reaching the MDGs. He underlined that through the joint cooperative forces of international agencies, national governments, local authorities, the private sector, civil society organizations and families as the basic unit of society, the MDGs can effectively be achieved.

Ms. Saida Agrebi, President of Tunisian Mother’s Association, Vice President of WFO and UN-NGO-IRENE/ Africa Regional Coordinator spoke about “WFO: Achieving MDGs for Grassroot Families”, while Ms. Najet Karaborni gave an update on “UN-NGO-IRENE, NGO Capacity Building and Partnership to reach the MDGs at all levels for and with the Family”. She highlighted the support provided by UN-NGO-IRENE/NGO Section to leading NGOs and especially to its regional and national coordinators and partners in order to hold preparatory capacity building meetings and come up with concrete results, such as, (i) The World Family Summit of Sanya which was an extremely important and innovative interaction and resulted in concrete, helpful and useful recommendations and an adopted “Sanya Declaration”, (ii) the International Conference of March 2005, on Gender Mainstreaming and MDGs, organized by All Pakistan Women’s Association (APWA) and the Government of Pakistan, where the attendees produced the “Islamabad Plan of Action”, (iii) the International Forum of January 2005, in Portugal, on Local Agenda 21 and Municipalities, organized by the Oasis Open City Foundation (FOCA) which produced the “Sintra Declaration”, and (iv) the NGO/CSO Forum, April 2005, in Tunis, organized by the Tunisian Mother’s Association (ATM) on ICTs and the MDGs which led to the “Tunis Declaration”.

### **Side Event on Preliminary Results on the MDG Needs Assessment for the**

#### **Dominican Republic**

The panel hosted by the Permanent Mission of the Dominican Republic and the Presidential Commission on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and Sustainable Development (COPDES) in collaboration with the UNDESA/NGO Section took place on 30 June 2005 to report on the preliminary results on the MDG needs assessment for the Dominican Republic. As one of the eight pilot countries of the United Nations Millennium Project, the Government of the Dominican Republic began an inclusive multistakeholder process in December 2004 to elaborate a MDGs Needs Assessment. It has confronted questions, traditionally found in most Latin American and Caribbean countries, that challenge the achievement of the country’s long-term development goals. The Presidential Commission on the MDGs and Sustainable Development (COPDES), led by His Excellency Dr. Leonel Fernandez, Constitutional President of the Dominican Republic, is in charge of monitoring and evaluating the country’s progress towards achieving the MDGs, and includes the participation of various

sectors such as government, private sector, civil society, and the United Nations, as well as its Millennium Project.

### **India – A case study for solutions to attaining the Goals of Development**

On 1 July 2005, an event organized by the Institute of International Social Development with the support of the UNDESA/NGO Section and the Ministry of Textiles of the Government of India, showcased traditional handicraft items made by local artisans in India.

These products are being sold to help the artisans rise from poverty and to help preserve the traditional crafts which are near extinction. In recognition of its work, the Institute of International Social Development was appointed as the Institutional Ambassador of Indian Handicrafts by the Office of Handicrafts in India. The organization gave a detailed presentation on its work in furthering the MDGs, and its work with indigenous peoples.

### **Roundtable by ACF and NGO Section**

**7 July 2005**

The Francophone Roundtable on the Millennium Development Goals was organized under the auspices of the Permanent Mission of France to the United Nations and by the French Cultural Association (ACF) and the UNDESA/NGO Section. The roundtable brought together voices of several United Nations bodies as well as those of Civil Society. Notable amongst them were the NGO Section, the United Nations University, the Centre for Diplomatic and Strategic Studies, the Institute for the Development of Education, Arts and Culture (IDEAL), the Haitian Foundation for the Habitat and Integration of the Homeless (FONDHABISA), the Mauritanian Association for the Development and the Protection of the Environment, and the United Nations Programme for the Development of Mauritania. Several recommendations that ensued from the work of the Roundtable focused on strengthening partnerships between developed and developing countries, including reinforcing the UN-NGO-IRENE network through its partners. Increased contributions to the Voluntary Trust Fund of UN-NGO-IRENE were supported. The aims of these partnerships would be to promote sustainable development and encourage capacity building involving youth and academia while maintaining a professional ethic and a deontological approach.

Two critical points were raised during the course of the event, namely the vital importance of our children's education and the fundamental need to create a healthy environment in which all of the people of our world will be able lead fruitful lives.

### **NGO Participation at the High Level Segment of ECOSOC**

The statements submitted by NGOs for the High Level Segment of ECOSOC for 2005 covered areas ranging from science and technology, healthcare, gender, sustainable development, eradication of poverty, social dimensions of development, and rural development amongst others.

In light of the forthcoming Summit in 2005, and in preparation for the World Summit on Information Society, NGO statements focused on mainstreaming ICTs in development. Important contributions in this field came from The Foundation for Research on Technology Migration and Integration (FORMIT) (E/2005/NGO/1) and the “Association tunisienne des droits de l’enfant” (E/2005/NGO/4).

The input of the “Association tunisienne des droits de l’enfant emphasized that the information society should be an inclusive one to which financial resources should be channeled. Furthermore, a media fund should be set up within the context of a partnership between donors and civil society. The Association has been encouraging the design and production of new technologies for information and communication (NTIC) equipment and services that are easily accessible and financially affordable. It also underlined that the ICT should be the basis for education, a matter which was underlined at the session.

Focusing on education, The Oasis Open City Foundation (E/2005/NGO/14) submitted a number of recommendations based on the Sintra Declaration signed in Portugal in 2005 that included structuring and making available educational programs in the areas of Citizenship and Information Society. Furthermore, the declaration exhorted the educational community to actively participate in defining a “sustainable architecture” for schools.

Towards strengthening the role of good governance in public administration, an innovative initiative was presented by The Foundation for Research on Technology Migration and Integration (FORMIT) entitled, ‘One Dollar for Development’ which aims at making available at no cost e-Government applications, owned by developed countries, to developing countries. This initiative would promote North-South cooperation, including complementary triangular cooperation, as a means of sharing and transferring good practices and technologies. As envisaged by Professor Jeffrey Sachs in his report, ‘Investing in Development’, ‘One Dollar for Development’ is proposed as one of those “Quick win Actions” that would seek donation from G-8 countries of their best e-Government software applications already developed, tested, deployed and put in use to be transferred to developing countries at the symbolic cost of one dollar. The full scope of the project includes:

- i. Enabling developing countries to save most of the initial investment costs of realizing those applications that have already been developed elsewhere;
- ii. Encouraging new and effective public - private partnerships to support developing countries during the phase of customization and re-deployment of software;
- iii. Accelerating the process of knowledge transfer and redefining and re-qualifying human capital.

The inputs presented by the ‘Foundation for Research on Technology Migration and Integration’ and the “Association tunisienne des droits de l’enfant” including that of The Oasis Open City Foundation were reflected in the discussions at the 2005 session of ECOSOC which focused on mainstreaming science and technology to pursue sustainable development. Member states emphasized that the role of multi-stakeholder alliances and partnerships should be promoted in further exploiting the potential of ICT.

Concern for the lack of adequate health systems was expressed at the High-Level Segment. Stronger equitable national health systems were considered central to the challenge of scaling-up services, as well as proven, effective health interventions that provide adequate numbers of trained and motivated health workers, the provision of basic drugs, strengthened infrastructure, the elimination of user fees and the ability to monitor and respond to infectious disease outbreaks. The statement submitted by World Information Transfer (E/2005/NGO/9) presented its mission to influence government and non-governmental stakeholders interested in public health to foster a realistic assessment of health for a better and healthier future. The organization explored ways to create access to the services and facilities available to handle the crucial issue of diseases, looking at capability, not only of countries and their health services, but also the development and capacity of individual families and communities as a vital factor.

All India Women's Education Fund Association (E/2005/NGO/12) put forward the idea of providing women with sanitary latrine facilities as a means of reducing health problems. Furthermore, the association founded a program that raises awareness of the benefits of sanitary latrines, provision of the technology for building cost-effective latrines and encouraged households by providing some components and guiding them in the construction of these amenities. The All India Women's Education Fund Association emphasized the importance of improving the quality of life by holding trainings on nutrition, health practices and the use of clean water and sanitation in rural areas.

The Mediterranean Council for Burn and Fire Disasters (E/2005/NGO/10) suggested working with governments to establish a mechanism of training health-care providers who work in private practices or networks, as well as promoting partnerships between health professionals and communities through forums and conferences.

The statement submitted by the World Family Organization (E/2005/NGO/3) emphasized the importance of ensuring sufficient resources to prevent HIV and AIDS, and promote care as well as support to families to care for family members who are infected with these diseases, including protecting them from discrimination and stigma. The organization also wanted to encourage people living with HIV/ AIDS and their relatives to combat ignorance and panic. Moreover, according to the statement, action should be taken to integrate HIV/AIDS prevention and care into reproductive health services. Finally, the World Family Organization stressed the fact that strengthening policies was crucial to reducing maternal and infant mortality and morbidity.

The speakers in the debate at the High-Level Segment discussed poverty eradication and emphasized the urgent need of assistance to developing countries, especially those in Africa, in the forms of ODA, debt relief, technical assistance and capacity-building, in addition to harnessing domestic resources. The delegates mentioned that a prerequisite for sustainable growth is an enabling environment and good governance which would create or strengthen institutions and policies capable of responding to the needs of citizens and attract private investment.

The NGO-Greek Orthodox Archdiocesan Council (E/2005/NGO/19) of North and South America has been undertaking the difficult task of eradicating poverty, through education. However, the NGO suggested resource mobilization for fighting poverty by adding donations from private donors to the proposal of the allocation of 0.7 percent of a



country's gross national income. The increasing role of partnerships was emphasized by the NGO-Legiao da Boa Vontade (E/2005/NGO/8), which believes that eradication of extreme poverty and hunger could be achieved by encouraging inter-sectoral partnerships, increasing professional qualification, the creation of jobs, introducing new food sources, optimizing resources destined to civil society's non-profit organizations, and investing in cooperative societies for needy families. These recommendations were reiterated in the statement presented by The International Movement ATD Fourth World (E/2005/NGO/5), noting that extreme poverty is still a grave and genuine risk to life, which should be combated through family, partnership and new relationships of trust.

The statement from All Pakistan Women's Association (E/2005/NGO/6), underlined the necessity of alleviating poverty especially in rural areas and for rural women, through comprehensive strategic policies based on resources assessment and a realistic development approach to gender mainstreaming.

VIVAT International (E/2005/NGO/18) emphasized the fact that greater importance has to be given to the development of LDCs and the removal of trade barriers to the goods coming from LDCs. This organization also placed special emphasis on the development of Indigenous Peoples, teaching them new skills, treating them as equal partners in policymaking processes that affect their lives. This was underlined in the statement submitted by the Institute of International and Social Development (E/2005/NGO/2) which recommended that the protection of indigenous cultures should be adding to the existing MDGs, so as to ensure that member nations handle minority issues more sensitively. The NGO felt that this would, in effect, lead to a greater control of terrorism.

The debate at the High-Level Segment focused on the social dimensions of development, pointing out that globalization could be made fair and equitable only through addressing its social aspects, in particular, investing in people through the creation of decent job opportunities and enhancement of education systems. The debate further emphasized that improving the literacy skills and competencies of both youth and adults had a strong correlation with job opportunities and job creation. All of these have a positive impact on socio-economic development and human security.

With a view to creating new job opportunities, Public Services International (E/2005/NGO/15), in its statement, suggested providing adequate resources for effective quality public services, in which workers would receive adequate pay and have decent working conditions. It also implies assuring adequate training to enable workers to develop their skills. Moreover, governments as employers should provide workers in the public sector with basic rights, including equity and gender equality.

The Oasis Open City Foundation included in its recommendations promoting links among national and international organizations so as to integrate local learning models with a context of cultural and economic globalization, propagating mechanisms for timely and adequate information to citizens in order to make local administrators' actions transparent and make possible their participation in the planning and the decision-making process. Through the "Brasilia Declaration on Rural Municipality Sustainability", a sample of new paths for connecting rural communities to economic growth were proposed. Furthermore, in its statement, The Foundation for Social Promotion of Culture (E/2005/NGO/7) presented the focus of its activities, such as the promotion of social and

economic development by implementing projects all over the world, related to education, rural development, capacity building and the promotion of peace. Moreover, the Foundation encouraged the creation of the Euro-Arab network for development and social integration (READI) to promote the Euro-Mediterranean dialogue through the permanent communication among local agents (civil society, private sector and public administrations)

The organization, Droit à l'énergie SOS Future (E/2005/NGO/11), put forth a proposal for creating an institution of a single world agency playing a political, financial and technological role in the area of sustainable development. Furthermore, the NGO suggests creating an institution of an observatory of fossil resources, considered as part of the World Heritage of Humankind- an institution of new criteria for the evaluation of companies, public-private and multilateral partnerships, which would ensure defining the country's energy policy and fixing the regulatory framework for operations, at the national level, with the governments and identifying precisely, at the local level, with the key stakeholders, the specific needs and priorities in the area of access to energy, in particular in the rural world. It would also ensure a link of local organizations with the social fabric, allowing the population to be part of the choices and decisions made in energy policy matters. Finally, it would provide the technical know-how, as well as some financing capacities of operators of the sector.

To conclude, it is important to highlight that the NGO participation was very active during the events hosted by the United Nations, NGO coalitions and NGOs in various regions of the world and throughout all the events of the 2005 High Level Segment of ECOSOC and the preparatory events that led up to ECOSOC. Additionally the statements submitted by the NGOs covered a wide range of issues. It was noticed that the activities of the NGOs and the recommendations that they made to the Council underlined how the issues that we face in achieving the Millennium Development Goals are interconnected. The strong linkage between human capital, sustainable development and ICTs is one example. Unique amongst them was a tribute paid by Tunisia Mothers' Association to the work of Jean-Marie Fonrouge, the late Director of Fondation Internationale Carrefour, in areas such as humanitarian action, health, scientific and medical research, culture, education, the fight against exclusion and protection of the environment.

The contributions saw an increased commitment towards a new way of thinking and mobilizing the creation of cross-sectoral partnerships that are able to promote an integrated and multi-sectoral approach to local development. The need to promote partnership initiatives, projects and programs between governments, the United Nations, international donors, local authorities, NGOs, academia, the private sector and civil society in fulfilling their commitments to the Millennium Declaration and the Millennium Development Goals was an overarching factor.

Finally, the Millennium Development Goal 8 of promoting partnerships has emerged as an important enabler in the outcomes of the 2005 High Level Segment of ECOSOC. The High Level Segment contributions from civil society and multi-stakeholders this year gave birth to the formalizing of an IGO partnership, endorsed a project with academia, the launch of a global partnership towards ICT, and the adoption by ECOSOC of a

resolution naming a developing country as the second in a pilot programme to support the United Nations Public Private Alliance for Rural development.

The following NGO's submitted statements for consideration by ECOSOC at its 2005 High Level Segment:

E/2005/NGO/1: Foundation Fondazione per la Ricerca sulla Migrazione e sulla integrazione delle Tecnologie (FORMIT)
E/2005/NGO/2: Institute of International Social Development
E/2005/NGO/3: World Family Organization
E/2005/NGO/4: Association tunisienne des droits de l'enfant
E/2005/NGO/5: International Movement ATD Fourth World
E/2005/NGO/6: All Pakistan Women's Association
E/2005/NGO/7: Foundation for Social Promotion of Culture
E/2005/NGO/8: Legiao da Boa Vontade
E/2005/NGO/9 : World Information Transfer
E/2005/NGO/10 : Mediterranean Council for Burns and Fire Disasters
E/2005/NGO/11 : Droit a l'energie SOS Futur
E/2005/NGO/12 : All India Women's Education Fund Association
E/2005/NGO/13 : Alliance Toward Harnessing Global Opportunities Corporation
E/2005/NGO/14 : Oasis Open City Foundation
E/2005/NGO/15 :Public Services International
E/2005/NGO/16 : Comite de Apoyo a los Trabajadores Agricolas
E/2005/NGO/17 : Economic and Social Council NGO Forum
E/2005/NGO/18 : Vivat International
E/2005/NGO/19: Greek Orthodox Archdiocesan Council of North and South America
E/2005/NGO/20 : Foundation Internationale Carrefour
E/2005/NGO/21 : Peoples Decade for Human Rights Education
E/2005/NGO/22 : Foundation for the Child and the Family
E/2005/NGO/23 : Mumbai Educational Trust
E/2005/NGO/24 : Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur
E/2005/NGO/25 : Virtue Foundation
E/2005/NGO/26 :The Istanbul International Brotherhood and Solidarity Association
E/2005/NGO/27 :57th Annual DPI/NGO Conference
E/2005/NGO/28 : Foundation for the Child and the Family
E/2005/NGO/29 :Tunisian Mothers' Association

## Annex 1

### REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL\*

## **Towards Achieving Internationally Agreed Development Goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration**

### **Summary**

The historic United Nations conferences and summits held in the 1990s and 2000s generated an unprecedented global consensus on a shared vision of development. That broad-based framework in turn laid the groundwork for the Millennium Summit, at which a series of challenging time-bound goals and targets were adopted. They were later collated as Millennium Development Goals, which have succeeded in galvanizing an exceptional momentum to meet the needs of the world's poorest.

While the Millennium Development Goals provide a compelling platform to address those needs, they do not, in themselves, as emphasized in the report of the Secretary-General for the September Summit,<sup>1</sup> present a “complete development agenda”, and must be pursued as part of a “larger development agenda” that also encompasses the needs of middle income developing countries, questions of growing inequality, and the wider dimensions of human development. The “larger development agenda” must equally address issues that require long-term approaches, such as, the differential impact of globalization, greater participation of developing countries in global economic governance, and the question of interlinkages between development and conflict. Those issues were addressed in depth at the United Nations summits and conferences, which provide a broad-based consensus to pursue the full scope of the United Nations development agenda. The agenda cuts across a vast array of interlinked issues ranging from gender equality, social integration, health, employment, education, the environment and population to human rights, finance and governance.

The achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and the implementation of the wider development agenda are closely interlinked. They will be ensured by effectively integrating the implementation of the conference outcomes with the Millennium Development Goals by focusing on issues that are closely linked with the Goals that cut across the conference outcomes. The present report identifies the core issues that hold the key to the achievement of the development goals and uses them as a tool to review progress in implementation. It concludes that there is an implementation gap, which needs to be addressed. To that end, the report makes a number of recommendations for action by Governments, the United Nations system, and the international community.

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\* see the document E/2005/56

## I. Introduction

Eradication of poverty is neither an unattainable aspiration nor an unreachable goal. Ample evidence exists to prove that. A number of developing countries have succeeded in lifting hundreds of millions of people out of deprivation and perpetual poverty. Those men, women and children now have more and equal opportunities for progress. Those changes have been made possible by attaining and sustaining higher rates of economic growth and investing in people and being responsive to their basic needs and aspirations.

Solutions to the problems of impoverishment and deprivation are well known. Yet, over a billion people still live in abject poverty and struggle perpetually and intergenerationally with hunger and disease, both of which are preventable. Today, about 39 million people remain afflicted with HIV/AIDS. Diseases like tuberculosis and malaria are silently ravaging the vitality of societies and claiming millions of lives every year. Gender discrimination and bias remain pervasive. Environmental degradation and climatic change pose serious threats to the prospects of developing countries. Violent conflicts have taken a heavy toll by rolling back development.

Yet, there is hope and there is a growing resolve to surmount those challenges. That resolve is founded on three pillars. Firstly, the world has abundant resources and technologies to fight the menaces of poverty and hunger. Secondly, there is a much better understanding of the causes and multidimensionality of development challenges; there is also greater recognition of the interlinkages between development and security, underscoring the urgency of attaining the development goals. Thirdly, there is an unprecedented global consensus on a shared vision of development, built through the historic United Nations conferences and summits held in the 1990s and 2000s. Those conferences have served to evolve a comprehensive, consensual, normative framework to deal with the developmental challenges that cut across a vast array of interlinked issues, from gender equality, social integration, health, education, employment, environment, human rights, and population to finance and governance.

The conferences and summits of the 1990s in turn laid the groundwork for the Millennium Summit, at which the General Assembly adopted a series of compelling time-bound goals and targets. The Millennium Development Goals have galvanized unprecedented efforts to meet the needs of the world's poorest. Those Goals provide a unique window of opportunity to achieve major breakthroughs by 2015. That is the key message of the report of the Secretary-General entitled "In larger freedom: towards development, security and human rights for all".<sup>1</sup>

While the Millennium Development Goals provide a compelling platform to address the needs of the world's poorest, they do not, as noted in the report of the Secretary-General for the September Summit, encompass some of the broader issues covered by the conferences. They also do not address the particular needs of middle-income developing countries or the question of growing inequality and wider dimensions of human development and good governance. Among the broader issues requiring long-term approaches are the increasing divergence in development experiences; the differential impact of globalization; the need for policy space; increased transparency and greater participation and a voice for the developing world in the formulation of international macroeconomic policies; as well as the issue of how lack of development contributes in

precipitating violent conflict. Those issues were addressed in depth at the United Nations summits and conferences, which provide an agreed framework to pursue the full scope of the development agenda, including the Millennium Development Goals.

## **II. Implementing the outcomes of United Nations conferences and summits**

### **A. Achieving the United Nations development agenda, including the Millennium Development Goals**

The achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and the implementation of the wider development agenda are deeply interlinked. They should be approached so as to complement each other. For instance, social integration and building inclusive societies have been at the core of the conferences and summits, and though they are not part of the Millennium Development Goal framework, they are essential for the achievement of the Goals. Similarly, Millennium Development Goal 7 regarding environmental sustainability has to be pursued in the larger framework of sustainable development provided by the Rio and Johannesburg conferences. Likewise, the targets for employment for youth and women included in the Goals are an integral part of the commitment to full employment embodied in the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and Programme of Action.

Another important link between the Millennium Development Goals and the conference outcomes is in the area of human rights. Although the Millennium Declaration reaffirmed the commitment to protect human rights, it is the World Conference on Human Rights that clearly postulated the indivisibility and interrelatedness of democracy, development and human rights. That agreed human rights framework, including the right to development, provides a crucial foundation for the realization of the Millennium Development Goals.

Each conference has focused on a specific aspect of development, which is relevant to the realization of the Millennium Development Goals and contributes to advancing the broader development agenda. Each conference has generated its own political momentum and constituencies committed to advancing its outcome. It is important, therefore, that the distinct identity of each conference follow-up process be maintained. At the same time, there are many elements that cut across the outcomes of the conferences. Identifying and analysing those common elements, and pursuing them as such, is equally important for progress. The need to do so, which underlies the call for the “integrated follow-up to conferences”, stems from considerations that go much beyond the obvious desirability of avoiding duplication and dispersal of efforts. It responds to two related, substantive imperatives: that of optimizing the impact of the various implementation processes; and that of advancing a multisectoral approach that recognizes that the outcome in a particular sector often depends on factors outside that specific area, and purposefully designs multifaceted policies and actions to advance that approach. For example, improving mothers’ literacy and enhancing access to safe drinking water and sanitation may contribute more to improving the rate of child survival than by just enhancing access to health facilities. Similarly, improving roads and making water more accessible so that

children, particularly girls, do not have to fetch water from distant sources, may increase school enrolment. At a preparatory meeting for the high-level segment of the Economic and Social Council, held in New York, on 16 and 17 March 2005, the Council emphasized the strong interlinkages that exist among all the development goals emerging from the conferences and highlighted the positive spillover effects of progress in each goal. The need for urgent action in the interrelated areas of health, education, sustainable livelihood, official development assistance (ODA), trade, investment and good governance was the key message emanating from that meeting.

The mandate of the September Summit in General Assembly resolution 58/291 of 6 May 2004 encompasses a review of the “progress made in the fulfilment of all the commitments contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration, including the internationally agreed development goals” as well as a review of “progress made in the integrated and coordinated implementation of the outcomes and commitments of the major United Nations conferences and summits”. Within the approaches outlined above, a major contribution that the Economic and Social Council can make in advancing the Summit’s mandate is to identify the most critical policy areas that hold the key to the achievement of the development goals, and to suggest a comprehensive path for progress in that direction. The following areas are intended to capture the critical issues for action that have been repeatedly emphasized in the outcomes of the conferences and summits, as can be seen in box 1; while there are no watertight divisions between challenges and means, the first set of issues could be seen as the core challenges and the second as key instruments that are essential for implementation:

(a) Core challenges

- Eradicating poverty, hunger and malnutrition
- Advancing education and literacy
- Providing health services, preventing disease and reducing mortality
- Advancing gender equality and empowering women
- Promoting employment
- Achieving social integration and addressing vulnerabilities of social groups
- Ensuring environmental sustainability and managing the natural resource base for development
- Promoting democracy, good governance and human rights
- Addressing challenges of countries with special needs.

(b) Key instruments

- Strengthening global partnership for development
- Making macroeconomic policies work for sustained employment-generating economic growth
- Promoting science and technology for development

- Enhancing the role of civil society and private sector for development.

It must be clarified that highlighting the above areas is not meant to narrow the scope of the issues covered by the conferences and summits or to exclude any issues. It is meant to serve as a tool for developing integrated policy frameworks at the national and international levels, strengthening direct linkages with strategies to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, as advocated in the Secretary-General's report for the September Summit, and facilitating effective monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the United Nations development agenda.

### ***Box 1***

<b>Common themes</b>	<b>International conferences and summits*</b>	<b>Millennium Declaration</b>	<b>Millennium Development Goal targets</b>
<b>Eradicating poverty, hunger and malnutrition</b>	ICN (1992), WSSD (1995), WFS (1996), FWCW (1995), WSC (1990)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Make the right to development a reality for everyone and free the entire human race from want</li> <li>• Halve, by the year 2015, the proportion of the world's people whose income is less than one dollar a day and the proportion of people who suffer from hunger</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of the world's people whose income is less than one dollar a day and the proportion of people who suffer from hunger</li> </ul>
<b>Advancing education and literacy</b>	WSC (1990), EFA (1990), UNCED (1992), ICPD (1994), FWCW (1995), WSSD (1995), WEF (2000)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure that, by 2015, children everywhere, boys and girls alike, will be able to complete a full course of primary schooling and will have equal access to all levels of education</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure that, by 2015, children everywhere, boys and girls alike, will be able to complete a full course of primary schooling</li> </ul>



Common themes	International conferences and summits*	Millennium Declaration	Millennium Development Goal targets
<b>Providing health services, preventing disease and reducing mortality</b>	EFA (1990), WSC (1990), WCHR (1993), ICPD (1994), WSSD (1995), FWCW (1995), WFS (1996), WSSD (2002)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• By 2015, have reduced maternal mortality by three quarters, and under-five child mortality by two thirds, of their current rates</li> <li>• To have, by 2015, halted, and begun to reverse, the spread of HIV/AIDS, the scourge of malaria and other major diseases that afflict humanity</li> <li>• Help Africa build up its capacity to tackle the spread of the HIV/AIDS pandemic and other infectious diseases</li> <li>• Provide special assistance to children orphaned by HIV/AIDS</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduce by two thirds, between 1990 and 2015, the under-five mortality rate</li> <li>• Reduce by three quarters, between 1990 and 2015, the maternal mortality ratio</li> <li>• Have halted by 2015 and begun to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS and the incidence of malaria and other major diseases</li> </ul>
<b>Promoting gender equality and empowering women</b>	WSC (1990), WCHR (1993), ICPD (1994), FWCW (1995), WSSD (1995), WAA (2002)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote gender equality and the empowerment of women as effective ways to combat poverty, hunger and disease</li> <li>• Take measures to combat all forms of violence against women and to implement the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education, preferably by 2005, and to all levels of education no later than 2015</li> </ul>

Common themes	International conferences and summits*	Millennium Declaration	Millennium Development Goal targets
<b>Promoting employment</b>	ICPD (1994), WSSD (1995), FWCW (1995), World Youth Conference (1998), FFD (2002)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop and implement strategies that give young people everywhere a real chance to find decent and productive work</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In cooperation with developing countries, develop and implement strategies for decent and productive work for youth</li> </ul>
<b>Achieving social integration and addressing the vulnerabilities of social groups</b>	WSC (1990), WCHR (1993), FWCW (1995), WSSD (1995), Habitat II (1996), World Youth Conference (1998), WAA (2002), WCAR (2001), WSSD (2002)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Global challenges must be managed in a way that distributes the costs and burdens fairly in accordance with basic principles of equity and social justice</li> <li>• Human beings must respect one another, in all their diversity of belief, culture and language. Differences within and between societies should be neither feared nor repressed, but cherished as a precious asset of humanity</li> <li>• Take measures to ensure respect for and protection of the human rights of migrants, migrant workers and their families; eliminate the increasing acts of racism and xenophobia and promote greater harmony and tolerance in all societies</li> </ul>	
<b>Ensuring environmental sustainability and managing the natural resource</b>	UNCED (1992), Habitat II (1996), WCNDR (1994), SIDS-Barbados (1994),	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Manage all living species and natural resources, in accordance with the precepts of sustainable</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and</li> </ul>

Common themes	International conferences and summits*	Millennium Declaration	Millennium Development Goal targets
<b>base for development</b>	WSSD (2002), WCDR (2005), SIDS-Mauritius (2005)	<p>development and change the current unsustainable patterns of production and consumption</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Halve by 2015, the proportion of people who are unable to reach or to afford safe drinking water and stop the unsustainable exploitation of water resources by developing water management strategies</li> <li>• Have achieved significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum-dwellers by 2020</li> <li>• Ensure entry into force of the Kyoto Protocol</li> <li>• Intensify collective efforts for management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests</li> <li>• Call for full implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa</li> <li>• Intensify cooperation</li> </ul>	<p>programmes and reverse the loss of environmental resources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Halve by 2015 the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation</li> <li>• By 2020, achieve a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum-dwellers</li> </ul>

Common themes	International conferences and summits*	Millennium Declaration	Millennium Development Goal targets
<b>Promoting democracy, good governance and human rights</b>	WCHR (1993), WAA (2002), World Youth Conference (1998), WCAR (2001), FFD (2002), WSSD (2002)	<p>to reduce the number and effects of natural man-made disasters</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Respect fully and uphold the Universal Declaration of Human Rights</li> <li>• Strive for full protection and promotion of civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights for all</li> <li>• Strengthen the capacity to implement principles and practices of democracy and respect for human rights, including minority rights</li> <li>• Promote democracy and the rule of law</li> <li>• Ensure the freedom of the media to perform their essential role and the right of the public to have access to information</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Commit to good governance, development and poverty reduction — both nationally and internationally</li> </ul>
<b>Addressing challenges of countries with special needs</b>	LDC III (2001), WSSD (2002), SIDS-Barbados (1994), LLDCs-Almaty (2003), SIDS-Mauritius (2005)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Address the special needs of least developed countries, including adoption of policy of duty- and quota-free access for essentially all exports from least developed countries</li> <li>• Address the special needs of small island developing countries and landlocked developing countries</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Address the special needs of least developed countries, including adoption of policy of duty- and quota-free access for essentially all exports from least developed countries and address the special needs of small island developing States and landlocked developing countries</li> </ul>

Common themes	International conferences and summits*	Millennium Declaration	Millennium Development Goal targets
<p><b>Strengthening global partnership for development</b></p>	<p>WSSD (1995), UNCED (1992), FWCW (1995), FFD (2002), WSSD (2002), WSIS (2003)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Address the challenges of poverty eradication and sustainable development in Africa, including debt cancellation, improved market access, enhanced ODA and increased flows of FDI, as well as transfer of technology</li> <li>• Responsibility for managing worldwide economic and social development must be shared among the nations of the world and should be exercised multilaterally</li> <li>• Create open equitable, rule-based, predictable and non-discriminatory multilateral trading and financial system</li> <li>• Grant more generous development assistance, especially to countries that apply their resources to poverty reduction</li> <li>• Implement the enhanced programme of Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) debt relief without further delay and deal comprehensively and effectively with the debt problems of low- and middle-income countries, to ensure</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop further an open, rule-based, predictable, non-discriminatory trading and financial system (including good governance, development and poverty reduction both nationally and internationally)</li> <li>• Deal comprehensively with the debt problems to make debt sustainable in the long term, including through enhanced programme of debt relief for HIPCs and cancellation of official bilateral debt</li> <li>• In cooperation with the private sector, make available the benefits of new technologies, especially ICT</li> <li>• In cooperation with pharmaceutical companies, provide access to affordable essential drugs in</li> </ul>

Common themes	International conferences and summits*	Millennium Declaration	Millennium Development Goal targets
<b>Making macroeconomic policies work for sustained employment-generating economic growth</b>	UNCED (1992), WSSD (1995), FFD (2002), WSSD (2002)	<p>long-term debt sustainability</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Be committed to transparency in the financial, monetary and trading systems, and good governance within countries and at the international level</li> <li>• Create an environment, at the national and global levels, conducive to development and poverty elimination</li> <li>• Responsibility for managing worldwide economic and social development must be shared among the nations of the world and should be exercised multilaterally</li> </ul>	developing countries
<b>Promoting science and technology for development</b>	UNCED (1992), FWCW (1995), SIDS-Barbados (1994), WSSD (1995), FFD (2002), WSSD (2002), WSIS (2003), SIDS-Mauritius (2005), WCDR (2005)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure that the benefits of new technologies, especially ICT are available to all</li> <li>• Encourage the pharmaceutical industry to make essential drugs more widely available and affordable by all who need them in developing countries</li> </ul>	
<b>Enhancing the role of civil society and the private sector for development</b>	UNCED (1992), WSSD (1995), FWCW (1995), FFD (2002), WSSD (2002), WSIS (2002)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop strong partnerships with the private sector and with civil society</li> <li>• Work collectively for more inclusive</li> </ul>	

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<b>Common themes</b>	<b>International conferences and summits*</b>	<b>Millennium Declaration</b>	<b>Millennium Development Goal targets</b>
		political processes, allowing genuine participation by all citizens in all countries.	

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(Footnote on following page)

(Footnote to Box 1)

\* *Abbreviations:*

- EFA — World Conference on Education for All, Jomtien, Thailand, 1990  
 FFD — International Conference on Financing for Development, Monterrey, Mexico, 2002  
 FWCW — Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, China, 1995  
 Habitat II — Second Conference on Human Settlements, Istanbul, Turkey, 1996  
 ICN — International Conference on Nutrition, Rome, Italy, 1992  
 ICPD — International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, Egypt, 1994  
 LDC III — Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developing Countries, Brussels, Belgium, 2001  
 LLDCs-Almaty — Fourth Annual Ministerial Conference of Landlocked Developing Countries, Almaty, Kazakhstan, 2003  
 SIDS-Barbados — Global Conference on Small Island Developing States, Bridgetown, Barbados, 1994  
 SIDS-Mauritius — International Meeting to Review the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Port Louis, Mauritius, 2005  
 UNCED — United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, 1992  
 WCHR — World Conference on Human Rights, Vienna, Austria, 1993  
 WAA — Second World Assembly on Ageing, Madrid, Spain, 2002  
 WCAR — World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance, Durban, South Africa, 2001  
 WCDR — World Conference on Disaster Reduction, Kobe, Japan, 2005  
 WCHR — World Conference on Human Rights, Vienna, Austria, 1993  
 WCNDR — World Conference on Natural Disaster Reduction, Yokohama, Japan, 1994  
 WEF — World Education Forum, Dakar, Senegal, 2000  
 WFS — World Food Summit, Rome, Italy, 1996  
 World Youth Conference — World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth, Lisbon, Portugal, 1998  
 WSC — World Summit for Children, New York, United States of America, 1990 and 2002  
 WSIS — World Summit on the Information Society, Geneva, Switzerland, 2003  
 WSSD — World Summit on Social Development, Copenhagen, Denmark, 1995  
 WSSD — World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 2002

## **B. Progress and gaps in the implementation of the United Nations development agenda**

### *1. Eradicating poverty, hunger and malnutrition<sup>2</sup>*

The World Summit on Social Development (1995), the World Food Summit (1996) and other conferences that preceded and followed them<sup>3</sup> set targets for reduction of poverty, hunger and malnutrition and attempted to comprehend poverty in its varied dimensions and manifestations. The World Summit on Social Development, in particular, approached poverty in its broadest sense of not only the continual lack of adequate income to sustain basic consumption needs, but also of exclusion, marginalization and inequality.



The Millennium Development Goal on poverty and hunger is drawn from the agreed outcomes of the conference and summit goals and its attainment is inextricably linked with implementing the wealth of policy prescriptions that they have generated: the poverty and hunger targets cannot be achieved only by raising incomes; there must also be concomitant improvements in basic health services, including reproductive health services, productive employment, agricultural production, environmental sustainability, gender equality, and education. That is duly recognized in the Millennium Declaration. The Secretary-General's report entitled "In larger freedom" highlighted the fact that despite the dramatic reduction in extreme poverty in the last 25 years, many countries have become poorer, and increasing inequality in large parts of the world underscores that the benefits of development have not been evenly distributed. In addition, slums have increased and a large part of the world lacks access to basic energy needs.

In many developing countries, violent conflicts have left a deep trail of reversed development. It is of particular relevance that 60 per cent of the least developed countries experienced civil conflict of varying intensity and duration since 1990. **Development, in such situations, must be looked at through the conflict-prevention lens. A long-term strategic approach that simultaneously addresses both peace and development should guide policies and programmes while addressing causes of violent conflicts and post-conflict peacebuilding.**

The target of halving the number of hungry people in the world by 2015 is by no means on track. Analysis undertaken by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) reveals several common factors that differentiate successful countries from those that suffered setbacks. Countries that succeeded in reducing hunger were characterized by relatively faster economic growth and, specifically, faster growth in their agricultural sectors (on an average by 3.2 per cent). At the same time, they exhibited slower population growth rates and lower levels of HIV infection. Those are lessons that underscore the strong interlinkages between economic growth, particularly agricultural growth rates, and the eradication of poverty, disease and the reduction of hunger. **As recommended in paragraph 42 of the Secretary-General's report, rural development — increasing food output and incomes — should be a national investment and policy priority and in Africa, particularly, a twenty-first century green revolution should be launched in 2005.**

At the root of the failure to attain the goals and targets of poverty eradication is slow economic growth in relation to the levels necessary to combat poverty. Scarcity of resources in many developing countries has severely constrained possibilities for budgetary spending on policies and programmes to reduce poverty levels, hunger and unemployment. Investments, including in human capital, have not been up to the scale and size that could have had a significant impact in that respect. **Countries with extreme poverty should undertake pro-poor development and investment strategies that should include scaled-up public investments, capacity-building, and domestic resource mobilization, supported by ODA. Sectoral vulnerabilities and sectoral capacities should be carefully assessed both in the medium and long term and should inform policies and programmes that should combine social integration and removal of inequalities. Core infrastructure services that include affordable**

**housing, renewable energy, sanitation and waste management should be systematically integrated in the development strategies.**

## *2. Advancing education and literacy*

Education and literacy remain at the core of development strategies. That message emanates from almost every United Nations conference and summit and was the specific focus of the World Conference on Education for All (1990); and the World Education Forum (2000), at which the Dakar Framework for Action — Education for All: Meeting Our Collective Commitments was adopted. The summits and conferences have highlighted the multiple dimensions of education (access to education and its costs, enrolment and drop-out issues, gender bias, and literacy, including adult literacy) and have adopted detailed strategies and Platforms for Action.

The Millennium Development Goal on achieving universal primary education by 2015 captures the basic education goals of the conferences and summits. Although the goals agreed at those conferences and summits cover a broader canvas, their implementation will reinforce the achievement of the Millennium Development Goal on education. Interlinkages underlined in the conferences and summits, between education and sustainable development, gender, health and human rights provide the broader context in which education goals will be advanced, and most importantly, sustained over time.

Performance in most parts of the world has been mixed. About half of all countries, including over 60 per cent of the world's population, are likely to miss at least one of the three goals for education — universal primary net enrolment, improvement in adult literacy, and gender parity in education.

The Secretary-General's report identifies the task of ensuring universal primary, expanded secondary and higher education as a matter of priority. Free primary education is key to ensuring higher enrolment and fewer dropouts. However, it must be recognized that opportunity costs are involved. In households where children are not enrolled and for the most part are engaged in helping adults in informal work, the trade-off between free schooling and informal work does not necessarily work in favour of a clear choice for education. **Therefore, incentives in such situations need to be coupled with targeted interventions in several interrelated areas. To ensure universal primary, expanded secondary and higher education and free primary education need to be combined with other incentives such as free meals, as well as infrastructural improvements, such as feeder roads to schools, drinking water, health and sanitation. Assistance by donors committed under the Dakar Framework for Action needs to be stepped up.**

## *3. Providing health services, preventing disease and reducing mortality*

Health is not only a fundamental human right but also a key determinant of economic development. It involves not only timely provision and appropriate health care but also access to safe and potable water, adequate sanitation, adequate supply of safe food, nutrition and housing, healthy occupational and environmental conditions, and access to health-related education and information, including on sexual and reproductive health. Therefore, interventions in the health sector with complementing strategies outside it are critical for achieving all the health-related goals.

Those have been the primary messages of the summits and conferences, including, the Cairo Programme of Action, adopted at the International Conference on Population and Development, 1994, and its 5- and 10-year reviews; the Beijing Declaration, adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women, 1995, and Programme of Action and its 5- and 10-year review; the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS (2001); and the World Summit for Children, 1990, and its 10-year review. The Millennium Development Goals reflect those goals and targets.

Measures directed at influencing demographic behaviour and population dynamics, such as those contained in the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development contribute significantly to the achievement of the health-related goals. While there has been some progress, there are many gaps. Every year, millions of children die before their fifth birthday; each year, over half a million women needlessly die of pregnancy-related causes owing to lack of preventive pre-natal care; access to trained birth attendants and referrals to emergency obstetric care; and HIV/AIDS continues to take its devastating toll. The HIV/AIDS pandemic continues to have an enormous impact on populations.

By the end of 2004, 39 million people were living with HIV/AIDS, 4.9 million of whom were newly infected in 2004 and 3.1 million people died from the disease. At its thirty-eighth session, held in 2005, the Commission on Population and Development paid special attention to HIV/AIDS and its links with poverty and emphasized the need to strengthen policy and programme linkages and coordination between HIV/AIDS and sexual and reproductive health and their inclusion in national development plans, including poverty reduction strategies, as a necessary strategy for fighting the HIV/AIDS pandemic.

Often lack of progress on issues of health and mortality are related to weaknesses in national strategies and tardy cooperation at the international level. Strong health systems are required to ensure universal access to basic health services and to build a credible defence for containing outbreaks. **Strategies for health systems need to be based on credible evaluation and projection of possible outbreak of diseases and their immediate and indirect causes. National policies and international cooperation must actively pursue training of medical and paramedical personnel, provision of basic drugs and medical and sanitation infrastructure. They require scaled-up investments, strengthened infrastructure and the elimination of user fees, and should be linked to strategies and programmes to meet other goals, such as poverty eradication, unemployment, water, sanitation, environment and education. Also, the flexibility contained in the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights in addressing public needs, such as access to essential medicines, ought to be utilized more fully and effectively, for which political will needs to be demonstrated.**

#### *4. Promoting gender equality and empowering women*

The full and equal participation of women in political, civil, economic, social and cultural life, as well as the eradication of all forms of discrimination are priority objectives of the international community (see Box 1). Gender-based violence and all forms of sexual

harassment and exploitation are incompatible with the dignity and worth of the human person, and must be eliminated.

There has been tangible progress on many fronts. Life expectancy and mortality rates of women have improved; more girls are enrolled in primary education; more women are earning an income than before; there is significantly greater awareness of gender equality issues among Governments and the public at large. Over the last decade, Governments have repealed or revised discriminatory laws and increasingly recognized the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women as a critical framework for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women.

Challenges remain, however. HIV/AIDS has been spreading among women; there is a lack of progress in access to primary and secondary education and in the need to ensure sexual and reproductive health and rights. Similarly, reproductive health needs are inadequately addressed and maternal mortality remains high in many countries. Women's and girls' equal rights to property and inheritance are still not guaranteed in many countries and their access to, and control over, productive resources and capital and participation in economic and political processes remain an unmitigated challenge. Similarly, the participation of women in public life has made limited progress. In another significant area, participation in the economy, progress has been negligible.

Promoting gender equality requires more than the legal recognition of women's rights. It also calls for changes in attitudes and sometimes in traditions and social norms, and are critical to the implementation of policies and programmes that promote and enhance women's equal participation in all aspects of society. **Gender perspective should be fully incorporated in development policies and programmes and involve more women and girls in the decision-making process on such policies and programmes. Direct interventions to advance gender equality are necessary. They could include primary school completion and equitable secondary school access for girls, secure property tenures, access to sexual and reproductive health services, protection from violence, equal access to jobs, and greater political and decision-making opportunities.**

### *5. Promoting employment*

On productive employment and decent work rests the power of the poor to extricate themselves from poverty, disease and human misery. Several International Labour Organization (ILO) studies have demonstrated that an employment-oriented growth strategy, accompanied by a rise in productivity, is the key to reducing the level of poverty through the income effect in the short run by raising the productive capacity of the workforce and enhancing the competitiveness of firms, especially small and microenterprises.

In its commitment 3, the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action laid down the objective of promoting the goal of full employment as a basic priority of economic and social policies. The commitment to the promotion of full, freely chosen, decent and productive employment, a fundamental component of any development strategy, was renewed at the forty-third session, held in 2005, of the Commission for Social Development, at which the Commission reviewed the progress of the Copenhagen

commitments at the end of 10 years. The Millennium Declaration called for strategies that give young people everywhere a real chance to find decent and productive work.

Global performance in promoting full and productive employment has so far been disappointing. The past 10 years have witnessed a phenomenal rise in unemployment levels. In 2003, there were 186 million unemployed, up from 140 million a decade earlier. That represents the highest recorded level of unemployment. The increase was mostly among young people, escalating world youth unemployment to 14.4 per cent, over twice as high as the world unemployment rate of 6.2 per cent. Women continue to remain most strongly affected by unemployment. In the few countries where job growth has taken place, it has been disproportionately concentrated in insecure, informal employment with low wages and few benefits. Workers in the informal sector carry a high risk of becoming working poor. Of the over 2.8 billion workers in the world, nearly half still do not earn enough to lift themselves and their families out of poverty.

**Global, regional and national policies must be redirected and refocused on productivity-enhancing investments and policies to generate employment for unskilled and semi-skilled labour, in both rural and urban areas. Enhancing the human capital of the poor through greater access to education (especially primary and secondary), skills and health care, improvements in physical infrastructure, easy access to credit, and the creation of social safety nets produces results. Poverty-reducing strategies such as the Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSPs) should recognize the critical role of employment and the need to invest in human capital. Steps should also be taken to implement the ILO Decent Work Agenda, which calls for the integration of economic and social objectives in the areas of employment promotion, rights at work, social protection and social dialogue.** As underscored in the report of the Secretary-General to the September Summit, without dynamic, growth-oriented economic policies supporting a healthy private sector capable of generating jobs, income and tax revenues over time, sustainable economic growth will not be achieved.

Greater policy coherence and integration are equally important. The 2004 report of the World Commission on the Social Dimension of Globalization,<sup>4</sup> and resolution 59/57, in which the General Assembly took note of the report, stressed the need for greater coherence among multilateral organizations in their global economic, financial and social policies, and stronger institutions to embed social goals in the operation of global production systems.

#### *6. Achieving social integration and addressing vulnerabilities of social groups*

Fostering social integration was one of the core issues addressed by the World Summit on Social Development. The Copenhagen Declaration contains a specific commitment to promoting social integration by fostering societies that are stable, safe, just, and tolerant and respect diversity. The Programme of Action called for promoting social justice and progress; promoting non-discrimination, tolerance and mutual respect, and eliminating physical and social barriers with the aim of creating a society accessible to all. In the Political Declaration adopted at the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly, held at Geneva in June/July 2000, on the five-year review of the Social Summit, Governments recognized that social integration is a prerequisite for creating harmonious, peaceful and inclusive societies.

Lack of access to education, the persistence of poverty and unemployment, and inequitable access to opportunities and resources could cause social exclusion and marginalization. That could also lead to social disintegration, which contributes to eruption of violent conflicts. The Millennium Declaration subsumes social integration in its articulation of peace, security, development and human rights.

Since the Summit, progress has been made in some areas, especially in accession to legal instruments dealing with economic, social and cultural rights and elimination of discrimination. In addition, the Summit's approach to social integration has been echoed in other international conferences. Habitat II emphasized the negative impact on society when consideration of the principles of equity and social integration are ignored, and addressed in detail the concerns expressed by the World Summit for Social Development about homelessness and the provision of adequate housing. The Summit guided the development of the conceptual framework for a society for all ages, the unifying theme of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing.

Notwithstanding those developments, the social integration component of social development is losing ground. It has not been fully integrated into the general development discourse outside social development circles. The challenge is to reinstate the concepts of social integration at the centre of all policies and to find practical ways and means to achieve a "society for all". At its forty-third session, the Commission for Social Development called for a return to a people-centred approach. The Commission also emphasized the need **for more integrated efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals and the implementation of the broader Copenhagen commitments. Thus, the concepts of social integration developed at Copenhagen would need to be further mainstreamed into efforts to achieve the Goals.**

The Copenhagen Summit also called for the protection and full integration of disadvantaged and vulnerable groups and persons into the economy and society. Disadvantaged groups mentioned in the Copenhagen Declaration include older persons, persons with disabilities, youth, migrants and indigenous peoples as well as refugees and the internally displaced. There is still a shortage of comprehensive and systematic national plans to address the concerns of vulnerable groups. A large proportion of the vulnerable groups lives in poverty and suffers from hunger.

Nonetheless, much attention and momentum have been generated in individual areas supported by different groups. For instance, at the Second World Assembly on Ageing, the principle of social integration was reaffirmed. In the area of disability, the General Assembly, in its resolution 56/168 of 19 December 2001, decided to establish an Ad Hoc Committee on a Comprehensive and Integral International Convention on Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities that is currently addressing that issue. Also, the Special Rapporteur on disability reports yearly to the Commission for Social Development. In the area of indigenous issues, the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues was created as an advisory body to the Economic and Social Council with a mandate to discuss those issues. However, **there is a need to ensure that policy interventions to achieve the Millennium Development Goals of halving poverty and hunger should take into account the needs and concerns of those vulnerable groups.**

### 7. *Ensuring environmental sustainability and managing the natural resource base for development*

Starting with the Earth Summit in 1992, the world has increasingly recognized the important links between environmental sustainability, poverty eradication and unsustainable production and consumption patterns, and the importance of protecting and managing the natural resource base. At the World Summit on Sustainable Development, held in 2002 in Johannesburg, the international community recognized that economic development, social development, and environmental protection are three interdependent and mutually reinforcing pillars of sustainable development.

Despite those commitments, ensuring environmental sustainability and managing the natural resource base remains a critical challenge. It is extremely important for Governments to make the goal of sustainable development an essential part of their national development strategies. To that end, countries need to adopt time-bound targets, and priorities for action such as forest management, preservation of the ecosystem and pollution control.

Currently, global warming linked to climate change and rising sea levels poses serious risks. The entry into force in February 2005 of the 1997 Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change is an important achievement but the first commitment period extends until 2012. **As proposed in the report for the September Summit, Governments need to work towards an international framework to address the challenges beyond 2012.** Another challenge is the unprecedented rate of loss of biodiversity. That needs to be reversed and it is critical for achieving Millennium Development Goal 7. **The Convention on Biological Diversity and the Johannesburg commitment to achieve a significant reduction in the rate of loss of biodiversity by 2010 needs to be fully implemented.** The degradation of more than a billion hectares of land needs to be tackled as well. **Provisions of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa need to be implemented fully and quickly.**

Deforestation and unfortunate conflicts over control of forests and other natural resources need to be controlled. **As the Millennium Declaration reiterated and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation underscored, there must be greater collective efforts for the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests.**

The 2004 report of the Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply and Sanitation indicates that from 1990 to 2002, 1.1 billion people gained access to an improved source of drinking water and over 1 billion to sanitation facilities. That, however, is inadequate for the achievement of the relevant Millennium Development Goal. The target of halving the proportion of people without access to sanitation by 2015 is even further off-track. **Concerted action needs to be taken now for meeting the goals of enhancing the access to safe drinking water and sanitation.**

The World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg set a target for countries to develop integrated water management and water efficiency strategies by

2005. The experience of several countries suggests that Integrated Water and Resources Management (IWRM) is an effective way of coordinating strategies across sectors and geographical regions and having an impact on poverty. **Countries should take immediate measures to adopt and implement IWRM strategies.**

The global objective of reversing the depletion of ocean fisheries has not progressed significantly with more than 75 per cent of fish stocks being over-fished, exploited to their maximum biological limits or recovering from depletion. Since more than 90 per cent of global fish stocks are under national jurisdiction, **Governments must ensure national implementation of international fisheries agreements to restore fish stocks to levels that can produce maximum sustainable yield by 2015, as envisaged in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation.**

Similarly, 1.6 billion people — one quarter of the world's population — remain without access to electricity. The global share of electricity generation, in renewable energy (except hydroelectricity) remains at the low level of 1.7 per cent. The 2004 International Conference for Renewable Energies, held in Bonn, Germany, adopted an International Action Programme for Renewable Energies, which marked an important step towards increasing the share of renewable energy.

Over the last decade, natural disasters have led to economic losses and tragic deaths. In 2004 alone, over 300,000 people were killed and 139 million were affected with economic losses of about US\$ 88 billion. Unless more determined efforts are made, disasters will become an increasingly serious obstacle to the achievement of the development agenda. Not only will the severity of crises deepen in poorer countries, but disasters will also have a greater global impact. The Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters, adopted at the World Conference on Disaster Reduction, in January 2005, identified strategic objectives and priority areas to reduce disaster risk which should be pursued.

The Indian Ocean tsunami has highlighted a number of shortcomings in early warning, as well as in international preparedness, risk reduction and response capacities. Measures are being taken to strengthen the rapid response arrangements for immediate humanitarian relief for disasters. **As for improving the early warning capacities, the establishment of a systematic worldwide capability for early warning of all types of natural hazards, including floods, droughts, landslides, heat waves, volcanic eruptions and other natural threats, is essential. That capability should build on existing national and regional capabilities but should also create new capabilities, if needed.**

#### *8. Promoting democracy, good governance and human rights*

Democracy, human rights and good governance are central challenges in the process of development and all the international conferences and summits have stressed their importance. The Millennium Declaration also underscored that promoting democracy, strengthening the rule of law, as well as respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the right to development is crucial to progress. The United Nations development agenda and Millennium Development Goals are based in a human rights framework as they follow from the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the



International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights; and the right to development. Human rights are also a requirement for reaching the Goals.

Strategies to implement the development agenda require a transparent, accountable and participatory system of governance, based on the rule of law. There is also a need to ensure civil, political as well as economic, social and cultural rights. An important part of good governance is accountable and transparent public administration and participation in decision-making. **Countries should adopt comprehensive policy frameworks to create an efficient, effective and responsive public administration.**

Progress in promoting democracy, good governance, human rights and participation in decision-making require integrated action and simultaneous advances in other areas, particularly poverty eradication and education. In many countries, Governments are introducing reforms and broadening citizen participation in governmental processes. Democracy and political participation are today more widespread than in previous decades. In 1980, 54 countries, with 46 per cent of the world's population, had some or all of the elements of representative democracy. By 2000, that number had grown to 121 countries, with 68 per cent of the world's population. While global progress on political rights and freedoms has been uneven, participatory processes are improving overall, but most rapidly in Africa.

Widespread corruption and the interlinkages with activities of organized criminal groups impact directly upon the poor. Crime and corruption subvert established systems of local governance. **Countries are strongly urged to ratify the United Nations Convention against Corruption, so that that important legal framework that supports the development goals enters into force before the September Summit.** The Convention, which was opened for signature in December 2003, thus far signed by 118 States and ratified by 15, requires a minimum of 30 ratifications for it to enter into force.

Good governance is equally essential at the global level. Representation of developing countries in global governance needs to be strengthened. It is becoming increasingly clear that unless the necessary political will is mobilized to find pragmatic and innovative ways to approach the issue with a view to promoting more democratic, effective and modern institutions, progress will remain quite limited.

#### *9. Addressing challenges of countries with special needs*

The international community has long recognized Africa's special needs. Africa remains the poorest region and the one farthest from achieving the internationally agreed development goals. The region is making progress in creating the conditions for accelerating its development pace, including through institutional steps such as the African Union and the New Partnership for Africa's Development. As recognized in the report of the Commission for Africa, led by British Prime Minister Tony Blair, **it is critical that we now deliver the implementation of existing international commitments towards the region.**

The least developed countries — two thirds of which are in Africa — represent the most vulnerable segment of humanity. Extreme poverty, limited human, institutional and productive capacity, susceptibility to external economic shocks, external debt, natural and

man-made disasters and communicable diseases, often compounded by geographical handicaps, hamper efforts to improve the quality of life of their people. In those circumstances, countries can be caught in “poverty traps” from which they cannot escape with “good policies” alone.

At the core of the Brussels Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries is the recognition by the international community of the special needs of those countries and the commitment to forge partnerships to overcome their specific problems. Regional cooperation has an especially important role to play in trade, infrastructure, transport, energy policies, critical areas for economic growth and poverty reduction.

The geographical handicaps of landlocked developing countries — half of which are also least developed countries — and small island developing States impose specific, serious constraints on their development. The Almaty Programme of Action for the Landlocked Developing Countries focuses on implementation of specific actions in five priority areas, namely transit policy issues, infrastructure, trade, international support, and implementation and review. The Mauritius Strategy for the Small Island Developing States addresses their constraints due to remoteness, narrow resource base and vulnerability to natural disasters. **The commitments made in the Brussels Programme of Action, the Almaty Programme of Action and in the Mauritius Strategy need to be urgently and fully implemented.**

Donor countries have agreed to provide at least 0.15 per cent of their national income to assist least developed countries, and aid flows to that group are on the rise. Despite the improvement, the current level is below 0.1 per cent. The least developed countries receive about one third of all aid flows, but the donor community needs to further strengthen its efforts to meet the promise. In turn, landlocked countries received \$10 billion in 2003, up from \$6.9 billion in 1990, while aid flows to small island developing States amounted to \$1.7 billion, from \$2.1 billion in 1990.

Implementation of the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) Initiative continues to progress slowly, owing mainly to the difficulty that eligible countries have in complying with the conditions required to receive debt relief. By the end of 2004, 15 countries (of which 11 are least developed countries) had reached the completion point, another 12 had reached their decision point, and the decision had been taken to extend the HIPC Initiative for an additional two years. Total debt relief accorded to the 27 countries that have reached either the “decision point” or the “completion point”, together with other debt relief measures, represents a two-thirds reduction in those countries’ overall debt stock. Notwithstanding the increased resources that debt relief makes available, **HIPC countries continue to face difficulties in reconciling the objectives of promoting long-term growth and reducing poverty and achieving and maintaining debt sustainability: these must be quickly addressed through dialogue and discussion. As suggested in the report of the Secretary-General for the September Summit, HIPCs should receive 100 per cent official debt cancellation. Many heavily indebted non-HIPC and middle-income countries will also require more debt reduction.**

## C. Key instruments for achieving the United Nations development agenda

### 1. *Strengthening the global partnership for development*

The pursuit of development and poverty eradication requires joint action. While all major conferences and summits have affirmed that principle, the Millennium Declaration and the Monterrey Consensus offer a comprehensive framework for global partnership for development and establishes a new compact for development based on mutual responsibility and accountability.

Developing countries have undertaken to promote good governance, pursue economic growth, generate domestic resources, adopt sound economic policies and invest in infrastructure and human resources as well as promote a dynamic private sector and an effective civil society. However, in today's interdependent world, national efforts cannot succeed without an enabling international environment. That includes strong coordination of macroeconomic policies among the leading industrial countries aimed at greater global stability; reducing exchange rate volatility; larger and more broadly distributed international investment flows, combined with appropriate technological transfers; a truly development-oriented trade system; significantly larger and more effective ODA flows; and deeper debt relief.

Foreign direct investment (FDI) remains the largest source of net private financial inflows to developing countries, but continues to be unevenly distributed and concentrated in a few key countries. In 2003, the top 10 recipients accounted for almost three fourths of total flows to developing countries. In general, economies with robust growth, solid infrastructure, skilled and productive labour, and adequate regulatory frameworks, support institutions and services attracted larger FDI flows. Equally important are measures to increase the benefits of the presence of foreign firms for the domestic economy, in terms of technology transfers, employment and domestic value added. **Strong linkages between foreign affiliates and local suppliers should be fostered so as to upgrade the value chain in selected industries and deepen the developmental impact of FDI. Host and home countries should jointly establish international venture funds to encourage domestic investment through joint-venture activities.**

As a result of low net overall financial flows and large foreign exchange accumulation by developing countries, those countries experienced a seventh consecutive year of negative net transfer of financial resources, at an estimated record level of over \$300 billion in 2004. However, some of the net transfer reflected positive rather than negative developments: strong growth in export revenues led to trade surpluses in some countries, which were used as a means to improve their self-insurance against possible balance-of-payments difficulties, either by increasing their foreign exchange reserves or by reducing their foreign debt. The perceived need for such self-insurance represents a major deficiency of the international financial system.

For those countries that do not have access to private financial flows, ODA is a critical source of external financing. ODA has recovered from its decline in the 1990s, reaching \$78.6 billion in 2004, a 4.6 per cent rise in real terms. While that recovery is encouraging, it is normally expected that ODA should provide new cash resources that

allow recipient countries to increase development spending. However, a large portion of the recent increases in ODA has taken the form of expenditures on security and emergency relief.

Despite its recovery, ODA is just one quarter of 1 per cent of donor-countries' national income. Only a handful of countries — Denmark, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway and Sweden — currently meet or exceed the target of 0.7 per cent. Seven more donor countries have pledged to reach the target before 2015. The European Commission recently proposed to set an EU target of 0.56 per cent for 2010. That would trigger an estimated additional 20 billion euros by 2010. It would also bring EU countries closer to the target of 0.7 per cent by 2015. If all the new commitments made so far are honoured, official aid is expected to exceed \$100 billion by 2010. That would still be about \$50 billion short of the ODA resources required to meet the Millennium Development Goals, and well below the level required for other development goals. **As recommended in the report of the Secretary-General for the September Summit, donors that have not already done so should establish timetables to achieve the 0.7 per cent target by no later than 2015, starting in 2006 and reaching 0.5 by 2009. Donors should also achieve the target of 0.20 per cent for ODA to least developed countries by 2009.**

With efforts to increase the level of ODA, there is also an urgent need to improve its quality. That involves the way aid is disbursed and utilized. Several donors have announced their intention to provide more aid in less transaction-intensive forms, such as budget and sector support. Currently, less than 30 per cent of total ODA reaches developing countries' budgets. There is also the need to provide more predictable and multi-year commitments on aid flows; overcome weaknesses in partner countries' institutional capacities to develop and implement results-driven national development strategies; and ways to better integrate global programmes and initiatives into partner countries' development agendas. Partners have resolved to improve the effectiveness of foreign aid. In the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness: Ownership, Harmonization, Alignment, Results and Mutual Accountability, in March 2005, 91 countries and 25 international organizations made specific pledges to that end. They also agreed to introduce "indicators" to monitor progress in the areas of ownership, alignment, harmonization, results and mutual accountability. **As recommended in the report for the September Summit, in the follow-up to the Forum, donor countries should set, by September, timetables and monitorable targets for aligning their aid delivery mechanisms with partner countries' national development strategies.**

Multilateral Development Banks can play a significant role in channelling funds to low-income countries, mitigating the impact of volatility in financial markets on middle-income countries, by providing access to long-term borrowing during times of crises, and as facilitators and catalysts for private-sector investment. **Enhancing their role should become a priority of South-South cooperation.**

To mobilize additional financial resources, increasing attention is being devoted to innovative sources of finance. At the initiative of Brazil, Chile, France, Germany and Spain, a "menu of options" has been developed, which includes: an International Finance Facility; global environmental taxes; taxes on international financial transactions, on aviation fuel or ticket prices and on arms sales; use of special drawing rights (SDRs) for

development purposes; private donations and other types of voluntary contributions for international development; affinity credit cards; a global lottery; global premium bonds; and mobilizing workers' remittances for development. The International Finance Facility is designed to provide increased funding quickly by employing financing arrangements that would allow future aid commitments to be used before they are disbursed. A pilot project aimed at ensuring universal vaccination of children using the International Finance Facility mechanism, as well as funds from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, is currently being planned. **Innovative sources of financing should be given serious consideration and a commitment should be made to launch an International Finance Facility this year.**

About 65 per cent of developed countries' imports from developing countries (in value) were admitted duty-free in 2003, compared to 45 per cent in 1996, the first year for which data are available. Although the Uruguay Round trade agreements lowered overall tariff rates, relatively high import tariffs are still levied on goods strategically important to developing countries, such as textiles, clothing and farm products. As suggested in the report for the September Summit, **the Doha Round of multilateral trade negotiations should be completed no later than 2006 with results that are equitable and clearly contribute to advancing the broader development agenda. Market access for all exports from the least developed countries should be provided duty-free and quota-free.** The upcoming Sixth World Trade Organization Ministerial Conference in Hong Kong (China) in December 2005 will be critical to that end. The new round of negotiations under the General System of Trade Preferences announced at the UNCTAD XI Conference in São Paulo in June 2004 is central to the objective of reducing tariff protection among developing countries.

Tariffs are not the only barrier to developing-country exports. Government subsidies to agricultural producers in developed countries provide an unfair advantage against imports. While total financial support provided in developed countries as a share of GDP steadily declined between 1990 and 2003, the latest year for which data are available, the amount of support has remained about \$350 billion per year during the same period. Other barriers, such as the misuse of phyto-sanitary and technical barriers also hinder the exports of developing countries. While the potential benefits of the removal of agricultural subsidies to developing countries overall are vast, their extent for poor net food-importing developing countries, such as most least developed countries, is debatable. Addressing the challenges faced by those countries would require an appropriate mix of domestic and international policy measures to overcome supply-side constraints, facilitate a shift towards higher value-added segments in sectors and address issues of tariff escalation.

Increasing demand for raw materials, especially in China, has been an important factor in reversing, at least temporarily, the long-term downward trend in non-oil commodity prices in recent years. Nonetheless, the continued instability of such prices and its negative impact on commodity-dependent developing countries has yet to receive concerted attention. **Efforts by those countries to restructure, diversify and strengthen the competitiveness of their commodity sectors should be supported. The potential for regional integration and cooperation to improve the effectiveness of**

**traditional commodity sectors and support diversification efforts should also be exploited.**

The movement of people across borders is an additional area requiring joint action. Maximizing the potential benefits of international migration, while managing its challenges, such as labour shortages in some regions and “brain drains” in others, calls for a common policy framework that makes the process more orderly and addresses its multidimensional aspects. **This should be addressed at the high-level dialogue on migration to be held by the General Assembly in 2006.**

2. *Making macroeconomic policies work for sustained and employment-generating economic growth*

Global conferences have recognized that broad-based and equitable economic growth is central to the achievement of the agreed development goals and the Millennium Development Goals. It directly facilitates poverty reduction and expands resources and capacities for achieving other development goals. Accelerating pro-poor economic growth that creates sufficient numbers of productive jobs is therefore especially essential. In recent years, there has been a very encouraging trend in the growth performance of developing countries, thanks to continuing progress in improving policies and governance. In 2004, developing countries recorded their fastest growth in more than a decade, achieving average GDP growth of nearly 6 per cent.

While that is good news, it is short of what is needed in some areas for the time-bound goals to be reached. In sub-Saharan Africa, for example, achieving the income poverty goal requires attaining average annual GDP growth of about 7 per cent over the next decade, almost double the region’s recent growth rate. There is a similar need to substantially accelerate growth rates in the least developed and other low-income countries. Making that “quantum leap” possible requires a major increase in investment, deepening progress in macroeconomic management, strengthening the public sector and improving the climate for private sector activity. A strong private sector is central to sustained economic growth and higher employment. There is a great need for special incentives for promoting small and medium-size enterprises, as they help in creating opportunities for self-employment for people with limited resources. Microfinance is often a valuable instrument to promote such activities and should be further pursued.

Moreover, increasing inequalities in large parts of the world highlight the need to integrate and mainstream social policies into macroeconomic frameworks. **Macroeconomic and social development policies should be aimed at the reduction of vulnerabilities and strengthening of capacities to eradicate poverty, unemployment, illiteracy and disease and protecting the environment.** That was the focus of a Development Forum held in New York on 14-15 March 2005, as part of preparatory meetings for the Economic and Social Council. There, the preliminary findings of a World Bank study on the relationship between equity and development showed that different kinds of inequalities may be mutually reinforcing. Inequality can lead to inefficient use of capital and human resources; countries with higher inequality require more resources to reduce poverty; and higher inequality leads to weaker political and

economic institutions. Therefore, the promotion of equality is a good development policy, at the national and international levels.

Increasing interdependence of national economies in a globalizing world and the emergence of rule-based regimes for international economic relations mean that the space for national economic policy i.e., the scope for domestic policies, especially in the areas of trade, investment and industrial development, is now often framed by international disciplines, commitments and global market considerations. Therefore, **Governments need to evaluate the trade-off between the benefits of accepting international rules and commitments and the constraints posed by the loss of policy space and pursue an appropriate balance between national development agendas and international disciplines and commitments. National development strategies incorporating the agreed goals should become the basis for implementation strategies. Trade, aid and debt agenda should be built around the national development strategies with clear support for them from all development partners, including multilateral financial institutions.**

### *3. Promoting science and technology for development*

Technological progress and innovation are the long-term drivers of economic growth. Scientific and technical capabilities also determine the ability to provide clean water, good health care, adequate infrastructure and food. Technology also has a key role in protecting the environment while promoting more efficient utilization of the natural resource base. A global alliance for ICT and development would help enhance the achievement of core development goals and a development-oriented and inclusive information society.

Almost all conferences and summits have emphasized the importance of science and technology for development. Technological progress is essential for achieving the Millennium Development Goals and for the implementation of the development agenda. Yet progress in enabling developing countries to benefit from innovation and technology has been limited. To date, most of the developing countries remain users of technology. In fact, they face three major challenges in that area. Firstly, they have neither the institutional structure nor the resources to invest in human resources and entrepreneurial capacity-building. Secondly, they lack capacity to transform knowledge into goods and services, which requires close links between knowledge generation and enterprise development. Thirdly, there is a high concentration of technology generation in developed countries and overly protective intellectual property rights regimes and global rules.

The newly emerging technologies like the information and communication as well as bio and nano-technologies are opening up new frontiers for promoting development. The benefits of ICT for development are already well known but the potential still remains to be fully exploited. ICT can help developing countries “leapfrog” and leverage resources, enhance productivity, take advantage of global knowledge and information flows and integrate beneficially into the world economy.

**Developing countries need to make building science, technology and innovation capabilities a central objective of their development strategies.** They need to invest

more resources in higher education and in institutional development. Links between universities and firms can help in turning knowledge into economic value.

These efforts have to be supported by the international community. **Concerted international interventions are needed to ensure the availability of adequate infrastructure for science and technology for development and to promote research and development in currently underfunded areas such as agriculture, health and environmental management. The role of the private sector and foreign direct investment is instrumental in transferring skills and technology as well as in building absorptive capacity. These should be promoted through incentives. Intellectual property protection systems need to be designed that take into account the special needs of developing countries. Innovative, pro-poor technology solutions and business models need to be developed through public-private partnerships to achieve critical breakthroughs, in health and education, rural development and small and medium-size enterprise development, especially for women.**

#### *4. Enhancing the role of civil society and the private sector for development*

The summits and conferences recognized the role of civil society and the private sector in achieving the goals and targets set out at those meetings. The Millennium Declaration has also recognized their role and commits Governments “to develop strong partnerships with the private sector and with civil society organizations in pursuit of development and poverty eradication” and “to give greater opportunities to the private sector, non-governmental organizations and civil society, in general, to contribute to the realization of the Organization’s goals and programmes”.

Civil society has shown tremendous potential in promoting the United Nations development agenda. It can catalyse action within countries by mobilizing support and by ensuring that leaders fulfil their commitments. On many issues ranging from poverty eradication to environmental conservation, they have helped in launching major initiatives. To provide opportunities for sharing of experiences and for building partnerships, civil service organizations can build global networks, which have been particularly beneficial for CSOs from developing countries. They have also emerged as key players in delivering services and humanitarian assistance. **There is a need to ensure that Governments facilitate and encourage the increasing role of civil service organizations in those areas of activities.**

An NGO/Civil Society Forum was organized by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs in New York on 10 March 2005 in preparation for the 2005 Economic and Social Council High-Level Segment. Its key messages were that it is not too late to reanimate political will to reach the development goals; pursuit of the Millennium Development Goals should not overlook the commitment to human rights, democracy and good governance; developed countries that had not done so, should honour their ODA commitment; gender should be integrated as a cross-cutting theme under all Millennium Development Goals; and, ICT should include innovative design that builds capacity for governance, for job creation for youth, and partnership with the private sector.

Private sector companies are today partnering in many parts of the developing world, not only in national macroeconomic policy formulation, but also in programmes that seek to



take advantage of productive strengths, including technological skills, and improving national productivities and integrating with the world economy in a more advantageous way than before. At the international level, the United Nations Global Compact seeks to foster that cooperation more strongly through a broad-based dialogue. Those efforts are helping in making progress towards comprehensively harnessing multi-stakeholder energies for the achievement of the development goals. **Public-private sector partnerships driven by broader goals of development and not solely based on market forces of profitability are key to achieving the developmental goals and need to be actively promoted at all levels.** That message is embedded in the outcomes of conferences and summits as well as in the Millennium Declaration.

#### **D. Conclusions and recommendations**

Progress in the implementation of the development agenda has been made in several areas, but is slow and uneven. Given the current pace, neither the Millennium Development Goals nor the broader United Nations development agenda, of which they are a part, will be achieved. That lag between implementation and commitments must be bridged. First and foremost, the United Nations development agenda and its components, particularly the Millennium Development Goals, must be truly embraced at the national and international levels. Its goals and objectives should be acted on as achievable targets and not approached merely as aspirations or mechanical indicators. They should be backed by practical strategies and long-term commitments. Secondly, existing sectoral approaches to development must be replaced by a more integrated, synergistic and holistic framework, which the United Nations development agenda provides. Thirdly, the necessary resources must be invested in the pursuit of that agenda. The realization of those goals must be considered a priority by all. Fourthly, the institutional impediments at the national and international levels that have contributed to the slow pace of progress must be urgently addressed. Finally, constant monitoring and evaluation are essential to ensure that the process of implementation remains on track. And that must be a truly integrated process to ensure that the pace of progress is even and that one goal is not being pursued at the expense of others or by ignoring other equally important sectors.

The report of the Secretary-General for the September Summit focuses on issues and actions that are critical for the timely realization of the Millennium Development Goals. The report attempts to define a framework to advance the development-related recommendations in that report by pointing to issues and actions that are key to furthering the development agenda in a mutually reinforcing way with the pursuit of the Millennium Development Goals. Projecting and advancing that framework should be an integral part of the contribution that the Economic and Social Council, from the vantage point of its comprehensive mandate for the advancement of economic and social progress, makes to the successful outcome of the Summit. While specific recommendations have been made under each theme, that section captures the core elements of the broader development agenda that the Council may wish to commend to the Summit.

#### **1. Principles guiding the implementation of the comprehensive United Nations development agenda**

**The policy goals encompassed in the United Nations development agenda provide a solid, consensual basis for setting a development course that is human-centred and**

**inclusive and, as such, both equitable and sustainable. Those goals, which are derived from the United Nations Summits and Conferences as well as the Millennium Declaration include but are not limited to the areas indicated in paragraph 9 of the present report.**

## **2. Achieving the United Nations development agenda: key instruments**

### **(a) Undertake development and investment strategies**

As recommended in the Secretary-General's report to the September Summit, each developing country in extreme poverty should undertake national development and investment strategies aimed at the Millennium Development Goals and based on the comprehensive United Nations development agenda, that should include scaled-up public investments, capacity-building, domestic resource mobilization and, official development assistance;

### **(b) Identify and assess: needs, vulnerabilities and capacities**

Needs, sectoral vulnerabilities and national capacities should be carefully assessed in the short but also in the medium and long term and should inform policies and programmes under the overall development and investment strategy;

### **(c) Recognize and build on the interlinkages**

Each country's development, investment and implementation strategies should be well grounded in the interlinkages among the core elements of the United Nations development agenda, and should build upon them in an integrated manner;

### **(d) Make the process participatory and inclusive**

The process of developing nationally owned, nationally driven and internationally supported strategies should be open, participatory, and consultative and include all key stakeholders. Respect for human rights, good governance and removal of inequalities and discrimination must be the foundation of the process;

### **(e) Mainstream the broader development objectives into macroeconomic policy**

Monetary, fiscal, administrative and management policies should aim at strengthening capacities to achieve the core elements of the United Nations development agenda;

### **(f) Enhance the role of civil society and the private sector in development**

Enable civil service organizations and the private sector to become active partners in the development process at every stage;

### **(g) Strengthen the role of science and technology to achieve the development agenda**

Developing countries should develop policies and programmes to enable science and technology to better serve the development goals. Developed countries should assist in that endeavour;

### **(h) Resources are an imperative and international partnership a must for achieving the development agenda**

**The commitments made in various conferences to provide the means and resources to achieve the development goals should be fully implemented.**

**3. Monitoring, evaluating and reporting are key to measuring progress, identifying impediments and taking corrective actions**

The targets and goals of the development agenda should serve as a concrete operational matrix of benchmarks and as the anchor for development support. There is a need to undertake more comprehensive and integrated reviews of the implementation of national development plans and programmes to achieve the comprehensive development agenda.

**III. Towards achieving the comprehensive United Nations development agenda: the role of the United Nations system**

There are two major steps required to gear the whole United Nations system towards achieving these goals.

- (a) Firstly, United Nations system organizations should integrate and align fully their own policies and programmes with the priorities and strategies of national Governments, international commitments, the agreed goals and targets embodied in the United Nations development agenda, particularly the Millennium Development Goals. They should develop coherent and integrated system-wide approaches to the achievement of key development objectives, which can be effectively translated into national policies and strategies. At the country level, United Nations operational activities should be designed to support such strategies. Linkages between this work and the normative work of the United Nations should be strengthened. Coordination with other actors in the field should be actively pursued.
- (b) Secondly, at the intergovernmental level, there should be a coherent, coordinated and integrated monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the development agenda.

**A. At the inter-agency level**

The organizations of the United Nations system have made significant progress in integrating the Millennium Development Goals and the goals of the United Nations development agenda in their programmes of work and in developing system-wide approaches to support its implementation at the country level. Since 2001, the United Nations System Chief Executives Board (CEB) for Coordination has been actively engaged in reviewing and assessing actions by the organizations of the system at all levels to ensure that the Millennium Declaration and the Goals contained therein are a key, integral part of the priorities orienting the work of the system.<sup>5</sup> In addressing key strategic issues that cut across the programmatic, sectoral interventions of its member organizations, CEB has sought to reinforce synergies among the implementation activities of United Nations organizations.

In addition to the more institutionalized forms of inter-agency cooperation, comprising CEB and its high-level committees, as well as the United Nations Development Group and the other United Nations Executive Committees, there are extensive networks of

informal collaborative arrangements and joint initiatives that focus on supporting the implementation of the Declaration and the outcomes of other global conferences. For instance, coordination is now part of the strategic planning of the three Rome-based agencies FAO, IFAD and WFP, which formed a United Nations System Network on Rural Development and Food Security. Cooperation schemes also exist in various fields: humanitarian, education for all, health, youth, gender, environmental sustainability, governance, human rights and HIV/AIDS. The Integrated Framework is a telling example of a collaborative scheme between the World Bank, IMF, ICT, UNCTAD, UNDP and WTO and in partnership with bilateral donors to build trade-related capacities.

At the country-level, existing instruments — the Common Country Assessment, the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) and its Results Matrix, thematic groups and joint programming initiatives — are all being geared to advance more strategic and integrated approaches. The UNDAF process, in particular, is being purposefully focused to assist Governments in translating internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration, into national policies, strategies and programmes, especially poverty reduction strategies where they exist.

Within the UNDAF process, the Results Matrix provides an important instrument for United Nations system organizations not only to orient their programmes and operations around the development goals but also to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of their operations. It is also an important instrument for building national capacities to monitor and evaluate implementation, including by strengthening national statistical systems.

While the effort towards closer system-wide policy dialogue to create coherence and collaboration have made some headway, the diverse, highly decentralized structures of the system pose obvious limitations to strategic and operational coherence across all areas covered by the United Nations development agenda. Beyond overcoming such limitations, a continuing challenge for the system is to ensure that the wealth of constituencies and the diverse modalities of interventions are harnessed towards advancing a comprehensive set of common policy objectives. The experience of the past 15 years provides many elements of guidance to further progress in that direction. **The inclusive way in which United Nations conferences and summits were prepared and conducted generated system-wide “ownership” of, and commitment to, their outcomes that must continue not only to be nurtured, but also to be extended to the broader, common agenda that those conferences have, together, generated.**

Among those conferences, the Monterrey Conference has shaped a common policy framework for the United Nations and the Bretton Woods institutions and the WTO that now needs to be furthered and deepened. The Millennium Development Goals have generated an unprecedented system-wide mobilization of efforts and resources that must not only be vigorously pursued, but also be made to characterize the way the system operates in all areas coming within its purview. It should involve, across organizations, much greater mutual reinforcement between policy development and operations. It should extend, beyond development operations, to a deeper understanding of the linkages between the three sets of “freedoms” defined in the Secretary-General’s report and of ways to effectively act on those linkages. And it should encompass not only collaboration

within the system itself, but also the wider partnerships that are necessary to advance those freedoms.

**At the operational level in particular, the absence of comprehensive and integrated systems for monitoring progress across the development agenda and the diversity of approaches have tended to reduce the ability of United Nations organizations and agencies to develop fully coordinated responses to changing demands.** Agencies with largely an advocacy or operational vocation may have too narrow a focus and agencies with a primarily normative focus may not be able to impact or effectively contribute to the work carried out by the system at the country level. **There is clearly a need to build stronger and more systematic synergies between agencies with varying capacities of normative and strategic functions.**

Moreover, the existence of multiple intergovernmental bodies governing the United Nations system operational activities tends to constrain initiatives aimed at enhancing the coherence and impact of the United Nations system operational activities at the country level, from the harmonization and alignment of United Nations system programmes to joint programme formulation, execution and fund mobilization. Some of those constraints can, however, be overcome through a parallel effort at policy coordination within Governments, and a better coherence of the policy proposals that the secretariats put to their governing bodies. **That effort must be nurtured by imperatives that go beyond operational efficiency and project the enhanced results that greater coordination will bring about. And it must be accompanied by strong, concrete support for the system-wide role of the Resident Coordinator in promoting a united and cogent advocacy of the international development agenda in its totality at the country level.**

General Assembly resolution 59/250 of 22 December 2004, on the latest triennial policy review of operational activities, by broadening the scope of those reviews and linking recommendations on operational activities and their coordination to the effort to advance the follow-up to the Millennium Declaration and the global conferences, has made an especially significant contribution to charting the way ahead for the system's development cooperation work. Particularly relevant in that regard is the Assembly's call for the active involvement of a wider spectrum of United Nations organizations in the CCA and UNDAF processes, so as to enhance the relevance of those processes in furthering the overall development agenda. The resolution also challenges the Economic and Social Council to enhance its contribution to advancing the coherence of the system's operational activities and the overall effectiveness and impact of development cooperation, including in relation to funding modalities. A more incisive role by the Economic and Social Council in guiding the work of the intergovernmental and inter-agency machinery governing the United Nations system operational activities should be an integral part of the ongoing reform effort. The Council should also provide a venue for engaging other actors involved in operational activities at the country level in the effort to make development cooperation a more effective, purposeful instrument of progress in reaching the internationally agreed development goals.

## **B. At the intergovernmental level**

The system currently in place for reporting on and monitoring progress in pursuing the United Nations development agenda reflects a fragmented and sometime overlapping

approach. Currently, the monitoring and evaluation of the agenda is being pursued through a number of tracks, which are not closely integrated. The General Assembly undertakes annual reviews of the implementation of the Millennium Declaration, including the Millennium Development Goals. Substantive reviews of the implementation of conferences are conducted by the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council. The Council itself is mandated to promote an integrated and coordinated approach to conference follow-up from a thematic perspective. It also deals with the reviews of particular conferences, such as the Brussels Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries. There is no comprehensive review process which provides the full picture of the implementation of the United Nations development agenda.

The lack of such a comprehensive view affects the capacity to translate the system's normative work into regional and country-level policies. A sectoral approach also prevails within national Governments in dealing with development issues, and is evident in the debates and deliberations of the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and its functional and regional commissions, the Executive Boards of the funds and programmes and the governing bodies of the other United Nations agencies. That hampers the ability of the system to advance different dimensions of the development agenda in a comprehensive, mutually reinforcing way.

The Economic and Social Council and its functional commissions will need to weave thematic coherence in their work. They could organize and coordinate their work around the broad themes that, together, comprise the elements of the United Nations development agenda. A similar approach could be extended to the work of the regional commissions. Both the functional and regional commissions of the Council have an important role to play not only in terms of reporting but also in terms of furthering their analytical and policy contributions towards effective implementation.

At the global intergovernmental level, the Economic and Social Council, because of the breadth of its mandate, convening capacity and inclusive approach to the discharge of its responsibilities, is especially well placed to serve as a platform where the many ongoing assessment exercises can be harmonized and overall progress in implementing the United Nations development agenda can be systematically and comprehensively monitored. Peer reviews of the actions being taken by developed and developing countries in fulfilling their commitments, drawing on appropriate inputs from the regional commissions and other relevant bodies, could be the basis for the performance by the Council of that essential function.

A related, key function is to harness development cooperation efforts to maximize their contribution to advancing the United Nations development agenda, including the Millennium Development Goals. Also that key task is currently being performed in a fragmented way and the approach is, too often, process- rather than result-oriented. There is also a need to enhance the effectiveness and coherence of the support that development cooperation lends to capacity- and institution-building in the pursuit of the development agenda. That could be achieved through a forum that brings together concerned policymakers from both developed and developing countries and all relevant development institutions — United Nations system organizations, the Bretton Woods

institutions, WTO, OECD/DAC — to elaborate priorities and policy orientations for the implementation of the development agenda. It should lead to an ongoing assessment of the impact of implementation policies, strategies and actions and serve to generate new, positive ideas on the most conducive, national and international, environment for development, including financing. By bringing together national actors and international institutions that would normally not interact with each other, it could help to advance multisectoral approaches and to broaden partnerships at the national, regional and international levels. And its outcomes should build on and, in turn, inform the work of the governing bodies of the United Nations operational entities, other relevant parts of the system, and the wider development community.

Across those two, obviously related, functions, institutionalizing coordination within the system, not only at the inter-secretariat CEB level, but also among intergovernmental bodies, is increasingly essential. One possibility to that end would be to plan, under the aegis of the Economic and Social Council, periodic meetings of the Bureaux of the governing bodies of the United Nations system organizations to identify coherent policies and coordinate monitoring and evaluation work concerning the implementation of internationally agreed development goals. That would not replace but build on the increasingly effective high-level intergovernmental meeting of the Economic and Social Council with the Bretton Woods institutions, WTO and UNCTAD.

Beyond those periodic occasions for dialogue, the need is increasingly felt, in this interdependent and interconnected world, for timely and effective responses to economic and social challenges and developments, as and when they occur. The Council should be able to convene at an appropriate level and in a timely manner, whenever required, in order to address issues and developments which have major immediate or potential implications for development, and to give impulse and direction to efforts to confront and overcome crises and steer progress. That should focus on emergency situations, but should also extend to the Council's ability to help orient decisions in other forums relevant to advancing the development agenda.

The above observations and the recommendations below build on the vision and thrust of the Secretary-General's recommendation on United Nations reform in his report entitled "In larger freedom: towards development, security and human rights for all". They lay down the components/elements of new institutional arrangements under the Council's aegis that can serve to advance a more comprehensive view of development issues and their solution; facilitate consensus on global, regional and national strategies to pursue the implementation of the United Nations development agenda, including the Millennium Development Goals; and ensure that support to such strategies is maximized.

While some of the functions outlined above could be pursued through adjustments in the level of participation and current functioning of the Council, others may well require a more fundamental rethinking of the Council's current structures and methods of work. A message from the Council as to its openness and readiness to affect the changes necessary to maximize its contribution to coherent and sustained progress in advancing the United Nations development agenda should be an integral part of the Council's contribution to an effective outcome of the September Summit.

### C. Recommendations

The following is recommended:

- The Economic and Social Council should establish arrangements that would enable it to keep under constant review progress in implementing the United Nations development agenda, particularly the Millennium Development Goals, with a view to strengthening the system's capacity for a comprehensive monitoring and evaluation of its implementation and promoting effective policies and strategies at the national, regional and global levels. To these ends, the Council should organize peer reviews of progress, drawing on its functional and other commissions, particularly the regional commissions, and other international institutions.
- The Economic and Social Council provides an appropriate platform for serving as a Development Cooperation Forum, where global, regional and national strategies and policies for development cooperation can be reviewed, and policy guidance provided geared to maximizing its contribution to the pursuit of the United Nations development agenda, including the Millennium Development Goals. An existing meeting or segment of the Council can be transformed once every two years into such a forum.
- The Economic and Social Council should be the venue to pursue a continuous policy dialogue within the system, engaging the chairs of intergovernmental governing bodies of the funds, programmes, as well as the United Nations specialized agencies and the international financial and trade institutions. Periodic meetings of the Bureaux of the governing bodies of major United Nations system organizations under the aegis of the Council should serve to enhance policy coherence, coordination and cooperation and contribute to a comprehensive monitoring and evaluation of progress towards the achievement of the United Nations development agenda, including the Millennium Development Goals.
- The Economic and Social Council should convene timely meetings to mount coordinated responses to natural disaster and other actual or imminent threats to development, and to provide timely inputs or address developments in other forums that have major implications for achieving the development goals.

### IV. The September Summit

As stated in the report of the Secretary-General for the September Summit “the urgent task in 2005 is to implement in full the commitments already made and to render genuinely operational the framework already in place”.<sup>6</sup> The September Summit provides a unique opportunity to ensure that a comprehensive framework encompassing the United Nations development agenda is reaffirmed and embraced at the highest level and supported with concrete commitments to implement it.

**The challenge for the high-level segment is to contribute to an ambitious outcome of the Summit, building on the outcomes of the 10-year reviews of the Beijing, Cairo and Copenhagen conferences, held earlier this year. To that end, the Economic and Social Council needs to endorse the core elements of the development agenda which**



have emanated from the conferences and summits. Also, it needs to identify the specific actions required by Governments, United Nations organizations, multilateral financial institutions, private sector and civil society to implement the agenda. By doing so, the Council can make a significant contribution in setting the stage for a bold and visionary outcome of the Summit that would include “a pact for action, to which all nations subscribe and on which all can be judged”.<sup>6</sup>

## Notes

<sup>1</sup> See A/59/2005, para. 30.

<sup>2</sup> Here, poverty eradication is not being considered as one individual goal but in all its manifestations and as it relates to the issues of education, health, gender equality, environmental sustainability, etc. The purpose is to promote a more integrated view of these goals and targets.

<sup>3</sup> ICN (1992); UNCED (1992), ICPD (1994), FWCW (1995), WSSD (2002), FFD (2002) and the 5-year and 10-year reviews as applicable.

<sup>4</sup> A/59/98-E/2004/79.

<sup>5</sup> See 2005 Comprehensive review of the implementation of the Millennium Declaration: report of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination.

<sup>6</sup> See A/59/2005, para. 72.

## Annex 2

### **PRESIDENT'S SUMMARY OF THE HIGH-LEVEL SEGMENT OF THE SUBSTANTIVE SESSION OF ECOSOC 2005**

**“Achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration, as well as implementing the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits: progress made, challenges and opportunities”**

**29 June – 1 July 2005**

#### **I. Introduction**

The deliberations on the theme of this year's High Level Segment “Achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration, as well as implementing the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits: progress made, challenges and opportunities” made an important contribution to the process leading up to the high level plenary meeting of the General Assembly to be held in September this year. While expressing their appreciation for the Secretary-General's Report on the theme of the segment (E/2005/56), the Council members noted that the internationally agreed development goals as highlighted in the various United Nations conferences and summits reflect the inherent connections between the social, economic and environmental dimensions of a comprehensive international development agenda. They also underlined the need for promoting an integrated and coordinated implementation of the outcomes.

*“Voices against poverty”* was added as a special feature to this year's High-Level segment. Professor Joseph Stiglitz, Nobel Laureate in Economics, 2001, Mr. Juan Somavia, Director General of ILO and Mr. António Guterres, High Commissioner for Refugees addressed the Council on issues that could help move forward the implementation of the international development agenda.

*Professor Stiglitz* recommended three changes to international governance that could make a contribution towards achieving the MDGs. The first step would be to honour the promise made to put development at the centre of the Doha round of trade negotiations. The second proposal was to address global financial instability through global reserve reform. Such a reform would need to address the root causes of debt, international macroeconomic imbalances and market failures in the current international financial system. Today, with the high degree of economic volatility, developing countries have to put aside substantial resources. These could be employed to make headway in the achievement of the MDGs if the instabilities were addressed, for instance through the establishment of a “global greenback system”. The third proposal suggested

compensating developing countries for forests and biodiversity, as in the case of the EU system for trade in carbon services, which could be a way to provide an economic incentive to protect environmental resources while and at the time generating innovative sources of development finance.

**Mr. Somavia** highlighted that people were in search of “*a fair chance at a decent job*” as also highlighted by the Report of the Secretary General for the meeting. He noted that the world had witnessed a 31 percent increase in global unemployment over the last decade, with young people being worst affected. Economic growth has not translated into new jobs. He called upon the United Nations and in particular ECOSOC to recognise the “global job crisis” and to make employment a main agenda item in the next ECOSOC session. As a coordinating body, ECOSOC should take the lead in addressing the “global job crisis” which cuts across different issues such as rural development, education, health that are dealt with by different agencies. By coordinating their efforts in the area of job creation, ECOSOC could make a contribution which would make a tangible difference on the ground.

**Mr. Guterres**, drew attention to the fact that while much progress has been made towards the MDGs, refugees and other displaced people were falling through the cracks. For instance a recent review of PRSPs and UNDAFs showed that only 10 per cent of PRSPs reflect the needs of refugees, 1/3 include returnees in the country of origin, and less than half mention people suffering from internal displacement. He also stressed that while many of the poorest people live in countries just emerging from conflict, the issue of conflict and development has been given little attention. Finally, he said that each MDG is just as important to actors in the humanitarian arena as it was to development actors.

The session on “*Voices against poverty*” was followed by the “*High-Level Policy Dialogue on current developments in the world economy and international economic co-operation in the context of achieving the Millennium Development Goals*”, which allowed for an exchange of views between ECOSOC members and the United Nations system, including the Bretton Woods Institutions, UNCTAD as well as the World Trade Organization.

Speaking of the *World Economic Situation and Prospects 2005*, **Mr. José Antonio Ocampo**, Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, pointed out that the anticipated growth of the world economy for 2004-2006 is not only the strongest for the past few years but is unusually widespread among developing countries and economies in transition. Even with a deceleration, developing countries as a group are expected to grow at a rate approaching 6 per cent in 2005-2006, while the economies in transition will remain above 5 per cent. Growth in Africa is expected to be higher in 2005-2006 than in 2004. This higher economic growth in many developing countries is partially attributable to the improvements in economic policies within these countries themselves. In addition, domestic demand is playing a more important role because of these countries’ more stable economic and, in some cases, political conditions. However, the outcome is also a result of an international economic environment that, for most developing countries, is more favourable than any since the 1970s. Conditions for many developing countries have also improved in international financial markets. Financial flows to developing countries are increasing, their costs are low by historical standards

and non-debt-creating flows, notably FDI, are assuming greater importance. For countries without access to international financial markets, ODA has reversed its decline and commitments by several donors suggest further increases in the years ahead. Similarly, there has been some further progress towards reducing the debt burden of some of the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPCs). Despite these improvements, however, the net transfer of financial resources from developing countries continues to increase—from over \$270 billion in 2003 to a record of over \$350 billion in 2004. While this net transfer overwhelmingly reflects a buildup of foreign exchange reserves by a number of countries with trade surpluses rather than the capital outflows and debt service payments that characterized the 1980s and some of the 1990s; nevertheless, this extensive accumulation of reserves raises the question of whether the international financial system could be reformed in such a way that the countries concerned would not feel the need to use these resources in a way that yields few tangible developmental benefits beyond the “self-insurance” from future financial crises. Mr. Ocampo also cautioned the Council that contrary to expectations, oil prices continue to rise, and could have a critical bearing on the growth of the world economy. Moreover, macroeconomic imbalances, in particular the US trade deficit, posed risks to the global economy; and there was need for more concrete international economic coordination specifically aimed at rectifying such imbalances.

**Dr. Supachai Panitchpakdi**, Director-General of WTO stated that international trade can be a powerful and effective driver for poverty alleviation and economic well-being. But, its efficacy depends upon a large number of factors. Prime among them was a successful conclusion of the Doha round of trade negotiations. Last year, substantial progress had been made in some of the most difficult and controversial areas. Among the advances made, Members agreed to launch negotiations on trade facilitation but not to negotiate on three other new issues which did not carry the support of the full membership. Members also significantly bridged gaps in the agriculture negotiations - including a historic agreement to eliminate export subsidies by a date to be agreed. He stressed that only if solid advances were made at the Sixth WTO Ministerial Conference to be held in Hong Kong this December, negotiations on the Doha Development Agenda could be concluded realistically by 2006. He also pointed out that it was encouraging to note that developed countries, however, were not waiting for the Doha round to be completed in order to improve market access opportunities for developing countries. In 2003 almost two-thirds of developing country exports entered developed country markets duty free. Similarly, almost three-quarters of exports originating from LDCs enter developed country markets duty-free.

**Mr. Carlos Fortin**, Acting Secretary General of UNCTAD stressed that development strategies aimed at speeding up investment and growth, generate employment and in the process reduce inequality and eradicate poverty were crucial. Macroeconomic balance and prudent fiscal and monetary policies are a necessary but not a sufficient condition. African countries have already by and large achieved it. What are needed now are growth- and investment-oriented policies. Market forces and the private sector must be the privileged agents of the strategies but they must be supported by an active, effective, efficient and honest public sector. Policies are needed to foster industry;--- not the old fashioned industrial policies of picking winners but what Professor Stiglitz has called a

modem industrial policy, a market-friendly but decisive set of policy interventions aimed at addressing market failures in the allocation of resources and steering investment and accumulation in desired directions. However, if national governments are to assume control of their own development destinies, it follows that they should be able to use a range of policy instruments to devise and put in effect their chosen development strategies. This is the question of policy space. The call for consideration of the issue of policy space does not equate to demanding a license to renege on international economic commitments freely entered into. What it means is that when setting the agenda for future economic negotiations, when implementing existing disciplines and commitments and when interpreting rules, the question of the impact on the policy space of developing countries should be kept in mind.

**Mr. Jean-Louis Sarbib**, Senior Vice President of the World Bank concurred that the outlook on the global economy looks more promising than for some years and that their gains were widespread—all developing regions grew faster in 2004 than their average over the last decade. Moreover, financial flows to developing countries during the last year reached levels not seen since the onset of the financial crises of the late 1990s. Foreign direct investment (FDI) totaled \$165.5 billion, up by \$13.7 billion in 2004. However, the same countries continue to be magnets for this type of long-term investment. Also, while conditions for achieving better economic performance in Sub-Saharan Africa are improving unfortunately, progress toward the MDGs has been slower and more uneven across regions than originally thought, with Sub-Saharan Africa falling far short. He stressed that business as usual will therefore not do. It will bring incremental improvements in this sector or that project, but it will not push us forward with the giant strides that we will need to get as many countries to that profound milestone of 2015. During the next 10 years, the international community must include scaled-up, proven approaches in health and education, as well as strengthen economic reforms, and improve governance and accountability. Mr. Sarbib stressed that achieving the MDGs will depend above all on developing countries' ability to achieve stronger public sector performance in delivering services. The challenge was essentially political. Evidence showed that aid works best where policies and governance are good. While some donors suggest that a viable strategy in weak states is to bypass the public sector altogether, Mr. Sarbib pointed out that no OECD country had ever achieved universal health or basic education coverage with mainly private systems—in fact, most were heavily public.

**Mr. Reinhard Munzberg**, *Special Representative of the International Monetary Fund to the United Nations* stated that the International Monetary and Financial Committee noted at its last meeting that widening imbalances across regions and the continued rise in oil prices and oil market volatility have increased risks. He pointed out that there were substantial gaps in growth performance between the regions of the world. The U.S. current account deficit has increased significantly in recent years while emerging Asian economies continued to run large surpluses. Addressing global imbalances and restoring and sustaining balanced growth to the world economy require vigorous collaborative efforts. Also, effective poverty reduction needs high and sustainable growth. Developing countries needed to intensify their reform efforts, including through further development of their own poverty reduction strategies. This also requires well-targeted structural reforms to boost competitiveness and productive investment. Poor countries need to find

ways to harness the benefits of foreign direct investment and private sector activity. They can lay the foundation by strengthening institutions and governance and by establishing predictable legal and regulatory frameworks. Developed countries on their part, needed to scale up their aid to low-income countries, as pledged in the Monterrey Consensus.

Finally, at the High Level Policy Dialogue of the 2005 High Level Segment of ECOSOC, participants were unanimous in expressing their support for the comprehensive United Nations development agenda. However, while expressing their support, most pointed out that the challenge at present was not a lack of strategies and objectives in implementing the agenda, rather, a scarcity in the means of implementation and the political will to fulfill the commitments made over the past decade or more. Participants recognized that while there have been positive strides in improving the lives of millions across the globe, progress was slow, uneven, and in some instances, the accomplishments of the past in the development arena, had eroded. Globalization had favoured a few nations leaving many behind. As a result, there was a renewed and strong call for multilateral cooperation by most delegations.

## II. Implementing an international development agenda

In this ECOSOC session, delegations recognized the unique opportunity presented to the international community this year to build momentum in the implementation of the development agenda. A large number of speakers participated during the general debate and in other events during the high level segment. The essence of those is captured in the ensuing paragraphs.

It was generally recognized that *development is primarily the responsibility of developing countries* themselves. Developing countries need to intensify their reform efforts, including through further development of their own poverty reduction strategies and well-targeted structural reforms to boost competitiveness and productive investment. Speakers also stressed the importance of South-South cooperation as well as triangular cooperation and regional initiatives in the achievement of the development goals. Speakers urged governments to adopt sound macroeconomic, structural and sectoral policies and lay the foundation for harnessing the benefits of foreign direct investment and private sector activity by strengthening institutions and governance and by establishing predictable legal and regulatory frameworks. Delegations stressed that along with *good governance*, there was a need for respect of *human rights, the rule of law and strong democratic processes* based on social justice. Without these, development could not be broad based and all encompassing.

Participants agreed that the *eradication of poverty and hunger* continued to remain an elusive goal for many countries and thus required a twin-track approach: Programmes and policies to support the productive sectors, especially agriculture and rural development, combined with programmes to enhance immediate and direct access to food for the most needy. National governments in developing countries retain primary responsibility for reducing hunger and poverty in their countries assisted by international donors, organizations of the civil society and other stakeholders. This implied that harmonization between donors and recipients and coordination among donors was crucial to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of resources mobilized for hunger and

poverty reduction. Speakers stressed that developing countries, especially those in Africa, needed assistance in the forms of ODA, debt relief, domestic resources as well as technical assistance and capacity building in order to create or strengthen institutions and policies capable of responding to their citizens' needs and to attract private investment, which was a pre-requisite for sustainable growth. The creation of a fair and conducive international trade environment, especially on agriculture, is essential for national growth and poverty reduction. The critical need for employment generation was underlined for the success of poverty reduction strategies. To that end, the cross-border movement of people and its links to poverty reduction, also demands attention.

It was emphasized that reducing poverty and hunger is a precondition for the majority of the remaining MDGs, but that on the current trajectory, the hunger goal could only be met as early as 2050, well beyond the 2015 deadline. Speakers underscored that hunger had a devastating impact on the lives and livelihoods of people suffering from it: it reduced productivity and working capacity, making people susceptible to disease, preventing children from learning. It thus compromises growth of entire economies. Alleviating hunger is a pre-condition for poverty reduction.

In the area of human rights, empowerment of women through protecting their basic human rights was a key concern for many member States. Women's rights, prevention of violence against women and promoting *gender equality* were of vital importance in promoting human rights and development. Member States felt that the empowerment of women was essential to achieving the development goals and urged that a gender perspective be fully mainstreamed in all development policies and programmes and into strategies to achieve the development goals at the national and international level, including the work of the United Nations. To that end, gender equality and women's empowerment was considered important not only as a goal in itself, but also as a means to achieve other goals. CEDAW and the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly provided a solid framework for the work towards gender equality and the empowerment of women. Together with Millennium Declaration and MDGs, they constituted the basis for addressing the challenges of gender inequality, including in allocation of resources and improving accountability.

While continuing the work to achieve *universal primary education*, a greater emphasis should be placed on the provision of *secondary education*. To ensure inclusion and access especially for the females, there was a need to reduce the cost of secondary education to make it more affordable through the provision of scholarships/bursaries specifically targeting girls in rural communities and marginalized or vulnerable groups. Speakers pointed to the ample research evidence on the high correlation between level of education of women beyond primary schooling and women empowerment, lower fertility, reduced vulnerability to HIV/AIDS and violence, increased participation in the formal as opposed to the informal sector of the job market. They emphasized the need for locating schools closer to homes, ensuring flexibility in the school calendar and hours of schooling, improving the relevance and quality of education, encouraging the participation of girls in science and technology, and making schools more girl-friendly.

Delegations also stressed the importance of addressing the *social dimensions of development*. They pointed out that globalization could be made fair and equitable only through addressing its social aspects. In particular investing in people through creating decent job opportunities, enhancing education systems, among others were crucial for poverty eradication and sustainable development. Literacy competencies and skills for youth and adults especially mothers would reduce the high incidence of illiteracy and break the vicious circle of intergenerational illiteracy. Literate parents especially mothers can ensure the early stimulation of learning in the early years of their children, ensure the enrollment of children in primary schools and the completion of their children's education at least at the primary level. In addition, improving the literacy skills and competencies of both youth and adults had a strong correlation with job opportunities and job creation. All of these have a positive impact on socio-economic development and human security. To that end, participants urged the speedy implementation of the outcomes if the World Summit for Social Development held in Copenhagen in 1995.

The lack of adequate *health systems* was an area of universal concern. Stronger equitable national health systems were considered central to the challenge of scaling up services and proven, effective health interventions that provide adequate numbers of trained and motivated health workers, the provision of basic drugs, strengthened infrastructure, the elimination of user fees and the ability to monitor and respond to infectious disease outbreaks. In too many countries the health systems needed to address the many challenges are non-existent or are on the point of collapse. Building and strengthening national health system capacities had to be at the centre of national and international efforts. The *lack of adequately trained health workers* in most developing countries, including through migration to developed countries and the loss to HIV/AIDS, was recognized as a major obstacle to progress, including in the *fight against HIV/AIDS, as well as other communicable diseases*, and was a reason for grave concern. Participants expressed a sense of urgency to address the issue, both internationally and in the affected countries themselves. For Africa alone, it is estimated that one million additional health workers are needed.

Stressing the importance of the fight against *HIV/AIDS*, Member States endorsed an integrated approach which would include *prevention, treatment, care, support and research*. Particular attention had to be given to young people and to women in this context. The necessary resources should be provided in this fight, in particular through a full funding of the Global Fund. Participants also supported an integrated approach for the fight against *HIV/AIDS, Malaria and Tuberculosis* and stressed the need to increase the capacities of the partner countries, to increase the resources available and to support access to treatment, research and the development of new prevention instruments.

Reproductive health services were considered an integral part of functioning health systems. Speakers stressed that these services must be strengthened in the interest of millions, in particular women and children. Currently, there exist deep inequities in access to reproductive health services between and within countries. Universal access to reproductive health, including family planning, is essential for making progress on MDG 5 (Maternal Health) and required sustainable and predictable financing. It was emphasized that without greater attention and resources to sexual and reproductive health and women's empowerment and gender equality, the health MDGs will not be achieved.



In this context, participants stressed the importance of full access to reproductive health by 2015 for achieving the Millennium Development Goals. Improving nutrition, especially of children and infants was one of the key aspects – though often overlooked – for increasing the likelihood of children to survive and thrive. Moreover, achieving goals for poverty eradication, water, sanitation, hygiene, environment and education will also improve health status and expedite development.

At the same time *environmental issues* and *sustainable development* needed to be integrated even more closely into national and international poverty reduction strategies. It was important to remember that the major steps in eradicating poverty are still clean water, sufficient nutrition, decent homes and decent work. With national priorities and strategies defined, the challenge remains building sufficient capacity at the national level and access to the necessary resources for effective implementation. To that end, Member States emphasized that the full and speedy implementation of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation was crucial. Climate change, desertification and the erosion of biodiversity also had social consequences. They also called for developing new technologies for increasing the supply of renewable energy. Participants also underscored that it was important to address the issue of slums not only through efforts to upgrade existing settlements, but also to counter the growth of new slums. Speakers pointed out that the levels of urbanization were such that the Millennium Development Goals agreed to in 2000 would impact on only a small percentage of slum dwellers. It was stated that the current *environmental governance structure* was too decentralized and not sufficiently effective. There was a widely shared view that this should be addressed.

While stressing that development is primarily the responsibilities of developing countries themselves, participants recognized that *ODA, FDI, debt relief and trade* are crucial for generating resources for pursuing development. In that regard, the full implementation of the Monterrey Consensus was crucial. Developing countries should strengthen efforts to fulfill their part of the Monterrey commitments by creating an enabling environment with good governance and through optimal domestic resource mobilization. In that regard, the importance of private sector development, including a strong financial sector, was stressed. Developed countries on their part, must fulfill their commitments relating to ODA, debt and trade. To that end, Member States welcomed the announcement of timelines set by certain countries by which they will attain the 0.7 % of GNI target for ODA. They also urged developed countries that have not yet done so to make concrete efforts to achieve the target of 0.7 per cent of GNI as ODA to developing countries. Some delegations pointed out that ODA should be delivered in conformity to the recipient countries priorities and specificities without stringent conditions or complex disbursement procedures. Speakers also noted that debt relief was often counted as ODA as was humanitarian assistance. Although these areas are of great importance they do not necessarily contribute to the long-term sustainable achievement of the MDGs. Countries pointed out that while making efforts on improving the quantity of aid, it was necessary to focus on the quality and effectiveness of aid flow. Aid effectiveness could be increased through budgetary support and sector specific support as identified by recipient countries. To that end, delegations welcomed the progress made at the Paris OECD DAC High Level forum in March and committed to the timely implementation of the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness including the agreement by September of monitorable

targets for 2010. Furthermore, delegations underscored that while the issue of absorptive capacity should be addressed, it should not be used by donor countries to reduce aid--particularly in vital investment in physical infrastructure and power facilities. At the same time, Member States called for predictable and less volatile aid mechanisms.

Participants deliberated on ways to maximize the attractiveness of developing countries for **FDI** as well as in ensuring that FDI was useful for development. FDI was seen as having the potential of building infrastructure and providing basic services for development. It was emphasized that good governance and the rule of law securing predictability and transparency was essential for foreign capital to accrue. The creation of policies and institutions that favoured market-led growth would be particularly useful. However, speakers also underscored that domestic investment and the halting capital flight was just as important. It was pointed out that while aid was important, without economic and social freedom, the rule of law and honest government, international aid had little value. To that end, developing countries should create an enabling environment for the private sector with a sound macro-economic framework, clear definitions of property rights, enforceable contracts, competitive markets and well-designed regulatory policies. This would enable developing nations unlock approximately \$9.4 trillion in potentially usable assets.

Many speakers called for the timely and successful conclusion to the negotiation of the Doha trade round so that **trade** may fuel growth to help meet the MDGs. Moreover, they called for efforts to ensure that its outcome helps achieve a multilateral trading system that is truly responsive to development concerns. The importance of a universal, rule-based, open, non-discriminatory and equitable multi-lateral trading system was repeatedly underscored. It was emphasized that efforts should be made to complete expeditiously the Doha round of multilateral trade negotiations to fully realize its development dimension. In this regard, speakers recalled the decision of 1 August 2004 of the General Council of the WTO and called for balanced and parallel progress within and between areas under negotiation, bearing in mind the needs and concerns of developing countries, particularly in the areas of special and differential treatment, agriculture, market access for nonagricultural products and capacity-building.

Speakers welcomed the decision of the G8 to cancel the multilateral **debt** of 18 HIPC countries, but stated that additional measures are needed for non-HIPC countries. Some delegations noted the counter-productivity of the cost of debt-servicing outstripping the value of ODA and called for a comprehensive solution to developing countries' debt crisis. Some participants called for efforts that would ensure that all developing countries' debt was sustainable, and would not undermine national efforts to achieve internationally agreed development goals. Furthermore, they emphasized the need to broaden the debt relief programme of the G8 countries beyond 18 heavily indebted poor countries. It was also stressed that debt relief can play a key role in liberating resources that should be directed towards activities consistent with poverty eradication, sustained economic growth and sustainable development and the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration. In this regard, while acknowledging the recent support for 100 % debt cancellation outstanding obligations of HIPC countries to the IMF, World Bank and the African Development Bank, speakers called for further measures to provide

comprehensive and durable debt relief to all developing countries, including resolving the debt problems of LDCs, low and middle income developing countries that are not eligible under HIPC. They urged countries to direct those resources freed through debt relief, in particular through debt cancellation and reduction towards the achievement of these goals and call upon them to continue to improve their domestic policies and economic management, including stable macroeconomic frameworks and transparency and accountability systems of public finance.

Many representatives welcomed efforts to develop innovative ideas for mobilizing resources for development and stated that progress should be complemented with simplified procedures for fast access to resources to maximize impact. The launching of an International Finance Facility (IFF) and decision to implement international solidarity levies received widespread support. Countries stressed the need to explore further *innovative sources of financing* for development to generate additional resources.

Participants called for *science and technology* to be promoted to pursue sustainable development, including by building developing countries' capacity for science and technology and increasing international assistance in the critical research areas of agriculture, health, and environmental management. They noted that the potential of information and communication technologies had not been fully tapped and that scientific research and technology transfer were crucial for poor countries to improve their healthcare, schools, infrastructures and governance. It was observed that multi-stakeholder alliances and partnerships should be promoted in further exploiting the potential of ICT.

Most delegations were of the view that the MDGs cannot be met without taking into consideration the *needs of countries in special situations* such as Least Developed Countries (LDCs), landlocked developing countries (LLDCs) and small island developing states (SIDS), as well as countries in Africa, particularly Sub-Saharan Africa. While the provision of duty and quota-free access was essential for the least developed countries, strategies aimed at enhancing their competitiveness and the diversification of their exports was also required. At the same time, the Brussels, Almaty and Mauritius Plans of Action should be implemented effectively. Highlighting the special needs of LDCs, speakers called for the international community to deliver 0.15 to 0.20 percent of GNI in ODA. Most delegations noted that urgent action was needed to prevent Sub-Saharan Africa from missing all the 2015 goals. They stated that African countries must take ownership and leadership in implementation of the MDGs, and improve macroeconomic management, governance and accountability. To that end, they expressed their unwavering support for NEPAD. They also called for a substantial increase in the volume and quality of external aid to Sub-Saharan Africa and a need to expand capacity to absorb aid by removing bottlenecks in the productive sectors and improving human capital. The monitoring process in Sub-Saharan Africa should be strengthened by improving the statistical capacity of these countries and by enhancing analytical capabilities of the monitoring framework.

Speakers highlighted *the role of NGOs and partnerships with civil society* in achieving the comprehensive United Nations Development Agenda. Such organizations can play a crucial role at the local national and international levels to ensure that the lives of

millions across the globe are improved. Participants expressed hope that national Governments would strive to nurture such partnerships and networks and that civil society is included both at the time of policy formulation, as well as their implementation.

### **III. The Role of ECOSOC and the UN System**

Delegations expressed strong support for a central role for ECOSOC in the follow-up to and the implementation of the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social, environmental and related fields and the achievement of the MDGs. It should provide policy guidance to the United Nations system on these issues and be an institutional platform for their integrated analysis and mainstreaming. Some representatives also underlined the need for further strengthening the role of ECOSOC and its functional commissions and related subsidiary bodies in pursuing the United Nations Development Agenda and encouraged the functional commissions to further promote synergies in their work. ECOSOC should continue to support the coordination and harmonization among operational agencies as well as humanitarian agencies. Its role in operational coordination and providing guidance for the UN funds and programmes, and in promoting dialogue and partnership should be strengthened, and its agenda and work program streamlined.

In this respect, delegations stressed the importance of pursuing vigorously the reform of United Nations funds, programs and specialized agencies and to ensure system-wide coherence. Delegations supported the Secretary General's urgent appeal for a more integrated international environmental governance structure, based on existing institutions. With regard to development, some Member States felt that the Council could evolve to a high-level development cooperation forum, where global, regional and national strategies and policies for development cooperation can be reviewed. Furthermore the Council needed to respond to emerging policy challenges and build coherence with other organizations.

At the country level, the UN Development Assistance Framework and its Results Matrix should be used as effective tools to assist governments in translating the goals of the UN conferences and summits, as well as the MDGs, into national policies, strategies and programmes and to monitor implementation. The need for strong, concrete support for the system-wide role of the Resident Coordinator in promoting the realization of the development goals in their totality was also emphasized as was the need to ensure that the United Nations, at the country level, operates as a team with a common programme in support of countries' poverty reduction strategies. Enhanced cooperation with IFIs was also important.

Speakers also felt the need to strengthen Council's role in the field of post-conflict situations, in particular by ensuring coherence with long-term development objectives. To that end, they stressed that the Council should be more pro-active in post-conflict management and collaborating more closely with the proposed Peacebuilding Commission.

#### **IV. Conclusion**

Countries acknowledged the interrelation between development, security and human rights. They emphasized increasingly the role of the ECOSOC and its responsibility in building the future. The Council must measure up to its role and assume its responsibility. The ongoing process is an opportunity that must not be missed and the momentum should continue not only up to the high level plenary meeting of the General Assembly to be in September this year but beyond to enable countries achieve their development objectives. To that end, countries agreed that the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration and outcomes of UN conferences and summits would only be achieved if all partners work together in a spirit of shared responsibilities and partnership. What was essential was political will and commitment.

The High Level Segment also included eight Roundtables organized around the Millennium Development Goals. The themes included: The eradication of poverty and hunger, Health, Global partnership and financing of the Millennium Development Goals, Building of state capacity to meeting the MDG; Education and literacy; Gender equality and empowerment of women; Environmental sustainability; National strategies to achieve the MDGs. Detailed summaries of the roundtables are available in E/2005/CRP.6. Twelve ministerial breakfasts were also organized. The topics discussed at the breakfasts included: Science, technology and innovation to meet the MDGs, including ICTs; Land and conflict; Microfinance: Building Inclusive Financial Sectors to Achieve the Millennium Development Goals; The Impact of commodities on poverty reduction and sustainable development in the LDCs and other vulnerable economies; Human resources and the MDGs; Working out of poverty; The Role of volunteerism in achieving the MDGs; Forging powerful partnerships; Migration and the MDGs; Synergies between the Brussels Programme of Action and NEPAD in achieving the MDGs; The MDGs as a tool for comprehensive local development in Albania; and The centrality of gender in achieving the MDGs.

## Annex 3

## PROGRAMME OF THE ECOSOC HIGH-LEVEL SEGMENT EVENTS

### Programme of the ECOSOC High-Level Segment Preparatory Meetings

#### UN headquarters, New York

ECOSOC Chamber  
16 – 17 March 2005, and 5 April 2005

**"Achieving the Internationally Agreed Development Goals, Including those Contained in the Millennium Declaration, as well as Implementing the Outcomes of the Major United Nations Conferences and Summits: Progress Made, Challenges and Opportunities"\***

#### 16 March 2005

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10:00 a.m.                      **Opening Statement** by H.E. Mr. Munir Akram, President of ECOSOC, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the United Nations

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10:00 -11:00 a.m.            **Statements** by H.E. Mr. Jean Ping, President of the 59<sup>th</sup> Session of the General Assembly;  
Mr. José Antonio Ocampo, Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, DESA

**Keynote Speech** by Mr. Jeffrey Sachs, Special Advisor to United Nations Secretary General on the Millennium Development Goals

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11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.      **Roundtable 1:** (Hosted by FAO, WFP and IFAD)  
**Eradication of Poverty and Hunger**

**Chair:**  
H.E. Mr. Munir Akram, President of ECOSOC, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the United Nations

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\* Participants: ECOSOC Member States, non-Member States maintaining observer status, representatives of civil society and the private sector, the press and NGOs.

**Moderator:**

Mr. Hartwig de Haen, Assistant-Director-General, Economic and Social Department, FAO

**Discussants:**

H.E. Ms. Judith Mbula Bahemuka, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Kenya to the United Nations;

Mr. Derek Byrlee, Rural Policy and Strategy Adviser, World Bank;

Ms. Geeta Rao Gupta, President, International Center for Research on Women;

Mr. Gary Howe, Chief Development Strategist, International Fund for Agricultural Development;

Mr. Eddy Lee, Senior Adviser on Economic and Social Policy in the International Institute for Labour Studies of the ILO.

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3:00 - 5:30 p.m.

**Roundtable 2:** (Hosted by UNESCO and UNICEF)

**Education and literacy**

**Chair:**

H.E. Mr. Johan C. Verbeke, Vice-President of ECOSOC, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Belgium to the United Nations

**Moderators:**

Ms. Ann Therese Ndong-Jatta, Director, Division of Basic Education, UNESCO;

Mr. Edwin Judd, Director of Programme Division, UNICEF.

**Discussants:**

Ms. Beverly Jones, Sr. Vice-President and Director of Global Education Programs, Academy of Educational Development;

Ms. Ann M. Scholz, SSND, PhD, NGO Representative, School Sisters of Notre Dame at the United Nations;

Mr. James Page, Adjunct Research Professor, School of Canadian Studies, Carleton University, Ottawa, Canada;

Ms. Carolyn Bartholomew, Executive Director, Basic Education Coalition, Washington D.C.

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3:00 - 5:30 p.m.

**Roundtable 3:** (Hosted by WHO, UNFPA, UNAIDS and UNICEF)

**Health and mortality**

**Chair:**

H.E. Mr. Ali Hachani, Vice-President of ECOSOC, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Tunisia to the United Nations

**Moderators:**

Dr. Andrew Cassels, Director for MDGs, WHO;  
Dr. France Donnay, Chief, Reproductive Health Branch, UNFPA

**Discussants:**

Dr. Agnes Binagwaho, Coordinator of the Millennium Project's Working Group on HIV/AIDS, Task Force on HIV/AIDS, Malaria and TB and access to essential medicines;  
Dr. Delanyo Dovlo, Member of the Rockefeller Foundation, World Bank and WHO's Joint Learning Initiative's Human Resources Working Group on Africa;  
Ms. Lynn P. Freedman, JD, MPH, Associate Professor, Mailman School of Public Health at Columbia University and a lead author of the Report of the Millennium Project Task Force on Child Health and Maternal Health.

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**17 March 2005**

9:30 – 11:30 a.m.

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**Plenary - Roundtable 4: (Hosted by UNCTAD)  
Global partnerships and financing development**

**Chair:**

H.E. Mr. Munir Akram, President of ECOSOC, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the United Nations

**Moderator:**

Mr. Carlos Fortin, Officer-in-Charge of UNCTAD

**Participants:**

H.E. Mr. John B. Richardson, Ambassador, Head of the Delegation of the European Commission to the United Nations;  
Mr. Gawain Kripke, Senior Policy Advisor, Oxfam America;  
Mr. Wilfred Lutkenhorst, Director of Private Sector Development, UNIDO;  
Ms. Sakiko Fukuda-Parr, Research Fellow, Harvard University and Director of the Human Development Report in 1995 – 2004;  
H.E. Mr. Aminu Bashir Wali, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Nigeria to United Nations;



Mr. Luca Barbone, Director of Poverty Reduction, World Bank;  
Ms. Janet Hall, Senior Policy Advisor, UN Foundation.

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11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

**Roundtable 5:** (Hosted by UNIFEM)  
**Gender equality and the empowerment of women**

**Chair:**

H.E. Mr. Jaime Moncayo Garcia, Vice-President of ECOSOC, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Ecuador to the United Nations

**Moderator:**

Ms. Noeleen Heyzer, Executive Director, UNIFEM

**Discussants:**

H.E. Ambassador Johan Løvald, Permanent Representative of Norway to the United Nations;

Ms. Caroline Moser, Visiting Fellow in the Economics Studies Program, Brookings Institution and Senior Research Associate with the Poverty and Public Policy Group of the Overseas Development Institute;

Ms. Aruna Rao, Executive Director of Gender at Work, USA;  
Mr. Ngokwey Ndolamb, Secretary of the Executive Board of UNICEF;

Ms. Charlotte Bunch, Executive Director, Center for Women's Global Leadership.

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11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

**Roundtable 6:** (Hosted by UNEP and UN-HABITAT)  
**Environmental sustainability**

**Chair:**

H.E. Mr. Agim Nesho, Vice-President of ECOSOC, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Albania to the United Nations

**Moderators:**

Ms. Axumite Gebre-Egziabher, Director, UN-HABITAT, New York Office;

Mr. Werner Obermeyer, Chief, Inter-Agency Affairs, UNEP, New York Office

**Discussants:**

Mr. Pietro Garau, Co-Coordinator of the Millennium Project Slums Task Force;

Mr. Albert Wright, Co-Coordinator of the Millennium Project Water and Sanitation Task Force;  
 Representative of the Permanent Mission of Indonesia on behalf of the Minister of Environment H. E. Mr. Rachmat Witoelar of Indonesia;  
 Dr. Noel Brown, President, Friends of the United Nations and Chairman, Rene Dubos Center on Human Environment;  
 Mr. Nestor Eugenio Ramirez Cardona, Mayor of Manizales in Colombia, Vice-President of Federation of Latin American Cities, Municipalities and Associations;  
 Ms. Ann Wanjiru, Mathare Slum Resident, Groot, Kenya.

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**AFTERNOON**
**Plenary (ECOSOC Chamber)**


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 3:00 - 3:30 p.m.

**Keynote address** by Mr. François Bourguignon, Chief Economist and Senior Vice-President, Development Economics, World Bank

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 3:30 - 5:30 p.m.

**Roundtable 7:** (Hosted by UNDP and the Millennium Project)

**Decisions needed to implement the Millennium Development Goals and other internationally agreed development goals at the country-level: How to advance an MDG-based approach to poverty reduction**

**Chair:**

H.E. Mr. Munir Akram, President of ECOSOC, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the United Nations,

**Moderator:**

Mr. José Antonio Ocampo, Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, DESA

**Discussants:**

H.E. Mr. Christopher F. Hackett, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Barbados to the United Nations;

H.E. Mr. Ronaldo Mota Sardenberg, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Brazil to the United Nations;

H.E. Mr. Jean-Marc de La Sablière, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of France to the United Nations;

H.E. Madam Judith Mbula Bahemuka, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Kenya to the United Nations;

H.E. Mr. Rashid Alimov, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Republic of Tajikistan to the United Nations;

H.E. Mr. Alounekèo Kittikhoun, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Lao People's Democratic Republic to the United Nations;

H.E. Mr. Abdullah M. Alsaidi, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Republic of Yemen to the United Nations.

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5:30 – 6:00 p.m.

**Closing** by the President of ECOSOC

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## **5 April 2005**

3:00 p.m.

**"Roundtable on Building State Capacity to Meet the MDGs: Governance, Institutions, Human Resources and Human Rights"**

**Chair:**

H.E. Mr. Munir Akram, President of ECOSOC, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the United Nations

**Welcome address:**

Mr. Jomo Kwame Sundaram, Assistant-Secretary-General for Economic Development, DESA, on behalf of Mr. José Antonio Ocampo, Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, DESA

**Lead Discussant:**

The Honourable Jocelyne Bourgon, Ambassador, Canadian Permanent Mission to the OECD, and Member of the Committee of Experts on Public Administration

**Discussants:**

Mr. Jomo Kwame Sundaram, Assistant-Secretary-General for Economic Development, DESA;

Mr. Hafiz Pasha, Assistant Administrator and Regional Director for Asia and the Pacific, UNDP;

Ms. Geraldine Fraser-Moleketi, Minister for Public Service and Administration, South Africa, and Member of the Committee of Experts on Public Administration;

Ms. Patricia Sto. Tomas, Minister of Labor and Employment, Philippines, and Member of the Committee of Experts on Public Administration;

Dr. Rachid Benmokhtar Benabdellah, President of Al Akhawayn University, Morocco, and Member of the Committee of Experts on Public Administration

## Programme

### ECOSOC High-Level Segment

#### UN headquarters, New York

ECOSOC Chamber  
29 June – 1 July 2005

**"Achieving the Internationally Agreed Development Goals, Including those Contained in the Millennium Declaration, as well as Implementing the Outcomes of the Major United Nations Conferences and Summits: Progress Made, Challenges and Opportunities"**

#### 29 June 2005

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10:00 – 10:15 a.m.      **Opening Statement** by H.E. Mr. Munir Akram, President of ECOSOC, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the United Nations

**Address** by H.E. Mr. Kofi Annan, Secretary-General of the United Nations

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10:15 -11:00 a.m.      **Voices against Poverty**  
Professor Joseph Stiglitz, Nobel Laureate in Economics, 2001;  
Mr. Juan Somavia, Director-General of ILO;  
Mr. António Guterres, High Commissioner for Refugees.

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11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.      **High-Level Policy Dialogue on current developments in the world economy and international economic cooperation in the context of achieving the Millennium Development Goals**

**Introductory remarks:**

Mr. José Antonio Ocampo, Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, DESA

**Key speakers:**

Mr. Supachai Panitchpakdi, Director-General of WTO  
Mr. Jean-Louis Sarbib, Senior Vice-President of the Human Development Network, the World Bank Group  
Mr. Carlos Fortin, Officer-in-Charge of UNCTAD

Mr. Reinhard Munzberg, Special Representative of the IMF to the United Nations

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1:15 – 2:45 p.m. **Official Lunch of the President of ECOSOC**  
(Co-sponsored by the International Peace Academy and UNDP)  
(by invitation only)

**Theme: Achieving the MDGs in conflict contexts**

**Participants:**

Heads of Delegations

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3:00 - 6:00 p.m. **Dialogues on progress, challenges and opportunities for achieving the internationally agreed development goals<sup>+</sup>**

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3:00 - 4:30 p.m. **Roundtable 1: (Hosted by FAO, IFAD and WFP)  
Dialogue on the eradication of poverty and hunger**

**Chair:**

H.E. Mr. Gérard Latortue, Prime Minister of Haiti

**Lead Discussant:**

H.E. Mr. Armand De Decker, Minister of Development Cooperation, Belgium

**Moderator:**

Mr. Jacques Diouf, Director-General of FAO;

**Discussant:**

Ms. Charlotte Mclain-Nhalpo, South African Human Rights Commission/World Bank.

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**Roundtable 2: (Hosted by WHO, UNFPA, UNAIDS)  
Dialogue on health**

**Chair:**

H.E. Ms. Carin Jämtin, Minister for Development Cooperation, Sweden

**Discussants:**

H.E. Mr. Eugène Camara, Minister of Planning, Guinea;

Ms. Thoraya Obaid, Executive Director, UNFPA;

Ms. Joy Phumaphi, Assistant Director-General for Family and Community Health, WHO;

Mr. Stephen Stedman, Special Adviser to the Secretary-General.

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**Roundtable 3:** (Hosted by UNCTAD)  
**Dialogue on global partnerships and financing of the MDGs**

**Chair:**

Dr. Ishrat Hussain, Governor, State Bank of Pakistan

**Moderators:**

Mr. Carlos Fortin, Officer-in-Charge of UNCTAD;  
Mr. Stefano Manservigi, Director-General for Development, European Commission;  
Mr. José Luis Machinea, Executive Secretary, UN Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean.

**Discussants:**

Ms. Eveline Herfkens, Executive Coordinator of the MDG Campaign;  
Mr. Reinhard Munzberg, Special Representative of the IMF to the United Nations;  
Mr. Alhaji Bamanga Tukur, Executive President of the African Business Roundtable and Chairperson of the NEPAD Business Group;  
Ms. Melinda Kimble, Senior Vice President for Programmes, United Nations Foundation.

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**Roundtable 4:** (Hosted by DESA/Division for Public Administration and Management, and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights)

**Dialogue on building state capacity to meet the MDGs: human rights, governance, institutions and human resources**

**Chair:**

H.E. Ms. Tarja Halonen, President of Finland

**Lead Discussant:**

Professor Anyang' Nyong'o, Minister of Planning and National Development, Kenya

**Moderator:**

Mr. José Antonio Ocampo, Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, DESA

**Discussants:**

Ms. Mehr Khan Williams, Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights,  
 Prof. Rehman Sobhan, Chairman, Centre for Policy Dialogue,  
 Bangladesh, Heads of Delegations

4:30 – 6:00 p.m.

**Roundtable 5: (Hosted by UNESCO)  
 Dialogue on Education and literacy**
**Chair:**

H.E. Mr. Datuk Mustapa Mohamed, Minister in the Prime Minister's Department, Malaysia

**Discussants:**

Mr. Peter Smith, Assistant Director General for Education, UNESCO  
 Ms. Geeta Rao Gupta, President of the International Center for Research on Women  
 Mr. Magdi Mehani Amin, Community Development Consultant, Egypt.

**Roundtable 6: (Hosted by UNIFEM and DESA/Division for the Advancement of Women)**
**Dialogue on gender equality and the empowerment of women**
**Chair:**

Mrs. Nilofar Bakhtiar, Adviser to the Prime Minister and In-charge for Women Development, Pakistan

**Discussants:**

H.E. Ms. Marcela del Mar Suazo Laitano, Minister in charge of the National Institute of Women of Honduras  
 Ms. Rachel Mayanja, Assistant Secretary-General and Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women  
 Ms. Debbie Budlender, Principal Researcher, Community Agency for Social Enquiry  
 Ms. Noeleen Heyzer, Executive Director, UNIFEM

**Roundtable 7: (Hosted by UNEP and UN-Habitat)  
 Dialogue on environmental sustainability**
**Chair:**

H.E. Mr. Rogatien Biaou, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Benin

**Discussants:**



H. E. Mrs. Brigitte Girardin, Minister of Development Cooperation of France  
Ms. Anna Tibaijuka, Executive Director of UN-HABITAT;  
Mr. Klaus Töpfer, Executive Director of UNEP.

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**Roundtable 8:** (Hosted by UNDP)  
**Dialogue on national strategies to achieve the MDGs**

**Moderator:**

Mr. Mark Malloch Brown, Administrator of UNDP

**Discussants:**

H.E. Mr. Sidi Ould Didi, Minister of Economic Affairs and Development of Mauritania;  
Mr. Masood Ahmed, Director-General for Policy and International, Department for International Development, United Kingdom.

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6:00 – 7:30 p.m.

**Official Reception** (Hosted by UNDP)

**30 June 2005**

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8:15 – 9:45 a.m.

**Ministerial Roundtable Breakfasts**  
(by invitation only)

**1. Science, technology and innovation to meet the MDGs, including the ICTs** (Hosted by the Commission on Science and Technology, and the UN ICT Task Force)

**Co-chairs:**

H.E. Mr. Atta-ur-Rahman, Federal Minister/Chairman of the Higher Education Commission of Pakistan;  
Mr. José Antonio Ocampo, Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs;  
Mr. Carlos Fortin, Officer-in-Charge of UNCTAD;  
Mr. Art Reilly, Senior Director, Cisco Systems.

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**2. Land and conflict** (Hosted by the International Land Coalition, and UN-Habitat)

**Co-chairs:**

Mrs. Anna K. Tibaijuka, Executive Director of UN-Habitat;  
Mr. Bruce Moore, Coordinator, International Land Coalition.

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### **3. Access to finance and microfinance: building inclusive financial sectors to achieve the millennium development goals**

(Hosted by United Nations Capital Development Fund)

#### **Co-chair:**

H.E. Mr. Rafael Correa, Minister of Economy and Finance

### **4. The impact of commodities on poverty reduction and sustainable development in least developed countries (LDCs) and other vulnerable economies**

(Hosted by UNCTAD, Common Fund for Commodities, FAO, and OHRLLS)

#### **Co-chairs:**

H.E. Mr. Rogatien Biaou, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Benin;

H.E. Mr. Daudi Migereko, Minister of Trade, Industry and Tourism, Uganda;

H.E. Mr. Ali Mchumo, Managing Director, Common Fund for Commodities (CFC).

### **5. Beyond money: health workers to achieve the Millennium Development Goals** (Hosted by WHO)

### **6. Working out of poverty** (Hosted by ILO)

#### **Co-chairs:**

H.E. Mr. Gérard Latortue, Prime Minister of Haiti;

H.E. Mr. Augustine P. Mahiga, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Tanzania to the United Nations;

Ms. Jane Stewart, Deputy Executive Director, Employment Sector, ILO.

## **30 June 2005**

10:00 – 10:15 a.m.

**Keynote address by** H.E. Ms. Tarja Halonen, President of Finland

10:15 – 12:00 p.m.

**General debate on the theme of the High-Level Segment**

12:00 – 1:00 p.m.

**Panel on employment for growth** (Organizers: ILO, European Commission and DESA)

3:00 – 3:15 p.m.

**Keynote address by** H.E. Mr. Gérard Latortue, Prime Minister of Haiti

3:15 – 4:30 p.m. **Ministerial review of the progress of the implementation of the 2003 Ministerial Declaration of ECOSOC**

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4:30 – 6:00 p.m. **General debate continued**

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**1 July 2005**

8:15 – 9:45 a.m. **Ministerial Roundtable Breakfasts**  
(by invitation only)

**1. The role of volunteerism in achieving the MDGs**  
(Hosted by UNV)

**Co-chairs:**

H.E. Dr. Nasim Ashraf, Minister of State, Pakistan;  
Mr. Ad de Raad, Executive Coordinator of UNV  
Organizer: UNV

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**2. Forging powerful partnerships: political, public and private** (Hosted by DESA/OESC)

**Chair:**

Mr. José Antonio Ocampo, Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs

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**3. Migration and the MDGs** (Hosted by IOM and UN-Habitat)

**Co-chairs:**

Mrs. Ndioro Ndiaye, Deputy-Director, International Office for Migration;  
Mrs. Anna K. Tibaijuka, Executive Director of UN-Habitat

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**4. Synergies between Brussels Programme of Action and NEPAD in achieving the MDGs** (Hosted by OHRLLS and OSAA)

**Co-chairs:**

H.E. Mr. Edward Lowassa (MP), Minister of Water and Livestock Development of the United Republic of Tanzania;  
H.E. Mr. Abdoul Aziz Sow, Minister of NEPAD, African Integration and Good Governance of Senegal

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**5. The MDGs as a tool for comprehensive local development in Albania** (Hosted by UNDP)

**Co-chairs:**

H.E. Mr. Aghim Nesho, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Albania to the United Nations;  
 Ms. Marta Ruedas, Deputy-Director, Regional Bureau for Europe and CIS, UNDP

**6. The centrality of gender in achieving the Millennium Development Goals** (Hosted by OSAGI, DAW/DESA)

**Co-chair:**

Ms. Rachel Mayanja, Special Advisor of the Secretary-General on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women

**1 July 2005**

10:00 – 11:00 a.m.	<b>Presentation on the CEB Accountability report, by Mr. Lennart Båge, President of IFAD and Chair of the High-level Committee on Programmes of the Chief Executive Board for Coordination</b>
11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.	<b>General debate on the theme of the High-Level Segment</b>
3:00 – 4:00 p.m.	<b>Panel with the chairs of the Commissions on the Status of Women, Social Development and Population and Development on the 10<sup>th</sup> year reviews contribution to the 2005 World Summit</b>
4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.	<b>General debate continued</b>
6:00 p.m.	<b>President's summary of the High-level Segment of the Economic and Social Council</b>

<sup>+</sup> Participants: ECOSOC Member States, non-Member States maintaining observer status, representatives of civil society and the private sector, the press and NGOs.

