

2011 Report of the Secretary General on Progress towards the Millennium Development Goals

Draft 20 June 2011

1. More than ten years since world leaders established goals and targets to free humanity from extreme poverty, hunger, illiteracy and disease, the Millennium Declaration and the MDG framework for accountability that derived from it have inspired development efforts and helped set priorities and focus interventions. In resolution (A/Res/65/1), *Keeping the promise: united to achieve the Millennium Development Goals* Member States requested the Secretary-General to report on progress in the implementation of the MDGs and to make recommendations for further steps to advance the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015. Further, in resolution (A/65/L.12) the General Assembly requested the Secretary General to include analysis and policy recommendations on sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth for accelerating poverty eradication and achievement of the Millennium Development Goals in his annual report on progress in the implementation of the MDGs until 2015.
2. This report responds to these requests and initiates a series of analytical annual report on MDG achievements, including recommendations about the process to advance the UN development agenda beyond 2015.

I. Progress in achieving the MDGs¹

A. Much progress has been made so far.....

3. *The world can celebrate significant progress in a number of areas*, especially thanks to sustained economic growth in some developing countries and targeted interventions in critical areas, and where increased funding has translated into the expansion of programmes to deliver services and tools directly to those most in need.
4. *The world as a whole is still on track to reach the poverty-reduction target*. Despite significant setbacks after the 2008-2009 economic downturn and food and energy crises. It is expected that the global poverty rate will have dropped to under 15 per cent by 2015, well below the target of 23 per cent. This global trend, however, mainly reflects rapid growth and accelerated poverty reduction in Eastern Asia, especially in China. At current rates of progress,

¹ This section draws from the information base used by the global United Nations (2011) *MDG Report 2011* and provided by UN agencies responsible for the monitoring of specific MDG targets. Copy of the reports can be obtained from: <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/mdg/Host.aspx?Content=Products/ProgressReports.htm>

Sub-Saharan Africa, Western Asia and countries in the Caucasus and Central Asia region, are unlikely to halve the share of the population living on less than \$1.25 a day by 2015.

5. ***Access to primary education has improved substantially since 1990.*** Net enrolment increased from 80 percent in 1991 to 88 per cent in 2005. South Eastern Asia, Northern Africa, Latin America, and Eastern Asia are close to achieving universal access to primary education. However, for the developing world as a whole, recent progress in increasing enrolment and completion rates in primary education has been disappointing. The net enrolment ratio has gone up by just seven percentage points since 1999, reaching 89 per cent in 2009.

6. ***The global target for reducing child mortality could also be within reach.*** Achieving it will require stepping up efforts in a number of regions, especially in Southern Asia, sub-Saharan Africa and Oceania. Worldwide, the number of deaths among children under age 5 declined from 12.4 million in 1990 to 8.1 million in 2009, which translates into nearly 12,000 fewer children dying each day. Between 2000 and 2008, the combination of improved immunization coverage and the opportunity for a second dose led to a 78 per cent drop in deaths caused by measles globally. These averted deaths represent one quarter of the decline in mortality from all causes among children under five.

7. ***The prevalence of malaria and the number of deaths caused by the disease have dropped substantially over the past decade,*** owing to increased funding for and policy attention to malaria control. Between 2008 and 2010 alone, 290 million nets were distributed in sub-Saharan Africa, enough to cover 76 per cent of the 765 million persons at risk.

8. ***New HIV infections are declining steadily.*** Most of the reduction is observed in sub-Saharan Africa. Thanks to major expansion of programmes and increased funding, the number of people receiving antiretroviral treatment for HIV or AIDS increased 13-fold from 2004 to 2009. As a result, also the number of AIDS-related deaths declined by 19 per cent over the same period. Up to 6 million lives have been saved since 1995, thanks to effective international protocols for the treatment of tuberculosis.

9. ***The world is on track to achieve the global target for increasing access to safe drinking water.*** Progress in this area has been very uneven across countries and regions, however. Also, in many parts of the world problems with water quality persist because of pollution and contamination of surface and ground water. In all parts of the world, rural populations tend to lag well behind that of cities and towns in terms of drinking water access. In sub-Saharan Africa, for instance, an urban dweller is almost twice more likely to have access to an improved drinking water source than a person living in a rural area.

B. ... but the most vulnerable populations are still missing out on many dimensions

10. ***Progress also has often bypassed the poorest and those at disadvantage because of their sex, age, disability or ethnicity.*** Disparities between urban and rural areas also remain daunting.

11. ***Little to no progress has been made in reducing malnourishment among poorer families, especially in South Asia.*** In 2009, nearly a quarter of children in the developing world were underweight and least progress was observed among children from the poorest households. In southern Asia, a shortage of quality food and poor feeding practices, a lack of improved sanitation contributes and continued widespread income poverty have combined to the highest prevalence of underweight children in the world. In that region, between 1995 and 2009, there was no meaningful improvement among children in the poorest households, while underweight prevalence among children from the richest 20 per cent of households in the region decreased by almost a third. Children living in rural areas of the developing regions are two times more likely to be underweight than those living in urban areas.

12. ***Recent progress in increasing enrolment and completion rates in primary education disappointing*** and is dimming prospects for reaching the MDG target of universal primary education by 2015. While rapid progress was made in Sub-Saharan Africa to increase primary school enrolment from 54 per cent in 1991 to 76 per cent in 2009, still 24 percent of children in the region are denied that opportunity. In the developing regions as a whole, girls in the poorest 20 per cent of the households are 3.5 times more likely to be out of school than girls in the richest households and 4 times more likely to be out of school than boys in the richest households. A further concern is the quality of education children receive. Recent evidence shows that the quality of education is lagging behind the expansion of school enrolment ratios.²

13. ***Disparities are the most striking in access to maternal care.*** The vast majority of maternal deaths are avoidable. Yet, pregnancy remains a major health risk in many parts of the world, especially among the poorest women and those living in rural areas. In southern Asia, 94 per cent of women in the richest 20 per cent of households receive antenatal care, while only 48 per cent of those in the poorest 20 per cent have access to such care. Maternal deaths remain unacceptably high in sub-Saharan Africa and Southern Asia. These inequities are the result of insufficient policy priority for improving the efficiency and coverage of maternal healthcare systems. Resource constraints have exacerbated this shortcoming. Official development assistance for reproductive health and, in particular, to family planning, which could ultimately reduce the cost of maternal and newborn health care by preventing unintended pregnancies, has decreased over the last few years.

14. ***Over 2.6 billion people still lack access to improved forms of sanitation.*** Less than a third of the population in sub-Saharan Africa has access to safe sanitation and the coverage is dramatically low in rural areas, where only a quarter of the population uses improved forms of sanitation. And where progress has been made, it has by and large bypassed the poor. An analysis of trends over the period 1995-2008 based on selected countries in Southern Asia shows that improvements in sanitation disproportionately benefited the wealthy, while sanitation coverage for the poorest 40 per cent of households hardly increased. At the current rate of progress, it would take until 2049 to reach the sanitation target, equivalent to providing safe sanitation to 77 per cent of the global population. Recognizing this lack of progress, member States have agreed to step up efforts in a UN Resolution on ‘*sustainable sanitation: five-year drive to 2015*’ adopted in December 2010 (A/C.2/65/L.24/Rev.1). This initiative was officially

² For further analysis, see World Bank and IMF (2011), *Global Monitoring Report 2011: Improving the odds of achieving the MDGs*. Washington, D.C.

launched on June 21, 2011 to build political will, generate greater public awareness and to ensure scaled-up ground-level action to close the sanitation gap.

15. ***The challenge of providing job opportunities and adequate services to a growing urban population is becoming acute.*** In absolute terms, the number of slum dwellers in the developing world has continued to grow, and will continue to rise in the near future. The progress made on the slum target has not been sufficient to offset the growth of informal settlements in the developing world, where the number of urban residents living in slum conditions is now estimated at some 828 million, compared to 657 million in 1990 and 767 million in 2000. Redoubled efforts will be needed to improve the lives of the growing numbers of urban poor in cities and metropolises across the developing world.

C. Gender gaps persist and limit progress on other MDGs

16. ***Achieving the MDGs critically depends on enhancing women's empowerment.*** Getting more girls to complete school is a vital step, as higher levels of female education have been proven critical for improvement in health and income conditions of families worldwide. Despite visible progress, gender parity in primary and secondary education –a target that was to be met by 2005—is still out of reach in Northern Africa, Oceania, Southern Asia, sub-Saharan Africa and Western Asia. Poverty, in turn, puts girls in a disadvantage, as girls from poor households are less likely to attend school than boys from the same households, and much less likely than girls from non-poor households.

17. ***Children born to mothers without education are twice as likely to die before the age 5 as those with mothers that have secondary or higher education.*** Girls who stay in school will marry later, have better access to contraception and greater opportunities to have a full, productive life, supporting themselves and ensuring better lives for their children. In 24 countries in sub-Saharan Africa, adolescent birth rates were more than four times higher among girls with no education than among those with secondary education. And women with secondary education were more than four times more likely to use modern contraception than those without education.

18. ***Progress in increasing the share of women holding paid jobs outside the agricultural sector has also been sluggish.*** Worldwide, the share of women in non-agricultural paid employment increased only five percentage points over almost two decades: from 35 per cent in 1990 to 40 per cent in 2009. Although in Western Asia and Northern Africa the proportion of women with paid jobs has not made much progress. In Western Asia, it increased slightly from 15 percent in 1990 to 19 per cent in 2009, but it stagnated around 20 percent in Northern Africa since 1990. Progress has been even slower in recent years, owing to the financial and economic crisis of 2008-2009. Unemployment increased faster for men at the peak of the crisis but employment opportunities for women during the recovery is lagging behind when compared to those of men.

19. ***Women's participation in political decision-making has increased slowly but steadily*** over the past 15 years. Worldwide, the percentage of parliamentary seats held by women

increased from 11.6 per cent in 1995, to 19.3 in 2011, leaving a long way to go to reach the target of equal representation of women and men by 2015.

D. Transitioning to more sustainable development pathways

20. ***Global deforestation continues at an alarming, although decreasing rate.*** Afforestation and the natural expansion of forests in some countries and regions have reduced the net loss of forest area at the global level, but the world continued to lose 5.2 million hectares of forests per year between 2000 and 2010.

21. ***The world has missed the 2010 target for biodiversity conservation.*** Some success in biodiversity conservation has been achieved and the situation could have been worse without the pressure for action provided by the 2010 target. Yet, the loss of biodiversity continues unrelentingly. Nearly 17,000 species of plants and animals are known to be threatened with extinction. Based on current trends, the loss of species will continue throughout this century, with increasing risk of dramatic shifts in ecosystems and erosion of benefits for society. The irreversible loss of biodiversity will also hamper efforts to meet other MDGs, especially those related to poverty, hunger and health, by increasing the vulnerability of the poor and reducing their options for development.

22. ***Emissions of carbon dioxide (CO₂) have continued to increase.*** The 2008 emissions were about 40 per cent above the 1990 level. In 2008, the latest year for which data are available, global CO₂ emissions continued to rise, reaching 29.4 billion metric tons, an increase of 1.5 per cent from the previous year. This change was smaller than in 2007 (3.3 per cent) due to the global economic crisis, which resulted in a decrease in emissions in 2008 (and likely also in 2009) in several countries, in particular in developed regions. According to the World Meteorological Organization, the decade 2001-2010 was the warmest on record since 1880 in terms of average global temperatures.

23. ***Developing countries will bear large costs associated with the negative impact of changing weather patterns, water shortages, and rising sea levels,*** and yet they are the least equipped to deal with them. Climate-related disaster risk has already intensified dramatically over the past decades with developing countries carrying most of the brunt and causing setbacks in MDG achievement in affected regions.³ Climate change can also increase the risk of violence. For example, it has been documented that in Sub-Saharan Africa, civil conflict is more likely to happen following years of poor rainfall.⁴

³ See chapter IV in United Nations (2011) *World Economic and Social Survey 2011. The Great Green Technological Transformation*. The frequency of drought, floods and storms has increased by a factor of five in the last 40 years. In the 1970s there were average 69 natural disasters a year; in the 2000s the average was 350.

⁴ WFP, *Occasional Paper* (forthcoming).

E. The global economic crisis has slowed progress

24. *The impact of the economic downturn on all MDGs still needs to be fully assessed.* Developing countries suffered substantial deceleration in economic growth and affected the fiscal space available for investing in the MDGs during the global crisis of 2008-2009. Their economies also saw a rather swift recovery helped, in quite a number of cases by fiscal stimulus measures including for social protection and services supporting the MDGs. Soaring global food and oil prices from mid-2011 have affected large numbers of poor in countries that lack fiscal space and adequate social protections programmes to shield them from the rising costs of their basic needs. It has been estimated, that an additional 44 million fell into poverty as a consequence of the rise in food prices between mid-2010 and early 2011.⁵ Food and price shocks are also external factors that can heighten the risk of violence, further slowing development.

25. *The crisis has slowed the decline in the proportion of working poor* (those workers who live on less than \$1.25 a day). The International Labour Organization estimates that the share increased by 1.6 percentage points as compared with pre-crisis trends.

26. *Progress in expanding enrolment in primary education has slowed* and came to a halt for the developing regions as a whole in 2008 and 2009, dimming prospects for reaching the MDG target of universal primary education by 2015.

27. *The cost of achieving the MDGs may have increased by as much as 1.5 per cent of GDP per year because of the crisis*, according to country case studies.⁶ As a result, countries like Nicaragua, Bolivia and Kyrgyzstan would need to allocate an additional 9.5 per cent of GDP to education, health and basic services between 2010 and 2015 in order to meet the MDG targets for 2015. Related analysis shows further that increased social service spending by itself is not enough for full growth recovery in the short to medium run, but would need to be supported by complementary policies supporting productivity growth, employment creation and economic diversification.

II. How to achieve sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth?

A. Lessons from successful growth experiences

28. Many developing countries have made progress, sometimes fast progress, on individual MDG targets. *But much faster progress will be needed to meet all targets on time.* As indicated, progress also has been uneven in many instances with often too little impact on the poorest and

⁵ http://www.worldbank.org/foodcrisis/foodpricewatch/april_2011.html

⁶ See model-based estimates reported in United Nations,(2011). *World Economic Situation and Prospects 2011* (Box I.3).

most vulnerable people. Economic growth has helped developing countries advance in many areas, but policies and interventions have not always been effective in creating positive feedback effects to make simultaneous progress on all MDG targets in a way that is equitable and inclusive by reaching those segments of the population that are most in need or are marginalized because of their gender, geographical location, ethnicity or disability. Progress on most MDG indicators for such marginalized groups generally has lagged well behind that for the average of the population as a whole. Rural dwellers lag behind the urban populations on all MDGs.

29. ***The global economy has rebounded, but opportunities for full, productive and decent work remain limited.*** Persistent unemployment high unemployment is affecting many workers in the developed countries, with in some countries disturbingly high jobless rates among the youth. In many developing countries, in contrast, aggregate employment levels are back up to pre-crisis levels. The aggregate trend masks a rise employment in the more vulnerable types of jobs. The percentage of workers engaged in “vulnerable employment” (own-account and unpaid family workers) has increased after 2008 in sub-Saharan Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, and Western Asia. In 2009, slightly over 1.5 billion people held jobs characterized by informal working arrangements, lack of adequate social protection, low pay and difficult working conditions.

30. ***Opportunities for full productive employment remain particularly slim for women.*** Wide gaps remain in women’s access to paid work in at least half of all regions. Following significant job losses in 2008-2009, the growth in employment that occurred during the recovery in 2010, especially in the developing regions, was lower for women than for men. Women employed in manufacturing industries were especially hard hit. The unemployment rate for men declined faster than that for women. In sub-Saharan Africa, 84 per cent of women held vulnerable jobs, as compared to 70 per cent of men.

31. ***Middle-income countries are home to increasing numbers of poor people.*** This is a sign of success as much as it poses further challenges. Much of the shift owes to successful growth in populous countries like China, Indonesia and Egypt turning them from low into lower middle-income countries, according to the World Bank’s classification. Despite the substantial poverty reduction, these countries are still home to hundreds of millions living in extreme or moderate poverty (tables 1 and 2). Low-income countries continue to show the largest incidence of extreme poverty (when measured as the proportion of poor people in the total population) but close to one third of extremely poor and vulnerable people (as measured by those with incomes below a poverty line of \$2.00 a day) now live in middle-income countries. It is one sign that sustained fast growth is not sufficient to eradicate poverty, but require additional policy efforts to ensure income gains and employment opportunities are more broadly shared among the population.

Table 1. Number of people living on less than \$1.25 a day
(Millions)

	1992 (1990-1999)	2005 (2000-2009)	% change
Low income	1,762	908	-48
Lower middle income	69	318	360
Upper middle income	46	19	-59
Total poor	1,878	1,246	-34

Source: UNDESA based on data from the World Bank and UN Population Division

Table 2. Number of people living on less than \$2.00 a day (Millions)

	1992 (1990-1999)	2005 (2000-2009)	% change
Low income	2,507	1,574	-37
Lower middle income	156	751	382
Upper middle income	90	49	-45
Total poor and vulnerable	2,753	2,374	-14

Source: UNDESA with data from the World Bank and UN Population Division

32. ***Achieving the MDGs requires stable, equitable and inclusive growth;*** a pathway that provides opportunities to everyone, but the poor and disadvantaged in particular, to satisfy basic needs and acquire a decent living. Sustained growth helps to expand the resource envelop, which is necessary to achieve the MDGs. Countries in East Asia, and China in particular, have been very successful in reducing poverty in recent decades. They managed to sustain strong economic growth over prolonged periods. Growth was supported by policies promoting structural change, typically initiating with improving agricultural productivity and supporting industrial development. China's economy has expanded at a rate of growth of close to 10 per cent per year following agrarian reforms in 1978. Also Viet Nam and several other economies of East Asia have seen a dramatic reduction of poverty along similar lines since the 1980s. Earlier Japan, the Republic of Korea, and Taiwan province of China achieved fast and sustained growth and poverty reduction building on similar development strategies. Sustained growth also made it possible to carry out cumulative investments necessary for achieving other MDGs.

33. ***Sustained economic growth is not a sufficient condition, however, to ensure benefits are adequately shared among all citizens.*** There is ample empirical evidence showing that poverty reduction has been more successful in countries where growth has been high and sustained but also equitable. In the East Asian experience an equitable distribution of physical and human capital provided the basis for more broadly shared economic growth. Land and agrarian reforms were central to achieve more equitable distribution of land and agricultural production opportunities at the start of the economic take off of many of the countries in the region. Universal education and healthcare systems helped spread improvements in human development.

34. ***Initial conditions and relatively equal wealth distribution count, but subsequent growth and policies also matter greatly.*** Again in the case of the East Asian countries, strong industrial policies and infrastructure investment laid foundations for dynamic economic diversification and employment growth, including for the poor. More diversified economies tend to be less vulnerable to external shocks, sustain faster growth over time and spread employment and income benefits more broadly among the population.⁷ Such growth strategies also matter for MDG performance. Middle-income countries generally have shown better performance than low-income countries. Having developed earlier, many middle-income countries had developed stronger institutions and they were in a better position to put MDG-oriented policies in place.⁸

⁷See United Nations (2006) *World Economic and Social Survey 2006: Diverging Growth and Development*; and United Nations (2010) *World Economic and Social Survey 2010: Retooling Global Development*.

⁸ See IMF and World Bank, *Global Monitoring Report 2011*....., p. 24-28.

But other initial conditions also matter for greater progress towards the MDGs, such as greater gender equality in education.⁹

35. ***More equitable growth facilitates faster progress towards the achievement of the education and health-related MDGs.*** Poor families may not be able to send their children to schools if they cannot afford the complementary expenses and/or the young sons and daughters need to work to add to family earnings. Similarly, health outcomes of children and mothers depend not only on the existence of healthcare facilities but also on the food and nutrition they receive at home. Access to clean water and reduction of slum dwelling also depend on family income. In a number of, mainly, middle-income countries, Governments have been successful in reducing inequality through both targeted and universal social policies, such as cash transfer programmes and subsidized pension schemes for the poor. These programmes have provided income protection during downward economic cycles and provided incentives to families to keep children in school and/or attend health facilities. But monetary support may not suffice to deal with other inequities. For example, in many societies, a premium is placed on food-intake and education of the male members of the family at the expense of the female members. For some groups in a society cultural and religious practices can work as additional barriers toward sending children to schools and female members seeking medical care outside the home in formal impersonal settings and facilities. In many societies people infected with AIDS find it difficult to seek care and pursue a living. In some countries ethnic minorities may face systematic economic, social, and cultural discrimination, making it difficult for them to prosper.

36. ***Inclusive growth will also help mitigate social tensions*** which could emerge otherwise and which subsequently could be a source of political instability and deterioration of the investment climate. Non-inclusive growth has been found an important determinant of civil and armed conflicts in many countries. Such conflicts have subsequently caused growth collapses and major reversals of gains towards the achievement of the MDGs; to date, no conflict-prone low-income country has achieved a single MDG yet. Children born in conflict-affected countries are twice as likely to be undernourished and also twice as likely to die before reaching the age 5.¹⁰ Of the total number of primary-age children in the world who are not enrolled in school, 42 per cent—28 million—live in poor countries affected by conflict. New poverty data reveal that for every three years a country is affected by major violence, poverty reduction lags behind by 2.7 percentage points. On average, a country that experienced major violence over the period from 1981 to 2005 has a poverty rate 21 percentage points higher than a country that saw no violence. The average cost of civil war is equivalent to more than 30 years of GDP growth for a medium size developing country and trade levels after major episodes of violence take 20 years to recover.

37. ***Humanitarian crises and conflicts continue to uproot millions of people across the globe.*** They also hinder the return of refugees and those internally displaced. As of the end of 2010, close to 43 million people worldwide were displaced due to conflict and persecution, the highest number since the mid-1990s and about half a million more than the previous year. It has

⁹ Ibid.

¹⁰ World Bank, *World Development Report 2011: Conflict, Security and Development*, Washington D.C., 2011

been estimated that 1.5 billion people live in countries affected by fragility, conflict or violence.¹¹

38. ***High incidence of crime-related armed violence, such as intentional homicide, represents an additional obstacle to growth and development in a number of countries.*** Poverty, inequality and economic crises can trigger crime facilitating the establishment of a vicious circle that can further deteriorate economic and social conditions. Other forms of crime such as corruption, extortion and theft of economic assets, can deprive economic actors of important resources and can further weaken the rule of law.

39. ***Sustained growth is not the same as sustainable growth.*** Current rates of urbanization and the technology used in agriculture and industry are leading to rapid depletion of the natural resources that support life in the planet; questioning our environmental sustainability. Climate-related disaster risk has already intensified dramatically over the past decades. The frequency of drought, floods and storms has increased by a factor of five in the last 40 years: from an average of 69 natural disasters a year in the 1970s to an average of 350 in the 2000s, with large economic and social costs to developing countries.¹² The impact of climate change and the depletion of natural resources are estimated to affect the growth performance of poor countries (by 2-3 per cent GDP loss per every 1 degree rise in average temperatures in one estimate) and are already causing decreasing yields in subsistence agriculture. Due to their low level of development, developing countries will bear large costs associated with the negative impact of changing weather patterns, water shortages, and rising sea levels, causing setbacks in MDG achievement in affected regions.

B. How to ensure ‘sustained, equitable, and inclusive growth’¹³

40. Country contexts and initial conditions differ and the lessons from past experiences are that there exist many pathways to overcoming obstacles to sustained growth and development. No one size fits all. The more successful countries, however, have had in common that they followed strategies not just to overcome a single major constraint, but were able to achieve a fair degree of **coherence** across different domains of economic and social policies. For investments in the MDGs (and hence in human capital) to support stronger and sustained economic growth, complementary policies typically are needed to lift other bottlenecks to growth (infrastructure, industrial development) and ensure sound macroeconomic policies to avoid that the financial resources available for spending on MDG related services become a constraint, for instance.

41. National development strategies would need to tailor such coherence to country-specific conditions. There are now ‘blueprints’ on how best to do this, although the lessons learned from

¹¹ Ibid

¹² See chapter IV in United Nations (2011) *World Economic and Social Survey 2011: The Great Green Technological Transformation*

¹³ For a comprehensive review of the conceptual framework and policy options for sustainable development refer to United Nations (2010) *World Economic and Social Survey 2010. Retooling Global Development*

past experience can provide a sense of direction. Tailoring to country conditions also means considering the constraints of the global economy. Building in safeguards against global economic shocks is critical. However, also global rules-setting, especially in the area of trade, have limited the space for conducting certain national development policies. Hence, also greater coherence will be needed between policymaking in the national arena and global economic governance. Considering this, some of the key elements for sustainable and inclusive growth and development strategies would be the following:

a) A macroeconomic framework that supports balanced growth with sustainable employment creation and economic diversification, including strengthening of national capacities for policy implementation

42. *Macroeconomic stability has been difficult to achieve and maintain due in part to instability in capital markets.* The global economic crisis in 2008-9 and more recent price volatility in food and energy exposed the interdependence of countries to the global economy and the need to re-address the principles and tools of development policy both at national and global levels. A stable macroeconomic environment has proved to be a precondition for robust growth, but in the context of relatively small capital markets in developing countries, weak institutions and governance, capital account liberalization and increased indebtedness have proved to be destabilizing for many developing countries.

43. *Macroeconomic policies would need to aim supporting growth and productive employment creation,* which would require such policies to be counter-cyclical, pro-investment and sensitive to employment objectives. This will require—much more than has been the case in most developing countries over the past decades—a better integration of macroeconomic and development policies. In such a broader framework, fiscal policies would give priority to development spending, including investment in education, health and infrastructure. This would also mean using fiscal instruments such as tax breaks, accelerated depreciation allowances and subsidies to boost productive investment. Importantly, macroeconomic policies would be conducted on the basis of counter-cyclical rules. These could entail fiscal targets that would be independent of short-term fluctuations in economic growth. Commodity stabilization funds typically would also be instrumental for commodity-exporting countries. In countries with open capital accounts, conducting counter-cyclical monetary policies has become increasingly difficult, but could regain some of that control through measures that control and regulate capital flows and stronger regulation of the domestic financial sector. The right mix of these policies can be applied deliberately so as to promote investment in specific industries at specific times, and especially in sectors with the greatest potential for upgrading skills, reaping economies of scale and raising productivity growth, thereby increasing the rates of return on investment. Such measures can further set the tone for a different kind of competition policy which, instead of promoting competition for its own sake, would look to utilize it to foster diversification and development.

44. *In conflict-affected countries and countries in post-conflict situations, there is need to improve the international response to strengthen national ownership of policies and*

international support. This is essential for peace-building. Strengthen national capacities are also needed for policy and financial management, including core government functions, basic safety and security, basic service provision, economic growth with employment generation, and natural resource management within an inclusive political process. Further support to the international dialogue for Peace-building and State-building initiated in 2010 will help to identify the specific areas of support required by conflict-affected and fragile countries as a premise towards better prospects to make progress towards the full MDG agenda.

b) Create conditions to support dynamic growth in sectors that are relevant to the poor, with particular emphasis in sustainable agriculture and rural development

45. *This will require taking a broad approach to agricultural development policies.* Such an approach would, focus on access to land, extension services, improved inputs, credits and rural infrastructure so as to secure a greater and more predictable marketable surplus and income to farmers and inputs for agro-industrial development. Crop and weather insurance mechanisms, to safeguard against income losses because of floods and droughts, which recently have also been introduced in developing countries, have been found to be more effective when embedded in a broader agricultural development strategy. Support to raise the productive capacity of small-scale farmers through increased investments will contribute to address the needs of the majority of the extremely poor and about half of undernourished people in the world that makes a living from about 500 million small farms with less than 2 hectares of land. Especially in the context of countries where agriculture makes a large contribution to GDP and is a major source of employment, additional investments in rural infrastructure, R&D, expanded access to national and international markets by smallholders and greater access to agricultural inputs, credits and information are key components of a pro-poor growth strategy. Unfortunately, the international trade rules and regulations often hinder developing countries efforts in this regard. For example, the United States cotton subsidies act as a barrier to cotton export from many African countries.

c) Adoption and diffusion of green technologies and sustainable national resource management strategies

46. *Developing countries will need to seek their own pathways to protect the environment while pursuing economic growth.* using the often complementary nature of these two efforts; relatively simple measures like recycling and reuse, energy saving bulbs, the conversion of waste into manure, and water-saving irrigation methods, among many other initiatives should be encouraged. Developing countries also need to resist attempts to use their land as dumping ground of waste. The Rio principle of “common but differentiate responsibility and capability” needs to be upheld in international cooperation for transitioning towards greener and sustainable economic production processes.

47. *Boosting the productive capacity of smallholder farmers would need to build on the adoption of environmental sustainable technology and adequate management of natural*

resources. Accelerated diffusion of existent agricultural sustainable practices (like low tillage, crop rotation, water harvesting, among many others) and the development of new technology requires strengthen partnerships between developed and developing countries as well as greater collaboration from the private sector. This would help to improve crop yields by increasing the resistance of plants to weather related shocks and it would help to increase the availability and sustainable use of water. Rebuilding the network of agricultural resource centres that were at the heart of the green revolution in the 1960s and 1970s in Asia and Latin America and expand their outreach to Africa and other food insecure countries would support sustainable innovation in agriculture. R&D in agriculture needs to secure a framework for open and free flow of information and plant materials. Direct participation from small scale farm-holders in the various stages of technology development is essential to improve their innovative capacity in response to climate change and in expanding their contribution to food security and poverty reduction.

d) Coherent social policies for social inclusion for human development and social justice

48. ***Comprehensive social policies are essential to achieve the MDGs and they are a necessary ingredient to achieve sustainable, equitable and inclusive growth.*** Successful country experiences in Korea, Taiwan province of China, and Costa Rica show that universal provision of basic services based on claimable entitlements (derived from rights or contribution payments) requires active government participation either in the direct provision, financing, or regulation of mixed public-private provision. Cross-country evidence shows that commercialization, particularly in the health sector, creates fragmented systems and is associated with inequality and exclusion, affecting access and ability to pay and limiting provision in rural areas. Public policies should ensure provision in rural and disadvantaged areas, and facilitate access of marginalized and poor groups. Sector-specific social programmes, such as those for school meals, free textbooks, and subsidized medicines, can help alleviate demand constraints to access to education and healthcare services. Similarly, cash transfer programmes have proven effective in boosting people's capabilities when provided on a sustained basis.

49. ***Solidarity based social insurance programmes foster social cohesion and coalition building.*** Increased coverage of formal social insurance schemes contributes to achieving several of the MDG targets and can be pursued through multiple ways. Social insurance systems can perpetuate labour market inequalities and leave many uninsured in developing countries, if these are earnings-related and only apply to the formal sector. Measures can be taken to expand coverage, unify rules and schemes (so that risk is shared among a greater and more diversified group of citizens), and to enhance the solidarity/redistributive element of an insurance scheme (for example through a guaranteed minimum pension for every citizen). Countries successful in doing so did not only aim to extend coverage, but also strived to harmonize and unify fragmented systems in order to lower costs and increase equity and integration. Positive examples of coverage extension include specific measures for difficult-to-cover groups, subsidies for low-income groups and special incentives to join insurance programmes such as

free additional benefits (e.g. family allowances, free health insurance or scholarships) or coverage of dependents without additional costs.¹⁴

e) Protecting human rights and ensuring good governance as integral parts of effective economic and social policies

50. *Application of human rights framework may help ensure adequate focus on access of marginalized and disadvantaged groups to basic social services.* The Millennium Declaration adopted in 2000, includes an explicit commitment to “recognize human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the right to development.” This commitment was confirmed at the 2010 MDG Summit, where UN member states recognized that “respect for and promotion and protection of human rights is an integral part of effective work towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals” (para 53). The instrumental value of the human rights framework is illustrated in the example of Belize where the government was able to identify the reasons why rural areas, primarily populated by Mayan communities, were not receiving adequate water and sanitation services. Communities were not represented in local water boards and there was no accountability framework were identified the problem. Improving the governance of water boards to make them more inclusive and accountable helped to expand access to water and sanitation to marginalized communities.¹⁵

51. *Core human rights principles such as participation and inclusion, accountability and rule of law contribute to achieve and sustain MDG achievements.* The use of a human rights framework enriches the policy implementation process by stimulating effective participation from communities and other relevant stakeholders in decision making and improving accountability of results and good governance. Progress in meeting the MDGs can be enhanced if human rights are institutionalized to allow citizens to organize and participate in public policy decisions and monitoring of results.

52. *Good governance and maintaining the rule of law at the national and international levels are also essential.* Resolution 65/1 adopted during the 2010 MDG Summit acknowledges this. In the resolution, the States committed themselves to implementing measures to curtail illicit financial flows at all levels, enhancing disclosure practices and promoting transparency in financial information. Strengthening national and multinational efforts to address this issue is crucial, including support to developing countries and technical assistance to enhance their capacities. The movement of financial flows for purposes of tax evasion utilizes the same channels as those of drug proceeds and terrorism financing, both of which are now been subject to cooperative monitoring and interdiction. Countries must recognize each other’s tax systems and assist each other in collecting tax debts. International cooperation in monitoring and reporting that applies to drugs and terrorism should be expanded to include tax evasion.

¹⁴ In Costa Rica, a strong commitment to universal provision of education and health, and continuous efforts to increase coverage of contribution-financed social insurance programmes has resulted in high coverage rates. It has been achieved through mandatory affiliation of self-employed and state subsidies for contribution payments of difficult-to-cover groups (self-employed, peasants, domestic workers).

¹⁵ from the Associate Administrator’s opening speech at the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, 16 May 2011

III. Time to deliver on the global partnership for development

53. MDG 8 contains the commitments made by donor countries in support of country's development efforts, including the achievement of MDGs 1-7. At the MDG Summit in 2010, Heads of State and Government reviewed progress made so far in the MDG agenda, especially relevant vis-à-vis the setbacks experienced in many countries due to the 2008-2009 global economic crisis and more recent increase in food and energy prices. Governments in developed and developing countries reconfirmed their commitments to accelerate progress in the few years left to 2015; including reaching the United Nations target of disbursing 0.7 per cent of gross national income (GNI) in official development assistance (ODA), of which 0.15 to 0.20 per cent of GNI would go to the LDCs. On the former pledge, the European Union committed to reach it by 2015.¹⁶ Governments, multilateral institutions and non-state entities also made separate pledges to accelerate progress toward specific MDGs, including several innovative South-South initiatives.

54. ***Official development assistance has increased to a record \$129 billion, yet falling short against commitments.*** In 2010, aid delivery fell \$21 billion short against the pledges made at the Gleneagles G8 Summit of 2005. Only a very small portion of this delivery gap can be attributed to lower-than-expected levels of gross national income due to the global economic crisis. Most was on account of lack of policy commitment by donors. The Secretary General's MDG Gap Task Force has suggested ways for a more effective delivery of ODA, including through multi-year commitments for programmable assistance and in a way that is fully aligned with national development and inclusive growth strategies. These efforts should be reinforced with South-South cooperation and philanthropy.

55. ***Failure to complete a development-oriented Doha Round remains the largest gap in delivery on commitments to establish a fairer trading system.*** Getting the negotiations out of its present impasse is critical. Even as the Doha Round is yet to be concluded, the importance of a multilateral trading system was shown during the global economic crisis as, conscious of agreed rules, Governments displayed a good level of cooperation and showed restraint in using protectionist measures. The protectionist measures that were introduced in response to the economic crisis, affected the exports of the least developed countries (LDCs) in particular, but most were also reversed rather quickly. In compliance with MDG 8 targets, further progress still needs to be made, however, in providing duty free quota free market access to developing countries, but to LDCs in particular. For these countries to be in a better position to gain from enhanced market access, the Aid for Trade initiative needs to be strengthened further in order to support the development of their trading and production capacities in a way that is consistent with their strategies towards economic diversification and sustained growth. In the face of recurrent episodes of food insecurity as manifest, *inter alia*, in rising and volatile food prices, additional support to increase the productivity of small scale farmers in developing countries

¹⁶ United Nations, "The Global Partnership for Development: Time to Deliver," MDG Gap Task Force Report 2011, United Nations, New York (forthcoming).

needs to take priority in the international development agenda. In this context, the reduction of export and agricultural production subsidies in developed countries needs to be accelerated in order to enhance income opportunities for farmers in developing countries and allow them to better compete in international markets.

56. ***Enhanced debt restructuring and relief modalities are critical for supporting development efforts in debt distressed countries.*** Helped by the global recovery, the external debt burden of developing countries as a group fell to 22 per cent of GDP in 2010, down from 24 per cent in the year before. Ample debt relief provided to low-income countries under the HIPC and multilateral debt relief initiatives has helped reduce their debt burdens substantially. Yet, quite a number of low and lower-middle-income countries remain at high risk of debt distress. Yet, 18 low and lower-middle-income countries remain at high risk or are in debt distress, while many more have either high public debt ratios. Adequate debt management strategies are needed at the national level. But, volatile global markets may quickly change the outlook for debt sustainability. In order to avoid that debt distress becomes an impediment to development efforts the framework for debt relief and restructuring needs to be enhanced. The existing framework for poor countries (HIPC) formally has come to an end, but given continued debt distress its extension should be urgently considered and making it accessible to all low income countries with debt problems, while at the same time a more comprehensive framework is developed for orderly sovereign debt workouts for heavily indebted countries more broadly. This was also recommended as part of the 2010 MDG Summit outcome, but this still needs to be followed up on.

57. ***Greater efforts are needed to promote the use of quality-assured, low-cost generic medicines at low or even no cost to the poor..*** At present, access to affordable essential medicines continues to be precarious with only 42 per cent availability in public health facilities. The limited availability of essential medicines in the public sector is forcing patients to buy with private health facilities, where availability also tends to be limited (64 per cent), but when available, only at much higher cost. Median prices in developing countries were, on average, 2.7 times higher than international reference prices in the public sector, and 6.1 times higher in the private sector despite various international initiatives to provide lower cost medicines. Consequently, substantial shares of the populations in many low and middle-income countries can be impoverished by the high cost of medicine purchases, especially when originator brand products are used. Greater facilitation through global mechanisms is needed to increase access to medicines at low cost for the poor. For example, increased use of public health-related TRIPS flexibilities; improvement in the availability of patent information to facilitate their use and Medicine Patent Pools would stimulate innovation and increase the production of more affordable medicines.

58. ***The MDG framework needs to look beyond monitoring access to ICT and include access to technologies for sustainable development.*** The development of relevant technology in developing countries and the transfer of advanced technology from developed economies are essential for long run development. Significant progress has been made in the global sharing of information and communication technology (ICT) and in technologies for addressing climate change and coping with its impacts, including the growing risk of natural disasters. Access to ICTs has continued to grow globally. In developing countries, the spread of mobile cellular subscriptions continues to be particularly rapid, growing by an estimated 17 per cent between

2009 and 2010, reaching 68 per cent of the population. Internet use also has continued to grow but with LDCs in particular still lagging far behind in part because ICT services are still prohibitively expensive for the majority of the population in those countries. The MDG framework mainly focuses on ICT. The urgency of responding to the impact of climate change and food security is also raising concerns about the conditions to accelerate the transfer of technology for adaptation and mitigation to climate change and to increase agricultural productivity for food production. The new Technology Mechanism for climate change that will become operational in 2012 provides a starting point for the needed enlarged international cooperation. Finance is generally considered to be the major obstacle to the development and adaptation of green technologies.¹⁷ Hence, for the Technology Mechanism to work it will be equally important to ensure timely delivery on the international commitments for climate financing.

IV. The UN development agenda post 2015

59. The MDG Summit outcome document requested the Secretary-General to make recommendations in his annual reports, as appropriate, for further steps to advance the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015. The current section, in accordance with this mandate, examines possible directions for the way forward.

A. Is the MDG framework still relevant?

60. *The MDGs are still relevant after 2015.* The year 2015 is the deadline the international community set for a range of MDG related *targets*, but even if those targets are all met more progress is still needed to meet the *goals*. The target for 2015 is to halve extreme poverty, but MDG 1 aims to “*eradicate* extreme poverty and hunger”. Something similar could be said for several of the other MDGs.

61. *Yet, the validity of the MDGs as a framework for international development would need to be reviewed fundamentally for its strengths and weaknesses.* As shown in this report, much progress has been made towards achieving human development goals since the Millennium Declaration of 2000. Most observers agree that the MDG framework has helped raising global consciousness about the multiple dimensions of poverty and make the complexity of development process more insightful to policy makers and the public at large. **The ability to attract political attention and spur action has been a cornerstone of the success of the MDGs as a development agenda.** Being relatively simple to communicate, the MDGs have galvanized unprecedented support from governments, civil society, the private sector, foundations, and academia. They have succeeded in rallying the development community around

¹⁷ See United Nations, World Economic and Social Survey 2011...op. cit., pp. 170-171.

a common set of goals. Today, the MDGs are at the heart of many developing countries' national strategies and provide a framework for donor support. The monitoring framework embedded in the structure of the MDGs, whereby goals are linked to concrete targets and well identified indicators, also helped to build accountability for results and improved governance. **Yet, these strengths have not provided a guarantee for sufficient progress on all fronts and inequities between and within countries remain.** While the framework arguably has helped strengthen the global partnership for development (MDG 8), significant shortfalls in the delivery on international commitments to support the achievement of the MDGs remain. Critics have also argued that, by setting goals and targets globally, the MDG agenda has overlooked differences in initial conditions and capacities of countries and as such, by using a uniform set of targets, could unfairly judge the efforts made by countries that started in more disadvantaged positions. The MDG targets also have been questioned for being too much focused on "quantity" (for instance, getting all children in school) with insufficient attention to "quality" (have children acquired the relevant cognitive skills?), as well as for insufficiently addressing inequalities in progress among different population groups. The lack of explicit recognition of protection of human rights and peace and security and the insufficient emphasis put on environmental sustainability have also been mentioned as important shortcomings of the MDG agenda. The consideration of a new development agenda beyond 2015 would need to start with a thorough review of the strengths and weaknesses of the present agenda and its underlying approach and assess what has worked and what has not worked. The lessons to be drawn from that review would subsequently need to be put in the context to the global development challenges ahead of us.

62. *The values and principles endorsed by world leaders in the Millennium Declaration of 2000 would seem to have continued relevance.* The Millennium Declaration recognized the increasing interdependence of the world's nations and the need to establish a framework to underpin inclusive and equitable globalization in the twenty first century. The framework was to rest on the following six fundamental values: (i) individual **freedoms** for democratic and participatory governance; (ii) **equality** among nations and individuals; (iii) **solidarity** to manage global challenges based on equity and social justice; (iv) **tolerance** to belief, cultural and language diversity; (v) **respect for nature** for sustainable development; and (vi) **shared responsibility** to manage worldwide economic and social development. In turning these values into concrete actions, the Millennium Declaration identified six broad objectives: peace, security and disarmament; development and poverty eradication; environmental protection; human rights, democracy and good governance; protection to vulnerable populations; consideration for the special needs of Africa and the need to strengthen the United Nations. Clearly, some of the mentioned weaknesses of the present MDG agenda were given due attention in the Millennium Declaration even though they may not have been sufficiently operationalized. When considering the elements for the post 2015 development agenda, it will be essential for the world community to also review the values and principles of the Millennium Declaration as a starting point for renewing its vision of global development in the light of today's challenges.

B. Which challenges would need to be central to the new development agenda?

63. ***The world has changed since 2000.*** The recent financial and economic crisis exposed the complex and deep interdependencies in the global economy as well as the deficiencies in the existing mechanisms of global economic governance to safeguard global financial stability and a benign environment for development. Even well managed countries were negatively affected by events and decisions beyond their control. New economic powers from developing countries have gained more prominence, not only in driving the recovery from the global recession, but also as players in global economic governance and development cooperation. Recent food and energy crises have manifested both structural weaknesses in supply systems and increased sensitivity of commodity market trends to financial market conditions. The world has become much more aware of and alert to the environmental constraints to global development and, as analyzed, such constraints are already posing enormous challenges to achieve economic and social development goals.

64. ***Discussions for a new development agenda should recognize the importance of an enabling global environment for development.*** A stable climate, as much as a stable international financial system, a fair multilateral trading system, peace and security and access to knowledge and new technologies can be seen as ‘global public goods’ critical to such an enabling environment. As such they should be considered integral part of the deliberations for a new development agenda beyond 2015 and for redefining the global partnership for development.

65. ***Human development goals would need to remain at the centre of the development agenda.*** As said, not all goals are expected to be achieved by 2015, but even if they would, adequate levels of human development would still need to be guaranteed beyond 2015 and the MDG agenda stressed the essentials. Discussions could focus on whether and in what sense goals need to be broadened (e.g. more focus on quality, as well as the issues raised further below) and whether to change the system to monitor progress and delivery on commitments.

66. ***Today’s and future development challenges would need to gain prominence.*** Several core values and objectives of the Millennium Declaration did not get sufficient emphasis in the operational MDG agenda, but address critical development challenges of today and in the foreseeable future. Those relate to equality, a sustainable natural environment, food security, demographic pressures, peace and security, human rights and good governance.

67. ***Increasing inequality.*** Better data to monitor progress is making it clear that large inequalities persist in progress towards the MDGs. Inequality in MDG progress persists across gender, geographical location, ethnicity, and income groups and. The post 2015 development framework would need to consider effective mechanisms to reduce income inequality as well as inequality of opportunities and achievements in all dimensions of human development. The conditions to facilitate faster economic growth will continue to be critical, especially in the context of low income countries, but it will not be enough to meet the challenges of fast growing countries with large numbers of people in poverty.

68. ***Climate change and other environmental challenges*** are already making the goal of reducing poverty and improving human development more costly and difficult to achieve. Addressing these environmental challenges may need to be the overarching concern of the new development agenda, which would need to ensure the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development are addressed in a holistic manner. Countries are already

engaging in strategies for mitigation and adaptation to climate change, including better mechanisms to minimize the impact of natural disasters. But these strategies are not always fully aligned with human development strategies. Furthermore, planned actions do not seem to add to global targets that would need to be met to avoid the potentially catastrophic risks of surpassing certain environmental limits.¹⁸ The world community should consider how to enhance global mechanisms for sustainable development as an integral part of the new agenda.

69. **Food security.** A relative neglect of agricultural development has caused food supplies to fall short of growth in demand because of population growth and changing consumption habits. In order to feed a growing world population, food production would need to increase by an estimated 70 per cent from present levels by 2050. Doing so with existing technologies and production systems would further push the world's natural environment to its limits by adding further to land degradation, water pollution and greenhouse gas emissions. Ensuring food security as part of a post 2015 development agenda would require its alignment with the sustainable development objectives both at the national and international level.

70. **Population dynamics.** Demographic pressures will continue to challenge development on various dimensions. Countries with high population growth rates have a rapidly increasing number of children and youth and face an unsustainable demand for public sector services in education and health. Countries with declining fertility and increasing longevity have populations that are ageing, with implications for sustaining growth, keeping pension systems viable and guaranteeing decent living conditions and care for older persons. Increased international migration and displacements generated by natural catastrophes and political conflict may require renewed mechanisms to protect their human rights and developmental needs. Continued rapid urbanization is posing challenges of its own, but which also run across all other issues.

71. **Peace and security.** Growing inequalities, disputes over the control of natural resources in the absence of alternative means to produce wealth and human development and unfulfilled expectations among the youth are becoming major sources of conflict in many countries. Added to the violence generated by illicit activities and crime these factors are behind heightened social tension and outright violence in large parts of the world. Violence causes death, disease and displacement, destroys physical and social capital, damages the environment, decreases school attendance and discourages investment. Improving the impact of development policies and the use of effective mechanisms to reduce illicit activities requires strengthened partnerships to guarantee peace and the personal security of people in the post 2015 development framework.

72. **Human rights.** The protection and promotion of human rights is a cross-cutting theme and central to the core principles and values of the Millennium Declaration. In the discussions about the post 2015 agenda consideration should be given to ways to more clearly operationalize human rights, inter alia, through strengthened mechanisms to protect the rights to development of minorities and vulnerable population groups (such as migrants, indigenous peoples, persons with disabilities, older persons, etc.) and by underscoring the instrumental value of human rights

¹⁸ See United Nations, *World Economic and Social Survey 2011: The Great Green Technological Transformation*, op cit.

principles of equality and non-discrimination, participation and accountability for effective, more sustainable and equitable development outcomes.

73. *Policy coherence at national and international levels.* More than a decade of experience in the implementation of the development agenda contained in the MDGs has provided a wealth of knowledge about the factors that determine success and failure in reaching and sustain human development gains. One key lesson is that the complexities of the development process require a higher level of consistency in the design of economic, social, environmental and security policies to improve and sustain progress.

74. *An enhanced or a new framework?* The discussions about the future of the UN development agenda, three approaches could be taken. First, to extend the date for the fulfilment of the current MDG agenda in recognition that, even if all MDG targets were met in 2015, the MDG agenda as it stands now would still be relevant. After 2015, there would still be half of the way to go to the eradication of extreme poverty and hunger for example. Second, to agree on an MDG Plus agenda to incorporate some of the issues that, although well recognized in the Millennium Declaration, were not formally incorporated into the MDG framework such as human rights, governance, peace and security. The third option is to take a completely different format in the post 2015 development agenda to reflect the old and new challenges in the world.

C. Consultations for a post 2015 UN Development Agenda

75. Over the coming years, the process of structured discussions, to be held in different UN fora, will allow Member States and other relevant stakeholders to make their own assessment on how the MDGs should be refined and rethought.

76. In the few years left before 2015, the main focus of the international community must, however, remain firmly on accelerating MDG achievement. The Secretary-General's initiative supported by the Chief Executives Board (CEB) on an MDG integrated implementation framework (IIF) can serve as an important accountability instrument on MDG commitments by all stakeholders.

77. The post-2015 development framework is likely to have the greatest development impact, if it emerges from an inclusive, open and transparent process with multi-stakeholder participation. Using established global, regional, and national mechanisms and processes, is one way to ensure that deliberations on a post-2015 framework benefit from the wide range of lessons learned and experiences of different stakeholders.

78. Several formal and informal meetings are scheduled in the run-up to 2015. In addition to taking stock of MDG progress, these could also discuss key elements of a post-2015 framework. This applies in particular to the annual General Assembly specific meeting focused on development.¹⁹ Future meetings could follow the example of the sixty-fifth session of the

¹⁹ GA resolution 60/265, para. 56

General Assembly, where part of the meeting, held on 14 June 2011, was devoted to a discussion of a post-2015 development framework.

79. ECOSOC and its subsidiary bodies have taken the lead in the follow-up to the outcomes of several major UN conferences and Summit. They are hence well positioned to serve as an important forum for intergovernmental discussions on a post-2015 framework. In this regard, the biennial Development Cooperation Forum provides a platform for multi-stakeholder discussions on trends in development cooperation. The upcoming three Annual Ministerial Reviews²⁰ will shed light on important crosscutting and emerging issues of the UN development agenda. During the AMR's national voluntary presentations Member States will be able to share lessons learned and examples of best practice.

80. The different processes will be supported by a series of high-quality analytical reports prepared in response to intergovernmental mandates. Among those reports, the present report is of particular relevance. It will be prepared annually between now and 2015 and will review MDG progress and address the issue of how to best advance the UN development agenda beyond 2015. It provides an analytical complement to annual Millennium Development Goals Report and the Millennium Development Goals Gap Task Force Report. In addition, a comprehensive five-year report of the Secretary-General will be prepared for the seventieth session of the General Assembly.

81. This global-level analysis is complemented by regional reports of the UN Regional Commissions and regional human development reports as well as assessments of the Secretary-General's Africa Steering Group on MDG progress in Africa. At the country level, MDG country reports, prepared by UN country teams, and national and local human development reports, prepared by UNDP, offer valuable lessons. The reports prepared in connection with the 2012 General Assembly's quadrennial comprehensive review of operations activities for development will provide important insights on the support provided by the UN at the country level.

82. The United Nations can help nurture relations with key development stakeholders. It can do so by building on well established outreach mechanisms such as the Millennium Campaign and the Secretary-General's MDG Advocacy Group. The work of the Global Compact, including through its Global Compact Leaders Summit, provides an opportunity to encourage private sector participation. The development dialogue organized by the General Assembly on 14 June 2011 already provided a space to initiate consultations on the post 2015 development framework with participation from academics, the private sector and civil society organizations.

83. There are a series of key international events between now and 2015 which could generate support for the post-2015 framework. The upcoming United Nations Conference on

²⁰ The Economic and Social Council adopted the following themes for its multi-year annual ministerial reviews: (a) 2012: "Promoting productive capacity, employment and decent work to eradicate poverty in the context of inclusive, sustainable and equitable economic growth at all levels for achieving the Millennium Development Goals"; (b) 2013: "Science, technology and innovation, and the potential of culture, for promoting sustainable development and achieving the Millennium Development Goals"; and (c) 2014: "Addressing ongoing and emerging challenges for meeting the Millennium Development Goals in 2015 and for sustaining development gains in the future".

Sustainable Development (“Rio+20”) provides one important opportunity to rethink development by bringing together economic, social and environmental facets of development.

84. Member States also requested the President of the General Assembly to hold a special event to follow-up efforts made towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals, to be held in 2013 during the sixty-eighth session of the General Assembly. The question of how to best advance the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015 could also be addressed during this event.