

Remarks by

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Under Secretary-General and Associate Administrator of UNDP

On the occasion of the launch of

“MDG8: Delivering on the Global Partnership for Achieving the MDGs”

Report of the MDG Gap Task Force

4 September 2008

Mr. Secretary-General,

Members of the press corps,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

1. First of all I would like to thank the SG for his very substance-driven and results-oriented commitment to push the MDGs ahead.
2. The recent data analysis by the World Bank revealing that the number of people living in absolute poverty globally right now is estimated to be 500 million higher than previously assumed also serves as a reminder that a relentless focus on the facts on the ground is key to maintaining the momentum of the Millennium Goals campaign.
3. I should highlight that MDG8 from the very start has been a complex goal. It essentially frames the two-way street philosophy underlying the big deals that have been struck by development partners in the early years of this century (Millennium Summit, Monterrey consensus, Paris coordination agenda and the unfortunately protracted Doha Trade Round). As I am just back from a visit to hurricane-struck Haiti I want to emphasize the indispensability of a larger commitment by the rich world, a world that overall has become ever richer during the first half of the 15 years campaign period. The poverty in the rain and mud of Haiti that I witnessed is nothing less than a disgrace. Many actors or potential actors try to play their part, ranging from the national government to multilateral and bilateral

donors and NGOs. They all need to do more and better and that is in a nutshell captured in the message behind MDG8 – which is essentially the signature to the contract for development between the rich and the poor.

4. Finally I would like to emphasize the successful effort to bring the UN family, including IMF and World Bank, together behind the data and their analysis in writing this report. It is probably not overstated to recall that the launch of the Millennium campaign at the time caused as much enthusiasm as it led to duplications and gaps in the analytical work. All relevant agencies have really come together now to join efforts in stepping up statistical data collection and to identify policy gaps that need to be bridged in order to achieve results. A lot of quiet work has been done behind the scenes and the continuation of the work by the MDG Gap Task Force in the coming years will undoubtedly contribute to a truly united UN advocacy and support for effective implementation.

Thank you.