



END POVERTY 2015 *Make it happen*

MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS

High-level Event on the Millennium Development Goals, United Nations Headquarters, New York, 25 September 2008

MEDIA ADVISORY

WORLD LEADERS TO BOOST ACTION TO END EXTREME POVERTY AT UNITED NATIONS HIGH-LEVEL EVENT, 25 SEPTEMBER

Business, Foundation and Activist Leaders to Announce Initiatives as Part of Mobilization to Reach Millennium Development Goals

"The High-level Event on the Millennium Development Goals to be held on 25 September 2008 will gather together world leaders to discuss and translate new and existing commitments into decisive and timely action to ensure that all countries can achieve the Millennium Development Goals. It is my firm hope that we will be able to look back on this day as the moment when the world got back on track to reaching the Goals."

– UN Secretary-General BAN Ki-moon

WHO: Nearly 100 Heads of State and Government will be joined by leaders from the private sector, foundations and citizen activist groups, as convened by UN General Assembly President Miguel D'Escoto Brockmann and Secretary-General BAN Ki-moon – to commit to further actions to make the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) a reality.

WHEN: Thursday, 25 September 2008

WHERE: United Nations Headquarters, 1st Avenue and 46th Street, New York

WHAT: At the halfway point towards the 2015 target date to achieve the Goals, the UN Secretary-General and the President of the General Assembly will bring together world leaders to review progress, identify gaps, and commit to concrete action to bridge the gaps. By asking leaders to announce their specific plans, the High-level Event will help accelerate implementation and follow-through.

- » Recent successes in the developing world (e.g. increased school enrolment, agricultural productivity and access to clean water, progress towards eradicating malaria and expansion of AIDS treatment) demonstrate that rapid progress is possible in achieving the MDGs when sound policies are matched with increased aid and technical support.
- » But many countries are off-track – none of the Goals are likely to be met in Africa if current trends continue, and even in middle-income countries, large pockets of people still live in extreme poverty. The urgency to intensify efforts on the MDGs is heightened by the rise in food and fuel prices, and the increasing challenge of climate change.
- » The High-level Event is being convened during the annual General Assembly debate (opening 23 September) and will follow a high-level meeting on Africa's development needs (22 September).
- » At many partnership events, leaders from government, business, foundations and civil society, often working in broad coalitions, are expected to announce new concrete actions to spur achievement of the Goals.

PRESS EVENTS:

- » **4 September** – The UN Secretary-General launched a report, *Delivering on the Global Partnership for Achieving the Millennium Development Goals*, which assesses the mixed international performance in the areas of trade, ODA, debt, essential medicines and technology. (See www.un.org/esa/policy/mdggap.)
- » **11 September** – Curtain-raiser press conference by the UN **Secretary-General** on the High-Level Event on MDGs and launch of the MDG Report 2008, a new report card on progress and challenges in achieving all Goals (UN Press Briefing Room 226, 11:00 am; launch events around the world)
- » **25 September** – Closing press conference by the UN **Secretary-General** and invited high-level participants (6:00 pm, Conference Room 4)

OFFICIAL EVENTS:

Opening plenary session: 25 September, 8:45 to 10:00 am, General Assembly Hall

- » The High-level Event on MDGs will open with a plenary, where statements will be made by the General Assembly President, UN Secretary-General, and invited guest speakers, including several Heads of State/ Government, and representatives from the private sector and civil society.

Parallel thematic roundtables: 10:00 to 1:00 and 3:00 to 5:30pm, venues TBC

- » There will be three parallel roundtables on
 - (1) **Poverty and hunger;**
 - (2) **Education and health;**
 - (3) **Environmental sustainability.**
- » Gender equality and global partnership to be addressed across all roundtables. The parallel roundtables will maximize interactive engagement on the issues by Heads of State/Government and other stakeholders.

Closing session: 5:30- 5:45 pm, Trusteeship Council

- » The Secretary-General will summarize the themes and issues arising from the opening session and roundtables, and key announcements made at partnership events.

PARTNERSHIP EVENTS:

Several major announcements and initiative launches are expected at a range of events held between 21 and 25 September, at the UN or elsewhere in New York City, including the following:

Monday, 22 September

9 am – 5 pm

Working Out of Poverty: A Decent Work Approach to the MDGs

With Mary Robinson, President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf of Liberia, ILO Director General Juan Somavia, SEWA founder Ela Bhatt. Venue: Millennium Plaza Hotel; Organizers: International Labour Organization, Realizing Rights - the Ethical Globalization Initiative. Open to media; contact: Cassidy@ilo.org.

Tuesday, 23 September

9:30 am – 12:30 pm

GCAP Poverty Hearings on the MDGs

To ensure that the voices of those living in poverty are heard; to present testimony on the lack of achievement of the MDGs; to bring together civil society to reinvigorate commitment to the Goals. Organizers: Global Call to Action against Poverty (GCAP) and UN Non-governmental Liaison Service. Venue: Church Centre Chapel (corner 44th Street and First Ave). Open to media. contact: ciara.osullivan@civicus.org

Wednesday, 24 September

9 am – 12 pm

Consultation between Heads of State and Religious Leaders on Eliminating Poverty through the MDGs

To advance partnership between governments and the religious sector to eliminate poverty through the MDGs. Organizers: Religions for Peace and UN Millennium Campaign. Venue: Church Centre. Open to media; contact: kara.alaimo@undp.org; alouie@wcrp.org

12 – 3:30 pm

UN-Private Sector Forum on MDGs and Food Sustainability

Launch of a UN framework for private sector engagement and announcement of commitments. Venue: Delegates Dining Room; Organizers: Global Compact, UN Development Programme (UNDP), UN Office for Partnerships. Opening and/closing sessions are open to media; contact: stausberg@un.org

1:15 – 3:30 pm

Water and Sanitation for All

First annual high-level meeting on water and sanitation. Venue: Trusteeship Council; Organizers: Japan, Netherlands, Tajikistan. Open to media; contact: marit-ban.zomerem@minbuza.nl

1:15 – 2:30 pm

Local Governments' Contributions to the MDGs

Exchange of best practices by local governments for the achievement of the MDGs, with the participation of many Mayors from cities of developed and developing countries, including the Mayor of Milan, the city that will host the Universal Exhibition in 2015 which will be devoted to the MDGs. Venue: Room 8; Organizers: Italy, United Cities and Local Governments, Millennium Campaign. Open to media; contact: press.italyun@esteri.it.

6:00 - 7:30 pm

World Business and Development Awards

Business Call to Action on the MDGs; awards to 10 companies. Venue: Millennium Plaza Hotel Ballroom; Organizers: UNDP, International Business Leaders Forum, International Chamber of Commerce, United Kingdom (DFID). Open to media: contact sausan.ghosheh@undp.org or mary.kelly@iccwbo.org

Thursday, 25 September

8:15 – 8:45 am

Launch of the Hunger Commission Report. Organizers: Ireland, UN Special Advisor on the MDGs, Earth Institute of Columbia University. Venue: ECOSOC chamber. Open to media.

8:00 – 10:00 am

Roundtable with Women Leaders to generate high-level commitment on MDG5 to reduce maternal deaths, with WHO Director-General, First Ladies, women leaders. Venue: Delegates Dining Room; Organizer: WHO. Not open to media; contact: spragginsa@un.org or henrym@who.int.

9:30 – 11:00 am

Launch of “In My Name” global campaigning action, with NGOs, celebrities and anti-poverty campaigners; on-line video campaign; Venue: Dag Hammarskjold Plaza (47th St. and First Ave); Organizers: Global Call to Action against Poverty (GCAP), Oxfam International, Save the Children, Comic Relief. Photo opportunity, open to media, contact: nwimble@oxfam.org.uk or louis.belanger@oxfaminternational.org.

1:00 – 3:00 pm

Malaria Interactive Panel

To launch the Global Malaria Action Plan and establish a global coalition of leaders – including Heads of State along with senior philanthropic and private sector leadership – to fight malaria. Venue: Millennium Plaza Hotel; Organizers: Gates Foundation, UK Department for International Development, Malaria No More, hosted by the Secretary-General's Special Envoy for Malaria, Ray Chambers. Open to media; contact: dana.christiansen@hillandknowlton.com.

1:15 – 2:45 pm

Gender Equality: 2015 Call to Action “MDG3 Champion Torch”

To pass the MDG3 Torch and secure commitments by all governments to make gender equality and women's empowerment a priority. Venue: Delegates Dining Room; Organizers: Denmark and Liberia. Open to media; contact: Marie Olsen, mariol@um.dk

2:00 – 3:00 pm

Class of 2015: Education for All: multi-stakeholder event to launch a joint initiative on Education for All. Venue: Dag Hammarskjold Auditorium; Open to media, contact: Justin.mckenzie-smith2@fco.gov.uk or meighanstone@gmail.com

A complete list of events can be found on the website for the High-Level Event on MDGs : <http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/2008highlevel>

All press conferences and official events will be webcast at www.un.org/webcast.

For general media information, contact in the UN Department of Public Information:

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For information on media accreditation and access, see contacts on website. For interviews, story ideas and other information on the MDGs, see list of inter-agency communications officials on website.

Information on partnership events as provided by event organizers