

THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

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REMARKS AT LAUNCH OF  
2013 MDG GAP TASK FORCE REPORT  
New York, 19 September 2013

Ladies and gentlemen,

I am pleased to present this year's MDG Gap Task Force Report.

I established this Task Force in 2007 to track progress on the international community's delivery of commitments to strengthen the Global Partnership for Development – as defined by Millennium Development Goal 8.

In July, I reported a number of MDG successes.  
Today I am pleased to report progress on MDG 8, the global partnership for development.

As the reports shows, tariffs on exports from developing countries are down. Exports from developing to developed countries are up. A larger proportion of exports from least developed countries are being admitted duty free. Access to mobile phone technology and the internet continue to rapidly expand.

Some medicines such as those to treat HIV/AIDS are becoming more affordable.

And the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries' Initiative is near completion.

However, much more needs to be done.

While global economic trends are slowly improving, the crisis continues to take a toll. For the first time in a long while, Official Development Assistance has fallen for two consecutive years.

The Doha Round of multilateral trade negotiations remains at an impasse.

Many more developing countries are in need of debt restructuring.

Essential medicines often remain unaffordable and hard to find.

Access to new technologies remains limited in developing countries.

Despite these challenges, there is much to build upon.

Donor countries continue to strive for - and some even surpass - the ODA target of 0.7 per cent of gross national income. New countries and other partners are stepping up.

But all must deliver on commitments – on official development assistance, climate finance and domestic resource mobilization

The international financial institutions are reflecting on more timely and efficient debt restructuring mechanisms.

With the help of pharmaceutical companies, there is more local production of generic medicines.

The Broadband Commission has helped countries establish policies to expand internet coverage.

And I hope that the upcoming World Trade Organization's Ministerial Conference in Bali can make progress in breaking the logjam and reaping the development benefits of trade.

As we approach the 2015 MDG target date, we must accelerate efforts while we begin crafting the post-2015 development agenda.

These efforts will be front and centre next week. We will showcase MDG successes throughout the week and at a special partnership event on Monday. I will also use next Wednesday's General Assembly special event to officially launch my report, "A Life of Dignity for All". It calls for a single, coherent and ambitious post-2015 agenda with sustainable development at its core and poverty eradication as its highest priority.

Greater progress towards the MDGs will fuel confidence and mobilize support for an ambitious post-2015 development agenda. And our post-2015 efforts should build on the work begun and the lessons learned through the MDGs.

For all our efforts, we will need one thing above all: a renewed and stronger global partnership – and we are here today to help advance that effort for one and all.

Thank you.