



Second Committee Special Event

Panel discussion on “Achieving the MDGs by 2015: Preparing for the
2010 UN MDG Summit”

Monday, 12 October 2009

10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Conference Room 2

Concept Note

[Background]

More than half-way to 2015, the MDG track record is mixed. There is undeniable progress: three million more children now survive each year; an additional two million people receive treatment for AIDS; and millions more children are in school. Many countries have proved that rapid and large-scale progress towards the MDGs is possible, but requires strong government leadership, good policies that support private investment and productivity growth, and sound strategies for scaling up public investments that are reinforced by adequate financial and technical support from the international community.

Yet, many countries remain off track. This is particularly true across large parts of Africa and for many of the Least Developed Countries. The challenge of meeting the MDGs is being compounded by new challenges, such as the food, energy and financial crisis and climate change.

At the same time, technological advances and scientific break through provide new opportunities for reaching the MDGs. While Governments play a crucial role in providing the development framework, often civil society organizations, and private sector entities work the closest with the world’s most vulnerable and poorest people.

[Objectives]

The Second Committee’s High-level Special Event on *Achieving the MDGs by 2015: Preparing for the 2010 UN MDG Summit* will hear from distinguished experts their assessments of progress so far and views on what needs to be done in order to achieve the MDGs by 2015. The primary objective of the panel is to engage the entire membership of the General Assembly and the civil society in the preparations of the MDG Summit, and to help identify key issues to be covered by the 2010 MDG Summit.

The 2010 MDG Summit aims to assess how to best address the new challenges and how to harness new opportunities. As such, it thus provides an opportunity to reinforce the commitments and international support for the MDGs, and find means to channel limited

resources where they are the most urgently needed and to adjust the development efforts to a constantly changing world.

[Proposed questions to consider]

How to strengthen the accountability by all for effective implementation of the Millennium Development Goals by 2015?

How to ensure that the process of defining areas and initiatives for the MDG Summit involves a broad range of national stakeholders including parliaments, civil society and local actors?

How can the preparations for the 2010 MDG Summit benefit from the effective engagement of stakeholders such as parliaments, civil society and local governments?

How the 2010 MDG Summit can best address the new challenges caused by the triple crisis and how to harness new opportunities? What kind of policies, processes and institutional structures need to be adjusted to address these challenges and opportunities at the national, regional and global levels?

How do we catalyze the required additional resources and efforts in order to achieve the MDGs within the agreed timeframe?