

1–2 april 2008

**MDGs by 2015: Recognizing the achievements, addressing the challenges, and getting back on track**

The midpoint to achieve the Millennium Development Goals by 2015 offers a window of opportunity for the international community to redouble efforts to achieve the goals. The situation is critical and calls for urgent action.

The President of the General Assembly of the United Nations Dr. Srgjan Kerim convened a thematic debate on 1st and 2nd April 2008 on the theme “Recognising the achievements, addressing the challenges and getting back on track to achieve the MDGs by 2015”.

The thematic debate focused on the poverty, education and health MDGs, where progress is most urgently required and where experience suggests that positive results have a catalytic effect on the other goals. The discussions over the two days focused on the most intractable problems, identify lessons learnt and possible additional measures to ensure the attainment of the goals by 2015.

On 1st April, the meeting began with an opening session addressed by the President of the General Assembly, the Secretary-General and two Heads of State and Government. Following the opening session there was a panel discussion focusing on poverty and hunger in the morning, and two parallel panels focusing on education and health in the afternoon.

On 2nd April, the meeting was devoted to a thematic debate among Member States in the General Assembly.

27 March 2008



**General Assembly Thematic Debate on the  
Millennium Development Goals**

“Recognizing the achievements, addressing the challenges and getting back on track to achieve the MDGs by 2015”

**Draft Programme**

**Tuesday 1 April, 2008**

9.00am                      Opening Session                      Trusteeship Council Chamber

Statement by **H.E. Srgjan Kerim**, President of the General Assembly  
Statement by **H.E. Ban Ki-moon**, Secretary-General of the United Nations  
Statement by **H.E. Matti Vanhanen**, Prime Minister of Finland  
Statement by **H.E. Moctar Ouane**, Foreign Minister of Mali

10.00am – 1pm              **Panel discussion on Poverty and Hunger**      Trusteeship Council

Moderator:      **Dr. Kandeh Yumkella**, Director-General, UNIDO

Panellists:      **Dr. Paul Collier**, St. Anthony’s College, Oxford University  
**H.E. Henrietta H. Fore**, Director of U.S. Foreign Assistance and USAID Administrator  
**Mr. Jayaseelan Naidoo**, Chairman, Development Bank of South Africa and Board Chairman, GAIN  
**Dr. Eckhard Deutscher**, Chair, OECD/DAC  
**H.E. Steven .O. Willoughby**, Chief Executive, NEPAD

1.15 – 2.45pm              **Luncheon hosted by the President of the General Assembly** (by invitation only) Delegates’ Dining Room

Keynote speaker:      **Mr. Ted Turner**, Chairman of Turner Enterprises and Chairman, UN Foundation

27 March 2008

- 3.00 – 5.30pm            **Panel discussion on Education**            ECOSOC Chamber
- Moderator:    **H.E. Iftekhar Ahmed Chowdhury**, Foreign Adviser, Bangladesh
- Panellists:     **Mr. Nicholas Burnett**, Assistant Director-General for Education, UNESCO  
**H.E. Geraldine Bitamazire**, Education Minister, Uganda  
**Mr. Desmond Bermingham**, Fast Track Initiative (FTI) Secretariat  
**Dr. Ann Cotton**, Founder & Executive Director, CAMFED  
**Dr. Yuto Kitamura**, Nagoya University, Japan
- 3.00 - 5.30pm            **Panel discussion on Health**            Trusteeship Council
- Moderator:    **Dr. Anarfi Asamoah-Baah**, Deputy Director-General, WHO
- Panellists:     **Dr. Thoraya A. Obaid**, Executive Director, UNFPA  
**Dr. Innocent Nyaruhirira**, Executive Chairman, King Faisal Hospital, Former Health Minister, Rwanda  
**Dr. Jim Yong Kim**, Harvard Medical School & Co-Founder, Partners in Health  
**Dr. Julian Lob-Levyt**, Executive Secretary, GAVI Alliance  
**Mr. Dean R. Hirsch**, President, World Vision International
- 5.45 - 6.00pm            **Wrap-up session for panel discussions**            Trusteeship Council  
Statement by **Dr. Asha Rose Migiro**, Deputy Secretary-General
- 6.15 – 8.30pm            **Reception** hosted by the President of the General Assembly, (by invitation only) Delegates' Dining Room

### **Wednesday 2, April 2008**

- 10am-1pm            Thematic Debate            General Assembly Hall
- 3-6pm            Thematic Debate            General Assembly Hall

**Closing statement from the President of the General Assembly**



**General Assembly Thematic Debate on the  
Millennium Development Goals**

**“Recognizing the achievements, addressing the challenges and  
getting back on track to achieve the MDGs by 2015”**

**Background paper**

**Panel discussion on Poverty and Hunger**

**Tuesday, 1 April 2008,  
10.00 am – 1.00 pm**

# Are we on track to meet the target?

## MDG 1: To eradicate extreme poverty and hunger.

**Target 1: Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people whose income is less than one dollar a day.**

	Africa		Asia				Latin America & Caribbean	Commonwealth of Independent States	
	Northern	Sub-Saharan	Eastern	South-Eastern	Southern	Western		Europe	Asia
Progress toward reducing extreme poverty by half	low poverty	very high poverty	moderate poverty	moderate poverty	very high poverty	low poverty	moderate poverty	low poverty	low poverty
Proportion of people living on less than \$1 a day (%)	1990	2.6	46.8	33	20.8	41.1	1.6	10.3	0.5
	2004	1.4	41.1	9.9	6.8	29.5	3.8	8.7	0.6

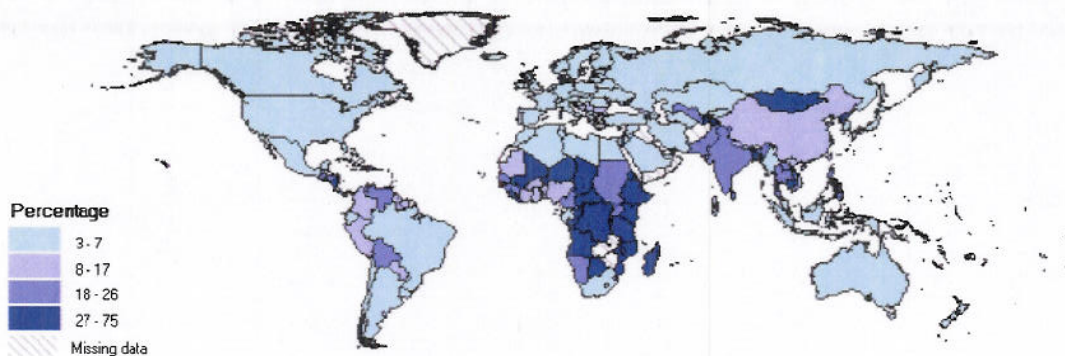
**Target 2: To halve the proportion of people who suffer from hunger by 2015.**

	Africa		Asia				Latin America & Caribbean	Commonwealth of Independent States		
	Northern	Sub-Saharan	Eastern	South-Eastern	Southern	Western		Europe	Asia	
Progress toward reducing hunger by half	very low hunger	very high hunger	moderate hunger	moderate hunger	high hunger	moderate hunger	moderate hunger	very low hunger	high hunger	
Proportion of people living with insufficient food (%)	1990-2	4	33	16	18	25	6	13	4	16
	2001-3	4	31	12	12	21	9	10	3	20

**Line 1 (progress)** – The words describe current levels. The colours show the trend towards meeting the 2015 target. **Key:** Dark Green = target met. Light Green = almost met, or on target. Orange = some/negligible progress, but insufficient to meet target. Red = no change or negative progress.

**Line 2 (level)** – Proportion of people living on less than \$1 a day (percentage) – Key: Please refer to map key below.

**Source:** United Nations Statistics Division - UN Millennium Development Goals Report 2007



Prevalence of under nourishment (2004)

Source: UN "Millennium Development Goals Indicators Database" (2007)

## **The balance sheet at the mid-point to 2015**

1. Prospects for achieving the targets related to poverty and hunger are being redefined by new trends, as well as by the intractable challenges of the past. Income growth, climate change, high food and energy prices, globalization and urbanization, among other trends, have major implications for poor and food-insecure people. Provided per capita GDP growth remains at around 3.5% per annum for developing countries, then it is anticipated that global poverty will fall to 721 million by 2015. However, despite recent positive and rising per capita growth in sub-Saharan Africa, the absolute number of poor is still rising in this region and is projected to stand at 360 million by 2015.

2. In recent years, many parts of the developing world have experienced high economic growth. Developing countries in Asia, especially China and India, continue to show strong sustained growth. Many countries in sub-Saharan Africa also experienced rapid economic growth of about 6 percent in the same period. The International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), in its most recent report on the world food situation notes that even countries with high incidence of hunger grew significantly in recent years. For example, of 34 most food-insecure countries, 22 had average annual growth rates ranging from 5 to 16 per cent between 2004 and 2006.

3 While recent rapid growth worldwide has created an estimated 45 million new jobs in 2007, this development has been accompanied by a widening gap between the rich and poor. Close to 80 per cent of the world's gross domestic product is in the hands of only 1 billion people living in the developed world while the remaining 20 per cent is shared by the 5 billion people living in developing countries. In addition, the proportion of the working poor continues to increase in sub-Saharan Africa while unemployment rates have remained above 10 percent in the Middle East and North Africa. These trends have worsened inequalities as millions of people still find it difficult to extricate themselves from the poverty trap. Social justice, equality, and better living standards for all people also remain elusive. Consequently, many communities are susceptible to social, political and economic conflicts.

4. Progress in the fight against hunger has not seen as dramatic a fall as the rates of poverty. The proportion of children under five who are underweight and therefore at high risk of stunted growth, disease and death has fallen from 32 per cent in 1990 to 27% in 2004. East Asia, the Pacific and Eastern Europe have made the biggest advances and 58 countries are on target to reach this millennium development goal. As many as 143 million children under five in the developing world continue to suffer from inadequate nutrition. The highest numbers are in south Asia, where over half the under-fives (54%) were underweight in 1990, but there is progress in this region, with the proportion falling to 46% by 2006. Asia, the second poorest part of the globe, has seen a drop from 41.1% living below the poverty line to 29.5% by 2004. However, progress has been much slower in sub-Saharan Africa, where on current trend MDG 1 may not be achieved until well after 2100. If this trend continues the overall 2015 target will be missed by a margin of 30 million children.

5. According to the 2008 United Nations World Economic Situation and Prospects (WESP), the world economy is facing serious challenges in sustaining the strong pace of economic growth seen over the past few years. While economic growth rates are expected to remain relatively high, developing countries, including the poorest, remain highly vulnerable to a downturn in the global economy. As the WESP notes, the stakes are high because maintaining strong economic growth, while not the only condition, is essential to generating the necessary resources to achieve the Millennium Development Goals.

### **Progress associated with improvement in agriculture**

6. In some Asian and Latin American countries, significant declines in poverty and hunger occurred as a result of the green revolution, which saw improvements in agricultural technologies and irrigation systems. Lessons learned from countries that implemented the green revolution clearly point to the need for policies that improve the productivity,

entrepreneurship and competitiveness of both large-scale and smallholder agriculture. Countries will also have to adopt policies that promote sustainable rural development, increase yields, ensure equitable land redistribution, and improved access to markets and the provision of agricultural services and subsidized agricultural inputs such as seeds, fertilizer, irrigation and small-scale water management, and pesticides. Knowledge sharing, especially through south-south cooperation, could help this objective. Such policies have tremendous potential to reduce poverty and inequality. Designed and implemented explicitly keeping in mind equity considerations, they are needed to kick-start the Africa Green Revolution that governments in Africa are now committed to achieving.

7. In several ways, Africa has scored numerous successes towards achieving food security for its citizens. A good number of countries have demonstrated that yields of staple crops can be boosted significantly, as with maize in eastern and southern Africa, and cassava in West Africa and more recently rice in West and East Africa. In commercial agriculture, successes have been recorded in the cotton, horticulture and dairy sectors, and in various other agricultural sub-sectors and commodity markets. Commitments to cut hunger and malnutrition are featuring ever more prominently in key national development and poverty reduction strategies and policies. Nevertheless, these successes have not led to a sustainable reduction in the rates of poverty and hunger on the continent.

8. Progress has also been hampered by the failure to recognize and address all the multidimensional causes and effects of poverty. Policies to accelerate the eradication of poverty and hunger include, creating an enabling environment for inclusive growth, promoting sound macroeconomic policies, improving access to full and productive employment and decent work, rural development and agrarian reform, addressing the energy issue, pro-poor management of critical natural resources such as marine and inland fisheries, improving access to shelter, to infrastructure, markets and institutions that foster the creation of human capital (particularly education and health), and comprehensive social protection. Establishing a basic social "floor" is imperative if countries are to reduce the vulnerability of the poor and marginalized groups to adverse shocks and to reduce the potential for political instability and conflict.

### **Addressing emerging challenges**

#### *Inflation*

9. Food security is being adversely affected by unprecedented price hikes for basic food, driven by historically low food stocks, droughts and floods linked to climate change, high oil prices and growing demand for bio-fuels. The impact of cereal price increases on food-insecure and poor households is already quite dramatic, sparking food riots in several countries. High oil prices, which in many cases have not been offset by additional Official Development Assistance (ODA), have negatively impacted domestic production costs of agricultural and non-agricultural commodities, transport cost with negative impacts on prices of imports, including food items, and hampers export potential. In the medium run, soaring oil bills are likely to hamper the necessary capital accumulation to sustain development processes, with serious implications for poverty reduction and food security.

10. Price increases also affect the availability of food aid. Global food aid represents less than 7 percent of global ODA and less than 0.4 percent of total world food production. Food aid flows, moreover, have been declining and have reached their lowest level since 1973. In 2006, food aid was 40 percent lower than in 2000. Emergency aid continues to constitute the largest portion of food aid. Faced with shrinking resources, food aid is increasingly targeted to fewer countries—mainly in sub-Saharan Africa—and to specific beneficiary groups.

11. National Governments and the international community would need to consider immediate measures in support of poor countries hit hard by dramatic food and oil price increases. Policies that both ensure that the maximum possible hectareage is devoted to food

crops and minimize the negative effects of the production and use of grains for bio-fuels on food production and availability at affordable prices could be explored.

#### *Climate change*

12. Climate change is contributing to the increase in poverty and hunger, especially among the rural poor who, for the most part, make a living on ecologically fragile lands because of farm fragmentation, competition for resources, and environmental degradation.

13. FAO and IFAD have warned that climate change will hit the poorest and most vulnerable people hardest and is expected to put almost 50 million extra people at risk of hunger by 2020. The increased risk of droughts and floods due to changing weather patterns caused by climate change will lead to losses in crop yields thereby negatively impacting agricultural production as well as access to food. The International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), in its most recent report on the world food situation notes that projections show that land suitable for wheat production may almost disappear in Africa and an expansion of arid lands of up to 8 percent may be anticipated by 2080. The impact on agriculture development in developing countries as a whole will be much more severe than on developed countries: output in developing countries is projected to decline by 20 percent, while output in developed countries is projected to decline by 6 percent.

14. Urgent action needs to be taken to on mitigation of climate change and adapting to its impact. Funding of climate adaptation plans in the poor countries and the development of actions at the national level to reduce the emissions of greenhouse gases can be taken simultaneously. Developing countries could take appropriate steps to reduce pressure on fragile ecosystems. This could include measures promoting sustainable forest management, including reforestation, regulating commercial exploitation of forests and fisheries, and crop and rural livelihood diversification. Measures, including carbon trading and tax initiatives, could be developed, improved and operationalized to ensure that developing countries benefit from additional development assistance to achieve these objectives. The riskier climate environment is expected to increase the demand for innovative insurance mechanisms, such as rainfall-indexed insurance schemes that include regions and communities of small farmers.

#### **Longstanding problems**

##### *Ensuring workers get a decent wage*

15. Ensuring that workers get decent wages requires a multi-pronged strategy. This can include policies that promote productivity growth and the competitiveness of exports, plus labour market institutions which will ensure that the benefits of increased productivity are distributed appropriately between higher wages, increased investment and lower consumer prices. The types of labour market institutions that can assist this process include: mechanisms for the establishment of minimum wages; the promotion of collective bargaining; and mechanisms for social dialogue. The precise set of labour market institutions will vary from country to country and should be adjusted according to levels of economic development and the structure of the labour market.

##### *Promoting fair trade*

16. The current international trade rules have not been beneficial to improving rural livelihoods in developing countries. Unfair trading practices including agricultural subsidies have ruined the lives of small-scale rural producers of products like coffee, cotton, and rice. This is also compounded by the fact that most developing country economies are heavily dependent on trade for food imports. Consequently, many countries are vulnerable to sudden and unpredictable shifts in commodity prices at world markets.

17. To rectify this situation, developed countries would need to redouble their efforts to level the playing field by removing farm subsidies, improving market access for exports from



developing countries, and giving these countries a greater role in determining the prices of agricultural products at international markets. For example, OECD countries spend more than three times the amount of their ODA to developing countries on domestic agricultural subsidies. Developing countries should also put in place policies that prevent the dumping of subsidized farm exports from the richer countries. They should also actively defend sensitive agricultural sectors from low-priced imports. A successful outcome to the Doha Development Round could lift more than 140 million people out of poverty.

#### *Lands rights and tenure*

18. Equitable land tenure and property rights policies are critical to economic and social development, poverty eradication and social inclusion. Better land policies also ensure sound management of natural resources, particularly sustaining common resources such as grazing lands and fisheries.

#### *Promoting the rural non-farm economy*

19. Agricultural employment still accounts for a majority of total employment in many developing countries. Creating new jobs outside of agriculture continues to be a major challenge. In particular, many developing countries face the challenge of creating enough productive and better paying jobs to absorb the large numbers of the rural poor who are either unemployed or underemployed in the agricultural sector. New strategies that focus on the non-farm economy, particularly small and medium-sized rural enterprises should be aggressively promoted and implemented. The structural transformation and diversification of rural economies, including the creation of remunerative non-farm activities has the potential to open up new employment opportunities for large numbers of people. This will help to reduce poverty in rural areas, without leading to excessive rural-urban migration that often worsens urban poverty.

#### *Addressing urban poverty*

20. Across the globe, the face of poverty is no longer restricted to rural dwellers. While urban growth has stabilised in North and South America and Europe, with about 75 percent of the population living in urban areas, the developing countries of Africa and Asia, with 37.3 percent and 36 percent urban populations respectively, are in for a major demographic shift. Urban poverty is a severe, pervasive – and largely unacknowledged – feature of modern times. Rapid unplanned and chaotic urbanisation, coupled with unemployment and underemployment in the cities of the developing world, is also a factor in international migration. It is also clear that urban and rural areas are economically, socially and environmentally interdependent, and cities and towns are engines of growth.

21. Slum upgrading provides a unique opportunity for attaining the MDGs at the local level. Security of tenure and improvements in shelter, water and sanitation have automatic knock-on effects in terms of health and nutrition, gender equality and the empowerment of women, and reduction of vulnerability to HIV/AIDS and other diseases. Both the crisis of rapid urbanisation and the unique opportunity presented by slum upgrading for the attainment of the MDGs call for governments to adopt, as a matter of urgency, pro-poor, gender-sensitive urban policies and action plans. Helping and enabling the urban poor, particularly the youth, to integrate the fabric of urban society is the only long-lasting and sustainable solution to the growing urbanisation of poverty.

#### *Addressing population growth*

22. Continued rapid population growth is also aggravating the difficulty of reducing poverty in some developing countries. Rapid population growth is also putting a severe strain on the environment as well as on food supplies. However, improving the population-food ratio will

require improving access to and management of productive land and food-producing resources among the world's poor. Complementary policies such as promoting comprehensive reproductive health programmes and addressing the challenges posed by changing age structures are also essential.

#### *Resource mobilization and partnerships to eradicate poverty and hunger*

23. For government anti-poverty and hunger actions to succeed and reach all communities, they require the support offered by civil society, the private sector and international partners. Close cooperation will also improve the harmonization, coordination and delivery of development aid. Aid for trade, if designed and implemented correctly, will help poor countries regain lost markets as well as gain new ones. Development partners could assist countries and grassroots organizations to scale-up successful anti-poverty and hunger reduction experiments and projects. Funding levels should be increased in line with the longstanding commitment to achieve 0.7 per cent ODA/GNI. At present the only countries to reach or exceed the United Nations target of 0.7% of GNI are Sweden, Luxembourg, Norway, the Netherlands and Denmark, though many others have set timetables to reach this by 2015.

24. At the G8 Summit in Gleneagles commitments were made to double aid by 2010 - an extra \$50 billion worldwide and \$25 billion for Africa - write off over US\$50 billion of debt, to end all export subsidies and to reduce domestic subsidies that distort trade, additional funding to eradicate polio and then malaria, full funding to provide all primary school children with free education and access to free basic healthcare. These commitments were restated again in Heiligendam in 2007, in particular pledges to increase ODA.

#### **Key questions for debate**

- How can the economic growth experienced in Africa in recent years be sustained and become more inclusive so that more people are lifted out of poverty?
- What lessons can be drawn from the strong and sustained economic growth in Asian countries?
- To what extent are Member States living up to their commitments to increase financing for development, integrate the MDGs into national development strategies and improve governance?
- What policies can assure that economic and agricultural growth contribute to the reduction of poverty and hunger, rather than the current trend which has seen poverty and inequality rise in some regions?
- How can the international community best address macroeconomic imbalances and other distorting policies, including trade and agricultural subsidies, to accelerate pro-poor growth and the eradication of hunger?
- How can initiatives such as the *Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa* be effective in solving the problem of poverty and hunger on the continent?



**General Assembly Thematic Debate on the  
Millennium Development Goals**

**“Recognizing the achievements, addressing the challenges and  
getting back on track to achieve the MDGs by 2015”**

**Background paper<sup>1</sup>**

**Panel discussion on Education**

**Tuesday, 1 April 2008,  
15.00 – 18.00**

---

<sup>1</sup> This background paper is based on the 2008 EFA Global Monitoring Report “Education for All by 2015: Will we make it?”, [www.efareport.unesco.org](http://www.efareport.unesco.org), and the United Nations Statistics Division - UN Millennium Development Goals Report 2007, [unstats.un.org](http://unstats.un.org).

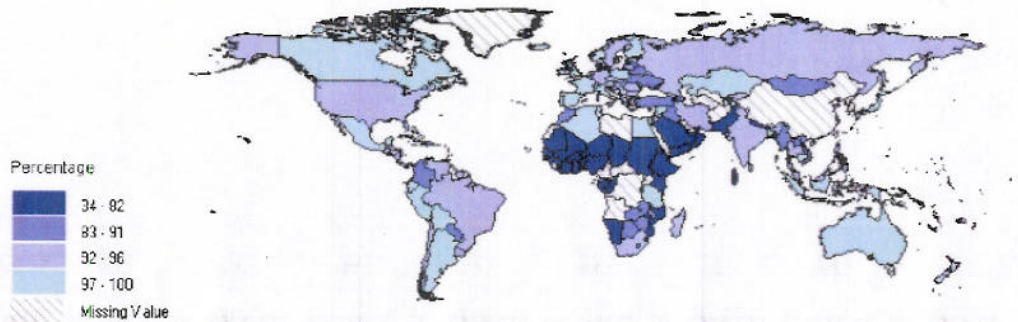
## MDG 2: Achieve Universal Primary Education

### MDG 3: Eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education preferably by 2005, and at all levels by 2015

	Africa		Asia				Latin America & Caribbean	Commonwealth of Independent States	
	Northern	Sub-Saharan	Eastern	South-Eastern	Southern	Western		Europe	Asia
Progress toward achieving Universal Primary Education	high enrolment	low enrolment	high enrolment	high enrolment	high enrolment	moderate enrolment	high enrolment	high enrolment	high enrolment
Net enrolment ratio in primary education (%)	1990-1	54	99	94	74	81	87	91	89
	2004-5	70	95	94	90	86	97	90	94

Line 1 (progress) - The words describe current levels. The colours show the trend towards meeting the 2015 target. Key: Dark Green = target met. Light Green = almost met, or on target. Orange = some/negligible progress, but insufficient to meet target. Red = no change or negative progress.

Line 2 (level) - Net enrolment ratio in primary education (percentage) – Key: Please refer to map key below.



Net enrolment ratio in primary education (2000-2006) (percentage)

Source: UN "Millennium Development Goal Indicators Database" (2007)

### Facts and figures

- Globally, 570 million primary age children are enrolled in school. But there are still around 72 million primary age children who are not enrolled in school.
- More than half of the world's out-of-school children are girls, and seven out of ten live in sub-Saharan Africa or South and West Asia.
- Abolishing primary school user fees in Malawi, Uganda, Tanzania and Kenya has helped more than one million extra children to enrol in primary school, in each country.
- Girls' net enrolment ratio (NER) in primary school (as a proportion of boys' NER) has improved from a global average of 88% in 1991 to 96% in 2005. Gender parity has already been achieved at primary level in 118 countries.
- More than 18 million extra teachers will be needed over the next decade to provide every child with a quality primary education. It is estimated that sub-Saharan Africa will need an inflow of 4 million teachers in order to maintain stock and to achieve universal primary education (UPE) by 2015. This includes 1.6 million new teaching posts that will need to be created.
- The impact of HIV/AIDS could add an additional US\$1 billion to the annual bill for achieving UPE.
- It is estimated that up to US\$10 billion additional aid is needed annually to achieve the UPE and gender goals.

## **The balance sheet at the mid-point to 2015**

1. The number of children starting school has increased sharply since 2000 in regions farthest from universal primary education (UPE). This is one of the most promising educational trends since 2000. But poverty and low education quality are limiting the gains made.

2. Between 1999 and 2005, the number of children entering primary school for the first time grew by 4%, from 130 million to 135 million, with a jump of 36% in sub-Saharan Africa - a major achievement given strong demographic growth in the region. Overall participation in primary schooling worldwide grew by 6.4%. Net Enrolment Ratios (NER) grew fastest in the two regions farthest from achieving MDG2, sub-Saharan Africa and South and West Asia: from 57% to 70% and 77% to 86% respectively.

3. However, projections for countries with relevant data suggest that without further acceleration, 58 of the 86 countries that have not yet reached UPE will not achieve it by 2015.

4. Net enrolment ratios stand above 90% in more than half the countries of North America and Western Europe, Central and Eastern Europe, East Asia and the Pacific, and Latin America and the Caribbean. Ratios are lower in the Arab States, Central Asia, and South and West Asia. The challenge is greatest in sub-Saharan Africa where more than one-third of countries have rates below 70%.

5. The number of children out of school has dropped sharply, from 96 million in 1999 to around 72 million by 2005, with the largest change in sub-Saharan Africa and South and West Asia, regions which continue, however, to harbour the largest percentages of children not in school. South and West Asia is the region with the highest share of girls out of school.

6. Poverty and marginalization remain a leading cause of exclusion. Households in rural or remote communities have less access to primary education. But many children living in urban slums are also being left behind, particularly in African cities. Significant disparities exist also between indigenous and non-indigenous populations, and disabled children continue to suffer from blatant educational exclusion.

7. MDG2 specifies that both boys and girls should receive a full course of primary schooling. The MDG 3 gender parity goal set for 2005 has been missed. Worldwide, 118 countries out of the 188 with data are on track to achieve or have already achieved gender parity at the primary level. Gender disparities stem first and foremost from disparities in enrolment in the first grade.

8. Enrolment in school is only part of the challenge. The other is ensuring that children stay in school long enough to master basic competencies, with trained teachers in a child-friendly learning environment. In half the countries with available data for 2004, less than 87% of pupils who began the first grade of primary education reached the last grade. The median completion rate is lowest in South and West Asia (79%) and sub-Saharan Africa (63%).

9. Some countries show a 20% gap between those who enter the last grade of primary school and those who complete it. In most developing countries completion rates to the last grade of primary education are virtually the same for boys and girls. For those that do finish, evidence from several sources suggests that up to 40% do not reach minimum achievement standards in language and mathematics. It is of concern to note that the number of pupils per teacher increased in sub-Saharan Africa and in South and West Asia since 1999.

10. Commitment to UPE is reflected in both national financing and international aid. Countries where primary school enrolments rose sharply generally increased their education spending as a share of GNP. Public expenditure on education rose by over 5% annually in real terms in sub-Saharan Africa and South and West Asia. Total aid commitments to basic education increased from US\$2.7 billion to US\$5.1 billion in 2004 before declining to US\$3.7 billion in 2005. Preliminary data show an upward trend in bilateral aid to basic education to \$5.4 billion in 2006.

### **Progress has happened through universal and targeted strategies**

11. More robust sector-wide policies and increased investments in education are driving change in many countries. Governments have taken initiatives to reduce the financial burden of schooling on households. Fourteen countries have abolished primary school fees since 2000, a measure that has promoted enrolment of the most disadvantaged children. Several countries, for example, Burkina Faso and Brazil, have established mechanisms to redistribute funds to poorer regions, to target areas that are lagging in terms of access to education and to offset economic barriers to schooling for poor households. Conditional cash transfer programmes have increased access to school in several middle-income Latin American countries. Such programmes typically provide financial subsidies to poor households or individuals based on conditionalities, such as enrolment or regular attendance.

12. Specific strategies to encourage girls' schooling have paid off in many countries, including Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, India and Yemen. These include community sensitization campaigns, early childhood centres to release girls from caring for their siblings, free uniforms and learning materials. Further, targeted measures to reach some of the most excluded and marginalized groups - child labourers, indigenous groups, the disabled, nomadic and pastoralist communities - include legislation, alternative learning models (bridging and catch-up courses, equivalency programmes), and better primary school infrastructure in rural and disadvantaged areas. School-based health and feeding programmes are associated with higher attendance in primary school. Measures aiming to improve quality and equity also include distribution of textbooks to disadvantaged/priority areas and the deployment of teachers to underserved areas.

### **Key outstanding challenges**

#### *Reaching every child*

14. First, schooling must be affordable. Governments could implement across-the-board fee abolition or adopt phased-in or targeted approaches. These measures call for overall education sector reforms to ensure that countries can cope with enrolment increases, particularly to ensure that there are enough schools in remote and rural areas and urban slums. Second, the poorest families require additional financial support to send their children to school. Specific policies are needed to reach working children, indigenous groups, linguistic minorities, children with disabilities and those affected by HIV/AIDS. Each group has specific needs to which education systems must respond if they are to be genuinely inclusive.

#### *Training teachers for quality education*

15. MDG2 will not be achieved without recruiting, training and retaining large numbers of teachers, especially in sub-Saharan Africa and South and West Asia. Shorter and more flexible training models, use of distance education, more on-the-job training, sufficient salaries and appropriate work conditions are key policy areas. Countries that depend on large numbers of contract teachers must ensure that they receive training and are integrated into one career stream.

### *The right learning conditions: financing quality inputs*

16. Safe and healthy physical environments (e.g. appropriate sanitation for girls), adequate learning and teaching materials, gender responsive child-centred curriculum and sufficient hours of instruction (at least 800 hours/year) are imperative for quality learning. Initial instruction in the mother tongue improves literacy acquisition. Children must also be fit for learning: school feeding, health, prevention, protection and care programmes can boost attendance and performance.

### *Attention to fragile States*

17. Some 37% of out- of- school children live in 35 states defined as fragile by OECD/DAC. It is crucial to meet the educational needs of children in conflict and post-conflict situations and to provide learning opportunities for young people who missed out on primary education. This requires urgent and effective action by the international community, including promotion of partnerships, capacity development, improved strategies and new financing mechanisms to meet the dire needs of countries in emergency, post conflict and transition situations.

### *Increasing national financing on primary education*

18. Partnerships with non-governmental organisations and the private sector can play an influential role in extending primary education provision. Such arrangements require that appropriate roles and responsibilities be carefully defined. More broadly, ensuring the right to education calls for responsive, participatory and accountable systems of educational governance and management – systems that promote access for all children and good quality teaching and learning. This notably calls for improved management capacity at all levels of government.

### *Increasing development assistance*

19. Official Development Assistance (ODA) to education remains well below the US\$9 billion required just to reach UPE. ODA is still not targeted to the neediest countries. Donors should raise to at least 10% the share of basic education in bilateral sector aid and further increase multilateral aid to education to close the financing gap. Additional resources for the Fast Track Initiative will promote donor coordination and harmonization, and help mobilize funds for basic education.

### *Connecting primary education with wider educational opportunities*

20. Ensuring that adults, particularly mothers, are literate has an impact on whether their children, and especially their daughters, attend school. Early learning and pre-school programmes improve children's well-being, prepare them for primary school and give them a better chance of succeeding once they are enrolled. The provision of quality secondary education is an impetus for students and their families to consider learning on a longer continuum.

### *Education underpins the MDGs*

21. The two education-related MDGs are part of the larger educational framework of the six Education for All (EFA) goals which aim to achieve basic quality education for everyone, from young children to adults. Realising all six goals is a key strategy in supporting the overall MDG agenda, in particular to reducing poverty, improving child and maternal health, and empowering women.

### **Key questions for debate**

- What are the most strategic ways to support children who are missing out on schooling? What are the most effective measures for giving access to quality learning to the most marginalized and disadvantaged groups? What comprehensive affordable strategies promote a child-friendly learning environment?
- Encouraging girls' access to education is also linked to broader social reforms that promote gender equality. In countries where girls remain at a stark disadvantage, what measures can be taken to empower women, in particular through more support for literacy and life skills programmes?
- Quality education depends to a large extent on the quality of teaching. What are the best strategies for drawing more teachers to the profession and giving them adequate training, as well as retaining them?
- Given competing demands on limited resources, what is the potential for increasing national spending on basic education? What experience of innovative approaches to mobilizing national resources exists? What forms of governance and management encourage greater equality and quality in education? What political and strategic challenges need to be addressed in donor countries to move towards greater, longer-term and more predictable aid to basic education?
- In situations of fragility or instability which require multi-dimensional support, what are the best channels and modalities for delivering aid effectively?





**General Assembly Thematic Debate on the  
Millennium Development Goals**

**“Recognizing the achievements, addressing the challenges and getting back  
on track to achieve the MDGs by 2015”**

**Background paper**

**Panel discussion on Health**

**Tuesday, 1 April 2008,  
15.00 – 18.00**

## Are we on track to meet the targets?

### MDG 4: Reduce child mortality.

**Target 5:** Between 1990 and 2015, reduce the under-five mortality rate by two thirds.

		Africa		Asia				Latin America & Caribbean	Commonwealth of Independent States	
		Northern	Sub-Saharan	Eastern	South-Eastern	Southern	Western	Europe	Asia	
Progress on reducing Child Mortality		low mortality	very high mortality	low mortality	moderate mortality	high mortality	moderate mortality	low mortality	low mortality	moderate mortality
Under-five mortality rate (per 1000 live births)	1990	88	185	48	78	126	68	54	27	81
	2005	35	166	27	41	82	55	31	17	72

### MDG 5: Improve maternal health.

**Target 6:** Between 1990 and 2015, reduce the maternal mortality ratio by three quarters.

		Africa		Asia				Latin America & Caribbean	Commonwealth of Independent States	
		Northern	Sub-Saharan	Eastern	South-Eastern	Southern	Western	Europe	Asia	
Progress on reducing maternal mortality by three quarters		moderate mortality	very high mortality	low mortality	high mortality	very high mortality	moderate mortality	low mortality	low mortality	
Proportion of deliveries attended by skilled health care personnel (%)	1990	40	42	51	38	30	60	72	99	
	2005	75	45	83	68	38	66	89	98	

### MDG 6: To combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases.

**Target 8:** By 2015 to have halted and begun to reverse the incidence of malaria and other major diseases.

#### Tuberculosis

		Africa		Asia				Latin America & Caribbean	Commonwealth of Independent States	
		Northern	Sub-Saharan	Eastern	South-Eastern	Southern	Western	Europe	Asia	
Progress on halting and reversing the spread of Tuberculosis		low mortality	high mortality	moderate mortality	moderate mortality	moderate mortality	low mortality	low mortality	moderate mortality	moderate mortality
Number of TB cases, excluding people who are HIV-positive (per 100,000 population)	1990	59	331	319	485	531	92	156	83	
	2005	44	490	204	274	290	56	76	137	

Line 2 (level) – Number of TB cases (per 100,000 population)

#### Malaria

		Africa		ASIA				Latin America & Caribbean	Commonwealth of Independent States	
		Northern	Sub-Saharan	Eastern	South-Eastern	Southern	Western	Europe	Asia	
Progress on halting and reversing the spread of Malaria		low risk	high risk	moderate risk	moderate risk	moderate risk	low risk	moderate risk	low risk	low risk

**Line 1 (progress)** – The words describe current levels. The colours show the trend towards meeting the 2015 target.

**Key:** Dark Green = target met. Light Green = almost met, or on target. Orange = some/negligible progress, but insufficient to meet target. Red = no change or negative progress. **Source:** United Nations Statistics Division - UN Millennium Development Goals Report 2007

## Health-Related Millennium Development Goals

1. In 2000, the United Nations Millennium Declaration set a range of goals to be attained by 2015. At the mid-point in the countdown to that target date, there are several examples of success. However, great disparities still exist within and between countries, and current trends suggest that many low income countries will not attain the Millennium Development Goals. This report sets out current progress towards the health-related Goals 4, 5 and 6, and describes national and international efforts to overcome key policy and operational constraints.

### CURRENT STATUS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

#### **MDG 4: Reduce child mortality by two-thirds by 2015**

2. Major progress has been made towards achieving Goal 4 in all regions except for sub-Saharan Africa which accounts for half of the 9.7 million deaths that occur among children under five every year. The under-five mortality rate in sub-Saharan Africa is estimated at 160 per 1000 live births compared with 83 in south Asia, 29 in east Asia, and 27 in Latin America in 2006. Only four of 46 sub-Saharan African countries are on track to achieve Goal 4. However, lessons can be learnt from several countries including Bangladesh, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, Nepal, Niger, and United Republic of Tanzania, where there has been significant progress in reducing the under-five mortality rate in recent years.

3. The slowest progress continues to be in countries with high prevalence of HIV or those affected by conflict. The coverage of services that can be delivered by outreach, such as immunization, vitamin A and insecticide-treated bed-nets, has shown encouraging trends. Trends for early and exclusive breastfeeding are positive. Based on the latest trends in measles vaccination coverage, measles-specific estimated mortality has declined by 68% globally and by 91% in sub-Saharan Africa. However, interventions that require a functional health system, for example treatment of neonatal disorders, diarrhoea, pneumonia, malaria and malnutrition, have had less of an impact.

#### **MDG 5: Improve maternal health**

4. Slower progress has been made towards Goal 5, the reduction in the maternal mortality ratio by three-quarters by 2015. More than 500 000 women died of causes related to child-birth in 2005 with around half the deaths occurring in sub-Saharan Africa and one-third in south Asia. Maternal mortality ratios for countries in sub-Saharan Africa are the highest in the world at 920 per 100 000 live births compared with 8 per 100 000 in industrialized countries. This ratio translates into a woman's life time risk of maternal death of 1 in 22 in Africa. Almost all maternal could be averted with access to a skilled attendant during pregnancy and child-birth and to emergency obstetric care in the event of complications. Experience in Bangladesh and Sri Lanka shows that maternal mortality can be reduced in low-income settings by increasing access to skilled attendants, emergency obstetric care and family planning services. A well-functioning health system is therefore a prerequisite for significant improvements in maternal health.

#### **MDG 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases**

5. **Malaria:** Malaria disproportionately affects the poor, who are more exposed to infection, have least access to services, and suffer more from the disease's consequences. Children, pregnant women, people living in emergency situations and people living with HIV/AIDS are particularly vulnerable. The use of insecticide-treated bed-nets is increasing. In 20 African countries with data for 2000 and 2005, their use

increased from 2% to 13% among children under-five, and in 16 countries their use tripled. Although the policy shift to more effective anti-malarial drugs (including artemisinin-based combination therapies) has been swift, only one-third of children under five with fever in Africa receive any anti-malarial treatment. Recent high-level initiatives are now attempting to redress the low coverage of effective interventions but need to be effectively resourced from both national and international sources.

**6. Tuberculosis:** Since 2004, the estimated number of new cases per capita has been falling, albeit slowly, in all regions except in Europe where rates are stable. If these trends are confirmed by continued monitoring, Goal 6, target 8 (halt and begin to reverse the incidence of malaria and other major diseases) will be achieved well before the target date of 2015. In addition, the Stop TB Partnership's Global Plan to Stop TB 2006–2015, has set targets of halving tuberculosis prevalence and death rates by 2015. Africa and Europe are not on track to halve TB prevalence and death rates by 2015. In these two regions, rates are falling but not fast enough. Unless progress is accelerated the targets will not be met globally; rapid improvements in treatment success (76% and 70%, respectively, in 2005) and case detection in DOTS programmes<sup>1</sup> (48% and 39%, respectively, in 2006) are urgently required.

**7. HIV/AIDS:** There have been some declines in the incidence of HIV infection in some countries which can be attributed to behavioural change and may indicate the growing impact of preventive interventions. However, there are still an estimated 1.7 million new infections per year in Africa and there remains an urgent need to rethink and expand evidence-informed prevention work. Globally, the proportion of HIV-positive pregnant women receiving antiretroviral treatment for prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV remains low as 11%. The General Assembly will hold a specific meeting to address HIV/AIDS on June 10-11, to highlight the need to take further specific action achieve the MDG 6 targets to halt the spread of HIV/AIDS and provide universal access to treatment by 2010.

#### **OVERCOMING CHALLENGES AND CONSTRAINTS: AN OVERVIEW OF THE CURRENT LANDSCAPE**

8. Recent initiatives recognize that objectives cannot be achieved without adequate investment in the systems that deliver better health, and health should be embedded in broader social and economic development planning and a multi-sectoral response. Countries need long-term predictable aid from external donors; domestic and international contributors need to see a clear link between financing and results; and mechanisms need to be designed to hold all partners accountable for their performance against international agreements.

9. Practical expressions of this growing consensus include: agreement on key technical strategies such as the WHO, UNICEF and World Bank framework for achieving the health-related Millennium Development Goals in Africa prepared at the invitation of the African Union; WHO's framework for action on strengthening health systems to improve health outcomes,<sup>2</sup> the work to follow up the High-Level Forum on the Health Millennium Development Goals, the GAVI Alliance's expansion of support for health systems; agreement in the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria on modalities for health systems support and conditions for more programmatic funding (national strategy applications); the 2007 commitment at the G8 Summit (Heiligendamm, Germany, June 2007) to scaling-up for health in Africa; partnerships established between UNITAID and other key global health agents in

<sup>1</sup> WHO-recommended strategy for tuberculosis control

<sup>2</sup> Everybody's business: strengthening health systems to improve health outcomes: WHO's framework for action. Geneva, World Health Organization, 2007.

order to reduce prices and increase availability of better-quality medicines and diagnostics at the lowest possible prices, and, most recently, several closely related bilaterally-championed initiatives – the International Health Partnership and the global campaign for the achievement of Goals 4, 5 and 6 and recently announced Catalytic Initiative to Save One Million Lives.

10. Official development assistance for health globally has doubled in recent years from US\$ 6 billion in 2000 to US\$ 12 billion in 2005. Major new resources have been committed – mostly towards the achievement of the health-related Goals, focusing on particular diseases (notably AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria) and interventions such as immunization. The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria and the GAVI Alliance have attracted most of these new resources. The United Nations system and World Bank are also committing significant resources to health. However, recent analysis by WHO shows that levels of flexible financing under the direct control of national governments has risen much more slowly.

11. As many donor governments and development banks have shifted towards budget or sector support, decreasing their involvement in specific sectors, new partners have emerged in the health sector. The foundations, particularly the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, global funds (particularly the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria) and targeted bilateral programmes (particularly the United States of America's President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief) now play a significant role in external health sector funding in some countries. Innovative sources of finance, like the International Finance Facility for Immunization and UNITAID, are tapping new sources of finance. Plans for advance market commitments promise new resources and a stimulus for research and development. Although these increases are welcome, significant gaps still exist and the current pattern of external assistance can be unpredictable at country level, making it difficult for governments to finance vital recurrent costs and make long-term plans for expanding the reach of some vital health interventions.

12. Global partnerships have been successful in raising the profile of critical issues, promoting interagency work and involving civil society and private sector. However, there are now between 75 and 100 global health partnerships and initiatives; the global health environment has become increasingly fragmented and transaction costs faced by governments have increased. In addition, the increase in resources and political attention to global health has not led to a corresponding increase in or expansion of health programmes by governments in affected countries. The need for a common framework for monitoring performance and evaluation for the scaling-up of health interventions has been recognized and international partners and countries are working together to develop and operationalize such a framework.

#### **Scaling-up: the way forward**

13. Accelerating progress requires not only significant increases in the level of investment and political commitment to health, but also attention to fundamental issues of implementation.

*Building the systems that create better health is important both within and beyond the health sector*

14. Progress towards the health-related Millennium Development Goals cannot be sustained without adequate investment in health systems (in financing, human resources, information, procurement and logistics, governance and service delivery). The Goals are interdependent and progress towards attainment of the health-related Goals relies on achievements in relation to the others. More rapid progress –

particularly in relation to prevention of HIV/AIDS, but equally with regard to other infectious and non-communicable diseases – requires a multi-sectoral response.

*Weak national capacity remains an obstacle to progress; there are clear priorities for capacity-building*

15. A shortage of well-trained health workers is a constraint in most African countries. Strategies are needed to increase their numbers; to adjust the mix of skills in changing circumstances and to changed tasks (task shifting); to increase retention of health personnel through better incentives and improvements in the work environment; and to tackle the issue of migration of such workers. In order to achieve the health-related Millennium Development Goals greater attention should be paid to populations living in countries where governments, for a variety of reasons, is unable to adequately respond fully the health needs of its people. Work in such countries will require the United Nations to increase its capacity to support governments and other development partners. Capacity-building cannot focus on the public sector alone. Greater cooperation between the State and civil society is essential to success. In order to make progress in areas such as service delivery, effective and sustainable networks of public, private, voluntary, community, faith-based civil organizations, foundations and academia will need to be created or strengthened.

*If financing commitments made by national governments and their development partners were fully honoured, many of the resource gaps in the sector could be filled*

16. Donors' aid for health in Africa has increased significantly but still lags behind stated commitments. Moreover, the volume of resources that can be used flexibly by governments to build health-delivery systems has risen far less rapidly than have the resources available for specific diseases and technical cooperation. National leaders should also be urged to meet agreed commitments with regard to spending on health as set out, for example, in the Abuja Declaration by Heads of State and Government of African countries, 2000. Domestic policies for health financing should aim to decrease reliance on out-of pocket payments and, using pooling of risk either through tax-based or social insurance systems, to help people avoid incurring large medical expenses when they fall ill.

*Progress in achieving the health-related Millennium Development Goals in Africa is constrained by fragmentation and inefficiencies in the international response: The necessity of putting the Paris Declaration on AID Effectiveness (2005) into practice*

17. While resource gaps remain, there is no need for new mechanisms, initiatives or channels of funding. Rather, support is needed for existing coordination mechanisms. These mechanisms include those at global and regional levels in which eight global health agencies are involved as part of their support for the International Health Partnership and related initiatives including the Harmonization for Health in Africa action framework. Coordination at country level is essential. The idea of the "Three Ones" principle, namely one national plan, one coordination mechanism and one monitoring and evaluation plan, which was developed for HIV/AIDS, is equally applicable in other areas of health. Work has begun to prepare criteria for determining what constitutes a sound health sector strategy and plan and to agree a common approach to monitoring and evaluation. Among other things, ways will be explored of creating more effective links between the responses to HIV/AIDS and those in other areas of health. Lessons learnt in strengthening coordination in the health sector will inform the third High- Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness to be held in Accra from 2 to 4 September 2008.

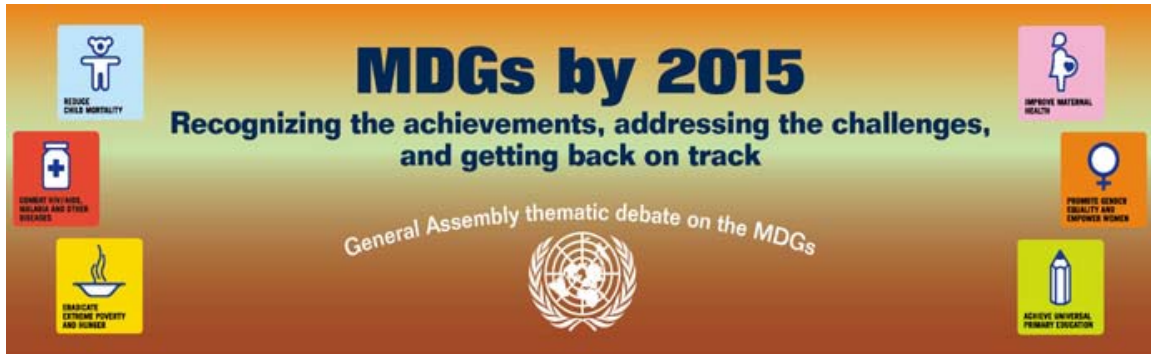
*Unpredictability of external resources makes it difficult to plan and manage the scaling up of health services: The importance of measures to increase predictability of aid at the country level are therefore critical*

18. Much needs to be done to increase the predictability of health-sector financing so that finance ministries can budget with greater confidence for recurrent costs – particularly those for medicines and salaries. More robust compacts between governments and their development partners, for example agreements that align external financing around national results-based strategic plans that focused on the Millennium Development Goals, can provide the basis for mutual accountability and for securing long-term predictable financing from multiple sources. Mechanisms that promote a link between funding and performance while enhancing predictability, such as the “MDG contracts” proposed by the European Commission and others, can be explored and developed.

#### *Other challenges*

19. In order to reach health related MDGs by 2015, other areas that need to be addressed include health security, including emerging infections, climate change and health as well as under- nutrition. In addition to health security risks, a number of cross cutting challenges continue to negatively impact on achievement of the MDGs. Among these are migration of health professionals which cause a weakening of health systems in developing countries (currently 11% of all nurses and 18% of doctors in OECD countries are foreign born) and the necessity of scaling up the role of local communities, especially in the delivery of primary health services and initiating behavioural change.

20. In the global context, new challenges include climate change, are profoundly affecting some of the most fundamental determinants of health, including food, air and water. The earliest and most severe threats are to developing countries, with negative implications not only for the achievement of health related goals, but also health security. At the most basic level, the quality and accessibility of primary health care, and the capacity of health service personnel, are crucial determinants of health vulnerability to climate related risks. Environmental hazards exacerbate health risks, with over 40% of the global disease burden attributable to environmental factors falling on children below five years of age.



## SUMMARY OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY THEMATIC DEBATE ON THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS NEW YORK, 1-4 APRIL 2008

### INTRODUCTION

The United Nations General Assembly held a thematic debate on the Millennium Development Goals at United Nations headquarters, New York on 1-4 April, 2008 on the theme “**Recognizing the achievements, addressing the challenges and getting back on track to achieve the MDGs by 2015.**”

The meeting consisted of an opening session, three panel discussions and a wrap-up session on 1 April, 2008, followed by a debate in the General Assembly from 2-4 April, 2008. The panels focused on the poverty and hunger, education and health MDGs where progress is urgently required and experience has shown that positive results can have a catalytic effect on the other goals.

### Keynote speakers

1. **The President of the General Assembly, Srgjan Kerim** emphasized that decisive action is required to speed up progress in Africa and other lagging regions. He noted that many leaders from governments, the private sector and civil society have responded positively to the call to translate commitments into concrete deliverables on the ground. The high level meetings on development planned for this year, including at Summit-level, offer a critical window of opportunity to sharpen the overall strategic focus for the attainment of the MDGs by 2015. This focus should recognize the nexus between financing for development, the MDGs, and the challenge posed by climate change. Achieving the Millennium Development Goals on time represents a fundamental test of the global partnership for development. It is a test of our collective political will to address what has been described as a ‘development emergency’. Although progress has been made towards attaining the goals, it is uneven and too slow. At the current pace, many countries, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa, will not



attain the goals by 2015. This year, 2008, must be a **year of action** to achieve the MDGs.

**2. Secretary-General, Ban Ki-moon** emphasized that addressing the special needs of the poorest will be a central priority during his term. He noted that further progress towards achieving the MDGs is possible if strong government leadership is combined with sound policies that foster trade, productivity growth, private investment, agriculture and infrastructure development, environmental conservation, gender equality and women's rights. He noted that these efforts should be reinforced by adequate financial and technical support from the international community. Soaring food prices and slowing global growth are seriously undermining progress to achieve the MDGs. Substantial investment in agriculture and a more open trading system in agricultural commodities is urgently required. The Green Revolution in Africa could expand agricultural output and combat hunger. A high-level event on the MDGs on 25 September 2008 will energize and build consensus on these efforts by bringing together world leaders, the private sector, and civil society organizations.

**3. Prime Minister Matti Vanhanen** of Finland urged European countries to address the development challenges by taking a more active global role in the areas of poverty eradication and climate change. He stressed that security, development and human rights constitute the foundations of a just society and pointed out that inequalities in income, asset ownership, opportunities for jobs, social services and benefits, political power, and access to information exist in many countries. Gender inequality, social exclusion, and high indebtedness are challenges that must also be addressed. He urged all nations to contribute to addressing the challenge of climate change so that its effects do not reverse human development. He noted that the world's poor are disproportionately affected, and said Finland has made climate change and environmental concerns a major focus of development policy. He said in conclusion that sustainable development requires national ownership, with international partners complementing national efforts.

**4.** The need for additional resources to speed up efforts to attain the MDGs was emphasized by **Foreign Affairs Minister Moctar Ouane** of Mali, who spoke on behalf of the President of Mali. There is a need to replicate successful efforts on a larger scale and to support countries to develop private sector entrepreneurship, reduce the debt burden, and make global trade fair and equitable. Mali's national strategic plan aimed at combating poverty includes projects that focus on agriculture, food security, education and health. The implementation of these strategies has allowed Mali to improve school attendance, reduce HIV/AIDS, and improve health. However, the international community should redouble efforts to fulfill commitments for increased aid and other forms of international assistance.

## RECOGNISING THE ACHIEVEMENTS AND ADDRESSING THE CHALLENGES

### Poverty and Hunger

The poverty and hunger panel was moderated by **Dr. Kandeh Yumkella**, Director-General, UNIDO, and comprised the following panellists; **Dr. Paul Collier** of St. Anthony's College, Oxford University; **H.E. Henrietta H. Fore**, Director of U.S. Foreign Assistance and USAID Administrator; **Mr. Jayaseelan Naidoo**, Chairman, Development Bank of South Africa and Board Chairman, GAIN; **Dr. Eckhard Deutscher**, Chair of OECD/DAC; and **H.E Steven .O. Willoughby**, Chief Executive of NEPAD. Following comprehensive presentations from the panellists, there was an interactive discussion involving Member States, civil society organisations and special guests. The following are some of the views that were expressed:

5. The world now has the wealth, the expertise and the technology to lift millions of people out of poverty and give them the decent life they deserve, free from hunger, ignorance and poor health. In order to **move from rhetoric to action**, developed countries must urgently fulfil **ODA commitments**; the **external debt** of developing countries, particularly LDCs, must be cancelled; developed countries should provide duty-free and tariff-free **trade access** for developing countries, particularly for LDCs, including preferential access to **international credit**. The development needs of middle-income developing countries must also be addressed.

6. Strong **national leadership and ownership** of the development agenda, good governance, implementing national MDG strategies, investment in people, technology and expanding public-private partnerships are also critical for sustained development. Millennium Development Goals must be aligned with national development strategies. Improved governance and institutional capacity enhance aid allocation and effectiveness and overall development prospects.

7. The development of **agriculture** is critical. Strengthening the agricultural sector would promote private-sector growth as well as improve food security. Concrete measures including improving irrigation, strengthening agricultural extension services to assist farmers, improving seed technology as well as access to inputs, fertilizers, markets and storage, would contribute significantly to strengthening agriculture in poor countries.

8. The importance of investing in improved **infrastructure** cannot be over-emphasized. Without improved roads, seaports and airports, the poor countries cannot improve their development prospects or maximise the potential of increased commodity prices to achieve the MDGs.

9. **Commodity exporting** developing countries must harness revenues from the current commodity boom to increase investment in infrastructure, capacity development and economic diversification in order to ensure long-term economic growth and development.

10. The **peace dividend** in many countries emerging from conflict also offers an historic opportunity. The international community needs to be more actively engaged with countries emerging from conflict to ensure that they do not relapse into conflict, and instead build a solid foundation for sustained peace, security and development.

11. It was also noted that the slow-down of the global economy, soaring oil prices, rising food prices, conflict, weak policy frameworks and institutional capacity, and climate change are among the additional challenges that continue to impede progress in attaining the MDGs.

### **Education**

The education panel was moderated by **H.E. Iftekhar Ahmed Chowdhury**, Foreign Adviser of Bangladesh, and comprised following panellists; **Mr. Nicholas Burnett**, Assistant Director-General for Education of UNESCO; **H.E. Geraldine Bitamazire**, Education Minister of Uganda; **Mr. Desmond Bermingham** of the Fast Track Initiative (FTI) Secretariat; **Dr. Ann Cotton**, Founder & Executive Director of CAMFED; and **Dr. Yuto Kitamura** of Nagoya University, Japan. Following the comprehensive panel presentations, there was an interactive discussion involving Member States, civil society organisations and special guests. The following are some of the views that were expressed:

12. There has been a sharp increase in the number of children starting **primary school** in the regions farthest from attaining universal primary education – in the case of Africa the increase was by 36 per cent between 1999 and 2005. Net enrolment rates also grew fastest in sub-Saharan Africa and South and West Asia – from 57% to 70% and 81% to 90% respectively. However, as many as 72 million children of primary school age are still not enrolled in school and more than half of them are girls. Seven out of ten girls in this group live in sub-Saharan Africa or South and West Asia. While access to primary education has been enhanced, further acceleration is urgently needed to achieve **quality primary education** for all children, especially for girls and children in fragile states. Education in societies affected by conflict presents challenges that must be urgently addressed.

13. The MDG 3 target to eliminate gender disparity in **enrolment for primary and secondary education** by 2005 has been missed. Currently, 118 countries out of the 188 with data are on track or have already achieved gender parity at

the primary level. Significant challenges remain in other countries. These challenges must be addressed.

14. The impact of **HIV/AIDS** could add an additional US\$1 billion to the annual cost for achieving universal primary education (UPE). The education sector has been hit hard as teachers who die of the disease are not easily replaced, and girls often drop out of school to care for sick relatives.

15. A number of broad but **critical policy issues** must be addressed, including; training, retaining and motivating school teachers; effective teaching and learning strategies; improving the quality of education, including improving learning time, access to materials and textbooks, and creating a healthy and safe learning environment; addressing high primary school dropout rates.

16. Universal primary education must be connected with **wider educational opportunities**. In this context, the provision of early childhood care and education, quality secondary education, youth and adult literacy were among some of the opportunities that would also support the overall MDG agenda. School curricula must be more closely aligned to national development priorities.

17. **Higher education** spending supported by external aid is therefore needed to make a difference for millions of children. 34 countries have joined the Fast Track Initiative launched in 2002 as a new way to mobilize aid for education.

18. There was support for the call for an **increase of 10 per cent in ODA** per annum for basic education by 2010 to meet the recognised financing gap. It was also proposed that a replenishment campaign be established for the FTI Catalytic Fund in order to increase levels of predictable financing for basic education to 2015.

### **Health**

The health panel was moderated by **Dr. Anarfi Asamoah-Baah**, Deputy Director-General of the World Health Organisation, and comprised following panellists; **Dr. Thoraya A. Obaid**, Executive Director of UNFPA; **Dr. Innocent Nyaruhirira**, Executive Chairman of King Faisal Hospital and former Health Minister of Rwanda; **Dr. Jim Yong Kim** of the Harvard Medical School and Co-Founder, Partners in Health; **Dr. Julian Lob-Levyt**, Executive Secretary of the GAVI Alliance; and **Mr. Dean R. Hirsch**, President of World Vision International. Following the comprehensive panel presentations, there was an interactive discussion involving Member States, civil society organisations and special guests. The following are some of the views that were expressed:

19. The **health-related MDGs** are central to meeting all the MDGs. Poverty and hunger are major determinants of health. Education and the empowerment of women significantly contribute to the improvement of maternal health and a decrease in child mortality. Investment in better health, including reproductive health, not only saves lives but also makes smart economics.

20. Many countries are off track to achieve MDG 5 to **improve maternal health**. Sub-Saharan Africa accounts for half of all maternal deaths and south Asia accounts for one-third. Maternal mortality can be reduced in low-income settings by increasing access to skilled birth attendants, emergency obstetric care and family planning.

21. Progress on all health-related MDGs, including **infant mortality**, and on key infectious diseases, such as **tuberculosis** continues to be slowest in countries with high prevalence of **HIV** and those affected by conflict. Overall, there has been a decline in the incidence of HIV infection in some countries which has been attributed to behavioural change, the growing impact of preventive interventions and active involvement of the international community.

22. Many **challenges remain**, however, including the growing **feminization of HIV** and the incidence of **multi-drug-resistant TB** resulting from HIV infection. The TB response is not fully scaled-up. Communities and civil society are not sufficiently mobilised, there is inadequate support for research into new drugs, and weak national health systems compromise care. The upcoming high-level meeting to review the progress achieved in realizing the 2001 Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS and the 2006 Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS on 10-11 June, 2008 is expected to focus on some of these challenges, including universal access to treatment by 2010.

23. **Malaria** impedes socio-economic development and disproportionately affects the poor. Very simple and inexpensive interventions have been successful in reducing malaria. The use of insecticide-treated bed nets to prevent the disease is increasing. However, malaria is still a major killer of children under five years of age in Africa. Recent initiatives by the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization (GAVI) and the Global Fund for HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, to redress the low coverage of effective interventions have achieved remarkable results. There is need for these and other efforts to be more effectively resourced from both national and international sources.

24. Success in addressing the health goals depends on **building strong national healthcare systems**, including strong basic science and diagnostic tools. Leadership from national governments in prioritizing health and developing effective national plans to combat disease is critical. NGOs and foundations play an important role in addressing public health challenges.

25. Governments should explore further **innovative finance** for health to scale up health programmes, particularly in rural areas following the successful IFFim and UNITAID initiatives. This would require greatly increasing investment in health systems; implementing policies to increase and retain health workers, particularly aimed at addressing migration; increasing the predictability of aid at the country level and honouring commitments made so that many of the resource gaps in the sector could be filled.

## **GETTING BACK ON TRACK TO ACHIEVE THE MDGS BY 2015**

### **Role of the international community**

26. The General Assembly established the MDGs in 2000 and therefore has a critical leadership role to play in mobilizing global support, monitoring and evaluating progress to achieve them. However, **concerted and coordinated action** by the international community and national institutions is required in order to achieve the goals globally. Financial, human and technical resources for development must be adequate and predictable if the MDGs are to be attained.

27. The **high-level General Assembly meeting on Africa's development needs** on 22 September 2008, and the **high-level event on MDGs** on 25 September 2008, provide critical opportunities to rally global support, announce concrete new initiatives, or provide detailed timetables for the implementation of existing commitments.

28. The Secretary-General's **MDG Africa Steering Group** is providing strategic direction and leadership by identifying specific national financing gaps to mobilise international support for the implementation of the goals.

29. Closer **partnership** between traditional and emerging donors, as well as, civil society and the private sector, is also important. The private sector, in particular, should be encouraged to have a greater involvement in achieving the MDGs both directly, through their core business models, and indirectly, by supporting new or existing MDG initiatives.

### **Getting back on track**

30. During the Thematic Debate several specific proposals and policy recommendations received widespread support among Member States, including, that:

- The **General Assembly** should hold a meeting each year until 2015 to take stock of global implementation and to hold all partners to account for the implementation of their commitments to achieve the Millennium Development Goals;
- Donor governments should honour commitments to increase aid and achieve the UN **0.7% of ODA/GNI target**, and also improve the quality and effectiveness of aid in line with the Paris Declaration;
- The **international aid architecture** is constrained by too much fragmentation which undermines the impact of aid. For its efforts to be more effective, the international community needs to work together in closer partnership to reduce transaction costs and increase **predictability** over the long term.
- **National ownership** and policy space are vital requirements allowing developing countries to follow their own development path and take full responsibility for their own development. Fundamental **reform of the international architecture** is necessary to give developing countries greater voice and participation in the global policy and decision making process.
- Prudent and effective **management of revenues**, in particular from the recent commodity boom, would ensure that greater domestic resources are available for development.
- **Good governance** and **fiscal transparency** contribute significantly to investor confidence and improve overall development prospects.
- The expedited conclusion of the **Doha Development Round** of international trade negotiations is essential for economic growth in poor countries and overall attainment of the MDGs. Improved or **preferential market access**, in addition to **Aid-for-Trade**, would further contribute to the attainment of the goals and lift millions out of poverty.
- Further efforts are necessary to expand existing **debt relief** initiatives so that more countries are eligible for irrevocable debt relief. An increase in the flow of foreign direct investment (FDI) and the transfer of technology are important to helping countries meet the MDGs.
- Increased investment in **infrastructure** is necessary to sustain economic growth and development, in particular investment in roads, seaports, airports and telecommunications to enable greater trade and communication in underdeveloped economies.

- The **food crisis** will undermine all our efforts unless there is greater **investment in the agricultural sector** - irrigation, agricultural extension services to assist farmers, improving seed and other technologies, fertilizers, markets and storage – that would promote private-sector growth, as well as improve food security.
- **Climate change** is already undermining the achievement of the MDGs, particularly, in the poorest countries and in those at greatest risk from its effects. Development must be environmentally responsible and sustainable.
- Continued support for **NEPAD** is critical, including through the Office of the Special Advisor for Africa and UNDP.
- **Education** is the foundation for lasting development and an additional investment of US\$10 billion of ODA is required to meet the goal of providing basic education for all by 2010. The issue of training and retaining school teachers must be addressed, as well as the overall quality of education. School curricula should be closely aligned to national development priorities.
- Investment in **basic healthcare** and services not only saves lives but is also smart economics. According to a UNFPA study every dollar invested in family planning can save up to 31 dollars in government spending on education, food, health, housing and water and sewage. Very simple and inexpensive interventions, for example, have proved successful in dramatically reducing malaria. Maternal mortality can be reduced in low-income settings by increased access to skilled birth attendants, emergency obstetric care and family planning.
- Long-term and sustainable progress in achieving the health goals will depend on **building strong national healthcare systems**. This includes human resource capacity building and developing or up-grading healthcare infrastructure. Governments and non-governmental partners have important roles to play in this regard, as well as in developing sound healthcare policies, including prevention programmes.
- The **International Health Partnership** initiative, involving donors, developing countries, civil society, the IFIs and UN agencies, to scale up investment and support for the health MDGs, is an excellent model. However, increased and more predictable ODA for the health sector would further enable governments in poor countries to invest in health systems over the long-term. An additional US\$5.5 billion is required annually to achieve MDG 4 and 5 by 2015.



- A strengthened, coherent and adequately resourced **UN gender architecture** would provide renewed leadership on gender equality and women's empowerment issues. This could mobilise global support on this issue that would have a significant impact on accelerating progress across all MDGs.
- **Partnerships with civil society and the private sector** are essential to accelerate progress. The private sector should be more actively engaged, including by providing affordable goods and services to the poorest 'bottom billion'. Large foundations should be encouraged to champion specific MDGs to produce concrete results.
- Foundations, civil society and targeted bilateral and multilateral initiatives **championing specific MDGs**, such as the health goals, gender equality and women's empowerment have contributed significantly to the progress achieved so far, and are therefore essential to accelerate progress.

-----



THE PRESIDENT  
OF THE  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

19 December 2007

Excellency,

Having reached the midpoint for attainment of the Millennium Development Goals, there is broad agreement on the necessity for urgent action to ensure that the goals are met by 2015.

During the General Debate Member States identified the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals as a priority for the 62<sup>nd</sup> session. Pursuant to this, I intend to convene a thematic debate on 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> of April 2008 on the theme "*Recognising the achievements, addressing the challenges and getting back on track to achieve the MDGs by 2015.*"

Throughout 2008, there will be a series of meetings on international development issues. The thematic debate will provide the Assembly with the opportunity to contribute to the overall strategic direction of the development agenda.

The thematic debate will focus on the poverty, education and health MDGs, where progress is most urgently required and where experience suggests that positive results have a catalytic effect on the other Goals. The discussions over the two days will focus on the most intractable problems, identify lessons learnt and possible additional measures to ensure the attainment of the Goals by 2015.

On the first day of the debate, there will be an opening plenary meeting addressed by the Secretary-General and keynote speakers. In the morning session a panel discussion will focus on the poverty and hunger MDG and in the afternoon, there will be two concurrent panel discussions focusing on education and the health Goals respectively. The second day will be devoted to a plenary meeting in the General Assembly.

It is my pleasure to invite your delegation to participate in this thematic debate and to encourage representation at ministerial level.

Early next year, I will circulate more details of the event, including a program and concept paper.

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

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

Srgjan Kerim

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Srgjan Kerim', written over a faint printed name.



THE PRESIDENT  
OF THE  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

4 March 2008

Excellency,

Following my letter to Member States on 19 December 2007 announcing that I will convene a thematic debate on the Millennium Development Goals on **1 and 2 April 2008** on the theme "**Recognizing the achievements, addressing the challenges and getting back on track to achieve the MDGs by 2015**", I have the honour to circulate herewith the draft programme for the event. The programme includes the list of speakers for the opening and closing meetings and for the three panels focussing on the poverty and hunger, education and health Millennium Development Goals.

I have the honour to also circulate background papers for the three panel discussions taking place on **1 April 2008**. The papers provide useful information with regard to the current status in implementing the poverty, education and health goals. They highlight where the most intractable problems are, as well as identify successes and possible lessons learned. I hope that delegations will find this information useful.

The thematic debate will also consist of a plenary meeting in the General Assembly on **2 April 2008**. A list of speakers will be opened with the General Assembly Affairs Branch in accordance with General Assembly procedures. I would strongly encourage delegations to make concise statements, not exceeding five minutes.

Attaining the Millennium Development Goals by 2015 is a major priority for the General Assembly as well as the international community as a whole. This meeting will provide an opportunity at the midpoint for attainment of the goals to take stock of the progress so far, discuss solutions to the existing challenges, and renew commitments to attaining the goals by 2015. Given the importance of these issues, I would therefore once again like to encourage Ministerial-level participation in this event.

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

  
Srđjan Kerim

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

1 April 2008

**Statement of H.E. Mr. Srgjan Kerim,  
President of the 62nd Session of the General Assembly,  
on “Recognising the Achievements, Addressing the Challenges and  
Getting Back on Track to Achieve the MDGs by 2015”**

Your Excellency Prime Minister of Finland,  
Your Excellency the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Mali,  
Secretary-General, Ban Ki-moon,  
Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

May I welcome you all to this important and timely thematic debate to help get us back on track to achieve the Millennium Development Goals by 2015.

I would like to thank the generous sponsors of this event the United Nations Foundation, the Arabella Philanthropic Investment Advisors, and the Permanent Missions of Austria, Qatar and the United Kingdom.

I would also like to give a special welcome to the Prime Minister of Finland and the Foreign Minister of Mali, whose presence today along side the Secretary-General symbolizes the sense of urgency and resolve with which both developed and developing countries attach to achieving the United Nations Millennium Development Goals.

Let me begin by sharing with you the words of George Bernhard Shaw;

“The greatest evils and the worst of crimes is poverty”,..... eliminating poverty is our first duty....., “a duty to which every other consideration should be sacrificed.”

What a profound call to action against poverty.

Achieving the MDGs is fundamentally a test of our global partnership on development. A partnership, that goes beyond cooperation among Member States to include the private sector, civil society and the global public.

At this halfway point, the question is not whether the glass is half full or half empty? The issue is, how quickly are we going to fill it up? This is exactly the purpose of this debate.

I agree with one of the founding fathers of the MDGs, former Namibian President Sam Nujoma. We will only emerge victorious and meet most, if not all, of the MDGs by 2015, with more commitment and dedication.

The stakes are high. If we achieve the MDGs on time 500 million people will be lifted out of poverty, 300 million more people will be adequately fed, and 30 million young children's lives will have been saved.

Yet at the mid-point between the adoption of the Goals and the 2015 deadline to achieve them, it is already clear that our pace is too slow.

On current trends none of the goals will be met in Sub-Saharan Africa. We are facing a crisis - a development emergency. As the Secretary-General has remarked, 'millions of lives quite literally hang in the balance'.

We must not be remembered as the generation that betrayed rather than honoured our commitments; irrevocably undermining trust in the multilateral system.

We all have a stake. This year, we have a critical window of opportunity to accelerate progress by translating our commitments into action.

Many leaders in government, business and civil society are rallying behind the Secretary-General's 'Call to Action' and the Special MDG event on the 25 September.

We should not wait. We can begin today, by building momentum and shaping the outcome.

The General Assembly has a strong message for the rest of the world: a message that will be carried to inspire forthcoming conferences and summits on development this year.

2008 is the year for action.

Commitments made must now urgently be translated into concrete deliverables on the ground.

As British Prime Minister, Gordon Brown said, "we cannot allow our promises to become wishful thinking, and then only words that symbolise broken promises".

Excellencies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to set the scene for the debate today by taking stock of where we are on the specific cluster of MDG targets that are our focus - 'Poverty & Hunger', 'Education' and 'Health'.

Given the gravity of the situation we cannot simply act on the basis of impressions or assumptions. We must focus on facts.

But we must also bear in mind that these facts and numbers represent millions of frustrated people, with aspirations, goals and unfulfilled promises for a better life. They represent women, children and men who continue to suffer.

Excellencies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

There has been significant progress in reducing poverty and hunger.

The global proportion of people living in extreme poverty fell from about one-third to less than one-fifth between 1990 and 2004. And, the proportion of hungry people is expected to drop from 20 to 10 per cent between 1990 and 2015. So overall we are just on course to achieve our MDG 1 targets.

But there's a huge challenge in Africa, which saw absolute poverty rise over the last decade. In sub-Saharan Africa, a third of men, women and children are malnourished and on current trends 360 million people will still live in poverty by 2015.

At our current pace, one in six people globally will still live on less than US\$1 a day in 2015 – that's almost one billion. A staggering figure to imagine in the 21st century.

But their situation could yet deteriorate if energy and food prices continue to rise - increasing food insecurity and hunger for the most vulnerable.

On health, major progress has been made towards Millennium Development Goal 4 – to reduce infant mortality by two-thirds. At the halfway point 3 million more children now survive each year.

But 10 million children still die each year before reaching their fifth birthday, half of them in sub-Saharan Africa.

Every year more than half a million women die needlessly from complications in pregnancy or child birth. That's almost one woman every minute.

This means that the Millennium Development Goals to reduce maternal mortality by three quarters will not be met by 2015, unless we act decisively now.

Malaria kills one million people, tuberculosis two million people, AIDS three million people. Every human life lost is a tragedy.

However, because of the specific nature of HIV/AIDS the General Assembly will address it at a special High-level meeting on 10 and 11 June.

On education, we have made progress since 2000. There are now 41 more million children in school; net enrolment worldwide has risen to around 87 per cent; and, gender parity has already been achieved at primary level in 118 countries.

However, the quality of education and high student-to-teacher ratios remain significant challenges.

And, unless we act, the Millennium Development Goal to provide primary education for every child will not be met by 2050, at best by 2100.

Excellencies,

Despite these setbacks, success is not beyond our grasp. For all the measures of despair there can also be reason for hope and inspiration.

In the past 20 years, 400 million people lifted out of absolute poverty. Smallpox has been eradicated.

And, since the Millennium Declaration in 2000;

34 more countries are now on track to meet the infant mortality goal.

44 more countries are on track to meet the poverty goal.

47 more countries are on track to meet the education goal.

In Africa, up to one third of schooling is now provided by churches, and faith groups. Businesses and charities are also involved.

Goldman Sachs, working with CAMFED and Cambridge University, has just established a US\$100 million global initiative to provide business education to underserved women.

Their research indicates that closing the gender gap could raise per capita income by 10-14 per cent in developing countries – lifting millions out of poverty.

The tuberculosis epidemic is declining. Polio, leprosy and neonatal tetanus are on the verge of extinction. And, 2 million more lives are now saved every year by immunization.

The International Finance Facility for Immunisation - backed by the Gates Foundation, six European governments, Brazil and South Africa – is frontloading US\$4 billion to enable, by 2015, 500 million children to be vaccinated and at least 5 million more lives saved.

The debt of more than 20 countries has been fully cancelled - over \$81 billion - helping to provide free health care and to build new classrooms and hospitals.

However, the final official ODA figures for 2006 show a fall in real terms for the first time since 1997 to US\$104.4 billion, though aid to Africa rose to an all time high.

But, in addition to the quantity of aid, there also needs to be quality for it to have an impact on people's lives.

Each partner country needs to determine its own priorities, the pace and sequencing of reforms.

When strong government leadership and good domestic policies are combined with adequate financial and technical support from the international community, private sector and NGOs rapid progress is possible.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

In the long struggle to address the intractable problem of global poverty the MDGs represent the culmination of decades of incremental steps by the General Assembly to refine the United Nations development agenda.

This global consensus recognizes that economic growth, by itself, is not enough. Inclusive growth needs to be accompanied by good governance, care for the environment, social justice, human rights, gender equality and quality public services.

At the midway point to achieve the MDGs by 2015, all of our commitments must now be urgently translated into practical plans with systematic follow-through by all parties.

Donors need to issue country-by country timelines for how they are going to increase aid, so partner governments can plan for essential investments in services.

All of our attention must be focused on creating a more coherent development agenda, based on the nexus between Financing for Development, the Millennium Development Goals and the challenge of global warming.

This is the only strategy we can adopt to create a more sustainable, just and equitable future for all. But we face a race against time. We must now demonstrate the political will and turn our promises into action.

Thank you very much for your attention.



4 April 2008

**Statement of H.E. Mr. Srgjan Kerim,  
President of the 62nd Session of the General Assembly,  
at the Closing of the Thematic Debate “Recognising the  
Achievements, Addressing the Challenges and getting back on Track  
to Achieve the MDGs by 2015”**

Excellencies,  
Distinguished delegates,

I would like begin by thanking all the 110 delegations - including many Ministers - representing Member States and Permanent Observers that have contributed to this important debate.

Our focus on facts and substance demonstrates that we take the achievement of all the MDGs by 2015, in all countries, extremely seriously. It also demonstrates that when dealing with substance the Assembly is stronger and able to send a strong message to the rest of the world.

Let me begin by highlighting some of the key conclusions that I will take away from our Thematic Debate on the Millennium Development Goals.

1. It is clear that significant progress has been made, but it is uneven and too slow. We have the solutions. The key issue is that we all have to deliver on our commitments, scale-up our efforts and accelerate progress.
2. Africa and Least Developed Countries need additional long-term assistance from the international community to catch up with the rest. In particular, there were strong calls for investment in agriculture – a critical source of income for the poorest of the poor - and infrastructure to achieve this.
3. The MDGs are interdependent. And, making progress on the ‘poverty and hunger’, ‘education’ and ‘health’ targets will have a catalytic effect on the other Goals.
4. The international aid architecture is constrained by too much fragmentation undermining the impact of aid. For our efforts to be more effective the international community needs to work together in closer partnership to reduce transition costs and increase predictability over the long term.
5. Partnerships with civil society and the private sector are essential to accelerate progress. The private sector should therefore be given the opportunity to provide goods and services to the poorest ‘bottom billion’, and large foundations should be encouraged to champion specific MDGs to produce concrete results.

6. Climate change is already undermining the achievement of the MDGs, particularly, in the poorest countries and those at greatest risks from its affects. Development must be environmentally responsible and sustainable.
7. MDG progress and economic growth can be greatly improved by closing the gender gap, empowering women and providing better access to maternal healthcare and basic health services, including reproductive health.
8. Trade is a potent tool in the fight against poverty. A timely and successful conclusion to the Doha Development Round has the potential to lift millions out of poverty. Preferential trade access for agricultural and value added goods for Africa and LDCs would immediately boost MDG prospects and economic growth. For example, if the EU and US removed cotton subsidies, cotton exports from Africa would increase by 75 %.
9. Rising food and energy prices are increasing food insecurity and malnutrition – a primary cause of infant mortality, stunted growth and other serious health risks.
10. Countries emerging from conflict urgently require better long-term support and better modalities for delivering aid from the international community to reduce the likelihood that they will descend back into violence and instability.
11. Better management of revenues, in particular from the recent commodity boom, including through establishing international guidelines, would increase domestic resources for development.
12. Education is the foundation for lasting development. An additional investment of US\$10 billion of oda is required to meet the Goal of providing basic education for all by 2010.
13. Investment in basic healthcare and services not only saves lives but is smart economics. According to a UNFPA study every dollar invested in family planning can save up to 31 dollars in government spending on education, food, health, housing and water and sewage services. US\$5.5 billion is required to achieve MDG 4 and 5 by 2015.
14. National ownership and policy space are vital requirements allowing developing countries to follow their own development path and take full responsibility for their own development. Fundamental reform of the international architecture is necessary to give developing countries greater voice and participation in the global policy and decision making process.
15. The MDG framework is the internationally accepted and intergovernmentally agreed benchmark for international development and forms the basis of our global partnership. Any attempts to change the Goals without intergovernmental agreement, only serves to undermine their legitimacy.

Excellencies,

If there is one point that has been made clearly and repeatedly, it is that delivering on our commitments is a priority and that delivering results a necessity.

Donors need to provide the additional aid and debt relief they have promised.

And, developing countries need to integrate the Millennium Development Goals into national development plans, and speed up implementation of other commitments, including better governance.

Ekhard Deutscher, Chair of the OECD-Development Assistance Committee, made it clear that donors ‘are not on track’ to increase aid by US\$50 billion by 2010 – that aid has fallen in real terms for the second consecutive year.

“Money is not everything, but everything is nothing without money” he said.

We also heard that only 17 per cent of developing countries have operational strategies to integrate the MDGs into national development plans. The target they set for themselves is 75 per cent by 2010.

Despite the many positive initiatives that many Member States have emphasized over the past few days, it is clear that progress on both sides of the partnership is lagging.

Without concrete, results focused MDG plans, donors naturally find it difficult to cut their own domestic spending to invest in developing countries - they need to demonstrate results to maintain public support.

Without the confidence that they will deliver extra resources, developing countries aren’t able to scale up programmes that deal with the MDGs.

This appears to be a classic catch 22 situation.

But really its not! Fortunately, many donors, developing countries, multilateral organizations the private sector and NGOs are already meeting halfway.

This is in the true spirit and meaning of MDG 8 to forge a ‘global partnership on development’, and the values the United Nations promotes and holds dear.

It is clear that more commitment and dedication is needed to achieve the goals on time. As one delegation said, "we have the knowledge, technology and wealth to make a difference for millions of people on our planet by helping to lift them from grinding poverty."

That is why; I would like to commend Ted Turner’s United Nations Foundation initiative, working with Lutheran and Methodist organizations, to provide US\$200 million to fight malaria in Africa.

And, the Secretary-General’s work to scale up implementation in Africa by identifying MDG financing gaps in partnership with all stakeholders. Donors now have concrete investment opportunities to deliver on their promise to double aid to Africa by 2010.

It is also clear, that the aid landscape is changing. The private sector now contributes around US\$14 billion in aid, NGOs and civil society around US\$12 billion in aid.

The role of the private sector will continue to grow, but it will not replace the role of governments. Development doesn’t happen without effective and accountable states, capable of delivering services to their citizens.

We did however hear some very compelling arguments for the private sector to be given the opportunity to provide goods and services to the poorest ‘bottom billion’. That private equity is prepared to work for a social dividend.

Charitable foundations are also playing a bigger role by championing specific goals and bringing in donors and developing countries to work on targeted initiatives. The MacArthur Foundation’s work on MDG 5 – maternal health – is an excellent example of this.

More foundations should be encouraged to ‘champion’ specific MDGs where they can add value and generate public support.

It is clear that working together we are stronger. That in partnership we can make progress.

When aid is effectively aligned behind national governments and predictable over the long term progress can be achieved.

Malawi recently doubled agricultural productivity in just one year.

Ghana has introduced a successful national school feeding programme.

Since 2003, India reduced the number children out of school children by almost five million per year.

Honduras, Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda and many other countries have abolished fees for primary schools dramatically increasing enrolment.

Zambia has cancelled fees for basic rural health services, and Burundi introduced free medical care for mothers and children.

Excellencies,

The General Assembly has a critical leadership role to play in mobilizing global support to achieve the MDGs. Many delegations endorsed my proposal for the Assembly to meet each year until 2015 to take stock of global implementation and to hold all partners to account for their Millennium Development Goals commitments.

The General Assembly established the historic Millennium Development Goals. It therefore has a responsibility to monitor their implementation and the commitments made by all parties to achieve their full implementation.

In addition, to holding an annual meeting devoted to this objective the General Assembly should mandate the United Nations Secretariat, working with all relevant Funds Programmes and Agencies, to provide an Annual MDG Global Monitoring Report analyzing implementation in all countries, to form the basis of our debate.

The Assembly has further opportunities to demonstrate its leadership role; our meeting on 22 September, focusing on Africa's specific development needs, and the MDG event to be organized by the President of the General Assembly and Secretary-General on 25 September, provide two additional opportunities to rally global support and announce concrete new initiatives.

Let this debate be an impulse which will resonate not only in New York but around the world.

2008 must be the year of action.

Thank you.



Permanent Mission of Afghanistan to the United Nations

**STATEMENT**

**BY**

**H.E. MR. ZAHIR TANIN  
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE  
OF THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF AFGHANISTAN  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

**AT THE THEMATIC DEBATE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
“RECOGNIZING THE ACHIEVEMENTS, ADDRESSING THE  
CHALLENGES AND GETTING BACK ON TRACK TO ACHIEVE  
THE MDGs BY 2015 “**

**3 APRIL 2008**

**NEW YORK**

Please Check Against Delivery

360 Lexington avenue, 11<sup>th</sup> Floor - New York, New York 10017  
Tel: (212) 972 1212 - Fax: (212) 972 1216

Mr. President,

I would like to express the appreciation of my delegation for organizing this important debate on the progress towards achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The MDGs have been a powerful mobilizing force for focusing global and national actions to improve the well-being of people around the world. This meeting provides the opportunity to review and discuss the implementation of the MDGs and pave the ground for a successful convening of the High Level Meeting on MDGs in September 2008. In my remarks today, I would like to share Afghanistan's experience towards fulfilling the MDGs.

Mr. President,

In 2000, when the Member States adopted the Millennium Declaration and committed themselves to endorse the MDGs in a time-bound manner, Afghanistan was embroiled in armed conflict. In March 2004, my Government committed itself to achieve the MDGs within a time bound period. As a late entrant to global development efforts, the Afghan Government has extended its MDGs timeline from 2015 to 2020 due to quarter of a century of conflict and our inability to join this global effort in 2000. Lack of available data has posed unique problems in preventing reliable baselines from which to set targets. Therefore most of the global targets have been "*Afghanized*", which means that they have been revised to make them more relevant to Afghanistan. Moreover, in recognition of the interdependency of development and security a ninth goal of 'enhancing security' has been added to the MDGs.

The development policy framework of Afghanistan, which was established at the London Conference in January 2006, is aimed at enabling the achievement of the MDGs. At the London Conference, we launched our National MDGs Report, presented our interim National Development Strategy (i-ANDS) and adopted the Afghanistan Compact.

Mr. President,

Notwithstanding progress towards the MDGs, many challenges still remain in the implementation of our goals. Allow me to highlight some of them:

**Poverty and Hunger (MDG1).** Since 2001, economic growth has not only been significant but also generated better livelihoods; GDP per capita has increased 53% in the last five years. **However**, Afghanistan remains one of the poorest countries in the world, with an estimated 22 million Afghans - representing 70% of the population - living in poverty especially high in rural areas. Poverty and unemployment, both of which have contributed to the increase of the terrorist activities in the country, can jeopardize the gains made in the last 6 years. We have prioritized addressing both in a sustainable and timely manner.

**Education (MDG2).** Since 2001, nearly 7 million children have returned to schools - one third of whom are girls. More than 3,500 schools have been built and new curriculum

and textbooks have been developed for primary education. In addition, the number of teachers has increased seven-fold. **However**, a great number of children, particularly those living in rural areas, continue to face difficulties in accessing educational institutions. It is also important to mention that the Taliban and Al-Qaida, during their campaign of terror, have attacked and intimidated teachers, students and burned out a large number of schools.

**Gender (MDG3).** Significant progress has been achieved to empower women in the political, economic and social areas. Women play an important role in the development and peace process in Afghanistan. **However**, many women still face obstacles. Among them are low rates of literacy and life expectancy, coupled with pregnancy related complications, unemployment and insufficient access to education and health services.

**Reduce child mortality, Improve Maternal Health and Combat Diseases (MDGs 4, 5, 6).** Today 81% of the Afghan population has access to basic health services. The rate of infant and maternal mortality has been reduced by 85,000 and 40,000 annually. We have created our National AIDS Control Program (NACP) in 2004 to collect systematic data on the prevalence of HIV/AIDS. **However**, close to 900 children under the age of five die daily and more than 60 women die every day from pregnancy-related complications. Malaria is prevalent in more than 60% of the country and Afghanistan is the 12th highest tuberculosis burdened country in the world and the highest in South Asia.

**Environment (MDG7).** In 2007, 343 community water points were constructed in the drought hit and conflict-affected parts of southern Afghanistan. The Government of Afghanistan has taken numerous initiatives to prevent environmental degradation. **However**, only 23 % of the entire population has access to safe drinking water and most of the diseases are caused by lack of drinkable water.

**Security (MDG9).** The lack of security caused by the Taliban and Al-Qaida in the southern parts of Afghanistan is a major obstacle to economic and social development. Achieving our MDGs solely depends on providing security to our people. Afghanistan has added this new goal which includes targets related to disarmament, de-mining and counter narcotics. We would like to place emphasis on the need for technical and financial assistance to our security institutions to contribute to the rule of law, and advance the demobilization, disarmament and reintegration process (DDR) and the counter narcotics efforts.

Mr. President,

**Develop a Global Partnership for Development (MDG8).** The main part of Afghanistan's national development resources are currently provided by the international community. Therefore, the partnership with the donor community is key to ensuring the implementation of our National Development Strategy, including the MDGs. In this



regard, it is important to mention that the delivery and effectiveness of aid to Afghanistan is faced with the following constraints:

1. The overall volume of aid delivered to Afghanistan is less in comparison to other post conflict settings.
2. There is a growing gap of billions of dollars between amounts pledged and amounts disbursed which undermines the ability of our government to undertake long-term fiscal planning.
3. Nearly three quarters of the aid is disbursed outside our national budget which creates a parallel system that undermines our government's ownership, involves multiple levels of contractors that inflate cost and fail to build Afghan national capacity.
4. The proportion of "tied" aid is three times more than "untied" aid which affects our capability to plan and effectively implement our national development strategy.

By adopting the Afghanistan Compact, the international community committed itself to improve aid effectiveness in Afghanistan, to provide resources and support for the implementation of our development strategy including the MDGs. We would like to seize this opportunity to remind the donor community to fulfill its commitment under the Afghanistan Compact and to:

1. Increase the level of Official Development Assistance (ODA), particularly to countries emerging from conflict.
2. Translate pledges into commitments and therefore provide more predictable and multi-year funding commitments.
3. Provide its financial support through our national budget in order to reduce the duplication, transactions costs, strengthen the national ownership.
4. Deliver "untied" aid whenever possible and provide assistance within the framework of the Afghan National Development Strategy.

Afghanistan is currently at the crucial stage of finalizing its National Development Strategy (ANDS) and entering into its implementation phase. The Afghanistan National Development Strategy will be launched during the International Conference on Afghanistan to be held in Paris in June 2008. The Paris Conference represents an opportunity for our international partners to renew their political and financial commitment for the implementation of ANDS and the achievement of our MDGs. In Paris Conference, we expect that the international community will continue its political and financial support to Afghanistan so as to enable us to improve the lives of our people and stand on our own feet.

Thank you for your attention.

MISIONI I PËRHERSHËM  
I REPUBLIKËS SË SHQIPËRISË  
PRANË OKB-SË  
NJU JORK



PERMANENT MISSION  
OF THE REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS  
NEW YORK

---

UNITED NATIONS

62<sup>nd</sup> Session of the General Assembly

Thematic debate of the General Assembly entitled  
“Recognizing the achievements, addressing the challenges and getting  
back on track to achieve the MDGs by 2015”

Statement by

H.E. MRS. MAJLINDA BREGU  
Minister of European Integration  
Republic of Albania

New York, April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2008

*Please check against delivery*

**Mr. President,**

**Mr. Secretary General,**

**Excellencies,**

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

On behalf of the Government of the Republic of Albania, I am very pleased to have the opportunity to brief this august body of the United Nations on the progress made and the remaining challenges in my country in light of the accomplishment of the *Millennium Development Goals*. I am confident that the event will be a very useful learning experience, and I would like to extend our thanks to the President of the General Assembly for convening this meeting, as well as bringing about this exchange of views and experiences.

Albania fully aligns itself with the statement made by the distinguished representative of Slovenia on behalf of the EU. On behalf of my country I am going to make some further additional remarks. Taking into consideration the importance of respecting the time limit set out for the statements, I will deliver a summarized statement. A longer version is being circulated to the delegations.

The achievement of *Millennium Development Goals*, led by National Strategy for development and European integration, along with the National Plan for the implementation of Stabilization and Association Agreement with EU, mark our main objective.

The ongoing year is a crucial one for the development agenda of the whole world. The international community stands on its half way on achieving the *Millennium Development Goals*. At this moment, we must perform an inventory of what we have accomplished so far and must identify the future steps that enable us to progress further, to implement better and faster all the programs and project aiming at the fulfillment of the target goals by 2015, on a country and global scale.

**Mr. President,**

The achievement of the *MDGs* remains on the focus of my country's development agenda. We believe that development is a priority and an objective in itself. We also highly appreciate the importance of partnership in development. Developed and developing countries together face the common and urgent responsibility to transform this partnership into a successful story. In this context, all the countries are obliged to achieve the *MDGs*. I am happy to state that Albania is currently an active and a credible partner in global cooperation in this domain.

As you may have already heard, Albania is considered as a unique country in terms of making use of *MDGs*, not only as a framework but also as a tool for development. The global *MDGs* were then 'domesticated' taking into consideration not only the local needs but also regional perspectives. Albania is probably the only case where the *MDGs* have been used to promote local development through regional development strategies which are regional council's strategic documents prepared by making use of *MDGs* as final goals. All twelve regions of Albania have drafted what we call *MDGs Regional Development Strategies*. The localization process resulted in new goals, targets and indicators. Let me mention some of them: improved governance resulted as the ninth goal for Albania; it was considered not only as a goal in itself but also as a major precondition for the achievement of all other *MDGs* and EU integration.

The main purpose of the sub-national reports was to explore and demonstrate how the *MDGs* could be used to build support the momentum from the bottom up, to assess local poverty challenges and to serve as an engine for comprehensive local development.

Albania has succeeded to integrate the already “domesticated” *MDGs* into the main strategic document called National Strategy Development and Integration. Very recently, Albania approved an *Integrated Planning System*, which embraces national vision, national strategy, mid term and annual budget, implementation and monitoring and evaluation. From now on, different strategic documents guided by different donors and ministries should be considered in an integrated manner through Integrated Planning System.

### **Macro economy**

During 2007 Albanian economy displayed a positive trend both towards economic growth which is foreseen at 6% and the macro-economic stability and deepening of structural reforms oriented towards a more efficient economy. Total selling volume during 2007 increased with 20% compared to the previous year. Sectors with high performance were the extracting and processing industry, transport services, telecommunication, hotels, restaurants and trade. Average annual inflation stood at 2.9% falling within the targeted objective. Albanian currency is considerably stable. Economic actors’ ability to spare and crediting increased, reflected by the expansion of the business and increase in individual income.

### **Poverty Reduction**

In light of the fight against poverty, the economic growth remains the key instrument for improving the living conditions of the population and therefore elimination of poverty. The indices that reflect poverty reduction are highlighted in the 2008 state budget, which is estimated at USD 4.1 billion, or 54% more than in 2005, in spite of dimidiation of taxes.

Some 160,000 retired persons were reported to receive a minimal pension of USD 40, whereas their pension at the present has increased by 60%. Some 230,000 city-resident retired persons were reported to receive a minimal pension of USD100, whereas their pension at the present has increased by 25%. In addition, the incomes augmentation has brought forth the decrease of unemployment level, from 14% in 2005 in 13,8 % in 2006 and 13, 2 % in 2007. 15 % + for social protection and 30% more on Social assistance .

The increase of education system budget from 2,6% to the level of 4% of GDP, as well as the increase of health care system budget from 2,1% to the level of 2,9% of GDP. Over the last two years, USD 420 million have been envisaged for the increase in salaries and lowest pensions, or speaking in percentage terms, about 46% more. The upward economic growth to the level of 6% in 2008, from the level of 2,9-5,9% is another worth mentioning fact.

Two years ago, Albania was reported to be the country of highest taxes applied in Europe with a 25% tax on profit, 23% tax on personal incomes, the insurance contributions at the level of 42%, and customs duties amounting to two times higher than the duties applied at the present. Whereas, in 2008, Albania is referred to as the country of the greatest reduction of taxation, imposition of flat rate tax, which is accompanied not with the decrease, but with the increase by 14% of the state revenue, as the result of the fundamental improvement of the management of taxes, economic growth, as well as fight with 0 tolerance against corruption and informality.

Albania is also estimated as the country where the budget expenditure has increased by 19%, in comparison to the previous year, public investments have increased by 51% compared to the previous year, and where the entire increase is concentrated in great projects. In addition, I would like to emphasize that the independent budget of local authority units is increased by 13% in relation to the 2007 supplementary budget, or by 160% in relation to 2005 budget, thus recording an increase from 7,2 billion in 2005 to about 18 billion in 2008.

Albania is recognized as the country where the expenditures for social policies have highly increased, therefore guaranteeing the objective of doubling the salaries in the education system, health care system and minimal retirement pensions. The imposition of flat tax at the level of 10%, reduction by 31% of the insurance contribution, dimidiation of tax on small business currently list Albania as the European country with the most alleviated fiscal burden.

The prior increase of expenditure in education and health care systems, respectively by 4% and 2,9% of GDP compared to 3,4% and 2,1% recorded in 2006 has brought about the double increase of the budget for the education system.

Stemming from the aforesaid facts, the foreign direct investments rose with 84%, surplus of 242 million USD, driving the Net Foreign Currency Reserve surplus to USD2.1 billion enough to cover 4.2 months of imports of goods and services.

On the grounds of economic indicators and other factors such as macroeconomic policies, assessments and predictions, economic growth for 2009-2011 is foreseen at least 6%, rising to 6.5% in 2009 and 7% in the two years to come. Inflation rate for this period is foreseen to stay within the objective level of 3%.

## **Education**

To address that situation, in line with *MDGs*, the National Strategy Development and Integration targets 100% adults literacy rate, 100% completion of 9 years education, 90% completion of higher education, and an impressive increase in the average years of schooling from 9 to 13.5 years.

Public Expenditures on education related to GDP dropped from 3.75% in 1995 to 3.1% in 2004. Today this Public Expenditures has risen at 3.61%, still very low if we draw a comparison to the EU countries which is 4.9% as well as Western Balkan Countries, a little over 4%.

In 2004, the budget for education system marked 2,4% of GDP. In 2008, this budget is recorded to the 4% of the GDP, thus accomplishing even the objective defined for 2009. Over the last two years, the salaries of teachers increased 47% and are expected to double in the next two years. In 2008, the investments in education system were increased by 43%, whereas the investments in the basic education programs by 57% in comparison to the previous year. In 2004, only 30 information laboratories were reported in our education system, while nowadays their number has reached to 750, and by the end of 2008 such centers are expected throughout the country.

Different programs are introduced to the education system in Albania such as the e-schools programs, which will connect all the Albanian public primary and high schools to the internet and equip them with networked computer labs.

The investments in higher education are increased. By the complete liberalization of universities, introduction of new branches and opening of new universities, the number of students has doubled over the span of two years.

Albania is reported to have 100 thousand students attending public and private universities, while in 2004 there were 52 thousand. In addition, the Fund of Excellency was established and several other projects important for the modernization of our education system are supported.

Our main goal is, that at the end of 2009 budget of education will be 5% of GDP such is doubled in comparison of 2005.

## **Health**

The main Goal is "To improve quality and accessibility of health services" through achieving the Objectives in improving the quality and equity in access to essential health care services; strengthening sector stewardship and measures to ensure fiscal sustainability The National Strategy Development and Integration, in line with Millennium Development Goals targets a challenging reduction in maternal mortality of 10 per 100 thousand and 10 per one thousand in child mortality in 2015.

To achieve these objectives priorities are addressed to the reforms in the health sector, particularly in public health measures and preventive, as well as to the amelioration of access and quality of the health financing system.

The 2008 budget defines an increase of 60% of the investments in the health care system, and we will conduct the policy of salary increase towards the double increase for nurses' salary, and significant for physicians' salary.

In addition, the reconstruction of some 13 clinics and hospitals in different districts is expected for 2008, along with the construction of five new health care centers. Eighteen percent of budget will be used for their equipment.

Revenue collection from social security and health security fell short of the targeted objective with USD18 mln for the period January-November 2007, but nevertheless is 17 mln higher than the budgeted revenue in 2006.

## **Mr. President,**

The practical implementation of a new national action plan on the *MDGs*, combined with innovative financing mechanisms shows that that their fulfillment is a great opportunity for the Albanian people to ensure a stable development and better governance. Although Albania is advanced in terms of using *MDGs* as an effective means to promote human development, a number of challenges are to be addressed in order to have the already made efforts ameliorating the life of people. Some of these challenges could be formulated as follows:

- The implementation of Regional Development Strategies requires major efforts from local government, but also from central government, civil society and donor community. Transferring more resources and increasing the capacities of local government in line with Government of Albania decentralization reforms is very important. Besides this, linking *MDGs Regional Development Strategies* with Integrated Planning System seems to be crucial for increasing the *MDGs* financing chances;

- Further integrate *MDGs* with EU social inclusion approach. Efforts have been made to integrate *MDGs* with EU social inclusion approach but more efforts are needed to tailor *MDGs* to take into consideration Albanian EU integration perspective in terms of social inclusion;
- Monitoring and reporting the progress towards achievement of *MDGs*. Monitoring should be made at several levels. First, at domestic level, local and central government should track the progress towards *MDGs* achievement. Monitoring and reporting on *MDGs* would increase political accountability and reduce the speculations in the political 'market'. The development of a good statistical base is a key factor for Millennium Development Goals monitoring.

**Mr. President,  
Ladies and gentlemen,**

Let me conclude by underlining some factors of importance. We must not forget that all the MDG-s are highly interlinked among them. It is crucial for governments in their efforts to be successful in achieving the MDGs, to come up with well balanced and integrated development strategies. We embrace the opinion that the right allocation and the use of the national development resources, as well as the coordinated international aid together with promoting the process of sharing the best practices in this field, are key factors on achieving the MDGs.

The contribution of all the partners of governance is indispensable for this process, including civil society, media and our international partners.

Based on our experience, if you work on goals, your goals will work on you. If you work on your plan, your plan will go on to work on you. Whatever good things we build end up building us; mostly by having the discipline as the bridge between goals and their accomplishment.

Thank you.

# الجمهورية الجزائرية الديمقراطية الشعبية

PERMANENT MISSION OF ALGERIA  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS  
NEW YORK



البعثة الجزائرية الدائمة لدى الأمم المتحدة  
نيويورك

**INTERVENTION  
DE S.E.M YUCEF YOUSFI,  
AMBASSADEUR, REPRESENTANT PERMANENT  
DE L'ALGERIE AUPRÈS DE L'ONU**

**DEVANT  
LA 62 EME SESSION DE L'ASSEMBLEE GENERALE A  
L'OCCASION DU DEBAT THEMATIQUE INTITULE « CONSTATER  
LES PROGRES, AFFRONTER LES DIFFICULTES ET REDRESSER  
LE CAP AFIN D'ATTEINDRE LES OBJECTIFS DU MILLENAIRE  
POUR LE DEVELOPPEMENT D'ICI 2015 »**

*New York, le 2 avril 2008*

Vérifier au prononcé



Monsieur le President

Je voudrais tout d'abord vous remercier pour l'initiative de tenir un débat thématique de l'Assemblée générale pour discuter des progrès réalisés dans la mise en oeuvre des objectifs du millénaire.

Ma délégation souscrit à la déclaration faite par Antigua et Barbuda au nom du Groupe des 77 et de la Chine et à celle faite par au nom du Groupe africain par la République Démocratique du Congo et voudrait faire quelques réflexions particulières

Monsieur le Président,

A mi-parcours de la date prévue pour la réalisation des objectifs du millénaire du développement, notre débat thématique intervient à une étape déterminante pour la mise en oeuvre des engagements pris.

L'Algérie qui a apporté son plein appui aux Objectifs du Millénaire pour le développement (OMD) est en bonne voie pour atteindre la plupart des objectifs définis pour 2015. Tous les efforts ont été déployés pour combattre la pauvreté, l'analphabétisme, la faim, les inégalités entre les sexes, la mortalité infantile et maternelle et la dégradation de l'environnement.

Malgré les progrès réalisés dans plusieurs domaines par les pays en développement le bilan demeure mitigé étant donné que plusieurs pays d'entre eux notamment en Afrique ne sont pas sur la bonne voie pour la réalisation des OMD d'ici à 2015, où l'extrême pauvreté domine de larges pans de la population.

Monsieur le Président

Les OMD ont offert aux Etats nationaux, à la communauté internationale et aux Nations Unies une occasion particulière de développer l'efficacité des agents chargés du développement. La mise en œuvre des OMD donne l'occasion également pour donner effet au principe d'une responsabilité et des obligations partagées. C'est un principe qui est au cœur des OMD et doit être traduit par des mesures concrètes en matière principalement du financement du développement

Certes des progrès ont été réalisés au niveau global pour certains objectifs de développement notamment ceux relatif à la lutte contre la pauvreté. Ces progrès qui ont été accomplis à la faveur essentiellement des efforts nationaux méritent d'être appuyés par des actions concrètes de la communauté internationale.

Monsieur le président,

Les exemples de réussite en Afrique et dans d'autres régions nous encouragent à entreprendre des actions énergiques pour la mise en œuvre des engagements pris au niveau national et international notamment à travers l'appui aux politiques nationales et l'accroissement des investissements.

Nous réitérons l'importance du Nouveau Partenariat pour l'Afrique (NEPAD) comme un cadre pour le développement. La mise en œuvre du NEPAD contribue sans nul doute à la réalisation des OMD. A cet effet, il devrait faire partie des priorités dans les programmes des Nations Unies sur le développement.

La communauté internationale devrait redoubler ses efforts pour donner suite aux engagements pris afin de soutenir le développement. Il faudrait, à cet effet, progresser plus vite dans la réalisation des OMD à travers le rattachement des initiatives visant à réaliser les OMD aux stratégies de développement nationales.

Il importe également de créer un environnement national et international propice à la croissance économique et le renforcement du développement humain et l'accroissement de l'aide au développement.

S'il est largement admis qu'il incombe en premier chef aux pays en développement la responsabilité principale pour la réalisation des OMD, il n'en demeure pas moins que la communauté internationale a un rôle très important à jouer dans la mise en œuvre des OMD notamment à travers la réduction des écueils et de l'impact des asymétries systémiques. Cela peut se faire en s'engageant résolument à conclure et mettre en œuvre un partenariat mondial global pour le développement pour éviter les inconvénients d'une approche fragmentaire.

Monsieur le Président,

Il y a lieu de tirer tous les enseignements pour assurer la viabilité des OMD car nous restons persuadés que le succès dans leur mise en œuvre est tributaire non seulement des apports nationaux et internationaux mais largement du niveau de coordination entre les acteurs locaux, nationaux et internationaux. Les OMD ne doivent pas se limiter simplement à l'assistance technique mais mettre l'accent sur les indicateurs du développement à long terme.

La plupart des objectifs du millénaire peuvent être atteints si nous redoublons d'efforts et adaptons une approche holistique non sélective. A cet effet, les progrès et les acquis pour atteindre les objectifs du millénaire méritent pour être consolidés qu'une même attention soit accordée à la mise en place d'un partenariat international pour le développement

Monsieur le président.

La réalisation des objectifs du millénaire est toujours possible avec un redoublement d'efforts et un soutien de la communauté internationale pour saisir les nouvelles opportunités en étroite coordination entre les institutions internationales chargées du développement et en partenariat avec le secteur privé et la société civile.

Nous espérons que notre débat favorisera un regain d'effort national et international pour une meilleure prise en charge des besoins pour la réalisation des OMD et de consacrer la pertinence de l'appui international au développement.

Je vous remercie



**Permanent Mission of  
The Republic of Angola to the United Nations**

**STATEMENT BY**

**H. E. AMBASSADOR ISMAEL A. GASPAR MARTINS  
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF  
THE REPUBLIC OF ANGOLA TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

**AT THE THEMATIC DEBATE ON MILLENNIUM  
DEVELOPMENT GOALS ENTITLED "RECOGNIZING  
THE ACHIEVEMENTS, ADDRESSING THE  
CHALLENGES  
AND GETTING BACK ON TRACK TO ACHIEVE  
THE MDGs BY 2015"**

**NEW YORK, 2 APRIL 2008**

**CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY**

Mr. President,

Allow me to congratulate you for organizing this thematic debate on the Millennium Development Goals, which demonstrates your commitment and dedication to development issues, particularly, the eradication of poverty.

My delegation associates itself with the statements made by the distinguished Permanent Representatives of Antigua and Barbuda and Democratic Republic of the Congo on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, and the African Group, respectively.

Mr President,

Almost eight years after Millennium Declaration was adopted, the world's economic, financial and social situation continues to be critical and the Millennium Development Goals are far from becoming a reality. The fight against poverty will not be won by holding UN Conferences and Summits to negotiate more commitments on development. Resolutions are a means to an end.

Extreme poverty in the world today is a task to the whole world, with 1.3 billion people still living on the margins of life, earning less than US\$1 a day, while another 1.8 billion people are living on less than US\$2 a day, in spite of the commitment of the MDGs since the year 2000. To tackle this crucial problem, it requires painstaking efforts at the national and international level. The international community must ensure that the commitments agreed upon at international conferences and Summits are translated into concrete actions. National policies have to complement and support international efforts in dealing with development's challenges against the complex globalised international environment.

Mr. President,

The implementation of 2005 World Summit Outcome will remain an important priority for the Organization in the coming period. The timely and effective realization of the Millennium Development Goals will grow in importance as we approach 2015. The Summit recognized the importance of mobilization of financial resources and the effective use of these resources for development in developing countries and in

countries with economies in transition. The Summit also placed the Monterrey Consensus at the centre of the global partnership for development, necessary to achieve all the internationally agreed development goals which have been adopted by the Members States at the Summits and conferences held by the United Nations over the past decades. Despite the positive trends so far shown it is important to note that current and projected levels of ODA still are far of the US\$ 150 billion deemed necessary for developing countries to achieve the MDGs. On the other hand, it has been found that debt relief does not generally provide fresh money for development.

As we are all aware, Trade has been accepted as an engine of growth and therefore without a timely and satisfactory outcome to the Doha Development Agenda, developing countries, particularly African States, can not achieve the economic growth necessary to meet the MDGs. Open markets and liberalisation based on a transparent, fair and inclusive multilateral trading system can give to millions of people in developing countries a better life. Agriculture is the key. The reform of agriculture is the centerpiece of the Doha Development Agenda. It represents for many developing countries and LDCs the cornerstone of a fair and equitable global trading system.

Climate Change has emerging as one of the key development challenges of this century. The projected impact of unmitigated Climate Change in the world, particularly in developing countries are likely to have significant negative effects on human livelihoods, health, water resources, agricultural production and food security. It is imperative that addressing Climate Change and its adverse impacts should be a matter of priority by the international community, based on the principal of common but differentiated responsibility.

Mr. President,

The Report on the World Economic Situation and Prospects 2007 is very clear where each continent and sub-continent stands in terms of economic growth and efforts to eradicate poverty. There have been commendable achievements in economic growth in all continents. As indicated in the Outcome Document, the African continent has special needs and must continue to receive special attention from the international community. Despite its abundant natural resources, Africa remains the poorest continent and the most unlikely to achieve the MDGs, particularly goal number one halving poverty by 2015.

However, in the last two decades, many African countries have successfully undertaken reforms to enable them to participate fairly in, and reap the benefits of the global

economic systems. They have carried out privatisation, trade liberalization and institutional reforms. The United Nations bodies and programs must continue assuming the major role in supporting development in Africa. They should lend special attention to strengthening the goals of economic and social integration which the African Union seek to achieve in the continent, and contribute to the development efforts undertaken by economic sub-groups in the continent, as well as supporting the initiatives and projects that the New Partnership for the Development of Africa (NEPAD) is executing for the development of Africa. We take this opportunity to applaud the realization of the High Level Dialogue on Africa schedule to take place in September this year.

Mr President,

In my country, the achievements in the consolidation of peace and economic growth are already a reality. Our post-conflict challenge to rehabilitate and develop the social and economic infrastructure that sustains the peace are steadily being tackled.

The Government of Angola is implementing a set of measures and policies to achieve macro-economic stability by reducing inflation, stabilizing interest rates and the exchange rates, the result of which are widely known. Simultaneously, my government is engaged in rehabilitating vital economic infrastructure to ensure communication, transportation, and access to energy, water, education, health and economic opportunity as well as the gender equality. As a result, the Angolan economy remains among the top performers in Africa. In due course the effects of these investments will be translated into improved human development indicators and sustained economic growth.

I thank you



# **Argentina**

---

## **ASAMBLEA GENERAL DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS 62ª sesión**

**Debate Temático de la Asamblea General sobre los Objetivos de Desarrollo del Milenio**

### **Intervención del Embajador Jorge Argüello Representante Permanente de la República Argentina ante las Naciones Unidas**

**Nueva York, 03 de abril de 2008**  
*Sírvase verificar contra lectura*

**Misión Permanente de la República Argentina ante las Naciones Unidas**  
One United Nations Plaza Piso 25  
New York, NY 10017



Señor Presidente,

Mi delegación suscribe lo expresado por la distinguida delegación de Antigua y Barbuda, en nombre del Grupo de los 77 y China, como también lo expresado por la distinguida delegación de México, en nombre del Grupo de Río.

Hacemos uso de la palabra para expresar algunas apreciaciones desde nuestra óptica nacional.

Los Objetivos de Desarrollo del Milenio se basan en el compromiso de fomentar una asociación mundial para el desarrollo, un pacto entre los países pobres, que se consagran a reducir la pobreza, y el mundo más rico, que asume la responsabilidad de ser un asociado activo en apoyo de las iniciativas de los países en desarrollo. Los ODM representan un conjunto de objetivos acordados internacionalmente que pueden ser alcanzados si todos los interesados trabajamos juntos y hacemos nuestra parte.

A partir de la Declaración del Milenio, los ODM han alcanzado un papel central dentro del sistema de Naciones Unidas, incluyendo las instituciones de Bretton Woods, así como en la sociedad civil, como punto de referencia para medir los esfuerzos que se realizan a diferentes niveles para combatir la pobreza. El Secretario General de la ONU ha señalado que por primera vez en su historia la humanidad cuenta con los recursos, conocimientos y capacidades para erradicar la pobreza, y que se requiere mantener y aumentar el dinamismo generado desde la Declaración del Milenio. Ahora que estamos a mitad de camino para que se cumpla el plazo establecido de 2015, es evidente que se han hecho progresos notables en muchas esferas. Pero hay aún una enorme tarea pendiente.

Cada país involucrado en este compromiso mundial ha desarrollado, en conjunto con los organismos internacionales, la adecuación de las metas internacionales a su propia situación social y política. Esto implicó la redefinición y el establecimiento de objetivos, metas e indicadores que proponen un esfuerzo posible a ser realizado por los Estados nacionales, para la consecución de los ODM.

En la Argentina esto implicó además la incorporación del Objetivo de "Promover el trabajo decente", dado que los estudios y análisis disponibles reconocían el problema del desempleo, del empleo informal y de la subutilización de la mano de obra, como los principales emergentes de la crisis social argentina al mismo tiempo que reconocían en estos fenómenos su gran capacidad para explicar la elevada incidencia de pobreza e indigencia. En mi país, la responsabilidad del seguimiento de los objetivos y metas conocidos como Objetivos de Desarrollo del Milenio en Argentina ha sido asignada al Consejo Nacional de Coordinación de Políticas Sociales que depende de la Presidencia de la Nación.

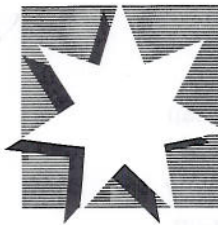
La Argentina, al igual que otros países de ingresos medios, padece de algunas peculiaridades tales como desequilibrios internos y vulnerabilidades estructurales vinculadas a nuestro déficit y que se ven mayormente agravados por las inequidades del sistema internacional.

La Argentina es un país federal compuesto de 23 provincias y la Ciudad Autónoma de Buenos Aires. Esto la convierte en un mosaico de situaciones y gestiones con distintos resultados de desarrollo humano. Dentro de nuestro país hay zonas que presentan niveles de desarrollo humano elevado y otros con niveles muy bajos como los que se pueden observar en los países más pobres de la Región Latinoamericana. Dado el carácter federal del país, varias provincias decidieron definir sus propias metas y elaborar sus indicadores de monitoreo. El país ha realizado avances en el alcance de los ODM. Sin embargo, a pesar de los signos positivos, los indicadores muestran diversidad de situaciones entre provincias y regiones que obliga al desarrollo de estrategias consistentes con los planes y programas nacionales y a una mejor provisión de los servicios públicos.

Nuestras acciones, en todos los campos de gestión de las políticas públicas, refieren sistemáticamente a los Objetivos de Desarrollo del Milenio. No obstante esto, es necesario tener presente que los índices cuantitativos que dan cuenta del cumplimiento de las metas no alcanzan, porque la desigualdad cruza todos los sectores y dimensiones del desarrollo. Por eso, cuestiones como la perspectiva de derechos humanos y la perspectiva de género son un eje que transversaliza a todos los objetivos de desarrollo. Sólo en el cumplimiento de éstos se logrará la equidad para todos.

Para terminar, Sr. Presidente, voy a citar unas palabras de la señora Presidenta de la Nación, Cristina Fernández de Kirchner, en el acto de asunción de mando ante la Asamblea Legislativa: "(...) Debemos interpelarnos cada uno de nosotros, más allá de los lugares que ocupemos como ciudadanos, qué hacemos todos los días para ser un poco mejores y entonces vivir en un país mejor. Esto no significa diluir responsabilidades, sino simplemente que cada uno se haga cargo de lo que le corresponde en la construcción de una sociedad diferente. Pero instituciones y sociedad sólo se reconocen cuando pueden lograr objetivos de mejorar la calidad de vida de la gente." Fin de la cita.

Muchas gracias Sr. Presidente.



# AUSTRALIA



AUSTRALIAN MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

E-mail [australia@un.int](mailto:australia@un.int)

150 East 42<sup>nd</sup> Street, New York NY 10017-5612 Ph 212 - 351 6600 Fax 212 - 351 6610 [www.AustraliaUN.org](http://www.AustraliaUN.org)

## **General Assembly Thematic Debate 2 April 2008**

### **Recognising the achievements, addressing the challenges, and getting back on track to achieve the Millennium Development Goals by 2015**

**Statement by HE Ms Frances Lisson  
Chargé d'Affaires  
of Australia to the United Nations**

**(Check against delivery)**

---

Thank you Mr President, and I would like to thank you for convening this meeting so that we can come together to take stock of our progress and galvanise our efforts to tackle the remaining obstacles to achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

Since the adoption of the Millennium Declaration in September 2000, the Millennium Development Goals have become a unifying force for international action to halve extreme poverty. At the mid-point to our target date, we must take the opportunity to reflect on how far we have come, what remains to be done, and how we can ensure that in 2015, we are in a position to celebrate the successful achievement of these significant development goals.

Mr President,

In our 2007-08 financial year, Australia will provide an estimated A\$3.2 billion in aid - our largest ever investment in reducing poverty and achieving sustainable development. We are working with developing countries, particularly in our region, to support the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

Our Government is determined to increase the quantity and the quality of Australian Official Development Assistance (ODA). We will continue to increase our overseas aid program with the goal of providing 0.5 per cent of Gross National Income (GNI) by 2015-16. We understand the challenges that face donors in such a major scaling-up, however, this is not an empty promise; the Australian Government has taken steps to ensure we can achieve this target. Funding has been set aside in Australia's budget to support an increase in ODA to about A\$4.3 billion by 2010-11 (almost US\$4 billion), representing a doubling of ODA within four years.

In practical terms, this will mean greater investments in aid in key MDG sectors – health, basic education, water and sanitation, the environment and climate change.

We are focused on building well functioning education systems in order to achieve MDGs 2 and 3. Australia is working to build the capacity of our partner governments' national education systems to enable more boys and girls to complete schooling and to improve the relevance and quality of education so that students can enter productive employment and contribute to the future development of their countries.

Health is another priority. We recognise that the maternal and child mortality goals are the furthest off track. And in response, Australia supports development projects which deliver essential maternal and neo-natal health services and strengthen health systems in countries with high mortality. We also note the findings of the Commission on AIDS in Asia last week which indicated that we are not currently on track to reverse the spread of HIV. Australia has made a substantial contribution to global efforts to address this, and to provide universal access to HIV prevention, care and treatment, and we will continue to do so.

Mr President,

While education and health are crucial, we also cannot forget the need for environmental sustainability in pursuing the MDGs. Although there has been good progress on improving access to safe drinking water in many countries, progress on the sanitation target in MDG 7 lags far behind. A priority for Australia is to improve water access and sanitation facilities across the Asia-Pacific.

Climate change also poses a particular challenge to realising the goals. Having recently ratified the Kyoto Protocol, Australia is committed to assisting developing countries in our region to build resilience and adapt to climate change.

Mr President,

As we focus our attention towards 2015, the Millennium Development Goals will not be realised unless we move forward in alliance. Decisive action is needed from both developed and developing countries. Australia will be an active partner. We commend the MDG Call to Action launched in 2007 by the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, the Honourable Gordon Brown, which has created a strong force of global action involving all stakeholders – governments, the private sector, civil society and faith groups.

We also acknowledge the important role of the United Nations as our global partner in delivering development assistance and in supporting developing countries to implement their national development plans.

More close to home, Australia is firmly committed to working in partnership with our geographical neighbours to achieve the goals. Through the Port Moresby Declaration of 6 March 2008, the Prime Minister of Australia, the Honourable Kevin Rudd, recently committed Australia to a new era of cooperation with Pacific island nations, based on mutual respect and mutual responsibility to work jointly to meet the Millennium Development Goals, address our common challenges, and to raise the standard of living for people in the region.

Mr President,

Australia is committed to international efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals and we accept the internationally agreed aid volume target of 0.7 per cent of Gross National Income for overseas development assistance.

Efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals should remain central to the global development agenda, and our focus should be squarely on the delivery of concrete and tangible results. There must be a greater sense of urgency on the part of all of us - it is time to accelerate our efforts. Australia looks forward to engaging further in collective efforts to attain the goals, including at the MDG Leaders Summit in September. We emphasise Australia's commitment to working in partnership with you all in the months and years ahead to make the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals a reality.

# AUSTRIA



PERMANENT MISSION OF AUSTRIA  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

## **62<sup>nd</sup> Session of the United Nations General Assembly**

### **Thematic Debate on the Millennium Development Goals**

**Statement by  
H.E. Mr. Gerhard Pfanzelter  
Permanent Representative of Austria to the United Nations**

**Check against delivery**

**New York, 2 April 2008**

Mr. President,

Austria fully endorses the statement made by Slovenia on behalf of the European Union.

Undeniably, we have made some progress since the adoption of the Millennium Declaration 2000, as the UN Secretary General reports have shown. But almost eight years on and more than half time through to 2015, there is still some way ahead of us.

The question we have to ask ourselves today is how we are going to reach the targets by 2015. Austria is strongly committed to the ODA targets and to the principles of the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness. We will spare no efforts over the coming years to fully live up to these commitments by raising the quantity as well as the quality of aid. We are especially committed to help those who need it most: the LDCs and Africa.

The global effort to attain the MDGs cannot be successful without partner countries assuming responsibility for their own economic and social development. In this context, good governance, national policies and development strategies play a decisive role. Only the combination of ODA and all the necessary efforts of partner countries will allow for successfully reaching the MDGs.

Mr. President,

We must not hesitate to continue our work even if the goal is as ambitious as eradicating extreme poverty and hunger. The eradication of poverty is the key target of the MDGs and has always been one of the most important issues of international development cooperation. Poverty is not just a question of income. It is a complex phenomenon with many dimensions comprising inter alia exclusion from the elementary human rights to food, education and health. Poverty often means living without security, being exposed to diseases, natural disasters and violence. Poor people everywhere find themselves at the margins of society, frequently deprived of their independence and their right to self-determination.

Determined pro-poor policies, national strategies for poverty reduction and political participation are important elements to reduce successfully poverty. In this context, it is imperative that women fully participate in the political and economic decision-making process. When people have hope and a perspective of a meaningful participation in political life, when they do not feel discriminated or excluded from education and job markets, they will not take up arms. The combination of poverty and violence represents a formidable obstacle for achieving poverty alleviation and MDGs in general.

Hope and perspectives are determined at a very early stage of life. Where child mortality and mortality of mothers are high, contagious diseases rampant, access to health and education, and gender equality absent, opportunities in life are meagre.

Mr. President,

Unfortunately, the very substantial challenge with regard to the eradication of poverty is exacerbated by the all-pervasive phenomenon of climate change. Many of the root causes of poverty are closely linked to environmental phenomena. Our efforts to fight climate change are therefore central to the fight against poverty and the attainment of sustainable development.

Even though the negative effects of climate change are a growing concern for all of us, some countries are particularly affected. While Austria's glaciers are melting, small islands are confronted with rising sea levels, floods, hurricanes, and other weather phenomena. Other regions are facing draught, land degradation and desertification. It is imperative that we help those countries most affected by climate change to adapt to its effects. If we don't, the attainment of the MDGs will remain no more than a dream. We also need to intensify international cooperation on energy issues. Sustainable energy systems are a prerequisite for the attainment of the MDG and for stabilizing the global climate.

The negotiations under the Framework Convention on Climate Change remain the legitimate forum for negotiations on achieving an international and comprehensive agreement on fighting climate change. At this very moment, negotiations are taking place in Bangkok in the Ad Hoc Working Group established by the Bali Action Plan. This is a promising start to a process that we shall be able to conclude by the end of next year.

The Human Security Network, of which Austria is a member, has been focussing on an important additional perspective to this discussion: How does climate change affect the security of individuals, in particular those most vulnerable, such as women? As women represent the majority of the world's poor, there are important synergies to be gained from this approach: addressing gender specific aspects of climate change is not only a requirement for successful climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies. It will also have a positive effect on our broader concerns of development and poverty reduction.

I am convinced that we all agree: Only those who help quickly help effectively. We have to support those most vulnerable – be it specific states, as for example small island states, or be it particularly vulnerable groups – to adapt to climate change, while at the same time stepping up our efforts to mitigate the causes of climate change. It is my firm conviction that a successful implementation of the MDGs is not possible without progress in this field.

Mr. President,

Our eighth Millennium pledge was that we would “develop a global partnership for development”. We have come some way to realize this goal. But the test of our claim to be committed to this pledge is progress in the effective implementation of the remaining seven MDGs .

Thank you.



## كلمة السفير

توفيق المنصور المندوب الدائم  
لمملكة البحرين لدى الأمم المتحدة

أمام

الجمعية العامة للأمم المتحدة

في

المناقشة المواضيعية حول تنفيذ

أهداف الإنمائية للألفية

الأربعاء 2 أبريل 2008



السيد الرئيس،،

أتقدم اليكم بجزيل الشكر والتقدير على الجهود الطيبة التي تقومون بها لخدمة الدول الأعضاء في الأمم المتحدة وأهنئكم على اختياركم لموضوع هذه الجلسة، فإعلان الأمم المتحدة للألفية والذي اعتمده رؤساء الدول والحكومات في 13 سبتمبر 2000 قد أكدوا فيه التزامهم وإيمانهم بمبادئ ميثاق الأمم المتحدة ومقاصده باعتبارهما أساسيين لا غنى عنهما لتحقيق مزيد من السلام والرخاء والعدل في العالم.

إن مملكة البحرين منذ استقلالها في عام 1971 اختطت لنفسها هدفاً رئيسياً في اختيار الاقتصاد المفتوح وذلك رغبة منها في عدم الاعتماد بشكل رئيسي على النفط وإنما الى تنويع مصادر الاقتصاد، حيث أصبحت البحرين مركزاً مالياً رئيسياً في منطقة الشرق الأوسط وقامت بالتوسع في بناء الصناعات البتروكيمياوية وصناعة الألمنيوم وبناء أساس للتوسع السياحي، واهتمت كثيراً بالارتقاء بالمستوى المعيشي لأبنائها وركزت على تطوير الثروة البشرية والتي تعتبر المصدر الرئيسي للارتقاء بتنمية المجتمع في كافة النواحي وبالذات بالجوانب الاقتصادية والاجتماعية والثقافية والذي يعتبر الأساس الرئيسي لرقى المجتمع القائم على احترام الحرية الفردية واحترام حقوق الإنسان والمساواة والعدل.

ولتحقيق أهداف الألفية فقد بدأت البحرين منذ البداية انتهاج سياسة متدرجة للوصول الى تنفيذ هذه الأهداف واتخذت خطوات أساسية للتطوير والإصلاح في كافة المجالات حيث وضعت خطط وطنية وبرامج ومشاريع استراتيجية لتنفيذ الأهداف الإنمائية للألفية. وقد يكون من المناسب التركيز على المواضيع الرئيسية التي اختيرت عنواناً لهذه المناقشة المواضيعية وهي إزالة الفقر والجوع، نشر التعليم وتطويره وتحسين الصحة ومكافحة الأمراض.

فيما يتعلق بالقضاء على الفقر المدقع والجوع وهو الهدف الأول من إعلان الألفية فإن مواجهة الفقر أصبح من أولويات المجتمع ولا يمكن لأي مجتمع عصري التغاضي والتخلي عن هذا التحدي ولا يمكن لها ان تتخلى عنه أو الاهتمام به فثقافة المجتمع وإرثه يحتم عليه التجاوب لمواجهته أو التخفيف من آثاره، فالبحرين من واقع التزاماتها تجاه مواطنيها قامت منذ زمن طويل بمواجهة هذه المشكلة من خلال العديد من المشاريع والبرامج لتخفيف وطأة الفقر، وحالياً فإن

نسبة السكان الذين يقل دخلهم عن دولار واحد في اليوم معدومة (0%) وعليه فإن نسبة السكان الذين يعانون من الجوع (0%). ان البحرين تعمل على مواجهة الفقر النسبي حيث تشير دراسة أعدت بأن خط الفقر النسبي في المملكة يعادل الدخل الشهري لأسرة مكونة من 5 أشخاص = 336 دينار أي ما يعادل 1000 دولار، حيث تضافت الجهود المشتركة من حكومية وأهلية في البحرين في تنفيذ البرامج والمشاريع المتعددة لمكافحة الفقر أو التخفيف من أعباءه باعتباره مسئولية المجتمع بصورة مشتركة. ويمكنني الإشارة الى بعض هذه المشاريع ومنها المساعدات الاجتماعية وهي عبارة عن مساعدات مالية للأسر المحتاجة حيث بدأ هذا المشروع في عام 1972 وقد تضاعفت ميزانية هذا المشروع عدة مرات. وقد بلغ مجموع الأسر المستفيدة من المساعدات الاجتماعية 1095 أسرة عدد أفرادها 20960 شخص حتى عام 2005. كما قامت البحرين بمشروع عبارة عن تخفيض رسوم الكهرباء والماء عن الأسر المحتاجة وقد بدأ العمل بهذا المشروع عام 2000 ويبلغ عدد المستفيدين من هذا المشروع 9020 عائلة حتى ديسمبر 2005. كما تم وضع الاستراتيجية الوطنية لتنمية الأسر المحتاجة حيث طلب مجلس الوزراء إعداد هذه الاستراتيجية لما يمثله من أهمية بالغة لتنمية المجتمع ووضعت خطة وطنية لتطوير ودعم الأسر المنتجة حيث يهدف هذا المشروع الوطني الى تحويل الأسر المحتاجة الى أسر منتجة من خلال تنمية المواهب وتوظيفها بالشكل المطلوب بهدف زيادة مصادر دخل هذه الأسر وتشجيعها وتم بناء مراكز خاصة لتسويق منتجات الأسر المنتجة وتخصيص يوم 15 مارس من كل عام للاحتفال بالأسرة المنتجة اضافة الى تخصيص جائزة باسم الشيخة سبيكة بنت ابراهيم آل خليفة قرينة جلالة الملك للأسر المنتجة ابتداء من عام 2007. كما تم إنشاء صندوق الإسكان الاجتماعي وهو آلية جديدة تعمل كهيئة مستقلة هدفها الرئيسي الدعم الإسكاني الى الأسر ذات الدخل المحدود حيث تعمل البحرين في تنفيذ ما ورد في دستور المملكة في المادة 9 من الباب الثاني والذي تضمن بأن على الدولة توفير السكن لذوي الدخل المحدود من المواطنين. كما تم تنفيذ برنامج ترميم وإعادة بناء المنازل الآيلة للسقوط بناء على توجيهات عاهل المملكة ويهدف هذا المشروع الى تحسين الوضع السكني للأسر البحرينية التي تسكن في بيوت قديمة وآيلة للسقوط وتقوم وزارة الأشغال والإسكان بتنفيذ هذا المشروع بالتعاون مع المجالس البلدية ويهدف المشروع الى مساعدة الأسر التي تمتلك منزلاً ولا تستطيع الاستفادة من المشاريع الإسكانية التي توفرها الدولة لمواطنيها.

ويجري العمل حالياً على إصدار قانون الضمان الاجتماعي وإنشاء صندوق شامل للضمان الاجتماعي لكافة الفئات التي ليس لها مصدر دخل كاف تعتمد عليه

بشكل أساسي وهذا المشروع مهم للمطلقات والأرامل وكبار السن وأسر المسجونين والعاجزين عن العمل بسبب المرض أو الإعاقة.

السيد الرئيس،

فيما يتعلق بالهدف الثاني وهو تحقيق تعميم التعليم الابتدائي وتطويره، فقد عرفت مملكة البحرين منذ القدم بأنها رائدة في مجال التعليم ولا تزال تسعى البحرين في تقديم المزيد من البرامج والمشاريع للنهوض بالتعليم والارتقاء بجودة مخرجاته على كافة الأصعدة حيث حققت المملكة في هذا المجال هذه الإنجازات :

أولا : معدل الإلمام بالقراءة والكتابة للفئة العمرية 15-24 سنة (97%).

ثانيا : نسبة عدد التلاميذ الذين يلتحقون بالصف الأول ويصلون الى الصف الخامس (100%). وفي هذا المجال قامت الدولة بتقديم المشاريع التعليمية النوعية بهدف تحسين البيئة المدرسية والارتقاء بتدريس الرياضيات والعلوم واللغة الانجليزية وإعادة توجيه المناهج الدراسية لاستيعاب المواضيع الحديثة والتي تخدم المجتمع كثورة المعلومات والاتصالات والمواضيع المتعلقة بالبيئة وخدمة المجتمع وتعزيز ونشر مفاهيم المواطنة والانتماء وحقوق الإنسان حيث يتم العمل على تنفيذ الرؤية التطويرية للتعليم والذي أنجز منها الكثير، ويمكنني الإشارة الى بعض هذه المشاريع والبرامج كمشروع جلالة الملك حمد لمدارس المستقبل والذي يحتوي على منظومة تعليمية متكاملة بما يتيح أقصى قدر من التفاعل التربوي وإطلاق إبداعات الطلبة وتمنحهم الفرصة للاطلاع والبحث والتحاور والتنافس عبر التقنيات الحديثة التي تمكن الطالب من متابعة كافة الأمور وتحقيق الاستفادة من التعليم الالكتروني بصورة حديثة.

وقد شكلت لجان لدراسة تطوير أفضل السبل للمرحلتين الابتدائية والتعليمية ووضع تصورات جديدة لاستراتيجيات التعليم في هاتين المرحلتين، كما يتم تطوير التعليم الصناعي من خلال برامج التدريب الحديثة في الشركات والمؤسسات الهندسية والفنية ورفع مستوى مدرسي التعليم الثانوي الصناعي. كما يتم بصورة مستمرة تطوير المناهج وتدريس المواد الأساسية في المراحل التعليمية الثلاث وقد تم انشاء مراكز جديدة لتطوير التعليم كمركز القياس والتقويم ورعاية الموهوبين ومركز لتدريب معلمات رياض الأطفال ومركز التميز للتعليم الفني والمهني ومشروع الخدمات الصحية من خلال ممرضة الصحة المدرسية ومشروع خدمات الصحة النفسية لطلبة المدارس. وفي إطار دعم التعليم فقد قام صاحب السمو الشيخ خليفة بن سلمان آل خليفة رئيس الوزراء بتخصيص جائزة سنوية تمنح

للمدرسة المتميزة بهدف تحفيز المدارس على تطوير أداؤها الإداري والتعليمي والتربوي.

السيد الرئيس،

فيما يتعلق بالصحة وهو الهدف الرابع والخامس والسادس من إعلان الألفية، فقد أولت مملكة البحرين الطفل اهتمام خاص من خلال توفير الرعاية الصحية للرضع والأطفال والتي أدت الى انخفاض معدلات وفيات الأطفال حيث انخفض الى 8,9 عام 2005، كما انخفض معدل وفيات الأطفال دون الخامسة الى 10,9/1000 مولود مقارنة الى 12,1 عام 1995، وبلغت نسبة التطعيمات 98,2% كما بلغت نسبة المحصنين ضد الحصبة 100% عام 2005 مقارنة الى 95% عام 1995. وهناك العديد من البرامج المختلفة في هذا المجال كالفحص الدوري للطفل وبرنامج الصحة المدرسية وبرنامج صحة الفم والأسنان وبرنامج رعاية الأطفال ذوي الاحتياجات الخاصة وبرنامج رعاية الأطفال من سوء المعاملة والإهمال.

كما اهتمت الدولة بالبرامج والأنشطة التي تهدف الى تحسين صحة الأمهات من خلال توفير الخدمات العلاجية و الوقائية وخدمات تعزيز الصحة للأم بداية من الفحص قبل الزواج ورعاية الأم أثناء فترة الحمل والولادة والفحص بعد الولادة والإجهاض وكذلك خدمات الأسرة، كما تم إعداد برامج الوعي الثقافي بين السيدات ومعرفتهن بأهمية الرعاية والمتابعة الصحية من الأسباب الرئيسية في نجاح وتحقيق هذه الإنجازات.

فيما يتعلق بمكافحة فيروس نقص المناعة البشرية الايدز والملاريا وغيرها من الأمراض، فقد تم تشكيل لجنة وطنية من مختلف الوزارات ذات العلاقة بمكافحة الايدز اضافة الى اللجنة الوزارية للايدز والمكونة من وزارة الصحة وتتشكل من فريق عمل من جميع التخصصات ذات العلاقة من أطباء وأخصائيين صحة عامة ومرشدين اجتماعيين ونفسيين وممرضات، وتعمل هذه اللجنة لتحقيق أهداف الخطة الخمسية وأهمها الحد من عدوى انتشار هذا المرض والحد من مخاطر تعاطي المخدرات وتحسين خدمات وتطبيق التدابير اللازمة لعلاج متلازمة الأمراض التناسلية ونشر الوعي الصحي بطرق العدوى والوقاية بجميع الفئات والتركيز على فئة الشباب.

فيما يتعلق بمكافحة الملاريا والسل فإنه نتيجة للوعي الصحي والبرامج في مكافحة هذه الأمراض حيث لم يتم اكتشاف أي حالة مصابة بمرض الملاريا في البحرين منذ عام 1980، أما فيما يتعلق بمرض السل فقد انخفض معدل الإصابة بهذا المرض الى 23,6 عام 2005 وانخفضت نسبة الوفاة من نفس المرض من 1,6 في العام نفسه الى 0,8 عام 2005.

السيد الرئيس،

في الختام، أود الإشارة بأن مملكة البحرين قد حققت العديد من أهداف إعلان الألفية بصورة متقدمة ونتمنى ان نحقق كافة الاهداف بحلول عام 2015 وهو العام المستهدف لهذا الإعلان ونتمنى للدول الأعضاء تحقيق هذه الأهداف بنجاح للوصول الى عالم يسوده الأمن والاستقرار لمواطنيه جميعاً.

وشكرا السيد الرئيس،،

*Please check against delivery*



# Bangladesh

Statement  
on behalf of the Least Developed Countries (LDCs)

by

**His Excellency Dr. Iftekhar Ahmed Chowdhury**  
Hon'ble Foreign Minister  
Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

at

at the Plenary session of the UNGA thematic debate on MDGs  
entitled "recognizing the achievements, addressing the challenges  
and getting back on track  
to achieve the MDGs by 2015"

New York, 2 April 2008

---

**PERMANENT MISSION OF BANGLADESH  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

227 East, 45th Street, 14th Floor, New York, NY 10017  
Tel: (212) 867-3434 • Fax: (212) 972-4038 • E-mail: [bangladesh@un.int](mailto:bangladesh@un.int)  
web site: [www.un.int/bangladesh](http://www.un.int/bangladesh)

**Mr. President,**

Could I begin by applauding your leadership in getting us focused on the MDGs. You do this at a critical time. This is just when the impetus required to bring our aims to fruition. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon deserves the highest praise for continuing to highlight the main contemporary issues; development, climate change, reforms of the world body. I speak on behalf of the LDCs. The Group aligns itself with the statement by Antigua and Barbuda on behalf of G-77 and China.

Within the space of our life time we have witnessed great strides of progress. There is also a flipside of the coin. It is the axiomatic truth that one quarter of the world's population live on less than a dollar a day. Although a smaller percentage of humanity survives below the poverty line, the absolute number of the poor continues to grow. When many parts of the world are undergoing economic miracles, the Group of LDCs continues to face the structural impediments to development that have been their bane.

**Mr. President,**

Unprecedented hikes in food price disproportionately affect the poor. These have risen by almost 40% in 2007. By the end of 2008 cereal stocks are expected to fall to their lowest levels since 1983. The poorest households spend over 70% of their income on food items. Counter-cyclical measures by development partners have been largely absent. Global food aid has declined to 0.4% of the world production. This must be enhanced. The African Green Revolution must come to pass. Food surplus countries must come forward to ease-supply side constraints. A massive and unite global action is called for. Only then can hunger and malnutrition be prevented. Only then shall we be able to achieve the core imperatives of MDG-1.

Climate Change and Global warming are the new challenges. These are our current nemesis. LDCs and SIDS, due to their resource constraints and geography are particularly vulnerable. The threats to low-lying coastal areas are obvious. FAO and IFAD have warned that Climate Change will put extra 50 million people at risk of hunger by 2020.

The good news is that the world is responding to the wake-up call. We worked hard at Bali. However, the document was weak. It lacked a firm commitment to emission cuts. The sacrosanct principle of "common but differentiated responsibility" suffered a set back. I am pleased to say Bangladesh was active as Chair of LDCs. Our combined efforts led to the establishment of the Adaptation Board. It will hopefully facilitate equitable allocation for the purpose, and technology transfers.

If an agreement has to be reached by 2009, the discourse must be depoliticized. Developed countries must make unilateral, meaningful and unconditional commitment to reduce GHG emissions. The post 2012 Agreement must recognize the special and compelling needs of vulnerable countries like LDCs. We would strongly urge the setting up of a "Technology Transfer Board" to assist them.

Africa continues to be relentlessly subjected to the scourges of HIV AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis. There 1.7 million new HIV infections are being recorded each year. Lack of financial resources and trained health workers remain key constraints to achieving related MDG goals. Unpredictability of external resources renders scaling up of health care services difficult. Fulfillment of MDG-8 is a categorical imperative.

For many countries target on Universal Primary Education and gender parity remain huge challenges. 72 million primary age children remain out of school. 58 of the 86 countries that have not reached UPE will not achieve it by 2015. It is estimated an additional US\$10 bn will be required for it. This amount will be hard to come by.

However, the focus on LDCs is starting to pay off, albeit slowly, even painfully, but surely. Reform measures to promote good governance, democracy, human rights and transparency, are being put in place. Development is only possible against such matrix. Ideas such as micro-credit and non-formal education are empowering women and children. Many have decentralized administration and strengthened local government. My own country Bangladesh is a case in particular.

Yet, sadly, the LDCs remain at the bottom of the pyramid. Promises of external resources remain elusive. Market access remains blocked. Where it is given, supply side constraints dilute it. So, to move from rhetoric to action we suggest five points: **first**, developed countries must fulfill the ODA commitment of 0.2% of GNI for LDCs by 2010; **second**: all LDC external debts must be cancelled forthwith without discrimination or conditionalities; **third**: developed countries and developing ones in a position to do so must provide duty-free, and quota free market access to all products from all LDC, unilaterally and without discriminations, even before the conclusion of the Doha Round; **fourth**; preferential and more favourable treatment to services providers of LDC, must be accorded, particularly on the movement of natural persons under Mode IV of GATS and **finally**, there must be a new international financial structures allowing the LDCs to borrow, at zero interest mark up, against their own reserves.

**Mr. President,**

We have only one world to live in. But our own actions put it at risk. We must learn to protect it in every possible way. We must recognize that the alleviation of the pains of some is the responsibility of all. This awareness sets our times apart from others in history. Too tall an order ? We do not think so. After all, has it not been aptly said that man's reach should exceed his grasps what else are the heavens for ?

**I thank you Mr. President**





*Permanent Mission  
of Barbados to  
the United Nations*



**STATEMENT BY**

**DR. THE HON. DENIS LOWE  
MINISTER OF SOCIAL CARE, CONSTITUENCY EMPOWERMENT  
AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT**

**AT THE**

**THEMATIC DEBATE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ENTITLED  
"RECOGNIZING THE ACHIEVEMENTS, ADDRESSING THE  
CHALLENGES AND GETTING BACK ON TRACK TO  
ACHIEVE THE MDG's BY 2015"**

**ON**

**2 APRIL, 2008**

**United Nations Headquarters  
New York**

*Please check against delivery*

Mr. President:

I join with fellow delegates in congratulating you on your efficient leadership of the General Assembly of the United Nations. The Barbados delegation also commends you for the timeliness in the hosting of this thematic debate, which is being convened against the backdrop of high energy costs, the ravaging effects of climate change and food insecurity. These emerging challenges are threatening to derail what progress has been made by some countries in attaining the development targets of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), and exacerbating the difficulties already faced by those who are struggling to do so.

Mr. President:

In January 2008, Barbadians elected a new Government to manage its affairs. As a representative of that new administration, I want to assure this Body of our continued commitment to Barbados' full achievement of the MDGs. As has been reported from time to time in similar fora, Barbados has exhibited a relatively good track record regarding the achievement of many of the MDGs and as a consequence, we are in a position to pursue an MDG-plus strategy in some areas. Permit me to share with you an overview of some of these achievements and challenges faced in pursuing and maintaining the effort. Let us first look at the question of poverty.

Mr. President:

Barbados continues to believe that no goal is more critical to the achievement of global development than the eradication of extreme poverty and hunger. Fortunately, extreme poverty and hunger do not exist in Barbados. Nevertheless, we are aware that there are pockets of poverty present, especially within the urban corridor, which must engage our attention and over time we have implemented a number of policies and programmes and established a number of institutions, to assist us in doing so.

Mr. President:

Indicators such as reduced welfare rolls, reduced unemployment and an enhanced culture of entrepreneurship suggest that these policies and programmes have brought some measure of success. However, there is need for a full evaluation of their impact and this will shortly be undertaken through the planned Country Poverty Assessment which will commence in approximately two (2) months time. In another eighteen (18) months we will also be publishing our country's first National Human Development Report that will provide, inter alia, some data on the attainment of some of the targets linked to the MDG's.

Mr. President:

My Government is conscious of the fact that the pace of the poverty eradication needs to be increased. To this end, we are embarking on a programme of Constituency Empowerment which will involve the establishment of Constituency Councils and Constituency Empowerment Centres. This will be part of a comprehensive programme which will include the provision of safety nets for those in need of such provisioning, but has as its goal the ultimate empowerment of both individuals and communities. It will provide a pathway to progress that is seamless, as the various agencies involved in social service delivery will be operating within an institutional framework aimed at motivating the most vulnerable among us to move from a position of powerlessness to one of interdependence, where they will be able to make a meaningful contribution to national development.

Mr. President:

Education has been at the centre of Barbados' social and economic development strategy for many years. This accounts for the country's achievement of universal access to primary education and the fact that education is compulsory up to age 16 years. As such, Barbados has met the targets identified in MDG 2.

In this regard, we are well on the way in pursuing an MDG-plus mandate in this area. For example, there is universal access to secondary education, tuition-free post secondary education and more recently, the commitment to achieve universal pre-primary education for children between the ages of 3 and 5 years. Several nursery schools have already been established in the island, some by the State and others in partnership with the Private Sector.

Mr. President:

Good health is viewed as a human right in Barbados. Thus for many years there has been universal access to health care. As a consequence child mortality rates are below global levels and Barbados' maternal mortality rate is one of the lowest in the Caribbean region at 0.9 per thousand. Unfortunately, we are still struggling with the HIV/AIDS pandemic.

It is estimated that approximately 1.8% of Barbados' population is infected with HIV/AIDS. Of concern is the age group 15 – 49 which the pandemic has impacted the most. Nevertheless, word coming from the National HIV/AIDS Commission recently, indicate that there are signs of behaviour change among that segment of the population. Also encouraging is the increasing number of persons coming forward to be voluntarily tested at the various health fairs held across the island and the "health tents" that have been set up with some frequency in strategic places across the country under the auspices of the various coalitions formed to assist in the fight against HIV/AIDS.

Mr. President:

There has been the tendency by the international community to be lukewarm to say the least in addressing the needs of countries which are "MDG-plus". This is compounded when such countries happen to be a Small Island Developing States which brings their own peculiarities and vulnerabilities to the table as in the case of Barbados. Their needs are not adequately being addressed through the Monterrey Consensus on Financing for Development. Neither is full cooperation being received from the international community or resources committed to the implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States adopted in 1994 and the subsequent Mauritius Strategy in 2005.

We therefore call for the forging of stronger development partnerships among member States, both North-South and in the area of South-South Cooperation. In addition, the private sector, particularly those companies and organizations operating in the North should also be called upon to support the efforts of developing countries. In other words, the MDGs cannot be fully achieved without the full operationalisation of MDG 8. In these challenging times, we have no option.

Mr. President:

We are all duty-bound to join together in doubling our efforts to achieve the MDGs. They have given us an excellent framework in which sustained development can be pursued. I urge that we assist each other along the journey towards their achievement.

I thank you.



# BELARUS

UN General Assembly

Thematic debate

'Recognizing the achievements, addressing the challenges  
and getting back on track to achieve the MDGs by 2015'

## KEY POINTS OF A STATEMENT

- These days the challenge in timely achieving the MDGs lies not only in apparent shortage of adequate and sufficient resources for development or in insufficiently determined political will to affect a critical positive change in global development, but also in the need to face measures of unilateral economic coercion taken by some Member States which create a purposeful obstacle to the successful movement towards MDGs.
- UN may wish to see **promotion of the atmosphere of non-acceptance of politically motivated pressure and unilateral economic coercion** in relations between Member States as a significant factor of facilitation of the global progress towards MDGs.
- UN Secretary-General has an adequate mandate to engage actively with Member States in deploring unfairly restricted access to markets of developed countries, export subsidies, unilateral politically driven sanctions and other steps which undermine economic development. The Secretary-General should let the UN position on this matter known to Member States which impose such measures.
- UN funds and programmes should render technical and other assistance to programme countries **to help minimise and mitigate the consequences of application of unilateral economic sanctions by providing expertise and recommendations on the ways of adequate adaptation and response to such measures.**



*Mission Permanente de la République du Bénin  
Auprès des Nations Unies*

*Permanent Mission of The Republic of Benin  
To the United Nations*

## ***Assemblée Générale***

***Soixante-deuxième session***

***Débat thématique sur les objectifs du Millénaire pour le Développement  
(1er–2 avril 2008)***

***“Constater les progrès, affronter les difficultés et redresser le cap afin  
d’atteindre les Objectifs du Millénaire pour le Développement d’ici à 2015”***

***Intervention de S.E.M. Jean-Marie EHOZOU  
Ambassadeur,  
Représentant Permanent du Bénin***

*New York, le 2 Avril 2008*

Monsieur Le Président,

Le Bénin, à l'instar des précédents orateurs, vous félicite pour l'initiative heureuse que vous avez prise et qui, à notre avis, permet de soutenir la sensibilisation et l'engagement de la communauté internationale aux idéaux de paix, de justice, d'égalité des peuples et du développement durable de tous les Pays.

Appartenant à la catégorie des Pays les Moins Avancés (PMA) et en tant que Partie prenante de la Déclaration du Millénaire, le Bénin s'est engagé à mettre en oeuvre des politiques conséquentes pour réaliser les OMD d'ici à l'an 2015.

Ma délégation s'associe aux déclarations qui ont été faites par Antigua et Barbuda au nom du Groupe des 77 plus Chine et par Bangladesh au nom des PMA. Le Bénin s'associe également à la déclaration prononcée par l'Ambassadeur de la République Démocratique du Congo au nom du Groupe Africain.

Confronté à l'insuffisance des ressources financières et subissant la baisse tendancielle des prix des produits de base résultant des pratiques déloyales dans le domaine du commerce international et des difficultés d'accès aux marchés internationaux, le Bénin s'est doté de plusieurs politiques et stratégies de développement dans la perspective de créer un environnement propice à la réalisation des OMD.

A titre d'exemple, je voudrais citer les plus importants que sont :

- ✓ « Bénin 2025 Alafia », qui est un document d'analyse prospective nationale sur les stratégies de développement à long terme s'étalant sur 25 ans ;
- ✓ les « Orientations Stratégiques de Développement du Bénin 2006-2011 », qui est un document du Gouvernement découlant du précédent et prenant en compte les Objectifs de Développement du Millénaire (OMD) ainsi que les engagements contenus dans le Programme d'Action de Bruxelles;
- ✓ et la « Stratégie de Croissance pour la Réduction de la Pauvreté (SCR) 2007-2009 », dont le caractère essentiellement socio-économique, met en oeuvre le précédent et, par ricochet le premier, sur une période de trois ans.

Les actions engagées par le Gouvernement du Bénin depuis l'adoption des OMD se sont traduites par des avancées notables dans certains domaines et des progrès mitigés dans d'autres.

En effet, l'analyse des résultats des stratégies mises en oeuvre au cours du premier quinquennat (2000-2005) pour la réalisation des OMD a révélé que malgré les progrès enregistrés, toutes les cibles fixées n'ont pas été atteintes.

Ainsi, le phénomène de la pauvreté persiste, voire s'aggrave; et au regard des tendances, la réalisation des OMD paraît compromise.

Aussi, l'une des actions résultant de cette évaluation a-t-elle été l'élaboration d'une Stratégie de Réduction de la Pauvreté de deuxième génération qui a permis d'évaluer les besoins nécessaires pour la réalisation des OMD pour huit secteurs d'investissement, à savoir : Education, Santé, Eau, Assainissement, Energie, Transport et Routes, Genre.

C'est vous dire, Monsieur le Président, combien est grande la détermination du Gouvernement du Bénin à faire des OMD une réalité en 2015.

Il y a cependant lieu de souligner que l'introduction des résultats chiffrés dans le cadrage macroéconomique de la Stratégie pour la période 2007-2009 a révélé un important écart de financement à combler aussi bien durant la période de mise en oeuvre que celles d'après.

C'est le moment et le lieu de réitérer une fois de plus, les remerciements du Gouvernement à la Communauté internationale pour l'effort qu'elle n'a cessé de déployer pour la promotion de la démocratie et l'amélioration des conditions de vie des populations de villes et campagnes du Bénin.

Nonobstant cet effort louable, il est souhaitable que des avancées significatives soient faites dans la perspective de mener à terme notre combat pour l'éradication de la pauvreté.

L'ampleur du déficit budgétaire découlant des besoins évalués suggère que des mesures hardies soient mises en oeuvre pour arriver à une mobilisation accrue et une meilleure utilisation des ressources financières. C'est pourquoi il est nécessaire que, la communauté internationale augmente substantiellement l'aide publique au développement accordée au Bénin.

Dans ce contexte, le point de référence de toute assistance au développement du Bénin par les Agences du Système des Nations Unies ou tous autres partenaires techniques et financiers devra être le document portant les Orientations Stratégiques de Développement du Bénin pour la période 2006-2011.

Pour sa part, le Bénin s'engage, avec l'aide du secteur privé et de la société civile, à continuer l'assainissement du cadre macroéconomique national et à assurer une meilleure mobilisation de ressources nécessaires à la réalisation des objectifs définis. Il entend s'appuyer sur le Principe d'engagement mutuel entre les pays donateurs (y compris les institutions multilatérales) et les pays en développement, contenu dans la



Déclaration de Paris, pour améliorer l'efficacité de l'aide publique au développement. Enfin, l'appartenance du Bénin aux ensembles régionaux et sous-régionaux constitue pour lui un atout majeur qui lui permet d'élaborer et de mettre en oeuvre des politiques de développement régionales intégrées.

A la suite des interventions des éminents panélistes que vous avez invités pour mener de grandes réflexions sur cette importante question, je voudrais conclure en demandant instamment aux institutions de Bretton Woods et à tous les partenaires au développement publics ou privés d'apporter les ressources appropriées ou de les augmenter dans le cadre des engagements internationaux convenus pour le financement du développement.

Je les remercie tous pour leur dévouement et je salue particulièrement le Professeur Jeffrey Sachs pour son engagement aux côtés des pauvres et des démunis auxquels s'adressent en priorité les objectifs du Millénaire pour le Développement.

***Je vous remercie.***

**Statement by Ambassador Daw Penjo,  
Permanent Representative of Bhutan to the United Nations  
at the Thematic Debate on the Millennium Development Goals**

1-2 April 2008.

**Mr. President,**

I would like to express my delegation's appreciation of your initiative and leadership for holding this important thematic debate. We associate ourselves with the statements made by the Chairs of Group of 77 & China, LDCs, and LLDCs.

In 2000 our leaders agreed on the Millennium Declaration, which outlined eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), to benefit all people by reducing poverty and improving the livelihood of nearly one sixth of humanity by 2015. At mid-point to the target date many of these goals are far from being met. This calls for an urgent and concerted action by the international community to meet, in their entirety, the commitments made in the 2000 Declaration.

**Mr. President,**

I take this opportunity to inform you that Bhutan successfully held its first parliamentary elections last week. Almost 80 percent of registered voters cast their ballot to bring Bhutan into the fold of the democratic nations of the world. Formation of the new parliament and the subsequent adoption of our first written constitution will affirm Bhutan's transition into a democratic, constitutional monarchy.

**Mr. President,**

Bhutan is fully committed towards achieving the MDGs, and the Royal Government has been making concerted efforts to alleviate poverty through improved access to roads, health, education, electricity, and micro financing services. Further, the Tenth Five Year Plan that begins this year is primarily focused on poverty alleviation.

While we are on track to achieve most of the MDGs, there are a few goals that need immediate attention such as achieving gender parity at the tertiary level, bringing down the rising unemployment rate, particularly among the youth, and the risks of HIV/AIDS.

Further, the grave effects of climate change will make the task of meeting the MDGs more difficult. The irony of climate change is that its worst impacts will be on the developing world, particularly small landlocked countries and island developing countries which are least responsible for the problem. In this regard, Bhutan has two major concerns from climate change. First is the adverse impact on agriculture which is the mainstay of 79% of the population. Second is the threat of Glacial Lake Outburst Floods [GLOFs] that have severe consequences to our fertile agrarian land and human settlements. Further, any instances of GLOFs could devastate our hydropower facilities and undermine the power sector which remains Bhutan's largest source of revenue.

Urgent steps are needed to help the poorest countries adopt climate change strategies that reduce the vulnerability of their populations and improve their adaptive capacity.

Bhutan continues to face the demographic constraint of a small population that subsists on a fragile eco-system within the physical constraints of being mountainous and landlocked. The challenges are particularly acute in the delivery of social services, enhancing agricultural productivity, and the development of a dynamic private sector. Extensive capital investments in rural and urban infrastructure, and intensive capacity building at various levels, are required to ensure a smooth transition to a self-reliant economy.

**Mr. President,**

With support of the United Nations, the Gross National Happiness Commission published the Millennium Development Goals Needs Assessment and Costing Report, 2007. This report gives a detailed assessment of financial, human, and institutional resource needs and policy reforms required by Bhutan for meeting the MDGs.

While Bhutan is on track to achieving the MDGs, resource scarcity continues to pose a challenge in fully realizing these goals. Bhutan will need to invest around USD 2.5 billion between 2006 and 2015 to successfully implement the interventions identified by the Thematic Task Forces for achieving the MDGs.

**Mr. President,**

Bhutan's guiding philosophy remains Gross National Happiness and all our development efforts will continue to be people centered, which includes attainment and fulfillment of our commitments in achieving the MDGs. With Bhutan's first steps in self rule, it is extremely important that the first democratically elected government of the people succeed in all spheres of social, political, and economic life as a clear and ready signal that the legacy of more than a hundred years of peace and prosperity is now in good hands.

We thank our development partners for their invaluable assistance towards achieving the MDGs and have full confidence in their continued support at this important juncture in our history.

**Thank you and Tashi Delek.**



**BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA**

**STATEMENT**

by

**Dr. Ranko Škrbić**

Head of Delegation of Bosnia and Herzegovina  
on occasion of General Assembly Thematic Debate  
MDG by 2015.

„Recognizing the Achievements, Addressing the Challenges and Getting back on track“

New York  
April, 2. 2008

Mr. Secretary General,  
Mr. President,  
your Excellencies,  
distinguished delegates,  
my medical colleagues, ladies and gentleman:

Having the opportunity to address this august body on behalf of my entity is a great honor.

Systematic assessment of the progress and success of planned objectives, based on evidence, is an essential element of all programs and activities directed to health promotion and disease prevention of vulnerable and underserved populations.

A Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey, conducted in 2000 and 2006 by the Republika Srpska's Ministry of Health and Social Welfare, Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina's Public Health Institute and Agencies for Statistics, supported by UNICEF, The British Government Department for International Development- was based, in large part, on the need to monitor progress towards goals and targets emanating from recent international agreements: the Millennium Declaration, adopted by all 191 United Nations Member States in September 2000, and the Plan of Action of "A World Fit For Children", adopted by 189 Member States at the United Nations Special Session on Children in May 2002. Both of these commitments build upon promises made by the international community at the 1990 World Summit for Children.

In signing these international agreements, governments committed themselves to improving conditions for their children and to monitoring progress towards that end. UNICEF was assigned a supporting role in this task.

The 2006 Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) had as its primary objectives:

- To provide up-to-date information for assessing the situation of children and women in Bosnia and Herzegovina.
- To furnish data needed for monitoring progress toward goals established by the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) and the goals of A World Fit for Children (WFFC) as a basis for future action.
- To contribute to the improvement of data collection and monitoring systems in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and to strengthen technical expertise in the design, implementation, and analysis of such systems.

The Survey provided 90 indicators related to nutrition, child health, environment, reproductive health, child development, education, child protection, HIV/AIDS, sexual behaviour, orphans and vulnerable children.

Prevalence of children under the age of five who are underweight is 0.4% in Bosnia and Herzegovina (MDG 4), and the coverage for measles vaccine is 75% (MDG 15).

Cooking with solid fuels (biomass and coal) leads to high levels of indoor pollution and is a major cause of ill-health in the world, particularly among under-5 children, in the form of acute respiratory illness. Overall, 48.7% of all households in Bosnia and Herzegovina use solid fuels (MDG 29).

Nearly 99% of the population has access to safe drinking water (MDG 30), and 93% of the population is living in households with safe sewage (MDG 31). Prevalence of households in "poor areas" is 15.8 % (MDG 32)

Current use of contraception was reported by 35.7% of women currently married or in a union (MDG 19c).

A doctor, nurse or midwife assisted delivery in nearly 100% of the births that occurred in the year prior to the MICS (MDG 17).

Nearly 99% of children of primary school age are attending primary school (MDG 6). All children who enter the first grade of primary school reach grade five (MDG 7). Prevalence of completing primary school is 86.6% (MDG 7b). The ratio of girls to boys attending primary and secondary education shows that gender parity for primary and secondary school is close to 1.00 (MDG 9). The vast majority of the adult population (99.6%) is literate (MDG 8).

Approximately 34% of young women in Bosnia and Herzegovina know all three of the main ways to prevent HIV/AIDS transmission (MDG 19b). Condoms are used by 71% of women while having sexual intercourse with a non-regular partner (MDG 19a).

One of the overarching goals of the MDGs and the World Fit for Children is to reduce infant mortality. The rate of infant mortality and the rate of still births in the B&H have shown a declining trend over past years. In 1996, the infant mortality rate was 14.6 ‰ and in 2005 it was 3.4 ‰. In 1996, the stillbirth rate was 12.4 ‰ and in 2005 it was 3.4 ‰. Despite the fact that these figures were derived on the basis of an estimated size of the population, and that these rates may be higher by several ‰ if the size of the population is overestimated, the declining trend is still significant and indicates a very significant improvement.

Bosnia and Herzegovina has achieved significant progress in the domain of stewardship thanks to the efforts that have been invested in producing and implementing policies, health care development strategies and normative - legal regulations. The recently appointed Ministerial conference on health in

Bosnia and Herzegovina, consisting of the Ministers of health of Republika Srpska, Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, District Brcko and Ministry of civil affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina, is a positive example of main governmental involvement in the multi-party effort to stride forward in coordination of health strategy planning and implementing activities in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

A notably unfavorable demographic trend -the constant diminution of natural growth rate- will have significant consequences with regard to the structure and volume of labor in the future. It also affects the health of the population in terms of epidemiological transition associated with population ageing and contributes to an increased incidence and prevalence of malignant and chronic degenerative illnesses. This requires preparedness of the health system to respond to the changing health of the population. It is also to be expected to find an increasing number of persons living with HIV/AIDS and multiresistant tuberculosis, which will increase pressures on public health functions.

Mr. President,

Development of democracy and an emphasis on individual rights of community members, which, in terms of health care, can be interpreted as a better opportunity for a service user to choose, will bring about both opportunities and threats. The opportunities imply a more active involvement of community members in decision making in health, which at the same time requires better responsiveness of the health system, which, in turn, implies provision of high quality health services. Changes in health services and social services laws will enhance the participation and contribution of local communities governing bodies in the allocation of resources and initiation of services on their own level.

Legal and regulatory changes in the European Union require a full readiness to swiftly respond to ecological and public health threats, which calls for a state of preparedness requiring large investments.

Socio-cultural changes have led to a partially higher level of information of the public, which now has high demands from the health system. However, they have also undermined the structure of the family and led to an increasing frequency of various forms of risky behavior (unhealthy food, reduced physical activity, diverse forms of addiction, etc.). Socio-cultural changes are also the major cause of unfavorable demographic trends. Low fertility of the population is a process that none of the developed societies have managed to escape.

These factors exert pressure over the institutions of marriage and family, from the ideas of personality freedom, consumer mentality and hedonism down to alternative life styles. Structural obstacles (unemployment, housing issues, day-care of children) are present in Bosnia and Herzegovina, as in all contemporary societies. However, if we live in a contemporary society, how is it possible that the number of newborns is so low while studies show that only 9.4% of women at the reproductive age who are either married or living with a partner use any of the modern methods of contraception? Is it possible that the predominant manner of family planning is abortion? The ideas on freedom of the individual are essentially well-intended but every one of us should start to think about Jeremiah Bentham's question: "To which extent does my freedom limit the freedom of another person?"

Monitoring of the population development in Bosnia and Herzegovina is one of the starting points for designing quality strategic plans for health, education and social welfare. A highly overdue census will constitute a starting point for comprehensive analyses of demographic indicators and laying quality foundations for a population policy.

Mr. President

It is considered that the major diminution of the number of small children in the regions of South Eastern Europe offers an opportunity to provide for better prospects for young people in the forthcoming years. The costs of investing in the young generation are not in direct proportion with the number of young people, but a sharp decline in the number of newborns does not leave room for inadequate investments in health, education and other parameters that are of vital importance for the development of young individuals and therefore society.

Thank you for your attention





## **BRAZIL**

### **Thematic Debate on the Millennium Development Goals**

**“Recognizing the achievements, addressing the challenges and getting back on track to achieve the MDGs by 2015”**

**Statement by H.E. Ambassador  
Maria Luiza Ribeiro Viotti  
Permanent Representative of Brazil  
(New York, 2 April 2008)**

Mr. President,

Brazil welcomes this opportunity to take stock of progress made in the timely achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and discuss our collective action to that effect.

It should be reiterated that the MDGs were not meant to replace the commitments undertaken by Member States during the U.N. cycle of conferences of the 1990's. The MDGs offer measurable benchmarks that help us to mobilize, guide and co-ordinate the national and international efforts necessary to honor those commitments.

Brazil has fully incorporated the MDGs in its national policies. We have actually established additional and more demanding goals. The results are encouraging.

We have already achieved the target of halving the proportion of the population living on less than one dollar a day. Our current target is to reduce that proportion to one quarter.

Likewise, we have achieved the target of halving the number of those suffering from hunger. Now our aim is to fully eradicate this scourge by 2015.

Educational indicators show continued progress towards both universal completion of basic schooling and greater gender equality. The participation of females in the educational system is already slightly higher than that of males.

As widely known, progress has also been made in fighting AIDS. In 1996, Brazil introduced the National Program for Sexually Transmitted Diseases/AIDS, which ensures universal access to antiretroviral treatment. The mortality rate associated with AIDS has decreased ever since, and the proportion of Brazilians infected with HIV has remained steady over the past years.

As we try to project the future, we have reasons to believe that Brazil will achieve all MDGs by 2015. Poverty and extreme poverty are on a downward trend and there has been a noticeable reduction in income inequality. Cash transfer programs linked with social policy requirements, such as the “Bolsa Familia”, and sustained substantive raises in the minimum wage have played a key role in this process.

Mr. President,

Brazil's actions have not been limited to its territory. We have also assisted other developing countries in their efforts to achieve the MDGs. We have done so either through direct financing and support to more than 200 technical cooperation projects or through resources made available to multilateral funds and programs.

Along with other governments, Brazil has set up UNITAID, an International Drug Purchase Facility, which aims to facilitate access to drugs against HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis. Just one year after its inception, UNITAID has already disbursed over 250 million dollars in 80 beneficiary countries. We are also active in the "Multilateral Debt Reduction Initiative" and the "MDG Call to Action". This latter initiative brings together governments, companies and civil society in keeping the political momentum necessary to achieving the MDGs.

Mr. President,

Brazil fully acknowledges that each country must take primary responsibility for its own development. However, no one can deny the effects of the international trade and financial systems on the ability of governments, especially in the least developed countries, to promote national development.

With respect to trade, it is our common interest that the Doha Round come to a successful and timely conclusion, thus providing wider access to goods and services from developing countries. Since most of the poor in those countries live in rural areas, liberalizing the agricultural market is critical. It is also high time to eliminate the distortions in the production and trade of agricultural goods caused by scandalous levels of export subsidies and domestic support in much of the developed world.

With regards to international finance, bilateral and multilateral debt relief initiatives must be supported and, whenever possible, strengthened. The resources freed up by such initiatives will help poor indebted countries to face health and education challenges, hence improving prospects of timely achievement of the MDGs. In addition, increased volumes of Official Development Assistance remain vital to development financing, especially for the poorest nations. Here we must recall that innovative financial mechanisms are an important complement to ODA, but certainly not its substitute.

The current financial crisis could prove to be particularly perverse. Global financial turmoil comes precisely when developing countries reap the economic and social benefits of decade-long efforts to eliminate sources of instability in their own economies. We must not allow hard-won gains in the developing world to be threatened by vulnerabilities generated at the very center of the world economy. Such a scenario must be avoided, if we want the developing countries to keep playing a role in sustaining global economic growth.

Enhancing the coherence and governance of the international monetary, financial and trade systems and enlarging the participation of developing countries in such systems will strengthen our ability to restore and maintain stability and growth.

Mr. President,

The founders of the United Nations conceived it to be a key instrument in ensuring peace and security after the catastrophic effects of the Second World War. They realized that such a goal requires providing all peoples with the conditions to develop and improve their living standards.

The MDGs are only the most recent and important initiative of the U.N. to engage the entire membership in the fight for development. Brazil places high hopes that we will be able to surmount the many obstacles to attaining the MDGs and winning such fight. We must not let pass this occasion to recommit to the formidable but clear objective we ourselves have set: sustainable development with equity for all.

Thank you.



REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA



CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY!

## STATEMENT

BY H.E. RAYKO RAYTCHEV,

PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA TO  
THE UNITED NATIONS

AT THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY THEMATIC DEBATE  
"RECOGNIZING THE ACHIEVEMENTS, ADDRESSING THE  
CHALLENGES AND GETTING BACK ON TRACK TO ACHIEVE THE  
MDGs BY 2015"

NEW YORK, 3 APRIL 2008

Mr. President,  
Excellencies,  
Ladies and gentlemen,

At the outset, allow me to thank you, Mr. President, for organizing this extremely important meeting on the crucial midpoint of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

Bulgaria aligns itself with the statement made by Slovenia on behalf of the European Union. I would like to elaborate on some important elements from a national perspective:

Mr. President,

In the years since 2000, when the Millennium Declaration was endorsed, we have seen progress in achieving the MDGs even in those regions where the challenges are greatest: the number of extremely poor people in sub-Saharan Africa has leveled off, and the poverty rate has declined by nearly six percentage points since 2000. At global level the proportion of people living in extreme poverty has fallen from nearly a third to less than one fifth between 1990 and 2004; enrolment in primary education has grown from 80 per cent in 1991 to 88 per cent in 2000; child mortality has declined; key interventions to control malaria and tuberculosis have been expanded.

These results are truly remarkable. However, they also highlight how much more remains to be done. Presently, only one of the eight regional groups cited in the MDGs report is on track to achieve all the Goals. At the current rates of progress, for instance, the target of reducing by half the proportion of underweight children will be missed, with 30 million children still remaining at risk, and the target on reducing the number of people who lack basic sanitation will fall short by almost 600 million people.

In addition, new challenges, in particular climate change with its projected enormous economic and social impact, are expected to further impede progress towards the MDGs.

These sobering estimates make an ironclad case for the need to accelerate, drastically but in a coherent and coordinated manner, the implementation of the MDGs. Therefore, we all - developed and developing countries alike, international organizations, non-governmental organizations and representatives of the private sector - need to work harder, to push further. Only coordinated and sustained efforts until 2015 will bring success. Every effort counts, every contribution matters.

Mr. President,

I am glad to report that Bulgaria contributes likewise, within its capacities, to the world's effort to eradicate global poverty and hunger. Development cooperation is not new for my country: in mid-1980s the Republic of Bulgaria was already an important donor to over 40 countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America. In the 1990s, regardless of the difficulties of our own political and economic transition, Bulgaria continued to participate in several initiatives assisting countries in need. My country supported the decisions of the major UN conferences on international development issues, including the Millennium Summit, and the decision of the European Council of June 2005. We are committed to strive to achieve the targets of 0,17 % of GNI allocated for Official Development Assistance (ODA) by 2010 and 0,33 % of GNI by 2015. The Concept Paper on the Policy of the Republic of Bulgaria for Participation in

International Development Cooperation, adopted by the Council of Ministers in July 2007, has clearly stated our firm resolve to live up to these commitments. We are in the process of rebuilding, slowly but steadily, our national donor capacity and stand ready to share our experience with other countries that undergo a similar transition.

The eradication of poverty in all its dimensions and manifestations is the main objective of Bulgaria's development cooperation policy. Furthermore, education and implementation of healthcare reforms, alongside the provision of assistance in socio-economic transition; developing of infrastructure, environmental protection, security and post-conflict reconstruction and preservation of cultural diversity, count among the sectoral priorities of our development assistance effort.

We also believe that improving the quality of aid is no less important for achieving the MDGs than increasing its volume. Thus, our development policy fully embraces the principles of ownership, alignment, accountability, coordination, complementarity and coherence, laid down in the the European Consensus on Development and the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness. We closely follow the preparations for the Accra meeting and stand ready to actively participate in and reflect the outcome of this meeting in our development policy documents and practice.

Mr. President,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

In conclusion, what we need in order to get back on track in achieving the MDGs are practical results. Our failure in securing them could be fatal for the credibility of the international community and the United Nations as its most representative and universal instrument, since the MDGs may well end up irrevocably debasing the currency of global promises. We could not and must not allow this to happen!

Thank you!

REPUBLIQUE DU BURUNDI



REPUBLIKA Y UBURUNDI

**DECLARATION DU DR. ALEXIS BIZIMUNGU,  
CHEF DE CABINET AU VICE-MINISTERE CHARGE  
DE LA PLANIFICATION**

**LORS DU DEBAT THEMATIQUE INTITULE :**

**« Constater les progrès, affronter les difficultés et  
redresser le cap afin d'atteindre les objectifs du  
Millénaire pour le développement d'ici à 2015 »**

*New York, le 02 avril 2008*

**Monsieur le Président,  
Distingués Délégués,  
Mesdames, Messieurs,**

1. C'est un grand plaisir pour moi de prendre la parole au nom de la délégation burundaise pour partager avec vous les efforts accomplis par le Gouvernement de mon pays dans la réalisation des Objectifs du Millénaire pour le Développement d'ici à 2015.
2. Avant tout propos, je voudrais souligner que le Burundi se joint à la déclaration faite par le Représentant de l'Antigua et Barbuda au nom du Groupe des 77 et de la Chine. Il fait siennes les recommandations contenues dans la déclaration.
3. Monsieur le Président, Mesdames et Messieurs, le Burundi se remet d'une longue crise socio-politique de plus d'une décennie qui a causé de graves préjudices au niveau social, économique et sécuritaire. En dépit des nombreuses difficultés, depuis septembre 2002, les autorités burundaises se sont véritablement engagées dans la réalisation des réformes et d'actions orientées vers l'atteinte des OMD. Pour honorer les engagements, ils ont tenu à intégrer l'impératif OMD dans son cycle de programmation économique. Ainsi, le programme quinquennal du Gouvernement (2005-2010), le Cadre Stratégique pour la Consolidation de la paix, le Cadre Stratégique de Lutte contre la Pauvreté (CSLP) et son Programme d'Actions Prioritaires (PAP) sont les piliers vers l'accomplissement des OMD<sup>1</sup>.
4. Comme dans la plupart des pays en développement Sub-Saharienne, les progrès vers la réalisation des cibles des OMD sont assez lents et timides au Burundi. Je voudrais avec votre permission, partager avec vous les efforts accomplis par le Gouvernement burundais dans la réalisation de chacun des huit objectifs ainsi que les dispositions prises pour les atteindre.
5. Concernant le premier objectif qui vise la réduction de l'extrême pauvreté et de la faim, le Burundi connaîtra un retard dans sa réalisation. En effet, l'indice de la pauvreté qui était de 34,8% en 1990 est aujourd'hui estimé à 68%. Le taux d'investissement a passé de 16,6% du PIB en 1993 et a diminué pour se situer à moins de 8% du PIB en 2002. En 2006, ce taux a légèrement augmenté pour s'établir à 11,6% du PIB. Il reste cependant très faible compte tenu du taux élevé requis.
6. Concernant le domaine de la promotion de l'égalité des sexes et de l'autonomisation des femmes, le Burundi, bien qu'encore loin de la parité, peut se féliciter d'une nette amélioration. En effet, un quota de 30% dans les

---

<sup>1</sup> Cette vision va également inspirer le projet de société qui sera issu de l'exercice prospective 2025 en cours d'élaboration.

institutions est reconnu aux femmes par la constitution et a été respecté dans l'attribution des sièges au parlement et au gouvernement. De même, le nombre de femmes occupant de hautes fonctions dans l'Administration publique a évolué très positivement. Ensuite, pour faciliter l'accès aux crédits aux femmes, qui constituent une part importante de la population défavorisée, et améliorer leurs conditions de vie, le Gouvernement a mis en place un fond pour promouvoir les microprojets, surtout ceux initiés par les femmes.

7. En ce qui concerne l'éducation, le taux net de scolarisation qui était de 42% en 1996 a connu une nette amélioration car elle avoisinait 81,6 % en 2006 et 101,3 % en 2007 en raison de la normalisation des conditions sécuritaires sur une grande partie du territoire nationale et surtout grâce à la mesure présidentielle de la scolarisation gratuite au niveau de l'école primaire. Cependant, pour atteindre l'objectif de scolarisation universelle, il faudrait continuer l'accélération du taux d'accès, l'augmentation du taux de rétention des élevés à l'école ainsi que la sensibilisation des parents. En effet, seul 37 % des enfants qui accèdent à l'école atteignent la fin du cycle primaire. On observe qu'en dépit de l'inexistence de discrimination, les filles restent en arrière et cela est, en grande partie, dû aux parents encore peu sensibles à l'utilité de la formation. On observe également des redoublements excessifs et des abandons importants.
8. Sur le plan sanitaire, la situation des enfants âgés de moins de 5 ans est très préoccupante. En effet, du fait de la en détérioration des infrastructures sanitaires, de l'insuffisance du personnel médical ainsi que de l'inaccessibilité dans certaines zones du pays, les perspectives de succès et de suivi des campagnes nationales de vaccination sont grandement compromises. Malgré les efforts du Gouvernement matérialisés notamment par la mesure de gratuité de soins de santé pour les enfants de moins de 5 ans le pays risque de ne pas maîtriser les niveaux de couverture et de protection vaccinales, s'il ne bénéficie pas d'appuis significatifs de la part de ses partenaire au développement.
9. En ce qui concerne le VIH/SIDA, cette pandémie continue à bloquer les efforts de développement déployés par le Gouvernement. Les tendances observées laissent entrevoir une prévalence du VIH/SIDA de l'ordre de 10 à 11% au plan national. Au niveau institutionnel, pour la gestion de la problématique VIH/SIDA, un Vice- Ministère a été crée pour s'en occuper. Au niveau opérationnel, les différents programmes de prise en charge et les stratégies nationales de sensibilisation ne permettent pas encore l'accès au traitement pour la totalité de la population atteinte en dépit des efforts déployés tant au niveau national qu'international.
10. En matière d'eau potable, les différents programmes d'investissement publics ont été ralentis à cause de la crise, alors qu'avant 1993 la proportion de la population ayant durablement accès à une source d'eau potable avait



significativement augmenté. Il est donc peu probable que cette cible soit atteinte à l'horizon 2015.

11. Dans le domaine de l'environnement, la dégradation des écosystèmes naturels s'est traduite par un faible niveau de protection de la biodiversité avec la disparition progressive du couvert forestier. Le Gouvernement déploie des efforts pour planter le maximum possible d'arbres afin de créer de meilleures conditions environnementales.
12. Dans le domaine du commerce et des échanges avec l'extérieur, le Burundi continue de subir la détérioration des termes de l'échange. Des ressources générées dans le cadre des transactions avec le reste du monde sont trop insuffisantes pour une prise en charge efficiente des besoins prioritaires des populations en général et de celles affectées par la crise en particulier.
13. Au niveau du partenariat mondial pour le développement, le passage réussi devant le Club de Paris au cours du mois de Mars 2004 constituait un bol d'air frais à l'économie burundaise. Le Burundi s'est félicité des annonces faites lors de la table ronde des partenaires en Mai 2007. Nous profitons de cette occasion pour remercier nos partenaires qui ont déjà décaissé les fonds promis lors de la tenue de cette table ronde et profitons de cette même occasion pour lancer un appel à ceux qui ne l'ont pas encore fait pour honorer leurs engagements.
14. Monsieur le Président, Mesdames et Messieurs, au regard de la situation actuelle et si les tendances observées persistent, si la communauté internationale ne maintient pas au Burundi le bénéfice de ses appuis financiers, y compris l'annulation totale de sa dette, les Objectifs du Millénaire pour le Développement ne seront pas réalisables à l'horizon 2015 au Burundi et seront même compromis !
15. Avant de terminer mon propos, au regard des faibles performances enregistrées par certain nombre de pays dans la réalisation des Objectifs du Millénaire pour le Développement d'ici 2015, la délégation burundaise voudrait soumettre à la communauté internationale les recommandations ci-après :
  - a) Les dirigeants du monde doivent réaffirmer leur engagement de tout faire pour atteindre les OMD à l'horizon 2015 ;
  - b) Il importe d'aller au delà de simples déclarations d'intention pour engager des actions volontaristes et rigoureuses susceptibles d'inverser la tendance en cours; ainsi la question fondamentale du financement du développement notamment par le respect des engagements pris lors des conférences internationales et en particulier lors du consensus de Monterrey doit trouver une réponse appropriée ;

- c) Il importe de soutenir les pays en développement dans leurs efforts visant à développer le secteur agricole et à promouvoir la réduction de la pauvreté ;
- d) Il importe de mobiliser les ressources nécessaires pour financer le renforcement des capacités des pays en développement dans les secteurs prioritaires dans le respect du principe de l'appropriation nationale ;
- e) Les institutions financières internationales doivent accroître leurs efforts pour établir une stratégie intégrée de financement du développement en faveur des pays en situation particulière comme les Pays les Moins Avancés, les pays en situation de post-conflit.

**Je vous remercie pour votre attention.**



**KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA**  
**PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

327 East 58<sup>th</sup> Street, New York, NY 10022  
TEL: (212) 336-0777 FAX: (212) 759-7672



Please check against delivery

**Statement  
of**

**H.E. Mr. CHHAY THAN**  
**Senior Minister, Minister of Planning**  
**Head of Cambodian Delegation**

**at**

**General Assembly Thematic Debate on the  
Millennium Development Goals**

**"Recognizing the achievements, addressing the challenges and getting  
back on track to achieve the MDGs by 2015"**

**New York**  
**Wednesday 2, April 2008**

Excellencies;  
Ladies and Gentlemen;

Today, it is my great pleasure and honor to attend the General Assembly Thematic Debate on the Millennium Development Goals and to make the statement on behalf of the Royal Government of Cambodia.

During the last decade, with the strengthening in peace, stability, national unification, democracy and respect for human right, our GDP growth was an average of 10.6 percent during 2003-2006, and then to 10.1 percent in 2007. Cambodia double her per capita GDP to US\$ 586 in 2007. We are aware that a very narrow base of the economic growth in Cambodia, driven mainly by some urban sectors is the main cause of increasing inequality between urban and rural areas.

To implement Rome Declaration, the Royal Government of Cambodia has decided to prepare a single National Strategic Development Plan 2006-2010 that will serve as a framework for alignment of all ODA supported activities. The Royal Government stands strongly committed to achieve Cambodia Millennium Development Goals (CMDGs) by adopting CMDGs' goals and targets as the key pillars of Cambodia's National Development Policy and Strategy.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen!

Cambodia's present performance in relation to the CMDGs is mixed and uneven. There are significant improvements in poverty rates in urban, especially in Phnom Penh 4.6 percent and more accessible rural areas 20.5 percent, expansion of primary education to more children, significant reduction in mortality rates for both infants and under-five year olds to 66 and 83 per 1,000 live births respectively but they are still very high, improved immunization against major childhood diseases and breastfeeding, reduction of gender disparity in most areas especially in primary education, adult literacy, and wage employment in agriculture and industry, reduction of communicable diseases, especially adult prevalence rate of HIV/AIDS has slowed down to 0.60 percent; and improved urban access to safe water and rural access to improved sanitation

In parallel with these achievements, there are still many shortcomings and challenges that Cambodia must overcome to realize the agreed goals and targets such as: (i) high rural poverty rate of 39 percent, rural economy and living standard are still the worrying challenges and the weakness of economic infrastructure. (ii) Limited progress in achieving the goals of universal nine-year basic education particularly those beyond primary education. The lack of skilled workers is already a severe constraint to accelerating growth in both rural and

urban areas. (iii) Limited access to quality health services especially in case of women and maternal health. Information from the CDHS 2005 reported a very high maternal mortality ratio of 472 per 100,000 live births.

### Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen!

The Royal Government of Cambodia recognizes that these achievements can be made due to the generous contribution from all Cambodia's cooperation partners. It also reflects the gradual improvement in the efficient and effectiveness of utilization of all kinds of cooperation financing that Cambodia has received from its external cooperation partners. On this rare and auspicious occasion, on behalf of the Royal Government and the people of Cambodia, I would like to express the heart-felt gratitude to all development partners for their invaluable and noble contribution to the poverty reduction and the development in Cambodia.

Cambodia's progress toward Cambodia MDGs is constrained by chronic shortage of investment to meet its priority requirements. Complement from Development Partners (DPs) and global community to its pro-CMDG national strategy will require financial, technical and other supports. A collective effort is the key to achieving CMDG and ensuring sustained growth and stability in Cambodia.

In closing, let me thank you all for your patience and attention!!!



**CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY  
SOUS RÉSERVE DE MODIFICATIONS**

**STATEMENT BY**

**AMBASSADOR HENRI-PAUL NORMANDIN  
DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF CANADA  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

**AT THE 88<sup>TH</sup> PLENARY MEETING OF THE SIXTY-SECOND SESSION OF  
THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**THEMATIC DEBATE  
"RECOGNIZING THE ACHIEVEMENTS, ADDRESSING THE CHALLENGES  
AND GETTING BACK ON TRACK TO ACHIEVE THE MDGs BY 2015"**

**NEW YORK, 2 APRIL 2008**

~~~~~  
**DÉCLARATION DE**

**L'AMBASSADEUR HENRI-PAUL NORMANDIN  
REPRÉSENTANT PERMANENT ADJOINT DU CANADA  
AUPRÈS DES NATIONS UNIES**

**LORS DE LA 88<sup>E</sup> SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE DE LA SOIXANTE - DEUXIÈME  
SESSION DE L'ASSEMBLÉE GÉNÉRALE DES NATIONS UNIES**

**DÉBAT THÉMATIQUE INTITULÉ  
"CONSTATER LES PROGRÈS, AFFRONTER LES DIFFICULTÉS ET  
REDRESSER LE CAP AFIN D'ATTEINDRE LES OBJECTIFS DU  
MILLÉNAIRE POUR LE DÉVELOPPEMENT D'ICI À 2015"**

**NEW YORK, LE 2 AVRIL 2008**

Thank you, Mr. President.

First, let me take this opportunity to thank you, as President of the General Assembly, for convening this debate. Canada believes that this is an opportune time for this forum to recognise the achievements and address the challenges to get back on track to achieve the Millennium Development Goals by 2015.

Canada welcomes this opportunity, the first of many we will have this year, to review global progress on implementing our development commitments and increasing the overall effectiveness of aid.

The Goals provide the international community with solid objectives to which to aspire. Our progress towards them must be measured in terms of concrete results, not just in terms of spending.

And reaching the goals is only part of the equation -- it will be equally important to ensure the sustainability and effectiveness of the results. For example, increasing primary school enrolments and eliminating gender disparities at all levels of education need to be placed within nationally led system-wide plans so that governments will be able to sustain the achievements beyond 2015.

Canada has taken significant steps to reduce global poverty, in terms of increasing both the volume and the effectiveness of its aid.

The Government of Canada will double its international assistance by 2010-11 from 2001-02 levels, and is also committed to making our existing aid resources work more effectively, by enhancing the focus, efficiency and accountability of our international assistance efforts.

Along with increasing resources, we must all step up our efforts to ensure improved efficiency and effectiveness in development programming to ensure maximum impact from our investments and efforts to achieve development goals.

That is why we have been encouraging and supporting reform efforts within the UN development system. The recommendations of the UN High-Level Panel report on system wide coherence should help reinforce the more effective delivery of development assistance.

As Member States agreed in the outcome of the Financing for Development Conference in 2002, the "Monterrey Consensus", each country has the primary responsibility for its own economic and social development.

The mobilization of domestic resources for development, the creation of an enabling environment to attract foreign direct investment, effectiveness of official development assistance, using international trade as an engine for development and addressing external debt were recognised as key to achieving the

Millennium Development Goals. Member states will review progress on implementing the Monterrey Consensus in November of this year.

Over the past few years, we have witnessed record economic growth in much of the developing world. Economic growth has been the key element that has allowed some countries to make significant progress toward reducing poverty and meeting the MDGs.

Mr. President

Innovative mechanisms are required to make the rapid advances needed to achieve development goals.

To that end, Canada is dedicating an initial \$50 million over the next two years to a new Development Innovation Fund, to create breakthrough discoveries with the potential to significantly improve the lives of millions in the developing world.

To accelerate progress on development goals, all development actors need to be part of the discussion. Worldwide, civil society contributes more than \$40 billion in aid every year. It is an important pillar of sound accountability, an innovative partner in development, and it can demonstrate concrete results.

We have an opportunity to shine a light on the role civil society organizations play as partners in development, particularly with regard to aid effectiveness. Canada strongly supports civil society engagement in an open dialogue internationally, but more importantly at the country level, in effectiveness and the achievement of results.

The engagement of women is also critical. Not only is the equality between women and men, boys and girls, and the empowerment of women, specific development goals in their own right, but they are also essential for the achievement of all internationally-agreed development goals, including the MDGs.

This is one reason why Canada supports the creation of a strong and coherent gender entity within the UN system, to support women's empowerment, as recommended by the High Level Panel on System-Wide Coherence.

Also, democratic governance and peace and security are essential for countries to make development progress and to assure they do not lose what has already been achieved.

Countries affected by conflict will have lost much of the gains of development. Canada's focus on Haiti and Afghanistan serves to restore the fabric of society and credible institutions necessary to get back on the road to sustainable development outcomes.



As has been noted, Sub-Saharan Africa has the farthest to go to reach the MDGs. Canada is helping to achieve significant results in Africa in areas such as health and education.

Canada will also meet its commitment to double aid to Africa - the region with the farthest to go in terms of achieving the MDGs - in 2008-09 over 2003-04 levels.

Through the African Health Systems Initiative Canada and its partners is helping to strengthen national-level health strategies and systems.

Canada is meeting its commitment to increase bilateral support for basic education from \$100M to \$150M annually by 2010.

We are continuing to achieve results that are seeing millions more children in school and putting millions of books into the hands of students and teachers to help improve the quality of education.

Thanks to the collaboration between Canada and many African governments and partners, over 4.5 million more girls attended school in 2005-06 than in 2000 in eight African countries.

These are the kinds of concrete results each of us needs to be able to demonstrate. Our developing country partners are counting on us to fulfil our commitments and our own citizens are expecting to see their taxpayer dollars deliver results.

2008 is a pivotal year for development for several reasons with several opportunities to take stock of where we are, where we need to go and how we plan to get there.

Canada looks forward to continuing to play an active and constructive role.

Thank you.

Merci M. le président.

Permettez-moi d'abord de vous remercier d'avoir convoqué ce débat thématique. Le Canada estime que le moment est bien choisi pour les Nations Unies de souligner les progrès accomplis, d'affronter les défis à surmonter et redresser le cap afin d'atteindre les Objectifs du Millénaire pour le développement d'ici 2015.

Le Canada accueille avec satisfaction l'occasion qui s'offre, la première d'une série cette année, d'examiner les progrès réalisés au niveau mondial dans la mise en œuvre des engagements pris en matière de développement et dans l'amélioration de l'efficacité de l'aide.

Les Objectifs du Millénaire pour le développement définissent les résultats tangibles que doit atteindre la communauté internationale. Nos progrès doivent se mesurer à l'aune de résultats concrets et non pas seulement à celle des sommes dépensées.

Et atteindre les Objectifs n'est qu'une partie de l'équation – il sera également important d'assurer la viabilité et l'efficacité des résultats obtenus. Par exemple, l'augmentation des taux d'inscription à l'école primaire et l'élimination des disparités entre les sexes à tous les niveaux doivent être intégrées à des plans nationaux de manière systémique pour que les gouvernements puissent maintenir les résultats obtenus au-delà de 2015.

Le Canada a pris des mesures concrètes pour réduire la pauvreté au niveau mondial, à la fois en accroissant le volume de l'aide et en améliorant son efficacité.

Le gouvernement canadien doublera son aide internationale d'ici 2010-2011 par rapport aux niveaux de 2001-2002. Il est également résolu à accroître l'efficacité de son aide grâce à un meilleur ciblage, une plus grande efficacité et une responsabilisation accrue à l'égard des efforts qu'il déploie en matière d'aide internationale.

Nous devons tous non seulement accroître les ressources mais aussi intensifier nos efforts pour améliorer l'efficacité et l'efficacité des programmes de développement afin de maximiser les retombées de nos investissements et des efforts déployés pour atteindre les objectifs de développement.

C'est pourquoi nous appuyons les efforts pour réformer le système de développement des Nations Unies. Plusieurs recommandations du Groupe de haut niveau sur la cohérence de l'action du système des Nations Unies devraient contribuer à accroître l'efficacité de l'aide au développement.

Comme les États membres en ont convenu à la Conférence sur le financement du développement en 2002, dont le résultat est le « Consensus de Monterrey »,

chaque pays est responsable au premier chef de son propre développement social et économique.

Nous convenons que la mobilisation des ressources nationales au profit du développement, la création d'un environnement favorisant l'investissement direct étranger, l'efficacité de l'aide publique au développement, le recours au commerce international comme moteur du développement et la recherche de solutions au problème qu'est la dette extérieure, jouent ensemble un rôle clé dans l'atteinte des Objectifs du Millénaire pour le développement. Les États membres examineront en novembre prochain les progrès réalisés à l'égard de la mise en œuvre du Consensus de Monterrey.

Au cours des dernières années, nous avons été témoins d'une croissance économique sans précédent dans bon nombre de pays en développement. De fait, la croissance économique a été l'élément clé qui a permis à certains pays de faire des progrès significatifs en matière de réduction de la pauvreté et d'œuvrer avec succès à l'atteinte des Objectifs du Millénaire pour le développement.

M. le président,

De nouveaux mécanismes novateurs doivent être mis en place si nous voulons enregistrer les progrès rapides sans lesquels les objectifs de développement ne pourront être atteints.

A cet égard, le Canada consacre un financement initial de 50 millions de dollars sur deux ans à un nouveau fonds d'innovation pour le développement qui favorisera des découvertes susceptibles d'améliorer nettement la vie de millions de personnes dans les pays en développement.

Pour accélérer les progrès vers l'atteinte des objectifs de développement, tous les acteurs du développement doivent participer au débat. À l'échelon mondial, la société civile contribue plus de 40 milliards de dollars au titre de l'aide chaque année. Aussi, elle joue un rôle important dans une responsabilisation solide, est un partenaire de développement novateur et sait obtenir des résultats concrets.

Une occasion nous est donc offerte de mettre en lumière le rôle joué par les organisations de la société civile en tant que partenaires du développement, particulièrement en matière d'efficacité de l'aide. Le Canada appuie sans réserve la participation de la société civile à un dialogue international ouvert sur l'efficacité et l'atteinte de résultats, mais plus important encore, à un dialogue sur ces questions au niveau national.

La participation des femmes est également cruciale. Non seulement l'égalité entre les femmes et les hommes et les garçons et les filles ainsi que l'autonomisation des femmes sont des objectifs de développement en soi, elles sont essentielles pour atteindre tous les objectifs de développement entérinés

par la communauté internationale, y compris les Objectifs du Millénaire pour le développement.

C'est une des raisons pour lesquelles le Canada appuie la création au sein du système des Nations Unies d'une entité solide et cohérente dédiée à l'égalité entre les sexes, et ce pour favoriser l'autonomisation des femmes, comme le recommandait le Groupe de haut niveau sur la cohérence de l'action du système des Nations Unies.

En outre, la gouvernance démocratique, ainsi que la paix et la sécurité, sont essentielles pour que les pays puissent faire des progrès au chapitre du développement et pour éviter qu'ils perdent les acquis.

Les pays touchés par un conflit auront perdu une grande partie des acquis en matière de développement. L'attention prioritaire accordée par le Canada à Haïti et à l'Afghanistan vise à permettre de reconstituer le tissu social de ces pays et les institutions crédibles, un travail nécessaire pour remettre les pays sur la voie du développement durable.

Comme il a été signalé, l'Afrique subsaharienne a le plus de chemin à faire pour atteindre les Objectifs du Millénaire pour le développement. Le Canada respectera son engagement de doubler l'aide à l'Afrique en 2008-2009 par rapport aux niveaux de 2003-2004.

Le Canada participe aux efforts pour obtenir des résultats tangibles en Afrique dans des domaines comme la santé et l'éducation.

À travers l'Initiative sur les systèmes de santé en Afrique, le Canada et ses partenaires aident à renforcer les stratégies et les systèmes de santé nationaux.

Le Canada respecte son engagement d'accroître l'aide bilatérale à l'éducation de base, pour la faire passer de 100 M\$ à 150 M\$ par an d'ici 2010.

Grâce à nos actions, des millions d'enfants de plus vont à l'école et des millions de volumes scolaires sont à la disposition des élèves et des enseignants, améliorant ainsi la qualité de l'éducation.

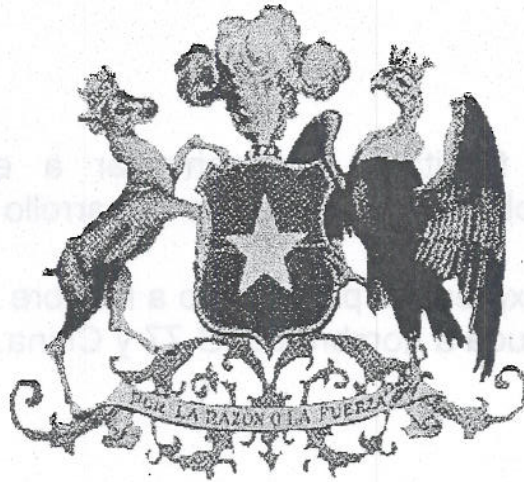
La collaboration entre le Canada, les gouvernements et des partenaires a permis, en 2005-2006, à plus de 4,5 millions de filles de plus qu'en 2000 d'aller à l'école dans huit pays africains.

Ce sont là des exemples de résultats concrets que nous devons tous pouvoir démontrer. Nos partenaires des pays en développement comptent sur nous pour respecter nos engagements et nos propres citoyens s'attendent à ce que l'argent des contribuables consacré à l'aide internationale donne des résultats concrets.

2008 est une année décisive pour le développement, et ce pour plusieurs raisons; elle nous offrira plusieurs occasions de faire un bilan, de déterminer les buts à atteindre et de définir les mesures à prendre pour les réaliser.

Le Canada compte poursuivre son engagement actif et constructif dans ces forums.

Merci.



**INTERVENCIÓN DEL REPRESENTANTE PERMANENTE DE  
CHILE ANTE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS**

**EMBAJADOR SR. HERALDO MUÑOZ**

**Debate temático de la Asamblea General**

**“Reconociendo los logros, encarando los desafíos y reenfoquándose para  
alcanzar los ODMs para el 2015”**

**Nueva York, 2 de abril de 2008**

Señor Presidente,

Nuevamente debo felicitarlo por convocar a este oportuno e importante debate sobre los Objetivos de Desarrollo del Milenio.

Chile hace suyo lo expresado por México a nombre del Grupo de Río y por Antigua y Barbuda a nombre del G-77 y China.

Señor Presidente,

El año 2000, en la Cumbre Mundial del Milenio, asumimos el compromiso de alcanzar para el 2015 ciertos objetivos y metas que denominamos los "Objetivos de Desarrollo del Milenio" (ODM). Objetivos que se relacionan con la lucha contra el hambre, la pobreza, la desnutrición, contra las enfermedades, el analfabetismo, contra la degradación del medio ambiente y la discriminación de la mujer, entre otros aspectos.

El año 2005, Chile rindió su Primer Informe sobre el estado de cumplimiento de estos Objetivos y este año en el marco de la Sesión Sustantiva del ECOSOC, mi país hará una Presentación Nacional Voluntaria sobre los últimos avances en esta materia.

Chile ha cumplido con la mayoría de los Objetivos propuestos, y redobla esfuerzos para alcanzarlos todos en el menor tiempo posible. Es más, nos hemos impuesto metas más ambiciosas en muchos de ellos, pues tenemos la confianza que seremos capaces de lograrlas.

Hemos aumentado considerablemente el gasto social, orientado nuestros esfuerzos al desarrollo del capital humano, al aumento de la calidad de los servicios básicos en salud y vivienda y confiamos en alcanzar nuestros ambiciosos objetivos porque ello significa mejorar la calidad de vida y bienestar de nuestro pueblo.

Señor Presidente,

En esta Asamblea estamos a mitad de camino entre la promesa efectuada al comienzo del milenio y el plazo que nos hemos fijado para cumplirla. Sin embargo, los informes que hemos recibido sobre el estado de cumplimiento de los ODMs a nivel mundial son preocupantes. Existen progresos en ciertas regiones, pero estos no son suficientes. El propio Secretario General ha señalado que de no mediar acciones urgentes y concertadas, muchos millones de seres humanos verán incumplidas las promesas que sus gobernantes y líderes les hicieron en el año 2000.

Señor Presidente,

No es demasiado tarde para alcanzar las metas que nos hemos propuesto para el 2015, pero debemos redoblar nuestros esfuerzos y ser eficientes en dar pasos concretos y concertados. No necesitamos nuevos compromisos, necesitamos cumplir lo prometido.

Dentro de los compromisos asumidos por las economías más desarrolladas, está el 0,7 del PNB en Ayuda Oficial para el Desarrollo. Nuevamente insistimos que la clave del progreso de nuestros pueblos, está precisamente en cumplir lo ya prometido. Confiamos en que las economías desarrolladas materialicen su compromiso en el menor tiempo posible.

Por otra parte, señor Presidente, debemos ser claros en señalar que la lucha contra el hambre y la pobreza y el logro de los Objetivos de Desarrollo del Milenio, tiene como primer responsable a los mismos Estados. Son los propios países los primeros en ser llamados a redoblar los esfuerzos, buscando mecanismos que aumenten la eficiencia en el uso de los recursos, implementando políticas públicas adecuadas que permitan combatir eficazmente el hambre, la pobreza y mejoren los estándares de educación y salud, eliminando todo asomo de despilfarro de recursos, ineficiencia y corrupción.



## **Mecanismos innovadores de financiamiento para el desarrollo**

Señor Presidente, Chile es un país de renta media, que ha tenido un importante desarrollo en las últimas décadas. Ello le ha permitido contribuir de manera solidaria con otros países de menor desarrollo relativo, aumentando considerablemente la Cooperación Sur-Sur y la cooperación triangular.

También hemos creído que la búsqueda de mecanismos innovadores de financiamiento para el desarrollo, es una herramienta eficaz para nuestros pueblos.

Mi país junto a otras naciones de diferentes niveles de desarrollo económico han unido esfuerzos para combatir el hambre y la pobreza a través de la "Iniciativa contra el Hambre y la Pobreza", demostrando que la diferencia en los niveles de desarrollo no constituye obstáculo alguno y que es posible pasar del discurso a la acción en pocos meses.

Este mecanismo ha dado como fruto la creación del Servicio Internacional de Adquisición de Medicamentos (UNITAID). Chile ya ha aportado más de US\$ 4 millones, que corresponde al impuesto solidario que varios países nos comprometidos a efectuar y que equivale a US\$ 2 por vuelo internacional originado en nuestro país.

Dicho aporte corresponde a un esfuerzo sin precedente que efectúa Chile en asistencia y cooperación internacional. Representa un poco más del 55 % de lo que Chile destina a la cooperación y asistencia internacional al año.

Este dinero se está destinando fundamentalmente a la compra de medicamentos contra el VIH/SIDA, la Tuberculosis y la Malaria para ir en ayuda de los niños, principalmente africanos.

Creemos que iniciativas de esta naturaleza pueden concertarse a nivel global. Sólo se requiere voluntad política y una fuerte convicción solidaria de ir en ayuda de los más necesitados.

Finalmente, señor Presidente, Chile está siempre disponible para compartir e intercambiar con otras naciones las buenas prácticas e iniciativas en materia de educación, salud y en la lucha contra el hambre y la pobreza. Creemos que mecanismos de intercambio de experiencias son eficaces en cuanto a los costos, permiten observar resultados en un menor tiempo y son un claro mensaje de solidaridad.

Muchas gracias.-



**PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA**  
**MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

350 EAST 35TH STREET, NEW YORK, NY 10016

**PRESS RELEASE**

(Translation)

**Statement by H.E. Ambassador Liu Zhenmin**  
**Deputy Permanent Representative of China to the United Nations**  
**At the General Assembly Thematic Debate on MDGs**

New York, 2 April 2008

Mr. President,

The Chinese Delegation wishes to thank you for putting together this thematic debate on the Millennium Development Goals- MDGs. As a developing country, China knows full well the importance of achieving the MDGs. China highly values the vital role played by the United Nations in promoting the implementation of the MDGs.

Mr. President,

To keep poverty and disease far away and develop the full potential of all has always been the pursuit of humanity for generations. The MDGs represent the most basic development goals that are time-bound and can be monitored. It has been 8 years since the MDGs were adopted. Now they have become the core of global development agenda. As the *Millennium Development Goals Report 2007* suggests, however, progress in meeting these goals is uneven and too slow.

The basic development indicators represented by the MDGs are mainly targeted at the impoverished and groups whose basic needs are not met. At the same time, these indicators are also tasks for the entire society. Without the concerted efforts of the entire society, those who are lagged behind will find it hard to catch up. As the year 2015 is approaching, the international community needs to take integrated and effective measures with a high sense of mission and urgency to quicken the implementation of the MDGs. In this connection, the Chinese side wishes to make the following points on how to implement the MDGs:

First, focus on priorities while bearing in mind the overall interests. China appreciates Mr. President's decision to make poverty eradication, education and health themes of the debate. These three aspects, both mutually reinforcing and mutually restraining, are indeed cores of the MDGs. It is China's view that, in implementing the MDGs, poverty reduction should remain on top of the agenda and be used to promote development in other areas. As most poverty population live in rural areas, it is imperative to give preference to the rural poor.

Second, strengthen capacity building of developing countries. Economic globalization represents new opportunities, but many developing countries are caught by "poverty trap". It is therefore imperative for developing countries to strengthen their capacity and accelerate development by cashing in on the opportunities that come with globalization. To achieve such a goal, developing countries' efforts are very important, but external support is also indispensable. The international community is duty bound to create an enabling external environment and level the playing field for developing countries to engage in global trade and gain their due benefits in the process of globalization. The Doha Round should truly be a "development round" that offers developing countries opportunities to promote development through trade.

Third, expand the partnership among all stakeholders to support the efforts of developing countries. For most developing countries, to achieve the MDGs in time requires strong financial and technical support. Developed countries should show sincerity in fulfilling their commitment of using 0.7% of GNI for ODA. The top priority now is to reverse the downward trend of ODA as soon as possible. Developing countries have a fine tradition of helping each other. Looking forward, they should further expand South-South cooperation, increasing support to the LDCs and African countries in particular. In addition, flexible means should be employed to encourage the involvement of the civil society and private sector and mobilize the entire society to promote development.

Fourth, give full play to the role of the United Nations. We always advocate the establishment of a MDGs monitoring and evaluation mechanism to gauge the progress made by specific countries and monitor the fulfillment of international commitments. The UN system has its unique advantage among developing countries. The UN agencies should bear in mind the priority areas of individual developing countries and help them resolve the most pressing problems through financial and

technical support and capacity building. The World Bank and the IMF need to coordinate and better cooperate with the United Nations, take full account of the needs of developing countries and ensure that their policies are consistent and mutually complementary with those of the United Nations.

Mr. President,

As the most populous developing country, China has worked vigorously and earnestly to implement the MDGs. China is the first country to reach the target of halving the number of people living in extreme poverty. The target of achieving universal primary education, among others, was met ahead of schedule in China. Thanks to three decades of reform, opening up and economic growth, China's poverty population in rural areas has reduced from 250 million in 1978 to 21.48 million now and poverty rate has fallen from 30.7% to 2.3%. The nationwide nine year compulsory education now covers 98% of the population.

Of course, China's economic foundation is not strong and the fruit of its development must be shared by 1.3 billion people. China's per capita GDP still ranks behind 100th place in the world. About 100 million Chinese still live on less than one dollar a day. As a country that has to ensure the survival and development of 1/5 of the world population with merely 7% of the world's arable land and one quarter of natural resources in per capita terms, China is faced with tremendous pressure in population, employment, poverty reduction, resources, energy and environmental protection. There is still a long way to go to ensure that "development is shared by all".

China attaches great importance to South-South cooperation, and has done what it can to support other developing countries in achieving common progress. Over the years, through grant, interest-free loans and preferential loans, China has assisted more than 100 developing countries in developing various projects that have a direct bearing on the life and work of local people, in areas such as industry, agriculture, transportation, communications, culture, education, health and public facilities. In addition, China sends technicians to provide technical services and guidance to local people in compliance with arrangements with countries concerned. China has also sent medical teams to some developing countries. Now 48 medical teams with over 1,200 medical personnel are working in 47 countries. This assistance has helped improve the life of

the local people, and promote economic development and achievement of the MDGs in recipient countries. As the Chinese economy and ability grow, we will continue to engage in and expand as appropriate South-South cooperation to bring benefits to more people.

Our experience shows that the MDGs are not only imperative, but attainable targets. Opportunities await us. China will continue to work with all other countries to make it happen.

Thank you, Mr. President.

# COLOMBIA



COLOMBIAN MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

140 EAST 57TH STREET, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10022

Statement by H.E. Carolina Rentería  
Director-General of the National Planning Department of Colombia

General Assembly Thematic Debate  
"Recognising the achievements, addressing the challenges and getting back  
on track to achieve the MDGs by 2015."

New York, 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2008

*Please check against delivery*

Mr. President,

My delegation associates itself with the statement delivered by Antigua and Barbuda on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, as well as with the declaration presented by Mexico on behalf of the Rio Group.

1. During the past 5 years Colombia has experimented a high and sustained economic growth, primarily driven by investment. The average growth for this period has been 5.3%, being 7.5% the growth rate for 2007. The investment rate went from 15.7% in 2002 to 27.8% in 2007, of which 21% constitutes net foreign direct investment (FDI). That FDI amounted U\$8.560 millions in the previous year. The Government is committed to translate this economic growth into welfare for the population, especially, for the sectors that are most needed.
2. Bearing this in mind, Colombia has assumed the MDGs agenda as an essential element of its social and development policies. In particular, we have aimed at matching the MDGs with our strategy for poverty reduction and promotion of equality. Consequently, in March 2005 the Government formalized, through a policy document, the country's commitments and strategies for the achievement of the MDGs, which were further incorporated in the National Development Plan 2006-2010: "*A Communitarian State: Development for All*". In this way, social investment, that constitutes 56% of investment resources, will be focused on groups and regions that present the biggest gaps at the sub-national level. The country is consistently advancing along the path designed for the fulfilment of the MDGs by 2015 and, in some cases, even in an anticipated manner, by 2010.

3. It is worth providing some examples of the progress of the MDGs in Colombia: extreme poverty, that had a base line of 21.6% in 2002, dropped to levels of 12% by 2006. For the period 2006-2010 more that US\$10 billions have been targeted in order to give priority to the reduction of extreme poverty down to 8% by 2010, what implies to excel 5 years in advance, the target for this indicator by 2015, which is 8.8%. We underline that this goal is more ambitious than the universal goal established in the Millennium Summit, given the fact that our extreme poverty line is 3.6 times higher that the one defined then.
4. Gross coverage in basic education that was at 80% in 1996 went up to 96% in 2006. With investments that go above US\$25 billions for the period 2007-2010, Colombia will reach universal coverage in 2010, 5 years prior to what was anticipated. 80% of those resources are managed by decentralized territorial entities.
5. Similarly, with a huge impact on health indicators, universal Health Insurance coverage will be reached by 2009. This will eliminate a barrier that limits the access to services, with the safeguard provided by integral coverage of benefits to face health contingencies of the population. In order to achieve this goal, Colombia will invest resources that exceed US\$16.5 billions up to 2010. Universality of Insurance coverage will allow better indicators with regards to maternal and child health and the treatment of priority transmittable diseases such as HIV/AIDS, dengue fever and malaria.
6. Another great challenge for the country will be improving housing and basic sanitation conditions. For the period 2007-2010 the Government expects to fund more than 828,000 Social Interest Housing solutions, and more that 3.6 million new persons will be provided with aqueduct services, reaching 43 million. 4 million more will be provided with sewage service, reaching 41.1 million.
7. Colombia also advances positively to ensure environmental sustainability. More than 30,000 hectares have been reforested in recent years and more than a million hectares have been incorporated into the National System of Natural Parks, which add for an accumulated total of more than 11 million hectares. Up to 2006, the country also succeeded in reducing 44% of the total of ozone depleting substances that existed in 2003, and we aim at reaching 0 tons by 2010.
8. As a strategy to make progress in the promotion of the global partnership for development, Colombia works with a view to ensure that cooperation and resources from different providers and the UN System are in line with the national development policies, so as to significantly contribute to the fulfilment of the MDGs.

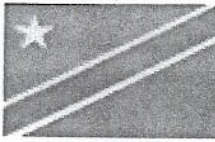


9. It is our interest to strengthen the national policies for the achievement of the MDGs on the basis of the challenges represented by regional asymmetries that exist in the country. For this reason, Colombia requires the constant support and assistance through technical and financial cooperation from the international community, the UN System and the Multilateral Financial Institutions, in order to fulfil those Goals in a balanced manner with regards to the various regions of the country. Likewise, Colombia believes that it is important and needed that the international community considers the elaboration of more effective criteria to assist middle-income countries, including through the implementation of innovative financial mechanisms.
10. Knowing that one of the greatest challenges ahead for the accomplishment of the MDGs consist in advancing in the reduction of social, regional and urban-rural gaps, we have improved and strengthened our targeting tools. Colombia has an instrument for individual targeting that is progressively stronger, more reliable and transparent. We are improving the operational processes for subsidies selection and provision. And we are advancing towards a policy based on a Social Promotion approach, which differs from a social assistance approach, and effectively realises the rights of the people, the exercise of citizenship, the inclusion of the poor and excluded, and social cohesion.
11. We proudly undercore that Colombia has been the first middle-income country of Latin America in designing and carrying out an integral strategy for poverty and inequality reduction, which is progressing on its implementation. Among different objectives, this strategy aims at coordinating social services offered by the State in order to overcome, from a structural perspective, extreme poverty conditions of Colombian families. We are carrying out an unprecedented effort with regards to managerial and institutional transformation through the JUNTOS Network, fundamental pillar of the Social Promotion System.
12. The families in extreme poverty incorporated to the JUNTOS Network —more than a million and a half that include 440 thousand families affected by the forced displacement— must attain, with the support and follow-up by the institutions of the System, 46 basic goals that contribute to overcome extreme poverty. These goals are framed in nine dimensions: identification, income and employment (training for employment, access to assets and productive projects), education (preschool, primary, secondary and post-secondary), health (access to the health insurance system), nutrition, inhabitation (housing and drainage), family dynamics, banking and savings (access to banking services and micro-insurances), and access to legal support services. Personalized attention to the families in their homes and communities is provided through social promoters, which will allow them to overcome the situation under a framework of shared responsibility. In this way, the families are creators and promoters of their own development.

13. The development, articulation and consolidation of the Social Protection System constitute a great challenge. The System is universal in its nature; it is financed by State's subsidies (focused on poor and vulnerable families) as well as by contributors with financial capacity; and it articulates strategies and mechanisms for protection, social promotion, human resources development and access to assets, in order to prevent risks and mitigate impacts on families and populations.
14. Colombia has also made significant progress in the promotion of gender equality. Thanks to the existence of equality in coverage of basic education, with even better results in educational achievements attained by women, we have focused our challenges on the labour market and the reduction of intra-family violence, in particular, that directed against women. To this end, we have implemented measures such as the inclusion of a gender-based approach in plans, programmes and public policies; follow-up and evaluation, through a Labour Market Observatory, of labour disaggregated by gender; and inter-sector strategies for prevention and attention of intra-family violence.
15. In addition, Colombia has advanced in the involvement of civil society and the private sector with regards to the follow-up and assessment of the MDGs. Along with the UN System we published and disseminated the document *"Towards a More Inclusive and Equitable Colombia: Report on the Millennium Development Goals"*. The document was made public through a Communitarian Council of Government that was nationally broadcasted and in which each one of the relevant entities at the national level reported on the achievements and challenges ahead. A second report will be issued this year, which will be developed and made public in the same manner.
16. Highly aware of our particular challenges and internal difficulties, the pledge of Colombia, its Government and its citizens is to achieve and, in several cases to excel the foreseen goals, honouring the commitments acquired in the Millennium Summit. Colombia has a dream, a national vision built on the basis of confidence, which entails three fundamental premises: firstly, security based on democracy. Secondly, investment with social responsibility, developed through a relation between the investors and a transparent State, through solidarity with the communities, especially in the environmental field, and through brotherly labour relations in which hate among social classes is not promoted. And thirdly, social cohesion based on freedom.

My country's challenge is not to accomplish the targets that we have set forth with regards to the MDGs, but, fundamentally, to accomplish them as part of a strategy for a more accelerated social development, that can be competitive at the international level, as well as regionally balanced, inclusive and peaceful.

Thank you.



**MISSION PERMANENTE DE LA REPUBLIQUE DEMOCRATIQUE DU CONGO  
AUPRES DES NATIONS UNIES**

866 UNITED NATIONS PLAZA, SUITE 511, NEW YORK, NY 10017

Tel: 212-319-8061

Fax: 212-310-8232

**STATEMENT BY**

**H.E. MR. ILEKA ATOKI  
AMBASSADOR AND PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE**

**AT THE THEMATIC DEBATE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
ENTITLED : "RECOGNIZING THE ACHIEVEMENTS,  
ADDRESSING THE CHALLENGES AND GETTING BACK ON  
TRACK TO ACHIEVE THE MDGS BY 2015"**

**ON BEHALF OF THE AFRICAN UNION**

**New York, 02 April 2008  
(Please Check Against Delivery)**

**Mr. President,**

I have the honor to speak on behalf of the African Group. The African Group associates itself with the statement of the delegation of Antigua and Barbuda on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

The African Group wishes to express its appreciation to the President of the General Assembly for convening this meeting and for the provision of the thematic background papers. African countries also welcome the decision by the General Assembly to convene the high level meeting on Africa's development needs on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of September 2008.

The African group is grateful to the Secretary General for establishing the Africa MDG Steering Group charged with the responsibility of ensuring that Africa meets the targets of the MDGs. Africa is looking forward to the high level meeting on the MDGs that will take place on the 25<sup>th</sup> of September 2008.

In recalling the millennium declaration, we attach great importance to the intents on development which stated that "We will spare no efforts to free our fellow men, women and children from abject and dehumanizing condition of extreme poverty to which more than a billion of them are currently subjected. We are committed to making the right to development a reality for everyone and to freeing the entire human race from want".

However, It is disappointing to all of us that midway between their adoption in 2000 and the target date of 2015 for achieving the MDGs, African countries in particular sub-Saharan Africa are not on track to achieve any of the goals. Even the best governed countries on the continent have not been able to make sufficient progress in reducing extreme poverty in its many forms. Reaching the MDG target of halving the extent of extreme poverty by 2015 requires that the current pace be nearly doubled.

Yet time is running out to make the needed practical investments. Existing commitments made and reaffirmed by world leaders at the G8 Summit at Gleneagles and the 2005 World Summit could be sufficient to meet the Goals, in particular when the efforts of African countries at development are combined with adequate financial and technical support from the international community. As the midway point of 2008, these commitments must be urgently translated into practical plans with systematic follow-through.

**Mr. President,**

Regarding education, African countries have a vision of an integrated, peaceful, prosperous Africa, driven by its own people to take its rightful place in the global community and the knowledge economy. This vision is predicated upon the development of Africa's human resources. Education is the major means by which Africa's citizenry would be prepared for its key role in the attainment of this vision.

It is well known that the completion of MDG 2 to achieve universal primary education is fundamental to the success of other poverty-reduction strategies. The background papers for this meeting also provide statistics and analysis that are so telling. The UN report informs us that Africa is making progress towards universal primary school enrolment but still has a long way to go. It is sad that girls and children from poorer or rural families are least likely to attend school.

Furthermore, disabled children still miss out disproportionately on receiving any kind of education. It is estimated that around 26 million of the 77 million currently out of school are

disabled children and make up a third of all those out of school. Such a disappointing situation cannot be tolerated any more.

African countries, on their part, have made massive progress in the past 40 years to reduce the illiteracy gap. An evaluation by the background paper shows that between 1999 and 2005 the number of children entering primary education grew by 4% from 130 million to 135 million, with a jump of 36% in sub Saharan Africa which is considered a major achievement.

In terms of Net Enrolment ratio, (NER) Sub Saharan Africa registered a growth from 57% to 70%. This achievement is attributed to the focus of African governments on the education sector and support from the cooperating partners. The challenges facing Africa are that more than one third of countries have rates NER below 70%.

The other big challenge is to ensure that children stay in school long enough to master basic competency. Comparatively, the median completion rate is lowest in Africa and stands at 63%. There is need for a more holistic approach to register genuine success on the MDG target on this front.

Africa realises that education is essential for science learning, technology transfer and absorption and capacity building leading to increased self reliance in research and development. In this regard, the international community is called upon to help realise this goal.

**Mr. President,**

HIV/AIDS, TB and Malaria are still pervasive in Africa and a lot has to be done in these areas if MDGs are to be achieved. The multi-drug resistant TB has now become a serious concern. Although Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) is going down due to public health interventions, Africa is fully concerned that Maternal Mortality Rate (MMR) is still high although there is an African Union roadmap for the reduction of maternal mortality.

The well-being of children is at the heart of the MDGs, in particular MDGs 4 and 5. It is with this in mind that Africa has made children a priority. Over the years, the African Heads of State and Government made a number of commitments to improve the well-being of the continent's children. They have also developed a Continental Policy Framework on Sexual and Reproductive Health in Africa which was a participatory process involving all the regions.

Reduction of maternal mortality is likely to remain complex and challenging due to limited access and availability of information, services and care, lack of skilled attendants at births, and the weak health systems and lack of adequate human resources. In order to improve reproductive health and maternal health there is need to provide access to quality family planning and a whole range of sexual and reproductive health care.

It is pleasing to note that the World Health Organisation (WHO) is responding positively to the concerns about human resource challenges that were highlighted by Health Ministers from Africa and the rest of the developing world at successive sessions of the World Health Assembly. As Africa continues with strengthening the education and training of prospective health professionals, it is disturbing to note that the brain drain to developed countries is still very high.

Mr. President,

Since it is clear that Africa is not on track to achieve the MDGs, it is the continent's hope that global partnership be strengthened in order to be back on the right track.

I thank you Mr. President



MISION PERMANENTE DE LA REPUBLICA DE COSTA RICA  
ANTE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS

---

Intervención de S. E. Saúl Weisleder, Embajador Alterno en la Asamblea General, Sesión Especial "Reconocimiento de logros, confrontación de retos y puesta en línea para el logro de los ODMs en el 2015"

Objetivos de desarrollo del milenio, una evaluación para Costa Rica

2 de Abril de 2008

*Cotejar contra entrega*

.....Ω.....

Gracias Sr. Presidente,

Comienzo por felicitarlo a UD. por haber convocado a esta reunión en momento tan oportuno.

Nuestra delegación expresa su adhesión a la declaración hecha por la Ministra Massiah de Antigua y Barbuda a nombre del G 77 y China y por el Embajador de México a nombre del Grupo de Río.

A continuación nuestra declaración como país.

Sr. Presidente,

Como uno de los 3 pilares que sostienen y a la vez guían a la ONU, el desarrollo es un proceso complejo, cambiante y que debe ser acometido mediante una multiplicidad de acciones interconectadas entre sí. A primera vista pareciera que el desarrollo interesa solo a los países de renta baja y media, pero esta sería una forma miope de entender el significado de la convivencia entre países, culturas y personas. El desarrollo atañe a todos: ricos y pobres, de todas las etnias, creencias, nacionalidades y ocupaciones, mujeres y hombres, viejos, jóvenes y adultos. Este hecho, evidente para muchos, aún es tratado con indiferencia por otros. El desarrollo o la falta de éste, es cosa de todos.

La migración internacional de enormes contingentes de trabajadores o de personas pobres que buscan alivio a su condición en otra geografía, es una clara ilustración de lo afirmado. La subsistencia de obstáculos a las exportaciones de los países en desarrollo hacia los países desarrollados, puede agravar lo que gráficamente ha explicado el Presidente de mi país, D. Oscar Arias "si no podemos exportar nuestros productos a sus mercados, la dura realidad es que exportaremos nuestra gente". Y esto, nadie lo desea.

Sr. Presidente,

El fuerte incremento del precio del petróleo y por ende de los combustibles, y ahora de los alimentos básicos para la gente pobre y la clase media, se encargan de verter esa realidad a los hogares de la inmensa mayoría de los 6 mil millones de habitantes de este planeta.

Y ya que hablamos del planeta, el sorpresivo fraccionamiento de un glaciar en la Antártica y el sofocante calor de un verano europeo y las inundaciones en Nueva Orleans, nos recuerdan que no podemos escapar al hecho de que lo que haga una comunidad en una orilla del Océano Pacífico, tarde o temprano se manifestará en las costas del Atlántico, a miles de kilómetros de distancia. El efecto de la acción humana sobre el suelo, los ríos, el mar y la atmósfera, impactará a todos los habitantes del planeta.

Por eso, Sr. Presidente, para que el desarrollo sea fuente de vida y no causa de muerte y deterioro, debe ser un desarrollo sostenible, que evite el despilfarro, difunda el conocimiento y no el consumismo, reduzca el gasto en armamentismo y aumente la inversión en salud, educación, caminos y viviendas, como se propone en el “Consenso de Costa Rica”: premiar a aquellos países que reducen el gasto militar y aumentan la inversión social.

Sr. Presidente,

Cuando en setiembre del 2000, los Jefes de Estado y de Gobierno de los países miembros de la ONU, reafirmaron aquí en este edificio, su “... fe en la Organización y su Carta, como fundamento indispensable de un mundo más pacífico, próspero y justo”, estaban comprometiéndose a sus países a eliminar los obstáculos que impiden dar alimentos a todos, educación a todos, salud a todos.

En algunos casos, ese compromiso empieza por hacer todo lo necesario para acabar con una guerra que, entre muchos males, le roba el futuro a niños y jóvenes. Es absurdo mantener una guerra permanente, ¿no es mejor buscar un acomodo aunque no satisfaga el 100% de lo buscado? Como ha dicho el Presidente Arias, “en política, se necesita más valor para coincidir que para discrepar”. Los acuerdos de paz requieren ese valor.

Por otro lado, los países donantes deben cumplir su compromiso de llevar al 0.7% del PIB de su país la ayuda para el desarrollo. Y en todos los países, ese compromiso significa gobernar mejorando la asignación de recursos en los presupuestos públicos y ejecutar sus propios programas de acción gubernamental de manera más eficaz y eficiente.

Hoy debemos reconocer que los compromisos de la Cumbre del 2000, por una u otra razón, en la mayoría de los casos solo se han cumplido a medias. Y desgraciadamente, sobre todo en países o regiones azotados por conflictos armados, los resultados dejan aún mucho que desear. A la vez, hay que resaltar algunos avances importantes. Sobre todo, allí donde no hay guerras y sí hay gobiernos comprometidos en alcanzar los objetivos.



Sr. Presidente,

Me referiré ahora a algunos de los resultados y al estado de cumplimiento de los MDGs en mi propio país.

Para empezar, he de informar que si bien contamos con un sistema de estadísticas e indicadores adecuados, diversos factores han hecho que esa información esté actualizada solamente hasta el 2006, y en algunos casos solamente hasta algún año anterior. Veamos:

1. La pobreza en el año 2000 se manifestaba en el 20.6% de los hogares pobres, en el 2006 fue de 20.2%. Y en el 2007 se dio la mayor reducción, al 17%. Esto significa que aún estamos lejos de cumplir la meta, pero que si la tasa de reducción alcanzada entre el 2006 y el 2007 se mantiene, el país logrará la meta de reducirla al 50% al 2015, o sea llevarla al 10% o menos.
2. La tasa de escolaridad en el 2000 para la primaria, era de 99.4%. En el 2005 fue de 98.8%. Carecemos de datos más recientes, pero es importante resaltar que hace menos de 2 años, se aplican acciones para aumentar la matrícula e incrementar la permanencia de estudiantes en primaria y en secundaria.
3. Los indicadores sobre equidad de género han mejorado. Es interesante señalar que la tasa de matrícula de niños y niñas en primaria es idéntica y que en secundaria, la de mujeres supera a la de hombres en un 10%. La proporción de mujeres que ocupan escaños parlamentarios es hoy del 40%. La tasa de participación de las mujeres en la fuerza laboral subió del 35 al 40% entre 2000 y 2005, pero su desempleo aumentó, del 6.8% al 9.6% en ese período.
4. La mortalidad infantil bajó de 10.4 al 9.5 por cada 100.000 nacidos vivos y la mortalidad de menores de 5 años, de 2.4 a 2.0 por cada 1000 habitantes, entre el 2000 y el 2005.
5. A su vez, la tasa de mortalidad materna (a la hora del parto) se mantuvo constante, en promedio, entre 2000 y 2005, en el 3.4%.
6. En el mismo período, las muertes por VIH/SIDA, bajaron de 3.0 a 2.7 por cada 100.000 y en tuberculosis, de 3.0 a 1.3 por cada 100.000. En el caso de la malaria, solo hay datos para el 2003, cuando había bajado de 1.4 muertes a 0.5 por cada mil habitantes del 2000 al 2003.
7. En lo referente a “garantizar la sostenibilidad del medio ambiente”, los indicadores son más escasos. Lo más relevante es que se ha mantenido constante la proporción de la población con cobertura de agua para consumo humano, siendo del 97.4% tanto en el año 2000 como en el 2005. Mientras tanto, el acceso de la población a agua potable, subió del 76% en el 2000 al 82.3% en el 2005.

Sr. Presidente,

Como puede verse, y como lo indica el índice de Desarrollo Humano, Costa Rica es un país con elevados niveles de desarrollo social. La cobertura en salud y educación es cercana al 100%. Los índices de salud, ya elevados, tienden a mejorar.

No obstante lo anterior, la reducción de la pobreza y aún más su erradicación, es un problema que aún no encuentra solución. Como se indicó, en los primeros 6 años del milenio, este índice se mantuvo estancado. No fue sino en 2007, que mostró una mejora significativa.

El gobierno actual ha reenfocado los esfuerzos en esta dirección, sin sacrificar otras áreas del desarrollo, sino más bien fortaleciendo la infraestructura, tanto vial como de comunicaciones en general. Esto ha sido posible gracias a una mejora en la recaudación tributaria y a una asignación del gasto público más eficaz, al tiempo que ha crecido la economía sostenidamente en los últimos años, a tasas promedio del 6% anual o más.

De cumplirse las metas establecidas y continuar los logros alcanzados en los últimos 2 años, Costa Rica se encontrará en posición de “estar al día” en el cumplimiento de las metas en el 2010 y preparada para alcanzar los objetivos del milenio en el 2015, incluyendo la más elusiva pero quizá más importante de ellas, la reducción de la pobreza al 10% de la población en el 2015.

Para todo ello, se requiere continuar con políticas que mantengan el crecimiento económico a tasas anuales del 6% o mayores, de manera compatible con una mejora del ambiente, tanto en cuanto a calidad del aire como de disposición de los desechos y de reducción de emisión de gases de efecto invernadero. Esto supone una gobernanza de alta calidad en medio de un sistema democrático que involucre a los ciudadanos a ser cada vez más los gestores del desarrollo.

Muchas gracias.



# CROATIA

PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS  
NEW YORK

*Check against delivery*

**STATEMENT by  
Ambassador Ranko Viločić  
Deputy Permanent Representative of the Republic of  
Croatia to the United Nations**

General assembly Thematic Debate on the Millennium  
Development Goals

**"Recognizing the achievements, addressing the  
challenges and getting back on track to achieve the  
Millennium Development Goals by 2015"**

United Nations, New York  
April, 2, 2008

820 Second Avenue, 19<sup>th</sup> Floor, New York, NY 10017  
tel. (212) 986-1585, fax (212) 986-2011, email: [newyork@mvpei.hr](mailto:newyork@mvpei.hr)

Mister President, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Croatia has aligned itself with the EU Statement but allow me to make a couple of additional remarks on this issue that my Government attaches a great importance to.

We have gathered today to exchange views on a very important issue – the achievements and challenges of the Millennium Development Goals. But let us not forget that this acronym hides the goals that were agreed by all the world's countries and by all the world's leading development institutions. The crucial question is can we; the World's representatives gathered today in the General Assembly be satisfied of our achievements?

Have we halved extreme poverty? Have we provided universal primary education? Have we reduced child mortality and improved maternal health? Encouraging answers to these questions have been spotted throughout the world but on an uneven basis. Although parts of Africa have reached good results in achieving food security for its people, Sub-Saharan Africa and Southern Asia suffer from the lowest rates of progress and there has not been a sustainable reduction in the rates of poverty and hunger. We have to ask ourselves; have we done enough?

In order to achieve the MDG's not only in Africa but throughout the world; the official development assistance must be strengthened. However, developing countries also need to ensure that these commitments are being reflected in each key national development and poverty reduction policy and that the multidimensional causes and effects of poverty are being equally addressed.

We do understand that agriculture and infrastructure is the key for economic development and that a country lacking the means of developing those combined with a burden of debt can not be expected to move anywhere. Without forgetting the overall development agenda and striving to promote equitable and efficient distribution systems, the international community has to put a focus back on improving access to agricultural land and resources for people living in poverty since it is their essential toll of survival. Croatia puts a significant importance to the implementation of MDG's in the country.

We have provided the first National Report on the implementation of Millennium Development Goals in 2004 and the Interim Report in 2006 whereby we have modified some indicators accompanying specific national needs.

As an emerging donor, Croatia will consider ways of giving a stronger support to poor countries.

Mister President,

Croatia is saddened by the fact that in the 21<sup>st</sup> century there are still around 72 million children who are not enrolled in primary school and therefore are destined to grow up without the basic right to education and deprived of hopes for a better future. We are aware that children in conflict and post-conflict situations need to continue with their education and that the effective action by international community is needed. We hope that the UN and countries of the Sub-Saharan Africa and South and West Asia will find

the ways to change the opportunities for their children, especially by abolishing primary school user fees and ensuring a safe and equal access to schools for boys and girls. The investment in education that we make in children today will shape our future tomorrow. Therefore Croatian Government has undergone one step further in accordance with the mentioned modified indicators by introducing a mandatory secondary education for all.

Mister President,

Is it acceptable that every year over 500 000 women die during pregnancy and child childbirth? It is not. A high priority must be given to achieving universal access to reproductive health services in national health and poverty-reduction frameworks, especially through budget allocations. Laws and awareness raising campaigns against various forms of harmful traditional, cultural and religious practices can not be neglected if we want to change the rates of maternal mortality and morbidity.

Is the HIV infection, especially among young people preventable? It is but only through a comprehensive approach. But the decision to build a functional health system is a political decision in each donor country and in each concerned country. We can not heal the people without healing the system. The will to make drastic changes in the system must be pledged on the highest political level and this pledge must be effectively fulfilled on both sides.

Every year we witness 1.7 million new HIV infections in Africa that has already resulted in more than 13 million AIDS orphans. It is of the outmost importance to make investments in health systems, to train health personnel and to create cooperation between the State and civil society. The existing coordination mechanisms need more support and a common framework for monitoring evaluation of the progress has to be formed.

Mr. President,

The world has come far since the days where people used to steal land from each other and kill each other in the name of survival. We have human rights laws, humanitarian aid, civil society movements and still huge development issues. But we also have will and determination to make this world a better place for all. Our efforts to meet the needs of the world's poorest is a legacy to our children; a legacy of a better world for them.



**MISION PERMANENTE DE CUBA**

**ANTE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS**

**315 LEXINGTON AVENUE**

**NEW YORK, N.Y. 10016**

**STATEMENT BY H.E. Mr. RODRIGO MALMIERCA DIAZ, PERMANENT  
REPRESENTATIVE OF CUBA TO THE UNITED NATIONS  
THEMATIC DEBATE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY: "RECOGNIZING THE  
ACHIEVEMENTS, ADDRESSING THE CHALLENGES AND GETTING BACK ON  
TRACK TO ACHIEVE THE MDGS BY 2015."  
NEW YORK, 2 APRIL 2008**

Mr. President,

Our delegation would like to associate itself with the statement made by Antigua and Barbuda on behalf of the G-77 and China, which comprehends the developing countries' shared sense on the issue that we are addressing.

However, we would like to present, in our national capacity, some elements that we regard necessary to highlight.

Mr. President,

Regardless of the good intentions that gave rise to the MGDs, we should not ignore the general development framework of the Third World countries. A simple analysis of the modest MDGs will lead to us to quite interesting findings on the reason why we are debating how to meet the goals, thus:

- If the number of people living under extreme poverty and suffering hunger is finally halved, there will be about 500 million human beings affected by this evil by 2015. The irony here lies in the fact that **nowadays**, enough food is produced in the world for all.
- It is not necessary to wait until 2015 to provide access to elementary education to boys and girls. **Today's children** can do with a minimum fraction of the resources that are drained every day from the Third World to pay the shameful external debt, which has been paid for several times over.
- Why should we wait until 2015 to curb the spread of HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases? It would suffice to devote a tiny fraction of the trillion dollars that are **presently** squandered in arms and that the large pharmaceutical corporations renounce greed as the centrepiece of their work.
- There is the intention to ensure environmental sustainability by 2015. Yet what we need **today** is to change the senseless and unsustainable production and consumption patterns of industrialized nations, which are responsible for 76% of greenhouse gas emissions and other ecological disasters.



**MISION PERMANENTE DE CUBA**  
**ANTE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS**  
315 LEXINGTON AVENUE  
NEW YORK, N.Y. 10016

Mr. President,

It is curious how panels stressed recommendations for the governments of developing countries on how to address the issue of meeting the MDGs. However, how come that a serious debate on MDG 8 regarding the partnership for global development was not encouraged?

We see over and over how all sorts of recipes for our countries are promoted, while at the same time the responsible for and main beneficiaries of the current unjust international economic order avoid talking about their commitments at all costs.

Just to mention one case, the official development assistance (ODA) which has been shrinking during the last years and is far from the 0.7% GNI of the developed countries, should get rid of the elements that distinguish it as a foreign policy instrument of the donors, with the aim of guaranteeing more effectiveness.

If there was really a political will by developed countries to meet their undertakings and honour their historical responsibility, they could eliminate their protectionist policies and the corresponding subsidies to agricultural, fish and forest products, which would consequently benefit poor countries, being five or six times more than that is granted as ODA.

Mr. President,

For the Cuban Revolution, achieving the wellbeing of its citizens has constituted the guideline for the government's action ever since the country reached its true independence on January 1, 1959.

The political will of the authorities to do away with the ills inherited from the neo-colony has not been defeated notwithstanding almost 50 years of economic, financial and commercial blockade, aggressions of all kind against our country and the non-stop slander and demonization of the revolutionary process.

Cuba registered an infant mortality rate of 5.3 per 1000 live births in 2007 and a maternal mortality rate of 31.1 per 100 000 live births; virtually all children attend primary school and children with disabilities are guaranteed high-quality education through many programmes; there is also a wide promotion of artistic education for children and youth. It is with wholesome pride that we show our progress, achieved without resorting to shock therapies or neo-liberal recipes, which have only made the poor poorer and the rich richer.



**MISION PERMANENTE DE CUBA**

**ANTE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS**

**315 LEXINGTON AVENUE**

**NEW YORK, N.Y. 10016**

Moreover, none of the successes has been achieved disregarding our elemental duty of helping our brotherly peoples of the South. Today 47 000 Cuban men and women provide services in 96 countries. 50 000 youths from 129 countries and overseas territories have graduated in our country since 1961, 30 000 of them from Sub-Saharan Africa and 10 000 of them from Latin America.

There are currently 31 814 foreign students from 123 countries and 5 overseas territories in Cuba, 24 848 (78.1%) of which study medicine; and all without imposing shameful conditionalities.

Mr. President,

Although the Millennium Development Goals were designed to promote the development agenda of the United Nations, they must not become a straitjacket for the advancement of developing countries in economic and social matters.

We are convinced that not only MDG's, but the whole agenda of the United Nations for development can be achieved well before 2015, if only egoism and the hunt at all cost for profits by the few who control the wealth in our world are put aside.

Thank you



# DENMARK

Mr. President, ladies and gentlemen.

Denmark welcomes this thematic debate on the Millennium Development Goals.

It is urgent to make 2008 a year of action on the MDG's. We need to do more and to do it faster. The key question then is, of course, what can be done – quickly, and with significant impact? Where do we need to focus when addressing the issue of scaling-up?

In our view, one issue which can be addressed quickly and effectively – and which at the same time has great potential for scaling-up – and, therefore, should be of crucial importance in this regard, is the economic empowerment of women.

Gender equality is a basic human right. But it is also smart economics and one of the most important driving forces of economic growth and a key factor in the fight against poverty. Providing women equal opportunities to educate themselves and actively participate in productive economic activity on equal terms with men is imperative in order to achieve the MDG's.

If our generation is to ensure that each woman has the chance to develop her potential, we must ensure the establishment of a level playing field that increases women's economic opportunities. That also means increased access to business opportunities, to land and resources, and to credit and essential infrastructure. The task is tremendous, but we must at the same time also focus on the women of tomorrow. We must ensure that girls get the opportunity not only to be enrolled in primary school but to complete their education. They should be given the means to plan their own future, to make their own choices.

However, political commitment to gender equality and empowerment takes more than words. It takes concrete actions and priority of resources. A recent World Bank Report clearly states that a substantial resource gap exists, if we are to achieve MDG3 on gender equality. It is estimated that a doubling of resources is needed.

Investment in gender equality pays off and should be a national priority primarily financed by domestic resources. But increased official development assistance targeted at women is also essential. Denmark has committed to double its assistance focused on gender equality from 2008 to 2010.

Mr. President,

The Danish government has initiated a *MDG3 Global Call to Action*. One could argue that a special MDG3 call should not be needed. Gender equality is far too often treated as a so-called “cross cutting issue”. It sounds very nice – but in reality this all too often means that no deeds are following the words.

Empowerment of women should be at center stage as a goal in itself. Without empowered women, the MDGs will not become a reality in Africa – and we will have failed our common responsibility.

To ensure that MDG3 is kept at the forefront of development efforts at all levels and by all actors, we propose a *Global Coalition* of governments, international organizations, private sector actors and civil society that is committed to make gender equality and women’s economic empowerment a key issue in the run up to the UN high level meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> September and on the way to 2015.

The coalition should strive to guarantee the needed leadership and among other things work for: a substantial increase in resources to gender equality and women’s empowerment; a strengthened accountability in relation to MDG3

efforts at both international and national levels; and a strong and active involvement by the private sector.

On 17<sup>th</sup> April, Denmark will host a conference in Copenhagen on the empowerment of women. The ambition is to establish *a catalogue of tangible and replicable interventions and commitments* with a focus on how to create economic options for women that put poverty reduction on a faster track.

Denmark also sees the UN high level meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> September as an opportunity to send a strong signal of true commitment to empowerment of women across the world. It is time to act. It pays to invest in women. It is an investment in – not only one – but all of the Millennium Development Goals.

Thank you very much.

**PRESS RELEASE**

---



# **DJIBOUTI**

---

**Statement by**

**His Excellency Mr. Roble Olhaye  
Ambassador, Permanent Representative  
To the United Nations**

**Before the Thematic debate  
Of the General Assembly**

**On**

**"Recognizing the achievements, addressing the  
challenges and getting back on track to achieve the  
MDGs by 2015"**

**Wednesday 2 April 2008**

**Check against delivery**

**Mr. President,**

My delegation congratulates you for your efficient, effective and proactive stewardship of the General Assembly. We are indeed very pleased to have you guide our deliberations.

In particular, we commend you for this debate under the rubrique "Recognizing the achievements; addressing the challenges and getting back on track to achieve the MDGs by 2015".

**Mr. President,**

It is admittedly a source of pain and anger that for each of the issues being explored in this debate – namely – poverty and hunger; education and healthcare. We are still lagging when measured against the goals.... And Africa appears to have made the least headway toward ameliorating its conditions. There have been exceptions, of course, as the background paper notes, especially in the area of food security, and particularly in Africa, which appears to have achieved numerous successes. However, as the paper further explains "... these successes have not led to a sustained reduction in the rates of hunger and poverty on the continent. Progress has also been hampered by the failure to recognize and address all the multidimensional causes and effects of poverty".

Perhaps the most basic of all needs is that for food. Here the situation in Africa and much of the poor world is increasingly dire. As

a result, chronic hunger, environmental degradation, and the large scale exodus of desperate populations are in evidence, with the risks of pandemic diseases and conflict.

**Mr. President,**

Of particular note is the spreading havoc following in the wake of soaring oil prices. This will be increasingly felt in accumulating the capital necessary to sustain the process of development, which will presumably stagnate, if not decline. Oil price increases have even affected the level and amounts food flows, now at their lowest levels since 1973. And most food aid is emergency. When viewed alongside the mounting effects of declining food aid, the growing impact of climate change is also daunting. From the expansion of arid lands, the increased risk of droughts and floods in response to changing weather patterns, along with other developments, in all likelihood Africa will suffer a decline in food production of at least 20%.

**Mr. President,**

Meeting MDG1 --- to eradicate extreme poverty and hunger --- with a target to half the portion of people whose income is less than one dollar a day and the portion that suffer from hunger by 2015 – is surely behind projections for many developing countries, in particular Sub-Sahara Africa. While mobilization of domestic resources is key to attaining MDG1, we must not lose sight of the need for developed

countries to eliminate their unfair agricultural subsidies, which often reach more than three times the level of their ODA.

While there has been a significant increase in primary school enrolment in Africa, the greatest challenge remains with regard to MDG2 – Universal Primary Education. Far too many children remain out of school, and the dropout rate is staggering. Additionally, the need for competent, trained teachers remains high. Finally, children must not only learn and be taught; they must be fit to learn – fed, healthy, clothed, protected and encouraged. With regard to MDG5, the overall picture for improving health seems disjointed, conflicting, and often counter-productive. In this regard, it is important to point out the emergence of new partners seeking to finance the health needs of developing countries. Foundations, and here we must always mention the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation; global funds like the Global Fund to fight AIDS, TB and Malaria; and targeted bilateral programs like the United States President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), are all having a notable impact.

**Mr. President,**

In looking at the MDGs as a whole and the target date set for their achievement, one senses that they are in fact part of a larger phenomenon. Donor financing commitments for health and other goals remain far ahead of actual aid flows. Add to this the unpredictability of external financing, and the difficulty in planning and increasing health services become more understandable. As the



background paper notes, there is certainly a need to develop mechanisms to hold all partners accountable for their performance against international commitments. It is crucial to address the plight of severely underperforming countries, especially fragile and failed states whose populations are at risk of serious dislocations and social breakdown.

**Mr. President,**

My country has embarked on a series of programs designed to improve the national capacity, including hunger mitigation; educational and healthcare infrastructures; tackling chronic power, water and housing shortages; enhancing and strengthening our communications; our rail and road links; and refurbishing our key asset – the port, including the development of a major modern harbor.

Thanks primarily to the commitments of our enlightened leadership; to the efforts of our own people; and to the vigorous and encouraging support of our partners, we are making progress toward meeting the MDGs. We owe it to our own people to confront developmental challenges with courage, and a measure of optimism and confidence.

Thank you, **Mr. President**



# ECUADOR

Permanent Mission to the United Nations

---

**STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR MARIA FERNANDA ESPINOSA,  
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF ECUADOR TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

**THEMATIC DEBATE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ENTITLED  
"RECOGNIZING THE ACHIEVEMENTS, ADDRESSING THE CHALLENGES AND  
GETTING BACK TO ACHIEVE THE MDG'S BY 2015"**

**New York, 2 April 2008**

Mr. President,

First of all, allow me to begin by adhering to the statements of Antigua and Barbuda, on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, and of Mexico. My delegation congratulates the President of the General Assembly for convening this important thematic debate on the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals that is a matter of utmost importance for Ecuador.

The Millennium Summit gathered 189 heads of states and governments that adopted the Millennium Declaration which included a challenging agenda to reduce poverty, its causes and consequences. To that end, the international community agreed to work on several key objectives in order to achieve these goals by the year 2015.

Mr. President,

The unpromising results obtained by several states in attempting to achieve the desired Millennium Developing Goals by now this year 2008, lead us to doubt that we will all be able to attain them by 2015.

This is a result of the fact that the pledge made by industrialized countries to contribute 0.7 percent from their Gross Development Product to official assistance for the developing world, has not been complied.

Furthermore, the gap between rich and poor countries is increasing at a rapid pace. All of this as a result of adverse conditions in terms of goods and services trade, restrictions to our development, and lack of political will of many states for the Doha Round negotiations to achieve their desired goals.

Mr. President,

At this time, Ecuador is going through a Citizen Revolution that involves deep changes to democratic institutions, political principles and key objectives. We are in the middle of a process that will create a new juridical institutional framework that will benefit democracy and a vast majority of the peoples. We are building new strategies so that one of our key goals, that is the right of an individual to live a life with dignity, comes true.

To this end, our Government has established a National Development Plan 2007-2010 aimed to attain goals that go way beyond the Millennium Development Goals. This plan is the result of a democratic process that counts on free citizens' participation on fundamental decision-making policies for our society.

Our National Development Plan establishes a road that changes historic guidelines to development and democracy in Ecuador. Our intentions are not only to achieve the Millennium Development Goals but also to attain more challenging and ambitious objectives such as creation of a more equitable society that would guarantee just and stable jobs, secure access to water, clean air and soil, in summary a safe and sustainable environment, promotion of an economic and sustainable system, and affirmation of a national identity fortifying diverse identities and intercultural ethnic groups.

Ecuador, during this past year, has established institutional mechanisms of coordination to articulate inclusive economic and social policies and programs. One of the axes of this action is the establishment of micro productive unities linked to public purchases systems. Hence, in 2007, social investment for the first time in recent Ecuadorian history, exceeded by 32% service payments of our external debt compare to figures from 2006. To achieve these objectives several measures were taken among them, using exceeding international oil prices towards productive credit; welfare bonus was doubled; and investing in education and health policies were increased in order to achieve all this priority goals of our development.

We can rightly affirm that the Ecuadorian vision of development differs widely from capitalism criteria and economic liberalization processes of the Millennium Development Goals. Our development approach is oriented towards attaining good living for all in harmony with the environment in order to prolong indefinitely human cultures. To that end, our National Plan has included cultural diversity and sustainability as essential transversal axis of government action.

Mr. President,

Ecuador considers that climate change has become a key factor that makes development more difficult for our nations obstructing the possibility to achieve MDGs. For this reason, our country aware of the shared but differenced responsibility of the international community, proposed several months ago the implementation of the Yasuni ITT Initiative, a compromise to leave its largest oil reserve unexploited missing to exploit 920 million barrels of oil and preventing the emission of more than 100 million tons of carbon

dioxide. Consequently, our country will miss to earn approximately 720 million dollars annually for the next 25 years.

We are willing to take the sacrifice but require pertinent international community co-responsibility and a minimum compensation for environmental generated goods. This would be an extraordinary example of worldwide compromise to reduce the effects of climate change and help States attain development based on clean energy policies.

Mr. President,

The increase in international cooperation, the compliance of the Monterrey mandates, the strengthening of south-south and triangular cooperation as well as active participation by middle income countries in the international sphere will be among key factors to achieve not only survival MDGs but to attain maximum welfare.

Ecuador not only reaffirms its commitment made in the year 2000 to attain the Millennium Development Goals but also further commits to become pioneer in implementing this new model of development in which priority will not be market gains but better welfare for its citizens based upon respect for the rights and dignity of the peoples in a more respectful and balanced relation between nature and society.

Thank you very much.

**EGYPT**



**مصر**

The Permanent Mission of Egypt  
to the United Nations  
New York

بعثة مصر الدائمة  
لدى الأمم المتحدة  
نيويورك

Statement  
of  
The Arab Republic of Egypt

Delivered by

H.E. Ambassador Ramzy Ezzeldin Ramzy  
Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs  
for International Economic Relations and Cooperation

Before

The General Assembly Thematic Debate  
On the Millennium Development Goals

2 April 2008

Check against delivery

Mr. President,

I would like at the outset to welcome the invitation of the President of the General Assembly to convene this thematic debate on the MDGs, particularly at this important juncture, which represents the midway point to the agreed timeline of 2015 to achieve these goals. This debate also provides an opportunity to take stock of what has been achieved until now, and to unify efforts to encounter the challenges that face a large number of developing countries, which are still far off track from achieving these goals, especially in Africa.

Mr. President,

Eradicating poverty represents the greatest challenge that faces the efforts to achieving sustainable development in developing countries, thus requiring a true partnership amongst the international community as a whole, and we welcome in this regard the General Assembly resolution of last session proclaiming “the Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty ( 2008-2017)”.

Many developing countries, in recognition of their primary responsibility in achieving their own development, and in line with their international commitments, have embarked on designing and implementing pro-poor policies and strategies aimed at improving the living standards of their citizens. They have also embarked on implementing sound macro economic policies, and undertaken reform of their legal, custom and tax systems. However, they still face challenges that constrain their ability to attain tangible achievements in this regard, such as policy space, whereby they need to strike a balance between their national policies and international commitments, as this constitutes a vital issue that constrains the freedom that developing countries have in setting up strategic and public expenditure policies aimed at eradicating poverty.

In the same context, the efforts of developing countries to eradicate poverty require an enabling international environment to complement these efforts at the national level. This entails an increase in the volume of Official Development Assistance directed to developing countries, introducing comprehensive initiatives for external debt relief, and reaching an agreement that addresses the imbalance in the international trade system.

In addition, the developing world lacks the sufficient voice and participation to influence international economic decision making. Most international economic decisions which have grave impact on the world economy as a whole are taken in the absence of developing countries, influencing their economies, even though their share in the international economy has increased.

In this context, we affirm the importance of the efforts of the United Nations in eradicating poverty in many developing countries through its operational activities, which represents the core mandate of the its development work. We look forward to the continuation of this role and to strengthening it in order to support the efforts undertaken

by developing countries at the national level. We would also like to emphasize the role carried out by various other international and regional organizations in support of the efforts of developing countries, including the World Bank and the IMF, and the role of civil society and the private sector.

Mr. President,

Indicators confirm the strong link between the eradication of poverty and achieving the second and third MDGs. Today, a few days before celebrating the Global Action Week on Education 23- 29 April 2008, there remains 872 million people who are illiterate, two thirds of which are girls, as well as 100 million children out of school, 46% of which are girls, thus reflecting the difficulty in achieving the development goal related to education by 2015 in many developing countries.

Despite that, developing countries carry on their efforts to achieve gender equality in all levels of education and enhancing the quality of education to meet universal levels in order for their youth to enjoy equal and competitive opportunities in the labor market, and to develop the educational levels of mothers to contribute to the upbringing of their children during their pre-school period, and to provide alternative methods for educating the elderly, through remote education, as well as technical and vocational training.

Mr. President,

We stress the importance of joint international efforts to enhance and build the national capacities of developing countries to enable them to adopt effective programs to reduce the number of child mortalities and to provide the necessary reproductive care, in addition to encouraging the role of the NGOs and civil society in these fields.

Egypt attaches great importance to reducing the rates of child mortality leading to a decrease in mortality rates for children less than 5 years of age from 91 for every thousand in 1990 to 35 in 2006, according to UNICEF statistics. Egypt is thus well poised to achieve the fourth goal of the MDGs aiming at reducing child mortality rates by two thirds by 2015.

The Egyptian government has attempted to improve its health insurance system in parallel to encouraging the role of the private sector, and in addition to widening the scope of awareness campaigns in cooperation with the World Health Organization and UNICEF. This has resulted in reducing maternal mortality to 84 for every one hundred thousand in 2006, and raising the life expectancy of women to 107% in comparison to men, in addition to the efforts exerted to widen the scope of services provided to women in rural areas, with the aim of achieving the fifth MDG by reducing maternal mortality rates by 75% .

Undoubtedly, HIV/ AIDS constitutes one of the major challenges to achieving the MDGs by 2015, in particular goal number six. Despite the stagnation in the numbers expected for new infections since the beginning of the millennium, and the reduction in the number

of registered cases in some developing countries as a result of awareness and prevention programs, 63% of those infected worldwide are in Africa. This represents a risk of it becoming the third reason for deaths worldwide by 2030, unless dealt with in an effective manner.

The prevention and combating of HIV/AIDS, Malaria, and TB are critically linked with the overall development process. Indicators in the latest Secretary General's report affirm the relationship between Malaria and poverty, a matter that necessitates the support of the international community to the efforts of developing the infrastructure of economic, educational, and health systems, in conjunction with changing the society's perception towards dealing with these diseases, enhancing the ability to detect them at early stages and treating them with the support of all sectors of the society, in addition to technology and knowledge transfer to support these efforts.

Mr. President,

We urge the international community to attach greater importance to the challenges faced by developing countries, in a similar manner to the importance it has recently attached to issues such as climate change. I would like in this regard to commend the efforts of the Secretary General to achieve the MDGs, particularly in Africa, and to establish a Steering Group for that purpose, whose work we hope will contribute to supporting the efforts of African governments in achieving the MDGs.

We also welcome in this context all initiatives that contribute to achieving the MDGs, particularly in Africa, mainly the High-Level Meeting on Africa's Development Needs to be held in September in the General Assembly, and the initiative announced by the Prime Minister of the U.K. to establish a new partnership between the private and public sectors and civil society in order to accelerate the implementation of the MDGs, in addition to the cooperation between the Spanish government and the UNDP in the joint Fund to support these goals. We call for coordination and complementarity between these initiatives in order to strengthen the prospects for their success.

We also hope that the results and outcomes of different meetings related to development throughout this year will provide added momentum to the Review Conference on Financing for Development scheduled to be held in Doha during the period from 29 November to 2 December 2008, as the financing for development process represents an embodiment of the global partnership for development, with the MDGs at its core.

The role of the United Nations in following up on the implementation of the outcomes of UN conferences and summits in the economic and social fields is of utmost importance, as many of the commitments remain without actual implementation, therefore negatively affecting the credibility of the United Nations in carrying out its developmental role. Despite our support to convening this thematic debate which addresses poverty, health, and education, for they are of special importance to us, we would have hoped that this debate address development goal number eight on the global partnership for development,



specially since this discussion comes in the context of international cooperation, which does not entail the commitments of developing countries alone. We also call for the establishment of an intergovernmental mechanism for sustained follow-up, to accurately take stock of what has been achieved, and to identify the necessary means to get on track towards achieving the goals.

I would like to emphasize that the international development agenda is not confined to the MDGs alone, as there are other internationally agreed development goals reached during various relevant summits and conferences of the United Nations, whereby they constitute together the international development agenda.

In conclusion, I would like to point to the importance of contemplating a new international consensus for the post 2015 phase, which should not be considered as an end of the road, as this new consensus should take into account the interests of middle-income countries, which despite progress in certain areas, still represent half of the world's poor.

Thank you



MISION PERMANENTE DE EL SALVADOR  
ANTE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS

46 PARK AVENUE  
NEW YORK, NY 10016

## Asamblea General de las Naciones Unidas 62º Período de sesiones

Sírvase verificar contra la lectura

### **DEBATE TEMATICO DE LA ASAMBLEA GENERAL SOBRE LAS METAS DE DESARROLLO DEL MILENIO**

Intervención de la Embajadora  
Carmen María Gallardo Hernández  
Representante Permanente

Nueva York, 2 de abril de 2008.

**Debate temático**  
**Implementación de las Metas de Desarrollo del Milenio (MDGs).**

Señor Presidente

Mi delegación acoge con beneplácito la convocatoria de este debate temático en la Asamblea General, en el cual hemos identificado los logros y los desafíos hacia los objetivos de desarrollo del milenio para el 2015.

El Salvador ha asumido su responsabilidad política estructurando su plan nacional de desarrollo con miras al cumplimiento integral de estos objetivos.

La construcción de una sociedad más justa, conlleva el fomento de la inversión social como prioridad nacional, así como a la búsqueda de mecanismos financieros innovadores de carácter multilateral.

Para El Salvador, la pobreza en su visión multidimensional se entiende “como una condición de escasez de ingreso, así como también de falta de acceso a la educación, la salud y los servicios de infraestructura básica, tales como agua y saneamiento básico, electricidad y caminos rurales. Asimismo, la pobreza se concibe como la falta de oportunidades económicas y sociales”.

Esta visión ha orientado mi país hacia una serie de acciones dirigidas hacia un crecimiento económico sostenido, acompañado de políticas sociales con fuerte inversión en la población, fortaleciendo a su vez la institucionalidad, a través de entendimientos nacionales a fin de sentar las bases de una sociedad más justa. Se trata de una importante decisión política que nuestro Gobierno ha tomado y cuya concreción se plasma en acciones orientadas a las áreas de mayor impacto en la población de extrema pobreza. El objetivo primordial apunta hacia la creación de una red de protección destinada a la población más pobre y excluida, propiciando disminuir la brecha entre las áreas urbana y rural.

Este compromiso del Gobierno de El Salvador se traduce en el Plan Social “Oportunidades” el cual se compone de una serie de proyectos dirigidos a los grupos de población más vulnerables en las áreas rurales.

Cabe mencionar el Fondo Solidario para la Salud (FOSALUD), el cual fortalece y amplía los servicios médicos; el Programa CONECTATE, destinado a educación, a través de la creación de los centros de tecnología de la información y comunicaciones; el Programa JOVENES, que genera mayores oportunidades para el desarrollo, participación y progreso integral de la juventud; el Programa

TU CRÉDITO, busca el apoyo financiero. Asimismo, a través de la RED SOLIDARIA, el Gobierno apoya a las familias en el área rural que viven en condición de pobreza extrema, a través de una política integral en educación, salud, nutrición y otros servicios básicos.

En cumplimiento de su compromiso El Salvador ha logrado reducir su nivel de pobreza extrema de 32.6% a 12.5% (siendo la meta para 2015 de 16.3%).

En cuanto el objetivo relacionado con la desnutrición si bien hemos logrado disminuir su impacto, tenemos conciencia de que es una de las áreas sobre las cuales hemos de intensificar nuestro esfuerzo a fin de lograr la meta para el 2015; en particular reduciendo la desnutrición de la población infantil.

El Plan Nacional de Educación 2021, esta integrado por diversos programas, tales como EDÚCAME, cuyo objetivo consiste en facilitar la educación básica y media en horarios flexibles. La educación básica por su parte, es atendida a través de REDES ESCOLARES y la parvularia universal con el Programa JUEGA LEYENDO. En cuanto a la alfabetización de adultos, el programa PAEBA ha permitido importantes avances.

Ello nos permite resaltar que los indicadores de los ODM en El Salvador, en el tema educación han registrado una mejora sustancial, gracias al índice alcanzado del 73%. Esperamos lograr la meta de la cobertura del 100% para el 2015.

El acceso a la educación de las niñas y los niños registra en la actualidad un balance de género satisfactorio.

En el tema de salud, El Salvador ha desplegado importantes acciones a través del Ministerio de salud Pública. El Plan Nacional de SALUD FAMILIAR garantiza el acceso y equidad en la oferta de servicios de salud, permitiendo mejor atención primaria. El adelanto ha sido posible gracias a una responsabilidad compartida entre las familias y los gobiernos locales. A título de ejemplo cabe señalar la reducción de mortalidad materna, la cual se logro disminuir en el 2007 de 173 por 100,000 nacidos vivos a 55.3. En cuanto a la mortalidad infantil se redujo en el 2006 a 23.4. Hemos asimismo incrementando la inmunización de los menores de edad, permitiéndonos esperar cumplir la meta del 2015.

El Gobierno de El Salvador se ha comprometido de manera resuelta en el combate del VIH/SIDA. A través de la red creada por el Ministerio de Salud se incrementó desde el año 2001 la Terapia Antirretroviral (TAR) atendiendo en la

actualidad aproximadamente un 62% de los casos notificados. El Salvador despliega su mejor esfuerzo a favor de esta lucha en la actualidad a través de su participación activa en la Junta de Coordinación de ONUSIDA.

Señor Presidente

Mi país se suma al criterio de que para alcanzar los objetivos de desarrollo del milenio en pro del desarrollo sostenible de una nación, es necesario tener en cuenta elementos nacionales e internacionales. La solidaridad de los Gobiernos es necesaria a fin de que se traduzca en una cooperación internacional balanceada y justa. Sabemos que para ciertos países las condiciones no son favorables para que alcancen los objetivos del milenio para el 2015, razón por la cual es de suma importancia que la responsabilidad sea compartida y asumida en términos nacionales.

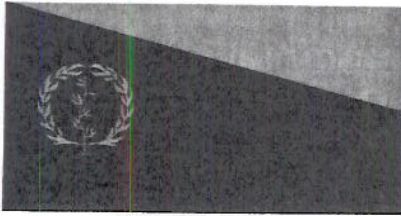
Si bien reconocemos la importante contribución de los países desarrollados, hemos de recordar la necesidad de seguir incrementado la asistencia para el desarrollo.

La búsqueda de este equilibrio pasa por procesos de negociación tales como el Consenso de Monterrey, en el cual estamos inmersos en este momento. Cabe señalar, asimismo la existencia de ciertas realidades que han transformado los procesos de desarrollo, nos referimos en particular a la condición de países de renta media. Está, si bien constituye un progreso en términos nacionales, hacia la consecución de los objetivos de desarrollo del milenio, no por tanto implica se debe reducir la cooperación para el desarrollo.

El "Consenso de El Salvador sobre Cooperación para el Desarrollo de los Países de Renta Media" alcanzado en la reunión que acogió mi país en octubre de 2007, recoge el compromiso de la comunidad internacional para alcanzar las metas de desarrollo internacionalmente convenidas.

Señor Presidente

El Salvador reitera su compromiso de seguir acompañando esta reflexión conjunta convocada por usted. Confiamos en que este debate contribuirá a inspirar el encuentro de Jefes de Estados y de Gobiernos a realizarse en septiembre próximo.



Permanent Mission of Eritrea  
to the United Nations

Check against delivery

Statement by  
H.E. Mr. Araya Desta, Permanent Representative to the United Nations

UN General Assembly Thematic Debate on the Millennium Development Goals

**“Recognizing the achievements, addressing the challenges and  
getting back on track to achieve the MDGs by 2015**

New York, 3 April 2008

Mr. President,

Henry Ford, one great American industrialist, a name common to us all, once said, **“Coming together is a beginning; keeping together is progress; working together is success”**. The coming together of our leaders in September of 2000 when they declared the Millennium Development Goals was the beginning of noble commitments to do good for the human society. The subsequent years to this day kept us together to make progress on our goals. The goal of cutting poverty by half by the year 2015. The goal of achieving universal primary education. The goal of reducing the death of our children under-five and the maternal mortality of their mothers by two-thirds. The goal of reversing the spread of killer HIV/AIDS and the elimination of malaria and other diseases. All of these to be achieved by the year 2015. Have we made progress by keeping together since the Millennium Summit in 2000? That is a question that all of us have to ponder. But, the more important question to ponder at this mid-life crisis of the MDGs is the last part of Mr. Ford’s wisdom. The **“working together is success”**.

That makes, Mr. President, this debate and your presidency so important. I should commend you for bringing us together to **“...addressing the challenges and getting back on track to achieve the MDGs by 2015”** as the theme for this debate states. At the outset, my delegation subscribes to the statements made by the Honourable Minister of Antigua and Barbuda, the Honourable Minister of Bangladesh, and the representative of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, the LDCs and the African Group respectively.

Mr. President,

The MDGs should remain the priorities of the United Nations and that of the international community development agenda. Whatever happens in the ongoing reform process of our United Nations, we should not lose sight of the MDGs. We should constantly fix our eyes on the score board. We should stay the course we started at the beginning of the Millennium. The MDGs are the most unifying and cross-cutting goals in the United Nations system; thus there should not be any excuse for not achieving them by all countries by the set time of 2015. I believe we can do it with renewed commitment and partnership at this midway point. The 2007 Millennium Development Goals Report of the United Nations, on page 4, gives us a sense of optimism by

stating, **“...that the MDGs will be attained only if concerted additional action is taken immediately and sustained until 2015. All stakeholders need to fulfill, in their entirety, the commitments they made in the Millennium Declaration and subsequent pronouncements.”** Goals are not predicted, Mr. President; they are promised. If we do not deliver these promises come 2015, we would be terribly disappointing the people who are looking up to us and we will be judged by history. Failure to achieve the MDGs will adversely affect the credibility of our multilateralism.

The same report, on page 5, further states that **“Success in achieving the MDGs in the poorest and most disadvantaged countries cannot be achieved by these countries alone. Developed countries need to deliver fully on longstanding commitments to achieve the official development assistance (ODA) target of 0.7 per cent of gross national income (GNI) by 2015. It requires, in particular, the Group of 8 industrialized nations to live up to their 2005 pledge to double aid to Africa by 2010 and European Union Member States to allocate 0.7 per cent of GNI to ODA by 2015.”**

Mr. President,

I believe the achievement of the MDGs will bring a lot of common good to the human family. I am convinced that the achievement of the MDGs will bring security to our troubled world order. I believe the MDGs are human rights and they must be achieved. I believe the MDGs are the flagship of the development agenda of the United Nations, thus the realization of these goals is crucial. Politics must not divide us and cripple our ability to help those crushed by poverty and those hurting from killer epidemics around the world when we know there are enough resources in our possession to ease their hunger and pain. Former Secretary-General Kofi Annan, in the 2005 Millennium Development Goals Report of the United Nations, insisted, **“...we have the means at hand to ensure that nearly every country can make good on the promises of the [Millennium Development] Goals. Our challenge is to deploy those means.”** Politics should not stand in the way of the MDGs. It is my sincere wish and strong appeal that the rich and poor countries work together, in genuine partnership, towards the fulfillment of the promises we made --the MDGs.

Mr. President,

My own country, Eritrea, is committed and is doing its best to achieving the MDGs. Some earlier and others at the appointed time—2015. It has invested hundreds of millions of dollars, especially on infrastructure for food security, to make hunger history. It is encouraging to note in its first national Millennium Development Report (MDGR) of November 2006, the executive summary of which is attached to my statement, that **“...Eritrea is on track to achieve the goals relating to gender equality in primary education, child health, maternal health, HIV/AIDS, malaria and other major diseases, and access to safe water.”**

The Ministry of National Development (MND) guided and managed the preparation of the Report, which began in April 2004. The key economic and social sector ministries also participated fully in the work thereby contributing to the quality of the Report. Helpful comments on the draft report were also received from the UN country offices. The UN Country Team (UNCT) Provided the Government with financial support for preparing the Report, for which my country is grateful, and closely worked with the MND and the other key stakeholder ministries in this endeavour.

The MDGR was set out to achieve three objectives:

1. to determine Eritrea's benchmark vis-à-vis the MDGs indicators and targets;
2. to provide a road map leading to the achievement of the targets by the target year, 2015; and
3. to indicate, in broad terms, the resources requirement for achieving the MDG targets.

Establishing the benchmark involved the comparison of the status of various indicators between two periods: the period 1993-95 and that of 2001-03. Such a comparison drew on a number of existing surveys and other previous studies, including the 2002 Demographic and Health Survey (DHS), the 2003 Poverty Assessment (comprising the Living Standards Measurement Survey (LSMS) and the Participatory Poverty Assessment (PPA)), the Rural Livelihood Security Assessment, and the 2003 Food Security Strategy (FSS).

The choice of a three-year period was dictated by the fact that not all data on the major indicators were available for any single year. In some cases, data were not available for the base year. On the whole, however, available data has been, with qualifications made whenever appropriate, adequate for assessing Eritrea's progress towards the achievement of the MDGs. Once Eritrea's benchmark was established for each of the MDG indicators, linear projections were then made on whether or not these goals would be achieved by 2015.

The projections were made, however, only after the global MDG targets had been adapted to the Eritrean situation. Starting, effectively, in 1994, the mid-point of the 1993-95 base period, Eritrea would have only 21 years in which to achieve the global targets by the global target year of 2015.

Mr. President,

Most of Sub-Saharan Africa finds the MDGs very ambitious. The financial resources required to achieve them are huge, and given current capabilities, beyond the reach of most African countries. Their human and institutional capacities are nowhere near what they need to achieve the MDGs. Their social, economic and physical infrastructure is at such low level, therefore constraining the productive capacity of their human resources and limiting trade and regional integration. Many countries are in, or just coming out of, devastating conflicts of one sort or another. All these factors are major contributors to the low growth that most African economies have been, and still are, experiencing. And yet, economic growth is an absolute necessary condition for poverty reduction.

Eritrea is no exception to the realities of Sub-Saharan Africa. Having achieved formal independence in 1993, it is the youngest African nation. At independence, it inherited a devastated economy and infrastructure, a large exiled population and an empty treasury. The Government began in earnest to rehabilitate and reconstruct the nation and the economy. Its efforts paid dividends. For the period of 1993-1997, the economy grew by 7.4%; inflation was kept at below 5%; and Eritrea had accumulated foreign reserves that covered seven months of imports.

As Eritrea's economy was just moving toward a sustainable level of steady growth, Ethiopia unleashed another destructive war on it in 1998. The country also suffered from successive droughts during the past years. Perhaps the single most important constraint to its development



today is the no-peace no-war status imposed on it by Ethiopia's refusal to abide by the decision of the Eritrea-Ethiopia Boundary Commission and the inaction of the international community in enforcing the decision of the Commission. The consequence of the inaction does not stop there either. It is costing the international community well over US\$200 million annually to monitor the peace Agreement between the two countries; resources that could well have been used for development.

Mr. President,

Despite these challenges, it is gratifying to witness that Eritrea is projected to achieve most of the related MDG targets by 2015. We realize, however, that this is no cause for celebration for three reasons.

**First**, Eritrea is off-track in two crucial areas: (1) eradication of extreme poverty and hunger, and (2) achievement of universal primary education.

**Second**, the general consensus is that the MDGs, even if they were to be fully achieved, represent only the minimum benchmarks rather than the culmination of full development itself.

**Third**, the road map to 2015 is based on crucial assumptions; including the resolution of the no-peace no-war status of the border conflict with Ethiopia, the absence of drought, the robust performance of the economy, and the successful mobilization of resources-- both domestic and international-- necessary for the achievement of the MDGs.

Achieving the MDGs requires human, material and financial investments in the economic, social and physical infrastructure. An important part of the exercise has thus been the determination of the cost of achieving the targets. The additional cost assessment exercise indicates that it will cost Eritrea around US\$1.47 billion over the period of 2004-2015, an average of some \$134 million a year, to achieve the MDGs. This, however, is very preliminary since the cost estimation was based on insufficient data. It goes without saying that this cost is in addition to the core development expenditure the Government of Eritrea allocates from its own resources and the contributions of its development partners.

I would like to think that this Report is a useful tool for monitoring and assessing progress on the MDGs. More importantly, the Report can serve as a medium for dialogue and partnership between the two principal stakeholders, Eritrea and the international community, on how best to ensure the achievement of the MDGs, especially in the spirit of the Monterrey Consensus.

Mr. President,

In conclusion, it is this delegation's fervent hope that the member countries, the United Nations agencies and the international community gathered here work together, in true partnership, to make the MDGs a success. Then and only then, we will be able to see the accomplishment of purpose that we all could be proud of. Let us go to work and make it happen!

I thank you, Mr. President, for your attention



The State of Eritrea  
 Ministry of National Development  
**Millennium Development Goals Report**  
 Asmara, November 2006

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) comprise eight global objectives, each with one or more quantitative targets. They encompass the reduction of poverty and hunger, and improvements in health, education, gender equality, the environment and other aspects of human welfare, as well as global partnerships for achieving the targets. They are a major subset of the national development goals of Eritrea.

This is the first Millennium Development Goals Report (MDGR) for Eritrea. The report is an important instrument for assessing progress and prospects and mobilizing people and resources to implement the required policies and programmes to achieve the MDGs. Eritrea's promising start on the road to socio-economic development suffered a severe setback as a result of the border war with Ethiopia. In spite of this, progress has been made towards achievement of many of the MDGs. However, challenges remain in a number of areas.

### PROGRESS AND PROSPECTS

Progress towards achieving the targets is assessed by comparing the status of various indicators during the period 2001-2003 with that of 1993-95, drawing on a number of surveys<sup>1</sup> and other sources. Table E1 below provides a summary assessment of progress and prospects.

Table E1: MDG Progress and Prospects at a Glance (percentage)

| Goals & Targets                                    | Starting value (1993-95) | Ending value (2001-03) | Linearly projected value (2015) | MDG target value (2015) | Status    |
|----------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------|-----------|
| Proportion below poverty line                      | 53                       | 66                     | 48                              | 33                      | Off track |
| Prevalence of underweight children                 | 44                       | 40                     | 24                              | 24                      | On track  |
| Net primary school enrollment                      | 30                       | 44                     | 82                              | 100                     | Off track |
| Ratio of girls to boys in primary school           | 80                       | 81                     | 100                             | 100                     | On track  |
| Under-five mortality                               | 136                      | 93                     | 30                              | 45                      | On track  |
| Maternal mortality ratio                           | 985                      | 581                    | 246                             | 246                     | On track  |
| Prevalence of HIV/AIDS                             | N/A                      | 2.4                    | <2                              | <2                      | On track  |
| Malaria cases per 1,000                            | N/A                      | 36                     | <36                             | <36                     | On track  |
| Environmental resources: forest cover of land area | 13.9                     | 32                     | >32                             | >32                     | On track  |
| Proportion without access to safe drinking water   | 84                       | 33                     | 25                              | 20                      | On track  |

<sup>1</sup> They include the Demographic and Health Survey (DHS), the 2003 Poverty Assessment comprising the Living Standards Measurement Survey (LSMS) and the Participatory Poverty Assessment (PPA), the 2003 Rural Livelihood Security Assessment, and the 2003 Food Security Strategy (FSS).

Table E1 shows that Eritrea is on track to achieve the MDGs relating to gender equality in primary education, child health, maternal health, HIV/AIDS, malaria and other major diseases, and access to safe water. However, in two crucial areas, namely eradication of extreme poverty and achievement of universal primary education, the country is below target. In another crucial area, that is, environmental sustainability, data do not permit a clear assessment of progress but the country appears to be making good progress.

The gains made since independence in all the areas covered by the MDGs need to be sustained and improved upon. For the gains to be sustained and improved upon, economic growth has to resume at a rate of at least 5 percent a year.

## NEEDS ASSESSMENT

A preliminary assessment of the costs of achieving the MDGs is presented in this report. This exercise was plagued by data deficiencies. The results of the assessment are summarized in Table E2 below. The total costs are estimated at \$1,471 million over the next eleven years or an average of \$134 million a year. These costs would be borne by the public sector. They exclude the contributions that households and businesses will make towards the achievement of the MDGs.

**Table E2: Summary of Projected Financial Resources Required to Achieve the MDGs (in 2004 \$ million)**

|                                      | 2005*     | 2010*     | 2015*      | Total<br>2005-15        | Average<br>2005-15 |
|--------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|------------|-------------------------|--------------------|
| Poverty and Hunger                   | 21        | 30        | 37         | 323(22%)                | 29                 |
| Education                            | 29        | 38        | 38         | 494(33%)                | 45                 |
| Gender Equality                      | 2         | 1         | 1          | 15(1%)                  | 1                  |
| Child Health                         | 3         | 4         | 5          | 40(3%)                  | 4                  |
| Maternal Health                      | 2         | 2         | 3          | 27(2%)                  | 3                  |
| HIV/AIDS, Malaria and TB             | 13        | 15        | 18         | 165(11%)                | 15                 |
| Water & Environmental Sustainability | 12        | 12        | 12         | 133(9%)                 | 12                 |
| Energy                               | 10        | 13        | 15         | 140(10%)                | 13                 |
| Roads                                | 12        | 12        | 12         | 133(9%)                 | 12                 |
| <b>Total</b>                         | <b>84</b> | <b>97</b> | <b>140</b> | <b>1,471<br/>(100%)</b> | <b>134</b>         |

\*These years have been chosen for illustration and the figures are rounded off to the nearest unit.

## CHALLENGES

The Government faces a number of challenges in its effort to promote development and achieve the MDGs. These are (i) restoring macroeconomic stability, (ii) attracting private investment (iii) ensuring food security, (iv) achieving sustained, rapid economic growth, and (v) mobilizing the required resources. Economic growth and resource mobilization issues are discussed later in the Report. Readers are referred to the Interim Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (IPRSP) and the Food Security Strategy Paper for an in-depth discussion of these challenges.



866 Second Avenue, 3rd Floor • New York, N.Y. 10017

---

---

*Statement*

*By*

*H.E. Ambassador Negash Kebret,  
Charge d' Affairs a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Federal  
Democratic Republic of Ethiopia to the United Nations*

*At*

*The Thematic Debate of the General Assembly on the Theme  
"Recognizing the Achievements, Addressing the Challenges and  
Getting Back on Track to Achieve the MDGs by 2015"*

*New York, 3 April 2008*

## **Mr. President,**

I would first of all like to express my delegation's appreciation to the President of the General Assembly for organizing this thematic debate under the theme "Recognizing the achievements, addressing the challenges and getting back on track to achieve the MDGs by 2015." The debate is timely as we are at the mid-point of the MDGs process to take a stock of what has been achieved so far and what tasks remain to be accomplished with the view to meeting the goals before the target date.

## **Mr. President,**

As the reports of the United Nations and previous General Assembly debates on the MDGs indicate, the progress so far achieved has not been very encouraging, although progress, with varying degrees, have been registered by countries. Such a mixed outcome of the efforts, however, should not be viewed as lagging behind but as an impetus to further redouble our efforts and commitments to achieve the goals.

The challenges associated with the implementation of MDGs are obvious and have been discussed at different times and on different occasions in the past. But it is a high time now as we are passing half way through the MDG process to identify the key challenges and take concrete actions to address them effectively and in a timely fashion. It has been repeatedly stressed that without securing adequate global partnership, the efforts by developing countries alone won't yield the results, we all desire to see, at least, not before the deadline. It is

significant economic performance also happens to be above the average rate of economic growth for Sub Saharan African countries.

Ethiopia, apart from being among the first to prepare and implement the Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSPs), has made positive progress in the implementation of the MDGs as well. In fact, during the preparation of the now completed Sustainable Development and Poverty Reduction Program (SDPRP) at the dawn of the new Ethiopian Millennium, the Government seized the opportunity to incorporate the MDGs into our national development plan. In our efforts, we have achieved encouraging results that make us optimistic to meet the targets of some of the Goals. With regard to the primary education coverage, the number of children in primary schools increased from 8.1 million in 2001/02 to 12.6 million in 2005/6. This brings the gross enrolment ratio from 61.6% in 2001/02 to 91.3% in 2005/6. The enrollment ratio for females has also increased from 52.2% in 2001/02 to 83.9% in 2005/6.

Likewise, the Government of Ethiopia recognizes that the poor health status of its citizens is a serious constraint to economic productivity and impedes the efforts to reduce poverty and combat hunger. Common poverty-related diseases including malaria, tuberculosis(TB), childhood illnesses, and HIV/AIDS continue to cut short the lives of Ethiopians. The Government, fully concurring with the emphasis on health in the MDGs, has developed and begun to implement a 20-year Health Sector Development Programme (HSDP). Early results of the implementation indicate that access to health

services has reached from 52% to 72% with under-five mortality rate and infant mortality rate have both declined from 167 to 123 per 1,000 people and from 97 to 77 per 1000 people respectively, all in five years.

## **Mr. President,**

The Government, in its determination to build on what has been achieved over years, has designed a comprehensive five-year development plan called "Plan to Accelerate Sustainable Development to End Poverty-PASDEP". The Plan is now being implemented with the aim of carrying forward important strategic directions pursued under the completed SDPRP. The agricultural and the social sectors will not only continue to receive the highest priority and attention in our development but other important sectors like energy and infrastructure development will be accorded the necessary emphasis they deserve. The measures taken to develop the energy sector by building the capacity of our national power generation schemes for rural electrification and exporting electricity and programme have been very encouraging so far.

## **Mr. President,**

The Government efforts to expand the national road networking in the four main directions of the country from the capital and develop communication infrastructures have also started to show positive impact on the growth of the economy. Both sectors will undoubtedly continue to enjoy the full support of the government as they are crucial

to achieving the MDGs and other internationally agreed development goals. Though developing countries are doing their best to make sure that they don't remain behind but to be on track to achieve MDGs, they need to secure adequate and predictable supply of resources from our development partners. My delegation, therefore, calls for an increase in pro-poor investments in order to enable developing countries, especially Africa, to meet the MDGs by the target date. The undelayed and full realization of the commitment of the international community in attaining the 0.7% target as ODA is highly imperative. We also call upon the international community to level the playground for African countries to fairly compete in international markets and take additional measures for the effective implementation of the AGOA and EBA initiatives. With all the promises delivered in terms of support in financing and the urgent necessary steps taken by our partners with regard to the implementations of initiatives referred to most of the MDGs, we believe, will be achievable despite the multifaceted challenges we are facing currently.

Thank you



1 April 2008

**Statement of Mr. Jonathan F. Fanton,  
at the Thematic Debate on the Millennium Development Goals**

Your Excellency President Kerim, Deputy Secretary-General Asha-Rose Migiro, Honorable Ministers, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am honored to speak with you tonight and participate in the conversation tomorrow. The theme of the conference, “Recognizing the achievements, addressing the challenges and getting back on track to achieve the MDG’s by 2015,” is well chosen. We all know that at the current pace we will fall short of meeting most of the goals, and in some cases, not even come close.

The slow pace of progress is not because of a lack of valiant efforts, particularly on the health MDG’s. A few governments of the global North have taken bold steps. Norway and the UK made inspiring announcements at the Women Deliver conference in London last October; and governments of the global South, such as Bangladesh and Honduras have made impressive achievements in reducing maternal mortality among their citizens. I imagine will we hear about Mexico’s efforts on the MDG’s from Ms. Vazquez Mota in a moment. And the UN Foundation has attracted resources from the world’s philanthropists.

While it may not be possible to make all the goals by 2015 – they are ambitious – it should be possible to come close to some and see a positive trajectory that gives confidence that all will be fulfilled in a reasonable time.

Otherwise, the nations and the peoples of the developing world will rightly doubt the sincerity of the process and that will lead to deep cynicism, even despair. Future, well-intentioned efforts will be harder to launch. Trust will be in short supply.

So this conference comes at the right moment. There is still time to get back on track. I am encouraged by the honesty and candor of the background papers and the concrete proposals for picking up the pace.

While private philanthropy and foundations are mentioned, I think the papers underestimate what we can do. In the U.S. alone there are more than 70,000 private foundations that gave away a total of \$16.5 billion in 2005, 17 percent of that going to international programs. Among US foundations that give globally, MacArthur ranks fourth, with about 40 percent of our giving to international programs.

The challenge of getting more foundations to work on the MDG’s is twofold:

1. to increase U.S. foundations' giving abroad – both the number of foundations and the amount of money – and
2. to link the giving more directly with the MDG's.

Let us use MacArthur as an example and then talk about how to reach other foundations.

With an endowment of \$6.5 billion, MacArthur work in sixty countries and have offices in Russia, India, Nigeria, and Mexico. Our total philanthropy this year will be over \$300 million. Our fields of interest include conservation and sustainable development, human rights and international justice, peace and security, and population and reproductive health. We are also starting a new initiative on global migration and mobility. MacArthur has a long history of support for and work with the U.N. Our first direct grant to the U.N. was twenty years ago. Since then nearly 70 grants have followed to just about every part of the U.N.– including UN Development Program, the UN Environment Program, the UN Population Fund, and the World Health Organization.

Even before MDG#5 was set, our Population program had focused on the reduction of maternal mortality. We thought it was a good indication of whether or not women were getting the care and counseling they needed to make healthy reproductive choices. Our focus is on Nigeria, India and Mexico, which together represent one third of maternal deaths in the world.

The statistics on maternal mortality are sobering. More than half a million women die each year from pregnancy complications – about one woman every minute. The inequality is staggering – a woman in Africa has a lifetime risk of dying in pregnancy of 1 in 22; for a woman in the global North, the risk is 1 in 8000. And for each of these deaths, there are 30 women who do not die, but who suffer from a related illness or disability.

It is tragic when these deaths and disabilities happen; it is inexcusable that they happen when we have the means to prevent them. No woman should die giving life – as we are reminded by the UNFPA's Thematic Fund for Maternal Health. The lack of progress on maternal mortality is not the world envisioned by the signers of the U.N. Charter, who vowed to “to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom.” We should not accept that one woman dies every minute from pregnancy related causes.

MacArthur originally had not made an explicit connection between our program and MDG#5. But a visit to the Foundation from Secretary-General Ban changed all that. He made clear his own commitment to meeting the MDG's and asked for our help. We are in the process of developing an initiative that will recast our maternal mortality program within the framework of the MDG's, committing at least \$50 million to MDG# 5 over the next four years.

We hope the initiative will be a model for how other foundations – or groups of foundations – can take leadership in each of the MDG's. This is not only about money, indeed it cannot be: our resources are dwarfed by aid from national governments and international institutions. But our money is flexible and can be deployed quickly to demonstrate interventions that work. We can

document the models so we know why they work and how to adapt them to different countries and cultures. We can support NGO's that advocate for sensible policies and more public expenditures. We can build coalitions that increase public awareness and political will. We can convene the public, private and NGO actors who need to coordinate their efforts.

To date, MacArthur is working to reduce maternal mortality through five approaches. These form the base from which we will expand our efforts.

Our first approach is marrying technology with need. MacArthur has put its resources behind a critical initiative that can reduce maternal mortality dramatically by addressing postpartum hemorrhage, which accounts for nearly 1 in 3 maternal deaths. We have funded research at the University of Ibadan in Nigeria, and combined it with lessons from research in India, that together show how a treatment package can cut maternal deaths from postpartum hemorrhage by 80 percent. The package consists of an affordable drug – misoprostol – for prevention, and an innovative Anti Shock Garment. The garment temporarily halts hemorrhage and buys time to transport the patient to skilled medical care. We have funded Pathfinder to mount a large-scale demonstration in India and Nigeria, and we have received encouragement from the Nigerian government that it will take the package to scale. If applied globally, this treatment could prevent about 130,000 deaths per year. That by itself would represent a 25 percent drop in the mortality ratio and a substantial step toward the 75 percent reduction goal.

Our second approach is helping organizations scale up other promising models. For example, India's Home-Based Neonatal Care program trains local women to assist mothers and babies during deliveries, bringing up-to-date methods into rural villages. Developed by the Society for Education, Action and Research in Community Health, the model has been adopted by the National Rural Health Mission. Over the next five years, it will be introduced in five Northern states of India, and eventually will become a national effort. The model has been shown to prevent over 60 percent of neonatal deaths and to reduce maternal health problems.

Our third approach is enhancing the skills of health workers. Many maternal deaths occur because the mother does not have access to skilled medical care or because the person providing the care – often a midwife – lacks the ability to identify and respond to critical cases. Each level of care provider – doctors, nurses, and midwives – can be trained to carry out life-saving activities. MacArthur is helping the OB-GYN Society of India train general practitioners to do Caesarian section deliveries. This program is now being scaled up with support from the government. MacArthur also works to improve the curricula of the educational institutions that train these professionals. For example, in Nigeria, Ipas is working with every school of midwifery to help professors better prepare their students for the real demands that they will face on the frontlines of rural health care.

Our fourth approach is creating and sustaining networks of individuals and organizations that are in the field. They need to exchange information and best practices, and plan advocacy that generates political will for change. In Mexico, the National Safe Motherhood Committee brings best practices about screening patients and health technology to all the important actors in

government and civil society. It also helps coordinate their efforts to encourage increases in funding for maternal health.

Our fifth and final approach is using our reputational assets – our convening capacity – to bring disparate groups together to achieve consensus. In preparation for last year’s Women Deliver conference, we convened a diverse group of experts from government, civil society, and universities. They forged a consensus on a simple, clear framework for reducing maternal mortality: the “three pillars” of family planning, skilled attendance at birth, and emergency obstetric care. We have been pleased to see that consensus promoted not only at the Women Deliver conference last October, but also described in documents such as the the United Nations Population Fund’s Thematic Fund for Maternal Health.

You may note that in each of the five approaches, we cannot succeed without effective partnerships – particularly with governments of the global South. We recognize that a foundation cannot do everything alone – but we can advance the latest technologies, support research, fund model programs, and promote targeted advocacy.

While our maternal mortality work on the ground in India, Nigeria and Mexico is well along, we know there is much more to be done to advance MDG#5. We want to work with others and are very open to advice about how we can help. We expect to learn a lot tomorrow.

We have a dream of jumpstarting a rapid decline in maternal mortality ratios. We expect to deepen work in our three focus countries. We will work with partners to help other countries in Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia learn the best maternal health strategies. We will continue to spread the use of the postpartum hemorrhage treatment package but also expand our efforts to address eclampsia, which accounts for 12 percent of all maternal deaths. Solid research has shown that the best drug for eclampsia is magnesium sulfate, but barriers need to be overcome before its use is widespread: National governments need to endorse the drug; doctors need to be educated on its use; and drug companies need to increase its distribution.

Working on these two causes of death together – eclampsia and post-partum hemorrhage – could drop maternal mortality by over 35 percent. Think of it: taking on these two very preventable causes of death alone would bring us nearly halfway to achieving MDG #5.

We are not alone among foundations in supporting progress towards the MDG’s. We chose MDG 5; other foundations also work on programs related to the MDG’s, even if some do not see their work within the MDG framework.

- The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and the Rockefeller Foundation are supporting efforts to boost the yields and incomes of millions of small farmers in Africa.
- The Hewlett Foundation is combating HIV/AIDS by linking prevention efforts with reproductive health services in order to reach more people and address the factors that make them vulnerable to infection.

- The Ford Foundation is working on conservation through integrated approaches that combine environmental protection, sustainable resource use, enforcement of legal rights and the creation of environment-friendly rural enterprises.
- And the Nike Foundation, explicitly using MDG #3 on gender equality as a framework for their giving, is taking on the major challenges facing girls and women in the developing world, including inadequate health services, education access, and economic opportunities.

We will learn more when the Secretary-General meets with the Presidents of the major foundations at our annual retreat on May 2. At that meeting there will be Rockefeller, Ford, Carnegie, Gates, Pew, Hewlett, Packard, Sloan, Mellon and more. Together these foundations have assets of more than \$115 billion and work in well over 100 countries around the world.

It will be a golden opportunity to galvanize the top foundations to get behind the MDG's in a more coordinated and determined way. It will be a chance to rally all foundations around Secretary-General Ban's vision of the MDG's as "a blueprint to ensure that in a technology-rich and prosperous twenty-first century, no human being should be dying of malnutrition ... or be deprived of education or access to basic health care."

I feel we have a responsibility to work with the UN and its member states to make substantial progress on the Millennium Development Goals.

Let the MDG's be a driving force in a broad partnership between the UN and philanthropy.

You can count MacArthur to help.



# FRANCE

## Débat thématique de l'Assemblée Générale

Reconnaître les réalisations, relever les défis et remettre  
les OMD sur la voie de leur réalisation d'ici 2015

**Intervention prononcée par S.E.M. Jean-Maurice RIPERT  
Ambassadeur, Représentant Permanent de la France auprès des Nations Unies**

**New York, le 2 avril 2008**

*(Vérifier au prononcé)*

Mesdames et Messieurs les Ministres,  
Mesdames et Messieurs les Ambassadeurs, Chers Collègues,  
Mesdames et Messieurs,

La France soutient la déclaration prononcée, au nom de l'Union Européenne, par la présidence slovène.

En 2000, nos Chefs d'Etat et de Gouvernements, réunis dans cette même Assemblée, rappelaient leur conviction que le principal défi qu'il fallait relever était de faire en sorte que la mondialisation, riche en opportunités mais également porteuse de dangers pour les plus vulnérables, devienne une force positive pour l'humanité toute entière, en créant notamment un climat propice au développement et à l'élimination de la pauvreté. A cette occasion, des objectifs ont été fixés pour faire du "droit au développement une réalité pour tous".

La définition des objectifs du millénaire pour le développement (OMD) a replacé les individus au cœur des politiques de développement en proposant des indicateurs consacrant le caractère central, d'une part de la satisfaction des besoins vitaux de la personne et d'autre part, de l'amélioration des conditions sociales des populations. Lisibles, les OMD ont facilité la mobilisation du grand public pour soutenir les actions entreprises et favoriser l'implication d'acteurs non gouvernementaux.

Portées par une conjoncture mondiale favorable, des avancées importantes ont été réalisées. Les résultats de plusieurs pays montrent que la réalisation des OMD est possible. Mais aujourd'hui, à mi-parcours, le bilan global est mitigé, comme cela a été souligné lors des tables rondes hier sur les OMD 1 à 6 (*éradication de la pauvreté et lutte contre la faim, éducation primaire, égalité des sexes et autonomisation des femmes, santé*). Si les efforts ne sont pas accrus dès maintenant, les écarts continueront à se creuser, marginalisant encore davantage d'importantes parties de la population mondiale.

Sept ans après leur adoption, les inégalités entre régions du monde se sont en effet creusées. En particulier, l'Afrique sub-saharienne a accumulé de nombreux retards et ne paraît pas sur la voie de réalisation des OMD en 2015, demeurant encore un peu plus à l'écart des opportunités offertes par la mondialisation. Par ailleurs, au sein même des pays où une amélioration sensible de la situation a été relevée, les gains obtenus en termes de développement n'ont pas permis de résorber l'extrême pauvreté d'une grande partie de la population.

\*\*\*

Monsieur le Président, je crois qu'il y a un large accord sur le constat que nous venons de dresser. Vous nous avez demandé d'aller plus loin et de réfléchir ensemble à la façon dont nous pourrions collectivement relever les défis auxquels est confrontée la réalisation des OMD – notamment ceux qui ont été discutés hier - d'ici 2015.

Il n'existe pas de réponse simple à cette question. Il va de soi que nous devons, tous, rester mobilisés pour mettre en œuvre les engagements pris depuis 2000. Ceci plaide pour la réaffirmation du partenariat global pour le développement, associant tous les acteurs, étatiques et non gouvernementaux (société civile, ONG, acteurs locaux, etc...) ainsi que déclinant les outils dont s'est dotés la communauté internationale (inscriptions budgétaires, secteur privé et financements innovants). L'analyse des résultats obtenus jusqu'à présent suggère quelques pistes concrètes dans lesquelles nous pourrions orienter notre action pour aller de l'avant dans la lutte contre la pauvreté, la promotion d'une croissance économique durable et partagée ainsi que l'émergence d'une mondialisation plus humaine, plus équitable et plus responsable.

Ma délégation souhaite mettre l'accent sur trois éléments interdépendants.

Premièrement, les OMD ne seront pas atteints par une stratégie uniforme mais par des actions répondant aux besoins spécifiques de développement de chaque région du monde, en utilisant l'ensemble des outils à notre disposition. Il convient en particulier d'accorder la priorité à l'inclusion, dans les stratégies nationales, de mesures volontaristes et adaptées au bénéfice des plus vulnérables. La France réaffirme à cet égard, sa volonté d'accompagner, à titre national et au sein de l'Union Européenne, les efforts réalisés par les pays en développement dans ce domaine.

Deuxièmement, nous devons prendre pleinement en compte le fait que les OMD ne sont pas en eux-mêmes des facteurs de développement, mais des indicateurs devant orienter l'action de la communauté internationale. Ces indicateurs ne peuvent être appréhendés séparément : ce sont des facettes différentes d'une même réalité. La réussite des uns conditionne celle des autres, nécessitant donc une approche globale du développement, équilibrée entre les besoins sociaux et les besoins économiques. Comment, par exemple, réduire l'extrême pauvreté et lutter contre la faim sans tenir compte de l'impact de la santé, du planning familial, du stockage de l'eau, de la diversification de l'économie, etc. ? A cet égard, il convient de ne pas isoler de façon spécifique certains des OMD.

Par ailleurs, la réalisation des OMD doit s'inscrire dans la durée. C'est de la qualité des actions entreprises pour les réaliser que dépendra leur pérennisation. Et cette qualité est inséparable d'une approche systémique du développement. Comment rendre durable en effet les résultats obtenus dans la réalisation des OMD 4, 5 et 6 (mortalité infantile, santé maternelle, lutte contre le VIH/SIDA, la tuberculose et le paludisme) s'ils ne s'appuient pas sur des systèmes de santé efficaces et complets ?

Cela nous mène à notre troisième remarque. Les OMD ne pourront être réalisés de façon durable en faisant abstraction de conditions plus larges du développement, telles la promotion d'une croissance économique équitable et partagée ainsi que la réalisation d'une meilleure gouvernance, incluant en particulier la promotion des droits de l'homme, la mise en place d'un Etat de droit, la défense de l'égalité entre les hommes et les femmes. En effet, sans croissance économique ni véritable gouvernance, il ne sera pas possible de créer les conditions d'un cycle vertueux permettant aux projets mis en œuvre de devenir autonomes et pérennes. C'est la raison pour laquelle le Président de la République a rappelé, au Cap, que la France maintiendrait son engagement financier pour la réalisation des OMD, mais de façon plus ciblée pour favoriser l'accélération de la croissance économique.

Enfin, l'objectif d'une croissance durable et partagée n'est réalisable qu'en prenant en compte la problématique grandissante du changement climatique (atténuation d'une part, adaptation d'autre part)). L'atteinte des OMD et les défis environnementaux sont deux combats intimement liés et qui doivent être menés de front.

\*\*\*

Monsieur le Président, ma délégation vous remercie pour avoir organisé cette réunion d'examen à mi-parcours des objectifs 1 à 6. L'inaction n'est pas une option et nous devons aller au-delà. La France va travailler de façon approfondie avec tous ses partenaires dans la perspective des prochaines échéances sur l'ensemble des sujets clefs du développement (efficacité de l'aide, financements du développement, dont financements innovants, besoins spécifiques de développement en Afrique) et de la revue complète des OMD prévue pour septembre. Il en va de notre avenir commun mais aussi de la crédibilité de notre organisation. Plus que jamais, le système des Nations Unies doit s'appuyer à la fois sur le développement, la paix et la sécurité et les droits de l'homme./.





## **Statement of the Group of 77 and China**

by

**H.E. Ms. Joanne Massiah**  
**Minister of Agriculture, Lands, Marine Resources and Agro Industry**  
**Antigua and Barbuda**

**United Nations General Assembly**  
**Thematic Debate on the MDGs**

*Wednesday, 2<sup>nd</sup> April, 2008*

*Please check against delivery.*



H.E. Mr. Srgjan Kerim, President of the General Assembly;  
H.E. Mr. Ban Ki-moon, Secretary General of the United Nations;  
Honorable Ministers;  
Distinguished Representatives;  
Ladies and gentlemen;

I have the honor to deliver this statement on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

Mr. President,

1. As we surpass the midway point between the Millennium Declaration and target dates of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), it is important to note that developing countries in general have made substantial progress in achieving critical development targets. Yet, much work remains to be done if the development goals and their corresponding targets, as envisaged by the declaration of world leaders in 2000, are to be met by 2015.

Mr. President,

2. Much of this lagging behind in the expected progress towards the MDGs is the result of insufficient resources to tackle emerging as well as longstanding challenges to development. At the International Conference on Financing for Development in Monterrey in 2002, leaders from both developed and developing countries started to match development commitments with resources and action, generating a global agreement in which sustained reform by developing countries would be matched by direct support from the developed world in the form of aid, trade, debt relief and investment. This reinforced, and served as a reminder of, the shared responsibility of developed and developing countries in achieving the Millennium Development Goals.
3. Understanding our share of responsibility in achieving the MDGs, the Group of 77 and China acknowledges that a lot has been done to create enabling domestic environments for the achievement of MDGs, and efforts are on the way to make even greater progress. Yet we are being held back by a woeful failure to meet commitments.

Mr. President,

4. Despite the progress made by developing countries, commitments to increase the provision of resources have not been fulfilled. There is a commitment to collaborate on international resource mobilization, but the international financial environment is still not transparent, stable or predictable.

- There is a commitment to collaborate on trade, but despite improvements in the agricultural sector of developing countries, agricultural subsidies in developed countries still persist;
- There is a commitment to collaborate on increasing the coherence and sustainability of international systems, but the development efforts from the BWIs, WTO and other international financial institutions remain disconcerted and incoherent;
- There is a commitment to collaborate on financial and technical cooperation, but official development assistance (ODA) levels, as a percent of Gross National Product (GNP), have decreased despite improved absorptive capacities in developing countries.

Mr. President,

5. The Group wishes to place a special emphasis on Official Development Assistance to developing countries as indispensable in achieving the Millennium Development Goals. Despite promises of an additional \$50 billion in ODA, declining numbers in 2007 along with heavy reliance on debt cancellation, which is funded with and detracts from ODA resources, are of serious concern. The forthcoming review of the Monterrey Conference on Financing for Development, to be held in Doha this year, will provide a valuable opportunity to evolve agreement on a comprehensive and effective approach to meet the resource requirements for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.
6. Furthermore, if global poverty is to fall to levels required to reach the MDGs by 2015, global GDP growth must remain at, or exceed, current annual levels of 3.5%. In addition, to ensure that all developing countries make progress, global economic growth must reach the poorest. However, a global economic slowdown that originated in the developed world forecasts a possible recession, falling commodity prices and fluctuations in the international financial markets that threaten to stagnate growth and further marginalize the poorest. Thus, it is also critical for international financial institutions to increase efforts to establish adequate financial strategies for developing countries that are vulnerable to economic crises, particularly the countries in Africa, Least Developed Countries (LDCs), Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS). This can prevent a reversal of progress towards the MDGs caused by global instability.

Mr. President,

7. The task of achieving the MDGs by 2015 is a shared responsibility among all stakeholders. The Group of 77 and China continues to call for concrete focus on the lack of progress on MDG 8 - Global Partnership for Development.

8. So far, developing country policies and practices have been systematically scrutinized while the shortcomings in the commitments of developed countries have been weakly, if at all, emphasized, and rarely quantified. Moreover, we are concerned at ongoing efforts to alter the MDG monitoring framework mid-way to 2015, more so as the proposed changes only cover MDGs 1 to 7. For the world to have any chance in transforming the current status quo of human underdevelopment, the monitoring framework must be consistent throughout the entire initiative and the burden of scrutiny must apply to all stakeholders. Therefore, we highlight the need to generate an intergovernmental agreement to develop a monitoring mechanism to track and promote implementation of goals and commitments by all stakeholders; and we call for greater consistency in effectively monitoring the implementation of the Internationally-agreed Development Goals, including the Millennium Development Goal (MDGs).
9. Developed countries must be evaluated not only in their implementation of the Monterrey Consensus as the mechanism that ensures the resources necessary to achieve the goals, but also in the progress made on MDG 8, which unfortunately, holds no clear benchmarks to monitor its implementation. Therefore, the Group calls on the UN and its relevant bodies to contribute to the elaboration of a comprehensive matrix of the commitments made under MDG 8 and specific benchmarks to facilitate monitoring of its implementation.

Mr. President,

10. Making MDG 8 work for the most vulnerable countries, and particularly for countries in Africa, is a priority concern of the Group. There seems to be no coordinated thinking or work on addressing how the potential of MDG 8 can be systematically harnessed, tracked or monitored to support development in general, and in Africa in particular. Therefore, convinced that the High Level Session on Africa's Development Needs "will constitute a significant event that will review the implementation of all commitments made to and by Africa in order to comprehensively address the special development needs of the continent", the Group commends the holding of this important session to take place in September of this year, prior to the debate of the General Assembly's 63<sup>rd</sup> Session.
11. In conclusion, Mr. President, monitoring progress on the MDGs without concrete and comprehensive progress on commitments, without consistent monitoring throughout the entire initiative and without clear benchmarks for MDG 8 is denying the essential shared responsibility among all stakeholders for the achievement of the goals. The Group hopes that out of this discussion in the UN General Assembly will come renewed and invigorated efforts to close the implementation gap left by unfulfilled commitments.

Thank you Mr. President.

**Statement by H.E. Ambassador Martin Ney,  
Deputy Permanent Representative of the Federal Republic of  
Germany  
to the United Nations,  
at the General Assembly Thematic Debate  
on the Millennium Development Goals  
New York**

Germany fully aligns itself with the statement delivered by Slovenia on behalf of the European Union. It is only to underpin Germany's vigorous and determined commitment to the MDGs that I wish to make a few points from a national perspective.

Germany is committed to support the fight against poverty throughout the world and in this context remains committed to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and the other internationally agreed Development Goals. We welcome the opportunity at this "midterm event" to take stock of achievements, identify gaps, reinforce commitments and redouble efforts to reach the MDGs.

The EU is not only by far the biggest donor of ODA, it also has set concrete ODA targets, which have been translated into the EU-Barcelona commitments. Germany has fulfilled these commitments in the past and

will continue to work towards reaching 0,51% in 2010 and 0.7% in 2015 through budget resources, debt relief and innovative financing mechanisms.

Within the G8, Germany is an engine for development. It was on the initiative of the German government, that in 1999 at the G8 summit meeting in Cologne the HIPC initiative to reduce the debt burden on highly indebted poor countries was extended, becoming the enhanced HIPC initiative or HIPC II. More recently, the G8 summit in Heiligendamm rallied support for the achievement of the MDGs with a special focus on Africa. Facing the global nature of the most pressing challenges, the G8 has invited emerging major economies to cooperate more closely on solutions, including explicitly the achievement of the MDGs in Africa. We are confident that the coming G8-presidencies will continue on this path Japan has already defined the achievement of the MDGs as one of the main themes of this year's G8 summit. We pledge our full support.

Our debate in the General Assembly has made clear: all actors need to work together in order to achieve the MDGs: national governments from both, donor and recipient countries, multilateral institutions, civil society and the private sector. It has also shown: the MDGs are inextricably interlinked. The goal on education for example can not be achieved when you deny girls and women their rights. On the contrary, we strongly believe that gender equality and the political and economic empowerment of women (MDG3) are essential contributions to enhancing the effectiveness of aid and realise poverty reduction and inclusive growth.

Against this background Germany actively supports the “MDG 3 Global Call to Action” and the German Federal Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development, Heidemarie Wieczorek-Zeul, has joined the MDG3 Champion Network.

One of *the* focal issues of this thematic debate, however, is “poverty and hunger”. Reducing poverty worldwide will remain one of the guiding principles of German development policy, in fact it is its overarching task. We are fully aware that efforts both at national and multilateral level must be strengthened to reach the goal of substantive poverty reduction.

The second theme – education - is high on Germany's development agenda as well. We are fully committed to MDG 2 and are involved in the fast track initiative. For Germany, this includes not only a focus on promoting primary education; it also encompasses the development of vocational training and higher education and in the field of education for sustainable development. Within the framework of the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (2005-2014) the UNESCO World Conference on the subject will be held in spring 2009 in Germany.

Thirdly, with regard to health, just as an example of our engagement, I would like to point at the highly successful replenishment meeting of the “Global Fund”, which Germany hosted in September 2007. Germany doubled its contributions to the Global Fund and pledged US \$ 850 million. Furthermore, Germany and the Fund conceived the debt2health initiative. Under a Debt2Health agreement, creditors forgo repayment of a portion of their sovereign debts on the condition that the beneficiary country invests

an agreed upon amount in health through a Global Fund–approved programme.

Having said this, I want to reiterate, that Germany fully shares what has been expressed already in the EU statement: Volume and quality of ODA are important factors in our support to partners in achieving the MDGs. The partnership principles of the Paris Declaration, such as ownership, alignment, harmonisation, management for results and mutual accountability are equally essential for the achievement of the MDGs. They are fundamental to German and EU development policy.

Thank you!



# GHANA



PERMANENT MISSION OF GHANA  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS  
19 EAST 47TH STREET  
NEW YORK, N.Y. 10017  
TEL. 212-832-1300 • FAX 212-751-6743

Please check against delivery

## STATEMENT

BY

**HIS EXCELLENCY MR. LESLIE KOJO CHRISTIAN  
AMBASSADOR AND PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE  
OF GHANA TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

AT THE

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY THEMATIC DEBATE  
"RECOGNIZING THE ACHIEVEMENTS, ADDRESSING THE  
CHALLENGES AND GETTING BACK ON TRACK  
TO ACHIEVE THE MDGS BY 2015"**

NEW YORK, APRIL 2, 2008

Mr. President,

My delegation wishes to commend you for organizing this debate on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Your efforts together with the various initiatives, especially the MDG Africa launched by the Secretary-General, and currently headed by the Deputy Secretary-General, are testimonies of your commitment to the United Nations' development agenda.

Ghana aligns itself to the statement delivered by the distinguished representative of Antigua and Barbuda on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

Mr. President, world leaders, through the Millennium Declaration in 2000, resolved to confront the challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, and assured humanity, particularly those in the developing world that in a technology-rich and prosperous twenty-first century, no human being should be dying of malnutrition or preventable diseases, or be deprived of education or access to basic health care while living in a healthier environment.

For the past few years we have had an incredible experience with the absolute number of people in poverty falling, growth accelerating in most developing countries, and globalization deepening. Undoubtedly, there has been progress. Debt cancellation and aid increases have helped to put over 20 million more African children into schools. The proportion of the world's population living on less than \$1 a day has fallen from a nearly a third to a fifth. In particular, a number of African countries have achieved impressive results in some of these areas.

Ghana's economy, for instance, is benefiting from increased growth underpinned by anti-inflationary monetary policy and fiscal consolidation. The business environment has improved and was recently rated by the World Bank as among the top ten reformers in facilitating business. This has increased investor confidence in the economy and the prospects of attaining our long-term goal of becoming a middle income country are gradually but steadily becoming brighter.

In a situation like this it is tempting for us to say that we are doing better and possibly become complacent. But the fact is that we are not moving fast enough to meet the MDGs by 2015.

Despite the dramatic progress, the end of poverty is not imminent. In Africa and other developing countries with extreme poverty and low-income and countries in conflict, only modest gains are expected. Indications are that by 2015 some 720 million people will still remain on the threshold of extreme poverty, subsisting on less than \$1 a day. Deep poverty, at \$2 a day, will remain widespread, with numbers staying close to 2 billion people. Many countries, including some middle-income countries, will make only limited advances toward the non-income Millennium Development Goals, including on child mortality and malnutrition.

In Ghana while there is general decline in poverty levels, urban poverty remains a daunting challenge; infant and child mortality rates are still miles away from the desired level, and malaria continues to be a major cause of mortality and morbidity in the country. These conditions are further exacerbated by the mass exodus of our doctors and other health professionals to other countries.

Ghana recognizes that each country has a primary responsibility for its own development. We believe that promoting good governance and pursuing sound economic policies are crucial for creating a business-friendly environment to attract both domestic and external private investment. But Mr. President, we are also not oblivious to the fact in our globalized and interdependent world, external conditions and policies have a direct bearing on the effectiveness and policy space available for designing a country's development strategies.

We need a strong global partnership where international policies complement national efforts to promote pro-poor growth. That makes MDG8 more relevant and urgent than ever. We need a global partnership for development that stretches beyond governments and politicians, to harness the talents of NGOs, businesses, faith groups, among others. We will not reach our objectives unless we act together and as the Secretary General noted a few years ago, success will require sustained action across the entire period between now and the target year of 2015.

The Monterrey Consensus and the outcomes of major United Nations conferences and summits provide effective multi-stakeholder mechanisms to foster rapid and substantial progress in achieving the Millennium Development Goals and other internationally agreed development goals.

For instance, international trade carries enormous potential for reducing poverty worldwide and driving economic growth. It has been estimated that a mere 1% to 2% increase in developing countries' share of world exports would lift about 120 million people out of poverty. But the current global trading system discriminates against developing countries and hinders poor country participation in the global economy.

However, as we speak, there is still uncertainty about achieving an equitable and development-oriented trading system in the Doha negotiations. Agricultural and non-agricultural market access, trade-distorting subsidies as well as tariff and non-tariff barriers continue to affect the earning opportunities for farmers and rural communities in poor countries.

The achievements made by several developing countries are clear indications that progress towards the MDGs is possible when national efforts and leadership in pursuit of sound policies and strategies towards poverty reduction are complemented by the international community with adequate financial and technical support.

For the international community some clear priorities for action will include ensuring that slower growing low-income countries in Sub-Saharan Africa and elsewhere fully participate in—and benefit from—the globalization process. We have an opportunity this year during the UNCTAD XII in Accra, Ghana, to focus our deliberations on how to spread the benefits of globalization more equitably so that no countries or peoples are left behind. UNCTAD XII will also offer a platform for decision-makers to tackle current and pressing issues such as energy security, migration and seek appropriate policy responses to our development challenges.

We also believe that the international financial markets and the global aid architecture need some attention. Most developing countries are still unable to regularly access private capital at low cost and many remain vulnerable to the risks of financial crisis. We also hope that participants will use the Accra Conference on Aid Effectiveness in September this year to take up the promise of the Paris Declaration more seriously to really ensure greater aid effectiveness that will put aid recipients in control of their development strategy and related development spending.

### **Getting back on track**

The synthesis of what has been learnt over the past 50 years from different development strategies should lead to a more pragmatic approach to development policies, and more on the country-specific setting. Poverty reduction programmes should be less dogmatic and less driven by strong and excessively detailed donor-imposed conditionalities. Embracing this complexity and developing the appropriate knowledge and analytical tools hold the promise for overcoming the errors of the past and making development policies much more effective in reducing poverty.

Let us focus on making the Doha Round deliver the promised benefits for development. Rich countries must deliver on the MDG8 commitments—well in advance of 2015—if poor countries are to have any chance of meeting the other Goals. Similarly, we believe national governments have the responsibility to provide a supportive environment through sound governance and economic policies.

We must hold governments in both the North and the South to their Millennium pledges. We must resolve now to refuse to miss this historic opportunity to put an end to poverty!



*Permanent Mission of Guatemala to the United Nations*  
57 Park Avenue New York, NY. 10016 Tel. (212) 679-4760 Fax. (212) 685-8741  
E-Mail: [guatemala@un.int](mailto:guatemala@un.int)

(Check against delivery)

**Statement by**  
**Mr. Mario Rolando Pivaral Muñoz**  
Vice minister for Global and Sectoral Policies of the Secretariat of Planning and  
Programming of the Presidency of the Republic of Guatemala

**Thematic Debate:**  
**“Recognizing the achievements, addressing the challenges and getting back on  
track to achieve the MDGs by 2015”**

I thank you, President of the 62<sup>o</sup> General Assembly, H.E. Sr. Srgjan Kerim, for the invitation to participate in this important thematic debate, which will allow us to understand different positions on this subject and an exchange of experiences that is always beneficial to expand our vision of the work of the United Nations in the field of development. Before I begin however, I would like to associate myself with the statement given by Antigua y Barbuda, on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, as well as the one given by Mexico, on behalf of the Rio Group.

Mr. President,

In the year 2000, Heads of State of the member States of United Nations made a commitment in the Millennium Declaration, to achieve eight objectives now known at the Millennium Development Goals. These objectives coincide completely with the Peace Accords signed by the State of Guatemala in 1996. They also constitute a compromise between developed and developing countries to progress in a sustainable way towards the year 2015.

The Report of Advance toward the Millennium Development Goals in Guatemala, prepared by the Secretariat of Planning and Programming of the Presidency (SEGEPLAN) concludes that our country can achieve most of the MDGs in 2015, if we are able to have three conditions:

- We must accelerate the rhythm of inclusive economic growth and sustain it till 2015, in other words, economic growth of the sectors where most of our population works in conditions of poverty, like agriculture for example;
- We must take on complementary policies of income redistribution, and
- We must invest in a group of social policies of proven effectiveness that must be highly coordinated between them.

Mr. President,

Poverty and inequality must not be approached in an isolated way by each actor or sector, rather, it is only through coordinated execution of policies for economic growth that generate employment in the poorest regions, and effective, focused social policies for the most needy, that we will find a sustainable way out of the social, economic and political exclusion where more than half of the Guatemalan population currently finds itself.

Our report is innovative because it considers the role that cultural diversity and gender play in achieving the Millennium Development Goals, evidencing the close relationship between reaching these Goals and overcoming cultural and ethnic discrimination, as well as that between men and women.

Mr. President,

We have achieved important strides in education, health and construction of the institutions that development can build upon. In education, we have achieved significant increases in the net rate of enrolment, while still facing the challenge of increasing scholar achievement for children, in other words, that every child that starts Elementary School finishes it successfully. In the year 2008, we assigned 8% more of the budget for investment in educational resources than in previous years. When it comes to health goals, one of our biggest achievements is the reduction of infant mortality by 50%.

However, 10 years after signing the Peace Accords, we still face challenges to consolidate rule of law and deepen democracy, which is why it becomes necessary to transform these indicators of health, education and mortality into processes of net poverty reduction, the biggest challenge faced by our country when it comes to the MDGs. For 2008 we have an 18.7 % rate of extreme poverty, compared to the 21.5 % rate of 2004.

Finally, the Report confirms that the relevance of bigger democratization at the international level, especially in the area of access to decision-making in the many fora of international governance, the access to free trade, especially in the area of agriculture, the access to better public and external private financing, as well as access to technology. In short, we need the conditions that will facilitate the conjugation of countries' internal efforts with a genuine partnership with the principal developed economies.

Upon closing Mr. President, I share with you some political guidelines of our Government, within the framework of the Peace Accords that will globally contribute to the achievement of the MDGs. Our Government Plan for 2008-2012, and a longer term vision in our "Plan of Hope 2008-2032", a plan of social and economic development that prioritizes social cohesion, where productivity, solidarity, competitiveness and regionalization, will be the pillars of the development implemented in 2008-2012.

Thank you



MISSION PERMANENTE DE LA RÉPUBLIQUE DE GUINÉE  
AUPRÈS DE L' ORGANISATION DES NATIONS UNIES  
140 EAST 39TH STREET  
NEW YORK, NY 10016

TEL: (212) 687-8115 • FAX: (212) 687-8248

**Soixante-deuxième Session de l'Assemblée générale  
des Nations Unies**

**Intervention de Son Excellence Monsieur Alpha Ibrahima SOW,  
Ambassadeur, Représentant permanent de la République de  
Guinée auprès des Nations Unies à New York au Débat thématique  
de l'Assemblée générale intitulé "Constater les progrès, affronter  
les difficultés et redresser le cap afin d'atteindre les Objectifs du  
Millénaire pour le Développement d'ici à 2015".**

**(New York 3 Avril 2008)**

**S.V.P. Vérifier à l'audition**

Monsieur le Président,

Ma délégation s'associe aux déclarations faites par Antigua-et-barbuda et la République Démocratique du Congo au nom, respectivement, du Groupe des 77 et de la Chine et du Groupe africain.

A mi-chemin de l'horizon 2015, l'occasion est opportune, pour mon pays de jeter un regard critique sur le chemin parcouru et d'évaluer l'immensité des efforts restant à fournir pour la réalisation des deux premiers objectifs du Millénaire pour le développement.

D'une manière générale, les données contenues dans les deux premiers rapports nationaux sur les OMD adoptés en 2002 et 2005, mettent en évidence des résultats mitigés :

1. En termes réels, le taux de croissance du PIB a été de 1,2 % en 2003 et 2,7 % en 2004, contre un taux d'accroissement annuel moyen de la population estimée à 3,1 %. Selon des estimations officielles, le PIB par habitant passe de 379 USD en 2002 à 332 USD en 2006. A un moment où l'inflation atteint des proportions inquiétantes passant de 6,1 % en 2002 à 39,1 % en 2006 en glissement annuel. Ce qui affaiblit considérablement le pouvoir d'achat des populations, aggrave les inégalités et fait passer la part de la population vivant au dessous du seuil de pauvreté à 53,6 % en 2005, contre 49 % en 2002.

La prévalence de l'insuffisance pondérable (malnutrition chronique) des enfants de moins de 5 ans passe de 23 à 20 % et celle du taux d'émaciation (malnutrition aiguë) recule de 9 à 11,2 %.

Si la tendance macroéconomique de ces dernières années persiste et l'aggravation de la pauvreté n'est pas maîtrisée, la Guinée ne sera pas en mesure d'atteindre les cibles fixées pour la réduction de la pauvreté extrême et de la pauvreté.



2. Dans le domaine de l'éducation, des progrès importants ont été néanmoins réalisés. Ainsi dans l'enseignement primaire, le taux brut de scolarisation (TBS) a augmenté de 16 points sur la période de 2001, passant de 62 à 78 %. Le taux d'achèvement du cycle primaire, qui était de 27 % en 2000/2001, a atteint 60 % en 2005/2006. Avec la tendance actuelle, si les perspectives de réalisation d'un taux brut de scolarisation de 100 % sont réelles, celles d'atteindre un cycle primaire complet ne pourront être couvertes qu'à 83,7 % à l'horizon 2015.

Des améliorations significatives ont été également enregistrées en ce qui concerne l'élimination des disparités entre les sexes : entre 2001/2002 et 2003/2004, le ratio filles/garçons est passé de 0,72 à 0,76 % au niveau primaire et de 0,41 à 0,45 % au niveau secondaire. Si ce rythme est consolidé, il y a des chances d'atteindre la parité entre les sexes à la date butoir.

Ce bilan préoccupant s'explique aussi bien par la mauvaise gestion des ressources disponibles que par le contexte d'une évolution particulièrement contraignante ayant affecté la Guinée au cours des années 2000 - 2005. Confrontée aux conséquences drastiques de l'instabilité dans la sous-région, la Guinée qui abritait déjà sur son sol près d'un million de réfugiés, soit près du dixième de sa population, a dû également se battre pour neutraliser les assauts répétés d'attaques rebelles en 2000. Il en résulte une grave dégradation du cadre macro-économique du pays, de même qu'une suspension du programme avec le FMI et l'essoufflement de la dynamique de mise en œuvre de la stratégie nationale de réduction de la pauvreté.

Tout ceci explique les tensions sociales qui ont secoué le pays de mars 2006 à Février 2007, qui ont abouti à l'avènement d'un nouveau gouvernement placé sous l'autorité d'un Premier Ministre, Chef de gouvernement.

L'impulsion de l'action gouvernementale dans le sens de la consolidation de la paix sociale, de la relance des bases de la bonne gouvernance et du processus de développement du pays constitue un réel motif d'espoir pour le peuple de Guinée.

C'est ainsi qu'un deuxième document de stratégie de réduction de la pauvreté est élaboré et adopté qui servira de cadre d'opérationnalisation des OMD en Guinée pour la période 2007 -2010.

Dans ce cadre, les besoins de financement pour la réalisation des OMD sont estimés à 12,5 milliards de dollars US, soit 1,39 milliards par an sur une période de neuf ans.

Cet Objectif est ambitieux mais il reste à la hauteur des défis à relever pour permettre à la Guinée d'inverser la tendance actuelle, de redresser le cap et de réaliser les OMD à la date de 2015.

Depuis sa mise en place en mars 2007, le nouveau gouvernement a réussi à relancer le dialogue sociopolitique et restaurer la stabilité économique, notamment en améliorant le taux de change du franc guinéen, en réduisant de 40 à 12,8 % le taux d'inflation et à renouer avec les Institutions financières internationales, surtout avec le FMI. La signature d'un accord formel avec le FMI ouvre les portes de la coopération entre la Guinée et ses partenaires de développement et à l'allègement de la dette dans le cadre de la mise en œuvre de l'initiative renforcée pour les pays pauvres très endettés.

Le gouvernement guinéen, avec un degré de réussite louable, s'emploie donc à l'amélioration de la gouvernance et de l'état de droit, à lutter de manière hardie contre la corruption et la mauvaise gestion des ressources publiques, tout en assurant la conduite efficace des programmes de développement.

Il espère, en contrepartie une forte mobilisation de ses partenaires sociaux et de développement, en vue de l'allègement des conditionnalités, l'amélioration de la coordination et de la cohérence des interventions, ainsi que le renforcement des capacités institutionnelles et humaines pour la réduction des entraves au commerce et à la compétitivité de l'économie nationale, tant au niveau local qu'international.

Pour terminer, je voudrais, au nom de la République de Guinée, renouveler notre reconnaissance au Président de l'Assemblée générale et au Secrétaire général de notre Organisation pour l'action résolue et novatrice qu'ils déploient pour garantir la mise en œuvre, dans les délais impartis, des Objectifs du Millénaire pour le Développement, partout dans le monde, singulièrement en Afrique.

Je vous remercie.



# STATEMENT

BY

**MR. GEORGE TALBOT, CHARGÉ D' AFFAIRES a.i.  
PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF GUYANA  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

**AT THE THEMATIC DEBATE**

**ON**

**THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS ENTITLED:  
"RECOGNIZING THE ACHIEVEMENTS, ADDRESSING THE  
CHALLENGES AND GETTING BACK ON TRACK  
TO ACHIEVE THE MDGs BY 2015"**

**SIXTY SECOND SESSION OF THE  
UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**NEW YORK, APRIL 3, 2008**

Mr. President:

Your initiative to convene a thematic debate on the MDGs is most timely and welcome. Guyana is pleased to contribute to the deliberations on these important issues. In doing so, my delegation associates itself fully with the statements delivered by the representatives of Antigua and Barbuda and Mexico on behalf of the Group of 77 and China and the Rio Group respectively.

The MDGs are an important dimension of the international development agenda. They represent a key focus of global efforts to build a better world in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: one where people everywhere live in dignity, free from want and fear, and in an environment protected from the ravages of human activity.

The MDGs that are the subject of today's debate, those related to hunger and poverty, education and health, represent areas where progress is especially urgent. They are also integrally linked with achievements in respect of other goals, particularly those related to the empowerment of women, environmental sustainability and the strengthening of the global partnership.

Mr. President:

The theme of our present debate aptly captures our shared recognition of the fact that progress towards achievement of the MDGs on the whole is currently off-track. And this despite the many instances of successful interventions related by various countries and stakeholders, and the fact that the international community has the means to address the gaps that persist. As the background paper notes, as many as 143 million children under 5 in the developing world continue to suffer from inadequate nutrition. In a 65 trillion dollar world economy, such a situation is no less than a call to action. At the midpoint en route to 2015, our actions must be imbued with a new sense of the urgency and our partnerships with a renewed vitality to ensure we get back on track.

Speaking from a national perspective, the Guyana MDGs Report 2007 summarizes the progress that Guyana has made recently in implementing strategies and interventions towards the achievement of the MDGs.

The Report reveals that Guyana has made modest and uneven progress in recent years towards attaining the MDGs. The country has attained near universal primary education but attention to some dimensions such as improving the percentage of trained teachers and the student-teacher ratios continue to be necessary. The retention of trained teachers, many of whom have been lost to developed countries and other regions is also a major challenge.

Guyana is also on track to achieve targets in relation to the eradication of extreme hunger, promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women and ensuring environmental sustainability. Urgent efforts are needed to make

the attainment of targets in relation to the eradication of extreme poverty and combating HIV-AIDS more likely, as well as to consolidate the impressive gains made recently towards eliminating the threat of Malaria. On the other hand, should current trends continue, achieving the targets set for reducing child mortality, improving maternal health and combating other major diseases may prove elusive.

The attainment of the MDGs in Guyana remains firmly anchored in its Poverty Reduction Strategy. The level of success in countering significant structural economic challenges and maintaining favourable national economic conditions overall will directly impact the prospects for attainment of the goals by the country. At the centre of these endeavours is the need to improve agricultural production and productivity. Guyana's experience indicates that sustained economic growth remains a necessary if not sufficient condition to ensure progress towards the MDGs.

Indeed, a number of further lessons can be drawn from the MDG experience that bear mention in our debate. Firstly, significant progress is possible with the scaling-up of assistance and efforts. As a HIPC country, Guyana benefited from significant multilateral and bilateral debt relief. The substantial decline in debt servicing has afforded Guyana the opportunity to channel increasingly more of its resources towards its poverty reduction agenda. The higher level of investment in the social sectors has provided the basis for the more positive trends in achievement. The PMTCT (Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission) Programme, facilitated with assistance from the United States Government through the PEPFAR Programme, provides a good example of the impact of scaled-up external assistance. Before the initiation of the PMTCT Programme in Guyana in 2001, 35 percent of children born to infected mothers were also born with the HIV-AIDS virus. By 2005, in areas where PMTCT is accessible the percentage had been lowered to an average of five percent.

Secondly, the extent of progress is currently circumscribed mainly by the lack of resources and issues of sustainability as many of the posts in the successful programmes are externally funded. There have been notable shortfalls in donor pledges and disbursement of financial resources to implement the PRS. For instance, from 2003 - 2006 Guyana had received just one-fifth of the amount pledged and needed for support to achieve the MDGs. Important resource gaps have been identified. The additional resources that are required are beyond the capacity of Guyana's current macro-economic programme. The gap between resource commitments and disbursements needs to be closed as a matter of urgency.

Mr. President:

A third lesson is that holistic approach remains the best guarantee of achievement: while there are many opportunities and challenges, it is often difficult to take advantage of opportunities unless interrelated challenges have

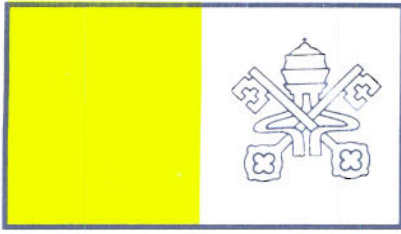
been addressed. Interestingly, one of the more formidable of Guyana's challenges in meeting the MDGs is the problem of reducing the incidence of communicable diseases. It was widely accepted that our country had overcome the challenge posed by Tuberculosis many years ago. However, with the emergence of the HIV-AIDS epidemic, the incidence of Tuberculosis has resurfaced – to the extent that it is now a foremost public health challenge. In this instance, treating with Tuberculosis effectively is intricately linked to dealing with the challenge from HIV-AIDS, which is itself linked to many other socio-economic aspects.

Be that as it may, Guyana's critical challenges include addressing impediments to economic growth, including the maintenance of debt sustainability, strengthening agricultural production and productivity, addressing capacity building needs and obstacles to resource absorption, optimizing the resource envelope, coping with rapidly rising prices for basic food items, improving monitoring and evaluation methods, addressing the competing priorities like those of climate change, dealing with crime and security and exogenous shocks, mainstreaming gender issues and developing a national strategy for achieving the MDGs in Guyana.

The challenge from climate change is especially deserving of attention. For a country like Guyana which is below sea-level and subject to frequent floods and where nearly sixty percent of GDP in economic loss was suffered as a result of the last major inundation in 2005, care has to be taken to ensure that meeting the real challenge posed from climate change does not exacerbate the competition for resources to be devoted to the MDGs.

In closing, my delegation wishes to underscore the fact that many gaps persist in the global effort to ensure achievement of the MDGs by 2015. One such is the relatively limited attention accorded to agriculture and food security. As the World Bank has noted, about 70 percent of the MDGs' target group live in rural areas, particularly in Asia and Africa. For most of the rural poor, including in countries such as my own, agriculture is a crucial component in the successful attainment of the MDGs. Increased global investment in agriculture and food security is essential to the success of the MDG agenda.

I thank you.



# HOLY SEE

PERMANENT OBSERVER MISSION OF THE HOLY SEE TO THE UNITED NATIONS 25 EAST 39th STREET, NEW YORK, NY 10016-0903 (212) 370-7885

**Check against delivery**

**Statement by H.E. Archbishop Celestino Migliore  
Apostolic Nuncio  
Permanent Observer of the Holy See**

**62<sup>nd</sup> session of the  
United Nations General Assembly**

**Thematic Debate entitled  
“Recognizing the achievements, addressing the  
challenges and getting back on track  
to achieve the MDGs by 2015”**

**New York, 3 April 2008**

Mr. President,

In the year 2000, in this very Hall, Heads of State and of Government agreed on an ambitious, yet needed, set of global development goals to be achieved by 2015. At halfway point, while much has been done towards achieving the goals, abject poverty, hunger, illiteracy and lack of even the most basic healthcare are still rampant, indeed worsening in some regions. Tackling these challenges that continue to afflict hundreds of millions remains, therefore, at the very centre of our concerns.

Authoritative studies tell us that in spite of the remarkable economic growth in many developing countries, the overall goal of reducing hunger and poverty has remained elusive.

My delegation believes that greater international solidarity is necessary if we are to succeed in narrowing the ever-increasing gap between rich and poor countries and between individuals within countries. While international aid is important, a fairer international trade environment - including addressing market-distorting practices which disadvantage weaker economies - is even more decisive. In this regard, the importance of the upcoming Doha Review Conference cannot be stressed enough. The combined efforts to meet the 0.7% of ODA and to review trade and financing mechanisms on the one hand, and to end bad governance and internecine conflicts in recipient States on the other, will go a long way in lifting millions out of extreme poverty and hunger.

My delegation wishes to assure that the Holy See remains actively engaged in alleviating poverty and hunger, which are an offense against human dignity. It will not cease to highlight these basic needs, so that they remain at the centre of international attention and are addressed as a matter of social justice.

The Holy See is very pleased of the good progress towards achieving universal access to primary education, with some of the poorest regions seeing a dramatic increase in enrollment. However, without redoubled efforts, 58 countries may not achieve the goal of universal primary schooling by 2015.

Education underpins all the MDGs. It is the most effective tool to empower men and women to achieve greater social, economic and political freedom. Governments and civil society, public and private sectors, parents and teachers



must invest in the education of future generations to prepare them to face the challenges of an increasingly globalised society. In particular, utmost efforts must be made to give equal educational opportunities to boys and girls, and to ensure that no child is left behind for purely economic and social reasons. Precisely with this end in view, thousands of educational institutions of the Catholic Church are located in degraded inner cities and in far-flung villages, in the peripheries of huge cities and in places where children are constrained to work to survive.

The health-related MDGs also require our collective action. While progress has been made in reducing child mortality, there has been slower progress in addressing maternal health, HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis. The overriding cause of the slow progress has been the lack of resources at the most basic levels of healthcare and the continued lack of access to even basic health services. It has been long demonstrated that investing in primary healthcare, rather than in selective, culturally divisive and ideologically driven forms of health services, which camouflage the destruction of life among medical and social services, is one of the most cost effective and successful ways to improve the overall quality of life and the stability of families and communities.

Moreover, the lack of progress on the health-related goals demonstrates the interconnected and mutually reinforcing nature of the MDGs. The significant correlation between poverty and the persistent high levels of HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and maternal mortality is evident. My delegation wishes to assure that the Holy See, through its institutions, will continue to provide basic healthcare, with a preferential option for the most underserved and marginalized sectors of society.

This thematic debate halfway towards 2015 comes at this rather poignant time of the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. At the heart of both the UDHR and the MDGs is the goal of a better future for all. More than talks and summits, the achievement of this goal requires commitment and concrete action. Our common fight against extreme poverty, hunger, illiteracy and illnesses is not merely an act of generosity and altruism: it is a *conditio sine qua non* for a better future and a better world fit for all.

Thank you, Mr. President.



# **The Permanent Mission of Iceland to the United Nations**

**Statement by  
Ambassador Hjálmar W. Hannesson  
Permanent Representative of Iceland  
to the United Nations**

**“Recognizing the achievements, addressing the challenges  
and getting back on track to achieve the MDGs by 2015”**

**General Assembly thematic debate  
Sixty-second session**

New York, 2 April 2008

**iceland**

**First time candidate to the  
Security Council 2009-2010**

*CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY*

**[www.iceland.org/un/nyc](http://www.iceland.org/un/nyc)  
[www.iceland.org/securitycouncil](http://www.iceland.org/securitycouncil)**

Let me begin by thanking the President of the General Assembly for organizing this thematic debate on an issue that lies at the heart of this Organization, the Millennium Development Goals. We are halfway towards the year 2015, and we believe this is a good time for stocktaking and addressing thoroughly the challenges ahead.

The eight MDGs are not only equally important in themselves, but are also highly related and mutually reinforcing. Emphasizing poverty, education and health, will have a lasting effect on sustainable economic and social development.

We are not half way to the goal of halving poverty and hunger. Even though progress has been considerable in some regions, progress in others is seriously lagging behind. Sustained economic growth is a necessary premise for generating resources for the fight against poverty and hunger. The current downturn in the global economy is therefore particularly worrying. But economic growth is not a sufficient precondition for poverty eradication; we need a comprehensive approach to development, which will generate pro-poor growth that benefits all segments of society.

Iceland's development policy focuses on the poorest of the poor, and the greatest part of our bilateral Official Development Assistance (ODA) is targeted to the needs of LDCs. Recent hikes in the price of staple foods are particularly worrying. Food security has been an important aspect of our development cooperation, particularly related to the fisheries sector. We have also increased our emphasis on food security through increased support for the UN World Food Programme. We will continue to maintain our policy of channelling the largest share of our development cooperation to people living in extreme poverty and hunger.

The role of education in poverty reduction is undisputed, and education is an essential part of a comprehensive approach to development. It is important in this context that we focus both on the quantity, and the quality of education. Not only do we need to assist developing countries in facilitating access and enrolment at all levels; but we also need to give sufficient attention to important education results such as literacy and numeracy. Our firm belief that education is the key to success, has been the cornerstone of our national and international development policies.

Projects in this area have taken place at various levels, ranging from primary and adult education, to training and capacity building in fisheries in the partner countries, as well as support to higher education. Iceland hosts two of the United Nations University training programmes, the geothermal and fisheries training programmes.

Women play a fundamental role in sustainable development, and are too often – and sadly - the poorest of the poor. Experience has shown that support for the education, health and economic activities of women not only has a significant impact on their own lives and well-being, but has a multiplier effect for their communities. For this reason we have increasingly directed our development cooperation at gender specific projects. This has been done through our bilateral programmes in the partner countries and through support to the work of UNIFEM, and through other multilateral activities.

The WFP school feeding programme, one of the programmes that Iceland supports, is a good example of our combined work on poverty, education and health. In the year 2007 and 2008, Iceland's contribution will provide 45.000 children in Malawi and Uganda with nutritious daily meals at school, making it easier for them to concentrate and learn. An equal number of children attend primary school in Iceland.

The fact that three out of the eight Millennium Development Goals focus on health exemplifies the close link between health and development, and signifies the pressing need for assistance in this field. Poor health and lack of access to health facilities contributes to slow economic and social growth, as well as sustained poverty.

For these reasons the Icelandic International Development Agency (ICEIDA) has focused on supporting the health sector in its partner countries. In addition, Iceland has supported a number of multilateral efforts in this area, such as the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria. Iceland has also for years supported UNFPA's campaign against fistula.

The MDGs can only be achieved by forging a true global partnership. To conclude Mr. President, I would like to highlight the importance of the upcoming meeting in Doha in November on Financing for Development. We will not achieve our goals without increased financing from all available sources. The Government of Iceland stands ready to shoulder its responsibility. We aim to be among the top ODA contributors, our development assistance having doubled over the past four years.



# SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIET NAM

*Check against delivery*

## STATEMENT

**by H.E. Mr. BUI THE GIANG,  
Ambassador, Deputy Permanent Representative,  
at the U.N. General Assembly Thematic Debate  
on Millennium Development Goals**

*New York, 3 April 2008*

Mr. President,

At the outset, I would like to join previous speakers in thanking you for convening this important debate on the theme: "Recognizing the achievements, addressing the challenges, getting back on track to achieve the MDGs by 2015". My Delegation associates itself with the statement made earlier by the representative of Antigua and Barbuda, on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

Mr. President,

Reviewing the past half-way towards the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), we sincerely recognize the positive results recorded in many aspects of life throughout the world which have brought about improved livelihoods to millions of people, as reported in related discussion materials of this Conference. However, a closer look and more careful analysis of the challenges ahead of us, particularly those contained in background papers on Poverty and Hunger, Health and Education, reminds us all that much more remains to be done and greater effort is to be made if our promise to accomplish the 8 MDGs by 2015 is to be kept. The same line of thought applies to the case of Vietnam.

Mr. President,

Following the 2000 Millennium Declaration, with a high sense of responsibility, Vietnam localized the 8 MDGs into 12 Vietnam Development Goals to 2010, focusing on poverty elimination and social issues. And all-out efforts of the whole nation have been paid. The poverty rate was reduced sharply from 58.1% in 1993 to 24.1% in 2004 and 14.7% in 2007, allowing the country to attain **MDG-1** far ahead of schedule. Regarding **education**, with currently over 99% of 6-year old children going to primary schools, we are well-grounded to believe that Vietnam will achieve **MDG-2** during 2010-2015. As regards **gender equality and improved status for women**, noticeable is the significantly narrowed gender gap at all levels of education where female students have now accounted for at least 46.8% of enrollment, the enhanced role of women in the employment market, and the increased female membership in all spheres of operation. Vietnam remains the leader in Asia in terms of female parliamentary membership. It is therefore likely that Vietnam will fundamentally fulfill **MDG-3** before 2015. In the field of **health**, as of 2007, Vietnam succeeded in reducing the rates of maternal mortality to 80/100,000, of child mortality among the under-5s to 27.5/1,000 and the under-1s to 16/1,000. By cutting down 4.5 times of malaria morbidity and 9 times of malaria mortality during 1995 - 2004, Vietnam can now claim to have relatively effectively controlled this disease. With this in mind, we have reasons to be optimistic of achieving most of requirements set for **MDGs 4, 5 and 6**. However, the present rapid spread and complicated development of HIV/AIDS which has resulted in increasing numbers of HIV/AIDS carriers, and - more seriously - the continued trend of HIV/AIDS complication have combined drive us to the risk of failing in **MDG-6**.

Mr. President,

We are heartened to report to you that Vietnam has also scored positive gains in our effort to ensure **environmental sustainability**, through *inter alia* increasing forest land coverage by 0.6% annually, now accounting for 39% of the national land area; striving for 11.6% of natural land area to be conserved by 2010; doubling the rate of access to clean water supply by rural population; and raising the rate of urban waste collection to around 71%. In relation to the **establishment of global partnership for development**, following the foreign policy of openness and proactive international integration, we have done our best to reach out to the world; improve our policy and legal systems; further attract and better use external resources; closely cooperate with foreign partners in designing and realizing strategies on employment for young

people, providing low-cost essential medicines for the population; and intensify cooperation with the private sector to make full use of new technologies, particularly ICT. All this testifies to the consistency in our foreign policy and practice of **“Vietnam being a friend and reliable partner of all countries in the international community, actively participating in the international and regional cooperation”**.

Mr. President,

On the way to 2015, bearing in mind the MDGs and their challenges as well as the need to have economic growth and social equity going hand in hand, the Vietnamese Government will continue with its pro-poor policy and strive for a more organic linkage between the poverty reduction strategy and the socio-political development strategy, hence a more secured life for the people. To this end, Vietnam counts on continued and greater cooperation and support from the international community so that by 2015 we can join other U.N. members in celebrating the accomplishment of the 8 MDGs. We support the Joint Declaration dated 31 June 2007 of the U.N. Secretary-General and British Prime Minister H.E. Mr. Gordon Brown calling for accelerated implementation of the MDGs. We also hope that developed countries will fully implement their commitment to facilitating trade, allocating 0.7% of GNP to official development assistance, reducing and writing off debts for developing countries, and transferring technology to the latter. In this connection, we strongly support the U.N.'s work in building a roadmap, followed by substantive steps, toward the International Conference on Financing for Development, to be held in Doha at the end of this year. Vietnam stays ready to contribute constructively to this process.

I thank you, Mr. President.

Please check against delivery

STATEMENT

BY

H.E.MR. NIRUPAM SEN,  
AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY  
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF INDIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS

DURING

THE INFORMAL THEMATIC DEBATE

ON

“RECOGNIZING THE ACHIEVEMENTS, ADDRESSING THE  
CHALLENGES AND GETTING BACK ON TRACK TO ACHIEVE THE  
MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS BY 2015”

AT THE

62<sup>ND</sup> SESSION OF THE  
UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

NEW YORK

APRIL 2, 2008

Mr. President,

Permit me to begin by thanking you for your initiative in organising this informal thematic debate of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals. I would also like to thank you for the comprehensive background papers provided for this event.

We associate ourselves with the statement made by Antigua and Barbuda on behalf of the Group of 77.

The title of this event has correctly identified the need to 'get back on track to achieve the MDGs'. We must remain cognizant that despite encouraging reports of progress in some developing countries, many parts of the developing world are not on target to achieve the MDGs by 2015, particularly in the sub-Saharan African region. Greater efforts at all levels are required if the world as a whole is to meet the commitment our leaders undertook at the Millennium Summit. We are also concerned that the challenge to achieve the MDGs may become more difficult in the light of possible impact of the current financial turmoil in some developed countries. Further, we must always keep in mind that developing countries have a broader development objective, which extends beyond merely achieving the MDGs.

Mr. President,

We welcome the focus that this event places on MDGs in the vital areas of poverty and hunger, education and health. An integrated approach also serves to highlight the interlinked nature of the MDGs. However, this debate has not adequately dealt with one of the most important MDGs i.e. MDG 8 on global partnership for development. As we have stated on other occasions, implementation of MDG 8 commitments plays a crucial role in the ability of developing countries to make progress on the other MDGs. Discussing of MDGs by the international community by itself does not amount to meaningful implementation of the global partnership. There needs to be greater efforts by our developed country partners in implanting MDG 8, including greater emphasis on monitoring its implementation.



In this context, we would also like to voice our concern at the ongoing efforts to redefine the MDG framework by adding and revising targets and indicators. We strongly oppose selective inclusion of commitments from the World Summit Outcome and attempts to justify their inclusion in the MDG targets, particularly on the misleading argument that Member States have given their concurrence to these efforts. Of even greater concern is the attempt to dilute MDG 8 by transferring targets from MDG 8 to MDG 1. Let me reiterate that attempts to tinker with a MDG framework, which has come to be accepted as an international development benchmark, will only serve to undermine its legitimacy. We hope that the Secretariat will keep this in mind and refrain from changing goal posts mid-way.

Mr. President,

India has made significant progress towards the achievement of many of the MDGs, particularly in the fields of poverty eradication, literacy, access to drinking water, sanitation, etc. Challenges remain with regard to some other MDGs, but India is committed to achieving the MDGs by 2015. Towards this end, the Government of India is placing even greater emphasis on policies that address employment generation, agriculture and rural development, infrastructure investment, universal literacy campaign, health services, special measures for women and economically backward sections, etc. Overall, our objective is to achieve faster and inclusive growth that allows all sections of society to benefit from the rapid economic growth that we are enjoying.

Mr. President,

The background papers for this event had raised some pertinent questions - I will attempt to address some of them. One key lesson we must learn is that developing countries must be allowed to pursue their unique development paths. Countries that have showing encouraging performance have not followed identical paths, clearly belying the idea of a one-size-fits-all economic or development paradigm. Nor indeed have they followed external

4

prescriptive advice or conditionalities. This should send a clear message that national ownership and policy space autonomy are vital requirements that must be respected by the international community.

Experience has also shown that growth by itself is not sufficient for overall development. Indeed, India inclusive growth involves the active role of the state not merely in providing a favourable macro-economic, legal and regulatory framework, but also through targeted interventions for investment in human, fiscal and social infrastructure and the promotion of science, technology and innovation.

The international community must assist the development efforts of developing countries, through the creation of international environment conducive to development. Achievement of MDGs in a sustained manner leading to real economic transformation is hardly possible without new and additional aid, capacity building assistance, genuine debt relief; elimination of agricultural subsidies by developed countries as well as non-tariff barriers, greater market access for products of interest to developing countries, a meaningful incorporation of the development agenda into the Doha Trade Negotiations, and a fundamental reform of international economic and monetary architecture with greater voice and participation of developing countries. We believe that the United Nations can and must play a central role in setting this international economic agenda and overseeing it.

In conclusion, Mr. President, we hope that meetings such as this are followed by action by the international community rather than merely serve to take stock of the situation.

Thank You, Mr. President.



**Statement by**

**H.E. Adiyatwidi Adiwoso A.**

**Ambassador/Charge d'Affaires**

**Before**

**The General Assembly Thematic Debate on the**

**Millennium Development Goals**

**“Recognizing the achievements, addressing the challenges and  
getting back on track to achieve the MDGs by 2015”**

**New York, 2 April 2008**

**PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

325 East 38<sup>th</sup> Street, New York, NY 10016 • Tel. (212) 972-8333 • Fax. (212) 972-9780

[www.indonesiamission-ny.org](http://www.indonesiamission-ny.org)

email: [ptri@indonesiamission-ny.org](mailto:ptri@indonesiamission-ny.org)

Mr. President,

I would like to join previous delegations in thanking you for convening this important meeting to examine international efforts to attain the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). This review is particularly relevant because we are at the midpoint of the MDG implementation timeframe. Let me begin by aligning my statement with that made by the representative of Antigua and Barbuda on behalf of the Group - 77 and China.

Mr. President,

Attaining the MDGs is vital for all nations because poverty and hunger do not respect national boundaries. Some regions have made good progress in realizing this global social contract. However, the inability of others to achieve the MDGs means that we should redouble our efforts. Such intensity is imperative at a time when climate change is threatening to reverse development gains everywhere. Strategies must now be refined and strengthened to ensure achievement of the MDGs.

**First of all**, countries should adopt a pro-growth, pro-poor and pro-job development strategy. This will require policies that promote good governance, legal protection for investors, sound economic practices, and the growth of infrastructure. These are prerequisites for MDG achievement.

Developed countries should support national efforts by being reliable development partners. They can do so through free and fair trade, by increasing and ensuring ODA as well as foreign direct investment, and by sharing technology and benefit-shared with the developing countries in a way that strikes a balance between social responsibility and respect for intellectual property rights. In addition, comprehensive reform of the international financial, monetary and trading systems should be undertaken and accomplished within a specific time frame.

**Secondly**, social development goals should be placed on an equal footing with economic objectives and pursued with the same vigor. As a people-oriented process, development should result in well-educated, healthy people who can in turn contribute to national progress. In order to help developing countries mobilize adequate funds for these goals, the developed countries must earnestly address the issues of debt relief and aid effectiveness.

It is certainly true that many developing countries fail to fund education and health programmes because their budgets are being drained of resources by debt servicing. Emphasis should therefore be given to debt relief for education and health sector swaps.

**Thirdly**, the private sector must be willing to participate in cross-sector partnerships. With the help of the private sector, all children should complete a full course of primary education by 2015. By then too, the 4 billion people living under extreme poverty and hunger should be reduced by half.

**Fourthly**, there is need for a **new marshall plan** to ensure economic stability and poverty reduction in developing countries. The marshall plan should be financed by the 0.7 % ODA commitment. In addition, **the new jubilee 2000 campaign** should be extended to cancel the debts of poor countries to help them finance primary education for all. Indonesia also endorses international efforts to invest more on health system as well as to increase the **predictability of aid** in health-sector.

**Finally**, the international community needs to fully implement the development resolutions of the General Assembly and ECOSOC. These two bodies should intensify their focus on implementation of the MDGs.

Mr. President,

At the national level, Indonesia is pursuing the MDGs on the basis of economic growth with social equity. As result, economic growth last year was 6.3%. We are aiming for 6.8% this year. With improved finances, we are spending more than ever on education and health.

Our goal is to ensure that at least 95% of our children ages 7 to 15 years, especially female and poor children, obtain a sound basic education by 2009. To ensure quality education and high student-to-teacher ratios, we propose to increase south-south cooperation in education. This is in keeping with a recommendation made by the Seventh Ministerial Review Meeting of the Nine High-Population Countries which Indonesia hosted last month.

In the area of health, access and quality service for poor communities are being continuously improved. This is being done primarily through the Programme of Health Insurance for the poor and by reducing the price of medicine, especially generic medicines.

Mr. President,

In the last few months, we have witnessed and experienced a high food and energy prices. These prices have been spiraling rapidly upwards. Faced with these trends, Indonesia, like so many other countries, finds itself struggling to cope with the enormous pressures being exerted by these changes. Governments everywhere are now being compelled to revise their budgets and make arrangements to widen social safety nets.

We fear that the long-term impacts of these trends will severely limit the capability, especially of developing countries, to achieve the MDGs by 2015. There will almost certainly be more poverty, increasing conflicts and grater instability in many regions as a result of these unrelenting economic pressures.

In response to this challenge, effective global partnerships must become the norm. Weaker nations must be able to draw on the strength of more advanced nations. There must be closer collaboration between national and international decision-makers. Together, they must engage in vigorous collective action for the common good. That is the only way forward.

I thank you.



International IDEA

**UNITED NATIONS  
62<sup>nd</sup> Session of the General Assembly**

**General Assembly Thematic Debate on the  
Millennium Development Goals**

**“Recognizing the achievements, addressing the challenge  
and getting back on track to achieve the MDGs by 2015”**

Statement by  
Massimo Tommasoli  
Permanent Observer

United Nations Headquarters  
New York, 3 April 2008

Please check against delivery

Mr. President,  
Distinguished Delegates,

In 2000 the Millennium Summit and the consensus on the MDGs created for the first time the conditions for a concerted long-term action to bring about lasting impact on the lives of the poorest. The eight MDGs are interdependent and interact with other areas for action laid down in the Millennium Declaration. Peace and security, equal and guaranteed rights of all citizens to political participation and equal access to resources, infrastructure and public services, are key factors for the achievement of the MDGs.

There are many examples of the linkages between the achievement of some MDGs, broad political dynamics and democratic processes. On MDG-1, data show that poverty reduction has been accompanied by rising inequality. The UN MDGs Report 2007 states that “the benefits of economic growth in the developing world have been unequally shared, both within and among countries”. “Widening income inequality is of particular concern in Eastern Asia, where the share of consumption among the poorest people declined dramatically” in the period 1990—2004. “Still, inequality remains the highest in Latin America and the Caribbean and in sub-Saharan Africa, where the poorest fifth of the people account for only about 3 per cent of national consumption (or income)” (UN, *The MDGs Report 2007*, page 8).

MDG-3 on gender equality and empowerment of women includes a specific indicator on the number of women elected to national parliaments. This indicator shows that women gained ground politically, though men still wield control (UN, MDGs Report 2007, page 13). Globally, as of March 2008, women represented 17.7 per cent of single and lower houses of parliament, up from 13 per cent in 1990 (IPU and UNDAW, *Map of Women in Politics 2008*). However, women represented at least 30 per cent of parliamentarians in only 20 countries. Rwanda is still leading the way, and is close to parity with 48.8 per cent of parliamentary seats occupied by women, followed by Sweden (47%), Finland (41.5%), Argentina (40%) and Costa Rica (37%). And women are underrepresented at most levels of government, especially in ministerial and other executive bodies.

The links between MDGs and the political environment can be made even more explicit. The choice of Mongolia to adopt a national MDG-9 on promoting human rights, fostering democratic governance and fighting corruption, shows that democratic institutions and practices, in addition to contributing an enabling environment for the achievement of the MDGs, can constitute an objective tailored to addressing country-specific needs.

Mr. President,

The rich discussion of these days highlighted the importance of two principles:

- Ownership of the strategies aimed at the achievement of the MDGs; and
- Mutual accountability within the global partnership envisioned by the MDGs, which emphasizes the responsibilities of the international community in honoring its commitments, including in terms of ODA volume and predictability.

I wish to underscore two additional elements emerging in many countries and regions that play a role in the achievement of the MDGs.

The first one is the very concept of ownership, as related to the importance of the strengthening and consolidation of democratic institutions. While the responsibility of defining and implementing national strategies remains with governments, the concept of ownership has gradually widened so as to encompass other actors, like civil society organizations and legislatures, which constitute an arena for dialogue on national priorities and exercise an indispensable oversight of the implementation of national strategies. This implies that an exclusive emphasis on the executive branch may undermine the functions of other actors in political systems, parliaments and political parties in the first place.

If support to parliaments has a long and established tradition, only over the last years the importance of strengthening political parties as democratic actors that can play an important role in fighting poverty has been recognized. Despite the very low public trust in political parties consistently reported across all the regions of the world by the Global Barometers, strengthening such institutions is crucial for an effective work on poverty reduction by legislatures, and political systems at large. For this reason, in the Andean Region International IDEA has been carrying out a programme on political party systems and dialogue among political parties on poverty reduction strategies that addressed issues of empowerment of the poor, inclusion, and equality.

The second element is represented by the inter-linkages between the promotion of broad-based, equitable growth, on one hand, and democratic practices, on the other. In fact, the time horizon utilized for the definition of the MDGs – 15 years – presupposes the creation of long-term visions of national development that can only be effectively pursued if they are shared beyond the lifespan of an executive, so as to be supported over time even in case of a change of government. Experience shows that countries that have succeeded over time, have invested in developing such long-term visions, in building capacities for an effective functioning of democratic institutions, and in creating and consolidating the mechanisms to translate long-term visions into reality (IDEA, World Bank, ECLAC, *National Visions Matter: Lessons of Success*, Santiago 2004).

This is particularly challenging in highly polarized political environments, not least in post-conflict situations, since the space for dialogue is reduced and the scope for the definition of nationally owned, broad-based visions for development is



limited. And yet, as many interventions recalled in the debate, there is a need for long-term engagement and support by the international community in such contexts.

Mr. President,

In International IDEA's Strategy 2006-2011, the links between democracy and development are a prominent cross-cutting dimension. In June IDEA will organize a Round Table on democracy and development in Delhi, back to back to the 2008 meeting of the Council of its 25 member states. The Delhi Round Table will be an opportunity to address the relations between democracy and development, including from the angle of the MDGs agenda.

Let me conclude by stressing International IDEA's support to the MDGs and commitment to continue collaborating with member states, the UN system and other regional organizations in the pursuance of effective approaches to their achievement.

I thank you for your attention.



**INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION**  
**OFFICE OF THE PERMANENT OBSERVER TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

**Thematic Debate of the General Assembly**  
**Recognizing the achievements, addressing the challenges**  
**and getting back on track to achieve the MDGs by 2015**

Statement by Ambassador Anda Filip  
Permanent Observer

United Nations  
New York, 2 April 2008

Check against delivery

Mr. President,

It is my pleasure today to address the General Assembly on behalf of the member parliaments of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, and to express our deepest appreciation to you for convening this thematic debate on the Millennium Development Goals. We have come now to the mid-point along a long journey that ends in 2015, so this is a good moment to evaluate what has been achieved, where corrections need to be made and what further efforts need to be deployed.

The IPU has been a strong supporter of the MDGs from the beginning. While we realize that human development will require much more than the attainment of the MDGs, it is undoubtedly useful for us to be guided by more specific goals and targets that – experts tell us – are totally within the realm of the possible. These goals provide a benchmark against which we can measure the strength of our commitment to development as a moral and political imperative. If we fail here we will have dealt a serious blow to the whole development enterprise. So we must persevere until we succeed.

Over the years, through a number of resolutions and debates, the IPU has sought to disseminate the MDGs among parliamentarians, as a way of stimulating a groundswell of activity at the legislative level. The parliamentary community, after all, has an important role and responsibility in this process: not only because of its legislative function, but also – in a very practical sense – in terms of ensuring necessary budgetary allocations to support a large array of pro-poor economic and social policies. An important illustration of our work on the MDGs will come in just two weeks time, at the 118<sup>th</sup> IPU Assembly in Cape Town, South Africa, whose overall theme will be *pushing back the frontiers of poverty*. This debate, like those that preceded it, will seek to build a better understanding among legislators of the concrete actions required to at least halve poverty by 2015, as set out in Goal 1, and will help identify some of the best practices that they should support in their concurrent roles as legislators, community leaders, and opinion-makers.

Turning now to the question before us today, that of the *challenges* to help countries achieve the MDGs in the remaining years, beginning with the overarching Goal 1, I wish to highlight three key critical areas from our perspective.

The first obvious challenge is to support more capacity building for more informed and effective policy-making. One thing is to make parliamentarians aware of official commitments and get them to agree to what needs to be done; but quite another is to actually enable members of parliament to better appreciate the fine points of competing policy options available to them as well as building the capacities of parliament as an institution with distinct and far-reaching responsibilities. While things have certainly improved in this domain, we are convinced that much more remains to be done and that the full potential of parliaments, especially but not exclusively in developing countries, to exercise their functions in a way that maximizes available resources and improves decision-making processes for development, remains largely untapped. We are hence investing a lot to help support parliaments in their functions.

One of our most recent initiatives in this respect consists of a new programme IPU is setting up with the Office of the High Representatives for the Least Developed Countries, to help parliaments in those countries better integrate the Brussels Programme of Action into their own agenda of work.

Another initiative that may be worth mentioning here is being conducted with UN-DESA and aims at strengthening the information and communication technology capacities of parliaments to both improve their working methods and become more open vis-à-vis the people they are elected to represent.

A second critical obstacle standing in the way of the MDGs that we are keen to help remove is that of funding. There is, as we know, a huge shortfall between current ODA allocations and the estimated cost of achieving the MDGs. ODA is a key source of development financing precisely for those countries that are now most off-track. It is not increasing at sufficient speed and its overall effectiveness continues to leave much to be desired. This is why the IPU will scale up its efforts in this domain, particularly by supporting the new Development Cooperation Forum of ECOSOC, where we work to provide a strong parliamentary input, including through the DCF Stakeholders' Forum. Long term, we will also seek to help parliamentarians master the intricacies of the ODA machineries in both donor and recipient countries, with the aim that every aid dollar spent achieves the best possible outcome.

In addition to ODA, we will continue to press for the whole agenda of financing for development to move forward, paying particular attention to the item on trade. Our members strongly believe in a fair, ruled based trade regime as one of the best ways for developing countries to raise the revenue they need for their development, without contracting new debts or having to depend on aid indefinitely. To this effect, we have set up a Parliamentary Conference on the WTO as a long-term consultative process to bring parliamentarians closer to the Doha Round trade negotiations and to make them more familiar with the decision-making processes of the WTO.

A third key issue that, in our view, remains to be resolved if we want to recover some of the lost ground on the road to the MDGs, has to do with the formulation of more incisive, coherent and inclusive national development plans. Although some countries have managed to vastly improve their development planning, there is still a long way to go to ensure that national development plans are internally sound and consistent with actual priorities on the ground. In part, this is a function of weak capacities, as mentioned above, as well as of the way in which national development plans are drawn up and adopted, which often enough do not involve parliaments meaningfully. But in part it is also the result of misguided ideas about the true drivers of the development process that continue to inform decision makers at both national and international levels.

Two key areas that have tended to be neglected, at least in relative terms, within national development plans are those of employment creation and gender equality. We are more than ever convinced that the decent work agenda needs to be put squarely at the center of national development plans if we are to make a serious leap forward in virtually all of the MDGs. To this effect, we will seek to work with the ILO to make sure that parliaments understand that agenda and actively stand behind it. Last but not least, policies targeting the specific needs of women, as key economic and political agents, must also receive more attention in national development plans. The IPU will continue to support this in many ways, including by helping more women participate in politics, where they are severely under-represented, and by helping parliaments integrate a gender perspective into the budgetary process.

This year's parliamentary meeting at the UN, in the context of the Commission on the Status of Women, was particularly meaningful. Some 120 legislators from over fifty countries attended – among them, many sitting on the select committees for equal opportunities and gender equality, as well as those responsible for finance and budget. Their discussions yielded some very interesting recommendations and good practices in the area of gender budgeting, and the participating MPs returned home not just with a better understanding of UN processes, but also with some clear ideas about what they can do to make a difference in this important area.

In conclusion, Mr. President, the IPU is committed to continuing its efforts to bring about progress in meeting the Millennium Development Goals. Thank you.

# Islamic Republic of I R A N

Permanent Mission to the United Nations

Statement by

**Mr. Javad Amin-Mansour**  
Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran

During the Thematic Debate of the General Assembly

On

**"Recognizing the achievements, addressing the challenges and getting back on track to achieve the MDGs by 2015"**

**2<sup>nd</sup> April, 2008**  
United Nations Headquarters, New York

*Please check against delivery*

\*\*\*\*\*

In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful

Mr. President,

At the outset, I would like to thank you for organizing this round of thematic debate to review the progress in achieving MDGs and addressing the challenges we are facing. I wish also to associate my delegation with the statement made, in this regard, by Her Excellency Ms. Joanne Massiah, the Minister of Antigua and Barbuda on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

Mr. President,

The year 2008 is the midpoint between the adoption of the MDGs and 2015--the target date. Therefore, at this stage, taking stock of the progress made in achieving the envisaged goals and also reviewing the causes of success and failures are imperative in order to increase and expedite our collective efforts to reach the targets, as scheduled. Although all Millennium Development Goals are interrelated and mutually reinforcing, ~~but~~ on the basis of your recommendation, Mr. President, I will solely focus on three Goals of poverty and hunger, health and education.

## **1. Eradication of Poverty and Hunger**

According to the reports, sustained and rapid economic growth in many developing countries created 45 million new jobs in 2007 and thus empowered many people to tackle the challenge of poverty and hunger. The proportion of children under five, who are underweight, has slightly fallen from 32 % in 1990 to 27% in 2004. It is

anticipated that global poverty will fall to 721 million by 2017 with the existing trends. They are positive signs.

However, it is a source of major concern that, according to the reports, 143 million children under 5 in developing countries particularly in south Asia are suffering from malnutrition. The gap between rich and poor is widening, proportion of working poor in sub-Saharan Africa is on rise, and the rate of unemployment in the Middle East has remained high. The existing trends have worsened inequalities as millions of people still find it difficult to disengage themselves from the poverty trap. Social justice, equality, and better living standards for all people also remain elusive. These are just some of the factors which hinder the efforts of the developing countries to alleviate poverty and eradicate hunger. It is also alarming that, in such circumstances, only 58 countries in East Asia, the Pacific and Eastern Europe are on track to achieve the MDGs.

In order to meet the target on reducing hunger, in our view, the governments should adopt and implement appropriate policies and measures at national and international levels in order to increase food security and accessibility, particularly for the poor people. These policies could include: reduction in the agricultural wastes, launching research activities on agricultural products in the context of adaptation, improving irrigation systems, preventing high price of foods, sustaining fisheries, allocation of additional resources to agriculture sector, technology transfer, and sustainable use of natural resources.

The Islamic Republic of Iran reiterates its commitment to eradicate poverty and hunger at national and global levels. In this framework, the government has subsidized several food stuff such as bread and has guaranteed buying some agricultural products from the farmers with a reasonable price. It is also worth mentioning that during the 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting of the Islamic Development Bank Board of Governors held on 29 May 2007 in Dakar, my government pledged US\$ 100 million to the OIC Poverty Alleviation Fund.

## **2. Education**

My country is very likely to achieve full primary enrolment by 2015, given its high 97 per cent net enrolment rate in primary education. In addition, bringing the gender gap in primary, secondary and even higher levels of education by 2015 seems quite attainable in Iran. Nonetheless, there remain some challenges ahead of us in this regard, such as identifying the illiterate and encouraging their attendance at training classes, overcoming geographical difficulties as regards some remote and rural areas, and improving the weak economic conditions of the children's families in certain rural areas. Based on my country's experiences, strengthening the role and expanding the involvement of the private sector in establishing and managing education systems including non-profit schools and universities will help the government to promote education at all levels.

At global level, much remains to be done in increasing the number of students in primary and secondary schools as well as quality of education. According to the figures, several measures including abolishing school user fees as well as supporting the families in some countries have helped more students to be enrolled in primary schools, and gender parity has already been achieved at primary level in 118 countries.

Nonetheless, one can not fail to express concern over that fact that around 72 million primary age children are not yet enrolled in schools and more than half of the world's out-of-school children are girls, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa and South and West Asia. The projection that, without further acceleration, 58 of the 86 countries will not be able to achieve the Goals related to education deserves adequate attention. In our view, emphasis should be placed on the more enrolment of both girls and boys in schools and improvement of the education quality. Education of refugees in the host countries and the countries in emergency, conflict or post-conflict situations also should receive enough support from the international community especially the developed countries.

### 3. Health

The Islamic Republic of Iran is on track in reducing the under-five mortality, maternal mortality ratio, controlling communicable diseases, and providing a minimum care service for the vast majority of the population. However, diseases such as HIV/AIDS are increasingly raising concern in our country, although current HIV/AIDS prevalence rates are rather low.

At the global level, fortunately progress has been made towards achieving the Goals related to health in many regions. Nonetheless, child mortality and maternal mortality continue to claim the lives of many people particularly in remote and rural areas. High prevalence of HIV/AIDS and impacts of conflicts have made the progress towards achieving Goal 5 slower. Malaria continues to affect the poor disproportionately. Although donor's aid for health in Africa has increased, but it still lags behind the commitments made earlier. There is a need to address and provide adequate health services for refugees, internally displaced persons, populations affected by disasters, and the people in emergency, conflict and post-conflict situations.

Mr. President;

A favorable international environment, promoting sound macroeconomic policies, improvement in internal and international trade systems, rural development, building necessary infrastructures, improving market access for the export of agricultural products from the developing countries, technology transfer, mobilization of adequate financial resources, and launching pro-poor policies and enabling activities, considerably help the developing countries to meet the targets and goals by 2015. In view of the strong economic growth achieved by some countries in the past few years, measures should be taken to maintain such a growth rate in the coming years, in order to achieve the MDGs.

Official Development Assistance is one of the main components of finance for development. Developed countries should allocate 0.7 per cent of their gross national income (GNI) at the earliest, based on their longstanding commitments which were also reiterated in Monterey.

Last but not least, south-south, north-south and triangular cooperation particularly in the areas of development, trade and investment remain crucial and will enable the developing countries to achieve MDGs. In this vein, stronger political will of the governments and assistance of the United Nations system are required to expedite the process of preparation, adoption and implementation of national strategies to achieve MDGs.

I thank you Mr. President.



# IRELAND

**United Nations General Assembly**

**Thematic Debate**

**“Recognizing the achievements, addressing the  
challenges and getting back on track to achieve  
the MDGs by 2015”**

**Statement by H.E. Mr. John Paul Kavanagh  
Permanent Representative of Ireland  
to the United Nations**

**3 April 2008**



Mr. President,

The Millennium Development Goals summarise the main development challenges facing the world and present a set of clear and measurable targets to be achieved by 2015. When the MDGs were agreed, they spurred our efforts to tackle poverty and its consequences. Much has been achieved to date, but more needs to be done. We must use this opportunity, now in 2008, to address the challenges we face and get back on track to achieve the MDGs by 2015, before it is too late.

Mr. President

The MDGs inform all aspects of Ireland's development cooperation programme, Irish Aid, and provide the context in which it operates. This is true not least in relation to poverty reduction, which is the overarching objective of Irish Aid's activities. Furthermore, Irish Aid has mainstreamed Gender Equality, HIV/AIDS and Environmental Sustainability throughout its work, as well as addressing these MDGS through specific programmes.

Ireland has committed to spending 0.7% of GNP on ODA by 2012 and we are on track to meet this target. Last year, we reached 0.5%, on schedule. The UN remains at the core of our collective efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, and therefore, Ireland is strongly committed to continuing to support the UN System and enhancing its capacity to continue to provide leadership in this regard. We will soon sign multi-annual funding agreements with UNICEF, UNFPA and UNHCR. Negotiations with WHO are underway and we plan to start negotiations on a multi-annual funding agreement with UNDP later this year. This will give these organisations a very sizeable predictability of funding.

While time will not permit a full description of all activities undertaken by Irish Aid to support efforts to achieve the MDGs, a number of particular initiatives are worthy of mention.

Ireland's commitment to combating hunger is not without historical context. The failure of the potato crop in Ireland in the 1840s led to a famine that left 1.5 million dead and forced 1 million to emigrate, a loss of some 25% of the population in 24 months. Since then, Ireland's fortunes have changed, but hunger and food insecurity continue to hamper progress in reaching the MDGs in many developing countries. In 2007 we established a Hunger Task Force in Ireland with the aim of identifying the particular contribution that our country can make to international efforts to eliminate hunger and tackle food insecurity. The Task Force brings together leading figures from international organisations, the non-governmental sector, third level institutions, Government and the private sector. The Task Force will report to Irish Aid later this year with analysis and recommendations on how Ireland can best address the issue of world hunger through specific policy formulation, programming engagement and targeted resource allocation.

We also share the heightened international concern at possible effects of soaring prices of primary commodities on the ability of a significant portion of the world's population to feed themselves and we welcome the fact that the Secretary-General and his colleagues will give special attention to this issue at this April's session of the CEB.

Health is one of the key sectors supported by Irish Aid. Ireland uses sector wide approaches or SWAPs and channels its funding through government managed pooling arrangements. In this way, we seek to help strengthen health systems, providing the foundation needed to achieve the MDGs on child mortality, maternal health and HIV/AIDS and Malaria.

More specifically, Ireland works closely with UNICEF to reduce child mortality and more generally to improve the situation of the world's children. Ireland will soon sign a multi-year funding agreement committing to fixed increases in core funding for UNICEF for the remainder of the life of their Strategic Plan. Ireland is committed to spending at least €100 million per year combating HIV/AIDS and other communicable diseases in developing countries and we are doing so.

Mr. President,

Of all the Millennium Development Goals, least progress has been achieved on the Goal to reduce maternal mortality by 75 percent between 1990 and 2015. The number of women dying in childbirth continues to be startling: the risk of a woman dying from complications of pregnancy in her lifetime is as high as one in seven in some African and Asian countries. This statistic is unthinkable to many more fortunate and it is clear that an extra effort is needed by all countries to ensure the achievement of MDG5. Ireland is proud to have contributed €2 million to the new UNFPA trust fund for maternal health, “No Woman Should Die Giving Life”. This fund will support 75 of the poorest countries to deliver better services for women before, during and after childbirth”.

Education has been central to Ireland’s own economic and social development, so it is perhaps not surprising that Ireland advocates sustained and planned investment in education. We are pleased to see the progress that some countries, in particular Irish Aid partners Tanzania and Uganda, have made towards achieving the goal of universal primary education by 2015 and we will continue to work towards the achievement of this goal.

Mr. President

This year, Ireland’s total ODA budget is €914 million and we are proud that our official development spending is increasing steadily. However, funding alone is not enough. A true partnership is needed if we are to achieve the MDGs. We must all strive for greater aid effectiveness. Donors should align with national plans, as developing countries lead their own development. We should all seek to improve governance: globally, by increasing coherence among donors and other international development actors, and nationally by working together to build capacity in developing countries. For if we fail to achieve the MDGs, it is the world’s poorest that will continue to suffer. We should be held accountable.

I thank you Mr. President.

62nd SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

---

Check Against Delivery

---

**Statement by**

**Mr. Ilan Fluss**

**Counsellor**

Thematic debate on  
“Recognising the achievements, addressing the challenges  
and getting back on track to achieve the MDG's by 2015”

United Nations, New York  
2 April 2008

Mr. President,

Allow me to congratulate you on your leadership of this Assembly, and thank you for convening this important High-Level Thematic Debate on the Millennium Development Goals. I also wish to thank the Secretary-General for his message, as well as the chairs and panelists who participated in the informative and enlightening panels. They were very helpful in identifying the challenges that lie ahead.

Mr. President,

Over the past two days, we heard different approaches to assessing achievement of the MDG's. But as you – Mr. President – remarked in your statement “the question is not whether the glass is half full or half empty? The issue is, how quickly are we going to fill it up?” Much emphasis has been placed on negatives, failures, and inadequacies. But we have much to learn from the success stories and from countries that are clearly on track. These examples should give us strength and confidence that we can achieve our goals.

Israel, allow me to reiterate, is fully committed to achieving the MDG's. We believe there is no single approach to overcoming the hurdles, and there is surely no monopoly on good ideas. The way forward must include an increased effort in a variety of areas, including agriculture, food production, increased efficiency, technology, capacity building and training. Much like the challenges they aim to overcome, solutions do not exist in a vacuum. The MDG's are not isolated variables, but interconnected pieces of the same puzzle. Improvement in one area has direct benefit for others. Food production, for example, may not only address hunger, but also poverty – as an economic good – and health – as a source of nourishment. Awareness of the interlinkages between development activities will strengthen and increase their degree of implementation and achievement.

For its part, Israel is exploring ways in which it can accelerate global development, through its main development agency MASHAV – the Centre for International Cooperation – and our engagement with partners and Member States at the United Nations.

During the recent main session of the General Assembly, Israel, along with like-minded states, introduced a resolution on “Agricultural Technology for Development”, which called on states to share information and know-how in this area. These technologies could prove beneficial to regions suffering from climate change and other harsh conditions. As a hub of excellence in agriculture and water technologies, Israel will continue to promote implementation of this initiative.

Israel also recently signed a memorandum of agreement with UNEP, and is in discussions with UNICEF and UNDP for similar partnerships in Africa and Latin America to advance the achievement of the MDG's and bettering our world.

As an innovator in combating desertification, Israel hopes to help the effects of desertification which adversely impact poverty and hunger. This past December, Israel, in cooperation with DESA and UNCCD, hosted a week-long workshop for policy makers on desertification and land

management. These activities are part of Israel's contribution towards addressing the threats posed by climate change – a challenge that unites us all.

Lastly, capacity building can be a key factor in improving health and education services. Training, creating and strengthening extension services, and increased collaboration between government, private sector, civil society and NGOs, and academia are the way forward.

Israel's exemplary programme, "Tipat Chalav", literally "a drop of milk", is a national concept, based on simple public health, family orientation, and clinics on the community level, which has proven success in strengthening preventative care. Similarly, empowering resident doctors with additional skill, training, and technology, where relevant, can help them provide better healthcare. Simple solutions are often the most effective ones.

Mr. President,

Israel only recently transitioned from a developing nation to a developed one, giving us real experience and knowledge, and placing us in a unique position to identify with the process of developing nations. We also affirm the importance of intergovernmental discussions and international policies of development, but remain committed to ensuring that these are translated into actual, effective actions and measures that will elevate the standards of living of the poor on the ground.

To this effect, Israel recently joined the OECD's Development Centre, and its accession as a member will follow later this year. These efforts reinforce Israel's commitment to taking initiative at the halfway point to redouble our efforts towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals, particularly in the areas of poverty and hunger, health, and education.

Development is a partnership which brings obligations and responsibilities to all. Israel supports the call to meet ODA commitments and donor assistance, as well as promote the importance of and need for aid effectiveness, good governance, ownership, accountability, human rights, and gender.

Mr. President,

It is no coincidence that the Hebrew word for charity – צדקה – is the same word for justice. Caring and giving is our obligation and duty. Through it, we affirm the bonds of our common humanity. Through it, we promote peace and equality. Indeed, the ultimate goal of development is to bring justice and create equality for all.

This is Israel's approach to development and achieving the MDG's, and we look forward to continuing to work together through that partnership.

Thank you.



PERMANENT MISSION OF  
JAMAICA TO THE UNITED NATIONS

**STATEMENT BY**

**HIS EXCELLENCY RAYMOND O. WOLFE  
AMBASSADOR / PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE  
OF JAMAICA TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

**IN THE**

**UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
THEMATIC DEBATE ENTITLED:**

***"RECOGNIZING THE ACHIEVEMENTS, ADDRESSING  
THE CHALLENGES AND GETTING BACK ON TRACK TO  
ACHIEVE THE MDGs BY 2015"***

**New York, April 2, 2008**

***Please check against delivery***

Mr. President,

My delegation welcomes the opportunity to participate in this thematic debate on the Millennium Development Goals as it offers us, the United Nations family, a unique opportunity to undertake a stocktaking exercise of the progress achieved so far and the steps to be taken to realize full attainment of these goals.

Jamaica aligns itself with the Statements delivered by Antigua and Barbuda on behalf of the Group of 77 and China. We also welcome the Statements delivered by Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon, the Prime Minister of Finland and the Foreign Minister of Mali which underline the urgent action required by the global community to fully achieve the MDGs.

### **Historical perspective**

Mr. President,

I believe that there is consensus in this room that the realization of the MDGs constitutes an integral part of the United Nations Development agenda. We can also readily agree that the Millennium Development Goals are not a new agenda. The goals have all, at various junctures during the life of this venerable Organisation, been at the forefront of the UN development agenda dating back to the 1960s when the General Assembly declared the first "United Nations Development Decade". Every decade since then, until the 1990s, has been declared UN Development Decades.

Despite the best efforts of the UN, the gap between developed and developing countries has widened, prospects for substantial social and economic growth in developing countries has deteriorated and their position in international trade has weakened considerably owing to major changes in global trading arrangements in an ever-evolving global economy including globalization. The MDGs therefore form a critical component of the UN's efforts to refocus global attention on the advancement of the development prospects of the world poorest.

### **National efforts**

Mr. President,

At the mid-point to the achievement of the MDGs, reports point to mixed progress among some regions in reaching some of the goals. While there have been visible gains, significant challenges remain in their overall implementation.



The full and effective implementation of the MDGs by 2015 remains a national priority for the Government of Jamaica. Accordingly, the Goals have been incorporated at various levels into our national development strategies. We have recorded successes in many areas including poverty eradication, primary school enrolment, life expectancy and eradication of communicable diseases including malaria. While Jamaica is on track to meet the goals within the specified time-frame, we continue to work with our partners towards building on this foundation.

### **Global context**

In this context, while underscoring the primary responsibility of national governments for their own development, my delegation is of the view that success by developing countries hinges largely on assistance received from developed countries. Concomitantly, we need to achieve qualitative and meaningful progress in the collective efforts to develop a genuine global partnership for development.

Jamaica therefore encourages our developed partners to fulfill their longstanding commitments to achieve the Official Development Assistance (ODA) target of 0.7% of gross national income (GNI) by 2015. Despite commitments made in Monterrey in 2002 pledges made by the G8 in 2005 to double aid to Africa by 2010 and by the EU (also in 2005) to allocate 0.7% of GNI to ODA by 2015, we note with deep concern that ODA has declined in the last three years. The Goals, while distinct, are intricately related; hence, achievement of one makes progress in other areas possible. The importance of MDG8 - global partnership for development - must therefore be emphasized.

### **Major challenges**

Mr. President,

A myriad of challenges impede the progress of developing countries in realizing the MDGs. I will highlight two which my delegation deems to be of crucial importance. During the recently concluded thematic debate on Climate Change, several delegations including Jamaica, pointed to the causal link between climate change and the efforts of developing countries in their pursuit of sustainable development and the achievement of global development benchmarks such as the Millennium Development Goals. It is an open secret that whilst industrialized nations are the primary contributors to climate change, the developing world pays the price. Tackling climate change and the achievement of the MDGs can no longer be construed as separate agendas but rather two sides of the same coin. Efforts to address both should therefore be mutually reinforcing.

International trade, as we all agree Mr. President, is an engine for development. In order for the developing world to maximize the benefits which can be accrued from participating in international trade, including poverty eradication and job and wealth creation, the global trade regime should be made more conducive to progress in ALL developing countries. In this regard, we observe with great concern the stalemate in the negotiations in the Doha Development Round since 2001. If our developed partners are truly committed to the development dimensions of the Doha round, an early and successful conclusion of the negotiations is indeed vital.

## **Conclusion**

Mr. President,

My delegation is currently examining the recently released Report of the Secretary-General concerning improving the delivery of the mandates of development-related activities, which outlines proposals to strengthen the UN's capacity to deliver its mandates on development. We agree with the SG that "a stronger UN needs a stronger development pillar". Therefore, efforts to address the lopsided and lacklustre approach to addressing activities pertaining to the three pillars are most welcome. However, this is just one of the many steps in the long journey that the UN will need to undertake to effectively bolster the development pillar.

Mr. President,

The clock is ticking as we approach the 2015 benchmark. Additional decisive and concerted action is needed now if our goals are to be accomplished. We have a political, moral and ethical obligation to redouble our efforts; the future generations are relying on us.

I thank you Mr. President.



*CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY*

Statement by Ambassador Yukio Takasu  
Permanent Representative of Japan to the United Nations

Thematic debate of the General Assembly  
“Recognizing the achievements, addressing the challenges, and getting back on track to  
achieve the MDGs by 2015”

2 April 2008

### **Achievement of the MDGs**

Mr. President,

At the midpoint of the Millennium Development Goals, it is important to take stock of the progress made and identify the priority areas for the years ahead. Extreme poverty is declining in East and South Asia. Notable progress has been made in areas such as primary education enrollment and access to HIV/AIDS treatment. However, there remains some distance from other goals, especially in sub-Saharan Africa. The “bottom billion,” who still live on less than one dollar a day, must be helped to escape the cycle of poverty and conflict through the empowerment of the individual and the consolidation of peace.

In our effort to achieve the MDGs, we need to embrace the concept of human security by protecting and empowering every individual and to build safe and healthy communities. Progress must be measured by the extent to which individuals are able to realize their full potential. In the areas of health, water, and education, Japan is promoting

- first, a comprehensive approach;
- second, a multi-sectoral approach; and
- third, a participatory approach



This May, Japan, together with the UN, UNDP, and World Bank, will host TICAD IV, with over forty African leaders expected to participate. In July, we will host the G8 Hokkaido-Toyako Summit. Through these initiatives, Japan will take up development issues, in particular health, water, and education, from the standpoint of human security. The outcomes of the two conferences will provide important inputs to the UN high-level meeting on MDGs in September.

### **Global health cooperation**

Significant efforts and advances have been made to achieve the health-related MDGs. But under-5 and maternal mortality rates still remain unacceptably high, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa. The prevalence of infectious diseases such as HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria continues to remain a serious threat.

Japan will promote a comprehensive approach in global health based on its own historical experience. Strengthening health systems and retaining trained personnel is the key to effectively addressing health challenges as a whole. Efforts for infectious diseases control should go hand in hand with maternal, newborn and child health programmes, and reproductive health. These efforts cannot be shouldered by the public sector alone. Japan is working to formulate a framework for action with the participation of all relevant stakeholders, including civil society and the private sector.

### **Water**

Water is the basis of all life and an indispensable resource for human activity. It is also related to conflict, poverty, health, and gender. As a nation that has made strides in water management and flood control over the last few centuries, Japan has played a leading role in international efforts to expand access to clean water and sanitation.

The year 2008 has been designated as the International Year of Sanitation by the General Assembly. Japan calls on the international community to take comprehensive action on water and sanitation and to promote conservation and recycling of water by sharing its technology and know-how. For effective water management, cooperation between central and local governments and public-private partnerships is indispensable.

## Education

Education provides the basis for a society to develop its human resources and for individuals to realize their full potential. In Japan, a high literacy rate was the driving force behind the economic and social development we have achieved since mid-nineteenth century.

In order to achieve Education for All (EFA), Japan will continue to make efforts to expand high-quality basic education. It will also make technical and vocational education, and secondary and higher education available to people with high aspirations. A multi-sectoral approach is important to maximize the overarching impact of investment in education on every aspect of social and national development.

Mr. President,

Japan is committed to achieving the MDGs. We must mobilize every possible resource in order to attain the goals, particularly in the areas of health, water, and education.

Thank you.



# KAZAKHSTAN

---

*Please, check against delivery*

## **STATEMENT**

*by*

**H.E. MRS. BYRGANYM AITIMOVA**

**AMBASSADOR,  
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE  
REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN TO THE  
UNITED NATIONS**

*At the thematic debate of the General Assembly on the theme:*

*“Recognizing the achievements, addressing the challenges and getting back on  
track to achieve the MDGs by 2015”*

**2 April, 2008  
New York**

**Mr. President,**

I would like first to thank you for having convened this thematic debate and welcome your strong intention to move forward the process of implementation of the Millennium Development Goals.

**Mr. President,**

The Millennium Development Goals made an unprecedented contribution to focusing attention and action on the global fight against poverty and the promotion of human development for all.

Some countries are demonstrating that progress towards the MDGs is possible when strong Government leadership, good policies and healthy institutions are combined with adequate financial and technical support from the international community.

There are encouraging signs of a global decline in poverty in most parts of the world. There are also positive movements in other dimensions of poverty, such as access to education and health care.

However, many countries remain off track to meeting the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). They are still caught in the trap of poverty, lacking productive capacity, dependent often on a single commodity, vulnerable to external economic turbulence and unattractive for commercially driven investment.

Kazakhstan totally agrees that the United Nations has made great strides in keeping these issues on the international agenda. The holding of the first annual ministerial review and the launching of the Development Cooperation Forum of the Economic and Social Council, the informal thematic debate of the General Assembly and the Secretary-General's high-level event on climate change, as well as the Assembly's High-level Dialogue on Financing for Development have been highlights in last year's calendar focusing on development. These events will contribute to the revitalization of the General Assembly and of the Organization as a whole and to the follow-up of the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields.

In that case, our delegation supports the idea expressed by President of the Economic and Social Council, that meeting MDGs requires multisectoral approaches and combined efforts across the board. Developing countries need to



sustain momentum by elaborating and implementing national development strategies that will accelerate progress, as called for at the 2005 Summit. Those strategies must be aligned with the development agenda through national efforts and with a broad-based and balanced approach to macroeconomic policies aimed at pro-poor economic growth and poverty reduction. The creation of decent jobs, especially for women and youth, is the critical link between growth and poverty reduction.

Those efforts must also be supported by adequate financing within the global partnership and its framework for mutual accountability. The Monterrey Consensus identified the critical role in the development of increased official development assistance, debt relief, enabling trading conditions, technology transfer and improved global governance. There is a need to accelerate progress towards a development-friendly outcome to the trade negotiations of the Doha Round, including especially by increasing market access for the agricultural products of developing countries.

**Mr. President,**

Kazakhstan fully maintains its commitments to the timely and effective achievement of the MDGs and other goals in development fields.

According to the UNDP report on the status of implementation of MDGs, Kazakhstan has already achieved main targets of 2 goals: namely ensured universal primary education and promotion of gender equality. Nevertheless, despite of the achievements, the country set up new targets under respective goals such as improvement of quality of education, creation of equal opportunities for men and women and elimination of gender based violence. It is also reported that Kazakhstan will probably achieve the target of eradication of extreme poverty and hunger.

During the 2008 Annual Ministerial Review session Kazakhstan will make national voluntary presentation, which will enable to present a full assessment of our progress towards the achievement a number of MDGs related to the primary education, gender equality and environmental sustainability.

Recognizing poverty as one of the most important tasks, the Government of Kazakhstan is making considerable efforts in developing and realization policy of poverty reduction by ensuring the growth of real income of population, creating a viable social insurance system and promoting employment for socially vulnerable

population. As a result of those measures the MDG of halving the proportion of poor in Kazakhstan by 2015 will be achieved.

In the latest 2005 MDGs Report in Kazakhstan, three health related MGDs 4, 5 and 6 are marked down as unlikely to be achieved without serious efforts aimed at the development of health care system, which was seriously deteriorated in transition period. To revert back negative tendencies in health sector, the Government of Kazakhstan appreciably increased financing for healthcare services up to 4 % of national GDP. Particular attention is paid to Mother and Child Health care, which is free of charge. Moreover, reservations of the experts towards achievement of MDG 4 emanated from the discrepancy of the life birth definition: only 2 years ago Kazakhstan accepted WHO definition of life birth and stillbirth.

The problem of ensuring environmental sustainability is of special concern of the Government of Kazakhstan. In order to ensure environmental sustainability the National Plan of Action on Environmental Protection and the Concept on ecological security for 2004 –2015 were adopted. New priorities of Kazakhstan in environmental protection are: introduction of the ecological requirements in the economy, legislation and society.

By 2024 Kazakhstan is planning to cut carbon emissions per unit of GDP to about one third of their current level and increase the share of the alternative energy sources (solar, wind, geothermal) by at least 250 times.

We have also made a proposal to set up a contest among oil companies to gain the state certificates “Green Oil” for the best achievements in the environmental protection, which is the first attempt in the world and can become a useful example to follow.

**Mr. President,**

It is widely acknowledged that to achieve MDGs special efforts have to be made to assure that landlocked countries, like Kazakhstan, will make necessary progress under all MDGs targets. The challenges and constrains of LLDC are enormous. The participants of the United Nations Ministerial Conference on Transit Transport Cooperation and Sixty-third session of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and Pacific, which took place in Almaty in 2003 and 2007 respectively, recognized that high trade transaction costs, influenced by lack of access to the sea and remoteness from major markets, represent the main cause of

marginalization of the landlocked developing countries. The situation is aggravated by the fact that most of these countries, including Kazakhstan, do not belong to the World Trade Organization and are isolated from main international trade flows.

That is why it is very important to ensure the implementation of decisions and recommendations of major international conferences on trade and development so that vulnerable economies finally get a chance to enjoy the benefits and advantages promised at the conferences.

The upcoming October Midterm Review of Almaty Programme of Action is of crucial importance for landlocked developing countries in terms of reaffirming the commitments of the international community to address in timely and effective manner the special needs of LLDCs within the achievement of the MDGs.

**Mr. President,**

In conclusion I would like once again to reiterate commitment of Kazakhstan to its obligations taken at the Millennium Summit and to the decisions of other international UN conferences and meetings.

Thank you for your attention.



*Permanent Mission of the Republic of Kenya to the United Nations*

866 U.N. Plaza, Rm 304, New York, NY 10017

**STATEMENT**

**BY**

**H.E ZACHARY D. MUBURI-MUITA**

**PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE**

**OF THE REPUBLIC OF KENYA**

**TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

**DURING THE GENERAL**

**ASSEMBLY THEMATIC DEBATE ON**

**MILLENIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS:**

**RECOGNIZING THE ACHIEVEMENTS,**

**ADDRESSING THE CHALLENGES**

**AND GETTING BACK ON TRACK**

**TO ACHIEVE THE MDGs BY 2015:**

**HELD ON 1-2 APRIL, 2008,**

**UNITED NATIONS HEADQUARTERS,**

**NEW YORK.**

**Please check against delivery**

---

**Mr. President,**

I take this opportunity to express appreciation to the President of the General Assembly for organizing this thematic debate on "Millennium Development Goals: Recognizing the Achievements, Addressing the Challenges and Getting Back on Track to Achieve the MDGs by 2015". In the same vein, I wish to thank the President of the General Assembly for the Background Papers on the three MDGs under focus during this discussion - poverty and hunger, education, and health.

Kenya associates itself with the statements delivered by the representatives of Antigua and Barbuda and Cape Verde on behalf of the Group of 77 and China and the African Group respectively.

**Mr. President,**

Kenya like many other developing countries recognizes that the MDGs offer a great opportunity to address human welfare in the world. The adoption of the Millennium Declaration and the Millennium Development Goals in 2000 was a laudable initiative by the international community to fight poverty, accelerate human development and facilitate the gradual but more effective integration of the developing world, especially Africa, into the global economy. The reaffirmation of MDGs in subsequent international conferences was an additional indication of commitment of the international community to address poverty and inequality, and to end the marginalization and exclusion of the poor and disadvantaged.

In Africa, the challenges of eradicating poverty, achieving rapid and sustainable socio-economic development and integrating the continent into the mainstream of the world economy have increasingly been taken seriously by the African leadership as evidenced by some of the recent important development initiatives and measures. These include the transformation of the Organization of the African Union (OAU) to the African Union (AU), the adoption of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) as the strategic programme to pollster Africa's efforts towards meeting the MDGs, among others.

**Mr. President,**

Further, in recognition of the special needs of Africa, the Millennium Declaration called upon the international community to support the consolidation of peace, poverty eradication and sustainable development. The development Partners were specifically to, among others, take special measures to address the challenges of poverty eradication and sustainable development in Africa including debt cancellation, improved market access, enhanced Official Development Assistance (ODA), increased flow of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), and the transfer of technology. Africa was also to be assisted to build capacity to tackle the spread of HIV /AIDS and other infectious diseases. Indeed, this recognition and commitment of the international community to the special developmental needs of Africa, coupled with Africa's own initiatives in this direction, raised hopes of achieving the MDGs on the continent by 2015.

In spite of the initial high expectations the latest reports generally indicate that Africa has not made sufficient progress towards meeting the MDGs by the target date of 2015. That most countries in Africa are far off track to achieve most or all of the goals is now a forgone conclusion.

**Mr. President,**

To reflect on the Kenyan MDGs situation, may I start by pointing out that some uneven progress has been made. During the final two decades of the last century, the Kenyan economy experienced declining economic growth rates reaching its worst in 2002 at 0.5 percent Real Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth. This depressed economic situation had spill over effects on other sectors, hence the bad performance of many MDGs indicators. For instance, the beginning of this decade marked declines in access to safe drinking water and sanitation, child nutrition and health services, increased pressure on environmental goods and services and, a large number of people living below minimum level of dietary energy consumption.

The situation began improving from 2003 due to efforts by the government to resuscitate the economy, through the Economic Recovery Strategy for Wealth and Employment Creation (ERS 2003-2007). The implementation of the ERS has enabled the economy to grow from a GDP of 0.5 percent in 2002 to 6.1 in 2006 and estimated 7.1 percent in 2007. These gains have impacted positively on MDGs indicators across the economy. For instance, the percentage of Kenyans living in absolute poverty reduced by 10 percent between 2002 and 2006. As a result of the introduction of Free the Primary Education in 2003, the national gross enrolment rate in primary schools rose from 93 percent to 107.7 percent in 2006 while the net enrolment for 2006 was 86.5 percent.

**Mr. President,**

Since independence, Kenya has implemented development programmes that focused on the MDGs. As a result, the adoption of the MDGs-based planning in response to the Millennium Declaration served to sharpen the focus and also rally all stakeholders behind the MDGs. Since the launch of the MDGs based planning in 2004, several milestones have been realized. They include:

- A cabinet directive in March 2005 requiring all Ministries/sectors to mainstream MDGs in their specific policies, plans and budgets. This led to increased budgetary allocations for MDGs - related programmes, and further, MDGs have become key criterion for allocating resources to development programmes. Education, health and agriculture have been the greatest beneficiaries of this directive.
- The national MDGs Needs Assessment Study was undertaken in 2005 and it indicated that a total of US\$ 5.9 billion would be needed annually to implement the MDGs. This report has continued to inform the planning and budgeting process in Kenya since then.
- Millennium villages concept has been introduced leading to designation of Bar Sauri in Siaya and Dertu in Ladgera districts as millennium villages, while 9 other districts have been declared Millennium areas. The two villages and 9 districts are being set up as models for best practices that can help achieve MDGs in the country.
- There have been district MDG capacity building exercises to entrench MDGs-based planning at district level and identify quick win projects for implementation.

**Mr. President,**

The government's efforts to address the MDGs have been faced with a number of challenges that have included inadequate resources, poor infrastructure, inadequate capacity and policy frameworks. It is in this respect that the international community is called upon to review and meet their commitments, particularly in the area of provision of resources, technology transfer and capacity building to fast track the implementation and achievement of MDGs by the target time of 2015.

On its part, the Government has prepared Vision 2030 to replace the Economic Recovery Strategy as the blue print for economic development. The Vision 2030 has been prepared to embrace the MDGs and will be implemented through five-year medium-term strategies that the Government has started developing.

**Mr. President,**

Finally, let me point out that the achievement of MDGs requires that the assumptions behind the MDGs agenda must hold at all times. Thus, achieving MDGs requires implementation of commitments by all stakeholders. All parties must live to up to the challenge bestowed upon them in the Millennium Declaration. If this is done, regardless of how far off track countries are, there is still hope. With adequate donor support and MDGs-friendly policies, we can deliver on these goals.

**I thank you, Mr. President**



# THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA

PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

335 East 45<sup>th</sup> Street, New York, N.Y. 10017  
Tel (212) 439-4000, Fax (212) 986-1083

---

**Statement by H.E. Mr. Kim Hyun Chong**

**Permanent Representative**

**Thematic Debate**

**General Assembly**

**3 April 2008**

**New York**

<Check against Delivery>

---

Mr. President,

Midway to the target year of 2015 set for achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), my delegation considers that the thematic debate that we are having today cannot be more timely and helpful in reinvigorating our effort to achieve these noble goals. On behalf of my delegation, I would like to express my warmest appreciation to the President of General Assembly (PGA) for organizing this important meeting.

Mr. President,

During our discussion, it has been noted that, while significant progress has been made toward achieving MDGs, such progress has been uneven and slow among regions. As the PGA mentioned in his opening statement, however, we could emerge victorious and meet most, if not all, of the MDGs by 2015, if we take urgent action with more commitment and dedication. Without a doubt, global partnership will be an essential framework to drive us towards these goals. It would be equally important for developing countries to make further effort to align their national development strategies and priorities with MDGs.

## **(Poverty and Hunger)**

Mr. President,

The balance sheet at the midpoint shows that progress towards achieving the goal of halving the proportion of the people who suffer from extreme poverty and hunger (MDG1) has been uneven according to regions. While the ratio of extreme poverty decreased from 28% in 1990 to 19% in 2005, particular concern has been raised for some regions like Southern Asia and sub - Saharan Africa that have lagged behind in attaining the goal. Efforts to alleviate the suffering from extreme poverty should be doubled in these regions. With population growth, many more millions of people are faced with a danger of being relegated to poverty again. Malnutrition remains a serious problem also. Most dishearteningly, 143 million children under five in the developing world continue to suffer from inadequate nutrition. Such malnutrition of children is particularly alarming because it could lead to a succession of poverty from generation to generation.

In addition, recent unprecedented price hikes of basic food and energy add more complexity to attaining the goal of eradicating poverty and hunger. As well known, the World Food Programme recently issued an extraordinary emergency appeal, amounting to \$500 million US dollars, to address the critical funding gap created by soaring food and fuel prices. Urgent scale-up of financial resources will be essential to counter these emerging challenges.

Mr. President,

In accordance with the pledge at the 2005 World Summit, the Republic of Korea is in the process of substantially increasing our official development assistance (ODA). My delegation also considers that innovative sources of financing for development could be very important supplementary resources for development cooperation. In this connection, the Korean government has introduced the air ticket solidarity levy last year. The funds raised by the levy will be used to fight poverty and epidemic diseases in the Least Developed Countries, particularly in the African region. In this regard, my delegation believes that the issue of innovative sources of development finance should be duly



discussed at the relevant forums, including the forthcoming Doha Review Conference on development financing to be held late this year.

**(Education)**

Mr. President,

Well educated human resources are crucial for national development. Education is also essential in ensuring human dignity and the basic rights of an individual. Achieving Universal Primary Education, therefore, is not only an issue of development but also closely related to the promotion of basic human rights.

Education has played a pivotal role in promoting and sustaining my country's economic growth. According to the lessons we learned, education is also prerequisite to achieving sustainable development and building a more stable and democratic society. Since the Korean government is fully aware of the importance of education, it has given high priority to the provision of education in our development cooperation policy. About 60% of our ODA has been directed to the programs for developing social capitals. My government invites several hundred trainees every year from developing countries and dispatches experts with various skills abroad for cooperation in the fields of capacity development.

Gender equality in education is another critical element for achieving MDGs. Even though the gender parity goal set for 2005 has been missed, I note that 118 out of the 188 countries with available data are on track to achieve, or have already achieved, gender parity at the primary level. We need to do more to achieve gender equality in education because it is unthinkable to promote MDGs without the full participation of women in the development process.

**(Health)**

Mr. President,

The Republic of Korea welcomes the various initiatives at global and regional levels to eradicate epidemic diseases including malaria, tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS. Far too many human lives, especially among the younger generations, are lost to epidemic diseases. Beyond the terrible human tolls, these diseases also undermine development efforts of the international community. As an effort to contribute to this area, my government also participates in the activities of UNITAID, which has been established to support the fight against the three major diseases of malaria, tuberculosis, and HIV/AIDS.

It is encouraging to note that progress in fighting epidemic diseases has been supported by a substantial increase in donations by international actors. While more resources are still required, my delegation shares the view that we need to ensure coordination and cooperation among various actors in this field to avoid fragmentation, inefficiency, and duplication.

Mr. President,

The eight Millennium Development Goals are interconnected and mutually reinforcing. Integrated and multi-faceted approach should be employed to realize MDGs by 2015. In this light, my delegation agrees with the Secretary - General that progress can only be achieved if all actors are energized. Before closing, I would like to reiterate the strong commitment and willingness of my government to make utmost effort toward achieving MDGs.

Thank you.



## بيان

وفد دولة الكويت الدائم لدى الأمم المتحدة

يلقيه

المستشار/ جاسم إبراهيم الناجم

في المناقشة الموضوعية للجمعية العامة

ادراك الإنجازات ومواجهة التحديات والعودة الى المسار الصحيح  
لتحقيق أهداف الألفية الإنمائية بحلول ٢٠١٥

---

مقر الأمم المتحدة - نيويورك

الأربعاء ، ٢ أبريل ٢٠٠٨

## بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

السيد الرئيس ،

أود أن أتقدم لسعادتكم بالشكر والتقدير على عقد مثل هذا الاجتماع الهام ، مؤكداً على الدور المحوري الذي يمكن أن تقوم به المنظمة الدولية في إبراز ومعالجة القضايا والتحديات العصرية، وذلك في ظل المساعي الدولية لتحقيق الأهداف الإنمائية للألفية بحلول عام ٢٠١٥ ، خاصة مع تجاوزنا لمنتصف التاريخ المحدد لتحقيق هذه الغايات.

إن إعلان الأمم المتحدة بشأن الألفية وتبني الغايات الإنمائية للألفية حدثاً مفصلياً في تاريخ الأمم المتحدة . ويعد هذا التبني عهداً غير مسبوق من قادة العالم لمواجهة قضايا السلام والأمن والتنمية وحقوق الإنسان والحريات الأساسية في حزمة متكاملة. لأنه من المؤسف أن نرى أكثر من نصف سكان الأرض يعانون من الفقر والجوع والمرض ويعيشون على أقل من دولارين في اليوم ، الأمر الذي يتطلب نظرة جادة ومراجعة حقيقية لمعوقات التنمية في العالم النامي ، وأخذاً في الاعتبار التحديات الجديدة المتمثلة في الارتفاع الكبير في أسعار السلع الغذائية الأساسية ، وذلك فضلاً عن التحديات التي تفرضها التغيرات المناخية ، بما في ذلك احتمال زيادة المخاطر من الجفاف والفيضانات والتصحر.

لذا ، فإن الأمر يتطلب تصويب مزيد من الجهود لتنمية وتطوير القطاع الزراعي نظراً لدوره الهام في اقتصاديات معظم الدول النامية ، وخاصة في القرى والأرياف ، حيث يتواجد معظم الفقراء الذين يعتمدون على الزراعة في رزقهم ومعيشتهم. ليس هذا فحسب ، بل أن هناك جوانب أخرى تقتضي مزيداً من الاهتمام ومن بينها التجارة الدولية وخاصة في عصر العولمة والتنافس الشديد بين الدول لولوج الأسواق العالمية لتصرف صادراتها ، مما يتطلب بذل مزيد من الجهود لتنمية القدرات التجارية للدول

النامية من خلال العون والمساعدات الفنية ، إذ هناك من الدلائل التي تشير الى أن الدول النامية التي استطاعت أن تحقق تقدماً ملموساً في مكافحة الفقر وتحسين مستويات المعيشة هي تلك التي تمكّنت من تعزيز قدراتها على ولوج الأسواق العالمية بنجاح.

السيد الرئيس ،

لقد حان الوقت لتغيير نمط وأسلوب تعاملنا مع هذه التحديات والانتقال من مرحلة ما يجب فعله الى مرحلة الفعل والوفاء الصادق بالالتزامات التي قطعناها على أنفسنا . ومن خلال إطلاعنا ومتابعتنا لمسار الجهود المبذولة والإنجازات المتحققة والدروس المستفادة يمكننا أن نلاحظ الحاجة الماسة الى مزيد من الموارد المالية لدعم وتمويل البرامج والمشروعات اللازمة لتحقيق الأهداف . ففي هذا السياق يقتضي الأمر سرعة تنفيذ التعهدات المالية من كافة الجهات المانحة ، وفي نفس الوقت بذل مزيد من الجهود من قبل الدول المتقدمة بتقديم مساعدات رسمية للتنمية للدول النامية لا تقل عن ٠,٧% من دخلها القومي ، إذ من شأن ذلك أن يعزز من فرص النجاح في مواجهة التحديات ، ومن بينها القضايا المتعلقة بتوفير التمويل اللازم.

ومن جانب آخر ، فإن تجارب الماضي في مكافحة الفقر والجوع تدل، بين أمور أخرى ، على أن هناك ارتباطات في النتائج المتحققة والآثار الإيجابية المترتبة على هدف أو أكثر من الأهداف الإنمائية للألفية جراء تحقيق أحدها. فتخفيض نسبة الفقر والجوع تتأثر إيجابياً وبشكل ملموس جراء تحقيق تقدم في أهداف أخرى كتوفير المياه الصالحة للشرب أو تحسن في مؤشرات الصحة والتعليم ، لذا فإن النقاشات التي دارت بالإمس حول الفقر والجوع والتعليم والصحة تشير الى أهمية إدراك الارتباط فيما بينها والعمل على توفير المقومات اللازمة لتحقيق إيجابيات الترابط بين الأهداف.

السيد الرئيس ،

لقد قطعت دولة الكويت شوطاً طويلاً في ترجمة التعهدات وقرارات القمة العالمية لعام ٢٠٠٥ على أرض الواقع وتجد نفسها في وضع سيمكنها من تحقيق معظم الغايات الإنمائية للألفية بحلول الموعد المحدد لذلك . وفي حقيقة الأمر فقد تم تحقيق بعض من هذه الغايات قبل سنوات من حلول عام ٢٠١٥ . وتشتمل الغايات التي تم تحقيقها هي القضاء على الفقر المدقع والجوع ، وتعميم التعليم الابتدائي ، والهدف الفرعي للمساواة بين الجنسين في مختلف مراحل التعليم ، وتخفيض معدلات وفيات الأطفال والرضع ، والارتقاء بمستوى صحة الأم ، ومحاربة فيروس نقص المناعة والملاريا والأمراض المعدية.

إن دولة الكويت تدرك تماماً أن الشراكة في التنمية هي إطار وهدف هام في سبيل تحقيق الأهداف الإنمائية للألفية وهي تبذل قصارى جهدها في دعم تلك الأهداف والمساهمة في تحقيقها ، وخاصة من خلال المساعدات الميسرة التي يقدمها الصندوق الكويتي للتنمية منذ ستة وأربعين عاماً لتمويل مشروعات في قطاعات مختلفة كالزراعة ، الطاقة ، المياه والصرف الصحي، النقل ، الاتصالات ، التعليم والصحة ، فضلاً عن دعم عمليات الصناديق الاجتماعية وبنوك التنمية الوطنية والتي بلغت قيمتها حوالي ١٤ مليار دولار ، واستفادت منها حتى الآن ١٠١ دولة من الدول النامية . ويعمل الصندوق منذ إعلان الألفية في عام ٢٠٠٠ على تكثيف جهوده لتمويل مشروعات تدعم تحقيق الأهداف الإنمائية للألفية كالتعليم والصحة والمحافظة على البيئة ، فضلاً عن مساهمته في تخفيف عبء المديونية عن الدول الفقيرة المثقلة بالديون في إطار المبادرة التي أطلقها البنك الدولي وصندوق النقد الدولي في عام ١٩٩٦ وتم تعزيزها عام ١٩٩٩ ، وذلك فضلاً عن المساعدات والمعونات الفنية والمنح التي تقدمها دولة الكويت مباشرة الى الدول النامية ، ومساهماتها في مؤسسات التنمية الإقليمية والدولية. وهكذا فإن مساعدات التنمية الرسمية المقدمة من دولة الكويت

الى الدول النامية كنسبة من دخلها القومي بلغت في المتوسط أضعاف نسبة الـ ٠,٧% التي حدّتها الأمم المتحدة.

كما تلتزم دولة الكويت بتقديم مساهمات طوعية سنوية الى كثير من المنظمات والوكالات الدولية المتخصصة ، إضافة الى الهيئات والصناديق الإقليمية التي تعمل على دعم جهود الدول النامية لتحقيق أهدافها التنموية. وقد خصّصت دولة الكويت في العام الماضي مبلغ وقدره ثلاثمائة مليون دولار الى البنك الإسلامي للتنمية للقضاء على الفقر في أفريقيا ، علاوة على تقديمها لكثير من المعونات الإنسانية والغوثية للدول التي تعرّضت لكوارث طبيعية.

السيد الرئيس ،

إن دولة الكويت تولي اهتماماً بالغاً بالقضايا المتعلقة بحماية البيئة بشكل عام وبتلك المتعلقة بتغيّر المناخ بشكل خاص ، وعلى النحو الذي يحقق أهداف التنمية المستدامة ، وانطلاقاً من تلك الاهتمامات سعت دولة الكويت الى تنفيذ عدد من المشاريع المتعلقة بالحد من الانبعاثات ومعالجة آثارها على المستوى المحلي ، كما قامت بتخصيص مبلغ ١٥٠ مليون دولار لدعم الأبحاث والدراسات المتعلقة بالبيئة والطاقة ضمن الصندوق الذي تم انشاؤه خلال قمة أوبك الأخيرة في الرياض.

وفي الختام ، أؤكد مجدداً على مواصلة دولة الكويت بذل كافة الجهود الممكنة للمساهمة في تحقيق الأهداف المرجوة ذات الصلة بالتنمية المستدامة والقضاء على الفقر والجوع وتأمين حياة تتسم بالأمن والاستقرار والرفاهية.

وشكراً السيد الرئيس.



## PERMANENT MISSION OF THE LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC TO THE UNITED NATIONS

317 East 51<sup>st</sup> Street , New York , NY 10022. Tel. (212) 832 2734. Fax. (212)750 0039

(Check Against Delivery)

**Statement by**  
**H.E Mr. Bounkeut SANGSOMSAK,**  
**Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Lao PDR**  
**at the Plenary Session of the UNGA Thematic Debate on MDGs entitled**  
**“recognizing the achievements, addressing the challenges and getting back on tract to**  
**achieve the MDGs by 2015” April 2, 2008**

-----

Mr. President,

At the outset, allow me to commend you for taking the initiative to convene this important and timely UNGA session on MDGs, which should help us address the constraints and challenges we face in leading up to 2015.

My delegation would like to associate itself with statements delivered by the Chairman of the Group of 77 and China, the group of LDCs and LLDCs.

Mr. President,

As we enter the half point toward our ultimate goals by 2015, the implementation of millennium development goals has achieved several concrete and significant progress but is still far from satisfactory. Our panel discussion held yesterday has reflected the fact that much more needs to be done if we are to achieve our goals. It is clearly indicated that extreme diversity is evidently characterized by uneven distribution of the regional and global wealth among countries and regions.

Mr. President,

Since the adoption of Millennium Declaration and Millennium Development Goals in 2000, the Government of the Lao PDR has attached great importance to its effective implementation. To this end, the Millennium Development Goals have been customized and incorporated into the national poverty eradication policy including the five-year national socio-economic development plan, which constitutes the Government's strategy to achieve sustainable poverty eradication through accelerated economic growth. It gives priority to the 47 districts identified as the poorest in the country with a view to ensuring their progressive integration into the national economy. As a roadmap in achieving MDGs, the national five-year socio-economic development plan is implemented through 11 programs that break into 111 concrete projects to be carried out at the central throughout the local levels.

Given the importance of MDGs, the Lao Government has set up a National Supervisory Committee on the implementation of Millennium Development Goals chaired by the Deputy



Prime Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs, which is mandated to advocate and coordinate the nationwide implementation of MDGs. In addition, the Lao Government has also established a national committee on rural development and poverty eradication, chaired by Deputy Prime Minister. This committee is structured through its networking across the country from central to local levels with a mandate to promote the implementation of the Government's strategy on rural development and poverty eradication. Within this context, a Poverty Eradication Fund has been set up to mobilize additional resources with a view to addressing inadequate financing.

In carrying out the national poverty eradication strategy, the Government has exerted greater effort in addressing the issue of financing. In this regard, the Lao Government strongly promotes investment and small and medium enterprises in the rural areas and in the field of national comparative advantage and emerging potentials such as hydropower, ecotourism and geographical advantage like east-west transit links or known as east-west corridor.

Mr. President,

In the Lao PDR, the implementation of MDGs has rendered a relatively steady progress. Since the release of the first MDG Report in 2004, the Lao PDR was successful in sustaining its robust economic growth, with real GDP growth of 8% in 2007 and above. The poverty rate has reduced from 48% in 1990 to 28,7% in 2007. In education, the net enrolment rates in primary schools rose from 58% in 1991 to 84% in 2005. At primary age (basic education), literacy almost doubled from 31% to 58%. In the area of child and maternal mortality reduction, the under-5 mortality rate declined from 170 to 98, and the infant mortality rate from 104 to 70 between 1995 and 2005. At this rate, the 2015 MDG mortality targets seem within reach, though mortality rates are much higher in rural areas than in urban areas.

Despite this steady progress, challenges remain to be overcome to meet the targets by 2015. One of the major challenges is to sustain the level of economic growth achieved over the previous decade in face of the high oil and food prices. There is also a need for the Government to address a disparity between people living in urban and rural areas in terms of their ability to reap the benefits from economic growth to improve their livelihoods, including health and education

Mr. President,

For the Lao PDR, the international community should help the country address its specific constraints outlined above. The donor community is required to support the Lao PDR in the area of human and institutional capacity building, essential infrastructure development such as transport facilities and telecommunication. As the country is in the process of accession to WTO, the procedures should be made more simplified and streamlined so as to accelerate this process. In terms of ODA, the Lao PDR would like to see greater coherence among donors and we consider untied aid as the most effective assistance to the Lao PDR in its national development efforts.

On this note, I wish our deliberation a great success and effectively delivers tangible impact on the implementation of MDGs.

Thank you.



كلمة الجمهورية اللبنانية

يلقيها

السفير الدكتور نواف سلام  
المندوب الدائم

أمام الجمعية العامة

الأهداف الإنمائية للألفية

نيويورك في ٢٠٠٨/٤/٣

الرجاء متابعة النص عند الإلقاء

السيد الرئيس،

ما اجتماعنا اليوم لنقاش مصير الأهداف الإنمائية للألفية إلا نتيجة إدراككم أنتم، سعادة الرئيس سرجان كريم، ومن موقعكم كرئيس للجمعية العامة، للمخاطر الناجمة عن التأخير الحاصل في العمل على تحقيق عدد من هذه الأهداف. وإذا يسجل وفد بلادي بعد نظركم هذا، يود أيضاً أن يضمن تشديدكم على أن زمننا بات يتطلب أكثر من أي شيء آخر فعل إرادة سياسية يسمح بترجمة الوعود أفعالاً. ولا يسعنا في البداية إلا أن ننوه كذلك بأهمية اعتبار سعادة الأمين العام بان كي مون، في كلمته، عام ٢٠٠٨ "عام التصدي لاحتياجات أكثر البلدان فقراً"، آمليين أن يجد ذلك كل التعاون المطلوب لدى كافة الدول الأعضاء.

السيد الرئيس،

إن لبنان يتبنى مضمون كلمة انبغا وبربودا التي ألقيت باسم مجموعة الـ ٧٧ والصين. ويهّم وفد بلادي، بادئ ذي بدء، أن يضم صوته أيضاً إلى كل اللذين أكدوا هنا، أكانوا ممثلي دول أو خبراء أو ناشطين معينين، إن تحقيق معظم الأهداف الإنمائية للألفية لا يزال أمراً ممكناً بحلول عام ٢٠١٥، لا سيما لجهة القضاء على الفقر المدقع والجوع، لو تضافرت الجهود الدولية لذلك ولو في كل طرف بالوعد التي قطعها، وذلك رغم إدراكنا للتحديات الجسام الجديدة الناجمة عن بعض انعكاسات العولمة السلبية على الدول النامية، وآثار تغير المناخ، وخاصة اتساع الهوة بين الأغنياء والفقراء في هذا العالم، إن فيما بين دوله أو داخل العديد منها. ويبقى الأساس، إن تحقيق الأهداف الإنمائية للألفية المتمثلة بتعميم التعليم الابتدائي، وتعزيز المساواة بين الجنسين، وتخفيض معدل وفيات الأطفال، وتخفيض معدل وفاة النساء عند الولادة، ومكافحة فيروس نقص المناعة البشرية المكتسبة والملاريا وغيرهما من الأمراض، وتأمين الاستدامة البيئية، وإقامة شراكة عالمية من أجل التنمية، فضلاً عن القضاء على الفقر المدقع والجوع، هي أيضاً كلها تقتضي تحقيق أكبر قدر من التعاون ما بين الدول المتقدمة النمو والدول النامية.

السيد الرئيس،

قامت الأمم المتحدة في العام ٢٠٠٣ بإعداد ونشر أول تقرير حول مدى التزام لبنان بتحقيق الأهداف الإنمائية للألفية حيث أشارت فيه إلى أن لبنان يسير في الطريق الصحيح باتجاه تحقيق هذه الأهداف في العام ٢٠١٥. وقد قامت الحكومة اللبنانية في نهاية العام ٢٠٠٦ بإعداد عناصر استراتيجية وطنية للتنمية تتلاقى مع أهداف الألفية للتنمية وجرى تطويرها على شكل خطط عمل

اجتماعية ضمن سلة من الإصلاحات الاقتصادية والمالية الهادفة إلى تحقيق نمو اقتصادي مضطرد وإلى تقليص معدّل الدّين العام بالنسبة إلى الناتج الإجمالي المحليّ.

والواقع أن لبنان قام منذ نهاية العام ٢٠٠٠ بجهود كبيرة من أجل تحقيق الأهداف الإنمائية للألفية. وقد أدت جهوده هذه إلى تحقيق عدد من النجاحات أبرزها أنه استطاع تقليص نسبة الذين يعيشون تحت خطّ الفقر من ٢٧% في العام ١٩٩٥ إلى ٢٠,٦% في العام ٢٠٠٤، كما اتخذت الحكومة اللبنانية سلسلة من الإجراءات الهادفة إلى تحقيق قدر أكبر من التوزيع العادل للثروة، مما انعكس على مؤشر جيني الذي تراجع إلى حدود ٠,٣٦١ في العام ٢٠٠٤ بالمقارنة مع ٠,٤٣٥ في العام ١٩٩٥.

وقد تمكن لبنان من رفع نسبة التلامذة الذين أنهوا مرحلة التعليم الابتدائيّ من ٩٥,٣% خلال العام الدراسيّ ٢٠٠١-٢٠٠٢ إلى ٩٦,٣% خلال العام الدراسيّ ٢٠٠٥-٢٠٠٦.

وبينما انخفض معدّل الأمية بين النساء وارتفع عدد الفتيات المنتسبات إلى مراحل التعليم الابتدائيّ من ٧٦,٢% في العام ١٩٩٠ إلى ٨٩,٤% في العام ٢٠٠١، كما وصلت نسبة الفتيات المسجلات في مراحل التعليم الثانويّ إلى حدود ٧٩% في العام ٢٠٠٢، فلم يواكب ذلك مشاركة أكبر فعلاً للمرأة في القرار السياسي حيث أن عدد النساء اللواتي تمكّن من دخول المجلس النيابي نتيجة آخر انتخابات لم يتعد الستة. وقد دفع ذلك الهيئة الوطنية لقانون الانتخابات التي شكلها مجلس الوزراء عام ٢٠٠٥ أن تقترح تخصيص "كوتا" للنساء على مستوى الترشيح بحيث تتضمن كل لائحة، بصورة إلزامية، نسبة محددة من المرشحات إيماناً من الهيئة أن هذا النظام هو "تميز إيجابي" يهدف لتصحيح الخلل وإعادة التوازن المفقود في المجتمع حيث أنه رغم مرور أكثر من نصف قرن على منح المرأة حق التصويت والترشيح فهي لم تأخذ بعد فرصتها الحقيقية في المشاركة السياسية لأسباب عديدة منها اجتماعية. وأتى هذا الاقتراح لينسجم مع اتفاقية القضاء على جميع أشكال التمييز ضد المرأة التي انضمت إليها لبنان وكذلك مع إعلان مؤتمر بيجين لعام ١٩٩٥ الذي صادق عليه أيضاً.

ومن جهة أخرى، وفي سياق الانسجام مع أهداف الألفية ذاته، استطاع لبنان تقليص معدّل الوفيات بين الأطفال من ٢٦ بالألف في العام ٢٠٠٠ إلى ١٩ بالألف في العام ٢٠٠٤، كما انه نجح في خفض معدّل الوفيات خلال الولادة من ١٤٠ من أصل كلّ مئة ألف حالة عام ١٩٩٠ إلى ٨٦,٣ عام ٢٠٠٤.

أما لجهة هدف مكافحة فيروس نقص المناعة البشريّة المكتسبة/الإيدز والملاريا وغيرها من الأمراض الفتاكة، فباستطاعة لبنان أن يؤكد أن عدد المصابين بفيروس الإيدز قد انخفض عام ٢٠٠٧ إلى ١٥ من أصل كل مئة ألف نسمة، كما أن عدد حالات السل قد انخفض بدوره إلى ٩،٣٨ من أصل العدد نفسه.

أخيراً، كان لبنان قد استطاع حتى بداية الفصل الثاني من العام ٢٠٠٦ تحقيق إنجازات ملحوظة على صعيد كفاءة الاستدامة البيئية. وقد جرى تصنيفه وفقاً لمؤشر الأداء البيئيّ في المرتبة ٣٦ من أصل لائحة مؤلفة من ١٣٣ دولة، كما أنه احتلّ المرتبة الأولى على الصعيد العربي وفقاً لنفس المؤشر. إلا أن الحرب التي شنتها إسرائيل على لبنان في صيف العام ٢٠٠٦ كان لها آثار كارثية على البيئة كما على بعدي التنمية المستدامة الآخرين، أي التنمية الاقتصادية والتنمية الاجتماعية، بحيث كادت تؤدي بكلّ الجهود المضنية التي بذلها لبنان على طريق تحقيق الأهداف الإنمائية للألفية، ذلك أن هذه الحرب قد أدت إلى خسائر مادية تجاوزت الملياري دولار، إذ قامت إسرائيل بتدمير آلاف المنازل فضلاً عن عدد كبير من البنى التحتية الأساسية كالجسور والطرق وغيرها من المرافق الحيويّة التي كان لبنان قد بذل موارد ماليّة ضخمة لبنائها.

وبالنسبة للأضرار البيئية تحديداً الناجمة عن هذه الحرب، فلا بد لنا من التذكير هنا أن الطائرات الحربيّة الإسرائيليّة قد قامت عمداً بتاريخ كلٍّ من ١٣ و ١٥ تموز ٢٠٠٦ على التوالي، بقصف خزانات الوقود التابعة لمحطة الجية لتوليد الكهرباء مما أدى إلى حدوث أسوأ كارثة بيئية عرفها شرق البحر الأبيض المتوسط إذ انتشرت بقعة نفطيّة على امتداد ١٥٠ كلم من الشاطئ اللبنانيّ البالغ ٢١٠ كلم. وقد أدى احتراق جزءٍ منها إلى انبعاث ١٨٠ جيغرام من ثاني أكسيد الكربون إلى الغلاف الجويّ وهو ما يعادل الانبعاثات الصادرة عن ٢٧،٥ مليون سيارة، في وقت تتضافر فيه جهود المجتمع الدوليّ من أجل العمل على تقليص انبعاثات غازات الدفيئة.

السيد الرئيس،

إن لبنان يدرك جيداً أن المديونية المرتفعة ترهق اقتصاده الوطنيّ وتستنزف جزءاً هاماً من موارده. وهو يسعى جاهداً ولا يزال إلى تقليص العجز في موازنته العائد بشكل أساسي إلى خدمة الدين العام. وكان قد تمكن عبر سلسلة من الإجراءات والسياسات من تقليص نسبة خدمة الدين من ١٨% من الناتج الإجماليّ المحليّ لعام ٢٠٠٠ إلى نسبة ١٣،٢% من الناتج الإجماليّ المحليّ لعام ٢٠٠٦، كما كان قد باشر بورشة تطوير واسعة لقوانينه لخلق مناخ جاذب للاستثمارات ومحفذ

لنمو الاقتصادي. وقد ساهم ذلك في تمكين الحكومة اللبنانية من الحصول على مساهمات مالية دولية، معظمها على شكل قروض ميسرة، لدعم برامجها الإصلاحية واستراتيجيتها الوطنية للتنمية بلغت ٧,٦ مليار دولار خلال المؤتمر الدولي للمانحين الذي عقد في شهر كانون الثاني من العام ٢٠٠٧ في باريس.

السيد الرئيس،

إننا ندرك أيضاً، أنّ الأزمة السياسيّة التي تعصف بلبنان بات لها آثار اجتماعية سلبية واضحة. وهي تؤثر على نموّه الاقتصادي الذي تراجع إلى معدّل ١,٧% خلال العام ٢٠٠٧ والذي من المتوقع أن يستمرّ في الانحدار هذا العام لو استمرت الأزمة على حالها. وهذا يزيدنا إصراراً على أهمية إجراء الانتخابات الرئاسية وعلى التمسك بالمبادرة العربية بهذا الخصوص.

السيد الرئيس،

اسمحوا لي في الختام أن أشدد على أن الدول النامية كما هي مطالبة عن حق بإجراء الإصلاحات الهيكلية الأساسية وبناء القدرات المؤسساتية اللازمة لديها للسير بسياسات واستراتيجيات وطنية للتنمية تخلق فرص العمل الكريم وتحقق نمواً اقتصادياً مما يسمح خاصة بالقضاء على حالات الفقر المدقع، فإن الدول المتقدمة النمو مطالبة بدورها بمواكبة هذا الجهد عبر إسداء الدعم المالي والتقني للملائمين لمساعدة الدول النامية على تحفيز اقتصادياتها و من أجل تعزيز الشراكة العالمية للتنمية التي هي المدمك الأساس في تحقيق الأهداف الإنمائية للألفية. غير أنّ بعض المعطيات الحالية لا تعتبر مشجعة حيث أنّ مؤشرات العام ٢٠٠٦ قد شهدت تراجعاً في المساعدات العائدة للتنمية. وتشير التوقعات إلى أنّ هذه النسبة استمرت في الانخفاض في العام ٢٠٠٧ خاصة مع تراجع عمليات التخفيض الجوهري للديون. ولم يتم أيضاً تحقيق أيّ تقدم فعلي على صعيد دورة الدوحة للمفاوضات التجارية، فالحواجز الجمركية وغير الجمركية لا تزال تشكل عائقاً أساسياً أمام تحسين إمكانية ولوج السلع المنتجة في الدول النامية إلى أسواق الدول المتقدمة النمو. من هنا أهمية برامج المساعدات لتحفيز التجارة والدعم التقني في هذا المضمار.

ويبقى أن حجر الزاوية في الشراكة العالمية من أجل التنمية هو الإرادة السياسيّة اللازمة لدى الدول المتقدمة النمو للوفاء بالتعهدات المقطوعة، فلا تبقى هذه الأخيرة مجرد أحلام يتطلّع إليها فقراء العالم بالكثير من الرجاء ولكن دون أن يتمكنوا من تلمّس فضائلها فعلاً، فتصبح كالسراب الذي يتعد عنهم كلما ظنوا أنهم يقتربون منه... فيتعزز شعورهم أنهم لا يزالون في هذا العالم في فقرهم غرباء.



**The Permanent Mission of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya  
to the United Nations – New York**

**Statement by**

***The delegation of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya***

**Delivered before**

***The United Nations General Assembly***

***As part of the Thematic debate on***

***“Recognizing the achievements, addressing  
the challenges and getting back on track to  
achieve the MDGs by 2015”***

**New York, 2 April 2008**

**Please check against delivery**

*In the Name of Allah The Most Compassionate The Most Merciful*

Please allow me to begin, Mr. President, by thanking you for holding this thematic discussion. This discussion will help increase awareness in the international community of the importance of implementing the international commitments vis-à-vis development. I would also like to underline the support of my country's delegation for the statement made by His Excellency, Mr. Atoki Ileka, Permanent Representative of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, on behalf of the African Group, and for the statement made by the Representative of Antigua and Barbuda on behalf of the G77 and China.

**Mr. President,**

Seven years have passed since the international community established the Millennium Development Goals. These goals should be reached by 2015. At this half-way point on the road, it is of great concern that many developing and especially those least developed countries have been unable to make headway towards realizing these goals. It is, furthermore, unlikely that they will achieve tangible progress given the diverse problems and difficulties they have to contend with.

There is no doubt that developing countries require national development strategies and the mobilization of their local resources to meet the goals set out within the framework of the Millennium goals. Although some of these countries have been able to make progress in this direction, many other countries, especially the least developed among them, still face numerous difficulties and there is a growing gap between what is required and the capabilities they have at their disposal. Despite efforts made, these countries do not have at their disposal sufficient resources to implement their programmes to reduce poverty and hunger, combat increasing unemployment levels and child and maternal mortality and combat the spread of deadly diseases (the most prominent of which being Malaria and HIV/AIDS). They also lack the resources to provide universal primary education, improve health and educational services and address challenges related to accessing energy and technology and capacity building for development.

The international community acknowledges the right of peoples to development. However, promises made by development partners to help achieve the Millennium goals have been insufficiently translated into action. We have witnessed a significant reduction in levels of official development



aid. Many developed countries do not commit themselves to setting aside 0.7% of GDP for development aid. Capital continues to flow from developing countries to developed countries. Income inequality between developing and developed countries continues to increase due to inequitable financial and trade systems skewed in favour of developed countries while globalisation has exacerbated the economic marginalization of the weak and exposed them to the risks of political and economic dependency.

The global partnership for development must be transformed into a tangible reality based on the commitments established in the Monterey consensus. In this regard, we stress the importance of increasing the levels and improving the quality of official development aid. The international trade and financial system must be more focused on development. The international community must demonstrate the firm political will to address needs, particularly in Africa, without imposing impossible conditions, must work with them to draw up and implement plans for development in various fields, must collaborate with them to create work opportunities for the unemployed, and must widen the scope of external debt relief. The international community must also promote domestic and foreign investment in infrastructure and in manufacturing.

Middle-income countries, particularly those which rely on a single commodity for their income and are consequently more at risk from price and economic instability, and yet for whom the Millennium Development goals are within reach, require sustained support for their development efforts and should be encouraged to create new mechanisms to underpin economic development, increase the effectiveness of social spending and improve health and education. They must also be empowered so that they have access to development and capacity building technology and expertise.

**Mr. President,**

As far as Libya is concerned, studies undertaken to assess living standards reveal that there are no members of society for whom the terms poor or hungry are applicable. This is due to the fact that Libya has adopted policies to subsidise food staples, therefore providing them at a price which is affordable to those on limited income. Addressing the needs of this segment of society is a strategic development priority in Libya. The number of health clinics and educational establishments is in continual increase as are endeavours to improve the services they provide (free of charge). For example, the number of children under 15 years of age enrolled in infant and primary education has increased to more than 98.5 %. Hospitals and health

centres, offering their services free of charge, are being established in every part of the country. Meanwhile, the restructuring of many sectors of the economy together with the adoption of a new legal framework is boosting economic performance. Setting up shareholding companies is being encouraged, together with the widening of the scope of economic activity and the provision of loans on favourable terms in order to accelerate economic development and provide employment opportunities to those who are in need.

Libya is eager to be a supportive partner to the efforts on the part of the least developed countries as they aspire to attain the Millennium development goals, particularly in the fight against poverty and in combating disease. In this regard, it has established the Gaddafi Strategic Project for Children, Young People and Women in Africa. This project aims to help eliminate poverty, ignorance and disease in the continent and to alleviate suffering. Here, we wish to stress the importance of lending support to this project in order that it more rapidly attains its ambitious goals. Libya, in cooperation with Nigeria and Cuba, is also implementing the South-South Project for Healthcare which provides a range of health services to those in need in many African countries. Having faith in the policies of the African Union which aim to achieve economic integration between the countries of the continent, Libya is working to invest jointly with many African countries, especially sub-Saharan countries, in order to implement numerous agricultural projects and has organized, to this end, several meetings attended by African officials with responsibilities in this field. As a result, important outcomes and recommendations, which have helped overcome difficulties, have been obtained. Libya also plays a major role in the establishment and funding of financial institutions to bring together the countries of the Sahel and the Sahara in order to raise loans and fund manufacturing and service projects in many of the group's member states. Libya also encourages Libyan investors to increase their investments in the countries of Africa.

**To conclude, Mr. President,** the Millennium Development Goals, which have become a worldwide framework for development and a road to prosperity and to stability for the peoples of the world and to the creation of a better world for all, will not be achieved without concerted international efforts and a commitment by all to stand by the commitments they have made.

**Thank you, Mr. President**



PERMANENT MISSION OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY THEMATIC DEBATE ON THE  
MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS**

**RECOGNIZING THE ACHIEVEMENTS, ADDRESSING THE CHALLENGES  
AND GETTING BACK ON TRACK TO ACHIEVE THE MDGs BY 2015**

**STATEMENT**

**BY**

**H.E. AMBASSADOR CHRISTIAN WENAWESER,  
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE  
OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

**NEW YORK, 2 APRIL 2008**

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Mr. President

We thank you for your initiative to convene this important thematic debate that deals with three core questions for development, i.e. poverty, health and education. These issues cover the concerns of six out of eight Millennium Development Goals and basically concern all targets. The seventh Millennium Development Goal on environmental sustainability, not on the agenda, should be taken into account when dealing with these fundamental issues. The linkages are obvious and therefore need to be underscored. The General Assembly devoted most recently a special thematic debate on the sub-issue of climate change. Unfortunately, the latter thematic debate then failed to address the interrelationships with these three fundamental questions.

The commitments undertaken as part of the Millennium Development Goals are, in practice, intrinsically enmeshed with other important commitments to which we all agreed. The 2005 World Summit Outcome Document clearly states that multilateral solutions to problems in areas other than development need to be found. These are peace and collective security, human rights and the rule of law as well as strengthening of the United Nations. For development to succeed in the medium to long-term, good governance in the broadest sense is basically a sine qua non. It is for this reason that the Liechtenstein Government has decided a few years ago to treat the promotion of good governance as priority issue in its multilateral development cooperation.

Mr. President,

Let me briefly turn to what my country is doing in concrete, practical terms to achieve the Millennium Development Goals as we speak:

The Liechtenstein Government attaches great importance in achieving the Millennium Development Goals. The government decided some years ago to consistently increase its Official Development Assistance (ODA) towards the target of 0.7% of the gross national income (GNI), as reaffirmed by the Monterrey Consensus. Liechtenstein is on track and will hopefully be able to reach an ODA of 0.6% of the GNI in 2008.

The three main issues of today's meeting are incorporated in the new national law on humanitarian and development cooperation. The promotion of basic food and health supply as well as basic education and vocational training, in particular in rural and structurally weak regions, is the core of our bilateral development cooperation.

With the new law, the different development actors in Liechtenstein are also in charge of public outreach. They are bound to regularly inform about the focus areas, the organization, the objectives and the impact of Liechtenstein's humanitarian and development cooperation. We regard it as essential to promote

the understanding of the Liechtenstein population for the causes of underdevelopment and poverty as well as possibilities for their alleviation. Currently, the Liechtenstein Development Service organizes for example a series on "A Vision for Africa". Scientists and journalists discuss topical questions, also deliberated in the UN context, such as a new approach in agriculture for "a green revolution in Africa".

Liechtenstein is also positioning itself as an active and competent agent in the field of microfinance. It launched the public private partnership „Microfinance Initiative Liechtenstein“(MIL) in 2005. The partnership is made up by institutions such as the Foreign Ministry, the Liechtenstein Development Service, the Liechtenstein Bankers Association, two private foundations and the Liechtenstein University of Applied Sciences. The MIL promotes projects through which microfinance investment opportunities are created in the financial services sector. Liechtenstein realizes that microfinance is one of the ways to contribute to development. However, Liechtenstein sees micro-financing as an important contribution to fighting poverty, in particular by stimulating entrepreneurship in targeted developing countries.

Mr. President,

Liechtenstein shares the opinion of the United Nations World Economic Situation and Prospects (WESP), that, and I quote "strong economic growth, while not the only condition, is essential to generate the necessary resources to achieve the Millennium Development Goals." In many developing countries, stable economic growth has become a fact of life so that these countries have consistently surpassed those in the developed world. The increasingly important role that some developing countries are now playing in the global economy goes hand in hand with new responsibilities. In a world that is often described as a "global village", all national actors in the North and South need to pull their fair weight. Since the Millennium Summit Declaration in 2000, the shift in economic importance amongst state actors has become increasingly pronounced. It is only natural that some developing countries enhance their contribution to global development, particularly to achieve the Millennium Development Goals. In short, the so called South-South cooperation needs to be taken into better consideration when looking at the "current architecture of international cooperation". This aspect is important for "getting back on track to achieve the MDG by 2015" in a more sustainable and effective way.

With regard to the Monterrey Consensus, the status of implementation of the six leading actions of the said consensus is currently under review. Many activities and initiatives have been put into place and positive effects on the consensus are palpable. The follow-up Conference in Doha will be another important milestone on "our road to 2015". Millennium Development Goal eight on global partnerships intersects with the Monterrey Consensus, containing targets like aid, trade and debt relief. We are of the opinion that in these areas more can and must be done.

Mr. President,

Let me assure you that Liechtenstein will continue to show international solidarity in our common endeavor to achieve the Millennium Development Goals on time. We are therefore looking forward to continuing the debate on how best to continue our MDG work in progress in the latter part of this year.

I thank you.



PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC  
OF MACEDONIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS

866 UNITED NATIONS PLAZA, SUITE 517

NEW YORK, N.Y. 10017

TEL: (212) 308-8504, 8723 FAX: (212) 308-8724

*CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY*

**STATEMENT**

by

**H.E. Ambassador Slobodan Tasovski**  
**Permanent Representative of the Republic of Macedonia**  
**to the United Nations**

at the

**General Assembly Thematic Debate on**  
**“Recognizing the achievements, addressing the challenges and**  
**getting back on track to achieve the MDGs by 2015”**

**New York, 3 April 2008**

Mr. President,  
Excellencies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen

It is an honor to address this important thematic debate. I would like to extend our thanks to the President of the General Assembly to convene this timely debate, especially now when we are at halfway point at reaching the target year set for achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

Furthermore, the presence and intervention of the Secretary- General, the Prime Minister of Finland, the Foreign Minister of Mali and the distinguished panelists participating in all three panels on poverty and hunger, education and health, has shown the sense of urgency that both developing and developed countries attach to the achievement of the MDGs.

Since the adoption of the Millennium Declaration in 2000, the MDGs have become the universally recognized development framework and their implementation has become the number one international development objective. Thus, the year 2008 is a crucial year to make progress in achieving MDGs, but only through concentrated and targeted actions in support of all eight MDGs, and only if increased immediately and sustained by 2015 on the basis of a shared global strategy.

Mr. President,

Attaining the MDGs by 2015 is a major priority for the General Assembly and the international community as a whole. Now, is the midpoint for attainment of the goals and to take account of the progress so far and discuss solutions on the existing challenges and renew commitments to reach the target date-2015.

Are we on track to meet the target?

We are faced by old and new trends- income growth, climate change, high food and energy prices, globalization and urbanization. All this has strong implications for the poorer countries. Provided that GDP growth per capita remains 3.5% per annum for developing countries, global poverty will fall to 721 million by 2015, but as we are aware, the rise is still going on in Sub Saharan Africa and for many least developed countries. On the other hand, in the developing world, like China and India there is sustained growth and



rapid worldwide growth has created 45 million new jobs in 2007, but this has also caused a gap between the rich and poor. 80% of GDP is in the hands of 1 billion people from developed world, and 20% falls to 5 billion people living in developing countries. Thus, the world economy is faced with serious challenges in sustaining the strong pace of economic growth seen over the past years. Economic growth rates are high and developing countries especially the poorest are vulnerable to a downturn in global economy. However, in regard to some MDGs and the topics addressed during this thematic debate, some progress can be noted in eradicating poverty and hunger, decrease in child mortality, global response to climate change and implementation of sustainable development principles into country policies. Therefore, implementation of MDGs must be pursued with invigorated effort since it becomes more obvious that some regions, in particular Africa need renewed commitment.

Mr. President,

The Republic of Macedonia, as a candidate country for EU membership has aligned itself with the statement of the Minister of Growth of Slovenia on behalf of the EU presidency, is fully committed to realization of MDGs. We fully agree that every country bears the responsibility for its own development, which depends mainly on national policies and strategies. We also agree that global actions are necessary as a support for national efforts. We are aware that some regions need more shared responsibility than others in order to achieve the projected targets. For that purpose, we endorse the call for renewed commitment to the implementation of the United Nations MDGs and we commend the Secretary- General's high level event to take place on 25 September, 2008, which is expected to bring more results to the financing for development challenge, as well as the forthcoming review of the Monterrey Conference on Financing for Development in November this year in Doha as another possibility to reach agreement for an effective approach for sooner achievement of all MDGs.

To achieve progress the formula that should be applied is foreign aid + national effort equals MDGs. Each country should take ownership of and responsibility for its development agenda and tailor global MDG targets into national targets and policies resulting in programs and budgetary allocations.

In that respect, the Government of the Republic of Macedonia has designed its policies and strategies in the "Comprehensive Policy Support for the Development Agenda of the Republic of Macedonia, within which a

National Development Plan (NDP) for 2007-2009 has been finalized and approved outlining the country's development strategy with the aim of pursuing and achieving MDGs. The strategic objective of the National Development Plan (NDP) is to provide an overall framework for investments to be co-financed from domestic and foreign public sources that will be consistent with the overall development objectives of the Republic of Macedonia for the three-year period. In particular, the objectives of the NDP are:

1. making a detailed assessment of the existing economic, social and environmental situation in the country from the point of view of its development gaps vis-à-vis the EU as well from the point of view of the disparities among various geographical areas within the country;
2. to formulate strategic and operational objectives;
3. to identify at the national level the key development/investment priorities and
4. to design a consistent matrix where development/investment priorities will be met with the country's financial capabilities and in accordance with the country's macroeconomic and fiscal scenarios.

Therefore, the Government's program for achievement of MDGs remains focused on the four main targets: decentralization and good governance through reforms in the self governance, reducing poverty through economic development, support of the health sector and education and improvement of national capacities for sustainable development.

Mr. President,

Let me conclude by expressing confidence that the fruitful discussions during this debate have shown that in order to cope successfully with the challenges that lie ahead, partnerships have to be built in order to achieve our common goals. The Republic of Macedonia is ready to contribute to that end. Thank you.



*Permanent Mission of*  
**Malaysia**  
*to the United Nations*

(Check against delivery)

**STATEMENT BY MR. ZAINOL RAHIM ZAINUDDIN, DEPUTY PERMANENT  
REPRESENTATIVE OF MALAYSIA TO THE UN AT THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
THEMATIC DEBATE ON THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS (MDGs):  
'RECOGNISING THE ACHIEVEMENTS, ADDRESSING THE CHALLENGES AND GETTING  
BACK ON TRACK TO ACHIEVE THE MDGS BY 2015'  
NEW YORK, 2 APRIL 2008**

Thank you, Mr. President,

Malaysia would like to commend you for organizing this timely meeting. We look forward to participating in further discussing this important topic including at the High-level session on the MDG on 25 September 2008. We align ourselves with the statement by Antigua and Barbuda on behalf of the G77 and China.

2. As it has been well acknowledged, despite some of the achievements in attaining the MDGs, half way through, we are still short from many of the targets that we have set. In fact the gravity of the overall situation facing us is all too well known which is reflected in the background papers that have been circulated. Respecting the time that you have given to us, I do not wish to dwell on the challenges and these shortfalls but rather concentrate on addressing getting back on track.

Mr. President,

3. Malaysia believes that in order to get back on track to achieve the MDGs by 2015, the international community – rich and poor countries alike – must recognize and address deficits in terms of implementation, coherence and consistency.

4. The facts regarding the implementation deficit are beyond dispute. Developed countries have yet to fulfill the target of providing 0.7 percent of their GNP as ODA. But the implementation deficit goes beyond the fulfillment of the ODA target alone. It includes issues as diverse as market access and access to generic drugs, to name but a few.

5. The core issue related to the implementation deficit is simply a lack of political will. Could this lack of political will be merely an expression of a crude power calculus in which the powerful will assist the weak only to the extent that the latter provides them with open markets, plenty of surplus labour and a means of placating their consciences?

6. At the same time, efforts to achieve the MDGs currently also suffer from a coherence deficit resulting from:

- i. Firstly, the plethora of rules, policies and approaches;
- ii. Secondly, conflicting socio-economic goals, such as that which exists between growth on the one hand and distributional justice and environmental protection on the other; and,
- iii. Thirdly, a volatile external economic situation, which forces governments to respond by adopting numerous policies and measures. The adoption of so many of these inevitably results in greater incoherence.

7. The consistency deficit arises from a discrepancy between what is expected of the developing world and what is expected of the developed. Developing countries are expected to open their markets in order to attract investment. Using industrial policies to build indigenous industries are passé and inefficient, it is claimed. Likewise, protecting the financial sector in order to create a firm domestic financial base. The trouble is, history teaches us that at one point or the other, all countries, including those presently wealthy, adopted similar policies in the past. Present experience indicates that when financial institutions from the North require injections of capital, funds from sovereign wealth funds of the South are subject to regulations which only a few years ago were deemed as protectionist. What is good for the goose must at least be good for the gander.

Mr. President,

8. As the background paper mentions, efforts at achieving the MDGs are constrained by an increasingly competitive and volatile economic environment. Malaysia believes that in this scenario, the factors that should support the achievement of these Goals do not achieve their full potential and are often fleeting. A clear example is the recent increase in the prices of commodities, on which so many developing countries are staking their futures on. However, although prices are rising, producers are not gaining as much, while transnational companies are enjoying the lion's share of the profits.

9. While realizing the MDGs is predicated on resolving structural issues such as these, not much by way of concrete action has been done. Again by way of example, we note that there is no concerted international action aimed at building and improving infrastructures in the poorest countries. Without roads, ports and airports, the poorest countries will never maximize the potential of burgeoning prices of commodities to achieve the MDGs. The lack of infrastructure merely strengthens the hands of the middlemen, who are often transnational corporations based in the North.

Mr. President,

10. At the most fundamental level, sustained economic growth which is the basis of socio-economic improvement, is about breaking the vicious circles of underdevelopment and transforming them into virtuous circles of progress. Experience proves that achieving this requires direct interventions by governments, assisted by the international community and facilitated by an enabling international environment. This in turn, implies that free-market approaches are not sufficient in the absence of government action and that the international

community must, subject to the principle of national ownership, be fully engaged. Only by addressing these issues can we get back on track towards efforts to achieve the MDGs.

11. Before concluding, allow me to briefly share Malaysia's achievements in attaining the MDGs. For Malaysia, we firmly believe that the basis of attaining the MDGs is poverty eradication. Our experience suggest that poverty can be reduced by increasing the productivity of the poor, by targeted expansion of education and health facilities, especially at the primary level, and by expansion of their access to capital. Expanding labour-intensive manufacturing exports, promoting rural development, increasing agricultural production and providing income-generating opportunity among the poor are both growth-expanding and poverty-reducing strategies that the government has adopted.

12. Apart from poverty eradication, emphases have also been given in attaining the remaining Goals. In fact, we have thus far successfully achieved seven of the MDGs and is now focusing on the Sixth MDG, in particular HIV/AIDS and TB.

13. Finally, Malaysia fully endorses the need for greater partnership and cooperation in meeting the MDGs, simply because human development is a shared responsibility. Collectively we have made tremendous progress in the knowledge and practice of development policies. What is crucial is pooling together this knowledge and practice into a coherent framework that requires a multi-faceted approach in meeting the MDGs. Our commitment to the philosophy of international cooperation for development has been clearly demonstrated in the establishment of the Malaysian Technical Cooperation Programme (MTCP) which is designed to assist other developing countries through sharing Malaysia's development experiences and expertise, especially in capacity building and human resource development. The MTCP emphasizes the development of human resources through training and capacity building in various areas that are essential for a country's development. In our own small way, we have been sharing our experiences to create a better future for all including towards attaining the MDGs.

Thank you.



# MALDIVES

---

*Check against delivery*

**Statement by**

**His Excellency Mr. Ahmed Khaleel**

**Permanent Representative of the Republic of**

**Maldives to the United Nations**

**at the General Assembly Thematic Debate**

**“Recognizing the achievements,  
addressing the challenges and getting back on  
track to achieve the MDGs by 2015”.**

**United Nations Headquarters, New York  
2 April 2008**

بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ

Mr. President,

At the outset, let me convey my delegation's sincere appreciation to you for organizing this important debate and for the leadership that you have been demonstrating.

Mr. President,

The exceptional levels of interest, commitment and dedication of the entire international community are slowly, but surely, starting to bear fruits. The Millennium Development Goals Report of 2007 is a clear report card of the work that we have done over the span of seven years. Much indeed have been achieved. But much more still remains to be done.

While, people living in extreme poverty may have declined, nearly half a billion people are still living below the less than a dollar a day poverty line. While, progress has been recorded in school enrolment, nearly 72 million children are still deprived of primary education. While, efforts to bridge the gender gap is finally taking hold in many countries, millions of women are still continuing to die in childbirth and are marginalized. While, measures to control and reverse, communicable diseases are starting to work in some regions, it is alarming that there are still an estimated 1.7 million new infections of HIV per year in Africa alone. And while, conditions in sanitation may have improved in some countries and regions, we cannot ignore the fact that there are millions who do not have access to basic sanitation and safe drinking water.

Mr. President,

Despite, the setbacks that the Maldives suffered due to the Asian Tsunami in 2004, careful planning, prudent policies, strong leadership and hard work of our people coupled with the generous assistance and cooperation of our development partners, we are once again back on track to achieving most of the MDG targets by 2015.

We have already achieved Goal 1 - eradication of extreme poverty and hunger and Goal 2 - universal primary education. Today 98 percent of our children are in school. We are also on track to achieving Goals 4, 5 and 6 on reducing child mortality, improving maternal health, and combating communicable diseases, respectively. Within the last decade, maternal mortality rate dropped from 258 per 100,000 live births to 69 per 100,000 and child mortality decreased from 48 per 1000 live births to 16 per 1000.

While challenges remain, significant progress has also been achieved on the gender equality and empowerment of women and concerted efforts are being made to meet the nutrition targets for children.

Mr. President,

Sustaining the remarkable progress that we have achieved is proving to be a formidable challenge. As the development assistance and favorable market access dwindles due to our graduation from the LDC group, and the global environmental degradation escalate, for a country with a fragile economy solely depended on the sustainability of its environmental resources, adapting to these new realities will not be easy.

Although, the destruction caused by the tsunami may not be directly linked to the threats posed by global climate change, it certainly has given us a glimpse of the extent of the vulnerabilities we face and the serious impact that climate change and rising sea levels can bring to our shores.

The frequency and strength of the extreme weather pattern that we have been experiencing recently are slowly eating away our islands. The surrounding ocean, that had sustained life on our islands for centuries, now seems more foe than friend. Frequent flooding due to storm surges and coastal erosion is now becoming a permanent feature on our islands forcing us to divert our limited resources from strategic development to a cycle of destruction and reconstruction. The IPCC projected two degree Celsius rise in global temperature and a 90 centimeter rise in the mean sea-level by the end of the century, would not only threaten our development, but also would, without a doubt, kill our prized coral reefs, the very lifeblood of our economy, and even threaten our very existence as an island nation.



Mr. President,

Achieving Goal 7 - environmental sustainability, therefore, in our view, remains central to the success of our work. For us climate change is not a future possibility. It is present, it is real and it is ongoing and it is directly linked to our development. It is also an issue of human security and survival. The bottom line is that it affects peoples lives. Every single person in every single country is going to be affected by climate change. The only difference is that the people from the poorer and more vulnerable countries will be the most affected.

We are therefore; absolutely convinced that it is important for the international community to be conscious of the human dimension of climate change as we continue our quest to find solutions. It was based on this firm belief that we tabled a resolution at the seventh session of the Human Rights Council in Geneva. The resolution entitled "*Climate change and human rights*", co-sponsored by over 75 countries, is aimed simply to try and give a human face to climate change. Allow me Mr. President, to take this opportunity to formally thank all the co-sponsors of the important resolution and all those who supported us.

Mr. President.

As we embark on the second half of the 15 year target period, let us learn from the past and prepare for the future. The door to achieving the goals that we have set for ourselves is still wide open. However, we do not have the luxury of time nor can we survive with hollow words. What is needed now is swift and targeted practical action. Action to fulfill the commitments that we have made in the various summits and conferences to protect and preserve the global environment, to reduce and eliminate poverty and hunger and to achieve sustainable development. Most importantly, we need to properly fund the various action programmes that we have agreed for the most vulnerable groups amongst us, the SIDS, LDCs and LLDCs. The partnership envisaged in Goal 8 is the key. Indeed, we have the capacity and the resources to do it; all that we need is the concerted political will of all.

I thank you, Mr. President.



20

MISSION PERMANENTE DE LA REPUBLIQUE DU MALI  
AUPRÈS DES NATIONS UNIES  
111 East 69th Street, New York, N.Y. 10021  
Tel: (212) 737-4150 • Fax: (212) 472-3778  
E-mail: malionu@aol.com

Vérifier à l'audition

## Débat thématique de l'Assemblée générale

intitulé

**« Constaters les progrès, affronter les difficultés et redresser les  
Objectifs du Millénaire pour le Développement d'ici 2015 »**

*le cap afin  
d'atteindre*

Intervention de **Madame Ami Diallo**  
Chargé d'Affaires a.i.  
Mission permanente du Mali  
auprès des Nations Unies

Au nom du Groupe des Pays en développement sans littoral

New York, le 2 avril 2008

**Monsieur le Président de la 62 session de l'Assemblée générale,  
Mesdames et Messieurs ,**

Permettez-moi tout d'abord de m'acquitter de l'agréable devoir de vous remercier au nom du Groupe des pays en développement sans littoral, pour l'organisation de ce débat thématique sur les objectifs du Millénaire pour le développement (OMD).

Je tiens également à vous remercier pour la qualité et la pertinence des documents mis à notre disposition.

Je voudrais enfin remercier les éminents pannelistes pour les éclaircissements qu'ils nous ont apporté sur la situation des OMD. Je pense singulièrement au Dr. Paul Collier dont les travaux sur les pays en développement sans littoral ont retenu toute notre attention.

Notre groupe adhère totalement à la déclaration faite par le distingué Représentant d'Antigua-et-Barbuda au nom du groupe des 77 et la Chine.

Cependant, je voudrais insister sur des aspects qui touchent particulièrement le groupe des pays en développement sans littoral.

**Monsieur le Président,**

A l'aube du 21<sup>ème</sup> siècle, ne pouvant nous accommoder de l'extrême pauvreté dans laquelle vivent des millions d'êtres humains alors que le monde regorge d'immenses potentialités, nous avons fait une déclaration dans laquelle nous avons, entre autres, exprimé notre ferme volonté de réduire de moitié le nombre de personnes vivant dans l'extrême pauvreté d'ici à l'an 2015. Ceci visait à rendre notre monde plus digne de ses habitants en donnant à chaque habitant de la planète une qualité de vie meilleure.

Pour parvenir à cette fin, nous avons, au cours des réunions internationales qui ont suivi, pris d'importants engagements notamment :

- la mise en place d'un système de bonne gouvernance,
- l'élaboration et la mise en oeuvre des stratégies appropriées pour la réduction de la pauvreté ;
- l'octroi aux pays les moins nantis d'aide substantielle à concurrence de 0,7% du PIB des pays développés ;
- le transfert de technologie et le développement des infrastructures en faveur des pays du Sud.

**Monsieur le Président,**

Où en sommes nous, 7 ans après cette déclaration ? Des résultats encourageants ont, certes été obtenus à l'échelle mondiale et ce, dans l'ensemble des domaines, mais malheureusement leur ampleur varie selon les objectifs, les régions, les Etats et parfois même à l'intérieur des Etats.

Pour notre groupe, à savoir les pays en développement sans littoral, les chiffres parlent d'eux mêmes. Avec 12,5% de la superficie des continents et 4% de la population nous ne recevons que 0,3% du PIB mondial.

Le niveau d'enrichissement moyen par tête d'habitant est nettement en dessous de celui des autres pays en développement. Par exemple, de 2003 à 2004, alors que le revenu par tête s'est accru en moyenne de près de 5% dans les pays du Sud, les pays en développement sans littoral, en raison du coût de leur isolement, n'ont enregistré qu'un taux de 3,7%.

**Monsieur le Président,**

Le poids de l'enclavement pèse lourdement sur l'atteinte des objectifs du millénaire pour le développement dans les Etats membres de notre groupe.

Avec de très bas revenu dû au fait que nous ne bénéficions presque pas des avantages de la mondialisation, nous rencontrons d'énormes difficultés dans le financement de notre développement en général et en particulier le financement des programmes pour l'atteinte des objectifs du Millénaire pour le développement, notamment, la lutte contre la malnutrition, la santé, l'éducation, la lutte contre le VIH/sida et les autres maladies.

Alors que les objectifs dans ces domaines sont presque atteints dans les pays du Nord, en 2006, dans la plupart des pays en développement sans littoral, environ la moitié des enfants en âge d'être scolarisé ne vont pas à l'école, il en est de même pour la malnutrition. A ceux là, il faut ajouter que plus des deux tiers de la population vivent avec moins de deux dollars par jours et l'espérance de vie ne dépasse guère 40 ans.

C'est dire, **Monsieur le Président**, que ce groupe mérite une attention particulière de la communauté internationale qui doit davantage se focaliser sur la mise en oeuvre du programme d'action d'Almaty, programme qui vise à réduire les effets néfastes de notre enclavement. La revue à mi-parcours dudit programme se déroulera les 2 et 3 octobre 2008. Cette revue sera précédée par une phase préparatoire qui a déjà commencé avec les deux réunions ministérielles sur les infrastructures et sur le commerce et la facilitation du commerce que nous avons tenues respectivement à Ouagadougou et à Oulan-Bator.

Elles ont fait ressortir des résultats mitigés en matière d'infrastructures et de participations des pays en développement sans littoral au commerce mondial. Ces Etats deviennent de plus en plus vulnérables à cause de l'augmentation inquiétante du prix des hydrocarbures qui pèse lourdement sur leur compétitivité en raison du renchérissement du coût des transports qui en résulte.

A cela il faut ajouter les effets néfastes des changements climatiques, qui accroissent les effets de l'isolement des pays en développement.

J'en appelle donc à la mise en oeuvre intégrale et diligente de ce programme d'Almaty sans nul doute d'accélérer l'atteinte des objectifs du Millénaire pour le développement dans nos Etats membres.

C'est le lieu pour moi d'exhorter la communauté internationale, notamment nos partenaires au développement et nos voisins de transit à appuyer le processus de la revue de ce programme.

Je lance également un appel solennel pour le renforcement des capacités des agences et institutions des Nations Unies impliquées dans l'organisation de l'examen à mi-parcours du programme d'action d'Almaty, principalement le Bureau du Haut Représentant pour les pays les moins avancés, les pays en développement sans littoral et les petits Etats insulaires en développement qui assure la coordination de son organisation.

Je ne saurais terminer sans vous remercier, Monsieur le Président, pour votre engagement personnel en faveur de notre groupe qui s'est entre autres traduit par la nomination d'un facilitateur à savoir le distingué Ambassadeur Représentant Permanent du Japon auquel, j'adresse la profonde gratitude de notre groupe.

**Je vous remercie.**



PERMANENT OBSERVER MISSION OF THE  
**SOVEREIGN MILITARY ORDER OF MALTA**  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS  
**216 EAST 47th STREET / 8 FL**  
NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10017  
**PHONE: (212) 355-6213 - FAX: (212) 355-4014**  
e-mail: [orderofmalta@un.int](mailto:orderofmalta@un.int)  
[www.un.int/orderofmalta](http://www.un.int/orderofmalta)

**STATEMENT**

**BY**

**H.E. Mr. Robert L. Shafer**

**Ambassador and Permanent Observer**

**of the Sovereign Military Hospitaller Order of Malta**

**to the United Nations**

**TO THE**

**THEMATIC DEBATE**

**OF THE 62nd SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**ON**

**Recognizing the Achievements, Addressing the Challenges and Getting Back on**

**Track to Achieve the MDGs by 2015**

**New York, 3 April, 2008**

**Check against delivery**

Mr. President,

Esteemed Delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to express my sincere thanks on behalf of the Sovereign Military Hospitaller Order of Malta for this opportunity to speak on the crucial topic of recognizing the achievements, addressing the challenges and maintaining a steady course to achieve the Millennium Development Goals by 2015.

Mr. President:

First, my highest congratulations for your wise guidance in organizing this important thematic debate and choosing the MDGs as an area of focus for the 62nd Session of this Assembly. It is only with the leadership of your caliber that the United Nations, our most indispensable international institution, can come back from the current crisis in resources and personnel to emerge even more effective and respected worldwide. From the onset, the Order has pledged to continue expanding our cooperation with the United Nations in the field of humanitarian assistance and sustainable development, and we reiterate this pledge today.

The Order of Malta considers the Millennium Development Goals as an example of the "preferential option for the poor" teachings of the two most recent Popes.

Combating poverty, along with diseases and sufferings, which are other MDGs, has been at the heart of the Order's activities for more than 900 years. Since its founding in the eleventh century, the Order of Malta has historically directed its efforts towards the poor, the sick and homeless, regardless of race, religion or nationality. The Order's 12,500 members, 80,000 permanent volunteers and professional medical staff, and 13,000 doctors, nurses and stretcher-bearers make up an exceptional network permanently present in 120 countries, providing hospitals, hospices, and medical services. These activities are carried out with great expertise, often by the Order's world-wide relief service, Malteser International.

With respect to the first MDG, to "eradicate extreme poverty and hunger," the Order is saddened by the unfortunate fact that the absolute number of poor is rising in sub-Saharan Africa and is projected to be around 360 million by 2015, this is despite an overall per capita GDP growth in developing countries worldwide. This is the greatest challenge to the realization of our goals on poverty.

Background papers for this meeting highlight the improvement of slums as a unique grassroots opportunity for reaching the MDGs. Towards this goal, the Order of Malta has considerably expanded its activities in these most disadvantaged areas. For example, in the slums of Nairobi, Kenya, the Order finances numerous health centers and operates far reaching programs for treatment of tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS.

The fight against hunger is an even more challenging part of the MDGs. Inflated food prices, unfair trade regulations and climate change are among the obstacles. The



Order of Malta demonstrates its substantial commitment to eliminating hunger in the South Kivu province of the Democratic Republic of Congo. There we oversee nutrition centers for undernourished and malnourished children. At the same time, we distribute seeds and small livestock to their parents and teach them about planting and nutrition. The Order is grateful to the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF), and the World Food Program (WFP) for partially funding these initiatives and working as partners towards the meeting goals on hunger with a focus on sustainability.

Successful progress towards the first MDG is key to more rapid progress towards all eight Goals.

The Order of Malta works towards the goal on education by increasing the availability of education in developing countries, particularly for girls. For example, the Order has established kindergartens in Sao Paulo and Brasilia, Brazil, while giving job training and employment to unmarried mothers. We have a medical center in Milot, Haiti, which educates 600 children in addition to meeting medical needs of women and children. The Order administers schools in western Afghanistan for 20,000 children, 40% of whom are girls.

The MDGs regarding health are of particular importance to the Order of Malta. The Order has been working towards the MDGs in health in Cambodia after its 30 year civil war. We have carried out a comprehensive community-based maternal child health project there. Infant health, maternal health and HIV/AIDS converge in the issue of

mother to child transmission of the virus. In Mexico, the Order of Malta's program brings infected women into prenatal care and because of this, all have given birth to healthy children. There, as in the many countries with Order of Malta programs, we align ourselves with efforts towards the Millennium Development Goals. On five continents the Order of Malta operates clinics and hospitals for the treatment of HIV/AIDS, Malaria and Tuberculosis: all diseases that disproportionately affect the world's poorest people. The MDGs on health, numbers four, five and six, are interconnected. Failure on any one is likely to slow progress on another.

Mr. President,

We are grateful to speak on such an important theme and we are honored to partner with Member States and the dedicated professionals of the United Nations on our common goals. We are convinced more than ever of the importance of the MDGs, which cover the spectrum of human rights and social justice issues that are at the core of the Order of Malta's *raison d'être*. With the continued leadership and support of the United Nations and its specialized agencies, these goals become more real everyday. We are emboldened by the commitment and admirable leadership of the General Assembly. It is now up to us in the international community to complete the realization of these goals by 2015.

Thank you very much.

REPUBLIQUE ISLAMIQUE DE MAURITANIE

MISSION PERMANENTE AUPRES DES NATIONS UNIES



الجمهورية الإسلامية الموريتانية  
البعثة الدائمة لدى هيئة الأمم المتحدة

P R E S S   R E L E A S E

*Débat thématique de l'Assemblée générale  
sur les objectifs du Millénaire  
pour le Développement*

*Intervention de S.E.M. Abderrahim Ould Hadrami  
Ambassadeur, Représentant Permanent  
de la République Islamique de Mauritanie  
auprès des Nations Unies*

**New York, le 3 avril 2008**

*(Vérifier au prononcé)*

Monsieur le Ministre Président,

Monsieur le Secrétaire général

Mesdames, Messieurs

Je voudrai tout d'abord, Monsieur le Président de vous exprimer les félicitations de ma délégation pour avoir convoqué ce débat thématique de haut niveau sous le thème "prendre conscience des progrès réalisés, relever les défis et redresser le cap pour atteindre les objectifs du Millénaire pour le Développement en 2015"

Depuis votre accession à la Présidence de l'Assemblée Générale, vous ne cessez de multiplier les initiatives dans le cadre de votre mandat et plus particulièrement pour ce qui concerne la réalisation des objectifs du Millénaire pour le développement.

Je voudrai également féliciter le Secrétaire général Monsieur Ban Ki-moon pour ses efforts inlassables en faveur du même objectif et pour avoir mis pleinement à contribution les organes concernés du système des Nations unies pour la réalisation des OMD.

Mesdames, Messieurs,

Ce haut débat constitue un jalon important dans l'évaluation des progrès accomplis eu égard à la réalisation des OMD ainsi qu'aux difficultés rencontrées dans cette entreprise.

A mi-chemin du parcours, force est de constater que le résultat attendu pour la réalisation des OMD est loin d'être atteint.

Même si certains pays ont fait des progrès dans ce sens, pour un grand nombre de pays, notamment en Afrique, beaucoup reste à faire, en terme de lutte contre la pauvreté et la faim, d'éducation, de santé pour ne parler que de ces seuls domaines.

Il est urgent que la communauté internationale se mobilise réellement pour la réalisation des OMD en mettant en place les ressources et les moyens nécessaires pour l'atteinte de cet objectif.

La Mauritanie, suite aux élections libres et justes de 2007, est actuellement un pays démocratique doté d'Institutions issues du suffrage populaire, où l'état de droit règne et les libertés démocratiques respectées.

Le gouvernement a mis au point un programme de développement sur trois ans pour le financement duquel il a sollicité l'assistance des partenaires du développement, lors d'une table ronde organisée à Paris en décembre 2007. Près de 1 milliard 900 millions de dollars US ont été annoncés au cours de cette réunion.

Les Autorités mauritaniennes sont actuellement en train de suivre avec les bailleurs de fonds l'état de mobilisation des financements pour lesquels ces derniers se sont engagés, tout en prenant les mesures nécessaires pour garantir la célérité de l'exécution et pour que tous les secteurs travaillent à réaliser ces projets, soumis à des engagements de la communauté internationale.

Avec la mobilisation des ressources décidées lors de la table ronde de Paris, la Mauritanie sera en mesure de parcourir une bonne partie du chemin menant vers la réalisation des OMD, en commençant par le renforcement de son programme d'éradication de la pauvreté.

En matière de santé, les efforts du gouvernement mauritanien ont porté sur l'amélioration tant en quantité qu'en qualité, des prestations fournies aux populations. Dans ce cadre, d'importantes actions vont être entreprises visant, notamment, la réalisation et l'extension du réseau d'infrastructures sanitaires, le renforcement du système d'approvisionnement en médicaments et la prévention des maladies les plus répandues.

Le programme à mi parcours du Projet d'appui à la santé et à la nutrition est un train d'être revu. Il s'agit d'un programme, démarré il y a trois ans et visant à améliorer l'efficacité du secteur de la santé en Mauritanie et particulièrement en matière de promotion de la qualité des soins, d'une part et du changement de la mentalité de la mère envers la nutrition des enfants en bas âge, d'autre part. Il contribue à l'amélioration de la situation sanitaire et nutritionnelle des populations par le biais du rehaussement du niveau de vie des femmes enceintes et allaitantes et des enfants de 0 à 24 mois, de la contribution à la vulgarisation de la consommation du sel iodé et du renforcement des capacités des institutions sanitaires.

A propos du VIH/Sida, une campagne nationale de sensibilisation des populations est en cours, pour attirer leur attention sur le danger de la maladie et expliquer ses modes de transmission et comment s'en préserver. Dans ce cadre, 70 organisations non gouvernementales et 52 coopératives féminines ont bénéficié d'un financement.

L'Institut national de spécialités médicales a assuré la formation continue de spécialistes en chirurgie et en pédiatrie pour améliorer l'encadrement des hôpitaux régionaux et a organisé plusieurs missions de chirurgiens à l'intérieur du pays en vue de rapprocher les structures sanitaires des populations

Malgré les efforts entrepris, les ratios en matière de médecins généralistes et spécialiste mauritaniens, continuent d'être en-deçà des ratios de l'Organisation Mondiale de la santé.

En matière d'éducation, un état de lieu est en train d'être entrepris en vue de l'introduction d'importantes réformes tendant à permettre à ce secteur de pouvoir être en mesure de fournir au pays ses besoins en matière de ressources humaines, à partir d'une formation adéquate, prenant en compte les réalités du monde actuel et les exigences de la mondialisation.

Concernant l'égalité et l'autonomisation des femmes, la Mauritanie a accompli d'importants efforts dans ce domaine en faisant de la femme l'égale de l'homme du point de vue du droit. La stratégie de développement du pays qui vise, à ramener la proportion des mauritaniens vivants au-dessous du seuil de la pauvreté à moins de 17%, place la femme mauritanienne au cœur de sa stratégie de lutte contre la pauvreté. Pour cela une priorité particulière est accordée à la femme en termes de renforcement de sa capacité de participation à la vie économique en mettant l'accent sur :

- L'amélioration de l'accès des femmes aux facteurs de production à travers :
- Un meilleur accès aux financements bancaires, au micro crédits et à la mobilisation de l'épargne
- L'accès à la sécurité foncière
- L'accroissement de la participation des femmes aux activités génératrices de revenus, et en particulier les femmes chefs de ménages.

Au plan de l'emploi des femmes dans l'administration, d'importants progrès ont été réalisés depuis l'accession de Monsieur Sidi Mohamed Ould Cheikh Abdellahi à la Présidence de la République en avril 2007. Pour la première fois dans l'histoire du pays, des femmes ont été nommées par le Président de la République aux hautes fonctions d'Ambassadeurs, de Gouverneurs de régions, de préfets et autres, postes jusqu'ici réservés aux hommes.

D'autre part, un quota de l'ordre de 20% est réservé aux femmes, de part la loi, au sein des deux chambres du Parlement et au sein des Conseils municipaux.

La femme mauritanienne, est en train de recouvrer tous ses droits et d'affirmer sa pleine égalité de l'homme dans Etat de droit garant de l'épanouissement et de la promotion d'une couche sociale qui représente plus de 50% de la population.

Les efforts que la Mauritanie est entrain de fournir ne peuvent, à eux seuls, assurer au pays la réalisation des Objectifs du Millénaire pour le Développement d'ici 2015, sans la solidarité et l'appui de la communauté internationale. La mobilisation urgente des financements décidés lors de la table ronde de Paris constitue un pas significatif dans ce sens.

Je vous remercie





# MAURITIUS

---

## STATEMENT

By

**Ambassador Somduth Soborun  
Permanent Representative of the  
Republic of Mauritius to the United Nations**

**At The Thematic Debate On  
"Recognizing the achievements, addressing the challenges  
and getting back on track to achieve the MDGs by 2015"**

**Sixty Second Session of the United Nations General Assembly**

**2 April 2008  
New York**

**Please check against Delivery**

Mr. President,

Putting food in the mouth of the hungry, relieving pain and disease of the sick are the basic minimum that we as human beings should be able to provide to the less fortunate and those who are in dire need. Obviously it is in line with these noble objectives in mind that our Heads of State and Government came up with the Millennium Declaration which set forth the targets for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals by the year 2015.

Midway to the targets set for the Millennium Development Goals, we stand today to take stock of progress achieved so far. Unfortunately we observe that the record is quite dismal, to say the least. Based on the present trends it is evident that we are dangerously lagging behind and that there are very little chances that the set goals will be met.

Today's meeting in fact is of great significance as it provides us with an opportunity to explore the avenues still open to us to salvage the situation. I would therefore like to commend you Mr. President for convening this timely thematic debate on "Recognizing the achievements, addressing the challenges and getting back on track to achieve the MDGs by 2015."

Mr. President,

While the overall picture of the developing countries may portray some positive gains and provide a cause for more optimism, the fact of the matter remains that a vast majority of countries particularly in the Sub Saharan Africa are lagging well behind the targets. Poverty has continued to rise and is projected to reach the 360 million mark by the 2015, the HIV/AIDS pandemic continues to ravage the Sub-Saharan Africa region with 1.7 million infected by it each year. Malaria and tuberculosis continue unabated in the same region. In this context, one is tempted to ask whether the bar set for the MDGs was unrealistic or whether we have done too little and too slowly.

There is no doubt that sky rocketing oil prices is creating a real havoc in the economic growth of many countries around the world and most particularly in the least developed countries (34 out of 50 LDCs are in Sub Saharan Africa) and the small island developing states. The fuel bill is eating up so much of the national budgets of these poor countries that hardly anything is left for development purposes. Compounded with the high oil prices are the negative effects of climate change and global warming. We are witnessing floods and droughts particularly in the Sub Saharan Africa in the scale and magnitude unheard of previously. Jointly these two factors do not leave much scope for

successful agricultural production or the much anticipated green revolution essential to feed people. The situation is further aggravated for those who are net importers of food. When food security becomes a threat, development needs take a backstage. So here we find ourselves in a situation where many developing countries in spite of their tremendous and genuine efforts are caught in an impasse.

While many Sub Saharan African countries are struggling to meet their MDGs, their raw materials and mineral resources are being exploited to the fullest extent at cheap prices for exports by foreign mining and extracting companies to meet the growing demands in the industrializing countries. These companies are experiencing a business boom on an unprecedented scale. They are making substantial windfall gains. It is just fair that these companies recognize their corporate social responsibilities and contribute a specific percentage of the windfalls with the concerned raw materials producing countries to help them achieve the Millennium Development Goals.

Unless the international community honors its commitments and pledges made in the Millennium Declaration, the 2002 Monterey Conference on Financing for Development, 2005 World Summit in particular the target of 0.7% GDP in official development assistance agreed by developed countries in accordance with the set timetables and the Gleneagles G-8 commitment to double the official development assistance to Africa by 2010, there are very faint chances that we could make significant progress towards the realization of the MDGs.

Furthermore we hope that the Doha Review Conference on Financing for Development later this year and the UN High Level Meeting on Africa's development needs in September will not only help put back on track the developing countries to achieve the MDGs by 2015, but will fast rack the commitments and pledges made at international level to assist developing countries in their efforts to achieve the development goals.

The Doha Development Round on which we had pinned so much of our hopes and expectations at the beginning of this decade has still to come to a successful conclusion. Meanwhile it is imperative that aid for trade is implemented effectively and expeditiously to complement the unfinished agenda of the Doha Development Agenda. In addition to these we need a comprehensive reform of the international financial system and its governance architecture.

We firmly believe that the South-South Cooperation also can play a pivotal role to spur economic growth, promote industrial development and help in poverty reduction.

Mr. President,

As far as Mauritius is concerned I should like to state that inspite of its inherent constraints and lack of natural and mineral resources and distance from the lucrative markets of the world, we have achieved most of the MDGs and are on track of attaining the remaining ones on time. For example:

- Less than 1.5 percent of the population falls in the category of absolute/extreme poverty.
- Almost 100 percent of the school going children attend the primary school. The literacy rate of those aged between 15 and 24 is estimated at 95 percent.
- There is no gender disparity in primary, secondary and tertiary education. However in 2006 the share of women in employment and seats occupied by women in the National Parliament accounted for 33 percent and 17 percent respectively.
- The prevalence of HIV/AIDS at national level is 0.2%.
- The prevalence rates of malaria and tuberculosis are very low. As a matter of fact Mauritius is declared as a malaria risk free region.

This is the result of a combination of factors, most important among them are:-

- Enlightened leadership, political stability, social justice, democracy, accountability and transparency, good governance. The separation of powers between the judiciary, the legislative and the executive and respect for the rule of law and institutions have been the hallmark of successive governments since independence in 1968.
- An effective civil service backed by a decent pay packet has performed remarkably well and has all along very diligently upheld the laws and regulations of the various branches of government.
- The private sector which has been primarily engaged over two centuries in the production and export of sugar cane has taken full advantage of the incentives, facilities and infrastructure put in place at their disposal by government. The partnership between the public and the private sector has contributed significantly in the diversification of the economy in sectors such as tourism, textiles, manufacturing of apparel and garments primarily for export, banking and telecommunication services to name but a few.

- Massive investments in education. As a matter of fact only eight years after independence, education was made free at the primary, secondary and tertiary level. This has contributed tremendously to the human resources development and has been highly instrumental in the economic growth of the country. As from 2005, even transport facilities have been made available free of charge to all school, college and University going boys and girls.
- Maintenance of welfare state. Availability of free health services, free education, social security benefits amongst others. It is worth mentioning that the Ministries of Education, Health, Social Security, Women, and Child Protection together account for about 36.5.% of the recurrent expenditure of the National budget.
- Mauritius today has a per capita income of almost US\$6000. While Government is deploying all its efforts to raise the gross national income it is also conscious of the fact that a higher per capita income *per se* would not mean much if the wealth is not fairly distributed. Not surprisingly therefore, the present Government led by Dr. the Hon. Navinchandra Ramgoolam, Prime Minister has made “Putting People First” and democratization of the economy as the central objectives of the Government. And democratization of economy we are witnessing indeed.

At the regional level, the Government of Mauritius will be hosting the “Southern African Development Community (SADC) International Conference on Poverty and Development” on 20 April. It is expected that the Conference will *inter-alia* adopt a Regional Poverty Reduction Framework with specific, measurable, attainable and time bound targets with a clear Monitoring and Evaluation Mechanism.

Mr. President,

Let me conclude by saying that the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals by the set date could only be the first step towards sustainable economic growth. It is absolutely necessary that we succeed in this endeavour.

Thank you.



INTERVENCIÓN DEL  
EMBAJADOR CLAUDE HELLER  
REPRESENTANTE PERMANENTE DE MÉXICO EN SU CALIDAD DE  
SECRETARIO PRO-TÉMPORE DEL  
GRUPO DE RÍO

EN EL MARCO DEL DEBATE TEMÁTICO:  
“RECONOCIENDO LOS LOGROS, ENFRENTANDO LOS RETOS Y  
REGRESANDO AL CAMINO PARA CUMPLIR CON LOS  
OBJETIVOS DE DESARROLLO DEL MILENIO EN EL 2015”

**NUEVA YORK, 2 DE ABRIL DE 2008**

*(cotejar contra lectura)*

**Intervención del Embajador Claude Heller, Representante Permanente de México ante la Organización de las Naciones Unidas, a nombre del Grupo de Río, en el marco del Debate Temático intitulado "Reconociendo los logros, enfrentando los retos y regresando al camino para cumplir con los Objetivos de Desarrollo del Milenio en el 2015"**  
**Nueva York, 2 de abril de 2008**

Señor Presidente, Señor Secretario General,

Es un honor para mi dirigirme a ustedes en nombre de los países Miembros del Grupo de Río: Argentina, Belice, Bolivia, Brasil, Colombia, Chile, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Guyana, Haití, Honduras, México, Nicaragua, Panamá, Paraguay, Perú, República Dominicana, Uruguay, República Bolivariana de Venezuela.

En esa calidad, me permito expresar el reconocimiento del Grupo al Sr. Presidente de la Asamblea General por la oportuna realización de este importante evento.

Sr. Presidente,

Los países miembros del G-Río han venido realizando esfuerzos considerables en los últimos años para promover el crecimiento económico de sus sociedades, y lograr un entorno favorable al desarrollo. Dichos esfuerzos han tenido importantes consecuencias en materia de reducción de la pobreza y la mejora de indicadores importantes, tales como en el índice de desarrollo humano.

En esta oportunidad reiteramos nuestra determinación y compromiso de combatir de forma urgente los graves problemas de la pobreza, la exclusión social y la inequidad, que afectan en distinta medida a los países del hemisferio, de enfrentar las causas que los generan y sus consecuencias, así como de crear condiciones favorables para el desarrollo socioeconómico con equidad, para promover sociedades más justas. En este contexto, los países de la región vienen trabajando en la creación de mecanismos conjuntos que permitan instrumentar de manera firme y constante medidas que permitan disminuir los niveles de pobreza y aumentar el acceso del conjunto de nuestras sociedades a los servicios públicos esenciales, tales como la educación y la salud, que garanticen que cada individuo sea capaz de alcanzar su pleno potencial sin distinción de su origen social. Por otro lado, es de relevancia avanzar en materia de equidad de género, considerando el efecto multiplicador que tienen las políticas en favor del avance de las mujeres.

Los Objetivos de Desarrollo del Milenio nos brindan guías útiles para establecer cuáles son algunos de los mínimos que nuestras sociedades deben alcanzar. El 2015 es nuestra meta para ello, y sin duda, los países miembros del G-Río

reafirmamos nuestro compromiso hacia los mismos, e instamos a todos los demás miembros de la comunidad internacional a hacer lo propio.

Sr. Presidente,

Los países del G-Río reconocemos que alcanzar los Objetivos de Desarrollo del Milenio, y de forma general, el desarrollo sostenible de nuestras sociedades, es un proceso complejo que involucra elementos nacionales e internacionales. Dicho proceso se fundamenta en un amplio y genuino compromiso de solidaridad de los gobiernos del mundo, que debe traducirse en una efectiva y eficaz cooperación internacional que permita financiar el logro de los mismos.

En ese sentido, recordamos que el Consenso de Monterrey sobre Financiación para el Desarrollo, por su perspectiva holística y el llamado a la coherencia de todas las políticas públicas y acciones del sector privado que tienen consecuencias en materia de desarrollo, constituye una aportación de la mayor importancia para entender y avanzar de manera colectiva en aras del cumplimiento de los Objetivos de Desarrollo del Milenio. Consideramos que tanto éste Debate Temático como la Conferencia de Doha constituyen momentos privilegiados para que la comunidad internacional haga un recuento de lo alcanzado, reconozca el mucho camino que queda por recorrer, y sobre todo, se comprometa de manera decidida a realizar las acciones necesarias para alcanzarlos.

Sr. Presidente,

Resulta claro y alarmante que al ritmo actual es seguro que muchos países no están en condiciones de alcanzar los Objetivos de Desarrollo del Milenio para el 2015. No hay duda de ello y lo anterior ha sido demostrado de manera unánime en los más recientes informes y estudios en la materia.

En este contexto, los países del G-Río reafirmamos que el desarrollo constituye una responsabilidad compartida, y que es indispensable que todos los países cumplan con sus compromisos en materia de cooperación internacional.

Particularmente es necesario que los países desarrollados alcancen el 0.7% del PNB en materia de Asistencia Oficial al Desarrollo.

Del mismo modo, debe buscarse que las acciones en favor del desarrollo estén coordinadas y cuenten con la mayor efectividad posible. Para ello, los países del G-Río consideran que los principios contenidos en la Declaración de París son de utilidad y debe avanzarse en ese sentido.

Por otro lado, es necesario tener en cuenta la diversidad de situaciones que enfrentan los países del llamado "Sur", y mantener una visión equilibrada que garantice que todos aquellos que lo necesitan, cuenten con el apoyo adecuado



de la comunidad internacional, tanto multilateral como bilateral, para alcanzar sus objetivos de desarrollo.

Particularmente, deseamos hacer un llamado a mantener el apoyo y la atención adecuada hacia las necesidades específicas de los Países de Renta Media, recordando que, según estimaciones de la propia organización, más del 40% de las personas que cuentan con menos de dos dólares diarios para su subsistencia residen, precisamente, en esta categoría de Países.

Por otro lado, el Grupo de Río reafirma la utilidad de avanzar en la búsqueda de mecanismos innovadores de financiamiento, como una herramienta eficaz para alcanzar los ODMs, así como para unir esfuerzos entre países de diferentes niveles de desarrollo relativo en el combate al hambre y la pobreza, sin menoscabo de los mecanismos y compromisos tradicionales en la materia.

Sr. Presidente,

A nombre de los países miembros del G-Río deseo expresar que las Naciones Unidas, como el foro multilateral por excelencia y por su experiencia de décadas en materia de impulsar y coadyuvar al desarrollo, está en una situación estratégica para llevar a cabo esta reflexión, y ser garante del cumplimiento de nuestros compromisos. Cuente con todo nuestro apoyo para avanzar en esa dirección.



# MONGOLIA

## PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

6 East 77<sup>th</sup> Street, New York, N.Y. 10021

Tel: (212) 861-9460, (212) 472-6517

Fax: (212) 861-9464

e-mail: [mongolia@un.int](mailto:mongolia@un.int)

Please check against delivery

**STATEMENT BY H.E. MS.ENKHTSETSEG OCHIR, PERMANENT  
REPRESENTATIVE OF MONGOLIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS,  
AT THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY THEMATIC DEBATE ON THE  
MDGs**

**“Recognizing the achievements, addressing the challenge and getting  
back on track to achieve the MDGs by 2015”**

2 April 2008, New York

Mr. President,

My delegation commends your timely initiative and the strong leadership of Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon in marshalling the efforts of the international community through stock-taking of the MDGs mid-point implementation and identifying the way forward towards their achievement by 2015. My delegation associates itself with the statements made earlier by the distinguished Head of Delegation of Antigua and Barbuda on behalf of G-77 and China and of Mali on behalf of the Group of Land-locked developing countries (LLDCs).

A clear message has emerged from yesterday's discussions that commitments made under the global partnership for development ought to be honoured in good faith if we are serious about achieving the MDGs on time. The global partnership for development represents a global compact between developed and developing states. Both sides need to live up to the commitments made. While developing countries are making every effort to formulate and implement sound policies to ensure their sustainable economic and social development and to that end mobilize domestic resources it is up to the developed countries to support such efforts through provision of development financing, including ODA in a timely and sufficient manner and ensure an increased market access for developing countries. In this regard, the call for the elaboration of clear benchmarks for MDG 8 ought to be urgently embraced.

Furthermore, we wish to stress the importance of introducing innovative sources of financing. In this respect, we welcome the proposal for an international program of action from 2008 to 2015 to complement the national efforts to achieve the MDGs with supportive global programs, measures and policies aimed at expanding the development opportunities of developing countries. Indeed, concentrating global efforts to detailed objectives of the MDGs each year could prove useful in getting back on track.

Mr. President,

Mongolia stands committed to its MDGs implementation. Following the first national report on MDGs implementation the Parliament of Mongolia adopted in April 2005 a resolution endorsing the national MDGs, tailored to addressing the country's specifics and special needs. The Parliament resolution entrusted the relevant state entities with implementation and monitoring of MDGs, and provided for allocation of necessary resources in the annual state budgets. One of the particular features of Mongolia-specific MDGs was the adoption of an additional MDG-9 on promoting human rights, fostering democratic governance and fighting corruption. It was an innovative step reflecting the inseparable link between development, good governance, human rights and democracy. Within the framework of working towards meeting this goal the Parliament passed a law against corruption, thus creating a legal environment to remove the shackles that this phenomenon imposes on development. In accordance with the new law, a new Anti-corruption body was set up that deals with public awareness raising, prevention and detection of corruption, investigation of corruption cases and auditing of financial and income declarations of public officials. Mongolia also joined the UN Convention against Corruption and lately expressed its interest to join the review pilot program countries.

Just recently the Parliament considered the second national report on the implementation of MDGs<sup>1</sup>. The registered progress looks mixed: along with encouraging achievements difficult challenges remain. Out of 22 Mongolia-specific MDG targets almost 60 percent have been achieved or likely to be achieved by 2015. I am pleased to report that Mongolia succeeded in early achievements on such targets as girls/ boys ratio in secondary schools, percentage of children covered by measles immunization, infant mortality and under-five mortality rates. Nonetheless, the report also sends a warning signal that the achievement of other targets is "slow or regressing". The most challenging among them are income poverty, TB, housing, the enhancement of gender equality at the political decision-making level, female/male ratio of students in tertiary education, increasing percentage of land area covered by forest, and net enrolment ratio in primary education. The report further concludes that insufficient degree of mainstreaming of MDGs in pursued policies, weak coordination among the government institutions, and limited involvement of the local government and the civil society in policy implementation and monitoring are among the reasons for slow achievement.

Over the recent years Mongolia has been experiencing a robust economic growth, an average of 9 percent annually. Yet, translating rapid economic growth to significant poverty reduction remains a major challenge. To address this challenge, my Government has been undertaking a host of quick impact measures on poverty reduction and income generation. They include: salary raise in the public sector by 4.2 times; provision of a monthly allowance to all children as well as one-time monetary support to newly married couples and new born children; increase in monthly allowances and pensions for mothers with five or more children and the elderly. Free school meals program for elementary schools has been introduced. Implementing all these quick-win initiatives is designed to enhance our efforts to reduce poverty and achieve the MDGs. Furthermore, as a practical follow-up to the 2005 World Summit our Parliament adopted earlier this year a comprehensive national development strategy based on MDGs developed at the initiative of the President of Mongolia. It is an MDGs-plus development strategy that, once implemented, will bring Mongolia to a middle-income country by 2021.

Mr. President,

In addition to its national efforts towards achieving the MDGs Mongolia endeavors to contribute to their international and regional advancement, especially in the area of promoting the interests of LLDCs and addressing climate change issues. Mongolia hosted last year the Meeting of LLDCs Trade Ministers and the Thematic meeting of Landlocked developing countries and their transit neighbors on trade and trade facilitation issues in Ulaanbaatar. These events have set priorities of the LLDCs in the context of the Doha Round of multilateral trade negotiations and contributed to the preparations of the upcoming Mid-term review of the Almaty Program of Action scheduled for early October this year. Mongolia is also proposing to host a North East Asian Summit on climate change early in 2009 as its contribution to MDG-7 on environmental sustainability in the sub-region.

In conclusion, Mr. President, may I join your call to make 2008 the year of action, action much more scaled up and reinvigorated towards achieving the MDGs on time.

---

<sup>1</sup> The report can be accessed and downloaded at <http://mirror.undp.org/Mongolia/publications/MDGs/MDG-NR2-Eng.pdf>

## Annex 1 Key macroeconomic indicators of Mongolia, 2000, 2004-2006

|                                                       | 2000    | 2004    | 2005    | 2006    |
|-------------------------------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Settled population, end of year, thousand persons     | 2 407.5 | 2 533.1 | 2 562.4 | 2 594.8 |
| Economically active population, thousand persons      | 847.6   | 986.1   | 1 001.2 | 1 042.8 |
| Of which: Employed                                    | 809.0   | 950.5   | 968.3   | 1 009.9 |
| Registered unemployed, thousand persons               | 38.6    | 35.6    | 32.9    | 32.9    |
| GDP, current year value, billion MNT                  | 1 172.8 | 2 152.1 | 2 775.6 | 3 715.0 |
| GDP, 2000 compared value, billion MNT                 | 2 038.0 | 2 593.8 | 2 779.6 | 3 017.3 |
| GDP, per capita, current year value, MNT              | 426.2   | 854.5   | 1091.0  | 1440.7  |
| GDP, per capita, current year value, USD              | -       | 720.9   | 905.2   | 1221.4  |
| Investment, current year value, billion MNT           | 284.7   | 639.2   | 797.1   | 858.2   |
| Foreign trade, million USD                            |         |         |         |         |
| Export                                                | 535.8   | 869.7   | 1 064.9 | 1 542.8 |
| Import                                                | 614.5   | 1 021.1 | 1 184.3 | 1 485.6 |
| Foreign trade balance, million USD                    | -78.7   | -151.4  | -119.4  | 57.2    |
| Consolidated national budget, year value, billion MNT |         |         |         |         |
| Revenue                                               | 351.1   | 713.1   | 837.9   | 1 360.4 |
| Expenditure                                           | 429.7   | 752.5   | 764.6   | 1 237.0 |
| Budget balance, billion MNT                           | -78.6   | -39.4   | 73.3    | 123.4   |
| Percentage of revenue to GDP                          | 29.9    | 33.1    | 30.1    | 36.6    |
| Percentage of budget expenditure to GDP               | 36.6    | 35.0    | 27.5    | 33.3    |
| Percentage of budget balance to GDP                   | -6.7    | -2.0    | 2.6     | 3.3     |
| Annual fluctuation of consumer price index, percent   | 8.1     | 11.0    | 9.5     | 6.0     |
| Average exchange rate, 1USD=MNT                       | 1 097.0 | 1 158.2 | 1 205.3 | 1 179.6 |

Source: NSO, Mongol Bank, Ministry of Finance, 2006

## Annex 2 Evaluation and Trend Analysis in Implementation of MDGs

| GOALS/TARGETS/INDICATORS                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Baseline              | Observed              |                       |       | Target                | Gap in years <sup>1</sup> | Performance <sup>2</sup> |
|----------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-------|-----------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
|                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | 1990                  | 2000                  | 2005                  | 2006  | 2015                  |                           |                          |
| <b>GOAL 1. REDUCE POVERTY AND HUNGER</b>                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                       |                       |                       |       |                       |                           |                          |
| TARGET 1                                                 | Poverty Headcounts                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | 36.30 <sup>(95)</sup> | 35.60 <sup>(98)</sup> | 36.10 <sup>(12)</sup> | 32.20 | 18.00                 | 30                        | Slow                     |
| TARGET 2                                                 | Prevalence of Underweight children                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | 12.00 <sup>(92)</sup> | 12.70                 | 6.30                  | ...   | 0                     | 8                         | Likely to achieve        |
| TARGET 3                                                 | Develop and implement strategies aimed at creating favorable and productive workplace for youth. Create jobs through increased opportunity to utilize land, simplified rules for small and medium businesses, greater access to credit for unemployed citizens | ...                   | ...                   | ...                   | ...   | ...                   | ...                       | ...                      |
| TARGET 4                                                 | Reduce negative impact of migration and urbanization, protect rights of migrants, create legal protections, develop systems for provision of jobs, housing, health, education, culture and other social services                                               | ...                   | ...                   | ...                   | ...   | ...                   | ...                       | ...                      |
| <b>GOAL 2. ACHIEVE UNIVERSAL PRIMARY EDUCATION</b>       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                       |                       |                       |       |                       |                           |                          |
| TARGET 5                                                 | Provide primary education to all girls and boys by 2015                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                       |                       |                       |       |                       |                           |                          |
|                                                          | Net enrolment ratio in primary education                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | 95.90 <sup>(97)</sup> | 95.00                 | 93.30                 | 91.40 | 100.00                | 17                        | Regressed                |
|                                                          | Proportion of pupils starting grade 1 who reach grade 5                                                                                                                                                                                                        | 91.00                 | 83.60                 | 101.20                | 86.80 | 100.00                | 18                        | Regressed                |
|                                                          | Literacy rate among 15-24 age group                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | 99.00                 | 97.70                 | ...                   | ...   | 100.00                | ...                       | Regressed                |
| <b>GOAL 3. PROMOTE GENDER EQUALITY AND EMPOWER WOMEN</b> |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                       |                       |                       |       |                       |                           |                          |
| TARGET 6                                                 | Eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education by 2005 and in all levels of education no later than 2015                                                                                                                                        |                       |                       |                       |       |                       |                           |                          |
|                                                          | Ratio of girls to boys in primary education                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | 1.03 <sup>(95)</sup>  | 1.01                  | 0.98                  | 0.98  | 1.00                  | 12                        | Likely to achieve        |
|                                                          | Ratio of girls to boys in secondary education                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | 1.33 <sup>(97)</sup>  | 1.20                  | 1.11                  | 1.03  | 1.00                  | ...                       | Achieved                 |
|                                                          | Ratio of female to male students in higher education institutions                                                                                                                                                                                              | ...                   | 1.72                  | 1.53                  | 1.53  | 1.00                  | 20                        | Slow                     |
|                                                          | Proportion of women in the population engaged in wage employment in non-agriculture sectors                                                                                                                                                                    | 51.10                 | 50.40                 | 53.10                 | 53.90 | 50.00                 | 22                        | Regressed                |
|                                                          | Percentage of women elected to national parliament                                                                                                                                                                                                             | 24.90                 | 11.80                 | 6.6 <sup>(94)</sup>   | ...   | 30.00                 | 95                        | Regressed                |
|                                                          | Percentage of women candidates in parliamentary election                                                                                                                                                                                                       | 7.70 <sup>(92)</sup>  | 10.90                 | 13.7 <sup>(94)</sup>  | ...   | 35.00 <sup>(12)</sup> | 30                        | Likely to achieve        |
| <b>GOAL 4. REDUCE CHILD MORTALITY</b>                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                       |                       |                       |       |                       |                           |                          |
| TARGET 7                                                 | Reduce by two-thirds, between 1990 and 2015, the under-five mortality rate                                                                                                                                                                                     |                       |                       |                       |       |                       |                           |                          |
|                                                          | Under-five mortality rate (per 1000 live births)                                                                                                                                                                                                               | 88.80                 | 44.50                 | 26.00                 | 23.20 | 29.20                 | ...                       | Achieved                 |
|                                                          | Infant mortality rate (per 1000 live births)                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | 64.40                 | 32.80                 | 20.70                 | 19.10 | 22.00                 | ...                       | Achieved                 |
|                                                          | Percentage of children covered by immunization against measles                                                                                                                                                                                                 | 82.30 <sup>(91)</sup> | 92.40                 | 97.50                 | 98.90 | 96.00                 | ...                       | Achieved                 |
| <b>GOAL 5. IMPROVE MATERNAL HEALTH</b>                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                       |                       |                       |       |                       |                           |                          |
| TARGET 8                                                 | Provide access to all individuals of appropriate age to required reproductive health service and reduce by three-quarters, between 1990 and 2015, the maternal mortality ratio                                                                                 |                       |                       |                       |       |                       |                           |                          |
|                                                          | Maternal mortality rate (per 100,000 thousand live births)                                                                                                                                                                                                     | 121.6                 | 166.30                | 92.70                 | 67.20 | 50.00                 | 1                         | Likely to achieve        |



**STALNA MISIJA CRNE GORE PRI UJEDINJENIM NACIJAMA  
PERMANENT MISSION OF MONTENEGRO TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

**STATEMENT**

**by H.E. Mr. Nebojsa Kaludjerovic  
Permanent Representative of Montenegro to the United Nations  
at the General Assembly Thematic Debate**

**“Recognising the achievements, addressing the challenges and getting back on track to  
achieve the MDGs by 2015“**

**3 April 2008**

*Please check against delivery*

Mr. President, Excellences, Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Government of Montenegro, let me congratulate the President of the GA for organizing this timely meeting. Montenegro aligns itself with the statement made yesterday by the Minister of Growth of the Republic of Slovenia on behalf of the EU. I would like to focus on the Montenegrin perspective on achieving the MDGs and to add some remarks relevant for our views on poverty, health, and education related goals.

At the midpoint between the adoption of the Millennium Declaration and 2015 some parts of the world remain off track to achieve the MDGs. As we all agree, significant progress has been made in the implementation of the Declaration, but nevertheless some areas still need significant scale up of investments and coordinated action on national and international level in order to achieve the set goals.

The achievement of all eight MDGs is closely interlinked. Investment in one MDG carries out a significant impact on the achievement of other goals and is further linked with the overall economic and social development of a country.

Since regaining its independence, Montenegro has undergone numerous reform processes, and has adopted several strategic documents that define its overall development path towards the EU integrations and represent significant tools for the full achievement of MDGs. The most important documents are: Development and Poverty Reduction Strategy, Agenda of Economic Reforms, National Action Plan for Children, National Strategy for Sustainable Development as well as numerous strategies, laws, and action plans.

As a result of sound economic policies, Montenegro has achieved macroeconomic stability while the prospect of economic growth remains strong. Also, comprehensive activities are conducted to strengthen the rule of law and good governance, as main preconditions for creation of enabling environment for the full implementation of MDGs.

Poverty has a broad definition that goes beyond the realm of economy and affects people's lives on multiple other levels: access to social services, health, education, access to labor

market, gender equality and so on. Empirical data for Montenegro show that significant steps have been made and recent analysis indicates that the percentage of the people living below the absolute poverty line is relatively small 10.9%, while at the regional and local levels this value varies from 8.4% to 13.6%. It is also important to note that the unemployment rate dropped to 11.8% this year. But, on the other hand, according to the available data, one third of the population is considered to be economically vulnerable.

Recent increase in income levels and a vigorous economic activity in Montenegro are expected to lead to a proportional reduction in poverty and relative poverty, but despite the favorable economic conditions and the pro-poor economic and social policy, some challenges remain. Regional distribution of poverty is uneven, and particular effort needs to be made to improve the situation of vulnerable groups.

The comprehensive reform of the educational sector is ongoing since 2000 and Montenegro adopted a wide range of education legislation. The Montenegrin Government has recognized a significance of education for the sustainable economic and social development of the country. Quantitative indicators show that the reform implementation yields positive results and that the education related MDGs are achievable. Nevertheless, despite favorable trends there are certain issues that still need to be addressed. The most significant improvements are connected with the quality of education itself and the level to which required skills in the educational system reflect the needs of the labor market.

The Millennium Declaration attaches a great importance to the health and I am pleased to state that Montenegro is on track to achieve related targets. For example, reports on vaccination and immunization of children are positive, spanning between 92% and 98% depending on the immunization group, and proportion of births attended by skilled health professional is at 100%. However, because of the political, social and economic situation in the 1990s, reduction in the quality of health services was evident, leading the Government to introduce wide health sector reforms. Primary healthcare is being strengthened at the local levels to ensure quality access, especially with respect to vulnerable population groups, proper care for all children, but particularly for children with special needs, increased effectiveness and efficiency of healthcare. In respect to the Goal 6 of combating HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases, Montenegro regards combating of HIV/AIDS as a priority, due to the increase of risk-associated behavior among youth. Because of the strong need for coordinated action in order to prevent spreading of this disease, the Montenegrin Government has founded the National HIV/AIDS Commission which cooperates closely with governmental and nongovernmental actors, international organizations and donor community.

Concentrated efforts of international community and national institutions are required in order to achieve MDGs globally and at the national level. Aid quality can be improved, as well as donor coordination. Furthermore, the achievement of MDGs is not possible without sound partnerships among public sector, private sector, and civil society. A support of the UN system and its coordination is also of the utmost importance.

Montenegro is committed to the full achievement of MDGs by focusing on strengthening of institutions, and the implementation of the overall set of economic and social reforms that emphasize accelerated sustainable and inclusive growth. Enhanced efforts at all levels, national and global, are indispensable in order for MDGs to be achieved by 2015.

I thank you Mr. President.



*The Permanent Mission  
of the Kingdom of Morocco  
to the United Nations*



البعثة الدائمة  
للمملكة المغربية لدى الأمم المتحدة  
نيويورك

**Assemblée générale des Nations Unies**

**Intervention de Mme Raja GHANNAM  
Directrice de la Coopération multilatérale**

**à l'occasion du**

**Débat thématique  
sur les Objectifs du Millénaire  
pour le Développement**

Prière de vérifier à l'audition

**New York, le 2 avril 2008**

Monsieur le Président,

Je voudrais, tout d'abord, vous remercier d'avoir pris l'initiative d'organiser ce débat thématique sur les Objectifs de Développement du Millénaire (ODD), qui, sans aucun doute, contribuera à améliorer la prise de conscience, à l'échelle internationale, de l'importance des ODD et de leur nécessaire réalisation en 2015.

Adoptés par nos Chefs d'Etat et de Gouvernement, en 2000, à l'occasion du Sommet du Millénaire, les ODD ont servi de catalyseur pour mobiliser toutes les forces et tous les moyens, que ce soit au niveau national ou international, pour lutter contre la pauvreté et la misère dans le monde.

A mi-chemin du délai fixé pour réaliser les ODD, l'on peut faire état de progrès tangibles, dans plusieurs régions du monde, à l'exception de l'Afrique qui ne serait pas sur la voie de réaliser tous les ODD. En effet, malgré leur volonté politique, leur détermination, les réformes des politiques économiques et sociales, la promotion de la bonne gouvernance et de la règle de droit, les pays africains n'arrivent pas à atteindre un niveau de croissance économique élevé et durable, permettant de relever le défi des Objectifs du Millénaire pour le développement.

Par ailleurs, malgré les promesses faites et l'engagement d'augmenter l'assistance aux pays en développement, la majorité des donateurs n'a pas atteint l'objectif de consacrer 0.7 de leur PNB à l'aide publique au développement. L'engagement de doubler l'aide à l'Afrique n'est pas tenu. L'effort constaté en matière d'allègement de la dette ne touche qu'un nombre limité de pays. Les négociations commerciales multilatérales de l'OMC restent toujours bloquées et l'engagement de Doha de placer le développement au cœur des négociations est loin d'être respecté.

Monsieur le Président,

Comme l'a reconnu le Consensus de Monterrey, si le développement demeure une responsabilité nationale, la contribution des pays développés est essentielle pour concrétiser le partenariat mondial pour le développement. La réalisation des sept premiers Objectifs du Millénaire pour le développement dépend de l'objectif n°8. A cet égard, les donateurs sont appelés à mettre en œuvre les engagements pris dans les domaines de l'APD, de l'allègement de la dette, de l'accès aux marchés, du transfert de technologies, de renforcement des capacités et de l'assistance technique et scientifique.

Les Nations Unies et ses différentes Agences et Programmes ont un rôle à jouer pour promouvoir la solidarité entre le Nord et le Sud, une solidarité qui permettra aux plus riches de venir en aide aux plus pauvres, pour relever les défis de la pauvreté dans le monde.

L'expérience nous a montré que les pays pauvres ne peuvent relever ces défis sans une coopération internationale renforcée et d'un environnement international favorable.

En effet, les progrès réalisés dans certains pays, attestent qu'avec une combinaison de volonté politique, de stratégies adéquates, de mécanismes de financement durable,

d'un environnement international propice au développement et d'une solidarité internationale, l'on peut donner espoir aux populations pauvres, qui n'ont pas accès aux services de base, notamment en matière de santé, d'éducation, d'accès à l'eau potable et à l'électricité.

Par ailleurs, l'apport de la coopération Sud-Sud est considérable. Les tendances, actuelles, au niveau du commerce et de l'investissement, attestent de son rôle et de son impact sur la mobilisation des ressources et sur le bien-être des peuples.

Pour sa part, le Maroc est engagé, activement, dans la promotion de l'intégration régionale et sous régionale, notamment au niveau de l'Afrique. En témoigne les initiatives et partenariats, lancés par le Maroc et ses partenaires d'Afrique, dans plusieurs domaines, tels que la santé, l'habitat, l'eau et l'agriculture, les services et la formation.

Monsieur le Président,

Sur le plan national, grâce à une politique dirigée vers les secteurs sociaux, le Maroc s'est engagé, fermement, pour être au rendez-vous de 2015. Ainsi, la part du budget de l'Etat, allouée à ces secteurs, s'est nettement améliorée, passant de 39 % en 1993, à plus de 47 % en 2002, pour atteindre 55 % en 2005. Le lancement de l'Initiative Nationale du Développement Humain, en Avril 2005, est venue renforcer l'effort et la politique de l'Etat, en matière sociale. L'INDH vise, en effet, à réduire la pauvreté et à placer le développement humain, au centre de l'action de l'Etat, à travers une approche participative, transparente et démocratique, qui associe le citoyen au développement de sa Communauté.

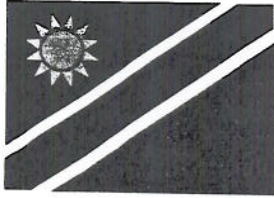
L'évaluation entreprise, au niveau national, a démontré que le Maroc est sur la bonne voie de relever le pari de la réalisation des OMD, et que les efforts déployés devront être soutenus, pour arriver à cette fin.

Dans ce cadre, le budget national pour 2008 vise à donner un nouvel élan à la promotion du développement humain. L'action du Gouvernement se concentrera sur l'accélération du rythme de la réforme du secteur de l'éducation et de la formation, la promotion de l'habitat social, la promotion de l'emploi, et l'extension de la couverture médicale et des structures d'accueil hospitalières publiques, dans les différentes zones du pays, particulièrement, dans le monde rural, pour toucher les populations vulnérables.

Monsieur le Président,

Cette année sera marquée par la tenue de Conférences très importantes. La réunion de haut niveau sur les besoins de l'Afrique en matière de développement, la réunion de haut niveau sur les OMD, qui sera convoquée par le Secrétaire général, la Conférence de Doha sur le financement du développement et d'autres conférences représentent une occasion pour donner une forte impulsion à la coopération internationale pour la concrétisation des Objectifs du Millénaire pour le Développement.

Je vous remercie.



**Permanent Mission of the Republic of Namibia to the United Nations**  
360 Lexington Avenue, Suite 1502, New York, NY 10017  
Tel: (212) 685-2003 • Fax: (212) 685-1561 • E-mail: namibia@un.int

Please Check Against Delivery

## **STATEMENT**

**BY**

**H.E. DR. KAIRE MUNIONGANDA MBUENDE  
AMBASSADOR AND PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE  
OF THE REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA TO THE UN**

**ON**

**“RECOGNIZING ACHIEVEMENTS, ADDRESSING  
CHALLENGES AND GETTING BACK ON TRACK TO  
ACHIEVE THE MDGs BY 2015”**

**(Poverty and Hunger, Education and Health)**

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**02 APRIL 2008**

Mr President

My delegation thanks you profoundly for organizing this important and timely debate on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The debate affords us an opportunity to take stock of the successes we have achieved so far; the challenges we have met along the way; and to visualize the way forward as we forge ahead in our determination to achieve the MDGs by the target we have set for ourselves.

We associate ourselves with the statement by Antigua and Barbuda and ....on behalf of the G77 and China and the African Group respectively.

Mr. President

Namibia made some significant progress towards the achievement of some of the MDGs by 2015. We have met a significant number of the targets ahead of time. By the same token, meeting other targets remains a daunting task. Our efforts to meet the MDGs form an integral part of a national process of strengthening policies and mobilizing domestic and external resources towards our country's long-term development plan – Vision 2030. National targets and indicators have been developed to ensure that the MDGs are firmly rooted in the successive five years development plans and the milestones of the long-term development vision.

Mr President

Poverty in Namibia is defined in monetary terms based on household expenditure. It is measured by using the proportion of total household expenditure on food. That is, if a high proportion of the household expenditure is devoted to food, then very little is left to satisfy other needs. Based on that, households are classified as relatively poor if 60 per cent or more of their total expenditure goes to food; and extremely poor if the proportion is 80 per cent or more.

Eradicating extreme poverty and hunger in Namibia has been a cardinal policy objective for my country over the years and remains one of the greatest challenges the country is facing today. It is gratifying to note however that significant progress has been made on this goal and targets are likely to be met by 2015 if some of the gains are not be reversed by extreme weather conditions, such as the current floods that have caused untold devastation.

Our National Household Income and Expenditure Surveys (NHIES) of 1993/94 and 2003/04 show that relative poverty was reduced from about 38 percent in 1993/94 to about 28 percent in 2003/04, while extreme poverty has declined from around 9 percent to around 4 percent during the same period. There are however, significant differences in the incidence of poverty between rural and urban areas, between regions and among population groups. Thus, poverty in rural areas is higher than in urban areas although urban poverty also poses a challenge to our Government.

We have also made steady progress in service provisions. About 97% of our population has access to clean water; about 70% in urban centers have access to electricity while the Government's rural electrification programme has so far covered about 15% of rural areas. I should however, hasten to add that progress has been painfully slow with regard to access to sanitation, which stands at 61% in urban centers and at 32% in rural areas.

Mr. President

We are cognizant of the fact that an educated population is a pre-requisite to development. To this end the Government has consistently been allocating the highest percentage of the national budget to the education sector. This has enabled us to make significant progress in terms of access to basic education.

Primary net enrolment was recorded at 92% in 2005. Enrolment rates among girls in both primary and secondary schools are higher at 94% and 56% compared to boys at 91 and 46% respectively. Unfortunately the majority of the students do not make it to tertiary education due to a variety of factors. We have however, a long way to go when it comes to adult literacy where the rate remains at 85% since 1994.

Mr President

Overall progress on reducing infant mortality rates per 1000 live births has been slow and currently stands at 49 in terms of males and at 55 for females. Child immunization campaigns have yielded positive results with regard to diseases such as polio and measles that have almost been eliminated from our country. There are however, areas where a lot still needs to be made. The percentage of children under 5 who are wasted is currently being estimated at 7.5%, those who are stunted at 29% and those who are underweight is 24%. With regard to improving maternal health, progress has been made on the proportion of births attended by trained personnel. However, maternal mortality rate is still high at 449/100,000 live births, thereby impeding progress towards achieving this goal by 2015.

Progress on combating HIV/AIDS, Malaria and other diseases has also been slow if the situation is not worsening in some respects. HIV/AIDS prevalence rate is high compared to 1992 but has stabilised since 2004. This is attributed to the incubation period of this disease. The prevalence rate of HIV/AIDS among the Namibian population as measured through sentinel surveys stands at 19% and the disease is still the number one cause of deaths in the country. However, through the launching of the Third Medium Term Plan on HIV/AIDS covering a five-year period (2004 – 2009), our Government and its development partners have created a broad national response to the pandemic. Indeed, current surveys have shown that there is a significant decline in the number of new infections

Progress on combating Malaria and TB is modest. Malaria, which is the third main cause of deaths among adults in Namibia is mainly being fought through free distribution of treated mosquito nets to families with young children by Government and the spraying of houses in malaria prone areas with DDT. Its morbidity has been reduced from 238/100,000 population in 2000 to 140/100,000 population in 2006. The TB treatment success rate also improved from 58% in 1996 to 69% in 2006.

Mr President

My country faces a number of challenges that inhibit the early attainment of the MDGs. These include the following:

- Harsh weather conditions as a result of climate change continue to constrain our progress to achieving the MDGs. Frequent droughts and floods have many a time led to crop failures and food insecurity. Resources earmarked for development is continuously diverted to relief activities and the reconstruction of damaged or destroyed infrastructures.
- Increasing world oil prices and the accompanying inflation tend to result in rising prices for food and other basic commodities making it unaffordable for the average household.
- Volatility in international financial markets combined with our inability to access finance on international capital markets on concessional terms because of our status as a middle-income country. Furthermore, the risks generally associated with small markets economies have also posed serious challenges to our development efforts.
- The continuous decline in the level of official development and technical assistance has negatively affected progress in capacity building for service delivery.

- The brain drain phenomenon has led to the overburdening of the few personnel who remain in the critical sectors, such as health and education, to name but a few.

Mr. President

To get back on track to achieve the MDGs by 2015 requires deliberate action to make the international environment conducive to development. The Doha trade negotiations need to produce positive results with development as the center pillar. Our efforts to adapt to the effect of climate change need to be supported through finance and transfer of technology.

It is indeed high time for the General Assembly to adopt a resolution mandating the UN system to address the development needs of middle-income developing countries in a comprehensive manner by, among others, targeting those sectors that are critical to the attainment of the MDGs.

Mr. President

The need for coherence between the activities of international economic and financial institutions on the one hand and the United Nations system on the other in support of development cannot be over emphasized. It thus follows that the implementation of MDG-8 is crucial for the attainment of the other goals. Development is a collective responsibility and all of us should fulfill our commitments and meet our obligations.

I thank you.



Statement by H. E. Mr. Madhu Raman Acharya, Permanent Representative of Nepal to the United Nations, at the Thematic Debate of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals on the theme "Recognizing the achievements, addressing the challenges and getting back on track to achieve the MDGs by 2015"

New York, 3 April 2008

Mr. President,

The President of the General Assembly deserves appreciation for convening this timely debate on the progress towards the achievement of the MDGs.

In the Millennium Declaration and subsequent conferences, countries on either side of the development agenda made certain commitments. The developing countries would take the ownership of their own development, provide good governance, and improve their economic and social sector reform and achieve certain indicators of development. The developed partners would provide the necessary resources and enabling environment including freer access to their markets, debt relief, capacity building, technology transfer and sustained flow of investment.

Since these commitments were made, the developing countries have made great strides, especially in poverty reduction and many other MDGs. But these achievements have been restricted to some regions and countries. The achievement of the MDGs in the world's poorest countries, where the so-called "bottom billion" is mostly concentrated, hangs precariously on the sustained flow of resources and enabling environment that was committed in these compacts.

Besides, the achievement of MDGs is threatened by the spread of HIV/AIDS, humanitarian crises, conflicts and new challenges of climate change. The world's poor and hungry people are being further marginalized by the increasing oil and food prices. Continuing deadlock in the negotiations of the Doha Development Agenda and the lack of an environment of sustained flow of migrant workers from the developing to the developed world continues to stymie the opportunities that the market could offer to boost their efforts in achieving the MDGs.

Mr. President,

When we adopted the MDGs and the Monterrey Consensus, we did not take into account the threat of climate change, especially the urgent need for adaptation in the most vulnerable countries. How that can be done without diverting the resources committed to their development should be considered seriously in the forthcoming review of the Monterrey Consensus.

Whereas it is important that the Paris Declaration on aid effectiveness should be implemented for achieving better results, it cannot substitute sustained flow of additional resources to the developing countries. It has become clear that without the sincere fulfillment of the commitments made by the developed countries, the MDGs cannot be fully attained in the remaining half.

Mr. President,

Poverty reduction is central to all MDGs. We cannot possibly think of achieving other goals without reducing poverty. Failure to poverty reduction would mean that millions of people will continue to languish in crippling poverty and hunger on less than a dollar a day even after 2015. That is unacceptable in a world which has so much resource at its disposal and which spends so much on armaments and luxury.

The panelists have clearly pointed out what works for poverty reduction and other MDGs. Today, it is clear that growth alone cannot guarantee that we will achieve the MDGs. Despite a sound economic growth in the last six years, many African countries are still far away from achieving their MDG targets. The growth must be accompanied by targeted investment, such as in agriculture and social sector.

It is important to mention here that achievement of all the internationally development goals, especially the compacts on the countries with special situations, is crucial to meeting the MDGs. For example, this year we are reviewing the Almaty Program of Action for the landlocked developing countries. Similarly, we reviewed of the Brussels Program of Action for the LDCs last year. The recommendations of these reviews should be implemented with all the seriousness they deserve.

Mr. President,

Nepal has achieved mixed progress in the MDGs. Despite the last 12 years of internal conflict, there is substantive progress in poverty reduction. Nepal's poverty line reduced from 42 percent in 1996 to 31 percent in 2004. The current interim development plan (2008-2010) aims at reducing poverty to below 24%. Thus, we are on track to achieve the goal of halving poverty by 2015.

Recent reports have shown that we have made great strides in achieving universal primary enrollment, with 84% children going to schools, compared to 64% in 1990. We may achieve this target as well. There is also good progress in health-related MDGs. The under-five child mortality rate and maternal mortality ratio have been reduced substantially. But, we have yet to make substantive progress in combating HIV/AIDS.

Though Nepal has been able to maintain macro-economic stability, both the population growth rate and GDP growth rate have hovered around 2 percent, straining our efforts in achieving the MDGs. Nepal's interim plan (2008-2010) aims at reducing poverty and achieving 5.5% annual economic growth. It also seeks to integrate the MDGs into the national development strategy. But we are constrained by the huge post-conflict rehabilitation and reconstruction needs. We are confident that our development partners will continue to support us in these endeavors.

We are hoping that the ongoing political transformation process, including the forthcoming elections to the constituent assembly on the 10<sup>th</sup> of April, will pave the way forward for further accelerating our efforts in achieving the MDGs, while crating an environment for long-term peace, development and stability in the country.

Mr. President,

In conclusion, the success of MDGs will be judged by their implementation. At this crucial half way, we have an opportunity for a soul-searching and retrospection to find ways for better implementation in the remaining half.

We should not engage in the business of reinventing the wheel or re-stating the obvious. We need strategy for better implementation of our commitments and perhaps a mechanism for monitoring the commitments made by both sides. We must not miss the opportunity to fine tune our commitments with a view to achieving the full implementation of the MDGs by 2015. That is how partnership- global partnership for development- counts.

Nepal looks forward to actively participating in the high-level event on the mid-term review of the MDGs on 25 September this year.

I thank you Mr. President!



**PERMANENT MISSION OF  
THE KINGDOM OF THE NETHERLANDS  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

235 East 45<sup>th</sup> Street, 16<sup>th</sup> floor  
New York, NY 10017

tel. (212) 519-9500  
fax (212) 370-1954  
[www.pvnewyork.org](http://www.pvnewyork.org)

---

---

check against delivery

**STATEMENT BY**

**H.E. Mr. Frank Majoor**

**Ambassador  
Permanent Representative of  
the Kingdom of the Netherlands to the United Nations**

**Thematic Debate of the General Assembly,**

**“Recognizing the achievements, addressing the challenges and getting back  
on track to achieve the MDGs by 2015”**

**NEW YORK, 1-2 April 2008**

**Statement by Frank Majoor,  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative  
Thematic Debate of the General Assembly  
New York, 2 April 2008**

Mr Chairman,

The year 2015 is coming closer and we all know we are behind schedule. Especially MDG 5 - Improve maternal health - is off track. I would like to focus on this MDG, since progress on MDG5 is crucial for achieving the other MDGs.

A woman still dies from pregnancy-related causes every minute. More than 536,000 per year, 99 % of them in the poorest countries. Worldwide about 13% of maternal mortality is due to unsafe abortion. In some countries it may even be more than 30%. The financial loss to families, communities and countries has been estimated at more than 15 billion dollars per year in e.g. foregone income and additional medical costs.

Maternal mortality could be cut by nearly three-quarters by improving women's access to comprehensive reproductive health services, which includes preventing or managing abortion-related complications.

Global recognition of the problem is growing. At the World Summit in 2005 the international community agreed that universal access to reproductive health should be achieved by 2015. The recent inclusion of this target in the MDG monitoring framework was long overdue and means a very important recognition of this important issue.

Sexual and reproductive health and rights is a delicate matter, often surrounded by stigma and taboos. This might explain the lack of political will in some countries to really tackle the issue, as well as the fact that funding is still lagging far behind compared to what is needed.

The main responsibility for achieving the MDGs lies at the country level. An excellent example of clear political will and concrete action is the Maputo Plan of Action. It provides a policy framework for sexual and reproductive health and rights for the African continent, in which African leaders committed to specific actions needed to achieve universal access to reproductive health. I would be interested to hear from my African colleagues where we are with the implementation of this Plan.

International aid should support national efforts. Development assistance for maternal and newborn health was estimated at only 530 million dollars in 2004. To get to the additional 5.5 billion dollars needed to achieve MDGs 4 and 5 by 2015, donor funding will need to increase more than ten times its 2004 level. While the gap in investment needed for maternal health may seem large, it represents a small fraction of global GNP and total development aid. The US\$5.5 billion annual shortfall is only 0.016% of global GNP. Providing this small proportion of GNP annually by 2015 is well within our grasp.

The Netherlands has declared equal rights and opportunities for women and girls, as well as sexual and reproductive health and rights, top priorities in its development cooperation programme. The Netherlands has allocated an additional 200 million dollars to MDGs 3 and 5.

To achieve the MDGs we need innovative approaches. Governments cannot do it alone. In particular for MDG 3 and 5 the commitment of society as a whole is of crucial importance: government, civil society organizations, the private sector, institutions of knowledge, religious institutions, labour unions and private persons. The Minister for Development Cooperation of the Netherlands signed almost 40 alliances with public and private partners. One example is an alliance for the production and marketing of a cheaper female condom.

There is also a public private partnership on MDG 5, signed by a group of twenty organisations like Flying Doctors, pharmaceutical companies and medical professional groups. Partners work together in smaller groups to develop concrete activities that lead to improved maternal and women's health.

In conclusion, to achieve this crucial MDG, we need further recognition of the issues, political will and action, both at the global and national level, scaling up of aid efforts and an innovative approach by involving new partners in development cooperation. The GA-meeting on Africa's development needs on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of September and the MDG-event organized by the President of the General Assembly and the Secretary General on the 25<sup>th</sup> of September will be two additional occasions to rally global support to achieve this critical goal of improving maternal health.

# **New Zealand Permanent Mission to the United Nations**



## **Te Māngai o Aotearoa**

600 THIRD AVENUE 14<sup>TH</sup> FLOOR NEW YORK, NY 10016-1901, USA  
TELEPHONE (212) 826 1960 FACSIMILE (212) 758 0827 HOMEPAGE: <http://www.nzembassy.com/newyork>

---

### **United Nations General Assembly Sixty-Second Session**

**Thematic Debate of the General Assembly: "Recognising the  
achievements, addressing the challenges and getting back on track to  
achieve the MDGs by 2015"**

#### **Plenary Statement**

**Statement by  
Kirsty Graham  
Deputy Permanent Representative of New Zealand**

**3 April 2008**

**Check against delivery**

Thank you Mr President for hosting this thematic debate: "Recognising the achievements, addressing the challenges and getting back on track to achieve the MDGs by 2015". Thanks also to those participating in the stimulating panel discussions earlier this week.

New Zealand fully endorses the statement made by the Kingdom of Tonga on behalf of the Pacific Small Island Developing States.

The MDGs are one of the global pathways to a better future. For the first time in history there is an international consensus to close the poverty gap. Poverty on the scale we know it today, and in a world that has the capability of reducing it dramatically, is a moral offence. It has a huge 'opportunity cost' on societies and on the global community through the productivity and creativity forgone. Working to eliminate poverty and remove inequalities addresses fundamental rights set out in the UN Declaration of Human Rights and related instruments. Finding pathways to do this effectively is a global, regional and national challenge.

At this halfway point, the development challenge has never been higher on the international agenda; New Zealand recently signed up to the MDG Call to Action, and we look forward to participating in the Secretary-General's high-level event on MDGs, scheduled to take place on 25 September.

We have heard throughout this week's debate about some success stories. But while good achievements have been made, there are troubling signs that the global community has not been making sufficient progress with the MDGs. Sub-Saharan Africa and the Pacific are two sub-regions that are most off-track. The stakes are high, especially for the millions of people trapped in the cycle of extreme poverty, dying of hunger and tropical diseases, and the millions that lack access to basic education. We can and must do better. This requires a truly global effort across a range of issues that the panellists raised earlier this week – i.e. peace and security, governance, economic growth, trade and investment, particularly in the agricultural sector, and development assistance.

Mr President, my delegation wishes to focus on MDG 3 - gender equality and women's empowerment. New Zealand stresses the importance of MDG 3 for achieving all MDGs. Gender inequality and poverty are inextricably linked; but continue to be among the most persistent and pervasive global challenges. Advancement of gender equality and the empowerment of women have time and time again been reiterated as an MDG in its own right. It is critical that governments recognize the negative impact and opportunity costs of gender inequality and step up the pace to achieve positive development outcomes, particularly at the country level.

Girls' access to education has undoubtedly increased as a result of the impetus provided by MDG3, but not fast enough in some countries and regions. Progress has been especially uneven in the Pacific, which faces a particular challenge in achieving gender equality in education.

Significantly less global attention has been directed towards supporting the other MDG 3 indicators relating to elimination of gender disparity in non-agricultural employment and parliamentary representation.

New Zealand recognizes that sexual and reproductive health rights, including HIV and AIDS, are also crucial for the achievement of the MDGs. Access to services; safe motherhood, prevention efforts as well as treatment of sexually transmitted infections including HIV; and the elimination of gender violence would improve the lives of many people in the Pacific, as well as economic and social development.

Mr President, the UN system has a critical role to play in advancing MDG 3 and New Zealand therefore attaches particular importance to working for a strengthened, coherent and adequately resourced UN gender architecture. This is needed to provide renewed leadership on gender equality and women's empowerment issues. There is an urgent need to revitalize the commitment and responsibility of the entire UN system to revitalise efforts to achieve gender equality and women's empowerment.

Mr President, let me now turn to health and basic education. New Zealand contributes about 10% of its total ODA budget to health programmes and 20% of its total ODA budget to education programmes. We prioritise support to basic education for the achievement of universal primary education and equal access at every level of education. Our support for health is guided by primary health care principles as the most cost effective and equitable way to improve health status and eliminate poverty.

Mr President, New Zealand acknowledges that no gains will be made against poverty and hunger, education, health, gender or any of the other MDGs without strong global partnerships. Partnerships and alignment – expressed in the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness – allow us to align New Zealand's support with others' larger contributions. At the same time, greater coordination among development partners can help to achieve the MDGs. We have a collective responsibility to ensure that attention to gender equality and women's empowerment remains central to these efforts.

Thank you.





MISION PERMANENTE DE NICARAGUA  
ANTE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS  
820 SECOND AVENUE - 8<sup>th</sup> FLOOR  
NEW YORK, NY 10017  
(212) 490-7997

**INTERVENCION DE  
NICARAGUA  
Pronunciado por  
S.E. Sra. María Rubiales de Chamorro  
Embajadora  
Representante Permanente**

**REUNIÓN DE ALTO NIVEL SOBRE LOS OBJETIVOS  
DE DESARROLLO DEL MILENIO (ODM)  
RECONOCIENDO LOS ADELANTOS,  
RESOLVIENDO LOS PROBLEMAS Y VOLVER A LA ACCIÓN  
PARA ALCANZAR LOS ODM EN EL 2015**

**2 DE ABRIL DE 2008**

La delegación de Nicaragua se adhiere a la declaración realizada por Antigua y Barbuda en nombre del Grupo de los 77 y China, así como a la declaración de México en nombre del Grupo de Río.

Señor Presidente,

Hoy, estamos a mitad del camino desde la Declaración del Milenio y sus Objetivos de Desarrollo, y a pesar de que se ha reconocido cierto avance en el logro de algunos de estos objetivos, aún queda mucho por hacer. En la mayoría de nuestros países los niveles de pobreza extrema siguen siendo alarmantes, los niños padecen de desnutrición, las muertes maternas e infantiles no se han logrado disminuir verdaderamente, el acceso pleno a la educación y a la salud siguen siendo una meta y no una realidad.

Las preguntas que nos corresponde hacernos en esta mitad de período son: ¿qué hemos logrado? ¿Cómo lo hemos logrado? ¿en qué hemos fallado?, ¿por qué hemos fallado? ¿Cuál de las partes no ha asumido su responsabilidad? Ha quedado demostrado que las políticas neo-liberales no lograron dar resultados efectivos en la reducción de la pobreza, por el contrario, han ensanchado mas las brechas sociales en nuestros países.

El Gobierno de Reconciliación y Unidad Nacional de la República de Nicaragua presidido por el Comandante Presidente Daniel Ortega Saavedra considera que los Objetivos de Desarrollo del Milenio son apenas las metas mínimas a las que deben aspirar todo pueblo que desea vivir con dignidad. Por ello hemos asumido de manera efectiva el trabajo hacia el logro de estos objetivos y más allá. Estamos luchando para superar décadas de abandono, resolviendo poco a poco los problemas heredados y trabajando con un Plan Nacional de Desarrollo fundamentado en las necesidades humanas, sociales, educativas, económicas y culturales de nuestro pueblo.

Impulsando la democracia directa para construir la democracia ciudadana facilitado por un gobierno que se convierte en el Poder Ciudadano, la participación de los excluidos y la construcción de sus capacidades de defender sus intereses y sus posiciones; basada en instrumentos y mecanismos que permitan al pueblo ejercer el poder político en forma directa. Una democracia ciudadana para que el pueblo participe en forma real en los procesos de decisión, gestión y evaluación de las políticas, planes y programas nacionales, regionales, departamentales y locales, así como en la resolución de problemas o aprovechamiento de oportunidades a nivel de barrio, comunidad, comarca o municipio en forma de autogestión o de gestión con las estructuras de gobierno.

El momento de este debate concuerda totalmente con la evaluación interna que nuestro gobierno está haciendo. En este momento el Gabinete Social se está trasladando a todos los municipios, y cabeceras departamentales para instalar gabinetes sectoriales y conocer a nivel local la evaluación que están haciendo nuestros dirigentes del Poder Ciudadano del cumplimiento de nuestro Plan, las carencias y deficiencias y al mismo tiempo presentar los ajustes y hacer nuevas propuestas. Esto porque es únicamente a través de la vinculación pueblo gobierno que se podrá avanzar, es nuestro pueblo organizado quien va a hacer posible que se cumplan nuestras metas. Las metas del milenio, continuarán siendo el horizonte de la estrategia de reducción de la pobreza, pero de una manera más intensa, más directa, y con mayor compromiso de parte del pueblo nicaragüense.

En cuanto a nuestros programas de combate a la pobreza, estamos generando empleos acorde a nuestra realidad, país eminentemente rural. Estamos trabajando programas y políticas que desarrollen el campo, que es de donde nos alimentamos y a través del cual podremos garantizar un futuro mejor. Cabe mencionar dos programas específicos. El Programa Usura Cero, prestamos para iniciar pequeños negocios, que al finalizar 2008 habrá beneficiado a mas de 40,000 mujeres, cabezas de familia y que suman alrededor de 200,000 personas beneficiadas y el Programa del Bono Productivo Alimentario o

Hambre Cero que para el final de 2008 se habrá entregado más de 47,000 bonos y que beneficiaran a más de 235,000 nicaragüenses

En el ámbito de la educación el Gobierno de Reconciliación y Unidad Nacional ha iniciado un proceso de rescate del sistema educativo reconociendo que la inversión en formación humana es el eje principal del desarrollo económico y social del país. Declaramos la gratuidad de la educación y se espera aumentar la tasa neta de escolaridad primaria de 86.0 por ciento a 92.6 por ciento en el 2010.

Asimismo, el gobierno está implementando un programa de alfabetización masiva cuyo objetivo es reducir la tasa de analfabetismo a 7.2% por ciento en 2010, con la cooperación de organizaciones voluntarias y comunidad internacional, particularmente los gobiernos hermanos de Cuba y Venezuela. Cabe destacar que nuestra capital Managua ya ha sido declarada libre de analfabetismo.

En el sector salud, el objetivo es aumentar la calidad y cobertura de los servicios públicos prestados en todo el territorio nacional. Asimismo, el Gobierno de Reconciliación y Unidad Nacional ha iniciado su programa garantizando la gratuidad de los servicios en el sistema público de salud. De igual manera, se está destinando mayores recursos para financiar un programa de abastecimiento de medicamentos, de material médico de reposición, de recursos humanos e insumos no médicos necesarios para satisfacer la demanda de atención ambulatoria y hospitalaria.

En este sector también es la participación ciudadana quien hace posible el desarrollo de los programas. En este momento 300 jóvenes doctores están iniciando sus estudios de especialidad dentro del Programa de Capacitación de Especialistas, en un año estarán sirviendo a nuestro pueblo sin costo alguno para nuestra población. Asimismo se están movilizand 35,000 brigadistas de salud para las campañas de vacunación masiva, la lucha contra el VIH/SIDA, la malaria y otras enfermedades.

Nuestro Presidente ha hecho una propuesta contundente para el beneficio de nuestro pueblo: el intercambio de armamento que quedo de la guerra que nos impusieron en los años 80 por material médico y remodelación de nuestra red hospitalaria.

En cuanto a la equidad de género, estamos trabajando en aras de transformar la cultura de la población nicaragüense -éticas, valores, principios humanos y espirituales- para que haya equidad de género entre las personas, en el seno de los hogares y en la sociedad en general. Todo esto a través de: la implementación de un programa educativo, campañas de comunicación sobre las consecuencias sociales y económicas de las desigualdades de género y las ventajas de la igualdad de oportunidades entre mujeres y hombres; revisando y fortaleciendo la perspectiva de género incorporada en la currículum y en los textos escolares; promoviendo la generación y difusión del conocimiento sobre los derechos y aportes de las mujeres para que se reconozcan como agentes de cambio y transformación del desarrollo.

En lo que respecta al agua potable y saneamiento, el Gobierno de Reconciliación y Unidad Nacional ha declarado el acceso al agua como un derecho humano y por tanto no privatizable, en un claro cambio de la visión y manejo de este recurso.

Señor Presidente:

He descrito brevemente algunas de las iniciativas que Nicaragua está llevando a cabo a nivel nacional, sin embargo todos sabemos que para alcanzar las metas propuestas se requiere del esfuerzo de todos, no solamente de los gobiernos nacionales, sino también de los países desarrollados, como bien señala el Secretario General en uno de sus informes, "la falta de un aumento significativo de la Ayuda Oficial al Desarrollo... convierte en imposible la consecución de los ODMs".

Por otro lado, Señor Presidente, no podemos obviar que las supuestas reglas del libre mercado han entronizado y agudizado un sistema de intercambio económico desigual e injusto donde las grandes

potencias han seguido subsidiando a sus agricultores convirtiendo en una falacia las premisas mismas en la que está basada esta globalización en la cual la libertad de circular es de los productos y la libertad de morir la de los pobres.

También es inconcebible que a estas alturas en el año 2008, después de 36 años de haberse planteado por primera vez la asignación del 0.7% del PIB para la Ayuda Oficial al Desarrollo en la Asamblea General, todavía los países desarrollados no hayan cumplido con su histórica deuda de financiar el desarrollo.

Por eso se ha vuelto una imperiosa e insoslayable necesidad establecer un mecanismo de monitoreo obligatorio para garantizar que podamos avanzar efectivamente y realmente en la concreción de estos objetivos. Pues de no ser el caso seguirán siendo una triste e inalcanzable quimera.

Muchas gracias.



PERMANENT MISSION OF NIGERIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS

828 SECOND AVENUE • NEW YORK, N.Y. 10017 • TEL. (212) 953-9130 • FAX (212) 697-1970

---

(Please check against delivery)

**STATEMENT**

**BY**

**HAJIYA AMINA J. IBRAHIM, OFR**

SENIOR SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT  
MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS (MDGs)  
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

**AT**

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY THEMATIC DEBATE ON THE  
MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS:  
RECOGNISING THE ACHIEVEMENTS, ADDRESSING THE  
CHALLENGES AND GETTING BACK ON TRACK TO ACHIEVE  
THE MDGs BY 2015

**NEW YORK, 2<sup>ND</sup> APRIL 2008**

**Mr. President,**

My delegation commends your firm commitment towards the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) as exemplified by the laudable initiative in convening this thematic debate. Holding about midway through to the target date of 2015 and against the backdrop of a widespread concern that Sub-Sahara Africa is unlikely to achieve the MDGs on schedule, this debate could not have come at a more appropriate time. We concur with the statements made by the distinguished Permanent Representative of the Democratic Republic of Congo and H.E. Ms. Joanne Massiah, Minister of State in the Ministry of Agriculture, Lands, Marine Resources and Agro Industry of Antigua and Barbuda, on behalf of Africa and the Group of 77 and China respectively. We also wish to reflect further on the issue.

**Mr. President,**

2. Nigeria remains firmly committed to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and has effectively aligned the goals with its National Economic Empowerment Development Strategy (NEEDS). This policy framework encompasses macroeconomic policies and interventions directed at poverty reduction to benefit all segments of the Nigerian society and to induce economic growth that is pro-poor. Furthermore, to reinforce the drive to achieve the MDGs, the government came up with a 7 points agenda that is largely anchored on addressing poverty, education and health, which are the main issues being discussed in this thematic debate. One interesting observation about the MDGs is that addressing all the goals adequately will be key to achieving each goal in turn. While Nigeria is on the path of achieving some of the MDGs by 2015, it is facing daunting challenges in achieving the others. Some of the cross-cutting challenges include: the need for effective intergovernmental collaboration among the three tiers of government, availability of reliable data and statistics from credible sources, and institutional and human resource capacity.

3. The challenge of achieving growth without impact in the lives of the poor is currently being addressed in the next phase of the economic reform programme. Nigeria could therefore achieve the target set for the goal on eradicating extreme poverty and hunger. The debt deal that resulted in freeing Nigeria from the debt overhang has made available a

saving of \$1billion annually from debt servicing. This saving has been judiciously ploughed into a Virtual Poverty Fund, created to give priority attention to MDG-related projects and programmes. One of such programmes is the Social Safety Net (SSN), which has the Conditional Cash Transfer (CCT) Scheme as a key component aimed at improving the lives of the poor.

**Mr. President,**

4. Nigeria's experience has shown that one vital area critical to the achievement of MDG 1 is increased productivity in the agricultural sector. Current efforts to address the issues of irrigation, seed technology, access to inputs, markets and storage are being given priority. However the challenge of climate change has already been felt as food production dropped by 20% at the end of the last harvest due to drought caused by late arrival and early cessation of rainfall. This has resulted in high cost of foodstuff. While government is addressing the issue by releasing foodstuff from its strategic grains reserve for distribution to people in the affected areas, global market prices are also at all time highs.

5. Through its Universal Basic Education Programme launched in 1999, Nigeria is most likely to achieve the goal of Universal Primary Education by 2015. In recent times there has been massive investment to improve the quality of teachers, the school curriculum and the distribution of teachers in the country with particular attention to the requirement of the rural areas. This has resulted in the retraining of 145,000 teachers and recruitment of 40,000 new teachers, also through the Virtual Poverty Fund. These measures were geared towards meeting the challenge of significantly improving the quality of the educational outcomes.

6. The prospects of achieving the goal on promoting Gender Equality, especially in school enrolment, are bright. The government is intensifying efforts to improve the number of girls in school through the Strategy for Acceleration of Girls Education in Nigeria, and the Child Friendly School Initiative. Modest progress is also being recorded in the implementation of the Government policy that prescribes the reservation of at least 30% of public positions for women.

7. With determined efforts, Nigeria is also making great strides in achieving the goal on Combating HIV/AIDS. It is worth noting that in 2002, the government of Nigeria was the first in sub-Sahara Africa to commit to providing Anti-retroviral Therapy to 10,000 adults and 5,000

children with its own resources, reaching 69,000 people in 2006. However, availability and affordability of antiretroviral (ARV) drugs remain a problem. Furthermore, although many donors have made efforts to provide ARVs, the sustainability of the initiative is still in doubt. Nigeria has also been awarded US\$120 million for the next rounds of the Global Funds for AIDS, Tuberculosis and malaria'. Quality TB drugs were supplied to all TB patients using Global Drug Facility (GDF).

8. It is pertinent that development assistance on HIV and AIDS should focus on capacity building and technical support for proper implementation of our country plan. We as well enjoin our development partners to scale up existing efforts to make treatment available and monitor HIV and AIDS in Nigeria with particular attention on children, women and unmarried youths. With respect to malaria, the Federal Government policy on malaria control focuses on three main interventions: management of cases, prevention of malaria with Insecticide Treated Net (ITNs), and use of intermittent preventive treatment during pregnancy.

9. Nigerian Government places great importance to the attainment of the MDGs in the health sector by 2015 and has thus allocated funds out of savings from the debt relief fund to the initiative on the implementation of health related MDG projects. The initiative is geared towards refurbishing and re-equipping hospitals and manpower development in the area of maternal and child health care. Another important initiative is the Functional Literacy for Health (FFLH) project. Its objective is to enhance the health status of rural women and their families. Nigeria's debt relief has also provided an opportunity for a conditional grants scheme that also targets the health sector and empower sub-national tiers of government. These laudable initiatives notwithstanding, Nigeria is still facing serious challenges in reducing child mortality and improving maternal health. A serious obstacle to achieving this goal is the high cost of health care, especially to the poorest and the most vulnerable.

10. We therefore call on our development partners to continue backing Nigeria's health plans by providing the necessary assistance to help implementation. Further help will also be needed from the development partners in building human and institutional capacity on regular collection and management of maternal health data.

**Mr. President,**

11. Nigeria has taken huge strides to reform its economy, improve transparency and accountability and empower the private sector in order



to create a macroeconomic climate conducive for growth and development, which should facilitate full attainment of the MDGs by 2015. The country has however, not been able to reach its full potentials partly due to some extraneous factors bordering on the vagaries of climate change and the unfair international economic system, which favour the rich countries against the poor. It is in this context that we feel deeply concerned about the widening gap between the rich and poor, as buttressed in the Secretary-General's Background paper, which indicates that 'close to 80 per cent of the world's gross domestic product is in the hands of only 1 billion people living in the developed world while the remaining 20 per cent is shared by 5 billion people living in the developing countries.'

12. This disturbing trend largely contributed to the pathetic condition of Sub-Sahara Africa, where it is feared that MDG 1 may not be achieved until well after 2100. The international community has a moral burden to ensure that Sub-Sahara Africa achieves not only this goal but also all the goals by 2015, as we believe the world has the wherewithal to ensure this.

13. In addition, we call on the development partners to speed up fulfilling all their commitments to Africa. These include: the commitment made at the G8 Summit in Gleneagles and reaffirmed in Heiligendam, to among other things, double aid by 2010; end all export subsidies that distort trade, and scaling up of ODA contribution towards the agreed level of 0.7% of Gross National Income. This should also be complemented with technical assistance in capacity building in modern agricultural technologies and irrigation systems for Sub-Sahara African countries to adapt to climate change, which is having a debilitating effect on food security.

**Mr. President,**

14. My delegation strongly feels that the developing countries, particularly in sub-Sahara Africa, would be in a better position to achieve all the MDGs if our development partners could hasten implementing their part of the commitments in development assistance and financing, trade, technology transfer and other areas of cooperation. We therefore reiterate our earlier call for the international community to take concerted and time bound action to ensure the implementation of all the commitments made by the developed countries. In this respect, we believe that there is a unique opportunity for the Steering Committee on Africa chaired by the Secretary-General to give to the September High Level Meeting a timetable to meet the commitments by the G8 and others

by 2010. This would go along way to demonstrate the credibility of this important initiative by the Secretary General of the UN.

15. Finally, we wish to stress that the delivery of targets for MDG 8 by our development partners would greatly enhance the prospects of developing countries, particularly in the sub-Sahara Africa, to achieve all the other goals. Africa, and Nigeria for one, has already demonstrated its commitments by the current measures being taken and those being proposed. Lets us talk less about the global compact and act to deliver on it for our poorest.

I thank you



# NORWAY

**General Assembly  
62<sup>nd</sup> Session**

**Recognizing the achievements, addressing the challenges and getting back on track to  
achieve the MDGs by 2015**

Check against delivery

**STATEMENT**

**By**

**H.E. Mr Johan L. Løvald  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative**

**New York, 2 April 2008**

*[www.norway-un.org](http://www.norway-un.org)*

Mr President,

The background documents on "Recognising the achievements, addressing the challenges and getting back on track to achieve the Millennium Development Goals by 2015" shows progress in many areas and underscore that we need to pool our efforts in working towards common goals to succeed.

Many parts of the developing world, particularly in Asia but also in sub-Saharan Africa, have experienced high economic growth. In parts of Asia there has been a remarkable drop in number of people living below the poverty line, and globally the number of children starting school have increased sharply since 2000. This should make us optimistic, but not complacent.

Despite some development, the overall progress in the fight against hunger has been moderate. Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia are the two regions where many of the MDGs will not be achieved at present rate.

Halving the proportion of people living in extreme poverty by 2015 is part of Goal no 1, which is regarded as being the overarching goal. The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) are mutual interlinked, and failure to recognise the multidimensional causes and effects of poverty may hamper progress. National efforts supported by international cooperation, works, but need to be scaled up. Development assistance will have to be doubled, but aid alone will not be enough. A conducive international framework and improved national governance is crucial.

At the beginning of this year the Secretary-General called for making 2008 "the year of the bottom billion". Evidence with regard to the gaps that need to be filled to achieve the MDGs seems to support the wisdom of this approach.

Mr President,

### **Health**

As we all know, achieving the MDGs on health by 2015 will be difficult, but possible. Great progress has been made in many countries, but others regrettably, are off track.

There is a real danger that the appalling mortality figures for children and women in childbirth will continue – unless countries, agencies, NGOs and partners greatly improve their efforts. This can be done!

The Norwegian Government, with the strong and personal commitment of Prime Minister Stoltenberg, has given a special priority to help us reach MDGs 4 & 5. – saving children's lives and the health and lives of their mothers.

Last September here in New York, - together with a number of other heads of state and government - the "Global Campaign for the Health Millennium Development Goals" was launched which is a compelling call for stronger concerted action and new financing.

The Campaign is sweeping around the world focussing on results.

Focussing on getting better value for money and focussing on leadership, through a Network of Global Leaders.

More than 40 countries, funds and international agencies have so far joined in the effort. Norway has committed to increasing its financial support for pursuing the millennium goals on child and maternal health with an additional amount of 1 billion US dollars over ten years.

Today I am pleased to announce that we are releasing the progress report of this global campaign.

This report is today posted on the web-site of the Norwegian UN mission and will also be sent to each and every permanent mission to the United Nations.

## Education

Another key challenge is ensuring Education for All (EFA). The background documents show that the number of children starting school has increased sharply since 2000 in some important regions and that participation in primary schooling worldwide has grown by 6.4%. According to the Global Monitoring Report (GMR) support to EFA appears to be losing momentum through decreasing level of external financing to education. External aid commitments to EFA rose during the first years after 2000 to USD 10.7 billion. In 2005, however, external commitments fell by USD 2 billion and this trend is continuing. A renewed global effort to ensure the fulfilment of MDG 2 (and 3) is needed. We would like to see the Education For All High Level meeting in Oslo in December 2008 serve as an arena for deciding on specific deliverables and bringing the Education For All agenda further.

## Gender

Among the areas given particular priority in Norway's development policy is gender equality and women's empowerment. In order to eradicate extreme poverty it is vital to ensure the realisation of the rights of women that are set out in international human rights conventions. Without strengthening the role, participation and realizing the rights of women, the MDGs will not be met.

Mr President,

Increased international effort is necessary. National commitments to reduce poverty and hunger need to be even more prominent in national development and poverty reduction strategies. Increased effort from the international community must also be provided if our joint efforts to fight poverty and achieve the MDGs should succeed.

Despite the commitments in the Monterrey Consensus it is not encouraging to see that at present only 5 countries reach the 0.7% of ODA/GNI target, even though many countries have set timetables to reach this target by 2015.

This year provides us with several important opportunities to make progress: UN meetings on achieving the MDGs, the Financing for Development meeting in Doha, the schedule toward agreeing on post-Kyoto commitments to combat climate change, and the High-level meeting on Education for All, to mention just a few.

Norway attaches great importance to reinforcing the role of the UN system in development. The United Nations system should increasingly provide more focussed and effective support to improve national capacities for service delivery, infrastructure development, policy planning and monitoring. It is crucial that the UN agencies, together and individually, are efficient and competent organisations that carry out their core mandate and contribute to concerted efforts to realise the Millennium Development Goals.

Thank you, Mr President.



MISSION PERMANENTE DE LA REPUBLIQUE DU MALI  
AUPRÈS DES NATIONS UNIES  
111 East 69th Street, New York, N.Y. 10021  
Tel: (212) 737-4150 • Fax: (212) 472-3778  
E-mail: malionu@aol.com

**Intervention de Son Excellence Monsieur Amadou Toumani TOURE,  
Président de la République du Mali, à l'occasion du Débat  
thématique de l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies sur les  
Objectifs du Millénaire pour le Développement**

**Délivré par Son Excellence Monsieur Moctar OUANE,  
Ministre des Affaires Etrangères et de la Coopération  
Internationale, Envoyé spécial**

**New York, le 1er avril 2008**

**Monsieur le Président,  
Monsieur le Secrétaire général,  
Monsieur le Premier Ministre,  
Excellences,  
Mesdames et Messieurs**

C'est un grand honneur et un privilège pour moi de m'adresser à vous au nom de Son Excellence Monsieur Amadou Toumani Touré, Président de la République du Mali, qui, en raison de contraintes de dernière minute, n'a pu prendre part personnellement à cet important débat thématique consacré à la mise en œuvre des Objectifs du millénaire pour le développement.

Il m'a chargé de vous exposer ci-après sa contribution à vos travaux auxquels il souhaite tout le succès qu'ils méritent.

Citation :

**« Monsieur le Président,  
Monsieur le Secrétaire général,  
Monsieur le Premier Ministre,  
Excellences,  
Mesdames et Messieurs**

Mes premiers mots seront pour remercier le Président de la 62<sup>ème</sup> session de l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies, Son Excellence Monsieur Srgjan Kerim, de son aimable invitation, et le féliciter de l'engagement et du talent avec lesquels il conduit les travaux de cette session.

Mes remerciements s'adressent aussi à M. Ban Ki-moon, Secrétaire général des Nations Unies, pour ses efforts inlassables au service des idéaux de notre Organisation.

**Monsieur le Président,**

Le Mali se réjouit de l'initiative du présent débat thématique, qui fournit une occasion utile de mesurer les progrès réalisés et de mieux cerner les insuffisances dans la mise en œuvre des Objectifs du millénaire pour le développement d'ici à 2015, notamment dans les domaines de la lutte contre la pauvreté, de l'éducation et de la santé,

dont on sait qu'ils ont, au demeurant, un effet catalytique sur tous les autres.

Certes, des résultats encourageants ont été réalisés dans ces domaines, mais force est de constater que beaucoup reste à faire pour honorer les engagements énoncés dans la Déclaration du millénaire, notamment dans certaines régions du monde comme l'Afrique, dans les pays les moins avancés, les pays en développement sans littoral et les petits Etats insulaires en développement.

A cet effet, une réponse rapide doit être trouvée à la question fondamentale de la mobilisation des ressources pour financer le développement, car il est établi que, lorsque les ressources existent, les pays en développement sont en mesure de reproduire les succès à grande échelle. C'est dire qu'il est impératif de s'orienter vers une aide publique plus accrue et de meilleure qualité. Il nous semble aussi que la mise en œuvre de la déclaration de Paris sur l'efficacité de l'aide et le renforcement de la cohérence des activités du système des Nations Unies pourraient y contribuer utilement.

De même, l'implication harmonieuse des pays en développement dans le commerce mondial doit constituer une priorité de premier ordre. Il est essentiel, à cet égard, de soutenir ces pays dans leurs efforts de développement de leur secteur privé et de réduction de la pauvreté, notamment par l'arrêt de politiques commerciales inéquitables qui demeurent un obstacle à la croissance dans ces pays.

### **Monsieur le Président,**

Dans le cadre de sa politique visant l'amélioration des conditions de vie des populations, le Gouvernement du Mali a élaboré, dès 1996, une Stratégie nationale de lutte contre la pauvreté, et, au regard des résultats encourageants obtenus, a adopté, en 2002, un cadre stratégique de lutte contre la pauvreté, puis un cadre stratégique pour la croissance et la réduction de la pauvreté pour la période. Ce nouveau cadre fédérateur de l'ensemble des politiques sectorielles de développement du Mali définit les programmes que mon pays entend mettre en œuvre pour la période 2007-2011 sur le plan macroéconomique, structurel et social afin de promouvoir la croissance et réduire la pauvreté.

Pour accélérer la mise en œuvre de ce Cadre stratégique, j'ai proposé au suffrage de mes compatriotes, qui y ont adhéré massivement



en 2007, le Projet de développement économique et social ( PDES), qui met l'accent, notamment, sur l'agriculture et la sécurité alimentaire, l'éducation de base et la santé.

De même, l'adoption par le gouvernement du Mali d'un Plan décennal 2006-2015 pour la réalisation des Objectifs du millénaire pour le développement traduit l'engagement de mon pays à les réaliser de façon durable avec l'appui adéquat de la communauté internationale.

Du haut de cette tribune,entre toutes symboliques, je voudrais inviter la communauté internationale à accompagner nos efforts nationaux dans l'application des différentes politiques de développement économique et social du Mali, tant nous sommes encouragés par les résultats des stratégies précédentes. En effet, la mise en œuvre de ces stratégies a permis de faire passer le taux brut de scolarisation de 64% en 2002 à 75% en 2006, celui de la mortalité des enfants de moins de cinq ans qui était de 229 pour mille en 2001a été réduit à 191 pour mille en 2006 et la prévalence du VIH/sida a été réduite de 1,7% en 2001 à 1,3% en 2006.

### **Monsieur le Président,**

Les Objectifs du millénaire pour le développement gardent toute leur pertinence. C'est pourquoi, le Mali réaffirme ici son adhésion totale aux OMD en tant que réponse aux nombreux défis de développement de notre temps. Il réaffirme également sa détermination à œuvrer pour leur réalisation rapide.

Pour ce faire, nous sommes d'avis que la communauté internationale doit redoubler d'efforts et de détermination. Nous sommes encore dans le délai et l'humanité dispose de ressources suffisantes pour permettre à chaque habitant de la planète de vivre dignement.

Dans le même ordre d'idées, il convient d'accélérer la mise en œuvre des engagements souscrits lors des grandes conférences internationales, notamment celles de Monterrey sur le financement du développement, de Bruxelles sur les pays les moins avancés, de la Barbade sur les petits Etats insulaires en développement et d'Almaty sur les pays en développement sans littoral.

C'est qu'en effet, notre conviction demeure que des progrès rapides et à grande échelle sont possibles pour atteindre les Objectifs du

millénaire pour le développement lorsque de bonnes politiques et une impulsion gouvernementale vigoureuse sont prolongées par un appui technique et financier adéquat de la communauté internationale.

Ainsi, il est essentiel de traiter globalement le problème de la dette des pays en développement par des mesures nationales et internationales propres à rendre cet endettement viable à long terme.

De même, il convient, en coopération avec les pays développés, de formuler et d'appliquer des stratégies qui permettent aux jeunes des pays en développement, de trouver un emploi décent et utile. Il est tout aussi primordial, en coopération avec l'industrie pharmaceutique, de rendre les médicaments essentiels disponibles et accessibles à tous. Nous devons également faire en sorte que tous bénéficient des avantages des nouvelles technologies de l'information et de la communication.

**Monsieur le Président,**

Je voudrais, pour conclure, souligner que l'effort national seul reste insuffisant pour relever les nombreux défis du développement.

Fort de cette conviction, le Mali œuvrera sans relâche pour la réalisation du partenariat mondial pour le développement voulu dans la Déclaration du millénaire.

Au demeurant, c'est dans cet esprit que mon pays organisera au cours de l'année 2008 une table-ronde entre le gouvernement et ses partenaires techniques et financiers sur les politiques et stratégies de développement du Mali qui visent à accélérer la croissance et le progrès, c'est-à-dire, en fait, la réalisation rapide des Objectifs du millénaire pour le développement.

C'est pourquoi, nous attendons avec intérêt les conclusions opérationnelles qui résulteront du présent débat thématique.»

Fin de citation

Je vous remercie de votre aimable attention./.



# PAKISTAN

PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

---

8 EAST 65th STREET – NEW YORK, NY 10021 – (212) 879-8600

---

Please check against delivery

STATEMENT

BY

AMBASSADOR MUNIR AKRAM  
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF PAKISTAN  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

ON

THE THEMATIC DEBATE OF THE  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

ENTITLED “RECOGNIZING THE ACHIEVEMENTS  
ADDRESSING THE CHALLENGES AND  
GETTING BACK ON TRACK TO ACHIEVE  
THE MDGS BY 2015”

New York,  
March 2, 2008

We thank the President of the General Assembly, His Excellency Srgjan Kerim, for convening this thematic debate on the MDGs and for providing the background papers for the panel discussions on the first seven MDGs. Pakistan aligns itself with the statement made by Antigua and Barbuda, on behalf of G-77 and China.

Mr. President,

2. Although the first seven MDGs are of extreme importance to developing countries, their achievement and sustainability depends significantly on the achievement of MDG8 – “developing a global partnership for development”. We feel that, to truly assess our progress on the track towards achieving the MDGs by 2015, all eight goals should be wholly addressed and that their achievements, or lack thereof, must be recognized.

3. The available data indicates that at the halfway mark, the implementation of the MDGs is off-track in many countries, especially in Africa. Half the world, nearly three billion people, lives on less than two dollars a day. While there is some progress on a few of the last 7 MDGs, most will not be achieved, perhaps until much later, without significant scaling up of development assistance

4. The decisions of the 2005 UN Summit encapsulated the agreed commitments of all Member States on development. These commitments include not just the MDGs, but also the other development goals, which were internationally agreed upon at the series of major international conferences and summits held over the last decade (the Monterrey Consensus on FfD, the Doha Trade Conference, the Johannesburg World Summit on Sustainable Development and others). Additional and specific commitments were undertaken during 2005 in the context of the UN summit.

5. Again, while most developing countries have demonstrated a genuine dedication towards implementing their part of these commitments – devising national development strategies, improving governance and creating a macroeconomic climate conducive to growth, trade and investment – the major developed countries, unfortunately, have not demonstrated a similar alacrity in implementing their part of the commitments in all areas of cooperation.

6. For the majority of developing countries, concessional development financing remains an essential input for the realization of the MDGs and other national development goals. Several current negative trends in ODA prove the disappointing levels of commitment from donor countries:

- a. ODA declined 5% in real terms between 2005 and 2006, and further declined in 2007.
  - b. Only five countries met or exceeded the UN ODA target of 0.7%. Current levels of ODA are 0.30% of DAC members' combined Gross National Income.
  - c. ODA targets still rely heavily on debt cancellation and restructuring that does not ensure any net financial inflows for development.
  - d. Multilateral and bilateral development assistance is, for the large part, not responsive to national policies and plans, since it is mostly earmarked to donor-determined sectors and projects. Currently, only 25% of funding provided by UNDP is being spent on poverty reduction programmes. Such development financing is often accompanied by conditionalities, tied to procurement from the donor country and/or expended largely on expensive consultants and experts from UN agencies or donor organizations.
  - e. In many cases, the net outflow of resources from developing to developed countries exceeds the level of development financing due to growing trade deficits, transfer of invisibles and capital flight. Also, the flow of FDI is mostly concentrated on a few dynamic "emerging markets" while the majority of developing countries remain starved of private investment flows.
7. The effectiveness and quality of assistance is as vital as its quantity for the realization of the MDGs. We welcome the adoption of the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness and hope it will be implemented by all donor countries. The most effective cooperation is that which responds to the national objectives, plans and priorities of the concerned developing country.
8. The need for coordination, harmonization and coherence of aid policies and actions is all the more important now with the addition of new development actors and donors. Such coordination and coherence should be promoted at the country level by the government of the partner country as well as at the global level by the United Nations.
9. We have consistently underlined the need to develop and refine mechanisms to effectively monitor the progress of implementation of the MDGs and IADGs at all levels. While some steps have been taken, including by developing countries to

improve MDG monitoring at the country level, there is urgent need for comprehensive monitoring at the global level.

10. The availability of such specific means to monitor implementation will be an effective tool for the purposes of the Annual Ministerial Review and the Development Cooperation Forum, under a revitalized Economic and Social Council. At its substantive session, the AMR should review the status of implementation of various commitments and provide policy guidance on the operational steps required for their realization. We hope the DCF will receive and review the reports on the operational activities of all UN and other development agencies, including the BWIs. This mechanism should serve to enhance the effectiveness and coherence of international development cooperation and its responsiveness to national development plans and strategies. The DCF should also address issues relating to the quality and quantity of development assistance and aid effectiveness.

11. While there are fairly specific indicators to measure advancement in regard to the first seven MDGs, there has been no concerted effort to evolve such targets and benchmarks to measure the realization of MDG 8 and other IADGs. We propose that all relevant UN agencies and international financial institutions contribute to the elaboration of such specific time-bound targets and benchmarks to facilitate the monitoring of the implementation of the international partnership for development.

12. As the UN Millennium Report concludes, this international partnership should be based on three pillars: financing, trade and technology. We propose that the policy decisions and commitments undertaken in each of these areas (the IADGs) be clearly reflected in a comprehensive matrix, prepared by concerned UN agencies, including DESA and UNCTAD. Thereafter, specific and appropriate benchmarks and targets could be indicated and could be used to measure the implementation of specific goals and commitments.

13. Finally, even as we focus on the implementation of the MDGs and IADGs, it is important not to lose sight of the major and multiple challenges which developing countries continue to confront in an increasingly globalized but unequal international economy – unequal trade, rising food and energy prices, ongoing financial and credit crisis in the largest industrial economies. These challenges pose new imposing obstacles for the developing countries to realize the goals of sustainable development. The UN and other international financial and economic institutions must address the central challenges.

I thank you, Mr. President

*Permanent Observer Mission  
of Palestine  
to the United Nations*



البعثة الراقبة الدائمة  
لفلسطين  
لدى الأمم المتحدة

Please check against delivery

*Statement by*

*H.E. Ambassador Dr. Riyad Mansour  
Permanent Observer of Palestine  
to the United Nations*

*Thematic debate of the General Assembly entitled  
"Recognizing the achievements, addressing the challenges  
and getting back on track to achieve the MDGs by 2015"*

*3 April 2008  
New York*

lost, forcing the entire population to survive only on the minimal humanitarian assistance the occupying Power permits to enter the area.

The negative effects of this occupation on the living conditions and development of the Palestinian people are not limited to economy. The goal of universal primary education has also been gravely impacted. A recent school survey released by UNRWA in the Gaza Strip reveals a nearly 80% failure rate among grades four to nine, with the highest rate among grade four, 90% of whom failed math. Tragically, this is what results when children, who must cope with the psychological and physical traumas of constant exposure to conflict and violence and who have been forced into extreme poverty, go to school hungry and unable to focus and learn. Drop-out rates for boys and girls are also increasing, and deepening poverty has led to increased levels of child labor. Moreover, despite earlier successes, attendance at girls schools in the upper levels is decreasing, obstructing efforts to promote gender equality and empowerment of women.

The Palestinian people also continue to struggle to reduce child and maternal mortality rates, which have been affected by problems of access to health care and food supply. Israeli checkpoints, curfews and the Wall obstruct access to health care and delivery facilities, affecting reproductive health care, both pre and post-natal. Moreover, rising poverty and hunger have led to a marked increase in anemia and malnutrition among both Palestinian women and their children.

In addition to the impact on the economic, social and health situation, the Israeli occupation has also seriously harmed environmental sustainability. Environmental degradation due to scarcity of water, rapid population growth, and Israeli land confiscation and exploitation of natural resources has reduced Palestinian green lands, forests, and biodiversity from 4.3% in 1998 to below 1.5% by 2004. This dramatic loss of green lands is also due in part to Israel's systematic use of Palestinian land as a dumping ground for untreated chemical and sewage waste as well as the construction of illegal settlements and the wall, uprooting of trees and obstruction of environmental projects, such as sewage and sanitation projects, especially in the Gaza Strip.

Mr. President,

Special attention should be given by the international community to these unique circumstances and challenges confronting the Palestinian people. Here, we recall that, in the Millennium Declaration, world leaders affirmed the collective responsibility *"to uphold the principles of human dignity, equality and equity at the global level as an obligation and their duty to all the world's people, especially the most vulnerable and, in particular, the children of the world, to whom the future belongs"*. Development cannot coexist with oppression and hegemony, whose worst manifestation is foreign occupation. We must uphold our commitment to spare no effort to ensure that all civilian populations suffering disproportionately the consequences of armed conflicts and humanitarian crises are given the necessary assistance and protection so they can be empowered to work towards a better future for themselves and their nations.

Palestine should not be the exception. The Palestinian people have clearly asserted their desire for peace and a life of freedom, dignity and prosperity for their children. These goals also undoubtedly encompass achievement of the MDGs, which would help to lift the Palestinian people out of the misery the occupation has imposed on them. We thus reiterate our call for the international community's full and firm support for the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination, which the world has come to realize and agree is a pre-requisite not only for peace but also for development and without which achievement of the MDGs will regrettably remain out of reach.





---

---

**MISION PERMANENTE DEL PERU ANTE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS**

**Intervención  
de la Delegación del Perú  
en el Diálogo de Alto Nivel  
sobre los Objetivos de Desarrollo del Milenio**

Nueva York, 2 de abril de 2008

Señor Presidente:

Quisiera, ante todo, manifestar que mi delegación hace suyos los conceptos expresados por el distinguido Representante de Antigua y Barbuda a nombre del G77, así como los expresados por el distinguido Representante de México a nombre del Grupo de Río.

El cumplimiento de los Objetivos del Milenio para la superación de la pobreza y para alcanzar la inclusión social es un objetivo que el Perú mantiene en el más alto nivel de prioridad. Somos al mismo tiempo conscientes que de nuestro esfuerzo depende, en gran medida, alcanzar estas metas. Por ello, venimos trabajando en la convicción que se requiere, ante todo, generar recursos suficientes que permitan poner en marcha políticas eficaces y sostenibles para la superación de la pobreza.

En ese espíritu, el Perú se viene esforzando por impulsar el crecimiento de su economía. Los resultados son alentadores, pues durante los últimos seis años hemos logrado tasas sostenidas de crecimiento económico superior al 5% anual, lo que se tradujo en un aumento del 23% del PIB per cápita en ese periodo. El favorable contexto externo, caracterizado por los elevados precios de los principales productos de exportación, contribuyó de manera significativa a este resultado, a lo que se ha sumado un considerable aumento y diversificación de exportaciones, particularmente en la agricultura y las industrias textil y química.

Como se aprecia, hemos dado el primer gran paso en la dirección correcta. Pero somos también conscientes que estos mayores recursos, por sí solos, no garantizan la superación de la pobreza ni una mayor inclusión social. De hecho, estos positivos resultados no se han visto reflejados en una equivalente disminución de la desigualdad. Por ello, también pensamos que el Estado tiene un rol fundamental que cumplir para la canalización de potencialidades y la distribución de los beneficios del crecimiento para la atención de programas sociales y mejora de los factores que aseguran una mayor inclusión socio-económica.

La acción del Estado en esa dirección no puede darse en forma indiscriminada y no planificada, a riesgo de desperdiciar los recursos logrados con tanto esfuerzo. El Estado peruano es pues consciente de su rol para la superación de la pobreza. Por ello, se han adoptado políticas y programas eficaces para lograr un mayor impacto con el gasto social, que creció ostensiblemente en la década pasada. También se ha priorizado la complementación adecuada entre las acciones específicas y de corto plazo para el alivio de la pobreza extrema, y los programas de mediano y largo plazo para garantizar la igualdad de oportunidades y la inclusión social. Por último, deben existir herramientas para medir la eficacia del gasto. En este aspecto, hemos aprobado un presupuesto público con indicadores de resultados y con metas hasta el año 2011.

Todo lo anterior es, sin embargo, complementario de la tarea central que el Estado debe realizar si desea superar la pobreza de manera sustantiva. Me refiero a la aplicación de políticas generales para la generación de empleo en cantidad y calidad adecuadas, como principal mecanismo de inserción social y logro de autonomía económica de las personas.

A este respecto, podemos decir que el crecimiento del país ha generado empleo. Las empresas de 10 ó más trabajadores, que dan trabajo a un millón quinientos mil peruanos, han crecido en 9%, y se han generado en conjunto 600 mil empleos

verificables. Por su parte, el Estado trabaja para que estos empleos sean de la mayor calidad. Por eso, se ha propuesto un pacto social que promueve un sistema democrático de relaciones laborales, y se ha aprobado por consenso una nueva ley general de trabajo.

También han sido necesarias otras medidas para contribuir a reducir las disparidades. Por ejemplo, hemos diseñado una Estrategia Nacional de Cambio Climático, para que, entre otros aspectos, la población sea consciente de los riesgos de estos cambios y que el país mejore su competitividad en el manejo responsable de sus recursos y de las emisiones de gases de efecto invernadero sin comprometer el desarrollo sostenible. Asimismo, se han priorizado 11 objetivos relacionados a la protección del menor, como son erradicar la desnutrición infantil, prevenir la mortalidad materna e infantil y garantizar el acceso de los niños a los medicamentos básicos, entre otros.

Señor Presidente,

Por último, permítame referirme nuevamente al hecho que, como mencioné, el crecimiento por sí solo no trae aparejado una equivalente disminución de las desigualdades. Lamentablemente, la asistencia multilateral para el desarrollo viene siendo orientada principalmente en función del crecimiento global y no de la reducción concreta de las desigualdades. Así, países como el Perú cuyos resultados macroeconómicos lo ubican hoy en niveles de renta media, nos vemos afectados por una disminución de recursos externos para el desarrollo social. Ello puede incidir en el avance y la consolidación de nuestros logros. Por eso, debo concluir invocando a la comunidad internacional a reflexionar sobre esta situación y recordarles que, para ser exitosos, los esfuerzos nacionales requieren de un entorno internacional adecuado y de cooperación que permitan alcanzar cuanto antes los objetivos de mejora en las condiciones de vida de sus habitantes y la atención de urgencias sociales. En ese sentido, el apoyo internacional resulta más que nunca decisivo en complemento de los esfuerzos nacionales para alcanzar los objetivos del milenio.

Muchas gracias.



# PHILIPPINES

Statement by

**H.E. MR. HILARIO G. DAVIDE, JR.**

Permanent Representative of the Philippines to the United Nations

on the

**Thematic Debate on the Implementation of the Millennium  
Development Goals entitled: "Recognizing the achievements, addressing  
the challenges and getting back on track to achieve the MDGs in 2015"**

2 April 2008

Mr. President,

To you, Mr. President, the Philippines expresses its commendation and gratitude for convening this thematic debate on the theme "Recognizing the achievements, addressing the challenges and getting back on track to achieve the MDGs by 2015". No one can dispute or doubt the wisdom of the choice of the topic and of the excellence it is crafted.

As we come closer to the self-imposed target date on the Millennium Development Goals (MDG's), this thematic debate is not only most relevant, appropriate and in order; it is urgently necessary and critically important.

At the heart of the MDGs are social justice and human rights. And the Constitution of the Philippines expressly provides that Congress shall give highest priority to the enactment of measures that protect and enhance the right of all the people to human dignity, reduce social, economic and political inequalities, and remove cultural inequities by equitably diffusing wealth and political power for the common good. (Sec. I, Article XIII).

Like the other Member States, the Philippines gives top priority to achieving the MDGs. The policies and strategies in its Medium-Term Philippine Development Plan (MTPDP) 2004-2010 are designed to pursue and achieve the MDGs.

PHILIPPINE MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

556 FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK, NY 10036 • TEL. (212) 764-1300 • FAX (212) 840-8602 1

In pushing forward the MDGs agenda, key players in the Philippines have performed significant roles to help realize the MDGs. The Department of Budget and Management issued policy guidelines and procedures in the preparation of national and local budget proposals emphasizing the importance of funding programs, projects and activities in support of the MDGs. A Special Committee on the MDGs was created in the House of Representatives of the Congress of the Philippines, and the latter has formulated an MDG Legislative Agenda prioritizing legislative measures attuned and responsive to early realization of the MDGs. The Department of Interior and Local Governments issued a "*Guide to Local Government Units in the Localization of the MDGs*" to guide the local government units in interpreting and incorporating the MDGs in their local development planning and budgeting

The **Social Watch Philippines**, an NGO, led the joint NGO-legislators alternative budget advocacy campaign. The campaign resulted in an increase of Php22.7 billion in additional proposals for MDG-related activities, and approval of Php5 billion pesos for the 2007 national budget. Another NGO, the **Philippine Business for Social Progress (PBSP)**, led the business sector in crafting the Philippines' MDG Framework for Business Action. The framework shows how the business sector can help attain the MDGs through core business, social investment and policy advocacy in four major areas, namely: poverty, education, health, and environment. As of 2007, a total of 159 companies supported the Business and MDGs Program and invested an estimated amount of around Php200 million.

Midway towards 2015, the Philippines has made considerable strides in meeting most of the MDGs. Using the tracking methodology, that is, the probability of meeting the MDG targets determined by using the ratio of the annual rate of change needed to reach the target to the current annual rate of progress, the Philippines is likely to meet the targets on poverty reduction, nutrition, reducing child mortality, combating HIV and AIDS, malaria and other diseases, and access to safe drinking water. The target of 83.8 percent for access to sanitary toilet facility has been attained as early as 2004 when the country posted an 86.2 percent achievement.

The correct policy, plans and programs are in place to combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases, and given appropriate support from the Global Fund for AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria, the Philippines would be able, hopefully, attain this MDG target.

One particular area of progress in the achievement of the MDGs is in the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women. The Constitution of the Philippines expressly provides that the State recognizes the role of women in nation building and shall ensure the fundamental equality before the law of women and men (Sec.14, Article II). The Philippines considerably improved its scores in the Gender Development Index and the Gender Empowerment Measure, which could be the main reason why the World Economic Forum ranked the Philippines as number six in the Global Gender Gap index, making it the only Asian country in the top ten nations where

women are given their rightful place and roles in society. This achievement also recognizes the legislative foundations for promoting gender equality, namely: Republic Act No. 9262, otherwise known as the Anti-Violence Against Women and Their Children Act of 2004; Republic Act No. 9208, otherwise known as the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act; as well as, several pending measures on other issues concerning or affecting women. Moreover, the Supreme Court of the Philippines has undertaken unprecedented moves to ensure that women benefit equally and participate directly in the Judiciary's structures, processes, and development programs, projects and activities. This proactive role of the Supreme Court has gained the plaudits of various women groups in particular, and the people in general.

Upon the other hand, the Philippines has to accelerate efforts to meet the off-track MDG targets on access to primary education, reduction in maternal mortality ratio, and access to reproductive health care. It has also to address disparities across areas, population groups and sectors.

On access to primary education, the Philippines has already laid the foundations for improvement through appropriate legislation, namely, Republic Act No. 9155, otherwise known as the Governance in Basic Education Act of 2001, through the Basic Education Sector Reform Agenda (BESRA) being implemented by the Department of Education and Culture. The school-building program continues to be one of the government's major priorities. The government budget for education infrastructure is being augmented by ODA-assisted projects, the Priority Development Assistance Fund (PDAF), private-sector assistance, and even funding from Filipino communities overseas. The annual national budgets of the Philippines have consistently given highest budgetary priority to education in compliance with the mandate of the Constitution (Sec.5, Article XIV), under which the State is directed to establish and maintain a system of free public education in the elementary and high school levels (Sec.2, Article XIV).

However, the Philippines is faced with the problem concerning the huge amount of resources needed to construct classrooms, improve and print textbooks, and to train and hire qualified teachers, which resulted in a backlog that can only be solved by further increasing resources and investment in this sector.

In addressing the targets under MDG 5 - improving maternal health - the Philippines has to surmount an even greater obstacle. The current Philippine figures for the Maternal Mortality Ratio and access to reproductive health services show that this MDG may be very difficult for the country to achieve by 2015. While government policies and programs are in place to solve this problem, an enormous amount of material resources are correspondingly needed to achieve the targets. Then, too, the need to change peoples' attitudes and social health habits and practices must have to be reckoned with.

These challenges are made more difficult by the fact that, in 2006, the poverty situation of the country worsened as the number of poor Filipinos increased based on the latest poverty estimates released by the Philippines' National Statistical Coordination

Board. The inability to meet the most basic needs are attributable to increasing prices, as well as to insufficient rise in personal income. External factors such as higher oil prices, enforcement of the expanded value added tax (EVAT) in November 2005, and imposition of higher VAT rate in February 2006 also added to the burden of the poor.

The Philippines' expenditures for social services as a percentage to total budget has been declining in the last few years. The spending for social services decreased from 24 percent in 2006 to 22 percent in 2007. With the decreasing trend in expenditures for social services, real capita spending on health, education, social security, welfare and employment and housing went down.

There is, therefore, a need to realign the national budget towards social services particularly on some off-track MDG targets. However, the external debt situation of the Philippines remains a major impediment to its efforts to reduce poverty.

The Philippines still needs to bridge the financing gap by putting in place policies and programs that will strengthen the economy and improve the capacity of the people to be self-reliant. Specifically, there is a need to mobilize domestic resources, improve employment opportunities, increase the foreign exchange earning capacity, and ensure equitable sharing of income and wealth.

Mr. President,

The Philippines hereby reiterates, now in a louder voice and utmost seriousness, with a higher note of urgency, its call to the United Nations to consider the proposal for wider Debt-for-Equity arrangements to fund MDG-related programs and projects. It calls on the UN to spearhead an international campaign to change the concept of debt sustainability from "capacity to pay" to "level of debt" that allows developing countries, like the Philippines, to achieve the MDGs without increasing debt, and where financing the MDGs is not obstructed hampered by debt service burdens.

The Philippines respectfully urges the UN to make social inclusion as one of the guiding principles of the MDGs. The Millennium Declaration upholds the rights of children, women, migrants, migrant workers and their families. However, vulnerable sectors of the society such as Indigenous Peoples (IPs) and conflict-affected communities, and persons with disabilities have yet to be taken on board. Studies have shown that because of historical, political, cultural, economic and geo-physical factors, indigenous peoples and those in conflict-stricken areas have very low access to services and opportunities that could address their basic needs.

There is also a need to push for more opportunities for inclusive growth that ensures, to the maximum extent possible, that the opportunities thus created be made available to more people, particularly the poor, the vulnerable and the underprivileged, since growth is consistent with and supportive of the MDGs.

We also call on the UN Member-States to adopt a common tracking methodology to assess their performance vis-à-vis the MDG targets to help us compare how we are faring with our neighboring countries and the rest of the world, thereby learning lessons of best practices from good performing countries.

Finally, Mr. President, there is now more than a crying need for the reforms in the UN system, such as those on UN system-wide coherence, mandate review, and revitalization of the General Assembly, among others; as well as for the implementation of all UN responses to Climate Change. Needless to state, these reforms would certainly make the UN more effective and efficient in all its work, including, but not limited to, the pursuit of the MDGs and encouraging Member States to do more. As to Climate Change, we need not recount the enormity of its disastrous effects on development and security and on our work to achieve the MDGs for the plain and simple reason that responding to Climate Change itself will require the utilization of the funds and resources which could directly be channeled for poverty alleviation, reduction or management; education; health, etc., thereby effectively reducing the budgets for such purposes and delaying further the accomplishment of these programs in the MDGs.

Excellencies, reforms in the UN, innovative solutions, bold strategies, especially in relation to Climate Change, and collective efforts and actions are unavoidable and compelling to make MDGs a reality for all. To achieve the MDGs, our commitment must be firm and unyielding, our pursuit must be relentless. There is no room for complacency. We should not rest, nor tire nor weaken.

Thank you Mr. President and distinguished colleagues.



**REPUBLIC OF POLAND**  
**PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS**



9 EAST 66th STREET, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10021

TEL. (212) 744-2506

General Assembly  
Sixty-second session  
Thematic Debate  
"Recognising the achievements,  
addressing the challenges and getting back  
on track to achieve the MDGs by 2015"

*Check against delivery*

**S T A T E M E N T**

by

**H.E. Ambassador Andrzej TOWPIK**

**Permanent Representative  
of the Republic of Poland**

New York, April 2 , 2008

Handwritten green scribbles in the bottom right corner.

Madame President,

I fully associate myself with the statement made by the distinguished Ambassador of Slovenia on behalf of the European Union. Let me add a few remarks from the Polish perspective.

1. We do recognize that now, at the midpoint in our way towards 2015, the international community needs to step up the efforts aimed at full and timely achievement of the commitments undertaken in 2000. That is why **Poland decided to join the MDGs Call to Action Declaration** which was presented in July 2007 upon the initiative of the British Prime Minister, Gordon Brown. We believe that the high level meeting on the MDGs to be held in September 2008 and gathering all stakeholders (governments, business sector, civil society, NGOs and faith groups) will provide a good opportunity to assess the progress made so far. We hope as well it will be a strong incentive to speed up our joint actions to achieve the MDGs.
2. Thanks to our success in the field of political and economic transformation, Poland for years now has been assuming a new role in the international arena – it has become a donor country. **Our participation and engagement in international development cooperation and in supporting countries undergoing social and economic transformation, has been systematically growing.** We have taken up the commitments of increasing our ODA, with the target of 0.17% ODA/GNI in 2010 and have been making a steady and concrete progress towards this goal. As a result, in 2006 the volume of Polish ODA increased by 40%, as compared to 2005, and amounted to 0.09% GNI (297 million USD). While scaling up our development assistance, we are strongly supporting the principles of the aid effectiveness as defined in the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness as well as the European Consensus on Development.
3. We share the view that our response to **climate change** should be seen in the context of development agenda. Climate change has the most devastating effects on the poorest and most vulnerable; it makes achievement of the Millennium Development Goals more difficult. Addressing the challenge of climate change means also addressing wide range of issues of development, health, demographic change and natural disasters. Indeed, any integrated approach to achieve sustainable development must include measures connected with the mitigation of and adaptation to climate change.
4. With this approach in mind, Poland is particularly honored to host the **14th Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, which will take place in Poznań, Poland in December this year.** The Conference will sum up the achievements of the Convention and the results attained within the framework of the Kyoto Protocol. We would like to assure that the CoP14 in Poznań makes an important contribution to setting out specific measures in the scope of climate change mitigation and adaptation. At the Poznań Conference we would like to draw special attention to the issue of modern technology and technology transfers to developing countries as well as measures related to adaptation to climate change and in particular to principles and functioning of the Adaptation Fund. A United Nations Conference will be an excellent forum for demonstrating existing good practices in the field of technology transfer and adaptation measures. The Poznań Conference should also be an important milestone towards reaching consensus on differentiated commitments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions at the Copenhagen Conference in 2009.

بِسْمِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ



STATEMENT  
OF THE STATE OF QATAR

BY

H.E. Ambassador Nassir Abdalaziz Al-Nasser  
Permanent Representative of the State of Qatar  
to the United Nations

Before

The General Assembly of the United Nations

Thematic Debate on Recognizing the Achievements, Addressing  
the Challenges and Getting Back on Track to Achieve the MDG's

New York, 1-2 April 2008

## **In the Name of God Most Compassionate Most Merciful**

Mr. President,

It gives me pleasure to congratulate you on taking the initiative to convene this important meeting. The constructive debate in which we were engaged yesterday is an additional advantage that will promote the solidarity and partnerships within the international community and confirm its determination to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, particularly that of halving poverty by 2015.

Allow me first to stress that the State of Qatar is a committed and dedicated partner that supports international efforts for development, particularly those geared towards fighting poverty and evenly and equitably distributing the fruits of global growth. By furthering the efforts of developing countries in pursuit of sustainable development and rapidly responding to relief and humanitarian appeals, the people and the State of Qatar are acting on their belief in the significance of international partnerships as a vehicle for supporting the efforts of developing countries to attain the Millennium Development Goals, particularly goal 1.

The State of Qatar has been on track in implementing the Millennium Development Goals. With regard to Goal 1, the State of Qatar has undertaken development projects in rural and urban areas in order to guarantee full and productive employment for its citizens. Therefore all our citizens earn high wages that would allow them to live in dignity and combat poverty. It has also been on track on implementing goals 2 through 7 within the prescribed timeframe.

At the national level, two days ago, the state of Qatar adopted the national budget for 2008-2009. 21 percent of the budget was allocated to education. Health and social services received 9.6 percent of the total national budget. These allocations prove Qatar's determination and commitment to achieve sustainable and comprehensive development.

The State of Qatar was honored to host the Fourth Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization in 2001 that resulted in the Doha Development Round. Negotiations on the Doha Round are still underway although they were expected to end in June 2005. Qatar was also honored to host the Second South Summit in 2005 in which His Royal Highness the Emir of Qatar submitted many initiatives that were entirely

designed to galvanize the international partnership for development. During the 2005 Millennium Summit in New York, His Royal Highness launched a number of initiatives, most prominent among which was Qatar's initiative to host the International Follow-Up Conference on Financing for Development. Preparations are currently under way for this conference, which is scheduled to convene in Doha from 29 November to 2 December 2008. Qatar also generously and systematically provided relief and bilateral assistance in response to disasters and emergencies beyond its contributions to various UN funds and programs.

Distinguished Delegates,

We meet today to recognize the achievements, address the challenges, get back on track to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, and forge international partnerships for the attainment of these goals. In this regard, we recall the report issued by the Department of Public Information in June 2007. That report regrettably reminded us that despite some progress registered in many countries around the globe and in some African countries, at mid-point, Sub Saharan African countries are still lagging behind schedule in realizing the United Nations' Millennium Development Goals that called for halving extreme poverty by 2015. The report also reminded us that despite a reduction in the proportion of people who live on less than one dollar a day to 41.1 percent (down from 45.9 percent in 1999), achieving this goal by 2015 will require doubling this rate.

Furthermore, 30 percent of children in Sub-Saharan African countries are still without access to education and mortality rates among children under five years of age there is double the corresponding rate in developing countries. Two-thirds of women in these countries still earn their wages working in non- agricultural sectors. The number of AIDS-related deaths is on the rise, totaling two million last year alone. Only 42 percent of city dwellers have access to clean water, and 63 percent of the populations of Sub Saharan Africa have no access to sanitation. The African continent registered a 6 percent economic growth rate and has witnessed the emergence of some promising trends; however, this progress remains meager given that it is largely attributable to the boom in commodity prices. This notwithstanding, international aid to major Sub Saharan African countries remained largely unchanged since 2004, the exception to this trend being partial debt forgiveness and the occasional humanitarian assistance.

The United Nations believes that the donor community must act faster if it is serious about honoring the commitment it undertook in 2005 to double aid to Africa by 2010. The organization also called for expediting the international trade negotiations in the context of the Doha round and for establishing more just rules in foreign trade.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Globalization poses challenges and opens up opportunities. Yet it should be admitted that the fruits of globalization were not shared by the overwhelming majority of the developing countries. This is particularly true for Africa and the Least Developed Countries. Therefore, debt cancellation and development assistance will be extremely important in leapfrogging the growth of the economies of the least developed countries and the marginalized economies.

Distinguished delegates,

Alleviating poverty can be best served by activating international partnerships to assist developing countries in implementing programs and projects aimed at providing full employment and decent paid work opportunities for all in urban and rural areas alike. During the 2005 World Summit, world leaders expressed support for fair globalization and the twin objectives of full and productive employment and providing decent work opportunities for all. The Economic and Social Council's Ministerial Declaration of 2006 stressed the importance of full and productive employment and decent work for all as both the objective and the means to achieve the Millennium Development Goals including the goal of poverty eradication. Furthermore, in his annual report to the 61<sup>st</sup> Session of the United Nations General Assembly, the Secretary General proposed to officially include full employment and the generation of decent work for all as a new objective in the context of goal one of the Millennium Development Goals.

Thank you, Mr. President.



INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT  
SOCIETIES DELEGATION TO THE UNITED NATIONS, NEW YORK

800 Second Avenue  
Suite 355, 3rd Floor  
New York, NY 10017  
Tel: (212) 338-0161 Fax: (212) 338-9832  
E-mail: ifreny@un.int

---

*Check against delivery*

**United Nations General Assembly  
62<sup>nd</sup> Session**

**Plenary**

**Thematic debate of the General Assembly entitled "Recognizing the achievements,  
addressing the challenges and getting back on track to achieve the MDGs by 2015"**

*The International Federation  
Of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)*

**Statement by  
Michael Schulz  
Deputy Head of Delegation,  
Deputy Permanent Observer to the United Nations**

*New York, 2 April 2008*

Mr. President,

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) shares your prioritisation of poverty, education and health as the most challenging goals for our purposes today.

At the 30<sup>th</sup> International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent last November, all governments of the world endorsed the outcome declaration, entitled "Together for Humanity" in the strong belief that none of the major humanitarian challenges facing the world can be resolved by any organisation, or any government, acting alone.

We have spoken of the need for effective and constructive partnerships between governments, intergovernmental organisations and civil society many times, but too often this aim remains far from practical realisation. Yet it is an absolutely essential prerequisite to achieving the MDGs.

We will continue our efforts to bring National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies into national planning to deal with the risk and vulnerability which is produced by poverty, the absence of education or rampant disease.

A basic but often forgotten tenet of the Millennium Declaration is that: the goals are built around needs, and these needs in detail must be identified at the community level when it comes to implementation. We will therefore also continue bringing the communities and their real needs into policy and programming discussion at the national level. It is the only way forward to adequately recognise economic, social, geographic and other disparities. It is the only way to ensure that programmes are delivered in a way which neither discriminates for or against anyone.

The search for partnerships must be intense. It must involve innovation – don't just convene the same groups and speak about doing more of the same. Identify problems and challenges with fresh thinking, and don't be afraid to take challenging action. And, in the spirit of partnership, share plans and results with others facing similar challenges, and do so on the basis of honest statistics and other data.

It is, in this context, worth noting too that statistics and data on progress as often presented mask the reality of despair. The tendency to average out a nation's poverty or other levels does not enable a real understanding of either national, communal, or any individual's reality.

Mr. President,

Besides renewed and reinforced partnerships our concern extends to two additional issues:

We are, firstly, concerned by the fact that the non-achievement of the MDGs per se implies a continued impact on human risks as they define humanitarian vulnerability. We are ever more concerned that continuing population growth, environmental degradation, conflict, economic and financial crisis, slowed economic growth and inflation will expose every human to growing risk potentials which in turn will further negatively affect every individual's vulnerability status. Furthermore, Climate Change in its consequences, such as raising seawater levels or the increased frequency and intensity of natural disasters, is an issue of a scale that will multiply risks and impede on vulnerability to an extent that it will change every individual's identity.

Secondly, we are concerned that there must be no gaps in funding action under each MDG. It has to be common sense that, while there might be other factors adverse to achieving the MDGs, without adequate funding no progress in implementation can be made. And, it should go without saying, in this context, that funding for adaptation measures in response to Climate Change, has to be subject largely, if not fully, to additionality.

Our National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies are anxious to share our experience and expertise. We do this, within our own Global Agenda, with the clear intention of delivering results which assist the achievement of the MDGs. Our priority areas touch in different ways on each of those within this thematic debate, but for the purposes of showing what we do in a measurable sense I will offer just one reference.

The IFRC published, in 2006, a booklet describing its activities in support of the achievement of the MDGs. It is available in the internet<sup>1</sup>, and remains valid in demonstrating measurable action, and providing illustrative examples of measures taken by National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies to advance the common goals.

In addition, a baseline survey done by the IFRC on our ability to reach those most vulnerable showed that in 2005 our programming reached an estimated 158.5 million people.

From this, Mr. President, and conscious of the time limits you have set for our interventions, we ask the following:

We all must be reiterative, accountable and transparent in demonstrating all our will to achieve the MDGs. Governments must commit themselves to the building of meaningful partnerships. The implementation of MDGs and Climate Change adaptation must progress in complementarity and synergistically. Consented funding levels must be reached sooner rather than later bearing in mind the additionality aspect for funding of Climate Change adaptation. Without that, and without the involvement of individuals in the communities in the design, implementation and monitoring of MDG-related programmes, the achievement of the MDGs by 2015 will remain a noble dream and fail human reality.

Mr. President, thank you.

---

<sup>1</sup> At <http://www.ifrc.org/docs/pubs/health/health-mdgs-en.pdf>





REPUBLIC OF SAN MARINO

## STATEMENT

By

**Ambassador Daniele D. Bodini**  
**Permanent Representative**  
**of the Republic of San Marino**  
**to the United Nations**

**Thematic Debate on the Millennium Development Goals**  
**“Recognizing the achievements, addressing the challenges**  
**and getting back on track to achieve the MDGs”**

**General Assembly**

**New York, 2 April 2008**

Check against delivery

Mr. President,  
Excellencies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

We commend your initiative, Mr. President, for convening this General Assembly Debate on the achievements and the challenges to our journey to fulfil the MDGs by 2015. Yesterday, a number of distinguished panellists confirmed that, while several MDGs targets have been partially met, many others are still to be conquered. Poverty, hunger, health, gender equality are issues, among others, still not solved.

The exploding population growth, armed conflicts, climate change and unrelenting diseases, as well as major financial and economic debacles, are undermining the development goals of developing Countries.

As we have been reminded yesterday, the developed Countries ODA aggregate contribution is still lagging by the tune of 40 billions by 2010. At the same time, it has been underlined that several receiving Countries have not perfected their development national policies and that more transparency and good governance are needed to optimize results and to attract larger public and private contributions.

San Marino believes that even small developed Countries can and must be part of enhancing the development process. We believe that small steps can go very far if we reaffirm our political commitment and we engage at all levels, with active participation of civil society and private sector.

San Marino has been working towards the achievement of the MDGs and renews its full support and commitment to the process. We would like to underline on this occasion our activities in the field of gender equality where we have engaged in a full-fledged campaign on violence against women in the context of the Council of Europe Campaign. The results have been positive and we plan to continue to develop our programs in line with the efforts of the Secretary General in this field. In that regard, we fully support his initiative and we offer our complete cooperation to the U.N. campaign.

San Marino continues to be concerned about the situation of children worldwide: according to the latest forecasts, many developing Countries will be able to reach the 2015 goal of reducing child mortality but many more will not. We commend the work done until now to stop Tuberculosis but we are aware that TB together with HIV/AIDS and malaria are still among the major causes of mortality, especially in children and women. We should not forget that these diseases are nevertheless preventable and/or treatable. In this regard, San Marino has contributed to a UNICEF programme aimed at curbing the spread of HIV infections in Africa and we are ready to embark in new projects in favour of health and the best interest of children and their mothers.

San Marino believes that niche interventions to specific causes can generate locally immediate and lasting benefits. Therefore, we have established an educational support system that allows children with disabilities to fully enjoy their rights to education. San Marino is a firm believer that the UN system is very well placed to enable Countries like ours to become contributors in worldwide worthy causes. In this context, our Government, in conjunction with the private sector, supports UNICEF programmes on youth activities in the field of social development and public awareness of children's rights. An educated and informed child will develop a citizen able to build a peace-thriving, development-conducive, and environment-friendly world.

Thank you, Mr. President



كلمة  
المملكة العربية السعودية  
أمام  
الجمعية العامة  
في  
المناقشة المواضيعية حول أهداف التنمية الألفية

يلقيها

طارق بن خدام الفايز  
سكرتير ثاني

٢-٤-٢٠٠٨م

الرجاء المراجعة عند الإلقاء

## بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم

السيد الرئيس،

يؤيد وفد المملكة العربية السعودية البيان الذي ألقاه مندوب أنتيجوا وبربودا بالنيابة عن مجموعة السبع والسبعين والصين حول هذا الموضوع .

السيد الرئيس،

أن النقاش المواضيعي اليوم حول " الاعتراف بالإنجازات والتصدي للتحديات والعودة إلى المسار لتنفيذ أهداف التنمية للألفية بحلول العام ٢٠١٥م " يتطلب منا جميعا بذل المزيد من العمل لتحقيق هذه الأهداف والذي نتطلع إليها ، وفي هذا الخصوص فإن المملكة العربية السعودية وأيماننا منها بأهمية هذه الأهداف ، فأنها تولي أهمية كبرى لقضايا التنمية ودعم الجهود التنموية في مجال الفقر والتعليم والصحة ففي المملكة العربية السعودية وهي محور اهتمام خطة التنمية الثامنة ( ٢٠٠٥م - ٢٠٠٩م ) والتي شددت على تقوية الجهود على كافة المستويات لتشجيع النمو الاقتصادي من خلال سياسات الاقتصاد الكلي وتوفير فرص العمل للمواطنين وتحسين مستويات المعيشة ، والذي يعد الحد من الفقر هدفا محوريا للتنمية في المملكة وقد أولت خطة التنمية اهتماما بالفئات المحتاجة من المواطنين برفع معدلات النمو الاقتصادي ووضع استراتيجية وطنية شاملة لمعالجة الفقر من خلال إتاحة الفرصة للفقراء لتكوين أصولهم المادية والبشرية من خلال توفير الوظائف والائتمان والمشاركة في النشاطات الاقتصادية بصورة فعالة وتخفيض فرص تعرضهم للمخاطر مثل اعتلال الصحة ، والصدمات الاقتصادية المرتبطة بتقلبات السوق ، والكوارث الطبيعية ومساعدتهم لمواجهة تلك الكوارث والصدمات ، كما اتخذت سياسة خاصة بتسريع النمو الاقتصادي وتوزيع ثماره بصورة متوازنة بين مناطق المملكة والشرائح الاجتماعية المختلفة وتمليك الأسر والأفراد أدوات الإنتاج الكفيلة بزيادة دخولهم ورفع القدرات الإنتاجية للأسر المنتجة والمنشآت الصغيرة والمتوسطة وتحسين محور الخدمات العامة مثل الصحة والتعليم والخدمات البلدية وتفعيل الضمان الاجتماعي

ومعالجة مشكلة الإسكان وزيادة إسهام الزكاة في معالجة الفقر وتعزيز دور الجمعيات الخيرية والمنظمات التطوعية في معالجة الفقر .

كما يعد التعليم الركيزة الرئيسية للتنمية الاقتصادية والاجتماعية وأهم عوامل استدامتها وإذا كان تحقيق رفاهية الإنسان في مجتمع متطور هو غاية التنمية ، فإن ذلك لا يمكن تحقيقه في غياب الإنسان المتعلم والمواطن المنتج والفرد الملتزم بالقيم والمثل الإنسانية العليا . وبالتالي فإن توفير الخدمات التعليمية وتمكين المواطنين من الالتحاق بالمؤسسات التعليمية والاستفادة منها بشكل كامل ومستمر ومثمر ، يمثل أحد اللبئات الأساسية على طريق التنمية من جهة و العنصر الأكد في التخلص من الفقر من جهة أخرى ، وانطلاقاً من هذا المفهوم ، أولت المملكة اهتماماً خاصاً بقطاع التعليم وعملت على توفيره للجميع ، ويجسد ذلك ارتفاع حجم الإنفاق على التعليم كنسبة من الناتج المحلي الإجمالي والتي بلغت ( ٦،٨ % ) في العام ٢٠٠٤م ، ويقدر بنحو ( ١٠ % ) في العام ٢٠٠٥م ، وقد وصلت نسبة الطلاب في الصف الأول الابتدائي الذين يصلون إلى الصف الخامس ( ٩٥ % ) في العام ٢٠٠٥م ، وتهدف المملكة من وراء هذا الإجراء وغيرها إلى رفع معدل الالتحاق في المرحلة الابتدائية إلى ( ١٠٠ % ) خلال مدة خطة التنمية الثامنة ( ٢٠٠٥م - ٢٠٠٩م ) .

وبالنسبة للصحة فقد شهدت الخدمات الصحية في المملكة تقدماً مرموقاً في جميع جوانبها خلال العقد الماضي ، يعكسه تطور جميع مؤشرات الحالة الصحية ومن بينها رعاية الطفولة فقد أنخفض معدل وفيات الأطفال دون الخامسة بمقدار ( ٥٤ % ) عن مستواه العام ( ١٩٩٠م ) إلى ( ٢٠،٣ ) حالة بالألف العام ( ٢٠٠٥م ) . ويتم توفير الخدمات الصحية في المملكة من خلال شبكة واسعة من المرافق والتجهيزات تشمل ( ٣٦٤ ) مستشفى في العام ( ٢٠٠٤م ) ، وقد اتخذت المملكة خلال السنوات الماضية خطوات مهمة تهدف إلى تطوير الخدمات الصحية ، من بينها اعتماد النظام الصحي في العام ( ٢٠٠٣م ) والمباشرة في تنفيذه والذي يهدف إلى ضمان توفير الرعاية الصحية الشاملة والمتكاملة لجميع السكان ، وقد تم إنشاء الهيئة العامة للغذاء والدواء تكون مسؤولة عن تحقيق سلامة الغذاء والدواء والمستحضرات الحيوية والكيميائية وغيرها .

وتبين متابعة تنفيذ الأهداف التنموية للألفية أن المملكة العربية السعودية قد تجاوزت السقوف المعتمدة لإنجاز العديد من الأهداف المحددة ، كما أنها على طريق تحقيق عدد آخر منها قبل المواعيد المقترحة.

السيد الرئيس،

أن المملكة العربية السعودية تعتبر من الدول النامية التي تشارك الالتزام بالمسؤولية الدولية وتعتبر الهدف الأول للألفية هو محاربة الفقر ، و بمساعدة الدول الأقل نمواً بمدداً بالمساعدات المادية والمعنوية لبناء البنية التحتية لمستقبل هذه الدول وشعوبها ،

وأن تحقيق التنمية والقضاء على الفقر هو مسؤولية أخلاقية وإنسانية. وفي إطار جهود حكومة المملكة العربية السعودية بدعم الدول الفقيرة في خفض مستوى الفقر فقد شاركت المملكة في المؤتمر الوزاري المعني بالدول متوسطة الدخل والذي استضافته أسبانيا خلال الفترة ١ - ٢ مارس ٢٠٠٧م بالتنسيق مع إدارة الشؤون الاقتصادية والاجتماعية بالأمانة العامة لمنظمة الأمم المتحدة وأشار ممثل المملكة إلى أن الصندوق السعودي للتنمية خصص جزءا من مساعداته لمحاربة الفقر في ( ٢٨ ) دولة نامية من هذه المجموعة ومثل ذلك ( ٤٩ % ) من إجمالي الالتزامات المالية التراكمية خلال الفترة من ١٩٧٥ - ٢٠٠٦م البالغ قدره ( ٧,١ ) مليار دولار أمريكي ، ودعمت إنشاء صندوق لمعالجة مشكلات الفقر والتخفيف من وطأته التابع للبنك الإسلامي للتنمية وتبرعت بمبلغ بليون دولار أمريكي مساهمة منها في هذا الصندوق .

أن المساعدات السعودية تقدم من خلال التعاون الإنمائي الثنائي مع الدول النامية المستفيدة وكذلك عن طريق المؤسسات والهيئات التمويل الدولية المتعددة الأطراف سواء الإقليمية منها أو الدولية والمنظمات المتخصصة ، فالمملكة تتفق ما معدله ٣,٥ - ٤% من الناتج المحلي العام على الإغاثة الخارجية ، والمعدل الدولي في حدود ١%، وقد احتلت السعودية المرتبة التاسعة بين الدول المانحة لعام ٢٠٠٧م، وقد بلغ ما قدمته المملكة عن طريق الصندوق السعودي للتنمية حوالي ستة آلاف وستمائة وخمسة عشر مليون دولار أمريكي ( ٦٦١٥ ) من أجل تمويل ثلاثمائة وتسعة وستين ( ٣٦٩ ) مشروعا إنمائيا وبرنامجا اقتصاديا في ثمانية وستين ( ٦٨ ) دولة.

أن المملكة العربية السعودية قد دأبت على المساهمة سنويا للبرامج الإنمائية مثل برنامج الأمم المتحدة الإنمائي ، وصندوق الأمم المتحدة للطفولة ، وصندوق الأمم المتحدة للسكان ، ووكالة الأمم المتحدة لغوث وتشغيل اللاجئين الفلسطينيين في الشرق الأدنى ( الأنروا ) ، وبرنامج الغذاء العالمي ، ومنظمة الصحة العالمية ، ومنظمة الأغذية والزراعة ، وما يقوم به برنامج الخليج العربي من دعم لمنظمات الأمم المتحدة الإغاثية الذي ساهمت المملكة في مواردها المالية ، والصندوق العالمي لمكافحة مرض الإيدز والسل والملاريا وقد أعلنت المملكة عن المساهمة بمبلغ ( ١٨ ) مليون دولار أمريكي للفترة من ٢٠٠٨/٢٠١٠م بمعدل ( ٦ ) ملايين دولار سنويا علما بأنه قد سبق دفع مبلغ عشرة ملايين دولار للصندوق خلال الفترة الماضية ، والبرنامج الدولي لمكافحة العمى النهري الذي بلغ مساهمات المملكة في هذا البرنامج بستة وأربعون ( ٤٦ ) مليون دولار. ودعمت المملكة ماديا ومعنويا بأكثر من ( ٢٤ ) بليون دولار لما يزيد عن أربعة عشر ( ١٤ ) مؤسسة ومنظمة تنموية متعددة الأطراف ( إقليمية ودولية ) كالبنك الدولي ، وصندوق النقد الدولي ، والمصرف العربي للتنمية الاقتصادية في أفريقيا ، والبنك الأفريقي للتنمية بمبلغ ٢٥ مليون دولار أمريكي وان

السحب على هذا المبلغ يتم على مدى خمس سنوات وتعد المملكة من الدول الأعضاء في مجموعة البنك الأفريقي للتنمية ومن الدول الداعمة لموارد صندوق التنمية الأفريقي ، والبنك الإسلامي للتنمية ، والصندوق العربي للإنماء الاقتصادي والاجتماعي ، وهيئة التنمية الدولية ، والصندوق الدولي للتنمية الزراعية.

**السيد الرئيس ،**

تعتبر المملكة العربية السعودية من أوائل الدول التي ساهمت في تحقيق أهداف التنمية الألفية بسبب ما توليه من أهمية كبرى لقضايا التنمية المستدامة وزيادة مخصصات الأنفاق العام لأكثر من النصف على الخدمات التعليمية والصحية والاجتماعية .

**السيد الرئيس ،**

تؤكد المملكة العربية السعودية على أهمية الدور الأساسي للأمم المتحدة وخصوصا المجلس الاقتصادي والاجتماعي في دعم التعاون الدولي وتحقيق أهداف التنمية الألفية المتفق عليها دوليا وملكية الدول النامية لبرامج التنمية وتفعيل دورها في الحوار العالمي حيال التمويل وآلياته وتحقيق تعميم التعليم وتعزيز المساواة بين الجنسين وتمكين المرأة وتخفيض معدل وفيات الأطفال وتحسين الصحة كل هذه الأمور وغيرها يجب أن تحتل مكانا متقدما في سلم أولويات الأمم المتحدة . كما أن نجاح عملية التنمية مرهون باحترام المجتمع الدولي للخصوصية الثقافية والعادات الخاصة بالدول النامية وباتباع أسلوب التنمية الملائم لهذه الخصوصية.

**السيد الرئيس ،**

وفي الختام فأن المملكة العربية السعودية تؤكد على أهمية الشفافية في الاقتصاد العالمي ومواجهة التضخم في السلع والمواد الأساسية والضرورية لحاجات السكان الفقراء في الدول النامية ، كما أنه لن تكون تنمية دائمة وتحقيق أهداف ألفية بدون وجود سلام عالمي ، ومساواة وحفظ لحقوق الدول النامية ، وتحقيق للشرعية الدولية والالتزام بالقانون الدولي وتعميم أحكامه على كافة الدول بدون استثناء ، وحل النزاعات بالطرق الدبلوماسية السلمية لتلافي الحروب والنزاعات القائمة في هذا القرن .

**شكرا السيد الرئيس**





MISSION PERMANENTE DU SENEGAL

auprès des Nations Unies

238 East 68th Street

New York, N.Y. 10065

Tel: (212) 517-9030

Fax: (212) 517-3032

# SENEGAL

Soixante-deuxième (62<sup>e</sup>) session ordinaire de l'Assemblée générale

Intervention du Docteur Rokhaya SENE,

Directrice générale du Plan,

A l'occasion du Débat thématique de

l'Assemblée générale, intitulé :

« Constater les Progrès, affronter les

difficultés et redresser le cap afin

d'atteindre les OMD en 2015 »

-----  
New York, le 2 avril 2008

Vérifier au prononcé, S.V.P

**Monsieur le Président,**

Moment ne saurait être plus opportun et pertinent que celui que vous avez choisi pour nous réunir ici autour de la question des objectifs du Millénaire pour le Développement (**OMD**), qui nous tient à cœur.

Moment opportun, parce que l'horizon 2015 s'approchant à grands pas, il était indiqué que nous fassions le point, maintenant qu'on entame le dernier virage.

Choix également pertinent, si l'on considère les difficultés du contexte international actuel, marqué par la hausse des prix de l'énergie et des denrées alimentaires, ainsi que les menaces des changements climatiques sur le potentiel productif et la sécurité des pays pauvres.

En suscitant cet exercice d'évaluation et de prospection, vous avez pris là une initiative lucide qui touche à des secteurs cruciaux du développement. Le Sénégal ne peut qu'être heureux de partager son expérience dans ce cadre.

Mais, avant d'aller plus loin, vous me permettrez d'associer ma délégation aux Déclarations faites par les Honorables Ministres de Antigua et Barbuda et du Bangladesh, aux noms respectivement du **G77** et du Groupe des **PMA**, ainsi qu'à celle du Distingué Représentant permanent de la **RDC**, au nom du Groupe africain.

Je voudrais par ailleurs, au nom de mon pays, remercier les Nations Unies d'avoir choisi le Sénégal parmi les huit pays pilotes ciblés dans le « **Millennium Development Project** ». Cette assistance hautement précieuse, nous a permis de rendre plus performantes nos stratégies sectorielles.

**Monsieur le Président,**

Le thème de ce Débat, disais-je, nous tient à cœur, puisque les OMD, parce que préfigurant une amélioration des perspectives en termes de bien être et de développement, rassemblent les espoirs de millions d'êtres humains dans les pays pauvres.

C'est pourquoi je me limiterai essentiellement à vous exposer brièvement quelques indicateurs illustrant les progrès économiques du Sénégal dans l'atteinte des OMD.

- 1- S'agissant de la pauvreté: la mise en œuvre de la première génération du DSRP sur la période 2003-2005, a permis une baisse significative de l'incidence de pauvreté des ménages, passant de 48,5% de la population en 2002 à 42% en 2005. **A ce rythme, les projections situent la proportion des individus pauvres à 33,6% en 2015, contre 33,5% qui est la cible des OMD.**

Si le Sénégal a pu assurer ainsi une baisse de l'indice de pauvreté, c'est en grande partie grâce aux performances macroéconomiques qu'il a enregistrées. Ainsi, la croissance économique s'est maintenue sur une pente positive, avec une moyenne annuelle de 5% ces dernières années, dans un contexte d'amélioration de la gestion des finances publiques, de maîtrise de l'inflation (moins de 2 % par an) et de consolidation des autres agrégats macroéconomiques, avec un taux d'investissement de 21%.

- 2- Concernant la lutte contre la malnutrition, **la réduction de moitié de l'insuffisance pondérale à l'horizon 2015 reste possible**, avec l'amélioration des indicateurs suite à la mise en œuvre des stratégies de Prise en charge intégrée des maladies de l'Enfant (PCIME), du Paquet d'activités intégrées de Nutrition (PAIN) et du Programme de renforcement de la Nutrition (PRN). On note ainsi une baisse de l'insuffisance pondérale passée entre 1992 et 2005, de 20% à 17%.

- 3- S'agissant de l'Éducation, on relève que plus de 82% des enfants sénégalais sont aujourd'hui scolarisés contre 72% en 2002; la parité filles/garçons est atteinte. **Des efforts sont cependant nécessaires pour accélérer le rythme du taux d'achèvement qui est passé de 36% en 2000 à seulement 45% en 2006;**

- 4- Pour ce qui concerne les indicateurs de santé, l'établissement de salles d'opération et d'équipements adéquats dans les centres de santé régionaux, ainsi que la subvention des coûts des césariennes dans les régions les plus pauvres et à forte prévalence de la mortalité maternelle, ont permis, entre autres : une baisse de la mortalité des enfants de 157 pour mille en 1992 à 121 pour mille en 2005; le taux de mortalité maternelle est passé à 401 décès pour cent mille naissances vivantes, pour la période 1998-2005, alors qu'il était de 510 entre 1986-1992. **Mais quoique positive, cette tendance ne permettrait pas d'atteindre l'objectif de réduction de deux tiers en 2015 et appelle davantage d'efforts;**
- 5- Enfin, s'agissant des maladies, la prévalence du **VIH/Sida** est de 0,7%, combinée avec une baisse de près de 90% des coûts des traitements par anti-rétroviraux (**ARV**), alors que le Paludisme, qui représente 35% des motifs de consultation, demeure la première cause de morbidité et de mortalité dans les groupes vulnérables des femmes enceintes et des enfants de moins de cinq ans. La Tuberculose reste aussi une priorité pour le Sénégal dont l'objectif est de guérir 80% des cas de tuberculose pulmonaire à frottis positif.

Vous l'aurez constaté, **Monsieur le Président**, malgré les acquis, les défis demeurent encore. C'est pourquoi le Sénégal est déterminé, à travers son Document de Stratégie de croissance et de Réduction de la pauvreté (2006-2010), à mettre l'accent sur quatre (4) axes fondamentaux :

- la création de richesses pour une croissance pro-pauvre;
- l'accélération de l'accès aux services sociaux de base;
- la protection sociale, la prévention et la gestion des risques et catastrophes;

- la bonne gouvernance et le développement décentralisé et participatif.

Pour terminer mon propos, **Monsieur le Président**, je voudrais souligner avec d'autres délégations, qu'il n'y a pas de nouvelles recettes miracles à inventer. Loin d'être une fatalité, la pauvreté résulte d'inégalités créées par l'Homme. Elle doit et peut être bannie. Pour cela, il faut impérativement faire suivre aux paroles les actes.

Il n'est donc pas trop tard pour agir si l'on ne veut pas porter, demain, le fardeau de la lourde responsabilité d'avoir fait manquer le Rendez-vous de 2015, à des milliers de femmes et d'enfants, ainsi qu'à tous ceux qui souffrent et sont confrontés à de graves manques.

Agissons ensemble pour relever le défi principal qui hypothèque l'atteinte des OMD : celui du respect des engagements figurant dans les différents cadres de partenariat existants.

Je vous remercie.



**PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF  
SIERRA LEONE TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

245 East 49th Street • New York, NY 10017

**STATEMENT**

by

**H.E. Dr. Richard Konteh**

**Deputy Minister of Finance and Economic Development  
of the Republic of Sierra Leone**

at the

**United Nations General Assembly Thematic Debate  
on the MDGs**

**New York, 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2008**

**Check Against Delivery**

Mr. President  
Honourable Ministers  
Excellencies and Distinguished delegates

Allow me to express my Government's sincere appreciation to you for organizing this high-level thematic debate on ***"Recognizing the achievements, addressing the challenges, getting back on track to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by 2015"***. I wish to further reiterate my delegation's appreciation of the Secretary-General's foresight and initiative in establishing the Africa MDG Steering Group, which focuses on developing synergies aimed at helping Africa in attaining the targets of the MDGs within the remaining years.

Addressing the MDGs continues to be a major pre-occupation for a country like Sierra Leone that has recently emerged from over 11 years of a devastating civil war. Sierra Leone continues to rank at the bottom of the Human Development Index with high levels of poverty; maternal, child and infant mortality; and high illiteracy rates. Even though we take pride as a nation in the positive gains we have achieved in deepening democracy and good governance, our fragile democracy is further threatened by the global increase in fuel and food prices.

Government's priority in the short to medium term is therefore mainly focused on:

- Provision of energy as a vehicle for economic growth and development.
- Provision of safe and accessible potable water supply.
- Revitalizing agricultural production and productivity to meet the basic food needs of its population.
- Improved and affordable health service delivery to the entire population.
- Increased access to education for all with special emphasis on girl child education in order to bridge the current gender disparities in access to education for boys and girls.
- Improved infrastructural development – land, water and air transport.
- Public sector reforms and capacity building for the civil service.
- Youth Empowerment and Employment Creation

In order to achieve the above, Government in 2005 developed a Poverty Reduction Strategy with support from development partners. This strategy was overly weighted towards reducing poverty with very little if any emphasis being placed on promoting growth. This therefore explains why the second generation Poverty Reduction Strategy will lay emphasis on growth and poverty eradication.

Mr. President,

Government recognizes the significant role that the private sector could play as catalysts for growth. Government cannot do it alone. The aim therefore is to promote Public Private Partnership. It is rather unfortunate though that the private sector in Sierra Leone is currently very weak. Every effort must therefore be put into strengthening the private sector.

The above notwithstanding, Sierra Leone has achieved some success in reaching the MDGs.

U5MR reduced from 363/1000 in 1970 to 282/1000 in 2005 (**Source: HDR**).

U5MR reduced from 327/1000 in 1985 to 194/1000 in 2004 (**Source: SSL**).

MMR reduced from 700/100,000 in 1990 to 495/100,000 in 2005 (**Source: SSL**).

Population using improved water sources rated at 57% in 2004 (**Source: HDR**).

Population using improved sanitation rated at 39% in 2004 (**Source: HDR**).

ODA as a percentage of GDP rose from 9.1 in 1990 to 28.8 in 2005 and Net Foreign Direct Investment Inflows as a percentage of GDP dropped from 5.0 in 1990 to 4.9 in 2005 (**Source: HDR**).

In the area of education, primary school attendance has, over the past five years increased substantially with a net primary school attendance rate at 69%. The gender disparity index shows an encouraging situation at the primary level with equivalent attendance rates for boys and girls.

## **CHALLENGES**

The above notwithstanding, Sierra Leone continues to face a number of daunting challenges in its quest to achieve the MDGs. Listed among them are the following:

- Rapidly increasing oil prices.
- Increasing prices of food commodities, especially rice.
- Unpredictable and short term aid flows that make planning for development difficult.
- Lack of ownership of the development agenda by national government.
- Generic conditionalities set for developing countries irrespective of status of development.

## **WAY FORWARD**

In order to get things back on track, government has put in place a number of measures. Listed among them are the following:

- Development of the Second generation PRSP that will focus on growth and poverty reduction.
- Preparation of a longer term 10-year Strategic National Development Plan (SNDP).
- Launching of a National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (NSDS).
- Development of Sectoral Strategic Plans to feed into the PRSP II and the SNDP, eg. Agriculture, Health, Mining, Education, finance, etc.
- Improved domestic revenue generation and Public Financial Management.
- Creation of the enabling environment for trade and development.
- Investment in people through capacity building, health and education programmes.
- Comprehensive approach to development.



- Public Private Partnership.
- Small and medium scale enterprises promotion.
- Attitudinal change.

In conclusion, Mr. President for the monitoring and evaluation of the MDG achievement, the Government of Sierra Leone has put together a robust technical team drawn from relevant MDAs and the donor community to track the implementation process within the PRSP framework. Also the statistical capacity of MDAs are being strengthened to provide the clarity with which poverty reduction can be monitored as well as tracking poverty related expenditures.

Sierra Leone cannot however achieve these goals without the requisite financial and technical support. Government on its part has demonstrated a well focused leadership and ownership in steering the development process. We therefore, call on all development partners – bilateral and multilateral, to increase aid to Sierra Leone to complement Government's efforts. Sierra Leone needs ODA not DOA.

Thanks You.



Slovensko predsedstvo EU 2008  
Slovenian Presidency of the EU 2008  
La Présidence slovène de l'UE 2008

**UNITED NATIONS  
General Assembly**

**Thematic debate on the Millennium Development Goals  
"Recognizing the achievements, addressing the challenges and  
getting back on track to achieve the MDGs by 2015"**

**Statement on behalf of the European Union by**

H.E. Dr. ŽIGA TURK  
Minister of Growth of the Republic of Slovenia

**New York, 2 April 2008**

*Please check against delivery*

I have the honor to speak on the behalf of the European Union.

The Candidate Countries Turkey, Croatia\* and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia\*, the Countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidates Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Serbia, as well as Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova, Armenia, and Georgia align themselves with this declaration.

Distinguished Mr. President,

We have crossed the midpoint between the adoption of the Millennium Development Goals and the 2015 target date. The data available indicates that results have been uneven.

The European Union has expressed its full commitment and dedication to the MDGs on several occasions. The European Council has adopted important declarations and decisions to this effect and the reduction of poverty in the developing countries is the core overarching objectives of the EU development policy. The European Consensus on Development also emphasizes EU commitment to respect human rights, fundamental freedoms, peace, democracy, gender equality, the rule of law, solidarity and justice, and pays special attention to the needs of Africa and Least Developed Countries. The EU shall address development efforts more systematically also in situations of fragility and pay more attention to the "aid orphan" countries.

The EU Members States and European Commission have made efforts to better align their development cooperation policies and practices to the overall objective of poverty eradication and the achievement of the MDGs. The EU has also committed, again in 2005, to scaling up EU aid and collectively contribute 0.56% GNI to Official Development Assistance (ODA) by 2010, and to reach the target of 0,7% GNI by 2015. The EU is currently providing 57% of global ODA. We will continue to make efforts to meet and exceed our timetables, and invite other countries to follow suit.

The EU strongly believes that progress towards MDGs is not just about increasing the volume of ODA. It is also about improving aid effectiveness. The EU believes that it is particularly important to ensure extensive progress on four key aspects of the Paris declaration of Aid effectiveness, namely division of labour among donors, predictability of aid, enhanced use of country systems and mutual accountability for development results.

However, foreign aid alone, though important, cannot deliver the MDGs. Foreign aid can only be a complement to national efforts. In this regard, more efforts are needed: national strategies should better reflect the MDGs, and the linkage between sound poverty reduction strategies and budget allocations should be strengthened. In order to achieve the MDGs, each country should take firm ownership of and responsibility for its development agenda, tailor the global MDG targets within its specific context into national targets and policies, and translate these into concrete programs and budgetary allocations.

Also, we should not forget that all eight MDGs are closely interlinked, and that development strategies rarely target just one objective, thus underlining the necessity to promote a comprehensive approach towards sustainable development, including pro-poor economic growth and progress in democratic governance.

Mr. President,

**(Eradication of Poverty and Hunger)**

---

\* *The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.*

In the Millennium Declaration of 2000, world leaders committed themselves to spare no efforts to halve, by 2015, the proportion of the people who suffer from poverty and hunger (MDG1). The progress towards meeting this Goal has been uneven: at the global level the proportion of people living in extreme poverty fell from 28% in 1990 to 19% in 2005, but progress has been less pronounced in Southern Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa. Efforts to reduce the poverty should be accelerated in these regions, as with population increase, many more millions of people need to be taken out of poverty. Likewise, malnourishment should be more vigorously addressed. Climate change and the recent increase in food prices present additional challenges in the efforts to eradicate extreme poverty and hunger.

The EU fully shares the broad definition of poverty encompassing various dimensions, besides income, such as access to health, social services and education, gender equality, social inclusion, powerlessness and lack of voice or representation. We are aware that even in developed countries, where living conditions have been improved by economic growth, pockets of poverty and social exclusion persist, calling for renewed efforts targeted at specific population groups. We should also not forget the need to support the pro-poor development of middle-income countries (MIC), especially the lower MIC. The *National Action Plans for Inclusion*, in place in EU Member States, represents a coordinated policy framework to address child poverty, poverty among women and vulnerable groups. The EU also attaches particular importance to the promotion of public-private partnerships as an important tool to achieve MDGs, including poverty eradication.

The achievement of poverty eradication depends on the existence of integrated and mutually reinforcing social, economic and environmental national strategies and plans to achieve sustainable development with a particular focus on a pro-poor growth perspective, the creation of productive employment and decent work, and the adoption of social inclusion policies. Also, in many poor countries agriculture sector development should be at the centre of the poverty reduction strategies given the evidence on the sector's ability to effect to reduce poverty and hunger. As stated in 2005 *European Consensus on Development*: combating poverty will only be successful if equal importance is given to investing in people, protecting natural resources, securing rural livelihoods and investing in wealth creation.

Given the particular vulnerability of women and girls to poverty and the fact that they make up the majority of the world's poor, efforts towards creating a conducive environment for the effective integration and active participation of women in development are, therefore, imperative. We underline that comprehensive gender-sensitive poverty eradication strategies allowing and providing for the full and equal participation of women in policy and decision-making are needed to address the feminization of poverty and enhance their contribution to economic and social development. In order to be effective, such strategies need to be implemented through i.a. gender-sensitive budgeting.

**Mr. President,**

**(Education)**

Learning and education should be at the heart of all development agendas. MDG2 aims to ensure that children everywhere - boys and girls - will be able to complete good quality primary schooling. MDG3 targets to eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education preferably by 2005, and at all levels by 2015. While there is encouraging news on achieving universal primary education, the gender parity goal set for 2005 has not been achieved.

To achieve both goals many challenges need to be addressed. A holistic and coherent approach encompassing all levels and types of education as well as the good quality of

education are preconditions for achieving education goals. Focus needs to be on primary education, but more pupils must also have possibilities for post-primary education. Improving the quality education is imperative: more qualified teachers are needed as are good teaching methods and learning materials, enabling educational facilities and a healthy environment for girls and boys attending schools (including clean water and adequate sanitation). We should also address the challenge of women and girls who are in most countries consistently lagging behind boys and men with regard to education, especially higher education. We need to encourage societies to utilize the human capital of women to a much greater extent than at present.

The European Union is committed to accelerating progress toward the education MDGs as a policy priority, in particular with regard to access to primary education. At the international level, the EU supports actively the Dakar Framework for Action "Education for All" (EFA) and EFA Fast-Track Initiative in partnership with other bilateral donors for education as well as UNESCO, UNICEF and the World Bank. EU priorities in education are quality primary education, vocational training and addressing inequalities within holistic national sector plans. Particular attention is devoted to promoting girl's education, children with special needs, safety at school and education in fragile states.

Mr. President,

**(Health)**

The Millennium Declaration places health squarely at the centre of the international development agenda and champions it as a key driver of economic progress. Challenges are many: strengthening health systems is critical, alongside expanding the integrated delivery and access to health services, addressing the pressing shortfall in skilled health professionals, linking access to health care with building new hospitals, good roads and reliable water supplies. Much attention should also be given to health in fragile states and making aid more effective and equitable. New donors and aid channels in the field of health sector have contributed to sharp increase in aid for some priority diseases, but this also requires support to health systems overall, harmonization among donors, and stronger alignment around national policies and plans.

In achieving MDG 4 and 5 – reducing child mortality and improving maternal health - improvement in health of pregnant women and new mothers play an important role in generating further reduction in child mortality and improvement of maternal health. Skilled and responsive care during pregnancy, at birth and immediately afterwards, all contribute to lower maternal mortality, and consequently also to reducing child mortality. Immunization of children has also proved to significantly reduce the child mortality.

In 2000, world leaders reaffirmed their commitment to reduce the maternal mortality ratio by 75 % between 1990 and 2015. This goal (MDG5) was followed in 2006 by the addition of a target for universal access to reproductive health. Despite these commitments, complications of pregnancy and childbirth are still the leading cause of death among women in developing countries. No region thus far has achieved sufficient annual declines to reach the MDG5 target. Much more needs to be done. This issue has to be prioritized in budgets and in endeavours to overcome the lack of political will. Reaching this MDG is crucial for achieving the other MDG's.

Progress in combating HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases (MDG6) has been facilitated by substantive increase in resources provided by international donors. While additional resources are still needed, we should continue to help countries design and implement strategies that are based on knowledge about local epidemic; develop comprehensive and multi sectoral programmes (education is important); and very importantly, ensure coordination and cooperation among different stakeholders.

The EU would like to draw attention to the fact that HIV/AIDS remains a global scourge that requires a response at all levels through the scaling up of prevention, care, support and treatment to reach the target of universal access, in particular to antiretroviral

therapy. Here again, the development and implementation of inclusive country-led strategies, based on the "Three Ones Principle", is key. Special attention must be paid to address stigma and discrimination, protecting human rights, including those of vulnerable groups, and to the feminization of HIV/AIDS.

The EU is promoting comprehensive maternal health programmes and developing the pool of skilled birth attendants. The rates of maternal mortality or the number of skilled attendants at birth are useful indicators to assess the functioning of health systems and our progress going forward. We will also continue to place special emphasis on access of young people in developing countries, the poorest in particular, to improved health.

The EU is also fully committed to supporting international action to address the shortage of health workers and the crisis in human resources for health in developing countries. The Commission and EU Member States are developing a coordinated response, through country, regional and global action.

Both health and education remain an integral part of the Tenth European Development Fund for the period of 2008-2013. Part of EU aid for health in developing countries is channelled through international organizations and global initiatives. Progress in the area of health and education is evidently important both in their own right but also in creating an enabling environment for the empowerment of women and in making progress in the fight against poverty.

Distinguished Mr. President,

**(Conclusions)**

For several decades the development assistance community has worked with people and governments of developing countries to help improving their living conditions. Progress – though often unrecognized – has been remarkable. In the past 30 years alone, life expectancy increased by more than 20 years. Infant mortality rates have dropped by half. Primary school enrolment rates have doubled. Developing countries have achieved remarkable, although uneven, improvements in living standards of their people. These results are highly encouraging. They demonstrate that poverty can be overcome. But the battle is far from over. The year 2008 is a crucial year to make progress in achieving Millennium Development Goals. Their achievement is still possible in most countries, but only if concerted and well targeted actions in support of all MDGs are increased immediately and sustained until 2015. It requires a shared global strategy that fosters inclusive sustained growth, solid context-sensitive national poverty strategies, sound governance, gender equality and empowerment of women, increased public and private investment, enhanced productive capacity and the creation of decent work, so that all development partners – Governments, international organizations, non governmental organizations and private sector - can join forces in getting the achievement of the MDGs back on track. To accelerate progress it is also necessary to focus on sharing best practices and scaling up of models that have proven effective. As the European Union, we intend to fully play our part and will discuss how we can best contribute to efforts to put the MDGs back on track at the May GEARC and June EU Council.



# SOLOMON ISLANDS

**STATEMENT BY**

**H.E COLLIN BECK AMBASSADOR**

**PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF SOLOMON ISLANDS TO THE  
UNITED NATIONS AT THE PLENARY SESSIONS OF THE UNGA  
THEMATIC DEBATE ON MDGS ENTITLED "RECOGNIZING THE  
ACHIEMENTS, ADDRESSING THE CHALLENGES AND GETTING  
BACK ON TRACK TO ACHIEVE THE MDGS BY 2015"**

**3<sup>RD</sup>, APRIL 2008, NEW YORK, USA**

Mr. President,

Thank you for convening this thematic debate as we arrive at the mid point of the time bound Millennium Development Goals is concern. I would like to begin by aligning this Statement with the Statements delivered by Antigua and Barbuda on behalf G77 Bangladesh on behalf of the Least Developed Countries, and Tonga on behalf of the Pacific Islands Small Islands States (PSIDS).

For many vulnerable countries, emphasis on achieving the MDGs have been overwhelming, so much so discussions have side lined the special situation of LDCs, Land Locked, and SIDS. The Brussels Programme of Action and the Barbados Programmes of Action which are suppose to be vehicles for the less advantage in attaining the MDGs. Unfortunately these programmes are not featured in regional and international country programmes to address their specific challenges. My delegation supports the call made by Barbados for the international community to support the implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action/Mauritius Strategy and the Brussels Programme of Action for the LDCs.

Mr. President,

Solomon Islands remains off track in achieving the MDGs and is a country emerging from a conflict situation. For Small Island States many of our issues are considered too small for some of the international system to handle hence these issues gets swept under the carpet. To some extent we have become invisible in the debate where we are seen and never get a mention by any of the discussions, none of the Panellist referred to our situation. In this light, this statement is about our quest for survival; I would like to acknowledge your initiative in having a special session for the most vulnerable and hope in future we could be featured in the discussions.

Mr. President,

The impact of Climate Change, have increased poverty and needs new and additional resources. Droughts, flooding, sea level rise, frequency of cyclones, continue to batter our narrow base agricultural economy moving back developments achieved in decades within minutes in the case of tsunamis and hours when it comes to cyclones. It has been mentioned too many times that LDCs/SIDS who are least equipped to deal with Climate Change yet when it comes to action we fail to honour our commitments. These developments have made it even more challenging to attain the MDGs. Movement of people from low laying islands to larger islands is already happening in different scales across the country. State of emergency has been declared in various parts of Solomon Islands due to food shortages as a result of natural calamities. Last year's tsunami destroyed health, education and development infrastructure painfully built over the years



within a couple of minutes. Food security and fresh water lens of small Islands low laying states are now impacted by Climate Change.

The high costs of food and increase in price of energy speaks of the dilemma LDCs face living in the fringes of the international economic, financial and trade system. It is important that the issue of financing for development look at some quick wins. For many of the Pacific SIDS, energy accounts for a third of our national budget, getting adequate technology is a must to free up domestic resources to address all MDGs. Valuing of virgin forests for carbon credit purposes is a means of halting unsustainable harvesting of forests but also providing a means of income for the population as nearly as 80% of the land in Solomon Islands are customary owned. In the health sector treated bed nets saves lives especially when malaria remains the countries number one killer and HIV/Aids a time bomb with its young population.

Secondly if we are to get back on track, there must be a change of approach by the United Nations system wide. The UN must move from policy to delivering on the ground activities. The usual blaming on policies and Governance have gone for so long that countries have become so open and flexible in accessing funds with partners in most cases this is done at the expense of national policies focus. There is a tendency of focusing so much on the formal rather than on the informal sector.

Thirdly we need to strengthen the linkage between the UN and its member states; in this spirit we need to look at situations in countries where there is no UN or limited UN presence, what can be done especially to facilitate North-South and South-South Cooperation. Not to do that will create weak links within our global fight against poverty eradication. Our multilateral system must take a more pragmatic/concrete approach to address the structural impediments that continue to marginalise the poor countries from the international economic, financial and trade systems. There must be genuine change in the international financial and trade architecture to include LDCs/SIDS especially in the agricultural sector and to ensure inclusiveness of review of all the eight MDGs is equally given the attention. In this connection, my delegation associates with the call by India.

Mr. President,

Fourthly, following the panel discussion on poverty eradication, health and education, all these sectors need resources to maintain. Their sustainability will require deliberate public investment resources directed at creating people centred economic opportunities in the productive economic sector. On this issue it is about partnership and Goal 8 provides for it. We should discuss how we are going to sustain all Goals, this can only be done by doing more for trade than aid, ensure that Doha delivers and creating a just and fare international financial and trade system. Addressing the issue of debt, converting debts into MDG/BPOA projects beside the energy and forestry proposals stated earlier. In this connection my delegation supports the call by Philippines for the United Nations to seriously look at the debt equity concept for MDGs especially in freeing up resources for sustainable development.

In closing the success of achieving the time-bound MDGs rests on the measure of honouring and operationalising our global commitments in all respects, financially, structurally, and among others to ensure the most vulnerable countries are assisted to attain their MDGs. MDGs is about development, it is about freedom from want, freedom from fear and freedom to live in human dignity.

Thank you Mr. President

Mr. President

Finally, following the past discussion on poverty eradication, health and education, these sectors need resources to maintain their sustainability. Well-planned, deliberate public investment resources directed at creating people-centred economic opportunities in the productive economic sector. On this issue, it is about partnership and Goal 8 works for it. We should discuss how we are going to sustain all Goals, this can only be done by doing more in trade than aid, ensure that loans deliver and creating a just and fair international financial and trade system. Addressing the issue of debt, converting debt into MARRIPOA projects, health, the energy and forestry projects stand out. In this connection my delegation supports the call by Philippines for the United Nations to extend its look at the debt equity concept for MDGs especially in financing up resources for sustainable development.



# ESPAÑA

**INTERVENCIÓN PRONUNCIADA POR  
EL REPRESENTANTE PERMANENTE ADJUNTO DE ESPAÑA  
ENCARGADO DE NEGOCIOS A.I.**

**EMBAJADOR ÍÑIGO DE PALACIO ESPAÑA**

**ANTE EL DEBATE TEMÁTICO DE LA ASAMBLEA GENERAL  
“RECONOCIENDO LOS LOGROS Y ENFRENTANDO LOS DESAFÍOS  
PARA LA CONSECUCCIÓN DE LOS ODMs EN 2015”**

**Nueva York, 1-2 de abril de 2008**

(Cotejar con intervención definitiva)

---

**STATEMENT  
BY THE DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF SPAIN  
CHARGÉ D' AFFAIRES, A.I.**

**AMBASSADOR ÍÑIGO DE PALACIO ESPAÑA**

**THEMATIC DEBATE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
“RECOGNIZING THE ACHIEVEMENTS, ADDRESSING THE CHALLENGES AND  
GETTING BACK ON TRACK TO ACHIEVE THE MDGS BY 2015”**

**New York, 1-2 April 2008**

(Unofficial translation, check against delivery)

Señor Presidente.

Los Objetivos de Desarrollo del Milenio (ODM), recogidos en la Declaración del Milenio, son la referencia permanente que inspira la política española de cooperación al desarrollo. Su consecución precisa del esfuerzo compartido de la comunidad internacional.

Para España, acabar con la pobreza requiere aumentar tanto la cantidad como la calidad de la Ayuda, apostando por aquellos instrumentos y formas de trabajo que garanticen mayor eficacia, como los que derivan de la Declaración de París, y entre los que destacan los siguientes:

- En primer lugar, la progresiva armonización y división de trabajo entre donantes, que se construyen sobre la base de la apropiación de los países socios en sus propios procesos de desarrollo.
- En segundo lugar, la coordinación entre actores de desarrollo, tanto tradicionales como emergentes, tanto gubernamentales como no gubernamentales, incluyendo sociedad civil y sector privado. En el caso español, estos principios tratan de aplicarse también en el ámbito interno, por el activo compromiso y especialización en cuestiones de desarrollo de nuestras Comunidades Autónomas y Ayuntamientos.
- En tercer lugar, la coherencia de políticas. La Ayuda Oficial al Desarrollo constituye sólo un capítulo dentro del conjunto de políticas públicas, y de poco sirve disponer de una ayuda al desarrollo comprometida y de calidad si el resto de las decisiones públicas –por ejemplo, en comercio o deuda- operan en sentido contrario, limitando las oportunidades de progreso de los países en desarrollo.
- En cuarto lugar, la apuesta por un multilateralismo activo, selectivo y estratégico. Prueba de ello es el aumento de nuestras contribuciones a Fondos y Programas de NNUU y, en especial, el establecimiento de un Fondo específico España – PNUD para la consecución de los Objetivos de Desarrollo del Milenio, por un montante de 710 millones de dólares, que tras sus primeros meses de funcionamiento arroja ya un balance positivo y prometedor.

El Objetivo del Milenio 8, el más importante en la coyuntura presente, llama a la constitución de una alianza global para el desarrollo. España, en este orden, está llevando a cabo un notable esfuerzo hacia un aumento en la cantidad de la Ayuda Oficial al Desarrollo, y la búsqueda de mecanismos innovadores de financiación complementarios de ésta. La AOD española se ha duplicado en porcentaje y triplicado en cantidad en los últimos tres años, para alcanzar el 0.5% de la Renta Interna Bruta en 2008, alrededor de 8.000 millones de dólares. Estamos cumpliendo además con el compromiso, por un lado, de destinar el 20% de la AOD a los países más pobres -fundamentalmente de África Subsahariana, que asume creciente protagonismo en nuestra cooperación-, y por otro, de

contribuir con 20% de la AOD a los sectores sociales básicos. Además, esta intensificación de la ayuda se lleva a cabo sin perjuicio del mantenimiento del apoyo a los Países de Renta Media.

Desde este firme compromiso de España con el desarrollo, quisiera hacer algunos comentarios puntuales sobre nuestra contribución a los objetivos concretos que se discuten en este Debate Temático:

### **1. Lucha contra el hambre y la pobreza - ODM 1**

Sin ánimo de ser exhaustivo, cabe subrayar algunas líneas fundamentales de nuestro compromiso, como la dotación de infraestructuras; los apoyos a la pequeña empresa, y a la empresa de economía social; y el desarrollo de las capacidades institucionales para el buen funcionamiento y asignación de los mercados. Todo ello apoyando de manera especial organizaciones como la FAO, Fondos como UNICEF y FIDA, o el PMA.

La crisis alimentaria mundial, agravada con el aumento de precios de los productos básicos, es una de nuestras preocupaciones esenciales. Por eso, España ha respondido ya al llamamiento de emergencia formulado por el PMA el pasado 20 de marzo, anunciando un aumento de la contribución prevista para 2008 situándose en un total de 47 millones de dólares.

### **2. Educación – ODM 2**

En este punto, nuestra prioridad es apoyar el desarrollo de la educación básica a través del fortalecimiento de los sistemas públicos de educación. Junto con nuestra creciente cooperación bilateral, y el apoyo a UNICEF, UNESCO o la OEI, es necesario subrayar el aumento de la contribución española a la innovadora Iniciativa Vía Rápida de Educación para todos (EFA-FTI). En 2007, España contribuyó al Fondo Catalizador de esta iniciativa con 45 millones de euros (lo que nos coloca como tercer donante), y para 2008, se ha previsto una aportación de 60 millones de euros.

Además, estamos trabajando para aumentar nuestra atención a retos especiales, como el de la educación en situaciones de conflicto y emergencia.

### **3. Salud – ODMs 4, 5 y 6**

En este sector, se constata un cambio acentuado de foco geográfico, de modo que sin dejar de lado la ayuda a Latinoamérica, se ha incrementado en 88% desde 2001 la presencia de España en Africa Subsahariana. Y se pretende seguir avanzando en esta vía, en especial potenciando nuevas vías de cooperación a través de Partenariados Públicos-Privados con empresas del sector y ONGs internacionales.

ODM 4: Reducir la mortalidad infantil

Como recomienda el Informe de 2007 sobre los Objetivos de Desarrollo del Milenio, la reducción de la mortalidad de niños y niñas menores de cinco años es una meta a la que España continuará prestando la mayor atención, incrementando sustancialmente los apoyos a Organizaciones como UNICEF o la OMS, y a iniciativas como el Mecanismo Financiero Internacional (IFF).

#### ODM 5: mejorar la salud materna

La prioridad que España otorga a este sector hace que las previsiones de ayuda bilateral dirigida a las políticas de población y salud reproductiva multipliquen por seis su volumen desde 2001. En el ámbito bilateral, destaca el programa de salud específico para Centroamérica, y el reforzamiento del Programa Vita para África.

#### ODM 6: Combatir el VIH/SIDA, el paludismo y otras enfermedades

También este objetivo ha experimentado en los últimos años un incremento considerable en importancia dentro de la Cooperación Española. a través de contribuciones a fondos y organismos internacionales, como ONUSIDA y, especialmente, el Fondo Mundial de Lucha contra el SIDA, la Tuberculosis y la Malaria.

#### Asuntos horizontales:

Finalmente, toda nuestra cooperación se inspira en un concepto integrado de los Objetivos de Desarrollo del Milenio. No acabaremos con la pobreza si no mejoramos la educación de los niños y niñas del mundo, y solo así mejoraremos su salud y esperanza de vida. Este concepto integral y transversal del desarrollo articula la estructura del Fondo España-PNUD, con ventanas temáticas horizontales como la de Infancia, Seguridad Alimentaria y Nutrición o, por ejemplo, la ventana temática sobre Juventud, Empleo y Migración, entre las más importantes, y abierta recientemente para una segunda ronda de proyectos.

Con este espíritu, nuestra cooperación integra además otros aspectos esenciales del desarrollo, como son los asuntos de género y la sostenibilidad ambiental. En este caso, España trabaja para colocar el acceso al agua potable y el saneamiento en el centro de sus esfuerzos. Dentro de dos meses, se inaugura en Zaragoza la Exposición Internacional sobre Agua y Desarrollo Sostenible, que situará en lugar prioritario la importancia del Agua para el desarrollo en todas sus dimensiones, como fuente de salud, y como fuente de desarrollo de la agricultura de las regiones más pobres del mundo.

#### Conclusión

En definitiva, todos estos cauces articulan la contribución de España en el camino hacia los ODM, pero todavía queda un largo camino que recorrer. Debemos tomar medidas específicas y efectivas, y asumir nuestros compromisos, en el marco del principio de responsabilidad compartida sobre el que se asientan los Objetivos.

Muchas gracias.

Mr. President,

The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), as listed in the Millennium Declaration, are a permanent point of reference for Spanish development cooperation policy. Achieving these goals requires the joint effort of the international community.

For Spain, poverty eradication requires the increase of both the quantity as well as the quality of aid. We are committed to instruments and procedures that guarantee a greater effectiveness, such as those embedded on the Paris Declaration:

- First of all, the progressive distribution of labor amongst donors, on the basis of ownership of member countries of their own development processes.
- Secondly, the coordination between the traditional and emerging donors, as well as governmental and non-governmental actors, including civil society and the private sector. In Spain, we try particularly to apply these principles nationally, through an active commitment and specialization in the involvement of our Autonomous Communities and cities in development issues.
- Thirdly, coherence in policies. The Official Development Aid constitutes only one element in the context of public policies, and it does not help much to count on a commitment to a high quality development aid if the remainder of public decisions –for example, in trade or debt– do not contribute, restricting the opportunities for progress in the developing countries.
- Fourthly, the commitment to an active, selective and strategic multilateralism. The Spanish contributions to the United Nations Funds and Programmes prove this commitment, and so does the establishment of the Spain - UNDP Fund for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, in the amount of 710 million dollars, which after its first months of operation already shows a positive and promising balance.

Millennium Goal 8, the most important one in the current circumstances, calls for the creation of a global alliance for development. In this context, Spain is carrying out a significant effort towards an increase in the Official Development Aid, and towards the search for innovative mechanisms of additional funding. The Spanish ODA has doubled in percentage and tripled in quantity in the past three years, and will be reaching the 0.5% of Gross Domestic Product in 2008, approximately 8,000 million dollars. We are also keeping our commitment, on one hand, to allocate 20% of ODA to the poorest countries –mainly in Sub-Saharan Africa, which is becoming more important in our cooperation–, and on the other hand, to contribute with 20% of ODA to basic social sectors.

Furthermore, this increase in aid is carried out without prejudice of our support to Middle Income Countries.

Building on this firm commitment to development, Spain would like to make some specific comments on our contribution to the actual goals discussed in this Thematic Debate:

### **1. The Fight against hunger and poverty – MDG 1**

Without intending to be exhaustive, I should underline the basic points of our commitment, such as funding for infrastructure; assistance to small enterprises; and development of institutional capacities for the performance and allocation of markets, as well as specially assisting organizations such as FAO, and Funds such as UNICEF and IFAD, or WFP.

The world food crisis, worsened by the price increase of basic products, is one of our main concerns. For this reason, Spain has already taken action to respond to the emergency appeal made by WFP last 20 March, announcing a 47 million dollar contribution for 2008.

### **2. Education – MDG 2**

On this point, our priority is to support the development of elementary education through the strengthening of the public educational systems. Together with our increasing bilateral cooperation and our support to UNICEF, UNESCO or IEO, it is necessary to highlight the increase of Spain's contribution to the innovative Fast Track Education for all Initiative (EFA-FTI). In 2007, Spain contributed with 45 million euros to the Catalyst Fund of this initiative (which places us in third place as donor), and for 2008, Spain foresees a contribution of 60 million euros, around 90 million dollars.

Furthermore, we are working towards increasing our attention to special challenges, such as education in situation of conflict and emergency.

### **3. Health – MDGs 4, 5 and 6**

In this area, we confirm that there has been a change in geographic focus, in that, without neglecting the aid to Latin America, the Spanish presence in Sub-Saharan Africa has increased by 88% since 2001. And we plan to continue making progress down this path, particularly by empowering new approaches for cooperation through Public-Private Partnerships with enterprises and international NGOs.

#### **MDG 4: Reduce infant mortality**

As recommended in the 2007 Report on the Millennium Development Goals, the reduction in infant mortality of children under five years is an objective to which Spain will continue to give the greatest attention, substantially increasing our



support to Organizations such as UNICEF or WHO, and to initiatives such as the International Finance Facility (IFF).

#### **MDG 5: Improvement of maternal health**

Spain considers this sector to be a priority, and for this reason, bilateral aid for population and reproductive health policies has multiplied by six since 2001. In the bilateral sphere, the specific health program for Central America and the strengthening of the Vita Program for Africa are given priority.

#### **MDG 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases**

This objective has also gained considerable importance in Spanish Cooperation, through contributions to funds and international organizations such as UNAIDS and, particularly, the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, with a contribution of 150 million dollars in 2008.

#### **Horizontal issues:**

Finally, Spanish cooperation is inspired by an integrated concept of the Millennium Development Goals. We will not end poverty if we do not improve the education of children in the world, and only then will we improve their health and life expectancy. This holistic and transversal concept of development is the basis for the Spain-UNDP Fund, with horizontal thematic windows such as "Children, Food Safety and Nutrition" or "Youth, Employment and Migration", amongst the most important ones, and recently opened for a second round of projects.

In this spirit, our cooperation also integrates other essential aspects for development, such as gender issues and environmental sustainability. In this regard, Spain works to place access to safe drinking water and sanitation at the center of its efforts. The International Zaragoza Exhibition on Water and Sustainable Development will be inaugurated next June, making Water for development in all of its dimensions a priority, as a source of health, and as a source for agricultural development in the world's poorest regions.

#### **Conclusion**

In conclusion, this is the multifaceted way in which Spain contributes towards achieving the MDGs, but there still remains a long way to go. We must take specific and effective measures and keep our commitments, within a framework of joint responsibility, which is the basis for attaining the MDGs.

Thank you.



Statement  
by

**Ambassador Prasad Kariyawasam**

Permanent Representative of Sri Lanka to the United Nations

**Thematic Debate on**

**“Recognising the achievements, addressing the challenges and getting  
back on track to achieve the MDGs by 2015”**

New York, 2 April 2008

*Please check against delivery*

---

Mr President

Let me join others in expressing my appreciation to you for convening this meeting.

We now stand just past the half way mark we set for ourselves at the dawn of the new Millennium, to achieve goals that would provide sustainable prosperity to all who inhabit our planet, and for generations yet unborn. This, Mr. President, is therefore the most opportune moment to have this thematic debate in the General Assembly, to remind ourselves of the urgent need to harness the energies of all segments of our societies to work in synergy, to realize those goals.

In this respect, Sri Lanka aligns itself fully with the statement made by Antigua and Barbuda on behalf of G77 and China.

I will also take this opportunity to reiterate Sri Lanka's firm commitment to achieving the Millennium Development Goals by 2015. The MDGs have been integrated into Sri Lanka's national development strategies including the ten year development framework titled “Mahinda Chintana ten year horizon development framework (2007-2016)”.

In areas such as universal primary school enrolment, gender equality in primary and secondary school enrolment, reducing maternal and child mortality, and several other health and social indicators, Sri Lanka is well poised to meet the MDG targets well before 2015. In recognition of these accomplishments, the UN country team, in its Common Country Assessment states that Sri Lanka needs to reset some of the MDG targets at higher levels.

Despite these achievements, and having recently made the transition from a low income to a middle income country, Sri Lanka still faces significant challenges. Eradicating poverty; achieving environmentally sustainable development; reducing unemployment; and mitigating social costs arising out of migration of labour and brain drain, are some such issues.

In addition, we consider that achieving MDGs in a sustainable manner is inextricably linked to overcoming regional disparities in economic and social development, including uneven distribution of wealth across regions and among social groups. The destruction caused by the Indian Ocean Tsunami of December 2004 was a setback to our progress towards achievement of MDGs. The campaign of terror by a separatist terrorist group in my country is also a major challenge to our general economic and social wellbeing. As a result of terrorism, several conflict affected regions have been lagging behind in economic development. And service sectors like tourism throughout the country have also suffered.

It is in this context that the Government is making every effort and working with Sri Lanka's development partners including the UN system as well, to build national capacities to address some of the key challenges that militate against achieving the MDGs. This includes the full integration of MDGs into national policies and plans and localizing them in a manner that reduces regional disparities and empowers the regions. Concerted action is being taken to promote equity and inclusion, and to implement pro-poor policies favouring local aspirations and indigenous methods, as well as local entrepreneurship. While combating terrorism, the Government has taken several steps to ensure just and lasting peace in the North and East of the country through socio-political means.

To achieve the MDGs by 2015, Sri Lanka, like many other developing countries, needs better trading terms and market access for its products and services in our export markets. In addition, greater coherence and predictability in global financial and commodity markets are also important for developing countries like Sri Lanka to reach MDG targets.

The MDGs are global cross-cutting goals that require cooperative efforts of governments, international organizations, private sector, academia, and civil society around the world. And in this task, it is essential that developing countries and their development partners, working in partnership, re-commit to fulfil their obligations and responsibilities as set out in the Millennium Declaration. Let us pledge, once again, at this mid-point, that we will make all efforts to make this planet a congenial place for all to live, by the year 2015.

Thank you.



*Permanent Mission of St. Kitts and Nevis to the United Nations*

---

---

---

**Recognizing the Achievements, Addressing the Challenges and Getting  
Back on Track with the Millennium Development Goals by 2015**

Address by:

H.E Delano F. Bart QC

Ambassador Extraordinary Plenipotentiary

Permanent Representative of St. Kitts and Nevis

To the United Nations

3 April, 2008

## **Recognizing the Achievements, Addressing the Challenges and Getting Back on Track with the Millennium Development Goals by 2015**

It is indeed an honor to address this august body on this very important topic, and must thank the President and the Secretary General, for the timely hosting of this debate.

The Government of St. Kitts and Nevis has set its own country specific targets which are directly related to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), and are fully committed to meeting them by the year 2015.

### **Eradicating Extreme Poverty (MDG1)**

Poverty in St. Kitts and Nevis is associated more with very low wages than unemployment.

On the 30<sup>th</sup> July 2005, after a 350 year presence, the Sugar Industry was closed. This was due to unfavourable external developments, which led to its unprofitable performance.

It left behind a country with high levels of indebtedness, and many displaced persons. Sugar was all they knew. In an effort to deal with the first of the MDGs the Government partnered with the private sector and has established retraining programs, and is now making available land for agriculture for farming by small farmers.

In terms of meeting the first Millennium Development Goal we are on track but yet much more is yet to be done.

### **Universal Primary Education (MDG2)**

The Government of St. Kitts and Nevis has ensured that all boys and girls complete a full course of primary schooling. School meals are free at the primary level. Education is compulsory for all children up to the age of 16. The Literacy rate in the Federation is 98%. To that extent we have met the requirement of MDG2 .

However the Government has recognized that there is need to do more. In this age of sophisticated technology and computers, Literacy has to be redefine. There is a Green Paper presently being discussed which describes education development policies over the next ten (10) years.

### **Promote Gender Equality and Empower Women (MDG3)**

On the issue of Gender Equality, St. Kitts and Nevis has ratified the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women in 1985. And through the Department of Gender Affairs have sought to ensure that women and men enjoy equal access to services offered by the Federation. Women in St. Kitts and Nevis enjoy equal access to education at all levels. We have experienced some progress in the professions, but meeting our targets in the area of political decision making, and the Boardrooms of companies remains a challenge.

There is need to address the economic, social and cultural barriers. For these we need help.

### **Reduce Child Mortality(MDG4) Improve Maternal Health(MDG5)and Combat HIV/AIDS etc(MDG6)**

#### ***Child Mortality***

Infant Mortality rates over the years have fluctuated, but in recent years we have seen some improvement. This is reflective of the ongoing expansion of the coverage and enhanced equality of care given to prenatal and perinatal patients at the primary health care level.

#### ***Maternal Health***

The Government of St. Kitts and Nevis has a comprehensive maternal health program which caters to persons who access care at the hospitals and health centres. All births are delivered at hospitals there is no longer home deliveries. Maternal death in St. Kitts and Nevis is rear. In that regard we have met MDG5.

### ***Combat HIV/AIDS***

HIV/AIDS remains a threat. We are conscious of the devastation that it can have on those who contribute most to our economy. We continue to fight it and the stigmatization of people living with it. Apart from the social benefits that we gain by fighting the stigma, we believe we can better monitor and have more accurate figures.

### **National Strategic Plan**

The Ministry of Health has prepared a National Strategic Plan for Health and Development which outlines our country's plan for health. It goes hand in hand with the Millennium Development Goals. We believe in a holistic approach to the issue of health and so these MDGs 4, 5, 6 are being addressed under the Health Plan along with other diseases, so as to reduce the morbidity and mortality associated with Chronic Non-Communicable diseases.

The Plan addresses, prevention, treatment care for clients, support, advocacy, surveillance epidemiology and research, program coordination and management for HIV/Aids and sexually transmitted infections.

The Plan would be available to the public in the next week. We expect to begin seeing success by 2012, resulting in the population on a whole having adequate access to quality health care at an affordable cost, improved quality of life, and increased life expectancy.

### **Ensure Environmental Sustainability (MDG7)**

Ensuring environmental sustainability, MDG 7, is a goal of the Government of St. Kitts and Nevis. Our very survival depends on it. It is vital for keeping our tourism industry alive.

The sugar cane prevented disastrous erosion of the soil, and allowed the filtration of rainfall to the aquifers which supply potable water to 90% of the population. Climate change is an ever present danger. But in the country specific context of St Kitts and Nevis the achievement of this MDG has more to with what the Developed countries are doing than what we do. Therefore

the achievement of this MDG cannot be seen in the context of the nation. It must be a global one. While some things have been done, the evidence dictates that more has to be done

### **Develop a Global Partnership for Development (MDG8)**

It is known that there is much benefit to be gained from global partnership. In an attempt to improve competitiveness in the global economy we joined the Caribbean Single Market and Economy (CSME) in 2006. This important stage of regional integration if we are allowed to operate on an even playing field it is hoped that it will generate opportunities for economic growth.

But our size will be for ever a challenge in terms of the economies of Scales.

### **CONCLUSION**

The MDGs are incorporated among the goals that my Government has set for its people. It is not an easy road but we are taking it. We are continuing to invest in our people, in agriculture, in infrastructure and are partnering with the private sector. We are doing what has been asked of us but we need the help of others.

This is not a plea for charity or pity. But a request that those whose activities have caused damage to the Developing world, and who have set the terms of a world economic order in which we had no say, to recognize their moral obligation to provide adequately compensation to the Developing world.

I Thank You.





# **ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES**

Permanent Mission of St. Vincent and the Grenadines to the United Nations

800 2nd Ave., Ste. 400G, New York, NY 10017 • Tel: (212) 599-0950 • Fax: (212) 599-1020 • [www.svg-un.org](http://www.svg-un.org)

## **Statement**

By

**H.E. Camillo M. Gonsalves**

Permanent Representative of St. Vincent and the Grenadines to the United Nations

### **Thematic Debate:**

**“Recognising the achievements, addressing the challenges and getting back on track to achieve the MDGs by 2015.”**

3<sup>rd</sup> April, 2008  
New York

Please check against delivery

Mr. President, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen.

St. Vincent and the Grenadines aligns itself fully with the statement made by Antigua & Barbuda on behalf of the Group of 77 and China. We wish to add the following supplementary statement:

French writer Antoine de Saint Exupéry once said that “a goal without a plan is just a wish.” Today, midway through our 15-year quest to realize the Millennium Development Goals (“MDGs”), and faced with the increasing likelihood that these goals are not on track for achievement, we must ask ourselves a fundamental question: are the MDGs indeed goals, or are they simply an exercise of wishful thinking on a global scale? If the international community is serious and committed to achieving the MDGs by 2015, we must demonstrate the political courage to tackle the structural changes necessary to allow for meaningful global development.

This thematic debate cannot be an occasion for either international hand wringing or backslapping. The twin outcomes of this debate must be a concrete multilateral plan for progress and an agreement on the areas of focus going forward.

Mr. President,

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines is justifiably proud of its recent progress toward achieving and surpassing of the MDGs. In the field of education, we have universal access to both primary and secondary schools. Indeed, between 2001 and 2006, St. Vincent and the Grenadines went from having only 39% of eligible children attending secondary school to achieving universal access to secondary education. We are implementing a many-sided Poverty Reduction Strategy that includes policies to stimulate growth, trade and investment; increase employment opportunities; invest in human capital; and improve social and physical infrastructure.

On the health front, infant mortality continues its downward trend, and we are on track to meet our 2015 target. A multifaceted “Wellness Revolution” is underway to combat a host of preventable lifestyle diseases, and the Government has also instituted comprehensive programmes to combat HIV/AIDS, although the challenges posed by this deadly disease remain daunting.

But the successes and challenges of St. Vincent and the Grenadines, much as those in our sister states throughout the developing world, cannot be viewed in the context of individual national plans and discrete examples of progress or failure. We have reached the point in our progress towards the MDGs that future plans for their attainment must take on global and structural dimensions. Developing countries, with very few exceptions, have worked assiduously, and in relative isolation, towards their MDG targets. The uneven progress to date has shown the limitations of these disjointed, individual approaches.

In that regard, St. Vincent and the Grenadines wholeheartedly echoes the calls made yesterday by India, Jamaica, Morocco, Pakistan, the G-77 and many others to emphasize the critical importance of Goal 8 – developing a global partnership for development. This neglected and unappreciated Goal is indeed a prerequisite, and the fulcrum of further meaningful development.

Six years ago, and very early in the MDG process, world leaders gathered in Monterrey and stated that “[o]ur goal is to eradicate poverty, achieve sustained economic growth, and promote sustainable development as we advance to a fully inclusive and equitable global economic system.” Part and parcel of that noble goal was a renewal of developed states’ longstanding pledge to give 0.7% of their GNPs as Official Development Assistance. Today, we are no closer to that modest assistance target, which was first mooted in 1969 – before the challenges of climate change, the digital divide, or the special developmental issues of the post-Cold War and post-9/11 world.

Our global partnership for development has also failed to extend to the realm of substantive and far-reaching forgiveness of debts that have been paid many times over. Nor has it fashioned ways in which a debtor nation can satisfy its obligations to creditors by reallocating its debt servicing dollars toward mutually agreed domestic development projects. Further, our global partnership has yet to meaningfully tackle the imposition of trade distorting barriers and subsidies, which short-sightedly serve the gods of local political expediency.

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines urges renewed consideration and emphasis on Goal 8, not in the context of welfare colonialism or conditionality, but in a manner that empowers developing states and dismantles the mechanisms of underdevelopment.

The developing world is not underdeveloped because we were waiting for the UN to enumerate eight MDGs for our collective benefit. We are underdeveloped because of complex structural processes and norms that reinforce systemic inequalities. It is impossible to meaningfully address development without having the political courage to tackle these structural biases.

Mr. President,

Achievement of the MDGs has become a Holy Grail at the UN, even though the MDGs themselves – while vital – are minimal benchmarks that will not close the yawning developmental gap between core and peripheral states. Indeed, as the developing world has moved haltingly towards the MDGs, our developed partners have consolidated their advantages in health, wealth, education, technology and productivity.

For example, no one in this room can seriously suggest that a primary education or mere literacy can be the basis upon which states' populations compete in a globalized economy. Without universal secondary and widespread tertiary education, and without technological and information literacy, developing states will continue to be hewers of wood and drawers of water, and will remain trapped in entrenched inequality.

The MDGs are therefore not final goals, but merely an essential first step in attaining the minimal basis for meaningful development. In that regard, we must begin to envisage the next 15 years of developmental goals, even as we wrestle with our current targets.

Mr. President,

We in the UN cannot simply speak the MDGs into existence. Our words must be accompanied by action. Our endless graphs, charts and MDG projections must result in paradigm-altering structural adjustments in trade, assistance and cooperation. With all the ink, paper and words that have been expended on the MDGs, we must collectively accept their achievement as a measure of the credibility and effectiveness of the UN to tackle global ills. The last steps toward realizing the MDGs cannot be taken merely on an *ad hoc* basis by states acting individually. We must have the vision to plan, and the courage to act, in a manner that fulfills our moral, ethical and human obligations to our fellow citizens.

I thank you.



**S U D A N**

PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

305 East 47th Street • New York, N.Y. 10017 • Tel: (212) 573-6033 • Fax: (212) 573-6160



Statement  
Of

**H.E. Abdalmahmood Abdalhaleem Mohamad**  
Permanent Representative of the Republic of the Sudan to the United  
Nations

At

General Assembly Thematic Debate on the Millennium Development  
Goals

**"RECOGNIZING THE ACHIEVEMENTS ADDRESSING THE  
CHALLENGES AND GETTING BACK ON TRACK TO ACHIEVE  
THE MDGS BY 2015"**

New York  
Wednesday, April 02, 2008

H.E. Mr. Srgjan Kerim, President of the General Assembly;  
H.E. Mr. Ban Ki-moon, Secretary General of the United Nations;  
Honorable Ministers;  
Distinguished Representatives;  
Ladies and gentlemen;

Mr. President,

On behalf of my government I would like to express our appreciation to you for organizing this important debate on an issue of particular importance and urgency to my country, and indeed our African continent, along with the rest of the developing countries. We commend you for placing the issue of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) at the top of priorities since your assumption of the General Assembly presidency. The Secretary General also deserves our appreciation for paying particular attention to the special needs of Africa, and for his establishment of the MDGs African Steering Group.

My delegation associates itself with the statements delivered by Antigua and Barbuda, on behalf of the G77 and China, by the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) on behalf of the African Group, and by Bangladesh on behalf of the LDCs.

At the mid point target for achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), our gathering today is indeed timely and critical, and should allow us to take stock of what has been achieved, and the challenges that still remain, and map out how to move forward in a concerted and collaborative manner.

The MDGs, Mr. President, reflects the consensus that development is a shared responsibility, and is ultimately about reducing human poverty in all its forms, the achievements of which, we must assert, rests upon a confluence of basic factors, in particular a strong global partnership.

While it is heartening to note that some progress has been achieved in meeting some of these goals in some developing countries, however the situation for many countries, particularly in Africa, the only continent not on track to meet the MDGs, warrants the international community's attention and focus.

As the background paper for this debate states, despite recent positive rising per capita growth in some African countries, the absolute number of the poor is still rising and is projected to stand at 360 million by 2015. The Secretary General in his report on the Work of the Organization further states that despite the encouraging progress in the areas of governance and economic management, and the rise in economic growth, the magnitude of the special needs of Africa remains daunting. Extreme poverty, lack of health care and sanitation, environmental degradation, and conflicts continue to blight the lives of millions of people around the continent, and that disease such as Malaria AIDS, and Tuberculosis are responsible for the death of more than 4 millions a year.

Mr. President,

Sudan is committed to the achievement of the MDGs which are central to the country's national development plans. It is incorporated in its constitution, the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA), and the on-going process of developing the country's National Strategic 5 Year Plan. Sudan issued its first Interim Unified MDGs Report in December 2004 and is currently working on a follow up report to be issued in May 2009.

Mr. President,

Sudan has made remarkable efforts aimed at securing the conducive domestic environment for economic and social development. The most important being efforts exerted to bring peace as a prerequisite for development. Solid rules and guidance for home-grown good governance and political, social and economic reforms have been laid down, and following the signing the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) the Government is striving hard to reinforce the process of peace and development of the country.

The reforms are carefully designed to attain high sustained economic growth rate with gradual poverty reduction, and addressing regional needs through decentralization and federalism. Economic transformation is envisioned in the Quarter Century Strategy (2007-2031) and its medium term programs of (2007-2011). Sound economic management, and prudent macroeconomic policies in addition to oil revenues have contributed to economic growth of two digits in 2008 and substantial flow of FDI. However, fiscal efforts are still far from meeting the huge expenditure arising out of the obligations of the implementation of the peace agreements which have resulted in rising resources gap at both domestic and foreign levels.

The financial obligations of the three signed agreements, the CPA, the Darfur Peace Agreement (DPA), and the Eastern Peace Agreement (EPA), are substantial. All agreements contain wealth sharing arrangements necessary for confidence building, which would require substantial infrastructure and development projects that are beyond the country's fiscal capacity, despite Sudan's positive overall economic outlook. This has been aggravated by an external debt overhang which stands at 27 billion US dollars in nominal terms, up by about 9 billion dollars since end of 2000, of which 24 billion dollars constitute arrears. This external debt and the discrimination faced in the debt relief initiatives prevent the country from accessing concessional finance which could have assisted Sudan's efforts to achieve the MDGs.

For achieving the poverty eradication target, we have undertaken a number of pro-poor policies and programs such as national budget social support funds. We have established the Social Development Bank, the "Zakat" fund, Micro-Finance Enterprise, community development funds, financial subsidies for food security activities related to agriculture, health insurance, and free of charge admission at government owned hospitals. However, such measures fall short of meeting the MDGs targets.

On Education, the country has registered progress in achieving universal primary education for girls and boys. While Gross Enrollment Ratio in 2004 was 62%, Net Enrolment Ratio was 48.3%. Adult literacy has also shown progress from around 45.8% to 60% in 1990 and 2004 respectively. Youth literacy has improved during the last decade reaching 78% in 2004 indicating marked expansion in primary education.

On health, available statistics reveal that the majority of morbidity and mortality among under 5 year olds is due to diseases including Malaria, which remains a major threat causing annually more than 7 million attacks and responsible for the death of around 35,000 people.

Mr. President,

We must review progress in the MDGs in a holistic and integrated manner. Progress in the global partnership for development will determine the successful achievement of other MDGs. The following measures are critically important to achieve the MDGs in a timely manner. These include:



- Achieving the internationally agreed target of 0.7% of GNP of developed countries for ODA.
- Resolving the issue of external debt and debt servicing obligations, within international initiatives for debt cancellation without discrimination.
- Addressing the adverse impact of climate change, by calling on developed countries to honor their commitments under the UNFCCC, and assisting developing countries in their adaptation and mitigation efforts.
- Capacity building, technology transfer and supporting productive capacity of developing countries, especially in the area of agricultural infra structure. .
- Developed countries to show more political resolve and genuine willingness to assist developing countries improve their competitiveness in the international market and providing market access.
- Increasing voice and participation of developing countries in International Financial Institutions

Mr. President,

It is imperative, as well, to end economic sanctions and unilateral economic coercive measures, which contravene international law and the UN Charter and which hits the hardest the very people whom we are striving to serve, if we are to create a conducive international environment for social development for all.

Mr. President, you made the MDGs implementation an important thematic debate for the General Assembly in its 62<sup>nd</sup> session. We look forward to continue the debate on the implementation the other internationally agreed development goals and commitments and look forward to gather again in September 22<sup>nd</sup> this year to discuss in a more focused manner Africa's development needs. I would like to state in conclusion that though lofty an objective, the MDGS are only one part of the UN development agendas and commitments. We look forward for a greater role by the United Nation in that direction.

I thank you

## **GENERAL ASSEMBLY THEMATIC DEBATE**

**“Recognizing the achievements, addressing the challenges and getting back on track to achieve the MDGs by 2015”**

Statement by Ambassador Henry L. Mac Donald  
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Suriname to the United Nations



**UNITED NATIONS HEADQUARTERS**

**NEW YORK 3 APRIL 2008**

Please check against delivery!

**Mr. President,**  
Secretary-General,  
Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

Let me express the appreciation of the Republic of Suriname to the President of the General Assembly to convene this very important thematic debate on the Millennium Development Goals with the theme **“Recognizing the achievements, addressing the challenges and getting back on track to achieve the MDGs by 2015”**.

At the outset the delegation of Suriname wishes to align itself with the statement made by the distinguished representative of Antigua and Barbuda on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

Mr. President,

Suriname has committed itself to achieve the Millennium Development Goals as guiding principles for its development policy and programs. The MDG's are therefore integrated in our national development policy framework, which also recognizes the need for building close partnerships with civil society and the private sector in order to attain sustainable economic and social development for our people.

However, aligning national policy and development programs according to internationally established standards, does not necessarily ensure the attainment of the MDG's by 2015. In each country conditions are different and accomplishing internationally established goals and standards remains therefore a highly challenging task.

Achievement of the MDG's depends also on various crucial developments in the world such as international peace and security, adequate and predictable official development assistance, debt relief and fair trade. MDG's requires a collective approach at national, regional and international level. In this regard MDG 8 remains of critical importance in our endeavors.

Mr. President,

While reports show that in Suriname significant progress has been made towards the achievement of MDG 2 (universal primary education), MDG 4 (child mortality) and MDG 6 (HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases) progress remains uneven in terms of MDG 1 (poverty), MDG 3 (gender equality), MDG 5 (maternal mortality) and MDG 7 (environmental sustainability).

AIDS is the leading cause of death in Suriname in the 24-49 age groups, with the feminization of the pandemic presenting increased challenges in our national response.

Current efforts are focusing on implementing a multi-sector approach to HIV and reinforcing the coordination capacity of the National HIV/AIDS mechanisms. A **'National HIV Council,'** will be appointed later this year by the President, to convene an annual **'State of the Epidemic Forum'**.

In our Health Sector Plan the Government promotes an equitable society through among others access to primary healthcare and services, including sexual and reproductive health, reducing the urban-rural health gaps, reducing maternal and child mortality and youth friendly health services.

Despite our commitment towards gender equality and the empowerment of women, through inter alia ratification of the most comprehensive Conventions in this area, we have to acknowledge that women still face challenges in the labour markets, are under represented at the highest levels of decision-making at the political level which further constraints their contribution to economic and social development. Therefore the Government ensured to place emphasis on gender based vulnerability and equality in its Integral Gender Action Plan.

The Government of Suriname considers education a priority and has identified it as one of the main pillars in eradicating poverty. The reduction of disparities related to gender, geographical location and socio-cultural background is a key concern of the Government. The Multi-Annual Development Plan therefore makes specific linkages between effective governance practices and efficient public services, private sector development and eradicating poverty as a basis for sustainable human development and achievement of the MDG's.

Mr. President,

Today, April 3<sup>rd</sup> Suriname will sign the Common Country Program Action Plan for the period 2008-2011 with participating UN agencies (UNDP, UNFPA and UNICEF). This CPAP addresses the pursuit of the Millennium Development Goals and reflects some of our national development priorities as already outlined in our national Multi-Annual Development Plan, constituting a strategy for focused actions on sustainable human development, eradication of poverty and human rights. We expect that the necessary financial resources will be made available by our development partners to effectively implement this program.

As we have just passed the midpoint of achieving the MDG's by the target date of 2015, please allow me to, in closing Mr. President, reiterate Suriname's commitment to realize sustainable development. We are ready to join the international community in complementing national efforts and creating strong global partnerships for accelerated actions to improve living conditions, wellbeing and opportunities for the many disadvantaged peoples throughout the globe.

I thank you.

**STATEMENT**

by

**H.E. Mr. Anders Lidén  
Ambassador and Permanent Representative  
of Sweden**

**on behalf of Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden**

**at the Thematic Debate of the General Assembly  
on the Millennium Development Goals**

**United Nations  
New York**

**1-2 April 2008**

**- CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY -**

**Thematic Debate on the Millennium Development Goals**  
**1-2 April 2008**  
**Joint Nordic Statement**

Mr Chairman,

I am honored to speak on behalf of Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden.

The five Nordic countries join their voices in this statement to stress a key message: the internationally agreed development goals, including the MDGs, cannot be achieved without broader enjoyment of sexual and reproductive health and rights.

We are convinced:

- that healthy women with the freedom to participate fully in the society is a prerequisite for any country to achieve its full potential for sustainable economic and social development,
- that the ability of women to control their own fertility and their access to reproductive health services is necessary to significantly reduce maternal and child mortality rates,
- that access for young men and women to contraceptives, comprehensive sex education and confidential reproductive health services is crucial in reducing adolescent birth rates,
- that sexual and reproductive health education and access to reproductive health services are the best guarantees for the prevention of hiv/aids,
- that every person's access to sexual and reproductive health and rights is fundamental for achieving gender equality.

But we have a long way to go. It is estimated:

- that 70% of the 1.3 billion people living in absolute poverty are women and girls,
- that two thirds of the world's work is carried out by women and girls, for less than 5% of total income,
- that each year there are over 500 000 maternal deaths – one woman dying every minute from complications during pregnancy or childbirth - and more than 90% of those deaths occur in Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia,

- that one-quarter to one-half of girls in developing countries become mothers before age 18,
- that 60% of HIV-positive adults in Sub-Saharan Africa are women, and 75% of newly-infected youth are girls and young women age 15-24.

Therefore, the Nordic countries have put sexual and reproductive health and rights at the center of our international development cooperation. We encourage all partners to do the same, and we expect the United Nations to be a leader in these efforts.

Mr. Chairman,

We welcome that the General Assembly has included universal access to reproductive health by 2015 as a target in the MDGs. This target is a clear signal to all of us to step up our support to programs promoting sexual and reproductive health and rights.



**Permanent Mission of the United Republic of Tanzania  
to the United Nations**

**CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY**

**STATEMENT BY**

**AMBASSADOR AUGUSTINE P. MAHIGA,  
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE  
UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

**AT THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY THEMATIC DEBATE  
ON THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS**

**TUESDAY, APRIL 2, 2008**

**201 East 42nd Street, Room 1700, New York, New York 10017  
Tel. No. (212) 972-9160**



**STATEMENT BY DR. AUGUSTINE P. MAHIGA, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE  
OF THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS AT THE  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY THEMATIC DEBATE ON THE MILLENNIUM  
DEVELOPMENT GOALS, NEW YORK, 2<sup>ND</sup> APRIL 2008.**

Your Excellency Srđjan Kerim, President of 62<sup>th</sup> Session of  
the General Assembly;

**Mr. President,**

As we begin the second half of the period set to achieve the MDGs we thank you, Mr. President, for convening this timely thematic debate focusing on *achievements, challenges and getting back on track in the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)*. We commend your strategic choice of the MDGs related to poverty, education and health where progress is most needed and for their positive impact on other goals. May I also express our appreciation to the Secretary General of the United Nations for his ongoing efforts to involve key international financial institutions to focus on scaling up the achievement of the MDGs in Africa by establishing the Africa MDGs Steering Group. Tanzania appreciates this initiative and is encouraged by the demonstrated commitment of the leadership of the United Nations and by the system wide engagement of the Organization in mobilizing the international community to support the timely achievement of the MDGs.

**Mr. President,**

Tanzania is, however, concerned by the overall slow progress towards achieving the goals in Africa by 2015 but we are also encouraged by the spirited efforts by African states to achieve some goals where political determination prevails and assistance from developing partners is forthcoming. Most developing countries have undertaken economic and governance reforms inspired by the Millennium Declaration of 2000 and agreed upon in the Monterrey Consensus of 2002. The 2005 Summit reaffirmed those commitments, but there remain significant gaps and bottle-necks which need to be

urgently addressed at both political and implementation levels by all partners in the developed and developing countries. The commitments of Gleneagles and Heilegendamm by the developed countries need to be honoured urgently and predictably, as part of the mutual obligation.

In the meantime, there have been negative trends globally which are militating against progress in achieving the goals and need to be collectively addressed by the international community.

**World economic trends**

The mixed economic indicators in the World Economic Outlook for 2007 and 2008 show that the world economy is slowing down. The stalled negotiations of the Doha Development Round on trade preclude prospects for fair trading practices for developing countries. If this trend, in outlook and impasse on trade continue, our efforts in fighting poverty and achieving the MDGs will be adversely affected. In addition, the current energy crisis is depleting the foreign exchange reserves of developing countries and domestic savings. Similarly, climate change is crippling agriculture production and accelerating environmental damage with far reaching consequences on economic growth and sustainability. The combined effects on the energy crisis and climate change on Africa is pushing up food prices for countries depending on food imports and frustrating efforts to fight food shortages and hunger.

The United Nations should continue to show robust leadership on how to address the negative effects of climate change and should, with urgency, assume leadership in spearheading action on the global energy crisis. Without those comprehensive measures, efforts to achieve the MDGs would be seriously behind schedule in many developing countries. It should also be emphasized that investments to achieve the MDGs must be linked to long term infrastructural and growth sectors to sustain the achieved goals.

**Poverty,**

**Mr. President,**

Poverty and hunger are the most visible indicators of human deprivation and insecurity. Halving extreme poverty and hunger by 2015 is appropriately the number one goal among the MDGs and is probably the most intractable, but experience has shown that hunger can be alleviated through policies geared to promote productivity and growth in the economies of developing countries in both urban and rural areas. Growth in gross terms should also be accompanied by equity measures to reduce the gap between the rich and the poor if poverty reduction is to be effective in real terms.

In Tanzania, the 2005 and 2006 reports on poverty reduction indicated a modest progress but also the need for scaling up interventions in this area. Tanzania has formulated its second generation of poverty reduction strategies based on MDGs focusing on results in achieving poverty and hunger reduction goals. In Mainland Tanzania, the Strategy is known by the Swahili acronyms of MKUKUTA and in Zanzibar MKUZA. The latest figures indicate an average annual rate growth rate of 6.5 per cent of the gross domestic product. However, the increase is diminished by population growth which stands at 2.9. The daunting challenge is to translate economic growth into poverty reduction as measured by household incomes. During the past, food poverty decreased from 22 per cent to 19 per cent while inequality increased slightly, mainly in urban areas. Overall, the food situation has been satisfactory but the vagaries of weather due to climate change have caused pockets of food shortages from time to time.

Accelerated economic growth is needed in order to enhance the domestic resource base and improve government ability to provide public services. In Tanzania, several development partners have resorted to budget support as a way of enhancing aid harmonization and effectiveness. This strategy coupled with debt relief measures is enhancing national MDG - based policies in reducing poverty. Further, In February this year, the Government of the United States of America and Tanzania signed a compact of \$698 million Compact from the Millennium Challenge Account to stimulate sustainable economic investment in key economic sectors such as infrastructure and energy. We believe that this historic intervention will support national efforts to achieve the MDGs and to accelerate the overall economic development of the country.

## **Education**

### **Mr. President,**

In education, by 2006, net enrolment rates in primary education had risen to 94.8 per cent. There is near gender parity with regard to enrolment of girls and boys at the primary school level. Primary School retention rates have improved from 71 per cent in 1997 to 79 per cent in 2004 and steadily improving. Tanzania is therefore on track and sure of achieving MDG No. 2 by 2015. Retention of boys in school is slightly higher than that of girls and there is also a major concern on the average performance of girls due to interruptions in attendance. Equally, there has been a national campaign to expand Secondary School enrolment and to correct the gender imbalance in enrolment and retention at the Secondary level.

Adult illiteracy remains high compared to what Tanzania had attained in the 1970s and 1980s. The decline was due to reduced expenditure in education due to the structural Adjustment Programmes. According to the 2002 Population census data 28.6 per cent of Tanzanians cannot read and write. There is more illiteracy among women (36 per cent) than in men (20.4 per cent). The target of eliminating illiteracy by 2015 remains a challenge particularly for rural women. The Government is committed to enhance the quality and standard of education at all levels through programs that focus on increasing the number of qualified teachers, improving school facilities and other social amenities that improve the learning environments in school. The overall spending in education has been considerably increased. Education is taking 18 per cent of the annual budget.

## **Health**

### **Mr. President,**

The government has developed strategies aimed at reducing infant mortality and child mortality, especially malaria-related morbidity and mortality. Programmes include improved vaccination coverage, availability of services including drugs at the time of need, Integrated Management of Childhood Illnesses (IMCI) rolled-over to all districts,

efficient implementation of planned programmes; and malaria control through use of mosquito nets particularly Insecticide-Treated Nets (ITNs). Five out of ten mothers and children sleep under ITNs. Under-five mortality decreased from 191 per a thousand live births in 1990 to 133 in 2005. Infant mortality also declined from 115 in 1990 to 68 in 2005. More children under 5 years of age, increasingly sleep under mosquito nets, from 21 per cent in 1999 to 36 percent in 2004. The proportion of children with fever declined from 35 per cent in 1999 to 23 percent in 2004. There is steady progress in this MDG4 but not as significant as in the area of universal primary education.

There is also Intermittent Preventive Treatment (IPT) during pregnancy and immediate medical treatment of malaria for children under five years within the first 24 hours of the onset of symptoms. In addition there are programmes such as Vitamin A Supplementation (VAS), Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission (PMCT); promotion of exclusive breastfeeding for the first six months of infancy; and effective management of childhood diarrhea. Over half of expectant women deliver at home and not at health facilities and as such may not be attended by skilled personnel or have access to Emergency Obstetrics Care (EmOC).

Data shows that maternal mortality situation has not changed much in Tanzania and therefore requires significant scaled-up investment and intervention. The proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel increased by only 5 per cent between 1999 and 2004 and births taking place in health facilities by only 3 per cent in the same period. The negative trend in maternal mortality especially in mainland Tanzania is compounded by the impact of the HIV and AIDS pandemic. However sustained efforts to combat the pandemic in Tanzania has reduced HIV infection rates from 9.1 per cent to 7.7. per cent between 2001 and 2004; and the downward trend is continuing.

**Mr. President**

The experience of Tanzania shows that a national MDG-based development framework and strategy combined with timely and predictable resources can make a significant difference in the progress to advance the MDGs. For example debt relief and re-investment in education has led to greater expansion and improvement in the

education MDG which will be achieved before 2015. In contrast, MDG4 and 5 are lagging behind despite the existence of an elaborate national strategy. It is for this reason that we welcome the five nations global initiative led by Norway to mobilize additional resources for scaling up investments in the two health related MDGs.

In conclusion Mr. President, Tanzania calls for a more coordinated international and national arrangements for tracking and speeding up pledges and commitments. The private sector and international financial institutions should also be encouraged to have a greater involvement with MDGs directly and indirectly similar to the initiative of the Secretary General with the MDG steering Group for Africa. To this end, we look forward to 22 and 25 September this year to the high level events here at the United Nations to refocus attention on the mobilization of resources and to provide fresh momentum in achieving the MDGs in Africa.

I thank you Mr. President.



**PACIFIC SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES**  
**United Nations Member States**

*Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Tonga to the United Nations*  
250 East 51st Street  
New York, NY 10022

Phone: 917-369-1025  
Fax: 917-369-1024  
E-mail: tongaunmission@aol.com

**Statement by**

**H.E. Mrs. Fekitamoelea 'Utoikamanu**

**Ambassador/Permanent Representative**

**Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Tonga**

**to the United Nations**

**On behalf of the**

**Pacific Small Island Developing States**

**Thematic debate of the General Assembly**

**“Recognising the achievements, addressing the challenges,  
and getting back on track to achieve the MDGs by 2015”**

**New York, 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2008**

Mr President,

I have the honor to speak on behalf of Pacific Small Island Developing States (PSIDS) namely Fiji, Nauru, Micronesia, Marshall Islands, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu, Vanuatu and my own country, the Kingdom of Tonga.

At the outset, we wish to thank you for convening this thematic debate on "Recognising the achievements, addressing the challenges, and getting back on track to achieve the Millennium Development Goals by 2015". We fully support your call for urgent action as well as the emphasis that this offers a window of opportunity for the international community to redouble efforts to achieve the goals.

Mr President,

At mid-point between the historical Millennium Summit (2000) where our world leaders endorsed the roadmap for a better world to be gauged by the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by 2015, the Pacific SIDS has made some notable progress in specific areas towards achieving the MDGs. However at current trends, most of the Pacific SIDS face challenges to achieve all of the MDGs by 2015.

Whilst embracing primary responsibility for our development, it is also recognized that Pacific SIDS face common constraints which make their economies more vulnerable due to the very nature of their size, remoteness from markets, limited human resource capacity and vulnerability to natural catastrophes and the impact of climate change.

These challenges are exacerbated where there has been conflict, civil/political instability. Governance challenges, the impact of global externalities such as rising oil and food prices, domestic urban/rural migration and labor mobility, have also limited the ability of Pacific Governments to implement the necessary policy initiatives to realize significant MDG gains.

Our leaders recognized that these serious challenges require the pooling of scarce regional resources of governance and aligning policies to strengthen national capacities. Regional integration and cooperation therefore plays a vital supporting role for Pacific SIDS. In 2005 our leaders endorsed the Pacific Plan which reflects the region's priorities and which was subsequently reaffirmed in 2007 to be in line with and support the implementation of international frameworks such as the Barbados Programme of Action and the Mauritius Strategy of Implementation. The Pacific Plan focuses on four overlapping pillars including economic growth, sustainable development, good governance, and security, with strategic frameworks including (a) Increasing the levels of sustainable returns to the Pacific; (b) Ensuring the successful implementation of regional cooperation at the national level; (c) Meeting common responsibilities and providing services cost-effectively; and (d) Developing partnerships with neighbours and beyond.



Mr President

While globally, the Asia/Pacific region leads the way on poverty reduction with very high economic growth rates in some countries, the Pacific SIDs has not been as successful with lower rates of economic growth and an indication of greater poverty.

The Pacific SIDS is growing on average by about 3% annually. Individual country performance however tends to be diverse and uneven. The average growth rate is insufficient to meet the requirements needed to balance competing national priorities with resource constraints and enhance the effectiveness of often diminishing aid to produce better development outcomes.

Energy is a key driver for economic growth in Pacific SIDs, and with the rising price of oil, this hampers the necessary capital accumulation to sustain the development process. It is therefore essential that affordable, clean and efficient energy are available to all through reliable, affordable energy services.

Available data suggests that, on average, one in four households in the Pacific experience poverty (MDG1) and hardship as measured by the national basic needs poverty line. However hunger is not a significant issue for many countries in the Pacific. Although malnutrition does exist, obesity and its consequent non-communicable diseases has become a growing challenge in most Pacific Island Countries.

Mr President,

There has been the significant progress on access to educational opportunities for boys and girls (MDG2) and gender parity in education (MDG3), with relatively high primary school enrolment rates in most countries ranging from 100% to 60.3%. These figures highlight that education is both recognized as a basic human right, and it is also seen as essential to underpin the future prosperity of Pacific countries. At the same time, while enrolment rates may be high, there is a need to look at completion rates to ensure that the number of children out-of-school is reduced. There is a particular need, in some Pacific countries, to give more attention to ensuring that females are able to attend and complete their schooling.

There are more women present in the labor force (MDG3) than ever recorded previously. However, the share of women in the non-agricultural sectors is much less than men and many women are likely to work in agriculture and often as unpaid family workers.

Our leaders in 2007, endorsed that work be undertaken to explore ways to enhance the participation particularly of women in decision making processes and institutions in particular, the parliamentary processes.

The gender dimension however should also be addressed throughout all interventions and not just on MDG3, in order to improve gender equality and empower women, and make resources available for appropriate interventions.

Mr President,

The rates of child and infant mortality (MDG 4), which are amongst the most important indicators of social development, are generally improving in Pacific SIDs, although regional and sub national variation can be noted requiring additional efforts and attention at sub national level in these countries. Substantial progress has also been made in some countries on immunization of one-year olds against measles. Improvement is needed to extend coverage to all children in most countries.

The incidence of the number of cases of tuberculosis is estimated to have increased since 1990.

The reported HIV infections rate (MDG 6) remains low for most Pacific SIDs. Pacific governments have however recognized the need to respond to this challenge head on, and consequently, most Pacific SIDs have a National Multi-sectoral HIV/AIDS Strategic Plan in place. This is complemented by the Regional HIV/AIDS Strategy which contributes to coordinated responses. Countries are addressing the need to undertake legislative reform and put in place the appropriate legal framework to ensure that the rights of people living with HIV are respected. The challenge for Pacific SIDs is to turn the policy and legal frameworks into reality through appropriate planning, costing and budgetary allocations.

Mr President,

The importance of environmental sustainability (MDG7) is recognized in all Pacific Islands Countries through the integration of sustainable development into country policies and programs. However, while it is accepted that managing the environment contributes to achievement of the other MDGs and is crucial for future generations, the translation of policies into action on the ground has been challenging for most PICs. On reversing the loss of environmental resources, the Pacific presents a mixed picture, with rapid rates of deforestation occurring in some countries. Access to safe water, which is critical to reducing child mortality and in contributing to achievement of other goals, is relatively high in most PICs (MDG7). However, sustainable access to improved water sources and sanitation needs improvement in rural and remote areas.

Advocating for and supporting both policy and behavioral change in the areas of natural resource and environmental management, including mitigation and adaptation to climate change, has been identified by regional frameworks as key to reducing this long term vulnerability and building more resilient Pacific SIDs and communities. There is growing evidence that climate change is one of the most important threats to the social, economic and environmental development of PICs. This has the potential to have serious adverse consequences for socio-economic development, even to the extent of threatening the very existence of some states, particularly those that are predominantly atolls. This has serious implications for MDG achievement.

Increasing populations, unsustainable productions and consumption patterns, dependence on climate sensitive industries such as tourism, fisheries and agriculture, and location of major infrastructure in coastal areas make PICs particularly vulnerable to climate change and natural disasters. Support needs to be provided to Pacific Island Countries to assess climate change risks, and to develop and adopt strategies

which contribute to sustainable development, sound environmental management and judicious resource use.

Mr President,

The challenges for the Pacific SIDS to get back on track to achieve the MDG Goals by 2015 are daunting but not impossible with increased level of support of the international community to address the plethora of issues including the need to accelerate economic growth rates to more sustainable levels, strengthening governance systems, addressing the HIV/AIDS pandemic more effectively, addressing education and health challenges, addressing vulnerabilities related to climate change and natural disasters, while also addressing cross-cutting issues like gender equality and empowerment of women. Addressing the special needs of SIDS, including access to technology, affordable and available medicines, and jobs for their growing populations, particularly for youth, are important steps to reach the MDGs in the Pacific.

The Pacific SIDS, are of the view that serious consideration of the MDGs cannot be made without reference to "financing for development" which includes the scaling up of the quality and quantity of ODA. It is also fully recognized that even when there is an increase in ODA, this is to be complemented by functional systems, institutions and processes so that improved aid effectiveness produces better and relevant development outcomes.

Thank you.





# PERMANENT MISSION OF TURKEY TO THE UNITED NATIONS

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

STATEMENT BY  
MR. FAZLI ÇORMAN  
DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF TURKEY  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

GENERAL ASSEMBLY THEMATIC DEBATE  
“RECOGNIZING THE ACHIEVEMENTS, ADDRESSING THE CHALLENGES AND  
GETTING BACK ON TRACK TO ACHIEVE THE MDGs BY 2015”

NEW YORK, 2 APRIL 2008



[www.un.int/turkey](http://www.un.int/turkey)

Mr. President,  
Distinguished Delegates,

It gives me great pleasure to address the General Assembly on one of the most urgent and crucial topics of the UN agenda, and that is the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Since my Delegation has aligned itself with the statement delivered by the distinguished Representative of Slovenia on behalf of the European Union, I will try to be brief and touch upon just a few issues from our national perspective.

Globally our performance report on the MDGs is so far mixed. There is no doubt that, we clearly lag behind in a number of Goals. In particular, the least developed countries face formidable challenges in meeting the MDGs. However, there is also an encouraging progress in many parts of the world in confronting the challenges of poverty eradication, reduction of child mortality and combating diseases like HIV/AIDS and malaria.

As for Turkey, although in general we are making good progress in achieving the MDGs by 2015, there are some areas that still need particular attention. To this end, we have already adjusted our National Development Plan for 2007-2013 in line with the MDG requirements.

However, regarding the Millennium Development Goals, one cannot be satisfied with progress on a national level alone. The goals should be pursued and achieved on a global scale. For this purpose, we need concerted actions through which governments, business communities and civil society organizations in both developed and developing countries join their forces together.

Accordingly, although Turkey is a developing country itself, we firmly believe that we also should do our part to help others in their quest to attain the MDGs.

Mr. President,

With this target in mind, we actively participate in almost all international efforts aiming at achieving the MDGs. We consider development assistance as one of the main tools at our disposal and thus have been steadily increasing our Official Development Assistance (ODA) over the recent years.

Indeed, Turkey's ODA has risen from 601 million USD in 2005 to 715 million USD in 2006, which corresponds to 0.18 % of its GNI. Moreover, Turkey's total assistance for 2006 including also the funds funneled by the Turkish private sector reached at 1.7 billion USD. Although we do not have the full data yet, we now estimate that we have managed to further increase this figure by almost 50% in 2007. It is also worth taking note that almost half of Turkey's assistance is specifically geared towards attaining the MDGs.

Presently, Turkish International Cooperation and Development Agency (TİKA) is carrying out numerous projects in countries spanning from Central Asia to the Balkans, from Middle East to Africa, and from Asia-Pacific to Latin America and the Caribbean. With 22 field offices, the last three of which have been opened in Ethiopia, Senegal and in the Sudan, it contributes to the development of many countries in various regions.

Just to give you a better understanding of TİKA's outreach, allow me to briefly cite some of the very recent programs pursued by this organization. For instance, a fund of 15 million US Dollars was allocated for the implementation of projects through TİKA in the LDCs, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States. Additionally, we pledged 5 million USD to finance small and medium scale regional development projects in the LDCs during the Ministerial Conference on "Making Globalization Work for the Least Developed Countries" which was held in İstanbul in July 2007. Moreover, Turkey has very recently launched a new initiative and decided to allocate an additional 50 million USD to African countries for their projects in health, education and economic development over a 5-year period. Let me add that we will continue to support and fund the projects of the developing countries in as many regions as possible.

Distinguished Delegates,

Economic outlook of the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) as a whole carries special importance in terms of achieving internationally agreed development goals, including the MDGs. We have to bear in mind that improving the living conditions of over 600 million people residing in the LDCs presents us a litmus test in "making poverty history". In line with this conviction, and as I have already alluded to, we channel our development funds with an LDC-focused approach. Beyond actively assisting the development efforts of the LDCs, we also do our utmost to make their voices widely heard. As a manifestation of our continuing support to the cause of the LDCs, it is a great pleasure for me to declare our willingness to host the Fourth UN Conference on the LDCs, to be held before the end of the decade.

Mr. President,

Achieving the MDGs requires a multi-faceted and comprehensive approach. Because of time constraint, I would like to refer to just one of them. About two months ago we were discussing here the negative impacts of climate change and our UN-led global response to the daunting challenge that it poses. Beyond the traditionally held categorization of climate change as an environmental issue, it is also clearly part and parcel of sustainable development and poverty reduction. As the UNDP's 2007/2008 Human Development report rightly warns, we should focus on the wide-ranging negative implications of climate change on the overarching endeavor of attaining the Millennium Development Goals.

Mr. President,

We pursue a common vision that envisages building a better place for our children where they can be raised in a safer, healthier and more prosperous world with equal opportunities. Stakes are so high that we cannot even think about losing this race against time. I sincerely believe that the momentum generated by this thematic debate will further encourage us in fulfilling our commitments to meet the Millennium Development Goals. Turkey on its part will do its utmost to continue contributing to this process.

Thank you.

1 April 2008

**Statement of Mr. Ted Turner,  
at the Thematic Debate on the Millennium Development Goals**

Thank you for that warm welcome. And thank you President Kerim for inviting me to be here.

It's always great to be back at the UN because this is where the most important work in the world is happening.

The Millennium Development Goals are a reflection of that work and your commitment.

If we don't make progress on the MDG's, we're going to have more war and conflict. Recent studies have confirmed what our instincts tell us – peace and poverty have a strained relationship. If we end poverty, the world will be a more peaceful and secure place.

Ending poverty will also help the global economy. Any businessman or woman worth their salt knows that leaving 30-50 percent of the world's people out of global trade and commerce makes no sense – especially in today's integrated global economy.

If we achieve the MDG's we've got a shot to preserve the Earth's life support systems. Good planets are hard to find and without one, we can pretty much forget about the future.

Peace, prosperity and pollution provide the rationale for the MDGs and also help explain how interdependent we are in the 21st century.

That's why the eighth MDG – calling for a Global Partnership for Development – is probably the most important. It reflects the fact that the fates of all people and nations are linked. Unless we can help the world's poor create a better life, no one's prosperity can be secure.

In an interdependent world, we all have roles and responsibilities to fulfill. Donor nations have to honor their commitments to provide the support needed to achieve the MDGs. Seven-tenths of one percent of the Gross National Product for development assistance is not unreasonable – in fact it should be a donor floor, not a ceiling. It also is not unreasonable to expect recipients to make smart choices, adopt policies of good governance and assure that money is being well spent.

But in today's world, the global partnership needed to achieve the MDGs extends far beyond governments. We can't successfully address the world's great global challenges unless businesses and NGOs, philanthropic leaders and the faith community work together.

Ten years ago, I founded the United Nations Foundation to try and do my part as a businessman and philanthropist. Over the past 10 years, the UN Foundation has emerged as a platform for



connecting people, capital and ideas with the UN to help achieve the MDGs. And we've had some real success.

We've delivered some \$1.2 billion in support of UN causes – and in the process helped to save children's lives, empower women, advance clean energy solutions and harness technology for humanitarian and development purposes.

Over time, we've realized that our real value is not in the number or amount of projects we start. Our value is in forging partnerships between business, civil society and the United Nations. When these sectors work together, there's virtually nothing we can't do:

- We have partnered with Rotary International, UNICEF, CDC, the Gates Foundation and the World Health Organization to help push polio to the brink of eradication;
- Our collaboration with the Vodafone Group Foundation is harnessing mobile phone technology to help the UN's humanitarian relief and health efforts;
- We're working with the NIKE Foundation, UN agencies and a broad coalition of NGOs to raise global priority for the rights and needs of adolescent girls;
- We're proud co-founders of the Measles Initiative, a remarkable collaboration with the Red Cross, CDC, UNICEF, and WHO that has reduced the African child mortality rate associated with measles by 70% over the past six years – ahead of schedule and under budget.
- And through our Nothing But Nets campaign we are working with an unlikely coalition of faith communities, the VH-1 television network, the NBA, and Major League Soccer to help provide bed nets for malaria prevention in Africa.

And there are many other exciting examples of public-private partnership – from the GAVI Alliance to the Global Water Challenge to the Global Fund for HIV/AIDS, TB and Malaria. All of these are sorely needed demonstrations that people of diverse backgrounds, cultures and expertise can work together, and that we can succeed in building a better world.

But to continue and expand on this, we need to set some key priorities that can help advance each and every MDG.

First, we should make it a top priority to empower women and girls.

Imagine what could be achieved if every woman and girl were allowed to develop to their full potential, had equal rights and every opportunity to contribute to their families, their communities and their countries.

Imagine how maternal, child and family health would improve if women had ready access to clean water, reproductive health care and other essential services. Imagine if every young girl completed secondary education and was not forced into a marriage she didn't understand, wasn't prepared for or never consented to?

And imagine what kind of world it would be if these educated, healthy women were full participants in the social and economic life of their communities.

Imagine that kind of a world and you can begin to imagine the end of poverty.

Two weeks ago, one of the UN Foundation staff was in East Africa where a young woman from Malawi said: "If I ran a country we'd meet all the MDGs." I'm sure she's right. We wouldn't need the MDGs if women were in charge, and we can be certain that we won't achieve them unless women are fully engaged in our global partnership to achieve the MDGs.

My second suggestion is that we prioritize creation of a new energy economy. We know that we can't achieve any of the MDGs without energy. Nearly one third of the world's people have no electricity. More than a million people – mostly women – die every year from breathing wood smoke while they're cooking. But if we use coal and oil to get them electricity, we're all going to be cooked – literally – from climate change. We need a global partnership for development that's built around the development and deployment of clean energy technologies.

If we don't get a handle on global warming, all of the efforts to achieve the MDGs will be compromised – and the people who have contributed the least to the problem will be the ones who will suffer the most from its consequences.

The good news about energy is that investors can see an opportunity. They poured nearly \$150 billion worldwide last year into renewable energy investments. I believe they are going to transform the world's energy systems in ways that will help with poverty alleviation and economic growth. Small-scale systems will come down in price and provide the energy that is essential for human and economic development, even at village scale. To do that, we need partnerships between governments and entrepreneurs, and between energy pioneers in the North and South, to make sure that these new technologies are available and affordable and scaled to the needs of developing countries.

My third and final suggestion is that we find ways to reach out to the world's great religions and engage them even more in advancing the MDGs. Faith leaders have a long history on the front lines of anti-poverty efforts. These institutions have been feeding the hungry, educating the young and healing the sick longer than the UN has been in existence. And they have a history of walking the talk by actively engaging their members in this great moral campaign for justice and human dignity.

The UN Foundation has partnered with faith communities on a variety of different causes and efforts. Later this month, we will join international faith and development leaders in Washington to forge a common agenda for empowering women and girls around the world.

Today, I am pleased to announce a very special new initiative that we've been working on to take our malaria prevention efforts to an entirely new level. This wouldn't be possible with the leadership of the faith community. And it just goes to show that you've got to have faith to build a better world.

I'd like to recognize Bishop Janice Huie of the United Methodist Church and Reverend John Nunes from Lutheran World Relief. Together, we are announcing a new initiative to contribute to the internationally-agreed goal of eliminating malaria deaths. As they have in the past, the Lutherans and Methodists are stepping up to provide moral and financial leadership. They will reach out to their combined 25 million members in an effort to mobilize \$200 million toward the elimination of malaria. These funds will help eliminate malaria deaths by strengthening health systems, supporting the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB & Malaria and advancing the churches' on-the-ground health missions.

This initiative significantly advances the UN Foundation's ongoing efforts to forge malaria partnerships, such as the Nothing But Nets campaign which has engaged hundreds of thousands of individuals and raised over \$18,000,000, and our ongoing work with Roll Back Malaria at WHO. And we are proud that the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation has supported the development of our expertise in building malaria partnerships. We will harness this expertise to help these faith leaders educate the public about malaria, advocate for a global response, mobilize funds and link their ongoing mission work with the global framework the UN and others have put in place to help eliminate malaria deaths.

We hope that this new initiative will further demonstrate our commitment to working with you and your governments to address the diseases of poverty and realize the MDGs. Malaria is a manifestation of poverty and its elimination will be a manifestation of our combined efforts to remove health burdens and allow developing countries to invest in sustainable development.

Stopping malaria will go a long way toward giving people in all countries new hope and confidence that we can succeed in the fight against poverty.

Hope and progress are the shared human aspirations that link all of us together – regardless of our faith, our history, or our circumstances. And we, as leaders in the public and private sectors, have a special responsibility to break down the barriers that stand in the way of hope and progress.

Some say that envisioning a world without poverty is naïve. I say that accepting a world of rampant poverty is cowardly. Some say that poverty alleviation hasn't worked. I say that we just haven't tried hard enough. Some say that they never heard about progress. I say that they just haven't looked closely:

- In the past 15 years alone, the proportion of people living in extreme poverty fell from nearly 30% to less than 20%.
- Smallpox has been eradicated and polio is right behind it.
- The MDG's have spurred dramatic progress in global education – more children are in school than ever before and the gender gap is slowly being closed.
- Child mortality has declined globally and dipped below 10 million deaths annually for the first time ever.
- Thanks to family planning programs, people are able to determine freely the number and spacing of their children and population growth rates have declined.

Poverty is on the run and we just need to keep chasing it down.

On behalf of the UN Foundation and its hundreds of partners – including the leadership of the churches with us here today – I pledge to you that we will keep fighting.

Thank you for being here today and thank you for your commitment and daily work on behalf of a better world.

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

Permanent Mission of the  
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES  
to the United Nations  
New York



البعثة الدائمة  
لدولة الامارات العربية المتحدة  
لدى الأمم المتحدة  
نيويورك

**Statement by**

**H.E Dr. Maitha Salem Alshamsi**

Minister of State  
Head of the Delegation of the United Arab Emirates

at the General Assembly Thematic Debate  
on the Millennium Development Goals

**“Recognizing the Achievements, Addressing the Challenges  
and getting on track to achieve the MDGs by 2015”**

**New York, 2 April 2008**

**Please Check against Delivery**

Thank you Mr. President

Allow me at the outset to express to you on behalf of the United Arab Emirates delegation our deep gratitude and appreciation for convening this important meeting, and for your efforts in directing it. We wish success and the best.

Mm. President,

We were hoping that after the lapse of half the time set to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, we would have crossed half the distance towards those goals. But the last report on the MDGs indicates that progress achieved in the three major areas, has been slower than anticipated, and that there are still numerous challenges facing a number of developing countries, mainly in Africa. All of which threatens to delay achieving the goals till after 2015.

The UAE is of the firm conviction that eradication of poverty and hunger is a major step towards the reinforcement of peace and the maintenance of security in the world. We recognise without any doubt that succeeding in overcoming these challenges requires a strong global partnership in which the developed and developing countries assume their responsibilities which were agreed on in the Millennium Declaration and other conferences and forums on development, in particular the Monterey Consensus. In this regard, we urge the developed countries to fulfill their commitments to achieve the 0.7% of Gross National Income for Official Development Assistance to developing countries, and alleviate or cancel their debts. We stress the importance of allowing the developing countries to opportunities of participating in the global market in a just and equitable manner, and providing them with up to date technical assistance to enable them to build their national capacities, develop their societies, mobilize their natural resources and bring in foreign investment to achieve their development goals. In the mean time, we urge the developing countries to adopt economic policies that encourage production and money making and to create enabling national environment to attract foreign investment; support and energize the private sector.

Mr. President,

My country has a unique experience in the field of achieving the Millennium Development Goals and of dealing with economic challenges facing developing countries, where we accomplished prominent achievements in a short period of time. We succeeded in maintaining political and social security through the adoption of a development economic policy focusing on the development of human resources in the first degree. We thus succeeded in investing the revenues of oil, which is considered the main source of our national income, to diversify and expand the production base and the sources of national income while focusing on sectors such as industry, commerce, agriculture, fishing and services. In addition, we supported policies of free economy as well as providing incentives to stimulate the private sector and create the proper environment to attract foreign investments.

With that efficient economic policy we succeeded in achieving total eradication of poverty and raising the average income per capita to the highest level in the Middle East and among many countries of the world. In the mean time we were able to lower the ratio

of people with very low income to less than 1% of the total number of families. Our present goal is to maintain this high standard of living and enhance it.

As to fulfilling the goal :” elementary education for all”, our country has recognized the importance of education in achieving human development and national security and stability, therefore we have supported obligatory primary free education for all people , raising the percentage of enrollment of capable children from both sexes in elementary schools to 98 % . It is forecasted that we will reach a 100% enrollment by 2015.

And as to the reduction of childhood mortality by 2/3 , we have developed and enhanced the health care sector , especially in areas such as motherhood and childhood , where we succeeded in reducing the percentage of mortality among children under age five to 9,4 per 1000; it is expected to be reduced to 6,5 by 2015 . It is estimated that 94% of children received vaccination against childhood diseases; we expect to reach 100% by 2015. Ain the mean time we were able to reduce the rate of post natal mortality by 86% (compared to the required rate of 75%) and we were able to reach 100 % rate of births given under skilful trained health officials.

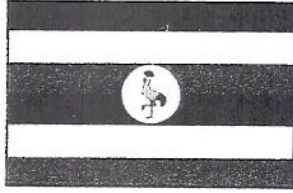
As to the goal of eradicating HIV/AIDS, Malaria and Tuberculosis the UAE succeeded in maintaining the lowest rate of HIV cases in the world. And in 2002 UAE was announced free of Malaria, while the program to combat TB was successful in reducing the rate of Tuberculosis case to a minimal .46%

Mr. President,

My country has always been an active and effective partner in the global partnership for Development and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, through its commitment to implement the recommendations of conferences on development and its effective contributions to the UN agencies, international and regional institutions concerned with development assistance as well as participating in the implementation of development programs in developing countries. My country contributes 3,6% of the GNP for development assistance to developing countries, besides hosting a big number of expatriates workers from all over the world. This in addition to special initiatives taken by my country to provide the necessary financing for specific development programs , the latest of which was “ Dubai Care “ campaign launched in 2007 to provide basic education for one million children in developing countries, especially in Africa.

In conclusion, we hope that we will be able, through this meeting to take stock of what we achieved in relation to the MDG and be able to pin point the challenges and causes that hinder the full and timely implementation of those goals.

Thank you



**UGANDA**

---

Permanent Mission of Uganda  
to the United Nations  
New York

Tel: (212) 949-0110  
Fax: (212) 687-4517

---

**STATEMENT BY**

**AMBASSADOR FRANCIS K. BUTAGIRA  
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF UGANDA  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

**AT  
THE UN THEMATIC DEBATE ON THE MDGS**

New York, 2 APRIL 2008

*Please Check against Delivery*



President of the General Assembly,  
Honourable Ministers  
Distinguished Representatives,  
Ladies and Gentlemen

Mr. President,

Uganda attaches great importance to the implementation of the Millennium Development goals and its follow-up mechanism. While we continue to invest a great deal of effort and resources for its success, we also believe that attaining the goals requires coordinated actions both at the national and international levels.

Mr. President,

Uganda, in implementing the various economic and structural reforms in the 1990s, met with a lot of challenges that provided many useful lessons. That prompted the Government to adopt in 1997 the Poverty Eradication Action Plan (PEAP) as our national development framework and a medium-term planning tool. Although the PEAP predates the MDGs, it contains targets similar to those of the MDGs. Since then the PEAP has guided the formulation of Government policy and the implementation of programmes through sector-wide approaches and a decentralized system of governance. The PEAP derives its strength from powerful implementation mechanisms tied into the national budget process. For coordinated implementation, all internationally agreed development goals including the MGDs have been carefully integrated into the PEAP.

Mr. President,

Like most developing countries, Uganda has faced great challenges in her efforts towards achieving the MDGs. But despite the challenges, some progress is being made notably on goals number 2, 3, 6 and 7.

In 1997, Uganda embarked on Universal Primary Education (UPE) effectively doubling primary school enrollment from 2.7 million to 6.5 million. Currently we have 7.6 millions of which 50% are girls. This is no mean achievement. The challenge now remains to improve the quality of education being provided and I may mention here that Uganda has now embarked on Universal Secondary Education.

Gender equality and empowerment of women is a crosscutting issue in the PEAP as well as environment and HIV/AIDS. Thus government has mainstreamed gender issues into all its developmental and social agenda.

Key progress on gender equality includes revising the National Gender Policy and refocusing its objectives. Progress on gender disparity among primary school pupils is way above the PEAP target of 67% for 2003.

We have reduced the prevalence rate of HIV/AIDS from about 20% in 1996 to current 6.4%

Progress on goal number 7 with specific regard to ensuring access to safe drinking water and sanitation is at 50% - 60% for rural and urban areas respectively.

Mr. President,

This is part of the good news but the bad news is that Uganda is off track on the important goals number 4 and 5 which are unlikely to be met by 2015.

While there is a downward trend in poverty from 56% to 31% now, a lot still remains to be done. The decline in poverty has been more pronounced in urban areas. Several factors account for the disparities in the incidence of poverty including insecurity, climate variations, HIV/AIDs incidence, type of agricultural activity and the degree of access to infrastructure and social services.

My delegation would like to underscore the fact that getting back on track on these goals entails doubling of our efforts. But more crucial is effective and timely international support in aid of our nationally owned strategies. Let me point out some of the factors that hinder our realization of MDGs which have to be addressed.

1. More than 75% of the population is dependent for its livelihood on agriculture which is the backbone of the economy. The important link between agricultural productivity, development and the standard of living remains critical in reducing poverty. Restricted market for agricultural exports is frustrating progress in the modernization of agriculture. I also want to mention here that the recent food import surges as a result of liberalisation policies have resulted in killing industries and creating unemployment in developing countries, as a consequence of lowering tariffs. Something must be done to ensure food security and the livelihood of rural folks.
2. Heavy dependence on export of primary commodities keeps growth in the economy volatile as it is affected by changes in the international commodity market. To be competitive we must add value to our primary produce and ensure also quality standards.
3. High dependence on oil as a source of energy means that the sustained high oil prices will continue to weaken progress towards the MDGs.
4. Our economy is donor-dependent to some large extent with heavy external debt burden to bear. The declining level of ODA flows and donor reluctance to fulfill their commitment is greatly frustrating progress towards the MDGs. Further aid utilization must be nationally determined and oriented towards budget support rather than project focused.
5. There is the question of a fast growing population, although in Uganda, we believe, we have not reached the optimal growth to achieve the desired economic development.

Mr. President,

In conclusion, my delegation wishes to reiterate the G77 call made to our development partners to fulfill their commitments in areas that are critical such as trade, aid, investment including transfer of technology, and financing for development. The UN has a key role to play in promoting global partnership for development. Through its country level operational activities, it should continue to help developing countries to build necessary capacity for the achievement of the MDGs; on our part we are ready to do part of our bargain.

I thank you.



United Kingdom Mission  
to the United Nations  
New York

One Dag Hammarskjöld Plaza  
(885 Second Avenue)  
New York, NY 10017

Mailing Address:  
PO Box 5238  
New York, NY 10150-5238

Telephone: (212) 745-9200  
Fax: (212) 745-9316

E-mail: [uk@un.int](mailto:uk@un.int)

**Statement by Gareth Thomas,  
Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State,  
Department for International Development.**

**Thematic debate on the Millennium Development Goals  
"recognising the achievements, addressing the challenges and  
getting back on track to achieve the MDGs by 2015"**

**2 April 2008**

**Check against delivery**

The UK supports the statement made by my Slovenian colleague this morning on behalf of the European Union.

In 2000 the international community declared we would spare no effort to achieve the eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

Huge progress has been made. But halfway to 2015 - "our pace is too slow".

The UK Government is deeply committed to delivering the Millennium Development Goals and has focused on a handful of themes which we consider critical to their achievement.

When almost one billion people are living below the poverty line increasing levels of economic growth and volumes of trade between countries is essential.

When 72 million children were still out of primary school in 2005, helping countries to build more schools and hire more teachers is essential. And when more than 10 million children die before their 5<sup>th</sup> birthday of disease we cannot ignore the importance of child mortality.

In short we need to reignite international attention, enthusiasm and action to achieve the MDGs. We will only achieve the progress we all want if we can increase aid.

Our aid volumes are on track to reach 0.7 per cent of Gross National Income by 2013, well ahead of schedule. However we (the UK) agree with the EU and the President of the General Assembly that a concerted effort from across the international community is needed to meet the pledges made in 2005.

Yesterday we heard the President of the General Assembly Srgjan Kerim say that 2008 was a "window of opportunity" to accelerate progress on the MDGs and the Secretary-General himself echoed these sentiments when he said "2008 should mark a turning point in progress towards the MDGs".

In January the UN Secretary-General and the UK Prime Minister Gordon Brown, Were joined by representatives from country governments, the private sector and civil society to launch a year of action on the MDGs.

At every possible opportunity this year need to work together to promote further action. Any action we take must address implementation gaps and scale-up successes. As part of the UK's contribution to this effort we will co-host a meeting of CEOs of major companies with UNDP in London on May 6. This meeting will showcase how the private sector can use core business expertise to support growth and reduce poverty in developing countries.

Between now and September there are a number of international fora where accelerating progress on the MDGs can and must be discussed. These include the World Bank/IMF Spring Meetings, June EU Council, July G8 Summit, Accra Aid Effectiveness Forum, the Doha Financing for Development

Conference and, of course, ECOSOC. I am delighted that I will be there to deliver our presentation and set out the UK's progress towards reaching our commitments under the MDGs - and helping others to reach theirs.

Most importantly, the UN Secretary-General and the President of the General Assembly will co-host a high-level meeting on the MDGs in New York on September 25. This meeting will bring together world leaders, civil society and the private sector. Much has been said during this meeting about the need for actions, not just words. We hope countries will use this meeting as an opportunity to set out specific commitments and practical action plans on the MDGs.

Just last week the UK Prime Minister Gordon Brown and French President Sarkozy announced a partnership to help get 16 million children into school by 2010. In September last year Gordon Brown, with Ministers from developing and donor nations, launched the International Health Partnership to improve donor, country and agency working and the way aid money is spent in the area of health.

I encourage all nations to attend this meeting in September and, like the examples I've just mentioned, consider how they can contribute to accelerate action.

Today, we have the knowledge. We have the technology. And we have the wealth to make a difference for millions of people on our planet by helping to lift them from grinding poverty by giving them the opportunity to learn, be healthy and make enough to support their families.

As the President of the General Assembly said yesterday "we must now demonstrate the political will and turn our promises into action".

Выступление Главы делегации Украины,  
Заместителя Министра экономики Украины Крючковой И.В.  
на тематических дебатах „Цели Развития Тысячелетия ООН:  
достижения, ответы на вызовы на пути к достижению целей до 2015 года”  
в рамках 62 сессии Генеральной Ассамблеи ООН  
(Нью-Йорк, 2 апреля 2008 года)

**Уважаемый господин Председатель!**  
**Господин Генеральный секретарь!**  
**Уважаемые дамы и господа!**

Прежде всего, хотела бы присоединиться к заявлению, сделанному делегацией Словении от имени Европейского Союза, а также коснуться в своем выступлении вопросов, имеющих особую важность для нашей страны.

Украина стала одной из первых стран на постсоветском пространстве, которая откликнулась на инициативы Генерального секретаря ООН – господина Кофи Аннана и присоединилась к Декларации тысячелетия.

В 2003 году Правительством была проведена работа по адаптации ЦРТ и подготовлен первый национальный доклад „ЦРТ: Украина”. Далее было подготовлено еще два - Мониторинговых доклада „ЦРТ: Украина. 2000+5 ”, и последний - третий национальный доклад “ЦРТ: Украина. 2000+7”. Здесь даны результаты социально-экономического развития Украины на полпути к 2015 г. - намеченному сроку достижения ЦРТ. На данном этапе для Украины очень важно достичь национального согласия и разработать долгосрочную стратегию развития на основе ЦРТ.

Основные направления деятельности на пути достижения ЦРТ: повышение институциональной способности для выработки политики преодоления бедности; проведение ЦРТ-ориентированной социально-экономической политики; формирование открытой системы мониторинга достижений ЦРТ для общественности; имплементация целей, заданий и индикаторов ЦРТ в государственную систему разработки системы программных и прогнозных документов; инкорпорация ЦРТ в национальные и местные стратегии развития.

Адаптированная для Украины система ЦРТ состоит из установленных на национальном уровне целей (6), задач по каждой из целей (13); соответствующих индикаторов (33), с помощью которых ежегодно проводится мониторинг достижения целей.

Для Украины установлены следующие национальные Цели

Развития: Преодоление бедности; Обеспечение качественного образования в течение жизни; Устойчивое развитие окружающей среды; Улучшение здоровья матерей и уменьшение детской смертности; Ограничение распространения ВИЧ-инфекции/СПИДА и туберкулеза и сокращение их масштабов; Обеспечение гендерного равенства.

Матрица задач и индикаторов национальных ЦРТ в Украине базируется на концепции человеческого развития, охватывает долгосрочный горизонт исследований и мониторинга уровня жизни населения Украины, качества предоставленных социальных услуг.

Министерство экономики как ключевой координатор по разработке стратегий и программ имплементирует задания и показатели ЦРТ в правительственные решения по реализации социально-экономической политики.

Премьер-министром Украины госпожой Юлией Тимошенко - разработана и уже 100 дней реализуется программа «Украинский прорыв». Приоритетным направлением Программы является преодоление бедности, уменьшение дифференциации населений по доходам и повышение всех социальных стандартов. Правительством разрабатывается среднесрочная программа повышения конкурентоспособности Украины в условиях европейской и евроатлантической интеграции до 2015 года. Мы ожидаем, что ее реализация обеспечит необходимый ресурс для выполнения наших обязательств по ЦРТ.

**Уважаемый господин Председатель!**

Позвольте мне проинформировать о состоянии выполнения заданий ЦРТ.

### **ЦЕЛЬ 1: ПРЕОДОЛЕНИЕ БЕДНОСТИ**

Мы поставили две задачи - снизить наполовину Удельный вес населения, которое потребляет в сутки на сумму не выше 4,3 долл. США (по паритетах покупательной способности) т.е. с 11,9% в 2000 году до 5,5% в 2015 г. А по национальному критерию – уменьшить удельный вес населения, живущего за чертой бедности на одну треть – с 27,2% в 2001 г. до 18,4% в 2015. С первой задачей мы справились. Сегодня лишь один процент нашего населения потребляет на сумму менее, чем 4,3 долл. США (ППС). Однако за чертой бедности по национальному критерию, т.е. ниже 75% от медианного уровня расходов живет столько же населения, сколько и в 2001 г. Это является следствием постоянного

повышения социальных стандартов, что влияет и на поднятие медианного уровня совокупных расходов населения. Так, за последние 4 года реальные доходы населения выросли в 1,8 раза, одновременно вырос и национальный критерий бедности.

Для кардинального прорыва в этом вопросе Правительство приняло решение поднять минимальную пенсию по возрасту до уровня прожиточного минимума для неработающих с первого апреля сего года (т.е. со вчерашнего дня). А минимальная заработная плата будет на уровне прожиточного минимума для работающей части населения - с 1 января следующего года. Соответственно повышаются социальные стандарты для семей с детьми и особенно – помощь при рождении детей.

Политика Правительства, нацеленная на повышение доходов наименее обеспеченных слоев населения способствует снижению поляризации населения по доходам. Одновременно решается и проблема снижения бедности семей с детьми.

## **ЦЕЛЬ 2: ОБЕСПЕЧЕНИЕ КАЧЕСТВЕННОГО ОБРАЗОВАНИЯ В ТЕЧЕНИЕ ЖИЗНИ**

Традиционно Украина отличается высоким уровнем образованности населения и конкурентоспособности трудовых ресурсов. Украинское высшее образование стремится достичь большего соответствия потребностям молодежи и требованиям рынка труда. Присоединение Украины в мае 2005 года к Болонскому процессу обусловило изменения в системе высшего образования в Украине, вызванные необходимостью адаптации к международным требованиям, предъявляемым к высшему образованию.

В целом по охвату населения образованием мы идем в соответствии с заданными целевыми ориентирами.

Сейчас перед правительством поставлена задача гармонизировать образовательные стандарты с европейскими.

## **ЦЕЛЬ 3: ОБЕСПЕЧЕНИЕ ПОСТОЯННОГО РАЗВИТИЯ ОКРУЖАЮЩЕЙ СРЕДЫ**

Благодаря структурным изменениям в экономике и усовершенствовании механизмов регулирования в области охраны окружающей среды на протяжении последних лет наблюдается относительная стабилизация экологической ситуации в Украине. Продолжается деятельность по внедрению механизмов Киотского протокола в Украине. Однако по ряду критериев есть отставание. В



первую очередь это касается двух заданий. Первое - увеличить долю населения, которое пользуется чистой питьевой водой: в городах - с 86 до 93%, в селах с 63 до 72%. Здесь прогресс еще слабый. Второе задание - стабилизировать загрязнение воздуха стационарными источниками выбросов. Объем вредных выбросов в атмосферу не должен увеличиваться, несмотря на экономический рост и составлять не более, чем 4,1 млн.т. в год. (2007 - 4,2).

Правительственной программой поставлена задача ужесточения экологических стандартов и решительных шагов в улучшении экологического менеджмента.

#### **ЦЕЛЬ 4: УЛУЧШЕНИЕ ЗДОРОВЬЯ МАТЕРЕЙ И УМЕНЬШЕНИЕ ДЕТСКОЙ СМЕРТНОСТИ**

Начиная с 1995 года, материнская смертность в Украине имеет тенденцию к снижению. Если в 2000 году она составляла 24,7 чел. на 100 тыс. родившихся живыми грудных детей, то в 2006 году этот показатель составил 11,5 человек. За последние годы показатель детской смертности снизился. Если в 1993-95 годах этот показатель достигал 14,9-14,7, то в 2006 году - 9,8 на 1000 новорожденных живыми грудных детей. Уровень смертности детей до 5 лет - в 2006 году 12 на 1000 умерших в среднем за год (в 2001 году - 14,9).

Правительством предпринимаются системные шаги по помощи молодым семьям, решению их жилищных проблем, помощи одиноким матерями и новорожденным детям.

Кроме того, уже на сегодня реорганизованы родильные дома, созданы и технически оснащены отделения реанимации новорожденных для выхаживания детей с весом менее 1кг.

Разработано и выполняется несколько государственных целевых программ, нацеленных на уменьшение детской и материнской смертности.

#### **ЦЕЛЬ 5: ОГРАНИЧЕНИЕ РАСПРОСТРАНЕНИЯ ВИЧ-ИНФЕКЦИИ/СПИДА И ТУБЕРКУЛЕЗА**

Масштабы распространенности ВИЧ/СПИДа и туберкулеза в Украине есть одними из высочайших в Европе. С каждым годом увеличивается количество зарегистрированных случаев ВИЧ-инфекции. Так, если в 2005 г. было зарегистрировано 13,8 тысяч случаев, то в 2006 г. зарегистрировано уже 16,1 тысяч случаев. Несмотря на то, что в Украине в 2006 году уровень заболеваемости туберкулезом снизился на

1% (83,2 чел. на 100 тыс. населения), а смертность от туберкулеза снизилась на 12,2% (22,1 на 100 тыс. население), ситуация с заболеваемостью туберкулезом остается угрожающей. За 15 последних лет показатель заболеваемости туберкулезом увеличился в 2,4 раза, а смертности - в 2,7 раза.

На данный момент Правительством разработано ряд Государственных целевых программ (ГЦП), целью которых является решение этих проблем, но здесь нужна также и международная помощь.

### **ЦЕЛЬ 6: ОБЕСПЕЧЕНИЕ ГЕНДЕРНОГО РАВЕНСТВА**

8 сентября 2005 года Верховной Радой Украины принят Закон Украины «О обеспечении равных прав и возможностей женщин и мужчин». В 2006 году безработных женщин зарегистрировано в 1,5 раза больше чем мужчин. В 2006 году соотношения между средней заработной платой женщин и мужчин составляло 72,8% против 70,9% в 2005 году.

В тоже время наблюдается увеличение присутствия женщин в центральных и местных органах исполнительной власти и в Верховной Раде (Парламенте) Украины.

**Уважаемый господин Председатель!**

Достижение целей развития страны будет успешным при условии объединения усилий власти, бизнеса и общественности вокруг демократических ценностей на основе дальнейшего повышения эффективности государственно-частного и международного партнерства в решении этих задач и поиске ответов на новые вызовы глобального мира.

Еще раз хочу подчеркнуть. Украина поддерживает выводы, высказанные представителем Словении от имени ЕС.

**Благодарю за внимание.**



PERMANENT MISSION OF FINLAND TO THE UNITED NATIONS  
866 UN PLAZA, SUITE 222, NEW YORK, NY 10017 - TEL. 1-212-355-2100 - FAX 1-212-759-6156

## General Assembly Thematic Debate

Recognizing the achievement, addressing the challenges, and getting back on track to achieve the Millennium Development Goals by 2015

Statement by Mr. Matti Vanhanen,  
Prime Minister of the Republic of Finland

United Nations Headquarters  
New York, 1 April 2008

(check against delivery)

Mr President, Secretary-General, Ladies and Gentlemen,

1. May I thank you, Mr President, for your invitation to me to attend this session and to speak on such an important theme. I would also like to commend the Secretary-General for his intervention and assure him of Finland's continued support to the United Nations organisation and for a more effective, efficient, and coherent United Nations.

2. It is a great honour for me to participate in this forum which addresses the achievements and challenges of the Millennium Development Goals. The session in the Millennium Summit in 2000 in which they were adopted, was chaired by Ms Tarja Halonen, the President of Finland, together with Mr Sam Nujoma, the President of Namibia. The goals were adopted in order to manifest the political will of the international community to turn the wheel for development in a way that every nation shall contribute, according to its resources.

3. We have now passed the halfway mark of the timeline. As we approach the target year of 2015, it is our duty to analyse what we have achieved and what remains to be done to fulfil our commitment to the world's poor and to provide for a better future for those whose needs are the greatest.

4. Let me first admit that we Europeans have perhaps recently been focused more on the internal development of the European Union. But now, after having concluded our negotiations for the Treaty of Lisbon, we in Europe now

need to move on from our own institutional questions and continue our active global role. It is only through active engagement that we can meet the common goals of the entire international community, such as eradicating global poverty and tackling climate change.

5. Many leaders have pointed out that the Millennium Development Goals, are not being met. I agree with the assessment of my British colleague Gordon Brown, presented here at the UN Headquarters in New York. We face an emergency - a development emergency - and we need to take immediate action if we are to meet the goals we have set. This year is indeed a critical year for development. After reaching the halfway point towards the MDGs it is clear that we must inject new momentum into the process.

6. Progress can however be seen with some Millennium Development Goals, in particular with the topics we address in today's panels.

The goals and the ways to achieve them are interlinked in many ways. Security, development and human rights constitute the foundation of a just society. Democracy needs to be further promoted. The eradication of corruption and the promotion of good governance are also crucial for development.

7. According to the available data, eradicating extreme poverty and hunger by 2015 is possible. Globally, we have made gains but more efforts are needed in Southern Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa. In East Asia, some countries have been able to stabilise their policies on the path of accelerated economic growth and break away from the low-income category. But vast inequalities still exist in some regions, in income, asset distribution, opportunities of employment, social services and benefits, or political power, access to information and political participation.

8. Gender inequality and social exclusion of some populations make the pattern even more complex. This is also true in some areas of South Asia where rapid population growth generates massive migration. In low-income regions, especially in Sub-Saharan Africa, high indebtedness aggravates the situation.

9. Many children still lack access to health services and education. Child mortality has decreased but maternal mortality rates are still very high. Especially vulnerable are those living in fragile states where poverty is aggravated by wars and conflicts. This shows the enormous challenge of implementation.

10. A particular challenge relates to our environment. We have committed ourselves to integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programmes in order to reverse the loss of environmental resources. We should reduce by half the number of people without access to drinking water and significantly improve the lives of 100 million slum dwellers, by 2020.

11. The year 2008 will be crucial for the global response to climate change. The outcome of the negotiations in Bali was a breakthrough but the real challenge lies ahead: We have less than two years to come to an international agreement to combat climate change. It is clear that all countries need to contribute to this effort but we also need to help each other with this demanding task. And we need to act with urgency. Two months ago I had a chance to attend the Delhi Sustainable Development Summit. It was once again alarming to hear how in many countries climate shocks already affect the living conditions of the poor. At the Delhi meeting it was clearly underlined that in the long run climate change can seriously undermine the international community's efforts to reduce extreme poverty.

12. It is of extreme importance to work together to ensure that climate change does not throw human development into reverse. Global development must be both environmentally sustainable and socially just. As predicted by the International Panel on Climate Change, the impacts of climate change will be unevenly distributed among different regions, generations, income groups and among men and women.

13. The poor, of which 70% are women, are disproportionately affected. The disadvantages that poor women face - their limited access to resources, restricted rights, limited mobility and muted voice in shaping decisions - make them highly vulnerable to climate change. Only by fully engaging women as active participants in all aspects of society can we achieve our goals.

14. Climate change and environmental questions have become the main issues of development policy in Finland. We see renewable energy as a key factor in this matter. Finland supports programmes and projects that focus on saving energy, increasing energy efficiency and producing renewable energy. These types of projects should specifically target poor countries and regions. Bio-energy projects can further be linked with the promotion of sustainable forestry. Local production of energy and linking it with forestry generate sustainable economic growth.

Mr. President,

14. In spite of all the commitments and efforts of the international community and the positive developments in some parts of the world, there are still more than 800 million people suffering from hunger. We currently face the challenges of soaring food prices due to low food stocks, high oil prices and

increasing demand for biofuels and changing consumption patterns. Small farmers and rural populations are often the most vulnerable and also the first to suffer from the negative consequences of climate change.

15. One important aspect of development which I would like to mention here is the link between trade and development. How to generate development which increases economic and trading capacity of the least developed countries? There is no trade without a sound economic basis which includes production infrastructure, administrative structures as well as communication and distribution channels. With the help of trade, economic dependence can be broken and a higher level of economic development attained. The business and financial world should be invited to participate fully in this process. Investment opportunities should be shared by all, domestic and international actors alike. It has been clearly shown that globalisation has in all been beneficial, especially to the middle-income countries, and raised many countries from poverty.

Mr. President,

16. There is an immediate urgency to address the challenges of maternal mortality. Practically no improvement has lately been seen although it is one of the most significant factors causing inequalities between developed and developing countries. In Finland, high maternal mortality and child mortality were overcome with rather simple and low-cost measures, such as community-level midwives, hospital access for women with complications and nurse counselling after birth. To combat maternal mortality effectively, it is essential that the prevention of HIV/AIDS and sexual and reproductive health and rights become fundamental elements of basic health care everywhere in the world. Unlimited population growth easily undermines many otherwise successful efforts to achieve millennium development goals.



17. The two education-related Millennium Development Goals are of critical importance. Finland is strongly committed to promoting the universal right to education. Our development policies highlight the importance of the education of women and girls as the key element of sustainable development. In accordance with the lessons we have learned on our own path of development, the promotion of educational equality, universal primary education and the comprehensive sector plans for education are essential.

Mr President,

18. In conclusion, allow me to emphasise that sustainable development requires national ownership. Foreign aid and partnerships can complement and support national efforts. Much has been recently said about donor responsibility. We should be better co-ordinated and the quality of our aid should be improved. More resources are needed. Let me say a few words on our approach.

19. My own country is on track to achieve the 0.7 % target by 2015 but it is a challenging job. When my first government started in 2003, we directed 506 million euros to development aid. When my second government ends its work in 2011, development aid will have risen according to the decisions already made to 1110 million euros. The growth is of the order of 119 percent in eight years. During my present government, the growth of development aid corresponds to 20 percent of the total growth of government spending.

20. In spite of this rapid growth, I know that meeting the target of 2015 will entail many difficulties but I believe that our decisions taken so far reflect the serious commitment and willingness of my country to reach this goal. When we increase development aid, we shall have to save in some other sectors.

To keep the support of our citizens for the rapid growth of development aid I cannot but hope that our wishes on aid efficiency are taken seriously into account. People in donor countries want to help but they also expect that aid fulfils the purposes it is meant for.

21. The topics of today's debate, poverty and hunger, education and health, are the most vital issues to be addressed in order to achieve the Millennium Development Goals. We should also keep in mind that these goals must be sustained beyond 2015. This is crucial for the future and well-being of humankind.

Thank you, Mr President



**REPÚBLICA BOLIVARIANA DE VENEZUELA  
MISIÓN PERMANENTE ANTE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS**

**Cotejar con el discurso**

**Intervención de la  
Embajadora Aura Mahuampi Rodríguez de Ortiz  
Representante Permanente Alternata**

**“Debate Temático de la Asamblea General:  
Reconociendo los logros, enfrentando los retos y  
regresando al camino para cumplir con los Objetivos de la  
Declaración del Milenio en el 2015”.**

en el marco del 62º período de sesiones de la  
Asamblea General

Nueva York, 03 de abril de 2008.

Señor Presidente,

Primeramente, nuestra delegación se suma a los importantes aportes de la Distinguida Delegación de Antigua y Barbuda, en nombre del Grupo de los 77 y China y el Grupo de Río; sin embargo, desea presentar algunas consideraciones.

El Gobierno de la República Bolivariana de Venezuela resalta la significación del tema general de este debate temático, relativo a la evaluación de los logros y retos en el cumplimiento de los Objetivos de la Declaración del Milenio, y por considerarlo una respuesta al clamor de la mayoría de los países en desarrollo ante el deterioro económico, social en la que se encuentran sometidos millones de ciudadanas y ciudadanos como consecuencia de falta de disponibilidad de los recursos financieros necesarios para la vida, tal como lo denunció el Presidente de la República Bolivariana de Venezuela, Hugo Chávez, en el marco de la Cumbre Mundial 2005, cuando habiendo sido convocados los Jefes de Estado y de Gobierno para realizar dicha evaluación, se encontraron con un debate sobre reforma de la ONU, con lo cual se postergaba la discusión urgente y prioritaria para nuestros pueblos.

Para el gobierno de la República Bolivariana de Venezuela el tema de la erradicación de la pobreza y el hambre resulta crucial porque este se ha constituido en la columna principal del accionar de nuestra política de desarrollo social, pues entendemos que la pobreza es una de las más despiadadas afrentas al ser humano porque atenta contra su dignidad y viola sus derechos humanos, al tiempo que la pobreza no puede ser eliminada desde el modelo de producción capitalista, ya que éste, por su propia naturaleza y dinámica, anula y condena al ser humano, es productor de miseria y causante de injusticia y desigualdad.

Asimismo nos sentimos satisfechos con este debate, no sólo por los resultados que podemos mostrar al mundo en virtud de algunas de las metas alcanzadas en el marco de los Objetivos contenidos en la Declaración del Milenio, sino fundamentalmente por la deuda social que estamos saldando con nuestro pueblo.

Señor Presidente,

A tal efecto, el Gobierno de la República Bolivariana de Venezuela, con base en los principios de equidad, solidaridad e inclusión social y con los objetivos de erradicar la pobreza, alcanzar la justicia social, garantizar el disfrute de los derechos humanos de forma universal y equitativa y fortalecer la participación social y ciudadana, ha venido desarrollando una serie de programas sociales conocidos como Misiones Sociales, las cuales son programas socioeconómicos de alcance masivo, articuladas dentro del nuevo modelo de desarrollo socialista que se constituye actualmente en la República Bolivariana de Venezuela, dirigidos fundamentalmente a las personas que fueron víctimas de la exclusión social. Cuyos resultados en la lucha contra la pobreza son incuestionables.

En las infraestructuras hospitalarias debemos destacar, la construcción del hospital cardiológico infantil latinoamericano "Dr. Gilberto Rodríguez Ochoa", para la atención de niños, niñas y adolescentes que padecen problemas cardíacos, el cual cuenta con 260 camas de hospitalización, 32 camas de cuidado intensivo, 4 quirófanos, 2 unidades de hemodinámica, 30 consultorios y un auditorium para 130 personas y ofrece atención a pacientes de Latinoamérica y el caribe.

Otro punto importante de resaltar es la política de salud para el tratamiento de personas que padecen del VIH-SIDA, fundamentado en los principios de universalidad, gratuidad, equidad, integración social, solidaridad y no discriminación, a través de la cual se suministran medicamentos al total de pacientes registrados con una inversión de 50 millones de bolívares fuertes, lo que nos permite declarar el total cumplimiento de esta meta.

En el plano internacional, en lo que respecta a nuestro país tratamos de contribuir en la construcción de un mundo más solidario y equitativo, procurando el intercambio mutuo y justo con nuestros pueblos hermanos del sur y de esta forma alcanzar en forma efectiva y solidaria los objetivos de la Declaración del Milenio.

En este sentido la República Bolivariana de Venezuela, como país productor y exportador de petróleo, en el Marco de la Cooperación Sur-Sur ha impulsado la integración energética; en consecuencia queremos destacar las siguientes iniciativas: Petroamérica, Petrocaribe y Petrosur las cuales están concebidas como un habilitador geopolítico orientado hacia el establecimiento de mecanismos de cooperación e integración, utilizando los recursos energéticos de las regiones del Caribe, Centroamérica y Suramérica, como base para el mejoramiento socioeconómico de los pueblos del continente, en cuyo marco la República Bolivariana de Venezuela vende en la actualidad, aproximadamente, unos 200.000 barriles diarios de petróleo a Centroamérica y el Caribe.

Este tipo de acción, además de brindar seguridad energética para apoyar el desarrollo sustentable de pueblos hermanos, representa un ahorro consolidado de aproximadamente 1.600 millones de dólares al año para éstos países.

Señor Presidente,

Tomando en consideración que en este Debate se ha hecho referencia a los asuntos del cambio climático y concientes que su impacto impedirá que muchos países alcancen los Objetivos de la Declaración del Milenio para 2015, si no se reduce el riesgo, adapta y mitigan los efectos de eventos naturales extremos que han provocado niveles catastróficos de daños en la infraestructura dejando a ciento de miles de personas sin hogares y sin medios de vida y han amenazado la seguridad alimentaría e incrementaron los niveles de vulnerabilidad de muchos países del sur, situación esta que ha nuestro criterio obliga a la comunidad internacional a considerar la situación actual de endeudamiento de estos países, y de acuerdo a la magnitud y frecuencia de estos impactos plantear una

PERMANENT MISSION OF THE  
REPUBLIC OF YEMEN  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

413 EAST 51st STREET  
NEW YORK, N.Y. 10022  
TEL: 212-355-1730  
FAX: 212-750-9613



الوفد الدائم للجمهورية اليمنية  
 لدى الأمم المتحدة  
 نيويورك

بيان

الجمهورية اليمنية

Mr. Ahmed Hassan BIN Hassan.

يلقيها الأخ السفير أحمد حسن بن حسن

نائب المندوب الدائم

امام

النقاش الموضوعي للجمعية العامة

" التسليم بالمنجزات، معالجة التحديات،

والعودة الى المسار لبلوغ الأهداف الإنمائية للألفية "

نيويورك، 3 ابريل 2008

السيد الرئيس،

في البداية أسمحوا لي أن أتقدم لكم بجزيل الشكر على عقد هذه المناقشة الموضوعية، ونحن على ثقة بأنه في ظل قيادتكم الحكيمة ستكفل أعمالنا بالنجاح وسنتمكن من تحديد التحديات والصعاب التي تواجه تحقيق الأهداف الإنمائية للألفية، والإجراءات اللازمة لتحقيقها في الإطار الزمني المحدد.

السيد الرئيس،

قامت الجمهورية اليمنية بتنفيذ العديد من الإصلاحات الاقتصادية والمالية والادارية منذ منتصف العام 1995م بالتعاون مع شركائها الاقليميين والدوليين، ووضعت الأهداف الإنمائية للألفية موضع الصدارة ضمن سياساتها وخطتها الخمسية الوطنية للتنمية 2006-2011، التي تركز على معالجة ظاهرة الفقر عن طريق اعطاء الاولوية للمشاريع والبرامج الاستثمارية كثيفة العمالة في القطاعات والمشروعات الصغيرة، ومراجعة السياسات الاقتصادية والقوانين والتشريعات المالية والضريبية وتعزيز النمو الاقتصادي والمناخ الاستثماري، وتمكين الفقراء من تملك اصول انتاجية من خلال توسيع سياسات الاقراض والتمويل للمشروعات الصغيرة والاصغر، وتفعيل آلية وبرامج شبكة الأمان الاجتماعي لتوسيع الحماية الاجتماعية وتوسيع خدماتها للشرائح الفقيرة، الى جانب تنمية القدرات البشرية للفقراء وتمكينهم من زيادة مشاركتهم في الانتاج.

وفي هذا الاطار، اقرت الحكومة اليمنية إنشاء آلية فنية للحكم الرشيد وتشكيل الهيئة العليا لمكافحة الفساد والهيئة العليا للمناقصات والمشتريات. وقد وضعت الحكومة اليمنية ثلاث اهداف استراتيجية على المدى البعيد يتمثل الاول في الارتقاء باليمن من المستوى المتدني الى المجموعة الاولى في مجال التنمية البشرية المتوسطة، فيما يركز الثاني على تحقيق نمو اقتصادي عالي، ويستهدف الثالثة خفض مستوى الفقر بنسبة 50 بالمائة عن مستويات عام 98م.

السيد الرئيس،

تواجه حكومة بلادي العديد من المصاعب والتحديات التي تحول دون تحقيقها للأهداف الإنمائية للألفية، تتمثل في الاشكاليات السكانية وتفاقم مشكلة الموارد المائية والبيئية وتدني تنمية الموارد البشرية ومحدودية القدرات التمويلية للاقتصاد الوطني، بالإضافة الى قلة المساعدات والدعم المادي والتكنولوجي والتقني. حيث لا يزال نصيب الفرد في اليمن من المساعدات الرسمية للتنمية متدني وهو ما يعادل 13 دولار امريكي سنوياً فقط، بينما يصل المستوى العالمي لنصيب

الضرد في الدول الأقل نمواً الى 33 دولار أمريكي سنوياً. كما أن ارتفاع الأسعار الذي شهده العالم مؤخراً في بعض المواد الغذائية الرئيسية سيلقي بأثاره السلبية على الجهود التي تبذلها الدول لمكافحة الفقر وتحقيق الأهداف الإنمائية للألفية.

السيد الرئيس،

يؤكد وفد بلادي على أهمية المساعدة الخارجية لدعم الميزانيات الوطنية المحدودة للبلدان الأقل نمواً ويجب اعتبار الاستراتيجيات الوطنية الإطار للتعاون ولشراكة التنمية. إلا أنه حجم هذه المساعدات الرسمية لم يصل الى المستوى المطلوب، فلا تزال حجم المساعدات الرسمية للتنمية للدول الأقل نمواً تراوح عند 0.08% من إجمالي الدخل القومي للدول المانحة، إضافة الى أن حجم المساعدات الرسمية للتنمية في انخفاض تدريجي منذ انعقاد المؤتمر الدولي لتمويل التنمية في عام 2002م. لذا يشدد وفد بلادي على أهمية إيفاء الشركاء الدوليين بالتزاماتهم السابقة المتمثلة بتخصيص 0.7% من إجمالي الدخل القومي كمساعدات رسمية للتنمية للدول النامية. بالإضافة الى تخصيص ما نسبته 0.20% كمساعدات رسمية للتنمية للدول الأقل نمواً بحلول 2010. ونؤكد على أهمية أن يكون توزيع المساعدات الإنمائية الرسمية عادلاً ومنصفاً لكافة الدول المتلقية.

السيد الرئيس،

أن مشكلة الديون الخارجية تشكل عائقاً كبيراً أمام جهود حكومة بلادي في تنفيذها لبرامج التنمية واستراتيجياتها الوطنية. لذا من الأهمية بمكان النظر في توسيع نطاق مبادرة تخفيف عبء الديون ليشمل جميع البلدان الأقل نمواً، ونؤكد على أهمية أن لا يكون تخفيف عملية الديون بديلاً عن مصادر التمويل الأخرى.

في الختام، السيد الرئيس، مما لاشك فيه أن هناك حاجة ماسة لإيجاد آليات رصد ومتابعة لضمان تنفيذ الإلتزامات والإجراءات المتفق عليها في المؤتمرات الدولية المتعلقة بالتنمية تنفيذاً فعالاً. ويتطلع وفد بلادي الى عقد مؤتمر المتابعة لإستعراض تنفيذ توافق آراء مونتيري في نهاية هذا العام بدولة قطر الشقيقة، على أمل أن يتوصل الى إقرار آلية رصد دولية لمتابعة مدى إلتزام جميع الأطراف بنتائج توافق آراء مونتيري. وشكراً السيد الرئيس.