



THE PRESIDENT
OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

16 May, 2014

Excellency,

I have the honour to forward herewith a letter from H.E. Mr. Robert Guba Aisi, Permanent Representative of Papua New Guinea to the United Nations and H.E. Mr. Ib Petersen, Permanent Representative of Denmark to the United Nations, in their capacity as co-facilitators of the intergovernmental consultations to achieve agreement on the organizational modalities for the summit that will take place in September 2015 at the level of Heads of State and Government for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda, in accordance with resolution 68/6, entitled "Outcome document of the Special Event to follow-up on efforts made towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals".

In this communication the co-facilitators inform that they will be convening a round of informal informals on Thursday, 22 May, at 3:00pm in the ECOSOC Chamber. They have also attached a paper, provided by the Secretariat, on lessons from previous Summits

I encourage Member States to actively participate in this round of discussions on this important matter.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John W. Ashe".

John W. Ashe

To All Permanent Representatives and
Permanent Observers to the United Nations
New York



New York, 15 May 2014

Excellency,

We are writing to you in our capacity as co-facilitators for the intergovernmental consultations on the organizational modalities for the post-2015 Summit. We were very encouraged by the constructive spirit which characterized our first informal meeting on 14 April 2014. We are confident that we can work together to reach a timely agreement on the modalities.

As you may recall, during the first informal we announced that we would request the Secretariat to provide us with a paper on lessons from previous Summits. The paper has now been transmitted to us and we are pleased to share it with you.

We also have the pleasure of inviting you to a round of informal informals to be held on Thursday 22 May 2014 at 3 pm in the ECOSOC Chamber. This second meeting provides an opportunity to continue and deepen our deliberations around the timing, duration, structure, format, participation and preparation of the Summit. We look forward to hearing your proposals and thoughts, possibly drawing on the lessons learned from previous United Nations Summits as well as other United Nations processes, including the 2012 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development.

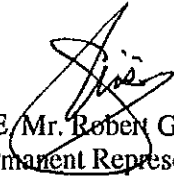
During our first informal meeting, delegations seemed broadly supportive of the Summit taking place in New York back-to-back with the High Level week of the 70th session of the United Nations General Assembly in September 2015 in order to facilitate participation at the level of Heads of State and Government. It was emphasized that sufficient time to speak should be given to Heads of State and Government. This would likely mean holding a Summit with a duration of three days. In this regard we would like to point your attention to three possible options: Saturday 19 September - Monday 21 September, Sunday 20 September - Tuesday 22 September

(moving the General Debate one day) or Monday 21 September - Wednesday 23 September (moving the General Debate two days, as was the case in 2010).

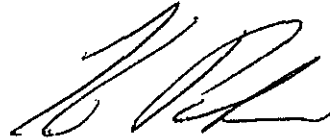
We also wish to stress that we noted the words of caution from delegations that the consultations and decision on the organizational modalities should not prejudice the outcome of the different post-2015 related processes underway. The modalities should also allow for some flexibility going forward, especially when it comes to the preparatory process and outcome.

We thank you for your support and constructive engagement. We look forward to your participation on 22 May.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of our highest consideration



H.E. Mr. Robert Guba Aisi,
Permanent Representative of
Papua New Guinea to the United Nations



H.E. Mr. Ib Petersen,
Permanent Representative of
Denmark to the United Nations

To
All Permanent Representatives
and Permanent Observers

Background paper

Experiences and lessons from 2000, 2005 and 2010 for modalities for the 2015 Summit on the Post-2015 Development Agenda

14 May 2014

Department of Economic and Social Affairs
United Nations

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I. Introduction

In the outcome document of the Special Event of the President of the General Assembly held on 25 September 2013, subsequently adopted by the General Assembly as resolution 68/6, Member States defined the scope of the post-2015 development agenda, calling for a single framework and set of goals, universal in nature and applicable to all countries. They also recognized the intrinsic inter-linkages between poverty eradication and the promotion of sustainable development.

Member States agreed to launch a process of intergovernmental negotiations at the beginning of the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly. This will lead to the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda at a Summit at the level of Heads of State and Government in September 2015 (A/RES/ 68/6, para. 20).

Member States also requested the President of the General Assembly to convene, in a timely manner, intergovernmental consultations to achieve agreement on organizational modalities for the summit (A/RES/68/6, para. 26).

The President of the General Assembly appointed, on 16 January 2014, His Excellency Ib Petersen, Permanent Representative of Denmark, and His Excellency Robert Aisi, Permanent Representative of Papua New Guinea, as Co-facilitators to conduct these informal consultations on his behalf.

This paper is prepared in response to the requests made by Member States at the informal meeting held on 14 April 2014 on the modalities for the 2015 Summit. It aims to facilitate discussion on modalities for the Summit with respect to timing and duration; structure and format; participation in plenary meetings and interactive discussions; preparatory activities; and background documentation. The paper also provides background information and experiences from the organization of previous UN summits (2000, 2005 and 2010).

Member States may wish to consider the modalities for the 2015 Summit in light of the universality of the post-2015 development agenda and the intergovernmental nature of the preparatory process. In this regard, they may wish to consider articulating the following aspects in a General Assembly resolution on modalities:

- Dates and venue of the Summit;
- Format of the Summit and basic organizational arrangements;
- Preparations for the Summit;
- Modalities for participation and accreditation of civil society organizations and other relevant stakeholders in the Summit and the preparatory process.

II. Modalities of previous summits in 2000, 2005 and 2010

To assist Member States in their deliberations on the modalities for the 2015 Summit, it may be useful to review experiences and lessons learned from the previous United Nations high-level meetings held in 2000, 2005 and 2010. A listing of modalities resolutions for these meetings is presented in Annex 1, and a chart summarizing the modalities for each meeting is presented in Annex 2.

A. 2000 Millennium Summit

The Millennium Summit was convened at the level of Heads of State and Government, lasting three days from 6 to 8 September 2000, at United Nations headquarters in New York. The overarching theme of the Summit was *The United Nations in the 21st Century*. The Summit culminated in the

adoption of the Millennium Declaration, which led to the formulation of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

The General Assembly adopted three resolutions in preparation for the 2000 Millennium Summit. In its resolution 53/239, adopted 8 June 1999, *United Nations reform: measures and proposals; and strengthening of the United Nations system*, the General Assembly decided that the fifty-fourth session would close on 5 September 2000, in the morning, and that the fifty-fifth session shall open on Tuesday, 5 September 2000, in the afternoon. The Assembly also decided that the Millennium Summit would begin on Wednesday, 6 September.

On 11 January 2000, the President of the General Assembly (Namibia) announced the reappointment of the Permanent Representatives to the United Nations of Guatemala and New Zealand as Joint Coordinators of the Open-ended Working Group on the Millennium Summit, further to their previous service as Vice-Presidents of the Working Group. Aided by these Joint Coordinators, the President of the General Assembly convened informal brainstorming and consultative meetings with a group of Permanent Representatives and other delegates on the preparations for the Summit. Issues addressed included the chairmanship of the Summit, clarity on the sub-themes and the planning of the format and modalities for the Summit.

The General Assembly then adopted resolution 54/621, on 10 May 2000, *Establishment of the list of speakers and organization of the round tables for the Millennium Summit of the United Nations*, and resolution 54/281, on 11 August 2000, *Organization of the Millennium Summit of the United Nations*.

The Summit had two appointed Co-Chairpersons, the head of State of the country of the President of the fifty-fourth session of the General Assembly (Namibia) and the head of State of the country of the President of the fifty-fifth session of the General Assembly (Finland). The Summit consisted of six plenary meetings, on the basis of two meetings a day, containing 30 to 40 speaking slots. The preparatory process established the list of speakers. At the opening plenary, the first speakers were the two Co-Chairpersons, the Secretary-General and the head of the host country of the Summit.

There were also four interactive round-table sessions held in parallel with the plenary meetings. Each round-table covered the same overarching theme and sub-themes: *Peace, Security and Disarmament; Development and Poverty Eradication; Globalization; and Strengthening the United Nations*. Each round-table session was chaired by a head of State or Government and had at least forty seats. The chairpersons of three of the round-tables were from the three regions not represented by the two Co-Chairpersons of the Millennium Summit, selected by their respective regional groups in consultation with the President of the General Assembly. The choice of chairperson of the fourth round-table was the subject of consultation. This process led to the selection of the regional groups of African States (Algeria), Asian States (Singapore), Eastern European States (Poland) and Latin American and Caribbean States (Venezuela), as round-table chairpersons.

Following the selection of the round-table chairpersons, each regional group determined which of its members would participate in each round-table, ensuring that equitable geographical distribution was maintained. The chairpersons of the regional groups communicated to the President of the General Assembly the list of countries from their regions that would participate in each round table. During the concluding plenary of the Millennium Summit, the Chairpersons of the four round-tables made oral presentations on the deliberations of their respective groups.

One or more representatives of intergovernmental organizations, parliaments and civil society were allowed to participate in the plenary meetings of the Millennium Summit. For the 2000 Millennium Summit, as well as the subsequent 2005 and 2010 Summits, the accreditation of NGOs was based on ECOSOC resolution 1996/31, which defines the criteria and principles for establishing consultative relationships for NGOs and decides that accreditation processes are the prerogative of Member States.

B. 2005 World Summit

The 2005 World Summit, 14–16 September 2005, was convened as a High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly, at the commencement of its sixtieth session, with the participation of heads of State and Government at United Nations headquarters in New York.

World leaders from over 170 countries participated and undertook a comprehensive review of the progress made in the fulfilment of all the commitments contained in the Millennium Declaration. This included the internationally agreed development goals and the global partnership required for their achievement. The Summit also reviewed the progress made in the integrated and coordinated implementation at the national, regional and international levels of the outcomes and commitments of the major UN conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields.

Member States adopted two resolutions on the preparatory process for the 2005 World Summit. On 17 December 2004, the General Assembly adopted resolution 59/145, *Modalities, format and organization of the High-level Plenary Meeting of the sixtieth session of the General Assembly*. In addition to deciding upon the location, venue, dates, level of participation and number of plenary and round-table sessions, in the same resolution the General Assembly decided to request contributions from a number of events to precede the Summit. These included the High-level Dialogue on Financing for Development (27-28 June 2005); the ECOSOC substantive session (New York, July 2005); the Second World Conference of Speakers of Parliament (7-9 September 2005); and informal interactive hearings with representatives of civil society and private sector organizations (23-24 June). The resolution also decided to start the general debate of the General Assembly at its sixtieth session on Saturday, 17 September.

In its resolution 59/291, adopted on 15 April 2005, *Preparations for and organization of the High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly*, the General Assembly decided upon the organization of the high-level plenary and included three annexes outlining in detail the organization of the Summit's six plenary meetings, four interactive round-table sessions and informal interactive hearings.

The General Assembly held closed, informal thematic consultations in April 2005 on several issues falling under four clusters – I. Freedom from Want; II. Freedom from Fear; III. Freedom to Live in Dignity; and IV. Strengthening the United Nations – led by ten General Assembly facilitators.¹ The President of the General Assembly, the ten facilitators and Member States identified elements of possible agreement on these issues through further informal consultations through the month of May 2005.

The Summit's plenary meeting was presided over by the head of State or Government of the countries of the Presidents of the 59th and 60th sessions of the General Assembly, which were Gabon and Sweden, respectively. At the opening plenary, the first speakers were the two Co-

¹ The facilitators were: Cluster I: Barbados, Ghana and Ukraine; Cluster II: Australia, Thailand and Tunisia; Cluster III: Bangladesh and Slovenia; and Cluster IV: Netherlands and Panama.

Chairpersons, the Secretary-General and the head of delegation of the host country of the Organization.

Open and in-depth discussions of the Summit's agenda took place in four closed, interactive round-table sessions. All four round-table discussions covered the entire review agenda of the High-level Plenary Meeting. The agenda was: *The progress made in the fulfilment of all the commitments contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration, including the internationally agreed development goals and the global partnership required for their achievement, and of the progress made in the integrated and coordinated implementation, at the national, regional and international levels, of the outcomes and commitments of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields.*

The chairpersons of the four round-tables were from the African States, the Asian States, the Eastern European States and the Latin American and Caribbean States, selected by their respective regional groups in consultation with the President of the General Assembly. During the Summit's concluding plenary, the chairpersons of the four round table sessions made oral presentations on the deliberations of their respective groups.

Representatives of NGOs in consultative status with ECOSOC, civil society organizations and the private sector, one from each grouping, selected during the informal interactive hearings of June 2005, were allowed to be included in the list of speakers for the plenary meetings in consultation with the President of the General Assembly. As in 2000, accreditation was based on ECOSOC resolution 1996/31.

C. 2010 High-level Meeting

The High-level Plenary Meeting of the 65th Session of the UN General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals (MDG)—or “MDG Summit”—was convened at United Nations headquarters in New York from 20 to 22 September 2010, under the theme *We can end poverty by 2015*. The objective of the Summit was to accelerate progress on achieving the MDGs targets, including halving extreme poverty and drastically reducing hunger and maternal and child mortality. The MDG Summit and related events preceded the 65th session of the UN General Assembly and were attended by Heads of State and Government and representatives of civil society, academia and the private sector.

The General Assembly adopted two resolutions in preparation for the MDG Summit. In its resolution 63/302, adopted 16 July 2009, *2010 high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly*, the General Assembly decided to convene in 2010, at the commencement of its 65th session, the high-level plenary meeting of the Assembly.

In its resolution 64/184, adopted on 21 December 2009, *Organization of the High-level Plenary Meeting of the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly*, the General Assembly decided upon the organization of the high-level plenary and included four annexes outlining, in detail, the organization of the Summit's six plenary meetings, six closed interactive round-table sessions, informal interactive hearings and the allowance of broader participation.

In preparation for the High-level Plenary Meeting, the General Assembly requested contributions from the ECOSOC substantive session (New York, July 2010), including the Annual Ministerial Review and Development Cooperation Forum; the regional commissions, with the support of the regional development banks and other relevant entities; the Inter-Parliamentary Union; representatives from non-governmental organizations in consultative status with ECOSOC; civil society organizations; and the private sector.

Further, the United Nations funds and programmes and the specialized agencies of the United Nations system, as well as the Bretton Woods institutions, the World Trade Organization, the regional development banks, the regional commissions of the United Nations, non-governmental organizations and civil society organizations and the private sector were invited to participate in the High-level Plenary Meeting, including in the round-tables and in the preparatory process for the Meeting. They were also encouraged to consider initiatives in support of the preparatory process and meeting.

The Plenary meeting was presided over by the head of State or Government of the countries of the Presidents of the 64th and 65th sessions of the General Assembly, which were Libya and Switzerland, respectively. The three-day event convened a total of six plenary sessions.

The speakers at the opening plenary were the two Co-Chairpersons of the Summit, the Secretary-General, the head of the delegation of the host country of the Organization, the President of the Economic and Social Council, the President of the World Bank, the Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund, the Director-General of the World Trade Organization, the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme, as the Chair of the United Nations Development Group.

Six round-table sessions were held concurrently with the plenary sessions on the following themes:

- *Addressing the challenge of poverty, hunger and gender equality;*
- *Meeting the goals of health and education;*
- *Promoting sustainable development;*
- *Addressing emerging issues and evolving approaches;*
- *Addressing the special needs of the most vulnerable; and*
- *Widening and strengthening partnerships.*

The co-chairs of the six round-table sessions were two each from the Eastern European States, the Latin American and Caribbean States and the Western European and Other States, and three each from the African States and the Asian States. These 12 co-chairs were selected by their respective regional groups in consultation with the President of the General Assembly.

The participation of Member States in each round-table was determined on a first-come, first-served basis, ensuring that equitable geographical distribution was maintained yet allowing for some flexibility. Member States were encouraged to be represented at the round tables at the level of Head of State or Government. For each regional group, the distribution for participation in each round-table session was: ten Member States from the African States group; ten from Asian States; five from Eastern European States; seven from Latin American and Caribbean States; and six from Western European and other States. In addition, there were four representatives from entities of the United Nations system; four representatives of civil society and non-governmental organizations; and four representatives from the private sector.

The President of the General Assembly was mandated to consult with representatives of non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, civil society organizations and the private sector and with Member States on the list of representatives that could participate in the plenary meetings and the round-tables.

Representatives of non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, civil society organizations and the private sector, one from each grouping, selected during the informal interactive hearings, were allowed to be included in the list of speakers for the plenary meetings, in consultation with the President of the General Assembly. In addition, interested non-governmental organizations that were not in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council and private sector representatives could apply to the General Assembly for accreditation following the accreditation procedure established by ECOSOC resolution 1996/31.

III. Key lessons learned and synthesis overview of past experiences

A key lesson learned from previous high-level meetings is that early agreement by Member States on the modalities of a summit is helpful for its success. Other success factors include a high level of commitment by all development partners; relevant preparatory events with broad and balanced participation by developed and developing country governments that attracted key actors and non-government institutions; and support from stakeholder groups.

Additional specific lessons learned include:

Strengthening impact: Though the high-level meetings have been very well received and have offered a strategic vision, they also need to ensure strong practical results and policy recommendations to increase their impact;

Widening dissemination of analysis: Analysis has been disseminated principally in the form of United Nations background documents and reports of the Secretary-General. To enhance visibility and impact, these documents and reports need to be more broadly disseminated for use by the public;

Enhancing participation: It is essential to engage policy makers at the highest level to ensure visibility and strong impact and commitment. The participation of other development actors, including international organizations, the United Nations development system and other non-governmental stakeholders, such as civil society, NGOs and the private sector, have also contributed to the preparations and follow-up.

Creating awareness and engagement: It is critical to ensure that experiences from the local, national and regional levels feed into the global debate and that implementation, monitoring and accountability are distributed across all levels; and

Reinforcing partnerships with non-governmental actors: Though the meetings have shown how effective such partnerships can be, they need to be systematically incorporated into United Nations work programmes and meetings.

In addition to these key lessons, it may also be helpful to consider the following synthesis overview of past experiences.

A. Duration and timing

The United Nations High-Level Meetings of 2000, 2005 and 2010 each convened high-level participation from more than 190 Delegations represented mainly by Heads of States and Governments. They were each convened over three days at the commencement of the respective General Assembly Sessions (55th, 60th and 65th). They were chaired, in 2000 and 2005, by the Head of State or Government of the Member State of the outgoing and incoming Presidents of the General Assembly (PGA). In 2010 it was chaired by the outgoing and incoming PGA. Agreed themes were addressed in plenary sessions and further debated during round table sessions, which aimed for regional balance among the discussants. Representatives from different regional organizations as well as the World Conference of Speakers of Parliament of the Inter-Parliamentary Union and entities of the UN System attended all three summits. (Please see Annex 2.)

As the Summit is mandated to be held at the level of Heads of State and Government, a key challenge is how to secure participation from Heads of State and Government. It therefore may be helpful for Member States if the Summit were to be convened back-to-back with the high-level debate of the General Assembly. It could commence at the start of the 70th session, with the session's General Debate beginning immediately afterward. Following the precedent established at the 65th session of the General Assembly, the General Debate of the Assembly's 70th session could partly span over a weekend. It may also be noted that the General Assembly, in its resolution 67/290, decided to consider at its sixty-ninth session the need to convene a meeting of the High-level Political Forum under the auspices of the General Assembly in 2015 in relation to the launch of the post-2015 development agenda.

B. Structure and format

To allow for focused attention and discussion, it may be beneficial for the visibility of the Summit if it were to be the singular event around the opening of the 70th session of the General Assembly, providing space for a dialogue between world leaders that would be unhindered by other processes and meetings, with no parallel meetings to divert attention away from the Summit.

i. Plenary meetings

During the 2000, 2005 and 2010 Summits, the formal structure of the plenary meetings has remained fairly constant with six plenary meetings. At the opening sessions, the two Co-Chairs, the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Head of the host country delegation addressed the General Assembly, with the opening session of the 2010 MDG Summit allocating slots to additional speakers. (Please see Annex 2.)

ii. Interactive round-table meetings

While the 2000 and 2005 Summits both integrated four round table sessions covering the same main theme and the same sub-themes, the 2010 MDG Summit opted for an overarching objective and six round table sessions that each addressed a different sub-theme. Regional balance among the Chairs of the round-tables has been a consistent objective. In 2005 and 2010, the round-tables were Co-Chaired.

The involvement of non-state actors in the round-tables has expanded over time. In addition to the participation of select international organizations in each Summit, in 2000 the round-tables included one or more representatives from civil society; in 2005, select heads of entities of the UN system participated; and in 2010, the Bretton Woods institutions, the World Trade Organization, the regional development banks, the regional commissions, and four representatives each from entities of the UN system, civil society and non-governmental organizations, and the private sector were invited to contribute.

iii. Closing plenary

During the closing plenary of the Summits in 2000, 2005, and 2010, the (Co-) Chairs of the round-table sessions presented a summary of deliberations and key insights. The Summits then concluded with closing remarks by the Summit Co-chairs.

Annex 1
Key documents related to modalities

2015 Summit

A/RES/68/6, adopted 9 October 2013, *Outcome document of the special event to follow up efforts made towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals*

2010 Summit on the Millennium Development Goals

A/RES/64/184, adopted 21 December 2009, *Organization of the High-level Plenary Meeting of the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly*

A/64/263, issued 7 August 2009, *Scope, modalities, format and organization of the high-level plenary meeting of the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly*

A/RES/63/302, adopted 16 July 2009, *2010 high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly*

2005 World Summit

A/RES/59/291, adopted 15 April 2005, *Preparation for and organization of the High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly*

A/RES/59/145, adopted 17 December 2004, *Modalities, format and organization of the High-level Plenary Meeting of the sixtieth session of the General Assembly*

A/59/545, issued 1 November 2004, *Modalities, format and organization of the high-level plenary meeting of the sixtieth session of the General Assembly*

A/58/291, adopted on 6 May 2004, *Follow-up to the outcome of the Millennium Summit and integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields*

2000 Millennium Summit

A/RES/54/281, adopted 11 August 2000, *Organization of the Millennium Summit of the United Nations*

A/RES/54/261, adopted 10 May 2000, *Establishment of the list of speakers and organization of the round tables for the Millennium Summit of the United Nations*

A/RES/54/254, adopted 15 March 2000, *Millennium Summit of the United Nations*

A/RES/53/239, adopted 8 June 1999, *United Nations reform: measures and proposals; and strengthening the United Nations system*

A/53/948, issued 10 May 1999, *The Millennium Assembly of the United Nations: Thematic framework for the Millennium Summit*

A/RES/53/202, adopted on 17 December 1998, *The Millennium Assembly of the United Nations*

Annex 2: Overview of modalities for 2000, 2005 and 2010 Summits

Overview	2000 Millennium Summit	2005 World Summit	2010 MDG Summit
Scope	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o The overarching theme of the Summit was <i>The United Nations in the 21st Century</i>. The four sub-themes were: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o <i>Peace, Security and Disarmament</i>; o <i>Development and Poverty Eradication</i>; o <i>Globalization</i>; and o <i>Strengthening the United Nations</i>. The Millennium Declaration culminated in the subsequent formulation of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o The 2005 World Summit reviewed the status of implementation of the Millennium Declaration adopted at the 2000 Millennium Summit as well as the integrated follow-up to other major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o The 2010 High-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly (<i>MDG Summit</i>) took place under the theme <i>We can end poverty by 2015</i>. The main aim of the Summit was to accelerate progress on the MDG targets, including halving extreme poverty and drastically reducing hunger, illness and maternal and child mortality.
Duration and timing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o 6 - 8 September 2000 in New York. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o 14 - 16 September 2005 in New York. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o 20 - 22 September 2010 in New York.
Structure and format	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Six plenary meetings were held during the Millennium Summit. o Four interactive round-table sessions held in parallel with the plenary meetings. It was the first time at the United Nations that there were round-tables of Heads of States and Government. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o The Summit was composed of six plenary meetings. o Four round-tables were convened in parallel to the plenary meetings. o There was a special meeting on Financing for Development on the morning of 14 September. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o The Summit was composed of six plenary meetings. o Six round-table sessions held in parallel to the plenary meetings.
Plenary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o The Summit was held at the level of Heads of State and Government. o The Plenary was chaired by the Heads of State and Government of the country of the incoming and outgoing Presidents of the General Assembly. o Two Co-Chairpersons, the Secretary-General, the head of the host country of the Summit addressed the opening plenary. o A representative of each of the following was also able to be included in the list of speakers: League of Arab States, Organization of African Unity, European Commission, Organization of the Islamic Conference, Conference of Presiding Officers of National Parliaments, Millennium Forum, International Committee of the Red Cross, the Sovereign Military Order of Malta. o One or more representatives of intergovernmental organizations, parliaments and civil society were able to participate in the plenary, time permitting. o During the Summit's concluding plenary, the Chairpersons of the four round-tables made oral presentations on the deliberations of their respective groups. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o The Summit was held at the level of Heads of State and Government. o The Plenary was chaired by the Heads of State and Government of the country of the incoming and outgoing Presidents of the General Assembly. o Two Co-Chairpersons, the Secretary-General and the head of delegation of the host country of the Organization addressed the opening plenary. o A representative of each of the following was able to be included in the list of speakers for the plenary: League of Arab States, African Union, European Community, Organization of the Islamic Conference, World Conference of Speakers of Parliament of the Inter-Parliamentary Union. o Representative of non-governmental organizations in consultative status with ECOSOC, civil society organizations and the private sector, one from each grouping, selected during the informal interactive hearings of June 2005, was able to be included in the list of speakers for the plenary. o During the Summit's concluding plenary, the chairpersons of the four round-table sessions made oral presentations on the deliberations of their respective groups. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o The Summit was held at the level of Heads of State and Government. o The Plenary was chaired by the Incoming and outgoing Presidents of the General Assembly. o Speakers at the opening plenary: the two Co-Chairpersons of the Summit, the Secretary-General, the head of the delegation of the host country of the Organization, the President of the Economic and Social Council, the President of the World Bank, the Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund, the Director-General of the World Trade Organization, the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme, as the Chair of the United Nations Development Group o A representative of each of the following was able to be included in the list of speakers for the plenary: League of Arab States, African Union, European Union, Organization of the Islamic Conference, World Conference of Speakers of Parliament of the Inter-Parliamentary Union. o During the Summit's concluding plenary, the chairpersons of the six round-table sessions made oral presentations on the deliberations of their respective groups.
Preparations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Five regional hearings were held in advance of the Summit: Beirut, Lebanon (Western Asia), Addis Ababa, Ethiopia (Africa), Geneva, Switzerland (Europe), Santiago, Chile (Latin America and the Caribbean) and Tokyo, Japan (Asia and the Pacific). These regional hearings involved the participation of both UN Member States and representatives of civil society organizations. o Civil society organizations organized and participated in a "Millennium Forum" at the United Nations headquarters in New York on 22-26 May 2000. The Forum's outcome was the Millennium Forum Declaration and Agenda for Action, which was issued as an official document of the General Assembly. o The annual DPI/NGO Conference focused on themes related to the Millennium Assembly. o Other preparatory activities included a meeting of speakers of parliaments from all over the world and a summit of religious leaders. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o For the first time, the General Assembly held informal interactive hearings with representatives of NGOs, civil society organizations and the private sector (New York, 23-24 June). The hearings were organized by the Assembly President as an input to the preparatory process. A summary of the hearings, transmitted to the Assembly by its President, outlined the main messages emerging from the sessions. o The Second World Conference of Speakers of Parliament (New York, 7-9 September) o The second High-level Dialogue on Financing for Development (New York, 27-28 June) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Participants were encouraged to consider, in advance, initiatives in support of the Summit. o The regional commissions, with the support of the regional development banks and other relevant entities, held regional consultations and provided inputs. o The Inter-Parliamentary Union, as part of the preparatory process for the third World Conference of Speakers of Parliament, provided a contribution. o Informal interactive hearings were held with non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations and the private sector to provide inputs.

Round-table arrangements	2000 Millennium Summit	2005 World Summit	2010 MDG Summit
Number of round-tables	o Four	o Four	o Six
Number of high-level participants	o Four round-table sessions with at least 40 seats each.	o Four round-table sessions with at least 40 seats each.	o Six round-table sessions with at least 50 seats each.
Themes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o All four round tables covered the same overarching theme, <i>The United Nations in the 21st Century</i>, and the same sub-themes: o <i>Peace, security and disarmament;</i> o <i>Development and poverty eradication ;</i> o <i>Globalization ; and</i> o <i>Strengthening the United Nations.</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Each round-table covered the entire review agenda of the High-level Plenary Meeting. The agenda was: "<i>The progress made in the fulfilment of all the commitments contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration, including the internationally agreed development goals and the global partnership required for their achievement, and of the progress made in the integrated and coordinated implementation, at the national, regional and international levels, of the outcomes and commitments of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields.</i>" 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o The six round-table sessions had the overarching focus "<i>Making it happen by 2015</i>". Each round-table focused on one of the following six themes: o <i>Addressing the challenge of poverty, hunger and gender equality ;</i> o <i>Meeting the goals of health and education ;</i> o <i>Promoting sustainable development ;</i> o <i>Addressing emerging issues and evolving approaches ;</i> o <i>Addressing the special needs of the most vulnerable ; and</i> o <i>Widening and strengthening partnerships.</i>
Chairing arrangements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Each round-table had one chairperson. The chairpersons of three of the round tables were from the three regions not represented by the two Co-Chairpersons of the Summit. The three chairpersons were selected by their respective regional groups in consultation with the President of the General Assembly. The fourth chairperson was selected after further consultations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Each round-table was co-chaired by two Heads of State or Government selected by their respective regional groups. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Each round-table was co-chaired by two Heads of State or Government selected by their respective regional groups in consultation with the President of the General Assembly.
Participation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Representatives from: League of Arab States; Organization of African Unity; European Commission; Organization of the Islamic Conference; Conference of Presiding Officers of National Parliaments; Millennium Forum. o One or more representatives of civil society, time permitting. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Representatives from: League of Arab States; African Union; European Community; Organization of the Islamic Conference; World Conference of Speakers of Parliament of the Inter-Parliamentary Union. o Heads of entities of the United Nations system, in consultation with the President of the General Assembly. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Representatives from: League of Arab States; African Union; European Union; Organization of the Islamic Conference; World Conference of Speakers of Parliament of the Inter-Parliamentary Union. o Four representatives from entities of the United Nations system per round-table. o Four representatives of civil society and non-governmental organizations per round-table. o Four representatives from the private sector per round-table.