



High-level Plenary Meeting on the Millennium Development Goals

Keeping the promise: a forward-looking review to promote an agreed action agenda to achieve the Millennium Development Goals by 2015

Compilation of Partnership Events and Action Commitments*

This paper presents a compilation of action commitments made at various Partnership Events in support of the High-level Event on the Millennium Development Goals hosted by the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the President of the General Assembly on 20-22 September 2010.

This paper should be read in conjunction with:

- Millennium Development Goals Report 2010, June 2010;
- Report of the Secretary-General, Keeping the promise: a forward-looking review to promote an agreed action agenda to achieve the Millennium Development Goals by 2015, February 2010;
- The Global Partnership for Development at a Critical Juncture, MDG Gap Task Force, September 2010.

* The information contained in this report is based on submissions received from organizers and organizations and is subject to verification. The United Nations is not responsible for any errors or omissions.

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FOREWORD

Achieving the MDGs depends on hard work and commitment by many partners — governments, corporations, civil society organizations and ordinary citizens. But the United Nations has a special responsibility to shine a light on extreme poverty and other global problems, and to plot a path for rising to these challenges.

If there is one overarching message from the 2010 Summit, it is that the MDGs can be achieved. Despite the obstacles, we have the tools and the technologies that can bring the goals to life for people everywhere. We also have a great many successful stories — more than ever before. Many countries have made enormous progress. The world as a whole is on track to reduce poverty by half by 2015 — a tremendous achievement. With the deadline approaching fast, our challenge is to put our resources where they will have the greatest impact — education, jobs, health, smallholder agriculture, infrastructure and green energy.

The Summit featured not only formal meetings and roundtable discussions among Government officials, but also a wealth of side events, presented in this document, which demonstrate the energy and commitment of so many other actors to the goals. Many lessons have been learned on the best ways to make progress, and these have been showcased and shared widely at these events. Most importantly, many concrete commitments have been announced that will help push the international community to the finish line.

I thank all the participants for their efforts and appeal to them to maintain their engagement and enthusiasm as we enter the crucial five years ahead. Millions upon millions of the poorest and most vulnerable around the world are counting on us to deliver.

Ban Ki-moon
Secretary-General, United Nations
21 September 2010

INTRODUCTION

This paper provides information from the partnership events that took place between 15 September and 23 September in conjunction with the High-level Plenary Meeting on the Millennium Development Goals. It aims to capture commitments and planned outcomes announced in support of the Millennium Development Goals.

The more than 80 partnership events reflected in this report spanned the range of initiatives required to reach the MDGs. Some have a focus on advocacy and raising long term awareness, while others concern major campaign initiatives to be launched in support of specific MDGs. This report is not intended as an exhaustive list of actions planned by actors in the international community. The commitments and initiatives are, however, an indication of the sort of necessary actions that are being put in place. They provide useful information about outcomes and commitments, encourage innovative thinking about working together and serve as a catalyst for tangible progress to achieving the MDGs.

This compilation was prepared by the Department of Social and Economic Affairs and the United Nations Office for Partnerships.

SPECIAL EVENT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

Every Woman, Every Child
22 September 2010, ECOSOC Chamber

Organizer/Organization: Executive Office of the Secretary-General

Commitments/Initiatives

The Secretary-General launched the first ever comprehensive Global Strategy for Women's and Children's Health – a roadmap for coordinated action and increased accountability among all stakeholders to accelerate progress on the health MDGs.

The Global Strategy sets out how governments, the private sector, civil society and international organizations can deliver improved services, policies, and financing.

Over US\$40 billion for women's and children's health has been committed, not only from donors but also from the private companies, philanthropy, and NGOs. Significant non-monetary commitments have also been announced. Commitments are listed in detail on <http://www.un.org/sg/globalstrategy>. Below is a snapshot of some of the commitments made at the time of the event.

Major civil society organizations such as World Vision, CARE, Save the Children and BRAC have pledged more than \$5 billion dollars for women's and children's health over the next 5 years. Others, such as Family Care International, Amnesty International, the Global Health Council and Women Deliver have committed to significantly increase the reach of their global advocacy.

Companies such as Johnson and Johnson and GlaxoSmithKline are making multi-year commitments and will provide free de-worming medicine to 200 million children every year, improving their health. Johnson and Johnson will also internationalize the successful US Text for Baby program in many developing countries, providing free health information to mothers.

Foundations have joined the effort. The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation reiterated an additional \$1.5 billion over the next 5 years; the UN Foundation committed \$400 million; the David and Lucille Packard Foundation committed \$120 million for family planning and reproductive health. The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation will invest approximately \$30 million towards achieving MDG 5 and the BBC World Trust is providing \$30 million for improved health communications. Foundations such as the TY Danjuma Foundation in Nigeria and the Carlos Slim Foundation in Mexico are doing their part as well.

Developing country governments are leading the way with major investments in their peoples' health: from Nigeria's commitment of 2 per cent of their Federal Revenue Capital to Ethiopia's agreement to provide emergency obstetric care to all patients at its health facilities to Nepal's addition of 10,000 new skilled health workers, developing countries are making critical changes that will save many lives. Importantly many countries have committed to increase their spending on health to 15 per cent of their national budgets by 2015 including Ethiopia, Ghana, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe, and others.

And donor governments have stepped up as well: the UK committed to doubling its current spending, delivering an additional £2.1 billion for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health between 2010 to 2015; Japan committed US\$5 billion in new funding from 2010 – 2015; France committed 1 billion Euros; Canada committed C\$1.35 billion; Norway committed US\$725 million; and Germany committed 400 million Euros.

The Secretary-General’s event marked just the beginning of this joint effort, which will remain a “living” process. Additional commitments are already being sent in and will be highlighted on www.everywomaneverychild.org as soon as the website is ready.



GOAL 1: ERADICATE EXTREME POVERTY AND HUNGER

- *Reduce by half the proportion of people living on less than a dollar a day*
- *Achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all, including women and young people*
- *Reduce by half the proportion of people who suffer from hunger*

Three Recent Reports on Poverty: Joint Research Discussion on Poverty Reduction

17 September, Conference Room 5

Organizer/Organization:	Department of Economic and Social Affairs and United Nations Research Institute for Social Development
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Commitments/Initiatives

The Joint Research Discussion on Poverty Reduction included presentations of recent reports by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA), United Nations Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD) and the Chronic Poverty Research Centre. Each institution’s report addresses different facets of poverty reduction, but together they examine what works and what has gone wrong in international policy thinking; the causes, dynamics, and persistence of poverty; and the range of policies and institutional measures that countries can adopt to alleviate poverty.

The UNDESA report, *Rethinking Poverty*, disputes the contemporary technocratic vision of poverty reduction and affirms that eradicating poverty requires actions leading to sustainable economic growth, productive employment creation and social development as part of an integrated framework of economic and social policies for the benefit of all citizens. The UNRISD report, *Combating Poverty and Inequality*, presents new evidence based on original case study research from developed and developing countries that should both contribute to progress towards the MDGs, and stimulate discussion of longer term poverty reduction strategies. It emphasizes the role of comprehensive social policies grounded in universal rights and supportive of patterns of inclusive growth and structural

change, social cohesion and democratic politics. The *Chronic Poverty Report 2008-2009* explains five main traps that underpin chronic poverty and outlines key policy responses in these areas. It emphasizes the importance of a just social compact between citizens and states for poverty eradication.

Outcomes

- Challenge conventional wisdom and current policy prescriptions that separate poverty from broader processes of economic growth and development, as well as prescriptions that emphasize targeting the poor in order to alleviate poverty.
- Highlight policy lessons and draw out crucial insights and implications for policy, grounded in analysis of contemporary approaches to poverty reduction.
- Disseminate new evidence and findings to a broad audience in an effort to influence policy debates and outcomes.

Accelerating the Achievement of the MDGs Through Decent Work

20 September, Millennium Plaza Hotel

Organizer/Organization: International Labour Organization and Realizing Rights

Commitments/Initiatives

The International Labour Organization (ILO) and Realizing Rights convened a high-level policy dialogue to galvanize commitment to and stimulate collective action for achieving the MDGs. Particular focus was given to the eradication of poverty through the creation of decent work and partnership development.

The various stakeholders discussed policies which have been most effective at generating employment, ensuring social protection and creating conditions for the reduction of poverty. The dialogue explored how the Decent Work Agenda can best contribute to attaining the MDGs.

The goal is to raise awareness of accomplishments and increase partnerships, particularly with the private sector, for the achievement of the MDGs. Additionally, the intention is to announce partnerships with the private sector using the Decent Work agenda as a catalytic development tool to help achieve the full complement of MDGs.

MDGs, Aim and Driving Force of Growth and Development

20 September, Conference Room 6

Organizer/Organization: Permanent Mission of Morocco

Commitments/Initiatives

This event demonstrated the interdependence between the MDGs and economic growth and development illustrated by the lessons learned from the Moroccan experience through presentations by Moroccan and international personalities

**Emerging from the Global Crisis and Achieving the MDGs:
Prospects and Challenges for Developing Countries**

20 September, Conference Room 7

Organizer/Organization: International Monetary Fund (IMF)

Commitments/Initiatives

The event discussed the prospects for Low Income and Developing Countries in achieving the MDGs from IMF's perspective and argued that the macro-impact of the crisis on Low Income Countries, their policy responses and how macro policies should be realigned to sustain growth and protect against future shocks.

Tackling Child Labour: A Key to Progress on the MDGs

21 September, Church Centre, 777 United Nations Plaza

Organizer/Organization: Global Task Force on Child Labour (ILO, UNESCO, UNICEF, World Bank, EFA-FTI, Education International, and the Global March Against Child Labour), Government of the Netherlands

Commitments/Initiatives

The side event on Tackling Child Labour: A Key to Progress on the MDGs welcomed the commitment in MDG summit outcome document to accelerate progress on MDG1 through action to eliminate the worst forms of child labour, and to boost access to education for the hardest to reach children through strategic steps to further action on MDG2.

It was agreed to work towards implementation of the Roadmap for the elimination of the worst forms of child labour, adopted by the Hague Global Conference on child labour in May 2010.

Partners in the Global Task Force on Child Labour and Education for All will also take steps to strengthen the functioning of the Global Task Force to ensure it adds value to current efforts to tackle child labour and provide education for all children.

Knowledge For Results

21 September, New York Helmsley Hotel

Organizer/Organization: World Bank Group

Commitments/Initiatives

With the five year countdown to 2015 now underway, this World Bank session showed how growing evidence from impact evaluations is influencing policies and programs to achieve better MDG results.

Decent Work and the MDGs: Keeping the Promise 21 September, Salvation Army Auditorium, 221 E 52ND ST	
Organizer/Organization:	International Trade Union Confederation
Commitments/Initiatives	
<p>The meeting noted that although decent work is now recognized as being integral to the achievement of all the MDGs, progress in realizing its targets have been slow. Rather, the predominance of neo-liberal economic policies has fuelled massive unemployment and jobless growth, and has led to multiple crises that have exacerbated poverty. A concerted focus on demand-led growth through employment, decent work and social protection is key to sustainable development. The meeting concluded that this must mean prioritizing MDG1, sub-target 1B: which aims “to achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all, including women and young people.”</p>	

Decent work and the MDGs 21 September, International Social Justice Commission, 221 E 52nd ST	
Organizer/Organization:	Solidar
Commitments/Initiatives	
<p>Since the inclusion of decent work in the MDGs, progress against the targets has been slow and unlike education and health, and it has not received as much attention. The event set out the case for ensuring decent work is given sufficient attention by policy makers and that significant and adequate resources are devoted to it, at the same time as making a case for the overall upholding of aid promises and perseverance with the MDGs.</p>	

Multi-Religious Leaders’ Consultation on the MDGs 20 - 21 September, UNDP, 304 E 45 ST	
Organizer/Organization:	World Conference of Religions for Peace
Commitments/Initiatives	
<p>The meeting aimed to mobilize religious communities to monitor the implementation of the Breakthrough Action plan to engage in global, regional and national processes to achieve the MDGs, with a particular focus on advancing legal empowerment of the poor. It also focused on the promotion of gender equality (MDG 3) and maternal health (MDG 5) with a particular focus on gender-based violence through the use of the Restoring Dignity Toolkit for religious leaders and communities developed by Religions for Peace. Finally, the meeting advanced alliance building with multi-sectoral partnerships to achieve the MDGs.</p>	

The World We Want 2015 - Future Strategies on the MDG Agenda

22 September, International Social Justice commission, 221 E 52nd ST

Organizer/Organization: Global Call to Action against Poverty

Commitments/Initiatives

The event featured a panel discussion - MDGs at 10 years, Looking back, Looking Ahead - with speakers from civil society, UN Agencies and Governments, followed by thematic working groups working on developing "The World We Want 2015 Strategy Statement" to be launched at the end of the day.

Indigenous Peoples, Poverty and Development

22 September, The New York Helmsley Hotel

Organizer/Organization: World Bank Group

Commitments/Initiatives

The event focused on the main impediments to making schooling more productive and responsive to the needs of indigenous peoples. It also discussed promising approaches based on empirical evidence.

**Leveraging Innovative Food Assistance Tools for
Emergency Relief and Hunger Solutions**

22 September, International Peace Institute, 777 UN Plaza

Organizer/Organization: United Nations World Food Programme

Commitments/Initiatives

The UN Emergency Relief Coordinator, Baroness Amos, and the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, António Guterres, joined the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) Executive Director, Josette Sheeran, in leading an interactive discussion.

**Inclusive Growth and Employment in Africa –
Accelerating the Achievement of the MDGs**

22 September, Church Centre, 777 United Nations Plaza

Organizer/Organization: Permanent Missions of Denmark, Liberia and Tanzania

Commitments/Initiatives

Presentations at this event included concrete examples of best practices creating inclusive growth and employment in Africa. Presentations drew on the speakers' background, experiences and perspectives in facilitating growth and employment for the fulfilment of the MDGs in Africa.

The speakers were: H.E. Mr. Lars Løkke Rasmussen, Prime Minister of Denmark; H.E. Ms. Ellen

Johnson-Sirleaf, President of Liberia; H.E. Mr. Mizengo K. Peter Pinda, Prime Minister of the United Republic of Tanzania; Dr. Donald Kaberuka, President of the African Development Bank; Dr. Mo Ibrahim, African Entrepreneur and Chairman of the Mo Ibrahim Foundation; María Angélica Ducci, Executive Director of the Office of the Director-General, ILO.

Building Food Security by Empowering Farmers

23 September, Millennium Plaza Hotel

Organizer/Organization:

World Food Programme and Millennium Villages Project

Commitments/Initiatives

The Millennium Villages Project (MVP) and World Food Programme (WFP) have partnered to win the battle against hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition through practical field-based solutions. Purchase for Progress (P4P) is such a program, connecting smallholder farmers to markets, improving income and food security in 21 countries in Africa and South America. The focus across the pilots is to link WFP's demand for staple food commodities (cereals, pulses and blended foods) with the technical expertise of a wide range of partners to build the capacity of farmers' organizations to access credit, increase agricultural production and improve their ability to deliver a high quality product to markets. How to meaningfully engage with women farmers is a critical question throughout the process.

P4P is an innovative initiative to assist smallholder farmers by offering them opportunities to access agricultural markets and to become competitive players in the market place. It acts as a catalyst amongst a wide array of actors (including governments, academic institutions, civil society and the private sector) to strengthen and develop commodity value chains to promote food-security and empower smallholder farmers. Based on empirical evidence and learning, MVP and WFP are promoting further alignment of methodologies and investments between the public and private sector and thought leaders.

The MVP and WFP partnership is based on a shared vision that the battle against hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition is winnable. This event showcased several P4P approaches across the different pilot country contexts where innovation in procurement, market infrastructure investments and partnerships are already showing good results. Across the pilot countries, it is evident already that no one size fits all. The themes highlighted included: Innovative ways to invest in market infrastructure; capacitating smallholders, especially women, to have access to a quality buyer; and innovations in cost-efficient and locally appropriate equipment to select/clean maize/beans.

During the discussion, experts shared insights and solicited feedback on the applicability or scalability of the different P4P approaches in other countries, and participation on key areas and common follow up.



GOAL 2: ACHIEVE UNIVERSAL PRIMARY EDUCATION

- *Ensure that all boys and girls complete a full course of primary schooling*

Making 1GOAL Education For All A Reality

20 September, Millennium Plaza Hotel

Organizer/Organization:	1GOAL: Global Campaign for Education
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Commitments/Initiatives

The event celebrated the success of the 1GOAL: Education for all campaign and included a discussion by experts on finishing the task of making universal basic education a reality for all children. New data and financial commitments were made at the event.

Speakers included: Her Majesty Queen Rania of Jordan; Kailash Satyarthi, President GCE; World Bank Managing Director Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala; Senior representatives from donor agencies including UK International Development Secretary Andrew Mitchell; Former Manchester United and South Africa player Quinton Fortune; Tony Lake, Executive Director UNICEF; Irina Bokova, Director General UNESCO; and Carol Bellamy, Chair Education for All Fast Track Initiative.

The Role of Education in the MDGs

22 September, Delegates Dining Room

Organizer/Organization:	UNICEF, UNESCO, the Government of the State of Qatar, and Save the Children
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Commitments/Initiatives

The High-Level Round Table brought together global leaders to examine the nexus between education and development and identify strategies for accelerating progress toward international education targets. Distinguished participants affirmed that achieving Education for All was not only essential for meeting all of the MDGs, but also key to promoting peace and security upon which sustainable development depends. They called for education to be given much higher priority on the international agenda, and for integrated policies that reinforce the positive impact of education on health, poverty, gender equality and other socio-economic outcomes. Participants also urged the need for sharper messaging on all these issues.

In terms of practical strategies, strong emphasis was given to the need for increased and more predictable long-term funding for education, both on the part of donors and national governments. Distinguished participants also underscored the importance of countries putting in place robust legal and policy frameworks that guarantee the right to education. The need for greater attention to equity was underlined, and speakers drew special attention to the needs of girls and children living in countries affected by conflict. Quality was another key theme, with participants stressing the

importance of raising standards in education and addressing the chronic shortage of trained teachers. Promoting greater access to early childhood care and education was highlighted as one of the most effective strategies for equalizing opportunities and enhancing learning outcomes.

- Ensure funding for education is long-term and predictable.
 - USD\$5 billion aid to education between now and 2015, in three, five, and seven year commitments;
 - Commitment to multi-year funding for education (up to 10 year commitments);
 - Commitment to join the reformed EFA Fast Track Initiative;
 - Expand funding to education in countries affected by conflict;
 - National governments urged to increase investment in education to meet essential tasks such as teacher training.
- Incorporate the right to education in national legislation.
 - Ensure legal and policy frameworks are in place to guarantee the right to education;
 - Enhance policy coherence among ministries;
 - Engage relevant ministries outside education sector.
- Forge new and innovative partnerships
 - Strengthen partnerships and engagement with the private sector. WISE and DAVOS provide platforms for mobilizing CEOs behind education;
 - Raise the profile of education on the G20 agenda;
 - Generate more innovative financing for education
- Expand access to education, with a special emphasis on meeting the needs of the poorest and most marginalized.
 - Increased focus on the most marginalized, especially girls and children living in areas affected by conflict;
 - Expand access to Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) as one of the most effective strategies for levelling the playing field.
- Improve the quality of education
 - Scale-up teacher recruitment and training;
 - Increase technical support to teachers as agents of change (guidance and motivational tools);
 - Introduce new learning indicator to MDG 2 on child literacy.
- Improve messaging of education
 - Focus on education’s relevance to achieving progress in non-education sectors – in health, in poverty eradication, in security, in combating climate change.



GOAL 3: PROMOTE GENDER EQUALITY AND EMPOWER WOMEN

- *Eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education preferably by 2005, and at all levels by 2015*

MDG 3's Impact on MDG 7: How UN Women can Contribute to the Realization of Sustainable Development Goals

15 September, Baha'i International Community Office, 866 UN Plaza

Organizer/Organization: Women's Environment and Development Organization

Commitments/Initiatives

Gender equality is a prerequisite to sustainable development. Accounting for the different roles of men and women in relation to agriculture, water, forests, land and biodiversity will improve the feasibility, effectiveness and efficiency of efforts to increase food security and access to clean water, as well as to lessen deforestation, erosion and desertification. Globally, women's roles in the household, which often consist of providing food, water and energy and tending to biodiversity, can prevent women and girls from earning a formal wage or gaining an education and keep them entrenched in a cycle of poverty; it is estimated that 70 per cent of the world's poorest persons are women and girls.

In making strides to achieve the MDGs over the past 10 years, the UN recognizes that progress toward MDG 3 on gender equality and women's empowerment has not been sufficient. Other MDGs that are behind attainment goals, including MDG 7 on environmental sustainability, will benefit from progress toward MDG3. Ensuring the full enjoyment of women's human rights will enhance the accountability and implementation of MDG3 and MDG7, and indeed all goals. Moreover, it was monumental when member states unanimously passed a historic resolution to create UN Women on July 2, 2010. The agency, to be headed by an Under-Secretary General, is consolidating the four current gender entities (UNIFEM, OSAGI, DAW and INSTRAW) and will, hopefully, access funding to operationalize MDG3 and other commitments to gender equality and women's empowerment at the country level. During this time of transition to UN Women, is the event concluded that it is crucial for the priorities and agenda of this new entity to be identified in order to address and attain 2 of the most pressing needs of our time: gender equality and environmental sustainability.

MDGs without Human Rights: An Empty Promise

17 September, Beekman Tower Hotel

Organizer/Organization: Center for Reproductive Rights, Inc.

Commitments/Initiatives

This side event generated a discussion on the critical importance of fully incorporating human rights into efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, with a particular focus on the MDGs related to women's health and equality. The only way to guarantee that the MDGs, which are grounded in states' human rights obligations, live up to their promise of a better world is to ensure that human rights are fully integrated into plans for their achievement. This event explored the importance of ensuring women's sexual and reproductive rights as a key component of achieving the goals on gender

equality and empowering women, improving maternal health and combating HIV (MDG 3, MDG 5 and MDG 6). Speakers shared country human rights analysis and strategies that advocates are using to advance these rights and further progress toward the MDGs, including litigation, fact-finding and monitoring.

Speakers included: Nancy Northup, President of the Center for Reproductive Rights; Luisa Cabal, Director of the International Legal Program, Center for Reproductive Rights; Ignacio Saiz, Director, Center for Economic and Social Rights; Widney Brown, Senior Director of International Law, Policy and Campaigns, Amnesty International; and Marianne Mollmann, Advocacy Director of the Women's Rights Program, Human Rights Watch.

Women Deliver - Brunch for UN Delegations to the MDG Summit
19 September, Waldorf Astoria Hotel

Organizer/Organization: World Bank Group

Commitments/Initiatives

To put forth a collective voice around the need to invest in women and girls.

World's Women at the Centre of Achieving the MDGs
20 September, Conference room 7 NLB

Organizer/Organization: Permanent Mission of Denmark to the UN, Permanent Mission of the Republic of Senegal to the UN, and UNIFEM (part of UN Women)

Commitments/Initiatives

The presentations and discussion drew upon five recommendations presented at the MDG3 conference on 25 March 2010 in Copenhagen on how to accelerate the achievement of the MDGs. These are summarized as:

- Economic empowerment of women as a rights' issue and as smart economics;
- Expansion of women's entrepreneurship opportunities;
- Creation of opportunities to overcome social and cultural barriers;
- Priority for women's health, incl. sexual and reproductive rights;
- Voice and political participation

These were points of departure for the speakers at the event, which attempted to develop recommendations in light of the findings presented by UNIFEM in the areas of women-friendly public services, land and jobs for women, women in power and decision-making, and ending violence against women and girls. These will be provided and elaborated upon at the event in an excerpt from the forthcoming 'Progress of the World's Women 2010/2011'.

- Commitment to put women and girls at the centre of the MDGs. Recognition and reaffirmation that women's and girls' rights are central to the achievement of the all of the goals and progress depends on further action;

- Implementation of the law on Gender Equality. The President of Senegal is committed to implementing the recently adopted law on gender equality, including parity in representation for women and men in all institutions, to accelerate progress towards the MDGs;
- Commitment to share data and information in relation to advancing gender equality, including the forthcoming Progress of the World's Women report.

**Gender Inequality - A Constraint to Economic Growth,
Biodiversity Protection, Poverty Reduction and Sustainable
Development: Linkages Between MDG 1, 3 and 7**

21 September, Delegates Dining Room

Organizer/Organization:	The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), in partnership with the Government of Finland and the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) with the financial support from the Netherlands, Humanist Institute for Development Cooperation (HIVOs)
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Commitments/Initiatives

The keynote speakers, Mr. Ahmed Djoghlaif, Executive Secretary, CBD; Ms. Julia Marton-Lefèvre, Director General, IUCN; Ms. Cassandra Butts, Senior Advisor MCC; Mr. Luc Gnacadja, Executive Secretary UNCCD; H.E. Ms. Tarja Reponen, Ambassador for Sustainable Development, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Finland and H.E. Ms. Gunilla Carlsson, Minister for International Development Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Sweden, each presented a review of successes, best practices and lessons learned, obstacles and gaps, challenges and opportunities faced in the last ten years in achieving the MDGs in particular, with regard to the integration of MDG 3.

Through the roundtable discussions there were several common actions that were called for towards the achievement of MDG 3. Amongst these were:

- Two prong education for all stakeholders at all levels: from infancy through adulthood
- Finance:
 - Strengthening of micro-credit schemes for women to access loans
 - More funding for community/grass roots gender activities
 - More women needed in decision-making positions in the finance world
- Legislation for resource rights to be transferred to women
- Land and inheritance rights for women
- Integration of traditional and cultural rights into the gender debate
- Coordination among the Rio Conventions on gender

Addressing Sexual Violence Against Girls

22 September, Le Bernadin Restaurant, 155 W 51st ST

Organizer/Organization:

US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, US Department of State (Offices of the Global AIDS Coordinator and Global Women’s Issues), UNICEF, UNFPA, UNAIDS, UNIFEM, the CDC Foundation, the Nduna Foundation, BD (Becton, Dickinson and Company) and Grupo ABC of Brazil

Commitments/Initiatives

The US President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) in collaboration with the Office of Global Women’s Issues formally joined Together with Girls, a global partnership to end sexual violence. At a reception hosted by Amy Robbins, Executive Director of the Nduna Foundation, Ambassador Melanne Vermeer, Ambassador-at-Large for Global Women’s Issues, and Ambassador Eric Goosby, U.S. Global AIDS Coordinator, discussed how the partnership contributes to their common goal of addressing gender-based violence, particularly sexual violence against girls, in countries severely affected by the HIV/AIDS pandemic. The Honorable Nonhlanhla Dlamini, Member of Parliament in Swaziland, Gary Cohen, Executive Vice President of Becton, Dickinson and Company, and Ms. Robbins made remarks.

At the 2009 Annual Meeting of the Clinton Global Initiative, a unique partnership was launched to end sexual violence against girls worldwide – a truly global problem affecting over 150 million girls. The partnership, now entitled Together for Girls, unites major international organizations to find, test and implement the best prevention and protection strategies that address this gross violation of rights. Partnership efforts focus on three pillars: conducting national surveys to document the magnitude and impact of sexual violence, supporting a plan of action at the country level and launching communications and public awareness campaigns.

The Together for Girls partnership is comprised of the US President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, the US Department of State’s Office Global Women’s Issues, the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, UNICEF, UNAIDS, UNFPA, UNIFEM, the Nduna Foundation, BD (Becton, Dickinson and Company), and Grupo ABC of Brazil.



GOAL 4: REDUCE CHILD MORTALITY

- *Reduce by two thirds the mortality rate among children under five*

**Achieving MDG 4: The Power of Vaccines and
Partnership to Tackle the Major Child Killers**
20 September, UNICEF House

Organizer/Organization: United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

Commitments/Initiatives

The event highlighted the successes and potential in reducing child mortality through immunization and other facility and community-based interventions and highlight remaining challenges in ensuring that those in greatest need have access to new vaccines and other child survival interventions.

The event also highlighted the value of partnerships in achieving complex goals such as MDG 4. It demonstrated that the partnership between the GAVI Alliance, UNICEF and WHO has and will play an essential role in the global effort to achieve MDG 4. It concluded that now is the time to accelerate this synergy to tackle the major causes of child deaths through scaling up the roll out of pneumococcal and rotavirus vaccines as a vital part of an integrated approach to the prevention and control of pneumonia and diarrhoea.

Children and the MDGs: Reaching the Most Vulnerable
22 September, UNICEF House

Organizer/Organization: Permanent Missions of Bangladesh, Brazil and Slovenia, and UNICEF

Commitments/Initiatives

Theme: Accelerating progress towards the Millennium development Goals – the power of equity / the moral and practical imperatives of addressing inequities

The event presented an opportunity to highlight why it is important to adopt an equity approach if we want to achieve real, sustainable progress in the next five years

Outcome: Build momentum around a global advocacy and programmatic effort that focuses on the most disadvantaged.



GOAL 5: IMPROVE MATERNAL HEALTH

- *Reduce maternal mortality by three quarters*
- *Achieve universal access to reproductive health*

Maternal Health: Best Practices from Experts around the World

15 September, Conference Room 1

Organizer/Organization: Life Ethics Educational Association

Commitments/Initiatives

Experts from around the world discussed maternal health issues. Drawn from the medical profession and from academia, they discussed the new statistics being prepared on maternal mortality as well as maternal mortality reduction strategies with proven effectiveness.

Raise Your Voice - Gala Benefit Concert

19 September, Stanley H. Kaplan Penthouse, 70 Lincoln Centre Plaza

Organizer/Organization: Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations in Consultative Relationship with the United Nations (CONGO)

Commitments/Initiatives

The Conference of Nongovernmental Organizations and the Nightingale Initiative for Global Health co-hosted a benefit concert to help address the needs of maternal and child health worldwide.

This special event featured renowned Polish-Canadian soprano Maria Knapik and internationally acclaimed Canadian conductor Michel Brousseau at the piano. The first part of the event introduced rising star Shun-yang Lee at the piano. The event raised funds for advocacy efforts related to MDG 4 (Reducing Child Mortality) and 5 (Improving Maternal Health)

Nigeria's Progress on the Health MDGs

20 September, Conference Room 2

Organizer/Organization: Permanent Mission of Nigeria

Commitments/Initiatives

The event aimed to share best practices and the opportunities to move forward on the MDGs. It provided inspiration to representatives of other developing countries – particularly those operating Federal or decentralized systems – for new funding and policy mechanisms.

It generated discussion and debate on issues that underpin the main negotiations in the General

Assembly on the MDGs, for example on how funds can more effectively be channelled to health programs at the local level, build government's capacity for planning and increasing healthcare and education personnel and address major health challenges with a basket of interventions.

**Accelerating Progress in Achieving MDG5:
Trends and Lessons from Countries**
21 September, UNICEF House

Organizer/Organization:	United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)
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Commitments/Initiatives

Key questions discussed during the event:

- What are the factors that have contributed to success in the countries that have demonstrated progress in improving maternal health?
- How best can the H4+ and other development partners strategically support countries to advance equity and accelerate progress towards MDG 5?



GOAL 6: COMBAT HIV/AIDS, MALARIA, AND OTHER DISEASES

- *Halt and begin to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS*
- *Achieve, by 2010, universal access to treatment for HIV/AIDS for all those who need it*
- *Halt and begin to reverse the incidence of malaria and other major diseases*

**Unfinished Business: Reaching the MDGs with Lessons
Learned from Global Polio Eradication**
20 September, Japan Society, 333 East 47th ST

Organizer/Organization:	International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, in collaboration with the Government of Nigeria, World Health Organization, UNICEF, Afghan Red Crescent Society, Rotary International, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, and the GAVI Alliance
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Commitments/Initiatives

Less than three years remain to reach the goal of global polio eradication by 2013. Completing eradication is a humanitarian imperative, but we are not yet there. The remaining 1 per cent of wild poliovirus has proven to be the most challenging, however, with broad partnerships, adaptive strategies and sustained political and financial commitment, the world has never been so close to eradication.

This event, attended by over 130 people, showcased the numerous lessons learned from polio

eradication which can be employed for accelerating progress towards the MDGs and achieving other global health goals. These lessons include the importance of committed partners, dynamic strategies, technological innovation, political support, financial sustainability, and mobilization of civil society and grassroots partners.

Participants were welcomed by Mr. Bekele Geleta, IFRC Secretary General and the keynote address was delivered by Dr. Margaret Chan, Director-General of the World Health Organization.

The event included the screening of two short films and a panel discussion moderated by Mr. Andrew Jack, Financial Times Pharmaceuticals and Health Correspondent. Panellists were Dr. Muhammad Ali Pate, Executive Director and CEO of the National Primary Health Care Development Agency of Nigeria; Ms. Fatima Gailani, President of the Afghan Red Crescent Society; Mr. James Lacy, Chair of the Rotary International Polio Eradication Advocacy Task Force for the US; Ambassador John E. Lange (Ret.), Senior Program Officer for Developing-Country Policy and Advocacy at the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation; Dr. Nicholas Alipui, Director of Programmes for UNICEF; and Ms. Joelle Tanguy, Managing Director of External Relations at the GAVI Alliance.

The Champions of Global Health

21 September, ECOSOC Chamber

Organizer/Organization: The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria

Commitments/Initiatives

The event focused on financing the MDGs in the context of global health challenges and success so far achieved by the Global Fund through its partners. Over a hundred participants joined the conversation including heads of states, UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon, anti-poverty activist Bob Geldof, heads of global businesses and delegates from faith based organizations.

The event highlighted the importance of a fully funded Global Fund to achieve the health related MDGs and provided a platform for partners to pledge their support for the Global Fund prior to its October Replenishment meeting.

Elimination of Mother-to-Child Transmission of HIV and Synergies for Achieving MDGs 4, 5 and 6

21 September, Millennium Plaza Hotel

Organizer/Organization: United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

Commitments/Initiatives

Leaders and High Level Representatives from over 20 nations gathered to express their commitment to the goal of elimination of mother-to-child transmission of HIV by 2015. This goal was endorsed by Heads of UNAIDS, UNICEF, UNFPA, WHO, the Global Fund, the US government and key partners earlier this year. (The deliberations of the 06 June consultation are captured in an Action Minute:

http://www.unicef.org/aids/files/ActionMinute_Jun06Consultation.doc)

This concerted action has refocused the world's attention on PMTCT as a bridge to achieving Millennium Development Goals 4, 5 and 6.

Speakers reaffirmed their political commitment to:

- Approaching the scale-up of quality PMTCT services as part of a broader approach to strengthening health systems and the overall health of the mother and child;
- Committing more resources to the PMTCT response, and;
- Supporting the achievement of the ambitious PMTCT targets forwarded by UN agencies.

The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria promised to continue supporting the re-programming of PMTCT funds for all 20 of the highest burden countries. \$66 million is already re-programmed and elimination is part of the national plans in nine countries.

The United Kingdom expressed its commitment to doubling the numbers of mother and baby lives saved, and increasing support for reproductive and sexual health services and support for PMTCT scale-up. The UK will also work to be sure elimination of MTCT is among the targets adopted at the 2011 United Nations General Assembly Special Session on HIV/AIDS.

Namibia, represented by the Head of State, affirmed its high-level commitment to the elimination of MTCT. Kenya and Nigeria similarly affirmed their commitment to the scale-up of PMTCT within the overall health response for the mother and child.

UNITAID stated that it had renewed its commitment to support PMTCT scale-up in 17 countries.

The participating speakers who committed to achieving the elimination of MTCT by 2015 included: Michel Sidibe, Executive Director UNAIDS; H.E. Hifikepunye Lucas Pohamba, President of Namibia; Dr. Margaret Chan, Director General WHO; Hon. Beth Mugo, Minister of Public Health and Sanitation, Kenya; Michel Kazatchkine, Executive Director, Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria; Hon. C.O. Onyebuchi Chukwu, Minister of Health of Nigeria; Anthony Lake, Executive Director UNICEF; Babalwa Mbono, Junior Trainer for mothers2mothers, South Africa; Ambassador Philip Parham, UK Mission to the United Nations; Jorge Bermudez, Executive Secretary, UNITAID; Charles Lyons, CEO, Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation; Hendrietta Zulu, Deputy Minister of Public Works, South Africa.

**Towards an Integrated Approach to Attaining Health
Related Millennium Development Goals 4, 5 and 6**

21 September, Delegates Dining Room

Organizer/Organization: Permanent Mission of Botswana

Commitments/Initiatives

The event featured a panel discussion led by eminent personalities in the Global Health Council, UNAIDS, UNICEF and UNFPA with a view to promoting opportunities for partnership and international support in the fight against HIV/AIDS.

Saving Mothers and Children with Malaria Control: Count Down to the MDGs

21 September, New York Helmsley Hotel

Organizer/Organization: Roll Back Malaria Partnership (RBM) and International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)

Commitments/Initiatives

This high-level event, attended by over 270 people, included the presentation of a successful home management of malaria program in Kenya and screening of the film *The Motherland Tour: A Journey of African Women with Yvonne Chaka Chaka*.

Participants were welcomed by Prof Awa Marie Coll-Seck, RBM Executive Director, and Mr. Bekele Geleta, IFRC Secretary General. A welcome address was delivered by Ms. Ban Soon-taek, Spouse of the Secretary General of the United Nations, and closing remarks by Dr. Michel Kazatchkine, Executive Director of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria. RBM Goodwill Ambassador, Yvonne Chaka Chaka, emceed the event.

Home management of malaria (HMM) is a strategy to improve access to appropriate and effective malaria treatment in the community or home through early recognition of malaria symptoms and prompt treatment. The Kenyan Ministry of Public Health and Sanitation HMM project was carried out across 113 remote villages in partnership with the Kenya Red Cross and with support from the Canadian Red Cross. The project and the recent report, *Beyond prevention: Home management of malaria in Kenya*, were presented by was presented by Hon Beth Mugo, Minister of Public Health and Sanitation, Mr. Abbas Gullet, Secretary General of the Kenya Red Cross, and Mr. Conrad Sauv , Secretary General of the Canadian Red Cross.

Renowned singer Yvonne Chaka Chaka introduced her film documentary. The film promotes the significant progress made in recent years on improving the health and rights of women and children in Africa, as well as the critical need for ongoing support. It is the story of Yvonne's journey throughout Africa as she met and documented some of Africa's extraordinary women who are pioneering positive change and sustainable progress on issues including malaria and HIV. The film highlights their personal stories and exemplary grass roots work on issues including maternal and child health, women's empowerment, education, and poverty.

No Health Workforce, No Health MDGs: Is that Acceptable?

21 September, Conference Room 2

Organizer/Organization:

Permanent Missions of Brazil, Cameroon and Norway

Commitments/Initiatives

The meeting engaged Heads of State and key policymakers from various sectors about the global health workforce shortage and measures required to strengthen it, and to begin to transform the HRH situation from being a major obstacle to achieving the health MDG and save lives. The event raised understanding about the essential role of health workers for achieving MDGs by drawing attention to the UN SG strategy for Women's and Children's health and the key messages reflected in the background paper on Human Resources for Health in support of the strategy. It also provided specific insights from actions that have worked – both within and beyond the health sector.

AIDS+MDGs: Delivering Results Towards Our Shared Commitments

22 September, ECOSOC Chamber

Organizer/Organization:

Governments of China and South Africa, in collaboration with UNAIDS

Commitments/Initiatives

Progress towards the MDGs has been uneven, with major achievements in some countries and regions on some goals offset by inadequate progress elsewhere. This is a reality which is reflected in progress on HIV: though the movement for Universal Access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support has helped achieve some important results, the epidemic still continues to outpace the response - for every two people newly commencing treatment, five more are infected with HIV. It is increasingly clear we need a fundamentally different approach if we are “to make it happen by 2015”.

A global consensus is emerging that accelerated progress, and more efficient use of resources, can be achieved by taking the AIDS response out of isolation and integrating it with efforts to achieve other MDGs. Leveraging AIDS resources to serve multiple MDGs and mobilizing the AIDS movement to forge broader coalitions provides one approach -and perhaps our best strategy - to improve the lives of the “bottom billion.”

The Panel aimed to generate high level political commitment and mobilize the global community for a new approach for achieving the MDGs. The panel brought together Heads of State and Government, people living with HIV, civil society representatives and Executive Heads of UN Agencies. Interventions by the high-level panellists discussed the AIDS+MDGs approach and identified practical steps to ensure the synergies and linkages among them are leveraged to accelerate progress towards the achievement of the MDGs by 2015.

Bridging the Malaria Gap: Saving children - Supporting Women

22 September, ECOSOC Chamber

Organizer/Organization:

African Leaders Malaria Alliance (ALMA), Office of the Secretary-General's Envoy on Malaria, Tanzania and the United Kingdom

Commitments/Initiatives

This event generated financing and policy commitments which, taken together, helped ensure a step change towards achieving the Global Malaria Action Plan targets by 2015, and action to contain malaria drug resistance.

Mr. Bill Gates of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation announced that the Gates Foundation is making mid- and long-term investments in other tools to be one step ahead of insecticide and drug resistance

The Honorable Dr. Tedros Adhanom, Federal Republic of Ethiopia, announced that by the end of 2010, 16 million LLINS will have been replaced by the Ethiopian Government – all through free distribution. (from the first round of nets of 20 million that were distributed in a five-year span between 2004-2008).

Mr. Rajat Gupta, head of the International Chamber of Commerce, pledged to stimulate opportunities for local manufacturing of malaria – controlled technologies such as pharmaceuticals and LLINS.

Her Excellency President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf pledged to achieve universal net coverage with the help of partners through a door-to-door campaign for coverage of all age groups with at least three ITNs per household. The Liberian legislature is also considering a call to remove taxes and tariffs not only on ITNs and malaria-related drugs, but on all essential drugs imported into Liberia.



GOAL 7: ENSURE ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

- *Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programmes; reverse loss of environmental resources*
- *Reduce biodiversity loss, achieving, by 2010, a significant reduction in the rate of loss*
- *Halve the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation*
- *Achieve significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers, by 2020*

Domestic Resource Mobilisation: Achieving Development and the MDGs in a Sustainable Way

20 September, Delegates Dining Room

Organizer/Organization: Permanent Mission of the European Union

Commitments/Initiatives

This luncheon meeting determined that a series of domestic and international factors are particularly detrimental to developing countries' endeavours to fund development policies - a vast informal sector, a high incidence of corruption, weak tax administrations, poor natural resource governance and tax evasion contribute to the erosion of developing countries' tax bases. Cooperating with developing countries to help them raise more domestic revenues is not only crucial for the provision of public services in these countries, it will also lead the way out of aid dependency in the long term, and reinforce the link between citizen and their government, thus promoting domestic accountability.

The luncheon event featured: Mr. Andris Piebalgs, Commissioner for Development (co-chair); Mr. Donald Kaberuka, President of the African Development Bank (co-chair); Mr. Angel Gurría, Secretary General of OECD; Mr. Jean Ping, African Union Commission Chairperson; Mr. Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, World Bank Managing Director; and Ms. Helen Clark, UNDP Administrator, Mr. Daniel Sowa Ablorh-Quarcoo, Council Member of the African Tax Administration Forum, Mr. Raymond Baker, Director of Global Financial Integrity and Mr. Krister Andersson, Chairperson of the Tax Policy Group at Business Europe.

Localizing the Millennium Development Goals 20 September, ECOSOC Chamber	
Organizer/Organization:	United Nations Human Settlements Programme and United Nations Capital Development Fund
Commitments/Initiatives	
<p>The United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) and the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT) co-organized a panel discussion on localizing the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) aiming to generate recommendations to serve as inputs to the MDG Summit. Speakers discussed progress and challenges in achieving the MDGs, particularly MDG-7 Target 11 (the "slums" target) and issues related to local development.</p>	

Localizing MDG 7: A Key To Success 20 September, Columbia University Club	
Organizer/Organization:	Centre for Environmental Research and Conservation (CERC) - Columbia University
Commitments/Initiatives	
<p>Hosted by the Earth Institute, Columbia University, this side event shared several leading organizations' experience measuring environmental sustainability. Panellists outlined strategies that link local indicators to MDG7, discussed the contributions that the environment can make towards the other MDGs, and highlighted two case studies: the Millennium Village Project's (MVP) metrics for evaluating, monitoring, and facilitating success in achieving MDG7 targets, and TransLinks, a USAID funded program supporting income growth of the rural poor through conservation and sustainable use of the local natural resources.</p> <p>Key lessons learned relate to trade-offs associated with establishing a minimum data set, connecting local indicators to regional targets, alternative activities that support the goal but that are not currently tracked, and the creation of locally relevant metrics for MDG7.</p> <p>The event also introduced a policy brief outlining strategies for assessing local environmental sustainability using examples from the MVP's 5-years of experience and illustrating how these indicators relate to the regional and global targets of MDG7.</p>	

Biodiversity, Ecosystems and Climate Change: Scaling Up

Local Solutions to Achieve the MDGs

20 September, American Museum of Natural History

Organizer/Organization: United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

Commitments/Initiatives

This event was a Policy Forum on the critical linkages between biodiversity conservation, healthy ecosystems, climate change and MDG achievement. The significant contribution of local actors to these issues was highlighted.

The Equator Prize 2010 Award Ceremony was also held. The Equator Prize is awarded biennially to outstanding local and indigenous communities working to reduce poverty through the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. The Equator Prize Award shines a spotlight on successful work at the community level and amplifies key messages on the imperative of supporting and scaling up local best practice at the poverty-environment nexus.

The event also saw the announcement of the Global Partnership on Community Based Adaptation. In response to the urgent challenge posed by climate change impacts and the growing recognition of the high vulnerability of poor communities and the effectiveness of local action, UNDP in partnership with the GEF-Small Grants Programme, Care International, WWF and UNF will form a Global Partnership for Community-based Adaptation. The Partnership, a coalition of civil society, corporations and foundations aims to improve the adaptive capacity and resilience of poor communities in developing countries, reducing their vulnerability to the adverse impacts of climate change.

Climate Vulnerability and its Impact on MDGs

21 September, Conference Room 6

Organizer/Organization: Permanent Mission of Bangladesh

Commitments/Initiatives

Coming ahead of the 2010 United Nations Climate Change Conference in Cancun, Mexico in late 2010, this event discussed a common vision on how to tackle the climate challenges in South Asia and beyond and overcome obstacles towards the achievement of the MDGs.

The event led to improved understanding of the impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change; and better identification of priority areas and relevant follow-up activities to help governments at the national and regional levels meet the challenges posed by climate change impacts while making progress on the MDGs.

Achieving MDGs in a Changing Environment

21 September, ECOSOC Chamber

Organizer/Organization:

United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

Commitments/Initiatives

Panel presentations and interactive dialogue discussed the challenges that are placing MDG implementation at risk and the opportunities that could accelerate implementation. Speakers analysed how the achievement of environmental sustainability underpins success with the other MDGs. The event analysed how effective ecosystems management, including efficient water resources, is critical to feeding a growing human population while using less resources and minimizing waste generation. It also analysed how sustainability principles and innovative approaches in economic activities will not only enhance environmental sustainability but also increase jobs in various sectors such as agriculture, energy, manufacturing, tourism, construction and waste management.

**Slum Upgrading and Prevention Initiative for
Poverty Reduction in African, Caribbean and Pacific Countries**

21 September, Conference Room 6

Organizer/Organization:

United Nations Human Settlements Programme

Commitments/Initiatives

The panel discussion envisaged expected outcomes for the European Commission (EC), the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) Group of States and United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT) including:

- Reporting on ACP countries' concerns and potential urban solutions contributing towards the achievement of the MDGs;
- Presentation of the Participatory Slum Upgrading Programme (PSUP) Initiative implementation process;
- Increased awareness of urban issues and strategies for common joint activities focused on the Nairobi Declaration; and
- Strengthened policy dialogue undertaken through the cooperation between UN-HABITAT, European Commission and ACP countries and other potential donors and partners.

**Addressing the Global Water and Sanitation
Challenge: The Key to the MDGs**
22 September, Delegates Dining Room

Organizer/Organization:	Governments of Japan, Liberia, the Republic of Korea, Senegal, Tajikistan and the United States. Supporters included the Governments of Germany, The Netherlands, Sweden, the United Kingdom and also AMCOW, UNDP, UNICEF, UNSGAB, UN-Water and WaterAid.
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Commitments/Initiatives

Participants at the highest political level gathered to express recognition that:

- Clean water and sustainable sanitation, as well as water security, underpin accelerated achievement of all MDGs;
- Investments in water and sanitation have significant rates of return;
- By prioritizing national planning, adequate resourcing and political will, countries can better achieve their development priorities and all the MDGs.

Participating speakers committed to strengthening support for improving access to water and sanitation as a means of achieving all MDGs. To achieve accelerated progress to improve access to water and sanitation, speakers supported:

- Increased political prioritization for water and sanitation;
- Developing robust policy frameworks and dedicating national budgetary resources targeted to the poorest and unserved;
- Working in partnership.

Many speakers also supported:

- Targeting aid to low-income countries and the poorest in those countries;
- Supporting the Sustainable Sanitation 5-year drive to 2015;
- Supporting the Sanitation and Water for All initiative.

The Forgotten Billion: MDG Achievement in the Drylands
22 September, Conference Room 6

Organizer/Organization:	United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
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Commitments/Initiatives

In the discussions, participants debated local, national and global dryland policy needs, particularly highlighting potential areas of work for UNDP to include in their upcoming report.

On local and national policy, participants emphasized: integrating the MDGs into a sustainable development framework; the relevance of land rights and governance; the underlying security issues related to drylands; and the role of gender. They called for improved salinity and solar technology, and increases in agricultural research. One participant highlighted policy concerns with the cost and sustainability of highly populated and artificially irrigated arid regions, such as in the southwest United

States.

On global policy, participants suggested: establishing dryland ministries to improve institutional capacity and budget allocations for drylands; forming an alliance on food security; addressing migration due to water scarcity; and improving integration of the UNCCD with the CBD and UNFCCC.

Green Growth

22 September, Conference Room 7

Organizer/Organization: Permanent Mission of the Republic of Korea and the Global Green Growth Institute

Commitments/Initiatives

The partnership event shared the vision to meet the Millennium Development Goals in developing countries. The Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI) will support the MDG efforts by facilitating national and local development of appropriate green growth strategies, capacity building and implementation plans in the developing countries.

Speakers: Mr. Han Seung-soo, Former Prime Minister and Chair of the Board of Directors for GGGI; Lord Nicholas Stern, Vice-chair of the Board of Directors for GGGI; Mr. Chung Rae Kwon, UN ESCAP; Office of National River Restoration, Republic of Korea.

High-level Discussion and Launch of the Pearl Initiative

22 September, Delegates Dining Room

Organizer/Organization: United Nations Office of Partnerships (UNOP)

Commitments/Initiatives

This event brought together a select group of business leaders to exchange views and share lessons learned on the linkages between a transparent business environment and sustainable economic growth, which can all contribute to the achievement of the United Nations Millennium Development Goals.

The event hosted by the United Nations Office for Partnerships and Crescent Petroleum Group provided a unique opportunity to discuss the role of strategic partnerships in promoting a culture of transparency, anti-corruption, and good governance. The event also saw the launch of the Pearl Initiative which is aimed at creating a regional network of business leaders in the Gulf region to improve corporate governance and achieve better public reporting and accounting.



GOAL 8: DEVELOP A GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP FOR DEVELOPMENT

- *Develop further an open, rule-based, predictable, non-discriminatory trading and financial system*
- *Address special needs of the least developed countries, landlocked countries and small island developing States*
- *Deal comprehensively with developing countries' debt*
- *In cooperation with pharmaceutical companies, provide access to affordable essential drugs in developing countries*
- *In cooperation with the private sector, make available the benefits of new technologies, especially information and communications technologies*

World Forum on the Diaspora Economy

16 September, Conference Room 4

Organizer/Organization:

Xen Pi Co. and Associates, a Government Relations Consulting Co. in participation with the Permanent Mission of Yemen to the UN, Chairmanship of the Group of 77, the Permanent Mission of Nepal to the UN, Chairmanship of the Group on Least Developed Countries, the Permanent Mission of Benin to the UN, and the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa.

Commitments/Initiatives

The World Forum on the Diaspora Economy held at the United Nations on September 16, 2010 at the occasion of the UN Summit on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) shed new light on the present state of the Diaspora Economy and its potential to mobilize international capital flow between developed countries and countries lesser developed, reliant on remittances. For the purpose of the forum, Diaspora Economy was a reference to the wealth generated by the expenditures of diaspora or ethnic consumers. The forum described how the private sector, particularly, multi-national companies, are increasingly productizing remittances with the introduction of new services in mobile money transfer, international payment processing, internet marketing and diaspora bonds. The forum went as far as to show how ethnic foods and arts are also vital parts of this economy – all as part of an exhibit to show how diaspora-originated transactions is a nascent market poised for growth and further engineering so that the end-result makes a much greater impact on the economy of the country hosting the target community as well as the country from which originates the population. The forum asserted that if the needs of ethnic consumers were better understood and harnessed, and if the international community and the global investment community become actively involved, diaspora economy can generate income far greater than that of which money remittances produce.

Commitments/Initiatives: Four Global Business Partnerships in support of Financing for Development and the MDGs aimed at creating Capital Flow between developed and lesser developed countries over the next 5 years.

- A business proposal to deploy voicemail infrastructure and services in 16 countries lesser developed to interconnect people in rural areas without reliable basic phone service locally and

internationally.

- A business proposal to develop a world class entertainment network dedicated to promote the cross-over of music, art and entertainment worldwide into mainstream markets.
- A business proposal to establish country-focused diaspora bonds to assist countries with project financing.
- Proposal to create a web-based vehicle to facilitate financial transactions between diaspora and their relatives.

Africa Investor Summit

17 September, New York Stock Exchange

Organizer/Organization: United Nations Office for Partnerships (UNOP)

Commitments/Initiatives

The Summit allowed investment professionals, heads of civil society organizations, UN officials, capital markets experts and corporate leaders to engage each other on the growth in regional equity capital markets in furtherance of the Millennium Development Goals.

Millennium Development Goals Awards 2010

19 September, The Waldorf Astoria

Organizer/Organization: The Millennium Campaign and UNOP

Commitments/Initiatives

The annual MDG Awards support and raise awareness of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The New York based ceremony provides a high profile platform to honour and celebrate exemplary efforts by select national governments and civil society stakeholders in contributing towards the achievement of the MDGs.

The theme for this year's ceremony was 'the MDGs: the Global Heartbeat'. A series of compelling stories illustrated the power and impact of the MDGs and their potential to transform lives. The event encouraged distinguished guests, entertainers and celebrity speakers alike to voice their own personal commitment to supporting the MDGs while recognizing the need for all stakeholders to work towards their achievement.

Towards A New Development Paradigm

17 September, German Mission to the United Nations

Organizer/Organization: The Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung, Social Watch and Global Policy Forum

Commitments/Initiatives

The MDG Summit 2010 and the Summit on Sustainable Development 2012 are confronted with

simultaneous crises in food security, climate change and the global economic recovery. These reflect a failure of a model of development and economic progress, which is oriented on a conception of globalization that is blind to environmental and human rights, that confuses economic growth with progress in society, and that regards poverty as a technical challenge unrelated to concerns about inequality and social justice.

These Summits provide an opportunity to look beyond conventional development concepts to a fundamental rethinking of models and measures of development and social progress—in both North and South.

The Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung, Social Watch and Global Policy Forum organized a high-level panel to help broaden the current development discourse by linking analytical discussions of alternative measures and models of development and well-being with political discussions about the concrete actions needed to achieve progress in poverty eradication and social justice.

The Broadband Commission for Digital Development

19 September, Harvard Club, 27 W 44th ST

Organizer/Organization:

International Telecommunication Union (ITU)

Commitments/Initiatives

Broadband is interlinked and interdependent with each of the MDGs. Broadband has the power to accelerate achievement of the MDGs by 2015 – through the delivery of eHealth, eEducation, eGovernance, eCommerce and eEnvironment programmes.

Broadband is the next tipping point, the next truly transformational technology. It can generate jobs, drive growth and productivity, and underpin long-term economic competitiveness. It is also the most powerful tool we have at our disposal in our race to meet the Millennium Development Goals and to fulfil the UN mandate of peace, security and development for all.

The Broadband Commission for Digital Development delivered a declaration and 10 concrete action points to the UN Secretary General on 19 September. Mr. Ban Ki-Moon in receiving the Commission’s report -- A 2010 Leadership Imperative: The Future Built on Broadband -- emphasized that the Commission was “...helping to create a once-in-a-generation opportunity to drive social and economic progress”.

The commitment: Broadband Inclusion for All. To ensure that more than half of all the world’s people have access to broadband networks by 2015, and make access to high-speed networks a basic civil right.

Participants committed to continue the work of the Commission. Each member will serve as a Broadband advocate promoting its importance and raising this to world and industry leaders.

Specific recommendations endorsed:

- Building global commitment to broadband inclusion for all by connecting broadband with the MDGs and knowledge society priorities;
- Maximizing social and economic stimulus with broadband inclusion for all via transformational change in healthcare, education, government and environmental sustainability;
- Addressing issues of convergent broadband networks toward transparent and fair, competitive, technology-neutral models, offering interconnection and interoperability at the national, regional and global levels;
- Developing the right conditions for broadband content and applications creation, diffusion and distribution via an enabling environment based on trust and confidence for economic and social stability and prosperity;
- Utilizing broadband technology and innovation for energy conservation and improved efficiency, emergency disaster response, and monitoring, reporting and verification of climate change data;
- Accelerating access to broadband infrastructure and services for women and girls, to promote gender equality and social and economic development;
- Supporting wider broadband inclusion for all for least developed countries and countries in special need and extending broadband access to rural and remote areas and vulnerable and disadvantaged groups;
- Modelling, evaluation and monitoring of relative targets and timelines for broadband inclusion, with the development of economic, social and usage indicators appropriate to the broadband environment;
- Building a global partnership for broadband development with concrete commitments, recognizing that the cross-sector and cross-cutting nature of broadband will take us beyond the MDG agenda;
- Next steps for partnerships, with concrete coordination including innovative and multi-stakeholder follow-up mechanisms at the national, regional and global levels, including national broadband committees

The members of the Broadband Commission represent a wide range of Government, Industry and United Nations leaders. Each of the 58 Commissioners will work to ensure that the message is carried through in their respective programmes. <http://www.broadbandcommission.org/commissioners.html>

The Commission's report is available at: www.broadbandcommission.org/report1.pdf

Smarter Partnerships for MDG Achievement: The Potential of MDG 8

20 September, Conference Room 5

Organizer/Organization:

Permanent Mission of Egypt, OECD and UNITAR

Commitments/Initiatives

The event featured two panels, one looking back at partnerships and one looking forward at new partnerships with huge potential. Over the lunch hour the audience was invited to participate in an interactive debate on a manifesto for MDG8. The event showcased outstanding partnerships that have contributed to advancing the MDGs; introduced new partnerships with the potential to accelerate

MDG8 over the next 5 years; and identified principles for a manifesto for MDG8.

The event discussed the development and launch of an application for mobile phones (mMDG) that will run on Android platform initially and then on other platforms such as Symbian, iPhone, Windows, Blackberry, etc.) at later dates. It will provide both online and offline information on the status and trends of MDGs and human development indicators, for massive global dissemination and monitoring of development targets via mobile phones. The application will initially run on the smart cell platform but it is expected to provide, at a later stage, offline access to related information from basic cell phones (GSM) using SMS and voice gateways.

The mMDG is a joint initiative by UNDP, UNITAR, UNICEF and UNESCO: UNDP and UNITAR have jointly developed the concept of the initiative; UNDP has recruited a partner from private sector to develop the application; and UNDP, UNICEF and UNESCO are providing crucial data for tracking of selected MDG targets and human development indicators. Partners will jointly support assemblage of the necessary data from existing sources, decide on the final application design, conduct alpha testing, building partnerships with telecoms for distribution, disseminate the initiative, and conduct other tasks required to ensure that the mMDG app provides the most recent, accurate, friendly and actionable information to users, and reaches as many users as possible globally.

This initiative addresses Decision 2010/2 by Secretary General Ban Ki-moon, rallying all relevant UN entities around the Summit strategy focusing on promoting specific actions on the MDGs such as strengthening statistical systems; engaging key stakeholders and partners; and increasing advocacy and awareness about key development challenges via new media technologies and mechanisms.

Expected outcomes :

- Increased outreach and awareness of the United Nations and its development messages and goals, by tapping into the largest distribution channel for information ever created: the network of 4 billion+ cell phone users around the world;
- Increased social ownership by making the MDGs accessible, easily shared, and concretely part of people's lives;
- Enhanced transparency and accountability of the international commitments embodied in the MDGs and other development goals;
- Galvanization of further actions to accelerate MDG achievement by 2015.

Recommendations from the event:

- Strengthen inclusiveness and voice
 - Smart partnerships build on duties, rights and responsibilities.
 - Smart partnerships are greater than the sum of their parts: They maximise development impact by leveraging the resources and knowledge of all partners. They share power, value diverse skills and all partners act with integrity. Women must be there.
 - Build inclusive partnerships – real, effective and equal partnerships with southern partners – including governments, civil society, parliamentarians and local governments. There are no shortcuts to mutual trust.

- Increase the participation and voice of southern partners in international political decision-making on development. All partners need the capacity – knowledge, skills and commitment – to make partnerships work.
- Strengthen South-South co-operation.
- Successful partnerships require ownership and leadership from governments.
- Ensure access to information and inclusive platforms for dialogue on development at country level so that people can meaningfully engage in decision-making. Women should be fully engaged in these processes.
- Use modern technology to get knowledge to the right people at the right time to make the right decisions so that partnerships lead to action, not just talk.
- Keep promises
 - Keep promises by delivering on commitments on aid (including aid quality), trade, debt, climate change and rights
 - Be mutually responsible and accountable for commitments, development objectives and results.
 - Use peer pressure - review and monitor financial commitments and best practices in development, and be transparent about good and bad performance.
 - Fully implement the Accra Agenda for Action (2008) – and establish partnerships.
- Improve development practice and change behaviour
 - Build on what has worked well and learn from what has not.
 - “Mind the disparity gap”: A global partnership for development has to tackle inequality and reach the most vulnerable.
 - Increase coherence through a global platform which brings together the UN, the World Bank, regional institutions and processes, INGOs, the private sector, foundations and funds, donors, and southern partners.
 - All policies matter for development: Don’t give with one hand and take with the other.
 - Use high quality technical solutions to unblock political barriers – share knowledge on what works and what doesn’t, based on technical expertise, evidence, statistics and good practice.
 - Be prepared to change, innovate and do things differently.

MDG Achievement: The Case for More Outcome Orientation and National Ownership

20 September, New York Palace Hotel

Organizer/Organization:

Permanent Mission of Germany

Commitments/Initiatives

The high-level panel discussed how results-based financing can contribute to faster progress towards achieving the MDGs. The event featured: Angela Merkel, Federal Chancellor of Germany; Queen Rania Al Abdullah of Jordan; Jens Stoltenberg, Prime Minister of Norway; Robert Zoellick, President of the World Bank; Dirk Niebel, German Minister of Economic Cooperation and Development; and David Lane, President of “ONE”.

Launching of Two Reports: 2010 Mutual Review of Development Effectiveness in Africa (UNECA/OECD) and Africa's Cooperation with New and Emerging Development Partners (UN-OSAA)

20 September, Millennium Plaza Hotel

Organizer/Organization:	Office of the Special Adviser on Africa (OSAA)
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Commitments/Initiatives

During the discussion session, speakers highlighted the fact that South-South Cooperation should not be pursued for its own sake, but rather, as a mechanism for ensuring a better quality of life for the world's poor by making progress on the MDGs. Participants suggested that this new engagement with development partners should complement North-South Cooperation through tripartite arrangements. Speakers also stressed the need to strengthen human capacity in Africa through education and training for effective engagement with the new emerging development partners. The need to ensure transparency and accountability in the new partnerships was also highlighted.

Emphasis was placed on the need for African governments to ensure that partnerships with emerging economies had a win-win outcome. Speakers also called on the African Union and other continental and regional organizations to develop a common strategic position for their engagement with the new emerging partners. Finally, speakers called for multilateral organizations such as the United Nations to continue providing support for individual African Governments in the monitoring of trade, aid and FDI interactions with emerging countries and to help build capabilities in recipient countries in order to develop an adequate strategic response to relations with emerging economies.

On the issue of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), participants noted that African countries have improved their enabling environment to attract larger amounts of FDI. Unfortunately, reform measures are yet to yield the expected results. Another aspect highlighted in the discussion was the enormous potential of the African Diaspora. Remittances already exceed aid flows to Africa, but more has to be done to harness their development potential and to facilitate productive investment of the Diaspora in their home countries.

g7+ High Level Meeting

20 September, Conference Room D

Organizer/Organization:	Permanent Mission of Timor-Leste
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Commitments/Initiatives

This is a landmark initiative because it is the first time in history that conflict affected countries and regions have formed a collective voice on the global stage:

- To share experiences and discuss priorities, to provide a forum to discuss forward looking and innovative policies, and take them to the international arena;
- To have a globally recognized collective voice;
- To contribute to significant international summits and forums as a recognized central body of

member countries and regions;

- To bring the g7+ countries and regions to international dialogue on global issues from which we have traditionally been excluded;
- To contribute to operationalizing a new vision of peace building and state building as a means to reaching the MDGs

**Turning Evidence into Practice: Learning from
What Works to Accelerate MDG Progress**

20 September, Conference Room 6

Organizer/Organization: United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

Commitments/Initiatives

The meeting noted that the evidence shows that we can achieve the MDGs. However, significant challenges remain; fortunately we have the knowledge and experience to accelerate progress towards the MDGs. The meeting also noted that in a changing development environment and in the fight against poverty, we must recognize that the challenges of achieving the MDGs cannot be overcome by a single actor; and to take the global MDG action plan forward, it will be essential that countries learn from each other through South-South cooperation and evidence of what works to overcome bottlenecks. The UN has developed innovative tools to assist countries in this regard, one such way is by applying the MDG Acceleration Framework.

Achieving the MDGs: Addressing Conflict, Fragility and Armed Violence

20 September, Conference Room 8 (General Assembly Building)

Organizer/Organization: Timor Leste, United Kingdom, International Dialogue on Peacebuilding and Statebuilding, World Development Report 2011

Commitments/Initiatives

Timor Leste, the United Kingdom, the International Dialogue on Peacebuilding and Statebuilding and the World Bank World Development Report 2011 on Conflict, Security and Development joined forces in this event to highlight the challenge to MDG achievement posed by conflict, fragility and armed violence, and to build support for increased attention and international action to peacebuilding, statebuilding and the prevention of armed violence.

**Addressing Peacebuilding and Development
Challenges in the Central African Republic**
20 September, Conference Room 8 (General Assembly Building)

Organizer/Organization:

Government of the Central African Republic, Peacebuilding Commission and World Bank

Commitments/Initiatives

The Government of the Central African Republic (CAR), the Peacebuilding Commission and the World Bank co-organized a high-level event to discuss the peacebuilding and long-term development efforts in CAR, thus offering an illustration of challenges and opportunities for MDG progress in fragile and post conflict environments. The meeting focused attention on CAR's critical peacebuilding and development challenges (including the ongoing DDR and elections) so as to mobilize resources, broaden and diversify international support.

**The Millennium Development Goals: A Decade of Achievements and
Challenges at the Regional Level**
20 September, Conference Room 2

Organizer/Organization:

Department of Economic and Social Affairs

Commitments/Initiatives

The meeting noted that over the past few years the world has struggled to overcome the effects of multiple crises, namely the financial, food, and energy crises, and ensure that progress towards meeting the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) is not hampered.

At the regional and sub-regional level, different initiatives have supported the efforts of countries to meet the MDGs. Although each region has to address a different set of challenges in order to achieve the MDGs by 2015, the exchange of best practices within regions and across regions is critical for accelerating progress towards the MDGs.

The key participants were the Executive Secretaries of the Regional Commissions who presented the key achievements and main challenges to meeting the MDGs in their respective regions over the past decade. They highlighted best practices, namely policies and initiatives that have been successful at the national, sub-regional, or regional level, to accelerate progress towards one or more MDGs; actions taken by each Commission to strengthen regional cooperation; coordination to accelerate progress on the achievement of the MDGs; and their role in supporting South-South cooperation for meeting the MDGs. Ministers and other high-level representatives from each region acted as discussants and provided their perspectives on the outlook for the MDGs.

The UN MDG Sport for Development Roundtable 20 September, Conference Room 8 (General Assembly Building)	
9Organizer/Organization:	United Nations Office on Sport for Development and Peace
Commitments/Initiatives	
<p>The event increased attention amongst the UN Membership and the wider public on the role and use of sport in achieving the MDGs through the engagement of political leaders and sports celebrities. It also highlighted new and renewed commitments to use sport in the achievement of the MDGs, mobilize resources and step up the development and mainstreaming of national and international policies for Sport for Development and Peace.</p>	

ESCAP/ADB/UNDP High-level Launching of the 2010/2011 Regional MDG Report: Paths to 2015 20 September, Millennium Plaza Hotel	
Organizer/Organization:	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, Asian Development Bank, and United Nations Development Programme, Regional Bureau for Asia-Pacific
Commitments/Initiatives	
<p>The presenters of the regional MDG report were Dr. Noeleen Heyzer, Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and Executive Secretary of ESCAP, Dr. Ajay Chhibber, UN Assistant Secretary-General and UNDP Assistant Administrator and Director for Asia and the Pacific, and Mr. Haruhiko Kuroda, President, Asian Development Bank. They highlighted the key messages and put forward a framework for further action around seven drivers that could propel MDG achievement in Asia and the Pacific region. They noted the impressive progress made in the Asia-Pacific region on poverty reduction from 1990-2005, while noting the widening MDG gaps both within and between countries. They observed that the region was still vulnerable to food price volatility and suffered from wide spread hunger. It needed to increase social spending and address more robustly persistent gender inequalities. The presenters highlighted the need for strengthening basic infrastructure towards achieving the MDGs. While basic infrastructure was not explicitly addressed in the MDGs, the role of water and sanitation, roads, electricity, information, communication and low-income housing were all central in achieving the MDGs. They concluded that concerted action would be needed during the next five years in three distinct areas: reducing hunger, improving maternal health and reducing child mortality, and investing in basic infrastructure.</p> <p>The presentation was followed by a high-level panel discussion moderated by Dr. Noeleen Heyzer and included H.E. Mr. Hon Edward Nipake Natapei, Prime Minister of Vanuatu, H.E. Professor Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana, State Minister for National Development Planning, Indonesia, H.E. Mr. Abul Maal A. Muhith, Finance Minister of Bangladesh, H.E. Mr. Khashchuluun Chuluundorj, Chairman, National Development and Innovation Committee of Mongolia, and H.E. Mr. Cayetano Paderanga Jr., Director-General, National Economic and Development Authority, Philippines.</p>	

- The three partners – UNESCAP, Asian Development Bank (ADB) and UNDP – announced that they would determine their collaboration on MDGs, particularly on Goal 1 and also their role in tracking/monitoring the achievement of the MDGs at the regional level;
- Programme countries participating in the launch committed themselves to efforts towards meeting the MDGs – focus on issues of inclusive growth, social protection, gender and climate change;
- Pacific countries reiterated issue of regional cooperation and support for SIDs in meeting the MDGs.

Achieving the MDGs through Partnership – Sharing the Experience and Challenges of Asia

21 September, ECOSOC Chamber

Organizer/Organization: Permanent Mission of Japan

Commitments/Initiatives

In this event, participants spoke about the experiences in the Asian region, with particular focus on different types of cooperation that contribute to the achievement of MDGs, including public-private partnership, partnership with global and regional organizations, and more broadly, partnership that builds upon ODA, trade, investment, infrastructure development, and technical cooperation. Speakers included: Ms. Helen Clark, Administrator of UNDP; Mr. Haruhiko Kuroda, President of the Asian Development Bank; Ms. Noeleen Heyzer, Executive Secretary of UNESCAP; and other ministers of the co-organizing Asian countries.

Ending Energy Poverty: Towards Universal Access

21 September, Delegates Dining Room

Organizer/Organization: United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

Commitments/Initiatives

This event served as a catalyst for the Global Campaign for Energy Access and explored opportunities for energizing development for all through public/private partnerships, energy planning and policy tools, innovative financing and technologies, as well as the designation of a proposed 'Year of Access' (2012).

BBC World Debate

21 September, Ford Foundation Auditorium, 320 E 43rd ST

Organizer/Organization: United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

Commitments/Initiatives

The event discussed modalities for holding world leaders accountable for commitments made during the summit including role of citizens in citizen monitoring of MDGs.

2010 World Business and Development Awards Ceremony 21 September, Millennium Plaza Hotel	
Organizer/Organization:	United Nations Office for Partnerships (UNOP)
Commitments/Initiatives	
At the event the World Business and Development Awards, the first international business awards to recognize the crucial role of the private sector in implementing the Millennium Development Goals, were presented. The spirit of the awards lies in the pursuit of innovative and productive core business practices to sustainable development.	

Religion, Faith and the MDGs 21 September, Conference Room 7	
Organizer/Organization:	United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
Commitments/Initiatives	
This meeting launched the revised tool kit on Faith and the MDGs	

Women Connect for Health - Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) in Support of the Health MDGs 21 September, The Waldorf Astoria	
Organizer/Organization:	Advanced Development for Africa in cooperation with the Digital He@lth Initiative, mHealth Alliance, The Partnership for Maternal, Newborn, Child Health, Roll Back Malaria, UN AIDS, UN Foundation, and the UN Office for Partnerships
Commitments/Initiatives	
Advanced Development for Africa in cooperation with the Digital He@lth Initiative, mHealth Alliance, The Partnership for Maternal, Newborn, Child Health, Roll Back Malaria, UN AIDS, UN Foundation, and the UN Office for Partnerships joined forces to highlight the role of mobile communications and the Internet as a catalysts and accelerator for achieving the health-related MDGs, over the next five years and beyond. The event drew together the major players from government, business and civil society.	
Information & Communication Technologies (ICT), particularly mobile technologies, have made tremendous inroads in almost every country and every sector in the developing world. The increasing penetration of ICT in the developing world including LDC and particularly the penetration of mobile services, the great flexibility of mobile technologies, are guiding health Policy-Makers and Health Providers to a wider and larger use of ICT for health programs and actions (e-Health and especially m-Health). Definitely, e-Health policies and plans of action based on the widest possible use of m-Health are among the most effective weapons to overcome global health issues.	

In this respect, African women carry a specific responsibility. In Africa, women are already playing a major role, in many countries even the leading role, as far as social integration, childhood and youth education and families' wealth health and well-being are concerned. In Africa, women also represent the largest segment of mobile users.

This combination between women empowerment and greater use of ICT for health is unique and is powerful and our association, Advanced Development for Africa (ADA) seeks to harness the potential of such combination to advance the attainment of MDG 4, 5 and 6 addressing child and maternal health and infectious diseases.

Uniquely, this official side-event to the 2010 MDG Summit included keynote presentations from First Ladies who have dedicated their efforts to accelerating the health MDGs particularly for women and girls through the use of technology and innovation.

MDGs and Corruption/Transparency

21 September Conference Room 6

Organizer/Organization: United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

Commitments/Initiatives

The meeting explored the possibility of working with civil society organizations and non-governmental sectors in monitoring corruption as part of citizen monitoring of the MDGs and discussed the possibility of creating a local and regional system of checks and balances for prevention of corruption.

Innovative Financing for MDGS

21 September, Conference Room 2

Organizer/Organization: Permanent Missions of France, Japan and Belgium

Commitments/Initiatives

This meeting was convened by the Leading Group on innovative financing for Development - which is composed of 61 countries (developing and developed), the main NGO international platforms and international organisations - and was co-chaired by Japan and Belgium.

The purpose of the meeting was for the Leading Group to launch its initiative of a financial transaction levy for development, which appeared to participants as the only way to levy sufficient funds to reach the MDGs by 2015.

As main outcome of the event, a declaration promoted by Ministers from Japan, Belgium and France gathered the support of a number of countries, among which were Brazil, Spain and Norway, and was endorsed by acclamation by the participants of the event.

More generally, this event was an opportunity for all innovative financing experts to:

- Make an assessment of success stories of innovative financing of health
- Present two expert group reports: on financial transactions levy and on innovative financing for education
- Envisage the way forward for innovative financing in the pursuit of MDGs and new sectors to fund.

During the event, the Bill Gates foundation and the FAO announced their membership to the Leading Group.

Mobilizing Parliamentary Support for MDG Policies and Plans

21 September, Conference Room 7

Organizer/Organization: Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU)

Commitments/Initiatives

The event highlighted in very concrete terms what parliaments and parliamentarians can do to help advance the MDGs. A new comparative study of how parliaments are working to integrate the MDGs in their institutional mechanisms and political agendas was launched. This was followed by a brief overview of the main messages coming out of the Summit and of the MDG-related work of the IPU and of the UN Millennium Campaign.

High Level Side Event on LDCs and MDGs

21 September, Conference Room 6

Organizer/Organization: Permanent Mission of Nepal

Commitments/Initiatives

The event shared views on success stories, best practices, lessons learned and challenges and constraints of the LDCs in meeting the MDGs and how to scale up efforts to make sustainable progress in the remaining five years.

There was discussion on how progress in LDCs is dependent upon strong national programmes, committed leadership supported with technical assistance and resources from the international community and how to make them sustainable in the medium term.

There was also discussion on why, in the face of continuing lack of progress in attaining some of the MDGS such as poverty reduction, sanitation, and health, there is a need for scaling up of resources and support measures to the most vulnerable group like LDCs.

There was discussion on how the multiple crises have undermined the efforts of the LDCs and how a new generation of international support measures can be made comprehensive, dedicated and sustainable to ensure speedy progress in LDCs in the days ahead.

Social Justice and the MDGs: Addressing the Challenge of Intersecting Inequalities

21 September, Millennium Plaza Hotel

Organizer/Organization: MDG Achievement Fund

Commitments/Initiatives

This event brought together representatives from government, civil Society and the United Nations to launch and advocate the findings of the insightful new joint publication “Can MDGs Provide a Pathway for Social Justice? The Challenge of Intersecting Inequalities” produced by the Institute of Development Studies, Sussex and the MDG Achievement Fund.

The event called for the need to put the issue of equity and social justice firmly on the MDG agenda presenting evidence from South/Southeast Asia, Sub-Saharan Africa and Latin America that across the board, people are being systematically left out or left behind from progress often on the mere basis of their race, ethnicity, religion, gender and often location. A set of policies and practices that can help tackle inequalities and make the MDGs a reality for all were identified at this event and a commitment was made to increase advocacy on these issues at the national level.

The event was opened by Helen Clark, UNDP Administrator and UNDG Chair, Soraya Rodriguez, Spanish Secretary of State for International Cooperation and President Ramos-Horta of Timor-Leste. The panel included Ms. Espinosa, Minister of Heritage, Ecuador, Dr. Pokharel, Vice-Chair of National Planning Commission, Nepal, Rebeca Grynspan, Associate Administrator, UNDP, Richard Morgan, Director of Policy and Practice, UNICEF, Charles Abugre, Deputy Director of UN Millennium Campaign and Ashok Bharti, Chairperson of the National Confederation of Dalit Organisations.

Dr. Naila Kabeer lead author presented the key findings of the report.

High-Level Round Table on Culture for Development

21 September, Delegates Dining Room

Organizer/Organization: United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

Commitments/Initiatives

The High-Level Round Table on Culture and Development was co-chaired by the European Commission, the African Union and UNESCO, with the participation of Heads of State, senior UN Representatives, other intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations and media representatives. It advanced international reflection on the central role of culture towards the attainment of the MDGs and their sustainability, and highlighted best practices demonstrating the culture capital for human, social and economic development.

- Partnership between European Commission and UNESCO establishing an Expert Facility on the Governance of Culture. One million euros to establish an Expert Facility to support governance of the cultural sector. This will foster the development of sustainable cultural industries and the

building of regulatory and institutional frameworks, to create an enabling environment for the production and distribution of cultural goods, services and activities for the effective implementation of the 2005 UNESCO Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions. This will particularly advance MDG 1;

- A regional conference on Cultural Industries for Development in the African continent. Senegal will host and co-organize with UNESCO and the African Union a regional conference on cultural industries in order to promote regional integration for the strengthening of the culture sector as a viable socio-economic outlet contributing to poverty alleviation in line with MDG 1;
- Two-year regional campaign for the Renaissance of African Cultures. The African Union, through its sub-cluster on culture, will launch together with the technical support of UNESCO, an initiative aiming at promoting and strengthening the contribution of African cultures (through festivals, exhibitions, and setting up of cultural facilities) to the achievement of the MDGs and to social cohesion across the continent;
- A General Assembly resolution on Culture and Development. Peru will facilitate in the Second Committee a draft resolution on Culture and Development to engage UN Member States, system and partners in recognition of the role of culture in sustainable development, and to provide a framework of concrete initiatives to be undertaken through 2015;
- UNDP and UNESCO will join forces to assess the impact of culture in measuring MDG attainment, in particular through data collection and indicators.

**Accelerating Progress Towards the Millennium
Development Goals through Inclusive Business**

21 September, Millennium Plaza Hotel

Organizer/Organization:	United Nations Office for Partnerships (UNOP)
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Commitments/Initiatives

The event was organized by the World Business Council for Sustainable Development, International Chamber of Commerce, International Business Leaders Forum, Business Action for Africa, Business Call to Action, Harvard Kennedy School’s Corporate Social Responsibility Initiative, UNDP, The Global Compact, and UN Office for Partnerships. It was followed by the 2010 World Business and Development Awards, which recognize the key contributions the private sector has made to the MDGs.

Innovative Financing for the MDGs: A Precondition For Success

21 September, Salvation Army Auditorium, 221 E 52nd ST

Organizer/Organization:	UBUNTU-World Forum of Civil Society Networks
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Commitments/Initiatives

This meeting was convened to explore synergies among participants building on the strength derived from their different outlooks. The meeting noted that beyond the review of the status of fulfilment of each MDG, a fundamental and crosscutting issue needs to be addressed: financing. Only by articulating concrete proposals can the member states, in collaboration with international organizations

and civil society, promote effective action to generate the funds needed to achieve the MDGs, and to tackle other challenges such as the ones resulting from climate change.

The meeting identified the Currency Transaction Tax (CTT) as the best option to answer development needs with the required urgency. A coordinated multi-actor work is needed to promote the necessary support by the international community to properly advance this idea. The meeting also noted that the eventual management of a CTT must also be addressed and discussed in detail. Civil society participants argued that the UN System should have a central role in the responsibility for the management of the resources generated by such a global tax.

Scaling Up Africa's Infrastructure to Reach the MDGS

21 September, Conference Room 5

Organizer/Organization:	African Union and the African Development Bank, with analytical support from the World Bank and Professor Jeffrey Sachs of Columbia University
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Commitments/Initiatives

This event brought together senior governments officials, the private sector, and representatives of international organizations to discuss what needs to be done to scale up infrastructure in Africa and research consensus on how to do it, including a division of labour among the stakeholders.

Five Years for Children: Partnering with Communities to Achieve the MDGs with Equity

21 September, UNICEF House

Organizer/Organization:	UNICEF's Civil Society Partnerships, Plan International, Save the Children and World Vision
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Commitments/Initiatives

Organized by UNICEF's Civil Society Partnerships, Plan International, Save the Children and World Vision, this event engaged senior leaders from the world's leading children's organizations in a discussion on the vital importance of achieving the MDGs with equity. The conversation highlighted the challenges in reaching vulnerable and excluded children and identified some of the collaborative actions needed to strengthen results for children.

The panel consisted of Dr. A. Bang, Founder of the Society for Education, Action, and Research in Community Health (SEARCH), Nigel Chapman, CEO of Plan International, Elisabeth Dahlin, Secretary General of Save the Children Sweden, Saad Houry, Deputy Executive Director of UNICEF, and Kevin Jenkins, President and CEO of World Vision International. Alfred Ironside, Director of Communications at the Ford Foundation, moderated the discussion.

Raiding the Public Till: The Financial Crises and the MDGs

21 September, Church Centre, 777 United Nations Plaza

Organizer/Organization: Social Watch, CIDSE, Heinrich Boell Foundation, and NGLS

Commitments/Initiatives

Financial institutions have privatized gains and socialized losses, thereby retarding progress toward the MDGs and increasing levels of poverty and inequality in most countries of the world. The privatization of gains occurs through high banking sector profits in good and even in bad times, tax evasion, speculative busts and buyouts, IFI-induced privatization, etc. Socialization of losses occurs through taxpayer-funded bailouts of large financial institutions, labour de-regulation, cutting pensions and health care, failure to restructure debt owed to private sector, few if any taxes on the financial sector, etc. These processes raid the public till and transfer resources to the richest people and institutions in the world.

In addition to the dynamic of private actors privatizing gains and socializing losses, progress toward the MDGs remains a challenge because:

- Such progress significantly hinges on countries having national strategies that are not only focused on macroeconomic stability and public investment in human development, gender equity, and environmental protection. Strategies must include approaches to diversity and boost productivity (including industrial productivity) yet, as it is, these are often absent or underemphasized.
- It is difficult for governments to raise revenues from private firms. In general, countries are not only failing to raise significant revenues (e.g., taxes, royalties) from the private sector, but also, subsidizing private firms, particularly foreign investors. This depletes the public till of resources for public investment in development, as required to achieve the MDGs.

The event addressed these challenges and emphasized the imperative of harnessing the aid, finance, debt and trade dimensions of “global partnerships for development” (as called for by MDG8) to support national strategies and contribute to achievement of MDGs 1 through 7.

From the MDG Summit to the UN LDC IV Conference: Focusing on Millennium Goals Achievements in the Least Developed Countries and Filling the Gap

22 September, Conference Room 5

Organizer/Organization: Ferdi Foundation, sponsored by the Government of Nepal, in cooperation with the Governments of France and Senegal, and OHRLLS and UNU

Commitments/Initiatives

Eight months before the UN Conference on the LDCs, it seems needed to show that LDCs deserve a special focus in the international concern about MDGs. The speed at which they are moving towards the goals is debated. On average, they are the countries having registered the largest move towards the goals, but they are also the countries still the furthest from most of the 2015 targets, having more adverse initial conditions. Of course, both trends contain notable exceptions.

Because the initial conditions are not considered in the formulation of the Millennium Goals, the need to reformulate the goals is probably higher for the LDCs than for other developing countries. Depending on the goal and its design, the link between economic growth and Millennium Goals attainment (poverty reduction, decrease of child mortality, etc.) probably differs between the LDCs and other developing countries.

At the same time, the need to reinforce the implementation of the eighth goal (partnership) needs particularly to be reinforced with the LDCs. Consequently, in order to achieve a faster and more global attainment of the MDGs, special attention should be given to LDCs when designing the goals and implementing partnership policy.

Speakers: H.E. Abdoulaye Wade, President of the Republic of Senegal; H.E. G. Acharya, Ambassador of Nepal, Chair of the LDC Group at ECOSOC; Mr. Patrick Guillaumont, President of Ferdi Foundation; H.E. Ertugrul Apakan, Ambassador of Turkey; Mr. Cheikh Sidi Diarra, Under Secretary General, High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (OHRLLS); Mr. Jean-Michel Séverino, Former Director General, Agence française de développement (AFD), Former Vice-President, World Bank; Mr. Christian Masset, Director General for Globalisation, Development and Partnerships (DGM), Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs, France.

Accountability and Transparency to Reach the MDGs

22 September, Conference Room 6

Organizer/Organization:	Permanent Mission of Switzerland and United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs
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Commitments/Initiatives

The event launched the International Development Cooperation Report (IDCR) of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, and included presentation of pioneering initiatives to enhance mutual accountability and aid transparency.

The IDCR provides state-of-the-art analysis on effectiveness and coherence of development cooperation compiled as part of the biennial Development Cooperation Forum. The launch was intended to help disseminate the report to a wide audience.

During the event, Member States and NGOs discussed effective aid accountability structures and how and why change of behaviour and better development results emerge.

2010 United Nations Private Sector Forum on the Millennium Development Goals
22 September, General Assembly Lobby

Organizer/Organization: Global Compact Office

Commitments/Initiatives

Chaired by UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, the UN Private Sector Forum convened approximately 300 Heads of State and Government, chief executives, heads of UN Agencies and civil society organizations during the UN Summit on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and explored how to advance business solutions on the following themes: i) poverty and hunger (ii) maternal and child health and HIV/AIDS (iii) access to education through innovative ICT (iv) innovations for financial inclusion (v) empowering women and achieving equality (vi) green economy.

- AWI Company committed to launch several awareness-raising campaigns and programs in MENA about human rights violations committed against women. AWI will be partnering with international NGOs, women's association, individuals of all social groups, faith, academic and business institutions to stand up in favour of Arab women.
- Ballarpur Industries Limited committed to support the development of sustainable tree farming in central India by integrating farmers living in extreme poverty into its paper and pulp supply chain in two states in the country – Orissa and Andhra Pradesh.
- Becton, Dickinson and Company (BD) committed to scaling up "Together for Girls - we can end sexual violence". The goal of this partnership is to promote coordinated, effective strategies to prevent and respond to sexual violence against girls, driven by data on the magnitude, context and consequences of sexual violence.
- Call2Action committed to contributing eight Sparks, one for each MDG, for one year. The Call2Action Spark is a social media marketing tool that packages cause-based videos and action tools together in a portable widget that can be posted and shared nearly anywhere online.
- The Cherie Blair Foundation for Women committed to implementing a Women Entrepreneur and Mobile Technology programme. The programme will focus on regions where the gender gap in mobile ownership is largest, namely South Asia, Africa and the Middle East.
- Crescent Petroleum Group committed to launching the Pearl Initiative, in partnership with the United Nations Office of Partnerships. The Pearl Initiative will use the Global Compact's ten principles in furtherance of its overall goals to catalyze an increase in economic activity and of the United Nations Millennium Development Goals.
- Dell committed to give \$10 million towards education technology initiatives this year in conjunction with the United Nations Private Sector Forum on the Millennium Development Goals.
- Egyptian Food Bank committed to assist organizations interested in implementing the Egyptian Food Bank model and programmes in their country in order to serve the needy.
- Engro Corporation (Pakistan) committed to launch a development project in Pakistan to enhance income and employment generation of rural women through livestock skills development.
- ExxonMobil committed to a partnership with Ashoka's Changemakers, the International Council for Research on Women, and Thunderbird Emerging Markets Laboratory (TEM Lab) to support innovators who are developing high impact, sustainable technologies that advance women

economically in the developing world.

- Lenox Park committed to work with investment managers in developing nations to outline investment theses, create marketable infrastructures and present opportunities to investors, including corporate and public pension funds, foundations, endowments and family office groups.
- LifeSpring Hospitals committed to provide an estimated 82,000 Indian women and their families with access to quality healthcare.
- Monster.com committed to expand access to Rozgarduniya.com, an Internet job portal. The platform enables job seekers to access and apply for jobs through Internet-enabled kiosks that are available in villages throughout India.
- Qatar Airways committed to a wide-ranging cooperative agreement with UN.GIFT, the specialized agency that fights human trafficking.
- Recipco Holdings committed to introducing a new global economic system and trading platform that will be implemented over the next three years to provide developing countries with universal accessibility to markets and new sources of development capital.
- SAWA Global committed to train and provide income to 1,000 unemployed youth through new media skills in the world's ten poorest countries by 2015.
- Sri Lanka Institute of Nanotechnology (SLINTEC) committed to replacing the hazardous carbon black in solid rubber tires with natural nano-composites which immediately add value to the environment.
- Sumitomo Chemical committed to donate 400,000 of its anti-malarial Olyset Nets to every Millennium Village from 2010-2011.
- Tameer Bank committed to further expand banking and aligned MDG customized services, through down stream "Micro-Franchising" in Base of the Pyramid economies for individuals and families.
- UPS International committed \$2 million to the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS). In addition, in 2010 and 2011, UPS contributed \$2 million to support UNICEF's emergency preparedness and rapid response efforts, including Haiti relief efforts and projects to build UNICEF's logistic capacity.
- Viyellatex Group committed to building sustainability into its business model so that profitable growth makes a positive impact on society, and plans to extend its experience and support to other industries in Bangladesh to adopt its sustainable initiative.
- WaterHealth International committed to promote access to clean water for 175,000 people in under-served communities in Bangladesh and India.

In an effort to bolster high-level leadership for gender equality, top executives of organizations are invited to sign a CEO Statement of support for the Women's Empowerment Principles. CEOs of the following organizations who attended the UN Private Sector Forum have signed the CEO Statement of support: Avon, Banco do Brasil, Cebu, Chemical Industries Development (CID), Novartis, P.T. Rajawali Corporation, Sri Lanka Institute of Nanotechnology (SLINTEC), Tryg and World Bank Group.

Inclusive Finance: A Path to the MDGs 22 September, New York Helmsley Hotel	
Organizer/Organization:	Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands and Department of State of the United States of America, together with Her Royal Highness Princess Máxima of the Netherlands, the Secretary-General's Special Advocate for Inclusive Finance for Development
Commitments/Initiatives	
<p>On 22 September 2010, Her Royal Highness Princess Máxima of the Netherlands (the UN Secretary General's Special Advocate for Inclusive Finance for Development), US Secretary of State Mrs. Hillary Rodham Clinton and US Under Secretary of State Mrs. Maria Otero and Dutch Prime Minister Mr. Jan Peter Balkenende came together with government officials, private sector experts and practitioners to discuss the political leadership, policy reform and service innovations necessary to advance financial inclusion around the world.</p> <p>The discussion reflected growing consensus on the importance of financial inclusion to development, poverty alleviation and sustainable growth. Financial inclusion is universal access, at a reasonable cost, to a wide range of financial services, provided by a variety of sound and sustainable institutions. Princess Máxima observed that financial inclusion is a means to an end, and critical to achieving the millennium development goals. She expressed her hope that the event would inspire renewed commitment and action. It helps the development of private sector. It helps create income. It generates jobs. It also protects people against unforeseen shocks, helps them manage cash flow and build assets over time. An inclusive financial infrastructure is as important to an economy as are roads.</p> <p>During the event, a panel of international experts shared experiences on: how mobile money can scale financial inclusion at low costs; on how expanded access to savings and other services is bringing significant and lasting benefits to the poor and particularly women in Pakistan; and how government-to-people payments through community stores in Mexico are delivering financial services cost-effectively at the last mile and changing lives</p> <p>At the event, US Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton launched the BRIDGE initiative: Building Remittance Investment for Development, Growth and Entrepreneurship with El Salvador and Honduras.</p>	

Safe and sustainable roads for the MDGs 22 September, Conference Room 7	
Organizer/Organization:	United Nations Environment Programme
Commitments/Initiatives	
<p>The United Nations, on 2 March 2010, acknowledged road safety to be a major public health crisis which, if unaddressed, will hinder progress towards the MDGs. This event looked at the cross cutting impact of road traffic injuries on the achievement of the MDGs to draw attention to the immense social</p>	

and economic impact of road crashes as an emerging development issue in low and middle income countries, particularly across Africa, Asia and South America. It outlined a way forward for the UN Decade of Action for Road Safety to contribute to achieving the MDGs.

The UN Environment Programme, UN development expert Dr. Kevin Watkins, and a range of Member States and stakeholders looked at how the UN Decade of Action for Road Safety can be integrated into the wider development framework in order to help achieve the MDGs.

A new report by Dr. Kevin Watkins which was launched and discussed at the Side Event outlined an agenda for helping to achieve the MDGs through the UN Decade of Action for Road Safety. Recommendations were made for further steps to help meet the MDG agenda by improving global road safety before and after 2015.

The event officially unveiled the new symbol for the UN Decade of Action for Road Safety.

1.8 Billion Strong: Young People Driving the MDGs

22 September, New York Helmsley Hotel

Organizer/Organization:

United Nations Population Fund

Commitments/Initiatives

The case for investing in young people now is more than clear. Many MDG targets and indicators directly relate to young people's health and development and as such, increased investments in young people are essential to accelerating progress. Social investments in young people's education, health, and employment can enable countries to build a strong economic base, thereby reversing inter-generational poverty especially in countries undergoing demographic transition.

Such investments, if timely and gender equal can also help countries to achieve other MDGs such as universalizing education, promoting gender equality, reducing maternal mortality, and reversing the rising tide of HIV.

Panellists: Thoraya Ahmed Obaid, UNFPA Executive Director; Samuel Kissi, Curious Minds, Ghana; Gill Greer, Director-General, International Planned Parenthood Federation; Priscila Vera Hernández, Director-General, Instituto Mexicano de la Juventud; Michael Cashmann, Member of the European Parliament.

This panel made the case for prioritizing and investing in young people so as to accelerate progress on the MDGs.

**Ministerial Meeting of the Members of the Group of Friends
United against Human Trafficking**

22 September, Il Valentino restaurant, 330 East 56 Street

Organizer/Organization:	Permanent Mission of Belarus
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Commitments/Initiatives

The members of the Group of Friends United against Human Trafficking made the following commitments:

- Adoption of the Declaration on the Global Effort to Combat Trafficking in Persons which will be circulated as an official document of the 65th session of United Nations General Assembly;
- Commitment to continue addressing the problem of trafficking in persons and further enhancing joint efforts in combating human trafficking, including through the implementation of the Global Plan of Actions against Trafficking in Persons and decisive measures at the national and regional levels.

**Turning Evidence into Practice: Learning
From What Works to Accelerate MDG Progress**

22 September, Conference Room 6

Organizer/Organization:	United Nations Development Programme
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Commitments/Initiatives

The meeting noted that the evidence shows that we can achieve the MDGs. However, significant challenges remain; fortunately we have the knowledge and experience to accelerate progress towards the MDGs. The meeting also noted that in a changing development environment and in the fight against poverty, we must recognize that the challenges of achieving the MDGs cannot be overcome by a single actor; and to take the global MDG action plan forward, it will be essential that countries learn from each other through South-South cooperation and evidence of what works to overcome bottlenecks. The UN has developed innovative tools to assist countries in this regard, one such way is by applying the MDG Acceleration Framework.