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## **High-level Event on the Millennium Development Goals**

### **Committing to action: achieving the Millennium Development Goals**

#### **Compilation of Partnership Events and Commitments\***

This paper presents a compilation of 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 25 September 2008.

This paper should be read in conjunction with:

- Background note of the Secretary-General for the High-level Event on the Millennium Development Goals, *Committing to Action: Achieving the Millennium Development Goals*, 25 July 2008; along with the MDG Action Points, Addendum to the background note by the Secretary-General on *Committing to Action: Achieving the Millennium Development Goals*, 18 September 2008;
- *Millennium Development Goals Report 2008*, August 2008;
- *Achieving the Millennium Development Goals in Africa: Recommendations of the MDG Africa Steering Group*, August 2008;
- *Delivering on the Global Partnership for Achieving the Millennium Development Goals: Report of the MDG Gap Task Force*, September 2008.

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\* Information correct as of 5.00 pm, Wednesday 24 September 2008, based on submissions received from organizers and organizations. Please note the data included in this report is subject to verification. The United Nations is not responsible for any errors or omissions.

## Contents

Page

<i>FOREWORD</i> .....	5
<i>INTRODUCTION</i> .....	6



<b>GOAL 1: ERADICATE EXTREME POVERTY AND HUNGER</b> .....	7
<i>AGRICULTURAL VALUE CHAIN MARKETPLACE</i> .....	7
<i>WORKING OUT OF POVERTY: A DECENT WORK APPROACH TO DEVELOPMENT AND THE MDGS</i> .....	7
<i>GLOBAL CALL TO ACTION AGAINST POVERTY - POVERTY HEARINGS ON THE MDGS</i> .....	7
<i>INVESTING IN AGRICULTURE PARTNERSHIPS TO COMBAT HUNGER</i> .....	8
<i>LOCAL POVERTY REDUCTION AND MDG LOCALIZATION: SCALING UP THE ACHIEVEMENT OF MDGS</i> .....	8
<i>WOMEN'S TRIBUNAL ON THE MDGS</i> .....	8
<i>THE FOOD PRICES CRISIS: AN OPPORTUNITY FOR AGRICULTURE AND WORLD FOOD SECURITY?</i> .....	9
<i>PURCHASING FOR POWER</i> .....	9
<i>CONSULTATION BETWEEN HEADS OF STATES AND RELIGIOUS LEADERS ON ELIMINATING POVERTY THROUGH THE MDGS</i> .....	9
<i>CHINA'S PROGRESS TOWARDS THE MDGS: ACHIEVEMENTS, LESSONS LEARNED AND THE WAY AHEAD</i> .	10
<i>GETTING THE MDG FUNDAMENTALS RIGHT</i> .....	10
<i>UN PRIVATE SECTOR FORUM – THE MDGS AND FOOD SUSTAINABILITY</i> .....	10
<i>INTERFAITH CONSULTATION ON THE GLOBAL HUNGER CRISIS</i> .....	11
<i>LAUNCH OF HUNGER TASK FORCE REPORT</i> .....	12



<b>GOAL 2: ACHIEVE UNIVERSAL PRIMARY EDUCATION</b> .....	13
<i>THE CHILDREN OF LATIN AMERICA: A FUTURE WITHOUT POVERTY CREATING EQUITY THROUGH EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES</i> .....	13
<i>EDUCATION FOR ALL PARTNERSHIP EVENT: CLASS OF 2015</i> .....	13



<b>GOAL 3: PROMOTE GENDER EQUALITY AND EMPOWER WOMEN</b> .....	14
<i>ENGENDERING PRO-POOR CHANGE: PUTTING GENDER AT THE HEART OF THE MDGS</i> .....	14
<i>WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT, DIABETES AND DEVELOPMENT ROUNDTABLE</i> .....	14
<i>GENDER EQUALITY AND EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN A PREREQUISITE FOR ACHIEVING ALL THE MDGS BY 2015</i> .....	15



<b>GOAL 4: REDUCE CHILD MORTALITY</b> .....	16
<i>COMMITMENT TO PROGRESS FOR MOTHERS, NEWBORNS AND CHILDREN</i> .....	16



**GOAL 5: IMPROVE MATERNAL HEALTH..... 17**

**WHO DIRECTOR-GENERAL ROUNDTABLE WITH WOMEN LEADERS ON MDG 5..... 17**



**GOAL 6: COMBAT HIV/AIDS, MALARIA, AND OTHER DISEASES..... 18**

**THE MDGS - EQUITY CHALLENGE ..... 18**

**MEETING ON UN SYSTEM COHERENCE TO ACHIEVE MDG 6..... 18**

**TOWARDS THE ACHIEVEMENT OF THE RIGHT TO HEALTH IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN..... 18**

**HIGH LEVEL MALARIA EVENT ..... 19**



**GOAL 7: ENSURE ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY ..... 20**

**ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE CHANGE AND THE MDGS: RESHAPING THE DEVELOPMENT AGENDA ..... 20**

**CLIMATE CHANGE AND DEVELOPMENT: PROGRESS ON FINANCE AND ADAPTATION..... 20**

**FOR THE HEALING OF NATIONS: INTERNATIONAL JUSTICE DIMENSIONS OF CLIMATE CHANGE..... 21**

**REDUCED EMISSIONS FROM DEFORESTATION AND FOREST DEGRADATION PROGRAMME..... 21**

**UN-ENERGY: SIDE EVENT ON ACCESS TO ENERGY SERVICES FOR ACHIEVEMENT OF THE MDGS..... 21**

**REDUCING BIODIVERSITY LOSS AND THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY'S 2010 TARGET ..... 21**

**CLIMATE CHANGE AND IMPLICATIONS FOR THE ACHIEVEMENT OF THE MDGS..... 22**

**WATER AND SANITATION FOR ALL ..... 22**



**GOAL 8: DEVELOP A GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP FOR DEVELOPMENT ..... 23**

**GLOBAL CREATIVE LEADERSHIP SUMMIT..... 23**

**CLINTON GLOBAL INITIATIVE ANNUAL MEETING..... 23**

**INTERFAITH AND NGO INVESTMENTS IN THE MDGS FOR SYSTEMATIC CHANGE ..... 24**

**SPECIAL SCREENING OF MTV'S 'EXILED' ..... 24**

**MDGS AT MIDPOINT: WHERE DO WE STAND, AND WHERE DO WE NEED TO GO?..... 24**

**LOCAL GOVERNMENTS' CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE MDGS..... 25**

**MDG ACHIEVEMENT FUND: LESSONS LEARNED AND WAY FORWARD ..... 25**

**WORLD BUSINESS AND DEVELOPMENT AWARDS ..... 25**

**HONORING THE SECRETARY-GENERAL FOR HIS COMMITMENT TO ACHIEVING THE MDGS..... 26**

**TO ACHIEVE THE MDGS: CURRENCY TRANSACTION TAX FOR FINANCING FOR DEVELOPMENT..... 26**

**IN MY NAME/PROJECT 7 – LAUNCH OF GLOBAL PUBLIC INTERACTIVE MOBILIZATION ON THE MDGS..... 26**

<i>HIGH LEVEL MEETING ON AFRICA’S DEVELOPMENT NEEDS .....</i>	<i>27</i>
<i>CRIME AS AN IMPEDIMENT TO SECURITY AND DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA: BEST PRACTICES AND INSTITUTIONAL OPPORTUNITIES .....</i>	<i>27</i>
<i>YOUTH: DEVELOPMENT AND EMPLOYMENT .....</i>	<i>27</i>
<i>THE SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT CHALLENGE IN AFRICA .....</i>	<i>27</i>
<i>MICROCREDIT, MICROFINANCE, INCLUSIVE FINANCE: BUILDING SUCCESS FOR INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS FOR POVERTY ERADICATION IN AFRICA .....</i>	<i>28</i>
<i>ACCELERATING POVERTY REDUCTION AND ECONOMIC GROWTH : TRANSFORMING AFRICAN COUNTRIES INTO TIGER ECONOMIES .....</i>	<i>28</i>
<i>TRANSFORMING THE CLIMATE FOR BUSINESS TO ACCELERATE PRIVATE SECTOR-LED GROWTH AND PROGRESS TOWARDS THE MDGS.....</i>	<i>29</i>
<i>THE AFRICA ATLAS OF OUR CHANGING ENVIRONMENT .....</i>	<i>29</i>
<i>THE MDG AFRICA STEERING GROUP AND THE GLENEAGLES SCENARIOS APPROACH FOR SCALING UP ODA .....</i>	<i>30</i>
<i>AFRICAN PRIVATE SECTOR INITIATIVE: STRENGTHENING COMPETITIVENESS IN A GLOBAL CONTEXT ....</i>	<i>30</i>
<i>THE GOVERNANCE CHALLENGE IN AFRICA .....</i>	<i>30</i>
<i>A RESPONSE TO THE WORLD FOOD CRISIS : SMALLHOLDER AGRICULTURE, FOOD SECURITY AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA .....</i>	<i>31</i>
<i>AFRICA WOMEN’S FORUM.....</i>	<i>31</i>
<i>AFRICA’S VULNERABILITY: THE ENERGY CRISIS, CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENT .....</i>	<i>32</i>
<i>MIGRATION, POPULATION DISPLACEMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA.....</i>	<i>32</i>
<i>CONFRONTING THE DISEASES OF POVERTY TO MEET THE MDGS: DIGITAL HE@LTH AND AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT .....</i>	<i>32</i>

## Foreword

In my remarks to the opening of the 63<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly on 23 September, I asked members of the coalition of Governments, NGOs, CEOs, faith groups and philanthropists to make known their commitments to achieve the Millennium Development Goals. Many concrete commitments and initiatives have been announced, and I am pleased to attach a selection of these. They were made by a broad range of stakeholders – public and private – in various partnership events during “MDG week”, in conjunction with the High-level Event on the Millennium Development Goals on 25 September 2008. I am delighted that Heads of State and Government, captains of industry and civil society leaders have come together in this way with the vital aim of ensuring the Goals remain on track.

As we all know, progress towards the Goals has been uneven. Pledges have not been fully honoured. The High-level event marks a turning point, and provides an important and timely forum for world leaders to reaffirm their shared view of what needs to be done by the various actors in the international community. The gatherings send a strong message of our collective commitment to galvanize global awareness and global action, with a special focus on Africa. I am confident that we have achieved enough to know the goals are within reach.

While the commitments and initiatives listed in this document do not cover all the pledges and announcements made this week, they provide an indication of the many initiatives that are being planned or developed. I thank Member States, private sector groups, foundations and civil society organizations for renewing their support. I hope that these initiatives and commitments will serve as an inspiration for others to develop innovative solutions to reach the Millennium Development Goals. Let this call to action be heard, far and wide. The world's poor deserve no less.

BAN Ki-moon  
Secretary-General  
25 September 2008

## **Introduction**

As foreshadowed by the Secretary-General in his Foreword, this paper provides information from a selection of the partnership events that took place between 22 September and 25 September, in the lead up to the High-level Event on the Millennium Development Goals. It aims to capture commitments and planned outcomes announced in support of the Millennium Development Goals.

More than 50 partnership events took place during “MDG Week” including events on 22 September with a special focus on Africa. In addition to these, several civil society organizations, philanthropic institutions and other stakeholders have announced commitments in related events which are reflected in this report. 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 selection 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.

The paper contains information that has been provided to the United Nations as at Wednesday 24 September at 5.00 pm. Events taking place between this date and the closing plenary of the High-level Event on the MDGs will be reported in a supplement to this conference room paper. A final report will be issued in October in all UN languages. Should delegations or representatives wish to further strengthen commitments or add new commitments, please submit them to [partner@un.org](mailto:partner@un.org) for inclusion in the final version. In the meantime, the paper will be available in English on the MDG HLE website (<http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/2008highlevel/index.shtml>). The UN Office for Partnerships will follow up on the commitments and, together with the UN Development Programme, present a report in 2010 on the status of these new commitments.



## Goal 1: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger

### Targets:

- 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

<b>AGRICULTURAL VALUE CHAIN MARKETPLACE</b> 21 – 26 SEPTEMBER, UN BUILDING	
<b>ORGANIZER/ORGANIZATION:</b>	United States Agency for International Development, UN Development Programme
<b>COMMITMENTS/INITIATIVES</b>	
The event was aimed at increasing awareness and facilitating new partnerships to improve access to inputs, foods, and markets; increase incomes of small farmers and SMEs; and show how market-based approaches contribute to the transformation of the agricultural economy. Private sector partners highlighted partnerships with development organizations to address business problems along the agriculture value chain; and the public sector highlighted how they convene partnerships that address major development goals (i.e. poverty and hunger) while working with local governments to insure successful implementation.	

<b>WORKING OUT OF POVERTY: A DECENT WORK APPROACH TO DEVELOPMENT AND THE MDGs</b> 22 SEPTEMBER, MILLENNIUM PLAZA HOTEL	
<b>ORGANIZER/ORGANIZATION:</b>	International Labour Organization, Realizing Rights: The Ethical Globalization Initiative
<b>COMMITMENTS/INITIATIVES</b>	
This event has led to greater awareness, stronger commitments and new partnerships on making decent work more central to the MDGs in various ways: identifying ways to mainstream employment and decent work objectives across ministerial portfolios, and among international organizations and other actors, to increase job creation and avoid “jobless growth”; addressing ways to foster decent work for fair globalization, including through improved trade and financial policies; learning from good business practice to expand decent work opportunities in the workplace and in supply chains; building gender equality into employment programmes in formal and informal economies, and ensuring government efforts on MDG 3 give greater attention to poor working women; ensuring decent work efforts are relevant to the agricultural sector; scaling up successful programmes on social protection and safety-nets; and strengthening the capacity and opportunities for social dialogue and realizing labour rights for all. The importance of creating a social floor as an important instrument for reducing poverty and exclusion was emphasized by the ILO Director-General.	

<b>GLOBAL CALL TO ACTION AGAINST POVERTY - POVERTY HEARINGS ON THE MDGs</b> 23 SEPTEMBER, CHURCH CENTRE CHAPEL	
<b>ORGANIZER/ORGANIZATION:</b>	Global Call To Action Against Poverty, UN Non-Governmental Liaison Service, UN Millennium Campaign, Amnesty International, Action Aid
<b>COMMITMENTS/INITIATIVES</b>	
At the Poverty Hearing, Head Advocate, Mrs. Mary Robinson, pledged to bring the voices of people living in poverty concerned with the slow progress towards the MDGs and continuing injustice of poverty and hunger, lack of education, and consequences of climate changes to the highest levels of government. Recommendations based on inputs from the hearing, as well as from the international poverty hearings and civil society shadow reports, were presented. Urgent action was recommended in the following areas: investment in agriculture, recognizing decent work as a human right, ensuring gender equality, recognizing that women were at the heart of development and making sure that national action plans on MDGs did not lead to exclusion. Specifically, participants committed to: empowering citizens to hold their governments accountable for promises made through poverty hearings, involving the poorest and marginalized groups; and affirming the commitment to the production of civil society MDG shadow reports in the North and South to monitor Government progress on the MDGs between now and 2015. In recognition of the 60 <sup>th</sup> anniversary of	

the Declaration of Human Rights, a pledge of personal responsibility to human rights was advocated by Mrs. Robinson. The organizers encouraged the participants to take part in Stand up and Take Action Against Poverty, and for the Millennium Development Goals Event to take place 17-19 October 2008 to show their commitment to poverty eradication. The report on the Millennium Development Goals and Human Rights prepared by the Millennium Campaign and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights was presented.

<b>INVESTING IN AGRICULTURE PARTNERSHIPS TO COMBAT HUNGER</b>	
23 SEPTEMBER, MILLENNIUM UN PLAZA HOTEL	
<b>ORGANIZER/ORGANIZATION:</b>	United States Agency for International Development
<b>COMMITMENTS/INITIATIVES</b>	
The event paved the way towards the establishment of a new global partnership on food security as proposed by G8 leaders. The US Government has partnered with the private sector and organizations such as the Alliance for a Green Revolution in an effort to support small-scale African farmers with affordable, reliable and high quality seeds and planting material, \$ 61 m was committed over 5-years.	

<b>LOCAL POVERTY REDUCTION AND MDG LOCALIZATION: SCALING UP THE ACHIEVEMENT OF MDGS</b>	
23 SEPTEMBER, GRAND HYATT HOTEL	
<b>ORGANIZER/ORGANIZATION:</b>	UN Development Programme, UN Capital Development Fund, UN-HABITAT, Netherlands Development Organization (SNV), UN Millennium Campaign, Action Aid
<b>COMMITMENTS/INITIATIVES</b>	
The event launched a new MDG campaign by local governments in Africa jointly with the UN Millennium Campaign and the UCLG Africa Commitment on South-South experience. The event allowed for an exchange of lessons learned and efforts that local governments, communities and civil society organizations are putting in place to achieve the MDGs. At least two successful local MDG initiatives were identified for enhanced support. The event outcomes and Call for Action will form the basis of an e-discussion on MDG localization which will run from October to November 2008. It is expected that these messages and commitments will leverage achievement of all MDGs and facilitate a new momentum for addressing pockets of poverty, particularly looking at vulnerable people. A primer on MDG localization will be published consolidating the results from the side-event and the e-discussion.	

<b>WOMEN'S TRIBUNAL ON THE MDGS</b>	
23 SEPTEMBER, CHURCH CENTRE	
<b>ORGANIZER/ORGANIZATION:</b>	Feminist Task Force - Global Call to Action against Poverty, Women of Color Policy Network of the Wagner School of New York University
<b>COMMITMENTS/INITIATIVES</b>	
The Women's Tribunal on the MDGs saw the release of the shadow report on New York City and the MDGs, as well as strengthened partnership between local and global women's groups to foster linkages and strengthen understanding of local MDG contexts. The event was aimed at raising awareness about women and poverty in the North and the localization of MDGs, which was documented by testimony on Women and the MDGs, including the filming of the entire poverty tribunal. Commitments from The Feminist Task Force – Global Call to Action against Poverty were: to hold Women's Tribunals around the world on Women and MDG 1, with a focus on Women and the Food Crisis, Women and MDG 7, and Climate Change; to link the Secretary-General's High-level Event on MDGs to the Financing for Development, Doha Review Process; and to support the Secretary-General, Member States and women's organizations in achieving gender equality architecture reform which will buttress the efforts of achieving MDG 3 and all MDGs.	

<b>THE FOOD PRICES CRISIS: AN OPPORTUNITY FOR AGRICULTURE AND WORLD FOOD SECURITY?</b> 24 SEPTEMBER, DELEGATES DINING ROOM	
<b>ORGANIZER/ORGANIZATION:</b>	European Commission, Economic Community Of West African States
<b>COMMITMENTS/INITIATIVES</b>	
The event provided an opportunity to discuss the types of responses that can be provided at the global level in order to avoid a repetition of the food crisis. The event also provided an opportunity towards the establishment of a new global partnership on food security as proposed by the G8 leaders.	
<b>PURCHASING FOR POWER</b> 24 SEPTEMBER, PRESS CONFERENCE	
<b>ORGANIZER/ORGANIZATION:</b>	Government of Belgium, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Howard G. Buffett Foundation, World Food Programme
<b>COMMITMENTS/INITIATIVES</b>	
The World Food Programme, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and the Howard G. Buffett Foundation announced the Purchase for Progress (P4P), a "partnership determined to put hunger out of business". The \$66m partnership is a groundbreaking initiative to help poor farmers in the developing world raise their incomes. The new initiative, Purchase for Progress, will connect hundreds of thousands of farmers to reliable markets where they can sell their surplus crops at competitive prices, increasing their profit and bolstering fragile local economies. It will also transform the way WFP purchases food in developing countries, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa and Central America.	
<b>CONSULTATION BETWEEN HEADS OF STATES AND RELIGIOUS LEADERS ON ELIMINATING POVERTY THROUGH THE MDGs</b> 24 SEPTEMBER, CHURCH CENTRE	
<b>ORGANIZER/ORGANIZATION:</b>	Religions for Peace, UN Millennium Campaign
<b>COMMITMENTS/INITIATIVES</b>	
The event issued a shared multi-religious statement, which will be widely disseminated to generate commitments to scale up efforts for achieving the MDGs and eliminating poverty. The statement calls on all governments to meet their promises to eliminate poverty and urges them to take more seriously their commitment made in MDG 8 to forge a new partnership for human development. This partnership must ensure a multi-stakeholder approach that engages governments, religious communities, civil society, the private sector and individuals. The statement called on governments, inter alia, to assist developing countries to improve their agricultural output and reduce tariffs and non-tariff barriers on their agricultural products; meet their pledges of increasing resources to strengthen educational systems and scale up the responses to HIV/AIDS, malaria, and other infectious diseases; commit to a reduction of total national defense and military expenditures and utilize the saved funds to advance development, including the protection of the environment; take stronger action to relieve the debt burden of countries and ensure access to affordable essential drugs and transfer of technology for development; take steps to ensure the representation of women in political and other decision-making processes. While religious leaders acknowledged that the governments had a principle responsibility to fulfill the MDGs, they pledged the commitment of their religious communities as key partners in that endeavour.	

<b>CHINA'S PROGRESS TOWARDS THE MDGs: ACHIEVEMENTS, LESSONS LEARNED AND THE WAY AHEAD 24 SEPTEMBER, CONFERENCE ROOM E</b>	
<b>ORGANIZER/ORGANIZATION:</b>	Government of the People's Republic of China, United Nations in China, UN Office for Partnerships
<b>COMMITMENTS/INITIATIVES</b>	
<p>China's exceptional success in reducing poverty has lifted people out of poverty at a faster speed and scale than in any other comparable country and period of time in human history. The event reviewed progress, assessed challenges and shared with others, particularly other developing countries, some of the key experiences and lessons the People's Republic of China has learned in its own fight against poverty. The event also provided the platform for the launch of the People's Republic of China's new national MDG Progress Report which noted that MDG 1 on poverty and hunger as well as MDG 2 on universal primary education are already met in China. An estimated 390 million people have been lifted out of poverty in 15 years. Incomes have more than quadrupled since 1978. Nine year primary education coverage is now 99.3%, for both boys and girls. Most remaining goals look likely to be met by 2015, some by a wide margin. Remaining challenges are acknowledged, inter alia, on MDG 3, MDG 6 and MDG 7. China is now moving towards more ambitious targets, such as universalizing junior middle school education, raising the domestic poverty line and more ambitious targets for most social undertakings. China is also playing an increasingly important role as a partner to other developing countries. For example, Sino-African trade grew from \$2 b in 1999 to \$73 b by 2007.</p>	

<b>GETTING THE MDG FUNDAMENTALS RIGHT 24 SEPTEMBER, MILLENNIUM PLAZA HOTEL</b>	
<b>ORGANIZER/ORGANIZATION:</b>	Overseas Development Institute, Chronic Poverty Research Centre, UN Millennium Campaign
<b>COMMITMENTS/INITIATIVES</b>	
<p>The aim of the event was to draw attention to the fundamentals which underlie the achievement of the MDGs, including: social protection for human development and growth, gender equality, breaking the humanitarian-development divide in post-conflict recovery, pro-poor economic growth and the social compact to promote enhanced public policy dialogue about the MDGs in the South through acknowledging and focusing on the fundamentals as much as on the specific targets. The event also discussed the possibilities of an additional new goal on social protection under MDG 1, with the Chronic Poverty Research Centre calling for the introduction of the target of social protection under MDG 1 by 2010. The United Kingdom Department for International Development's Basic Services Fund for Southern Sudan committed over £17 m for the provision of basic services, via non-government actors to the most under-served populations. Multi Donors Trust Funds would contribute to permit the Government of the Southern Sudan to put priority sector programmes in place, including basic infrastructure (roads, electricity, water) education, and health. The United Nations Development Programme's Sudan Recovery Fund for Southern Sudan aims to facilitate a transition from humanitarian to recovery assistance. The United Nations Sudan Common Humanitarian Fund supports the timely allocation and disbursement of donor resources to the most critical humanitarian needs.</p>	

<b>UN PRIVATE SECTOR FORUM – THE MDGs AND FOOD SUSTAINABILITY 24 SEPTEMBER, DELEGATES DINING ROOM</b>	
<b>ORGANIZER/ORGANIZATION:</b>	UN Global Compact Office, UN Development Programme, Office of the Coordinator for Humanitarian Affairs, UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, UN Office for Partnerships
<b>COMMITMENTS/INITIATIVES</b>	
<p>The first UN Private Sector Forum brought together 100 global business leaders, Heads of State and Government, civil society leaders and heads of UN Agencies, Funds and Programmes. The Secretary-General launched a new compilation of best practices and commitments, titled "Food Sustainability – A Guide to Private Sector Action". The guide highlights over 30 examples of how companies affect food sustainability through their operations and activities, and suggests concrete actions to mobilize further commitment and engagement by the business community around these issues. The Forum also launched a new framework for business collaboration with the UN designed to more effectively mobilize engagement towards achievement of the MDGs. The Global Partnership for the Business Call to Action was launched by the UN Development</p>	

Programme, the UK Department for International Development, the Clinton Global Initiative, the International Business Leaders Forum and the UN Global Compact, in collaboration with the World Economic Forum.

A key outcome of the Forum was the concrete recommendations by participants with respect to urgent actions to be taken by business, governments and the UN in a number of critical areas related to food sustainability – including water management; agricultural inputs and infrastructure; financial mechanisms and risk management instruments; nutrition; energy and biofuels; information and communication technology; and job creation for low-income populations.

Several commitments were made by chief executives attending the Forum to scale up their company’s efforts in critical areas of need. Finlay committed to create 10,000 new jobs in Bangladesh by 2011 by opening poultry and dairy facilities. FreeRice committed to donating 45 billion grains. Yara International announced a \$60 m investment to build fertilizer terminals in two key African ports in Tanzania and Mozambique. Yara International also announced an expansion and scaling up of its pilot programme with IFAD in Ghana. MAP International is supporting the expansion of a cell phone banking model that is based on biometric identification. It will provide financial services to people who have never before had access to bank accounts. GAVI Alliance is raising \$4 b in bond markets which can be used to finance investments in developing countries. Nedbank, along with three other large banks in South Africa, is developing a program to lower the costs of finance for smallholders. The Commonwealth Business Council is supporting the creation of mega-farms in 16 African countries which will support small farmers, ensure a market and a price for the production, supply local silos, and potentially provide insurance cover for natural disaster risks. KPMG is providing auditing expertise via no-fee engagements to help evaluate potential new agricultural investments in Kenya, Ghana, Nigeria, and Mozambique. Ericsson will creating an Innovation Centre comprised of three regionally placed development hubs which will focus on developing applications and tools for the rural poor in Africa and will also start a project to install weather stations to monitor local developments. Partner Re is working with the World Bank and IFC to set up a global reinsurance program that will underwrite developing country agricultural risk using parametric based products. Four companies (Hong Kong Beijing Air, Arup Group, Finlay International, Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Organization) endorsed the CEO Water Mandate. Global Catalyst Partners committed to create a campaign for the MDGs with a view make the goals known to the general population. Three new commitments were made by companies to engage in areas of improved access to financial services for the poor in Uganda; improved access to health care through innovative mobile-health care solutions in Africa, and investments in port facilities in Tanzania and Mozambique to reduce the cost of fertilizers for small-scale farmers. New commitments were also made by heads of UN agencies to work more effectively with the private sector on issues related to food sustainability and the MDGs. WFP commits to put together a consortium of leaders to improve nutritional impact targeting key demographics like children.

<b>INTERFAITH CONSULTATION ON THE GLOBAL HUNGER CRISIS</b>	
24 SEPTEMBER, ST BARTHOLOMEW’S EPISCOPAL CHURCH	
<b>ORGANIZER/ORGANIZATION:</b>	Bread for the World, Alliance to End Hunger, Inter-faith Anti-Hunger Coordinators
<b>COMMITMENTS/INITIATIVES</b>	
National religious leaders and directors of religious relief and development organizations from Christian, Muslim, and Jewish traditions convened to discuss their response to the continuing hunger crisis that threatens to reverse the gains already made toward the MDGs. Using the Secretary-General’s High-level Event on MDGs as the backdrop, Bread for the World, the Alliance to End Hunger, and the Inter-Faith Anti-Hunger Coordinators encouraged religious leaders to engage their members in efforts to achieve the MDGs.	

**LAUNCH OF HUNGER TASK FORCE REPORT**  
25 SEPTEMBER, ECOSOC CHAMBER

**ORGANIZER/ORGANIZATION:**

Government of Ireland, UN Special Advisor on the MDGs, Earth Institute at  
Columbia University

**COMMITMENTS/INITIATIVES**

This event will mark the presentation of the Irish Hunger Task Force's report. In September 2006, the Irish Government announced the establishment of a Task Force to examine the particular contribution Ireland can make to tackle the root causes of hunger, especially in Africa. The task force brings together a group of distinguished international experts, including Prof. Jeffrey Sachs, Ms. Josette Sheeran of the World Food Programme, and Bono, civil society activist and lead singer of U2. The recommendations of the Task Force address ways in which Ireland and the international community can achieve MDG 1. The Irish Government delegation will be led by An Taoiseach (Prime Minister) Mr. Brian Cowen, T.D.



## Goal 2: Achieve universal primary education

Target:

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

<b>THE CHILDREN OF LATIN AMERICA: A FUTURE WITHOUT POVERTY: CREATING EQUITY THROUGH EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES</b> 24 SEPTEMBER, COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY	
<b>ORGANIZER/ORGANIZATION:</b>	The Earth Institute at Columbia University, América Latina en Acción Solidaria
<b>COMMITMENTS/INITIATIVES</b>	
<p>The event was aimed at raising public awareness in the US and Latin America on issues surrounding the importance of early childhood development programmes in the Latin American region and how to contribute to a significant reduction in poverty and inequality; how to engage political leaders in reaffirming and renewing political will and government commitment to the areas of education, health and nutrition of children. The event also served to support the Secretary-General's High-level Event on MDGs in engaging politicians, civil society, private sector partners and individuals on the critical importance of the MDGs and how effective programmes in Latin America are helping to achieve them, while also underscoring what remains to be done throughout the region. Latin American Heads of State discussed their national priorities in childhood health, education and nutrition programmes for the remainder of the MDG timetable.</p>	

<b>EDUCATION FOR ALL PARTNERSHIP EVENT: CLASS OF 2015</b> 25 SEPTEMBER, DAG HAMMARSKJOLD AUDITORIUM	
<b>ORGANIZER/ORGANIZATION:</b>	Global Campaign for Education
<b>COMMITMENTS/INITIATIVES</b>	
<p>The event will launch a major new coalition, bringing together leaders from the world's governments, businesses, civil society organizations and faiths to announce new commitments towards achieving universal primary education by 2015. It will be a powerful opportunity to commit to the action needed to get us back on track to achieve the Millennium Development Goals by 2015.</p>	



### Goal 3: Promote gender equality and empower women

**Target:**

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

**ENGENDERING PRO-POOR CHANGE: PUTTING GENDER AT THE HEART OF THE MDGS**  
23 SEPTEMBER, MILLENNIUM PLAZA HOTEL

**ORGANIZER/ORGANIZATION:** Overseas Development Institute, Government of Denmark

**COMMITMENTS/INITIATIVES**

The event involved speakers from Africa and South Asia and focused on raising the visibility of gender, equality and women’s empowerment as a linchpin for achieving all the MDGs. Participants stressed that at the country level, the partnership between government and women’s organizations was critical to the achievement of the MDGs and that therefore women’s organizations should be granted a critical role in the elaboration of national MDG reports. Particular emphasis was placed on discussing possible policy solutions at the international, national and local levels. There was a call for policy makers to guarantee an even participation and representation of women in the drafting, implementation and monitoring of the public agenda, including at the macroeconomic level. Outcomes included suggested policy solutions and ways forward to address gender equality across all of the MDGs for achieving sustainable poverty reduction at the international, national and local level.

**WOMEN’S EMPOWERMENT, DIABETES AND DEVELOPMENT ROUNDTABLE**  
24 SEPTEMBER, MILLENNIUM PLAZA HOTEL

**ORGANIZER/ORGANIZATION:** The Danish Minister for Development Cooperation; Novo Nordisk A/S; the World Diabetes Foundation; Global Alliance for Women’s Health

**COMMITMENTS/INITIATIVES**

The aim of this event was to expand partnerships geared toward advancing MDG 3. To this end: The Global Alliance for Women’s Health, with the announced support of Novo Nordisk A/S and others, such as Member States, the private sector, and civil society, will organize and facilitate two policy secretariats: A “Council for Women’s Health at the UN” to meet quarterly, presided by the Permanent Mission of the United Republic of Tanzania, with the aim of producing policy initiatives and monitoring current policy; as well as a caucus entitled “Friends of the UN Diabetes Resolution” (A/RES/61/225) to meet quarterly, presided by the Permanent Mission of the People’s Republic of Bangladesh, to develop suggestions for national policies for the prevention, treatment, and care of diabetes in line with the sustainable development of Member States’ healthcare systems.

The Global Alliance for Women’s Health will also commit to bringing to the 5<sup>th</sup> International Symposium on Diabetes and Pregnancy (Italy 2009) information on UN MDGs 3, 4, and 5, in the hope that this information will strengthen public health policies for pregnancy and diabetes. Other initiatives included a workshop entitled Changing Patterns of Migration - Taking the Health of Women and Girl Migrants Forward (Manila, Philippines, 25 October 2008), programmes for screening for gestational diabetes (GDM) among high-risk populations in Sub-Saharan Africa, an awareness campaign aimed at reversing the trend of obesity among women of reproductive age, which has become a major problem in urban centers in Sub-Saharan Africa, a project in Tamil Nadu, India, which is building capacity for screening and providing care for gestational diabetes, and the World Diabetes Foundation will commit to sponsoring and co-hosting a symposium on Women, Diabetes and Development at the 5<sup>th</sup> International Symposium on Diabetes and Pregnancy (Sorrento, March 2009). Other initiatives announced were: Zeba Bakhtiar (Pakistan) will launch a project, "Sweet Angels", on treatment of diabetes (type 1) for children and women, and the Community of Countries of Portuguese Language, with the support of the Ministry of Health of Brazil will organize a meeting in Salvador, Brazil, on 14-18 November 2008 for eight countries to discuss national action plans and to train doctors and nurses to fight against diabetes.

**GENDER EQUALITY AND EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN**  
**A PREREQUISITE FOR ACHIEVING ALL THE MDGs BY 2015**  
25 SEPTEMBER, DELEGATES DINING ROOM

<b>ORGANIZER/ORGANIZATION:</b>	Governments of Denmark and Liberia
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**COMMITMENTS/INITIATIVES**

The Secretary-General of the United Nations will receive the 100<sup>th</sup> and final torch at the Partnership Event on 25 September. The President of Liberia will address issues pertaining to social empowerment of women and the Prime Minister of Denmark will address issues related to economic empowerment of women. Statements will also be made by the Secretary-General, Prime Minister of Spain and the CEO of Goldman Sachs. The expected outcome is to create a Global MDG 3 coalition comprising a broad spectrum of governments, international organizations, private sector and civil society groups, with the aim of ensuring continued political commitment to meeting MDG 3, by ensuring that both national resources and ODA are targeted to this area.

Denmark will lead by example and double Danish ODA targeted for women between 2008 and 2010. The 100 commitments of the global MDG 3 Champion Torch Campaign will be presented to the Secretary-General. Denmark will monitor the implementation of all the torch commitments to MDG 3 and present a follow-up report to the review conference on the MDGs in 2010. UNDP will present a study identifying best practices for economic empowerment of women at the country level, including private/public partnerships with recommendations for their implementation.



## Goal 4: Reduce child mortality

Target:

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

<b>COMMITMENT TO PROGRESS FOR MOTHERS, NEWBORNS AND CHILDREN</b> 25 SEPTEMBER, MILLENNIUM PLAZA HOTEL	
<b>ORGANIZER/ORGANIZATION:</b>	Permanent Missions of the Republic of Chile, the Republic of Finland, the United Republic of Tanzania to the United Nations Organizers: Family Care International, International Planned Parenthood Federation, Partnership for Maternal Newborn and Child Health, Save the Children-UK, White Ribbon Alliance for Safe Motherhood, World Vision International, Permanent Missions of Chile, Finland, Tanzania and the United Kingdom to the United Nations and with support from the UK Department for International Development, Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation, and the Australian Permanent Mission to the United Nations
<b>COMMITMENTS/INITIATIVES</b>	
The meeting aims to launch a global re-commitment of collaborative efforts to improve the health of women and their young children and accelerate progress towards MDG 4 and MDG 5. During the event announcements and acknowledgements will be made of specific and new commitments to improve the health of mothers, newborns and children. There will be a final call to action statement and a list of commitments from governments, the private sector and civil society. These will form an outcome document to be shared with the Health and Education Roundtable at the High-Level Event on the MDGs. The expected commitments from all of the governments and organizations represented will be a Call to Action statement.	



## Goal 5: Improve maternal health

Targets:

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

### WHO DIRECTOR-GENERAL ROUNDTABLE WITH WOMEN LEADERS ON MDG 5

25 SEPTEMBER, DELEGATE DINING ROOMS

**ORGANIZER/ORGANIZATION:** World Health Organization

#### COMMITMENTS/INITIATIVES

The event aims to build a wider constituency and increased awareness of health issues related to MDG 5. The participants invited by the WHO Director-General, include some 20 women leaders from around the world, i.e. first ladies, members of royal families and UN Agency leaders. The informal discussion and sharing of experiences during the roundtable is expected to result in increased personal commitment of the women leaders and a push for action to improve maternal health in participating countries.



## Goal 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria, and other diseases

### Targets:

- 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

<b>THE MDGs - EQUITY CHALLENGE</b>	
23 SEPTEMBER, DAG HAMMARSKJOLD AUDITORIUM	
<b>ORGANIZER/ORGANIZATION:</b>	Mission of Ethiopia, GAVI Alliance, Global Fund to Fight HIV/AIDS, TB and Malaria, UNAIDS, UNICEF
<b>COMMITMENTS/INITIATIVES</b>	
Participants examined how support to health systems, innovative financing and the newest technologies can help address gender, and geographic, ethnic and political inequities in access to basic health services. The event reaffirmed the important contribution of access to health services in the achievement of MDGs. Participants highlighted strategies to reach marginalized communities, through new technologies, stronger partnerships and improved programme coordination, and committed to ensuring adequate funding to support these efforts. Ongoing commitments identified during the event were those of the Global Fund, which has granted a total of US\$11 b to 136 low and middle-income countries to combat HIV/AIDS, Malaria, and TB, and Ethiopia, which has trained and deployed 24,000 women as health extension workers, with the end goal being 30,000 women trained and deployed by 2010, and which has also established a goal of 25,000 health centers by 2010.	

<b>MEETING ON UN SYSTEM COHERENCE TO ACHIEVE MDG 6</b>	
24 SEPTEMBER, DAG HAMMARSKJOLD AUDITORIUM	
<b>ORGANIZER/ORGANIZATION:</b>	Permanent Missions of Ireland and Tanzania to the United Nations, UNAIDS, UN Development Operations Coordination Office
<b>COMMITMENTS/INITIATIVES</b>	
Member States reaffirmed their commitment to scale up their response to meet the targets for universal access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support. The importance of the national context in shaping the UN system support was highlighted and the critical importance of national commitment and leadership was emphasized. The significant contributions of the United Nations system in supporting national development priorities, and specifically national AIDS plans, was acknowledged and commended. The considerable progress made in advancing the UN Reform agenda through the work of the UN Joint Programme on HIV/AIDS under varying national conditions was demonstrated. Ireland renewed its commitment to continue spending €100 million annually on HIV/AIDS-related activities. In 2008 Ireland spent 0.54% of GNI toward achieving the MDGs and would increase spending to 0.70% of GNI by 2012. The UN System will increase operation sites from 6 states to 11 states during the UNDAF period 2009-2012.	

<b>TOWARDS THE ACHIEVEMENT OF THE RIGHT TO HEALTH IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN</b>	
24 SEPTEMBER 2008, CONFERENCE ROOM 2	
<b>ORGANIZER/ORGANIZATION:</b>	Government of Mexico, Group of Rio, United Nations Development Programme, UN Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
<b>COMMITMENTS/INITIATIVES</b>	
The Executive Secretary of ECLAC and the Chair of the Regional Directors' Team for Latin America and the Caribbean provided an overview of the advances and challenges in Latin America and the Caribbean in achieving the health-related Millennium Development Goals. The First Lady of Peru and the Minister of Planning of Chile presented their countries' experiences. Representatives of the Latin American and Caribbean countries and of the UN entities working in the region expressed their commitment to redoubling their efforts to mobilize the resources and implement the public policies warranted to speed up the achievement of the MDGs, in particular those related to child mortality, maternal mortality, HIV/AIDS, malaria and other infectious	

diseases, and eradicating extreme poverty and hunger. The findings and recommendations in the report will serve as a basis for action. Governments pledged to integrate and complement health policies with other policies in the fields of education, nutrition, income, housing and basic social services, among others.

**HIGH LEVEL MALARIA EVENT**

25 SEPTEMBER, MILLENNIUM PLAZA HOTEL

**ORGANIZER/ORGANIZATION:**

Office of the Special Envoy on Malaria, Gates Foundation, UK Department for International Development

**COMMITMENTS/INITIATIVES**

*Information on the commitment will be included in a supplement to this report to be issued at the closing plenary on 25 September 2008.*



## Goal 7: Ensure environmental sustainability

### Targets:

- 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

<b>ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE CHANGE AND THE MDGs: RESHAPING THE DEVELOPMENT AGENDA</b> 23 SEPTEMBER, GRAND HYATT	
<b>ORGANIZER/ORGANIZATION:</b>	International Union for the Conservation of Nature, Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency, United Nations Development Programme, United Nations Environment Programme, The World Bank, World Resources Institute
<b>COMMITMENTS/INITIATIVES</b>	
<p>The Poverty-Environment Partnership (PEP) hosted a policy dialogue on Environment, Climate Change and the MDGs: Reshaping the Development Agenda. The PEP event highlighted key analytical, policy and practical innovations and success stories in improving and scaling-up environmental and natural resource management. Major 2005 commitments, including the UNDP-UNEP Poverty-Environment Initiative and the Coalition for Rainforest Nations, were highlighted. Achievements and lessons learned from these initiatives will provide world leaders with concrete evidence that investment in sound and equitable environmental management makes real economic sense and is critical to expanding opportunities for people in developing countries to lift themselves out of poverty.</p> <p>The key outcomes from this event was the launch of a manual/handbook on integrating climate change adaptation in the development mainstream and the holding of an inter-ministerial conference on health and environment in Africa in 2010, committed to the establishment of a health-and-environment strategic alliance, as the basis for plans of joint action, developing or updating African national, subregional and regional frameworks in order to address more effectively the issue of environmental impacts on health, through integration of these links in policies, strategies, regulations and national development plans.</p>	

<b>CLIMATE CHANGE AND DEVELOPMENT: PROGRESS ON FINANCE AND ADAPTATION</b> 24 SEPTEMBER 2008, DELEGATES DINING ROOM 6	
<b>ORGANIZER/ORGANIZATION:</b>	Governments of the United Kingdom, Bangladesh, the Netherlands and Switzerland, United Nations Foundation.
<b>COMMITMENTS/INITIATIVES</b>	
<p>Discussion focused on the need for national development plans to be climate resilient, especially for the LDCs, and for new adaptation strategies to be developed and implemented. Linkages between financing for development and international climate change financing were discussed. It was also agreed that all countries, including donor countries, the UN system and the Bretton Woods institutions, need to clarify the budgetary implications of adaptation; ensure that adequate finance mechanisms are in place; and help meet the additional costs that climate resilient development will entail.</p> <p>Participants shared ideas for guiding principles as well as concrete proposals for adaptation funding as part of the current climate change negotiations under the UNFCCC. Bangladesh committed \$35 m in domestic resources for implementation of the Bangladesh Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan. The UK agreed to provide \$150 m for implementation of the Bangladesh Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan. Switzerland proposed adaptation funding through an international carbon dioxide emission levy of \$2 per ton. The World Bank (financed by the Governments of the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, and Switzerland) is to conduct a</p>	

study for \$8 m on the Economics of Adaptation to Climate Change. Japan is to contribute \$1.2 b to the Climate Investment Fund of the World Bank (total commitment by G8 countries is \$6 b). Japan also foreshadowed the establishment of Partnership Climate Change Investment (\$10b). Norway raised a proposal for reserving emission rights for international auctioning, with proceeds used for adaptation financing through international organizations and Norway (with FAO, UNEP, UNDP) will finance and conduct a pilot project on Reduced Emissions from Deforestation in Developing. The Republic of Korea put forward a proposal for giving carbon credit to developing countries for implementing nationally appropriate climate change mitigation actions. And Mexico raised a proposal for establishing international green fund for climate change financing

**FOR THE HEALING OF NATIONS: INTERNATIONAL JUSTICE DIMENSIONS OF CLIMATE CHANGE**  
24 SEPTEMBER, CHURCH CENTRE

<b>ORGANIZER/ORGANIZATION:</b>	Church World Service
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**COMMITMENTS/INITIATIVES**

The event provided the opportunity for participants to identify areas for collaboration amongst the faith communities in the US, thus creating the environment necessary to encourage strong and positive outcomes leading up to the UNFCCC meeting in Copenhagen 2009. Through these steps, meeting participants affirmed their support and commitment to the Millennium Development Goals and confirmed their belief in the inter-linkages between poverty alleviation and climate change negotiations as critical to the future of the world community as well as the world's most vulnerable.

**REDUCED EMISSIONS FROM DEFORESTATION AND FOREST DEGRADATION PROGRAMME**  
24 SEPTEMBER, PRESS CONFERENCE

<b>ORGANIZER/ORGANIZATION:</b>	Government of Norway with the Food and Agricultural Organization, UN Development Programme, UN Environment Programme
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**COMMITMENTS/INITIATIVES**

Financing initial phase of the UN's Reduced Emissions from Deforestation and Forest degradation (REDD) Programme with \$35 m. UN REDD will assist developing countries to develop national REDD strategies, monitor forest cover and carbon stocks, build capacity, and implement pilot projects on forest management that maintain ecosystem services of forests and maximize carbon stocks, while delivering community and livelihood benefits. Norway on 16 September committed to contribute up to \$1 b to the Amazon Fund for reducing deforestation in the Amazon.

**UN-ENERGY: SIDE EVENT ON ACCESS TO ENERGY SERVICES FOR ACHIEVEMENT OF THE MDGS**  
24 SEPTEMBER, CONFERENCE ROOM 3

<b>ORGANIZER/ORGANIZATION:</b>	UN-Energy (Department for Economic and Social Affairs, UN Development Programme, UN Industrial Development Organization), World Bank
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**COMMITMENTS/INITIATIVES**

The Global Environment Facility announced a Strategic Programme for West Africa in excess of \$100 m to address energy, biodiversity and Persistent Organic Pollutants. The energy component (energy access, energy efficiency, renewable energy, urban transport) will be about \$45m. Some 26 concrete projects have been identified for further development through a consultative and demand driven process with active participation of the countries. The energy component supports projects that focus on practical interventions that will demonstrate the technical and economic viability of promising renewable energy and efficient energy technologies and measures, and promote private sector involvement in stimulating energy markets in the region. A central theme will integrate energy sufficiency as a main pillar for development. The programme is being developed with UN-Energy and it will be operational in 18 countries.

**REDUCING BIODIVERSITY LOSS AND THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY'S 2010 TARGET**  
24 SEPTEMBER, TWO UN PLAZA, DC2-2300

<b>ORGANIZER/ORGANIZATION:</b>	UN University Institute of Advanced Studies
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**COMMITMENTS/INITIATIVES**

The UNU-IAS Report highlights the links between the CBD 2010 targets and the MDG target on reducing biodiversity loss; it also identifies the challenges being faced by countries in responding to these targets from

different perspectives and provides policy options for consideration by MDG practitioners. The report is one of the first to provide practical approaches to achieving MDG 7 with linkages to multilateral environmental agreements. The review of the 2008 national reports indicates that several countries are still facing challenges to report, appropriately, on MDG 7 targets and more specifically the new target on biodiversity. The report is expected to provide guidance to member states on how to achieve 2010 targets. Besides new partnerships between UN agencies, international secretariats, private sector and civil society, a new country support programme will be launched to achieve 2010 targets of MDGs. Being one of the first few such reports that assess the linkages between multilateral environmental agreements and MDGs, this report will be able to provide needed guidance to agencies and member states to achieve both conservation and development.

<b>WATER AND SANITATION FOR ALL</b>	
24 SEPTEMBER, TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL CHAMBER	
<b>ORGANIZER/ORGANIZATION:</b>	Permanent Missions of Germany, Japan, the Netherlands and Tajikistan to the United Nations
<b>COMMITMENTS/INITIATIVES</b>	
<p>The event reiterated the strong political and diplomatic support for international efforts needed to address the water and sanitation issues and enhance human security. It promoted good water cycle management and the application of Integrated Water Resource Management. It reaffirmed the importance of formulation and implementation of national assistance strategies building on the “Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness”, while considering the specific needs and resources of the recipient countries. The event emphasized the importance of mobilizing adequate international and national financial resources for the implementation of the national strategies and the need to strive towards using sector-wide approaches; and developed partnerships with civil society organizations, local authorities and the private sector to implement national strategies and action plans to improve the accessibility and quality of water and sanitation services as well as initiatives to establish a ‘Framework for Action’ to focus on the off-track countries, including the possible consideration for a ‘Fast Track Initiative’ with catalytic funding to install a High Level ‘Task Force’ to reach MDG7, and to make one annual global progress report and to hold one annual high level review meeting.</p> <p>Japan committed to establish a Water Security Action Team for Africa to provide safe drinking water for 6.5 million people and implement a water supply capacity-building program that would train 5,000 people over the next five years. Tajikistan said it would host the International Freshwater Forum in 2010 as a venue for a preliminary discussion of achievements, challenges and experiences within the International Decade. Tajikistan initiated the International Decade "Water for Life", 2005-2010. The Netherlands said it would help provide access to safe drinking water and sanitation for at least 50 million people by 2015 having already signed various agreements that will benefit almost 30 million people, at a cost of around €1.3 b. Germany will continue to train Central Asian water experts. The Netherlands and the United Kingdom committed €106m in joint funding from the Netherlands and the United Kingdom for water and sanitation initiatives in developing countries over the next five years.</p>	

<b>CLIMATE CHANGE AND IMPLICATIONS FOR THE ACHIEVEMENT OF THE MDGs</b>	
25 SEPTEMBER, CONFERENCE ROOM 3	
<b>ORGANIZER/ORGANIZATION:</b>	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
<b>COMMITMENTS/INITIATIVES</b>	
<p><i>Information on the commitment will be included in a supplement to this report to be issued at the closing plenary on 25 September 2008.</i></p>	



## Goal 8: Develop a global partnership for development

### Targets:

- 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

<b>GLOBAL CREATIVE LEADERSHIP SUMMIT</b> 21 – 23 SEPTEMBER, THE METROPOLITAN CLUB	
<b>ORGANIZER/ORGANIZATION:</b>	Louise T. Blouin Foundation, UN Office for Partnerships
<b>COMMITMENTS/INITIATIVES</b>	
<p>The event saw the launch of several new initiatives. These include the LINK Project, an online project that seeks to create a search engine and online network to connect philanthropic institutions, NGOs and other non-for-profits, as a way for NGOs to find analogous projects within particular global regions in order to decrease overlap, develop partnerships and to maximize efficiency. Philips Lighting and the Government of the Netherlands presented the first stages of the Sustainable Energy Solutions for All partnership in Ghana. Furthermore, the OECD report on the International Measurement of the Economic and Social Importance of Culture was launched. Neurobiologists, Dr. Eric Kandel and Dr. Antonio Damasio, agreed to host a foreign policy oriented sociobiology Symposium titled “Understanding Each Other’s Culture: Emerging Biological Perspectives on Social Behavior”.</p>	

<b>CLINTON GLOBAL INITIATIVE ANNUAL MEETING</b> 24–26 SEPTEMBER, SHERATON NEW YORK	
<b>ORGANIZER/ORGANIZATION:</b>	Clinton Foundation
<b>COMMITMENTS/INITIATIVES</b>	
<p>From 2005-2007, members have made over 1000 commitments valued at upwards of \$30 billion to impact more than 200 million lives in over 150 countries. By the end of the 2008 CGI Annual Meeting, it is expected that over 200 more commitments will be made. This year, at least 11 commitments are expected to be made in partnership with UN agencies, and many more involve innovative cross-sector partnerships to address the MDGs, including:</p> <p>Maternal-Child Health: Save the Children, Johns Hopkins University, PATH, Warmup America Foundation, BRAC and Sesame Workshop are partnering on an initiative to deliver, over the next five years, two million newborn care kits to families in rural communities to reduce newborn deaths in Asia and Africa.</p> <p>Hunger: In an effort to address this year’s global food crisis, CGI has helped mobilize diverse organizations to develop a series of commitments focusing on school feeding and de-worming initiatives. Through these commitments 5 million children are expected to participate in new school feeding programs, and another 20 million children are expected to benefit from higher-quality school feeding programs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gender Equity: As in many other post-conflict environments, emergency skills training and public works programs in Liberia have targeted male youth ex-combatants. Collaboration between the Government of Liberia, the World Bank, the Government of Denmark and the Nike Foundation seeks to smooth the path of adolescent girls to productive employment through skills training and business development services.</li> <li>• Environmental Sustainability: Wal-Mart has committed to halve the plastic shopping bag waste produced by existing stores globally. Wal-Mart estimates this commitment will help reduce oil consumption by 1 million barrels per year and help reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by an estimated 434,000 metric tons per year.</li> </ul>	

The Measles Initiative will announce a commitment of \$9 m over three years from Merck, the UN Foundation/Vodafone Foundation Technology Partnership and the Kessler Family Foundation at the Clinton Global Initiative that will increase the likelihood that the Measles Initiative can vaccinate an additional 76 million children in 25 countries in 2009.

The United Nations Foundation's Nothing But Nets campaign will announce a \$2 m grant to the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees to fund immediate distribution of long-lasting, insecticide-treated bed nets in temporary refugee camps across Africa. Recognizing that malaria is the largest killer of refugees, the new partnership will distribute bed nets in eight African countries. The partnership will combine the capabilities of the Nothing But Nets campaign, a global, grassroots initiative that aims to eliminate malaria deaths within a generation, with UNHCR's global leadership on behalf of refugees.

**INTERFAITH AND NGO INVESTMENTS IN THE MDGs FOR SYSTEMATIC CHANGE**

22 SEPTEMBER, CHURCH CENTRE

<b>ORGANIZER/ORGANIZATION:</b>	MDG-NGO Convening Group, Caritas Internationalis, in partnership with World Council of Churches, Presbyterian UN Office, World Conference Religions for Peace, Save the Children International, Council on American Islamic Relations, Bread for the World, Micah Challenge, SOS Kinderdorf International, Mercy International, Civicus, Lutheran Office of World Community, Baha'i
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**COMMITMENTS/INITIATIVES**

International Interfaith Manifestation invited all stakeholders to support the needed partnerships amongst global, civil and local leaders from all sectors, in response to the UN General Assembly Call to Action. The event reflected on the partners and investments already made and those still needed to meet the MDG targets through systemic change and new policies. The event encouraged NGO commitments to challenge both governments and civil society to fulfill promises, achieve the MDGs and commit to working together in a spirit of partnership for human dignity for all people.

**SPECIAL SCREENING OF MTV'S 'EXILED'**

23 SEPTEMBER, THE GABARRON FOUNDATION

<b>ORGANIZER/ORGANIZATION:</b>	United Nations Foundation, MTV, PressPlay Productions, United Nations UN Millennium Campaign
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**COMMITMENTS/INITIATIVES**

The screening featured MTV's new television series, "Exiled," which features American teenagers experiencing life and indigenous culture in developing countries. The series and corollary educational materials available for viewers help demonstrate new strategies for engaging young people in the cause of poverty alleviation and advancement of the MDGs. Participants at the screening also discussed other opportunities to employ popular culture in service of the MDGs

**MDGs AT MIDPOINT:**

**WHERE DO WE STAND, AND WHERE DO WE NEED TO GO?**

24 SEPTEMBER, CONFERENCE ROOM 7

<b>ORGANIZER/ORGANIZATION:</b>	European Commission, Economic Community of West African States
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**COMMITMENTS/INITIATIVES**

The objective of this side event was to present the EU MDG research paper titled "Millennium Development Goals at Midpoint: Where do we stand, and where do we need to go?" produced by a team of European development specialists led by Prof. François Bourguignon, Director of the Paris School of Economics. The paper is designed to situate the ongoing efforts to fulfill MDGs commitments within the broader context of the changing world economy, to challenge development thinking to adapt to the new economic environment and to identify relevant policy recommendations for the way forward.

The research paper aims to help shape the international agenda and feed the EU policy-making process by providing independent European researchers' views on development policy, enhancing the European perspective on development issues in the international arena, on the basis of knowledge excellence, innovation,

and offering a forward looking dimension as a contribution to the international debate. The research paper is part of a broader EU initiative, "Mobilizing European Research for Development Policies", aiming at enhancing the European vision on development and its influence in the international development agenda.

**LOCAL GOVERNMENTS' CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE MDGS**

24 SEPTEMBER, CONFERENCE ROOM 8

<b>ORGANIZER/ORGANIZATION:</b>	Italian Government, the City of Milan and Expo Milano 2015, under the patronage of the UN Millennium Campaign and in partnership with United Cities and Local Governments
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**COMMITMENTS/INITIATIVES**

The event focused on the pivotal role of Local Governments as agents of change and launched a follow-up initiative that will take place in Milan, where representatives of international institutions, mayors and civil society organizations are invited to work together to showcase concrete actions that Local Governments can undertake to promote the MDGs. Milan will draw on its strengths - its culture, entrepreneurial spirit and political will - to give resonance to this message in the MDGs Global Call to Action during Expo Milano 2015 and the run-up to the event and serve as the focal point of a permanent forum for an exchange of practices. The event also sought to promote global partnership between national authorities and the UN Agencies aimed at building greater awareness of and support for the role of local governments in their efforts to achieve the MDGs. The event launched a partnership initiative among Local Governments to contribute to the achievement of the MDGs, embodied in a Declaration of intent to this effect, to be promoted in the context of Expo Milano 2015. The launched initiative underlines and promotes the essential role that Local Governments play to mobilize a broad range of actors, resources, knowledge, best practices, and technology transfer for the implementation of the MDGs.

**MDG ACHIEVEMENT FUND: LESSONS LEARNED AND WAY FORWARD**

24 SEPTEMBER, CONFERENCE ROOM 3

<b>ORGANIZER/ORGANIZATION:</b>	Government of Spain, United Nations Development Programme
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**COMMITMENTS/INITIATIVES**

As at mid-September 2008, the MDG Achievement Fund has approved 53 joint programmes with budgets totaling over US\$300 million. The programmes for children, nutrition and food security window have been launched, while programmes for conflict prevention and peace building will be announced soon. 45 countries have an approved Concept Note to access the Fund and 24 of the eligible UN agencies have benefited from the Fund. The Governments of Spain, the United Kingdom, Norway and the Netherlands launched the expansion of the Delivering as One UN joint programmes of the MDG Achievement Fund. This will expand on the current US\$75 m for the eight pilot countries. Additional funds will be secured over a multi-year basis and more countries will be eligible to receive funding. An expanded governance system will also be put in place. A number of national commitments were made. Guatemala said it would provide free public health and school fees, largely thanks to the MDG-F. Spain committed € 200 m for the One-UN in the MDG-F and €110 m to "Delivering as One", an expanded multi-donor funding window in the MDG-F, which will be in operation in 2009. The UK committed £40 m over 2 years to "Delivering as One",

**WORLD BUSINESS AND DEVELOPMENT AWARDS**

24 SEPTEMBER, MILLENNIUM PLAZA HOTEL BALL ROOM

<b>ORGANIZER/ORGANIZATION:</b>	UN Development Programme, International Business Leaders Forum, International Chamber of Commerce, UK Department for International Development
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**COMMITMENTS/INITIATIVES**

The WBDA raised awareness among governments and business on the advantages to join efforts for poverty alleviation by giving concrete examples, promoting best practices, and encouraging further action among private sector actors. The Business Call to Action is a mechanism which encourages and supports companies in the North and South to direct their attention and resources to operating in markets in developing countries in ways which are both profitable and developmental. This may be through developing and marketing goods and services which meet basic needs of the poor and/or marginalized, integrating the unemployed, poor and small entrepreneurs into supply or distribution chains; achieving significant improvements in local capacities; or

enabling higher net returns to poor producers or traders. The WBDA highlighted the need for companies to be innovative in altering their business models so as to have a greater developmental impact whilst simultaneously pursuing their strategic business objectives.

**HONORING THE SECRETARY-GENERAL FOR HIS COMMITMENT TO ACHIEVING THE MDGs**

24 SEPTEMBER, FOUR SEASONS RESTAURANT

<b>ORGANIZER/ORGANIZATION:</b>	Global Business Coalition, Global Compact, InterAction, One, Religions for Peace, UN Special Envoy for Malaria, United Nations Foundation, UN Millennium Campaign, UN Office for Partnerships, Youth Service America
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**COMMITMENTS/INITIATIVES**

In advance of the 25 September High Level Event on the MDGs, business, civil society, and other non-governmental actors convened to express their support for the Secretary-General's leadership on global development and achievement of the MDGs. The event underscored the need for broad-based partnerships to advance and achieve the MDGs amongst the public and private sectors as well as the global North and the global South.

**TO ACHIEVE THE MDGs: CURRENCY TRANSACTION TAX FOR FINANCING FOR DEVELOPMENT**

24 SEPTEMBER, BAHAI INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY

<b>ORGANIZER/ORGANIZATION:</b>	UBUNTU Forum Secretariat, UN Millennium Campaign, NGO Working Group on Currency Transaction Tax for Financing for Development
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**COMMITMENTS/INITIATIVES**

The event aimed to raise awareness towards the implementation of a Currency Transaction Tax which would allow the United Nations to collect funds that are needed to achieve the MDGs by 2015. The aim was to inscribe the proposal within the process of the Review of the Monterrey Consensus, which will be completed in Doha in December 2008.

**IN MY NAME/PROJECT 7 – LAUNCH OF GLOBAL PUBLIC INTERACTIVE MOBILIZATION ON THE MDGs**

25 SEPTEMBER, DAG HAMMARSKJOLD PLAZA

<b>ORGANIZER/ORGANIZATION:</b>	Oxfam, Save the Children, Comic Relief
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**COMMITMENTS/INITIATIVES**

Under the umbrella of the Global Call to Action Against Poverty, Oxfam, Save the Children and Comic Relief will launch a major new campaign initiative in New York. Titled, in my name, it will harness the best of interactive technology and popular culture to engage ordinary people around the world in the fight to end extreme poverty. Among the first people to 'add their name' on 25 September will be two millennium children born in the year 2000, accompanied by the UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon and dignitaries and activists from around the world. Each person will announce what he/she is doing to help end poverty, and then challenge her/his governments to take bold action to help save a world in crisis. People attending will include H.M. Queen Rania, Mrs. Mary Robinson, Prof. Jeffrey Sachs, Mrs. Ela Bhatt, celebrities Ms. Kristin Davis and Mr. Rahul Bose. Music star Will.i.am, has written a new song for the launch and will perform it live, accompanied by Ms. Angelique Kidjo. The song will be downloadable free of charge and the accompanying video will be on inmyname.com. The action and a new website will build from its launch in September to a powerful climax in 2010, when we are asking world leaders to meet for a final push to achieve the MDGs.

## High Level Meeting on Africa's Development Needs

<b>CRIME AS AN IMPEDIMENT TO SECURITY AND DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA: BEST PRACTICES AND INSTITUTIONAL OPPORTUNITIES</b> 22 SEPTEMBER, INTERNATIONAL PEACE INSTITUTE	
<b>ORGANIZER/ORGANIZATION:</b>	UN Office on Drugs and Crime, International Peace Institute
<b>COMMITMENTS/INITIATIVES</b>	
<p>Speakers on the panel highlighted the fact that in a number of African countries, drugs, crime and corruption are undermining development efforts. Local and transnational crime in Africa represents both the causes and the consequences of violence, corruption and poor governance. High levels of income inequality, a high share of youth in the population, high rates of urbanization, low levels of criminal justice resources, firearms proliferation, wars and civil conflicts as well as weak controls over criminal activities leave Africa vulnerable to organized crime, drug trafficking, trafficking in human beings, money laundering and corruption. Crime, in a broad sense, inhibits development in Africa by destroying human and social capital, drives away business and investments, and undermines the ability of the State to promote development.</p>	
<b>YOUTH: DEVELOPMENT AND EMPLOYMENT</b> 22 SEPTEMBER, CONFERENCE ROOM 7	
<b>ORGANIZER/ORGANIZATION:</b>	UN Population Fund, International Labour Organization, UN Office on Sport for Development and Peace, International Organization for Migration, UN Economic Commission for Africa, UN Volunteers, African Union
<b>COMMITMENTS/INITIATIVES</b>	
<p>The meeting called for joint action amongst agencies, youth associations, the programmes of the UN, AU, regional economic commissions, other partner agencies, national authorities and the civil society as the key to achieving true partnership and addressing the major challenges of African youth. Education should be non-discriminatory and should provide employment skills as well as the skills needed to adapt to the changing economic climate. Beyond government policies and partnership with UN and non-UN organizations, African youth need to be well-informed, to consolidate regional and sub-regional networks of youth and to engage with partners on development issues. Volunteering is one of the main channels for youth participation and can be very successful in enhancing employability.</p>	
<b>THE SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT CHALLENGE IN AFRICA</b> 22 SEPTEMBER, CONFERENCE ROOM 8	
<b>ORGANIZER/ORGANIZATION:</b>	UN Population Fund, International Organization for Migration, United Nations Children's Fund, UN High Commissioner for Refugees, UN Human Settlements Programme, World Health Organization, Joint UN Programme on HIV/AIDS, International Trade Center, UN Economic Commission for Africa, Office of the Special Adviser on Africa, African Union
<b>COMMITMENTS/INITIATIVES</b>	
<p>The event called for strengthened capacity of communities and improvement of coordination for provision of potable water and sanitation to avoid recontamination. Countries should look at solar as a power source supply to free more water for potable use. Stakeholders committed to monitor and evaluate social development interventions in Africa, to assess progress and successes, for evidence-based advocacy and policy dialogue, and knowledge-sharing and replication of successful programmes.</p>	

<b>MICROCREDIT, MICROFINANCE, INCLUSIVE FINANCE: BUILDING SUCCESS FOR INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS FOR POVERTY ERADICATION IN AFRICA</b>	
22 SEPTEMBER, DAG HAMMARSKJOLD AUDITORIUM	
<b>ORGANIZER/ORGANIZATION:</b>	UN Capital Development Fund, the Permanent Mission of the Netherlands to the UN, UN Advisors Group on Inclusive Finance
<b>COMMITMENTS/INITIATIVES</b>	
<p>The event emphasized the importance of a multi-sector approach involving collaboration among governments, development partners, private sector players, practitioners, and regulators, in creating the enabling environments that remove the constraints to access to financial products and services. The critical role of savings, financial literacy, and transparency was highlighted. The impact of the recent increase in food prices on the financial sustainability of some microfinance institutions and the current crises in the commercial banking sector were also discussed. Microfinance as a domestic source of financing to adapt to climate change (through crop and life insurance products targeting the poor) was highlighted. The role of remittances as a critical source of development finance and the importance of promoting regional financial service providers and supporting market infrastructure to address the challenges in building inclusive financial sectors in Africa were also discussed.</p>	

<b>ACCELERATING POVERTY REDUCTION AND ECONOMIC GROWTH : TRANSFORMING AFRICAN COUNTRIES INTO TIGER ECONOMIES</b>	
22 SEPTEMBER, DELEGATES DINING ROOM	
<b>ORGANIZER/ORGANIZATION:</b>	UN Industrial Development Organization, UN Conference on Trade and Development, UN Development Programme, Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa
<b>COMMITMENTS/INITIATIVES</b>	
<p>This event, focusing on how to accelerate economic growth and poverty reduction in Africa, was chaired by the Director-General of UNIDO, Mr. Kandeh Yumkella, with the keynote address being delivered by the Deputy Secretary-General, Dr. Asha-Rose Migiro. In her statement, the DSG emphasized that poverty reduction in Africa should be at the top of the international community's agenda.</p> <p>The side event included statements by Mr. Namanga Ngongi, the President of AGRA, Ms. Patricia Francis, the Executive Director of ITC, Mr. Stefano Manservigi, the Director-General for Development Cooperation in the European Commission, Mr. Charles Gore of UNCTAD and Mr. Cheick Sidi Diara, the Special Adviser on Africa. Examples from the experience of some of the Asian Tigers were highlighted, although several speakers emphasized that while Africa should learn from the experience of others, it must also follow its own path to development. The statements of the panelists were followed by a lively interactive session between the members of the panel and a high-level audience which included a number of Ministers and Ambassadors as well as members of the private sector, civil society and the UN.</p>	

<b>TRANSFORMING THE CLIMATE FOR BUSINESS TO ACCELERATE PRIVATE SECTOR-LED GROWTH AND PROGRESS TOWARDS THE MDGS 22 SEPTEMBER, DELEGATES DINING ROOM</b>	
<b>ORGANIZER/ORGANIZATION:</b>	UN Office for Partnerships, LTB Foundation, Business Action for Africa, Permanent Mission of the Netherlands to the UN, in cooperation with the Commonwealth Business Council, The Corporate Council on Africa, Africa Investor, the Public-Private Alliance Foundation.
<b>COMMITMENTS/INITIATIVES</b>	
<p>The event included announcements of important new commitments. MAP International committed to rollout its network beyond the pilot phase of 50,000 users in Uganda to more than 2 million citizens over the next two years. This rollout will include incorporating 4000 agent access points, 8000 savings and credit cooperative societies, and 15,000 merchant locations into the MAP network. This rollout will enable citizens to proactively and safely chart a path out of poverty into economic self-determination.</p> <p>All for Africa, a U.S. based NGO established by business executives, publicly launched the Palm Out Poverty campaign on 23 September and committed to planting 1 million palm oil trees on 700 palm farms in several sub-Saharan African countries. Each tree farm is expected to produce palm oil each year for approximately 30 years. The income derived from the sale of the palm oil will be used to fund community-based poverty alleviation initiatives for generations to come. All for Africa will secure long term markets for the palm oil. At today's prices for palm oil each farm would generate more that \$35,000 of net revenue each year. All for Africa's 2008-2009 campaign is expected to generate annual revenues of more than \$25 m or more than \$750 m over the life of the trusts.</p>	

<b>THE AFRICA ATLAS OF OUR CHANGING ENVIRONMENT 22 SEPTEMBER, CONFERENCE ROOM</b>	
<b>ORGANIZER/ORGANIZATION:</b>	UN Environment Programme
<b>COMMITMENTS/INITIATIVES</b>	
<p>The UNEP Deputy Executive Director introduced the Atlas, noting that the publication underlines how development choices, population growth, climate change and, in some cases, conflicts are shaping and impacting the natural and nature-based assets of the region. Accurate and up to date information, as found in the Atlas, could underpin the successful implementation of MDGs in Africa as well as NEPAD. The Atlas was seen as a good initiative aimed at improving the management of environmental information for sustainable development, especially the awareness of remote-sensing technology for Africa's development planning. The US Geological Survey (USGS) Director noted that with good analysis, such as applied to the Africa Atlas, science could provide a rational bridge to understanding policy. By showing trends and the rate of change, the Atlas is a potential tool for long range planning. The findings in the Atlas bring to the fore environmental management issues which will have a profound impact on meeting Africa's development needs; achieving the MDGs in Africa; the successful implementation of NEPAD; and economic growth, social stability and poverty alleviation. The USGS Director took the opportunity to announce that USGS was releasing all Landsat data for free and indicated that UNEP is expected to be the major beneficiary.</p>	

<b>THE MDG AFRICA STEERING GROUP AND THE GLENEAGLES SCENARIOS APPROACH FOR SCALING UP ODA</b> 22 SEPTEMBER, CONFERENCE ROOM 8	
<b>ORGANIZER/ORGANIZATION:</b>	UN Development Programme, in partnership with the Republic of Benin, the Republic of Rwanda, the European Commission, International Monetary Fund, World Bank, Oxfam, the Earth Institute and the Africa Progress Panel
<b>COMMITMENTS/INITIATIVES</b>	
<p>On the occasion of the High Level Meeting of the UN General Assembly on "Africa's development needs: state of implementation of various commitments, challenges and the way forward," the UNDP, in partnership with the Republic of Benin, the Republic of Rwanda, the EC, IMF, World Bank, Oxfam, the Earth Institute and the Africa Progress Panel, held a side event focusing attention on the need for follow-up on existing ODA commitments. No new promises are needed; but fulfillment of existing promises is urgently required. This side event reviewed the MDG Africa Steering Group's recommendations for accelerated achievement of the MDGs in Africa. It also focused on the Steering Group's work on Gleneagles Scenarios to help facilitate scaled-up ODA to Africa in support of the implementation of these recommendations. The side event made clear that the external financing is the limiting factor on achievement of the MDGs in Africa and sought commitments to implement the recommendations of the MDG Africa Steering Group's recommendations. Participants called for work on the Gleneagles Scenarios to be extended to any country that requests it in order to mobilize resources at the country level. Panelists also emphasized that ODA commitments should be treated as binding contracts since the unpredictable delivery of aid creates major problems for African governments.</p>	

<b>AFRICAN PRIVATE SECTOR INITIATIVE: STRENGTHENING COMPETITIVENESS IN A GLOBAL CONTEXT</b> 22 SEPTEMBER 2008, DAG HAMMARKSJOLD AUDITORIUM	
<b>ORGANIZER/ORGANIZATION:</b>	International Trade Centre, UN Conference on Trade and Development, World Trade Organization, World Bank, UN Global Compact
<b>COMMITMENTS/INITIATIVES</b>	
<p>The event made several recommendations on how the donor community and international organizations, including trade related technical assistance agencies, can collaborate better with each other and with governments to more effectively assist African private sector enterprises to enhance competitiveness and growth. Recommendations concerned how to encourage the promotion of partnerships between the public and the private sector. The event underlined the important role the private sector plays in linking the poor to global markets by showcasing examples of how private sector development fosters both economic and human development. A Joint Declaration is being prepared and will be made available in due time.</p>	

<b>THE GOVERNANCE CHALLENGE IN AFRICA</b> 22 SEPTEMBER, CONFERENCE ROOM 8	
<b>ORGANIZER/ORGANIZATION:</b>	UN University, Office of the Special Adviser on Africa, UN Human Settlements Programme, UN Development Fund for Women, UN Office on Drugs and Crime, Inter-Parliamentary Union
<b>COMMITMENTS/INITIATIVES</b>	
<p>A keynote address on "Governance and Leadership" in Africa presented a comparison between the 19th century European theories on the evolution of governance, and highlighted the plight of Africa which is going through similar processes and drew a distinction of government structures which again evolved from the traditional society to a rational society. The challenge is how African democratic institutions can work to promote effective leadership. Panelists highlighted that human rights are a bastion of any constitutional order and the heart of any democratic society. These sentiments are also expressed in the Constitutive Act of the African Union. All the African countries have in their constitutions the provisions on the fundamental freedom and rights.</p> <p>The governance and democracy journey in Africa requires innovation in approach; in this context it is imperative to forge more dialogue in order for the process to move forward. While some solutions have been initiated in Africa, like the Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance and the APRM process, it is evident that neither Africa nor its global partners necessarily have all of the answers.</p>	

<b>A RESPONSE TO THE WORLD FOOD CRISIS : SMALLHOLDER AGRICULTURE, FOOD SECURITY AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA</b>	
22 SEPTEMBER, CONFERENCE ROOM 2	
<b>ORGANIZER/ORGANIZATION:</b>	Food and Agricultural Organization, International Fund for Agricultural Development, World Food Programme, Permanent Mission of the Republic of Malawi to the UN, UN Development Programme, Earth Institute at Columbia University, UN Non-governmental Liaison Service, UN Joint Programme on HIV/AIDS, World Bank, Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa
<b>COMMITMENTS/INITIATIVES</b>	
<p>The participants agreed that investing in agricultural development is a win-win proposition. By investing in agriculture, poverty is reduced. While recognizing the need to address emergency requirements it was also stressed that it is important to address issues of long-term sustainability in agriculture. Linked to this issue is the anticipated increase in global population to 9 billion by 2050, hence the necessity to feed more people. Farmers were a key part of the solution. The projects on the ground demonstrated that when farmers were involved from the start, the end results were better. The implications of climate change on the agriculture sector were discussed. With regard to capacity building, the importance of infrastructure, access to credit, human resources and health and nutrition were noted. The participants concluded that the plans and the systems for increasing agricultural productivity were in place: the inputs were available locally; what was urgently needed now were the funds and the political will to implement those plans.</p>	

<b>AFRICA WOMEN'S FORUM</b>	
22 SEPTEMBER, CONFERENCE ROOM 3	
<b>ORGANIZER/ORGANIZATION:</b>	UN Development Fund for Women, UN Population Fund, UNICEF, UN Joint Programme on HIV/AIDS, UN Volunteers, Economic Commission for Africa, Office of the Special Adviser on Africa, International Trade Center, UN Conference on Trade and Development/World Trade Organization Co-Hosts: Liberia, Rwanda, Iceland, and European Commission
<b>COMMITMENTS/INITIATIVES</b>	
<p>The participants of the Africa Women's Forum on Accelerating Implementation of Commitments to Gender Equality and Women's Human Rights called on African Governments and the international community to deliver on their promises to African women as an essential prerequisite for achievement of all the MDGs, through the accelerated implementation of existing international and regional agreements by, inter alia taking measures to empower women economically; setting up mechanisms to increase the level of engagement of women in decision-making; ensuring universal access to reproductive health; introducing measures that promote retention and address post-primary education for girls; accelerating implementation of existing policies and legislation that reduce women and girls' greater vulnerability to HIV and AIDS; preventing and responding to violence against women; expanding opportunity for active participation by civil society actors, including civil society organizations (CSO), community based organizations (CBO), and volunteer involving organizations (VIO) that engage with women; and enabling women in conflict and post-conflict societies to be engaged in peace-processes and reconstruction efforts.</p>	

<b>INITIATIVE ON EDUCATION AND TRAINING OF MIDWIVES</b>	
22 SEPTEMBER, CONFERENCE ROOM 3	
<b>ORGANIZER/ORGANIZATION:</b>	United Nations Population Fund, International Confederation of Midwives
<b>COMMITMENTS/INITIATIVES</b>	
<p>The UN Population Fund and the International Confederation of Midwives launched an initiative focusing on education and training of midwives, as well as developing practice standards and strengthening national midwifery associations. The three-year \$9 m initiative will start in 11 of the hardest-hit countries, all in sub-Saharan Africa, then expand to include 30 countries, if funding allows.</p>	

<b>AFRICA'S VULNERABILITY: THE ENERGY CRISIS, CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENT</b> 22 SEPTEMBER, CONFERENCE ROOM 9	
<b>ORGANIZER/ORGANIZATION:</b>	UN Economic Commission for Africa, UN Industrial Development Organization, UN Environment Programme, Food and Agricultural Organization, UN High Commissioner for Refugees
<b>COMMITMENTS/INITIATIVES</b>	
<p>The event discussed Africa's current energy crisis, how to enhance Africa's energy security through development and diversification and to cope with energy security and climate change. Patterns of environmental and sustainable energy production and consumption in Africa were discussed, as well as the rise of biofuels, the risk and opportunities for biofuels in rural development and resulting challenges. To support regional efforts at improving energy availability in Africa and its climate change challenges, Economic Commission for Africa in partnership with the African Union Commission and the African Development Bank, the Global Climate Observing System committed to implement a comprehensive ten year Climate Information for Development Africa (ClimDev-Africa) Programme. This programme intends to scale up the capacities of key institutions and stakeholders to improve climate-related data and observation, information services, policies and risk-management practices in climate-sensitive sectors, including energy, water and agriculture. ClimDev-Africa aims to assist African Countries in identifying sectoral priorities and responses for managing climate risks and guiding the related investment process. Within the framework of ClimDev-Africa, Economic Commission for Africa announced the establishment of an African Climate Policy Centre (ACPC) to assist its Member States to mainstream climate change concerns into their policy framework. Through analytical work, advocacy, capacity building, technical assistance, knowledge sharing and peer learning, the APC will deliver on the policy component of ClimDev-Africa Programme.</p>	

<b>MIGRATION, POPULATION DISPLACEMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA</b> 22 SEPTEMBER, CONFERENCE ROOM C	
<b>ORGANIZER/ORGANIZATION:</b>	International Organization for Migration, Economic Commission for Africa, UN Development Programme, UN High Commissioner for Refugees
<b>COMMITMENTS/INITIATIVES</b>	
<p>The event emphasized the importance of exploring in greater depth the potential contribution of migrants to the development of their countries of origin and identified how solutions for internally displaced persons (IDPs) can be connected to sustainable development efforts in the many African countries that have been affected by conflict or natural disasters. It was recognized that the movement of people could bring both negative and positive impacts to the attainment of the MDGs and towards development in general. It is crucial to fully recognize the relationship between displacement and the right to development, as realizing the MDGs cannot be achieved without taking into consideration refugees and IDPs. As livelihoods depend on subsistence agriculture in many parts of Africa, inequitable distribution of arable land and property needs to be addressed in order to promote sustainable development and to avoid conflict. This is particularly necessary in post-conflict situations to ease existing tensions and focus efforts on poverty eradication.</p>	

<b>CONFRONTING THE DISEASES OF POVERTY TO MEET THE MDGs: DIGITAL HE@LTH AND AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT</b> 22 SEPTEMBER, JAPAN SOCIETY	
<b>ORGANIZER/ORGANIZATION:</b>	UN Office for Partnerships, UN "Health 8" partners, the Earth Institute at Columbia University, Commonwealth Business Council, African Business Roundtable, International Business Leaders Forum, Business Action for Africa, Oxford Health Alliance, The Rockefeller Foundation
<b>COMMITMENTS/INITIATIVES</b>	
<p>A high-level dialogue of global health leaders intended to forge a consensus and strategic framework on the use of digital technology in scaling up the achievement of the health-related MDGs. The Lille University Hospital and the European Institute of Telemedecine partnered with health institutions in Senegal to allow the transmission of medical imaging in hospitals in Dakar. The European Union and Africa concluded a partnership on the Information Society, Science and Space Technologies. The European Space Agency, African Regional economic organizations, and the African Development Bank set up a telemedicine task force,</p>	

putting forward a set of proposals for concrete ways to use satellite-based e-health applications. The European Commission initiated a key Telemedicine project to provide distance training of African medical personnel and support for remote consultation and diagnostics, as well as the expansion of a pilot project on telemedicine to provide distance training for African medical personnel and to support remote consultation and diagnostics, especially in rural areas. In June 2008 the European Commission committed to increase EU support to Africa's health care by €6 m by 2010, contributing, inter alia, to the provision of some 75 million bed nets. Major health agencies, private sector, civil society and international organizations established a coalition to create a strategic framework to accelerate the delivery of the health-related MDGs.

The principal commitments from the meeting flowed from the launch of a “Digital Health Initiative” comprising a multi-stakeholder partnership of private sector partners in media, telecom, health technology and pharmaceutical companies for joint collaboration with civil society, government and international organizations to forge a “Global Convention” on digital health within two years to 2010 to meet the discovery, development and delivery of the MDGs and beyond for digital health for development to achieve the health related MDGs by 2015.

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This conference room paper was compiled by the United Nations Office for Partnerships (UNOP), under the leadership of its Executive Director, Amir A. Dossal, with the support of his team, Shari Klugman, Roland Rich and Constanze Westervoß.

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