

Following up on Measures to Achieve the Millennium Development Goals

Thematic Debate on MDG "Recognising the achievements, addressing the challenges and getting back on track to achieve the MDGs by 2015"

On 8 September 2000, World Leaders meeting in New York for Millennium Summit, the largest gathering of Heads of State and Government in history, adopted the Millennium Declaration. The declaration resolved to "spare no effort to free our fellow men, women and children from the abject and dehumanizing conditions of extreme poverty, to which more than a billion of them are currently subjected." It further resolved to "making the right to development a reality for everyone and to freeing the entire human race from want."

To that end, eight development goals were set to be achieved by 2015, as follows;

1. ***Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger*** – to halve the proportion of the world's people whose income is less than one dollar a day and the proportion of people who suffer from hunger
2. ***Achieve universal primary education*** - all children should complete a full course of primary schooling
3. ***Promote gender equality and empower women*** – greater economic opportunities for women and elimination of gender disparities in access to education
4. ***Reduce child mortality*** – reduce under-five child mortality by two thirds
5. ***Improve maternal health*** - reduce maternal mortality by three quarters
6. ***Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases*** – to have halted or begun to reverse the spread of these diseases
7. ***Ensure environmental sustainability*** - to integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programmes; reverse loss of environmental resources
8. ***Develop a global partnership for development*** – developing a fairer global trading system, addressing the problems of indebtedness, and greater cooperation with the private sector.

Since the adoption of the Millennium Declaration, the Millennium Development Goals have become the universally recognised development framework, and the implementation of the goals has become the overriding international development objective.

At the 2005 World Summit, Leaders declared their "determination to ensure the timely and full realization of the development goals and objectives agreed at the major United Nations

conferences and summits, including those agreed at the Millennium Summit that are described as the Millennium Development Goals.” World leaders further reaffirmed their commitment “to eradicate poverty and promote sustained economic growth, sustainable development and global prosperity for all.”

The 2007 MDG report presents uneven results in the progress on the attainment of the goals. There has been significant progress in many countries, even among those that continue to face great challenges. However, many countries remain off-track to attain the goals by 2015. The report states “the results achieved in the more successful cases demonstrate that success is possible in most countries, but that the MDGs will be attained only if concerted additional action is taken immediately and sustained until 2015.”

Building on progress achieved during the 61st session of the General Assembly achieving the Millennium Development Goals by 2015 remains a priority for the 62nd session. The aim during the session will be to review the implementation of the goals, recommit efforts and resources to attain the goals, and build consensus for urgent action.

For more information about UN Millennium Development Goals and MDG Monitor.



25 July 2008

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**High-level event on the Millennium Development Goals
25 September 2008**

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

Background note by the Secretary-General*

* The present note should be read in conjunction with *Achieving Millennium Development Goals in Africa: Recommendations of the MDG Africa Steering Group*; A/63/130; *Delivering on the Global Partnership for Achieving the Millennium Development Goals: Report of the MDG Gap Task Force*; and the *Millennium Development Goals Report 2008*.

Committing to action: achieving the Millennium Development Goals

Background note by the Secretary-General

Introduction

1. Eradicating extreme poverty continues to be one of the main challenges of our time, and is a major concern of the international community. Ending this scourge will require the combined efforts of all, governments, civil society organizations and the private sector, in the context of a stronger and more effective global partnership for development. The Millennium Development Goals set time-bound targets, by which progress in reducing income poverty, hunger, disease, lack of adequate shelter and exclusion — while promoting gender equality, health, education and environmental sustainability — can be measured. They also embody basic human rights — the rights of each person on the planet to health, education, shelter and security. The Goals are ambitious but feasible and, together with the comprehensive United Nations development agenda, set the course for the world's efforts to alleviate extreme poverty by 2015.

2. There has been real progress made towards achieving some of the Goals, even in regions where the challenges are greatest. A number of recent successes across the developing world — including improved macroeconomic indicators, expansion of AIDS treatment and increased agricultural productivity, school enrolment and access to water and sanitation — demonstrate that rapid progress is possible when sound national policies are matched with increased official development assistance (ODA) and technical support from the international system. The accomplishments made testify to the unprecedented degree of commitment by developing countries and their partners to the United Nations Millennium Declaration, and the growing success in building and strengthening the global partnership for development.

3. At midpoint towards 2015, the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals has been uneven, and we face nothing less than a development emergency. While many developing countries are on track to achieving a few of the Goals, large disparities persist across and within countries. On current trends, no African country is likely to achieve all of the Goals. Countries emerging from conflict or facing political instability pose particular challenges. In middle-income countries, even where progress towards achieving the Goals is most rapid, large pockets of inequality mean that millions of people continue to live in extreme poverty. This situation requires effective and immediate responses from governments, the international community and the private sector. Our sense of urgency is only heightened by the recent and dramatic spikes in food and fuel prices, and the increasing challenge of climate change, particularly for developing countries.

4. The High-level Event on the Millennium Development Goals to be held on 25 September 2008 will gather together world leaders to discuss and translate new and existing commitments into decisive and timely action to ensure that all countries

can achieve the Millennium Development Goals. It is my firm hope that we will be able to look back on this day as the moment when the world got back on track to reaching the Goals. The Event will send a strong message, from the highest political level ahead of the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to be held in Doha from 29 November to 2 December 2008, that Governments are ready and willing to strengthen the global partnership for development in support of the Millennium Development Goals and other internationally agreed development goals.

5. The present background note contains a concise analysis of the critical areas in which action is needed to ensure we reach the Millennium Development Goals by 2015. It takes stock of the fundamental challenges we face in each area, and identifies a number of priority points of action against which voluntary commitments can be built to bring efforts to achieve the Goals back on track. The common and fundamental thread running through the note is that achieving the Goals represents a global challenge which requires all nations to collaborate in developing and implementing a shared strategy to create enduring social and economic development for all.

6. The present note reflects the elements of a shared strategy that has been articulated in the outcomes of United Nations conferences and summit meetings and further elaborated and operationalized in country-owned national development strategies. In addition, the MDG Africa Steering Group recently brought together a cross-section of multilateral organizations to reach a landmark understanding on a comprehensive set of operational recommendations for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals in Africa, within the framework of existing resource commitments. It is important to build upon such recommendations to achieve the Goals at the global level.

7. The High-level Event provides an important and timely forum for world leaders and all stakeholders to reaffirm their shared view of what needs to be done by the international community, civil society organizations and the private sector to achieve the Millennium Development Goals. The present note is organized in five sections, reflecting the three round-table meetings planned for the High-level Event and the two cross-cutting themes that inform all of our efforts to achieve the Goals. Each section is structured to provide an assessment of where we stand with respect to the main Millennium Development Goal targets and other development goals, followed by an account of the progress achieved so far and, finally, a list of concrete actions which demand urgent consideration by all stakeholders as we look towards 25 September 2008. This list is not meant to be exhaustive but is intended rather to catalyse tangible progress.

I. Poverty and hunger

8. The universal goal of eradicating extreme poverty continues to be a major focus of countries, development partners and civil society organizations, whose combined efforts are making an impact on the incidence and depth of poverty. Yet, while the number of people living in extreme poverty continues to decline globally, success masks slow and uneven progress in some countries, including much of sub-Saharan Africa. Indeed, it now appears that several countries may not be on track to meet the Millennium Development Goal target of halving poverty relative to

the 1990 level by 2015. Moreover, global progress in empowering women and affording them equal access to full and productive employment and economic resources has been modest. Unless women can achieve their full economic potential, they will continue to be disproportionately afflicted by poverty, especially when they are heads of household.

9. Even though the proportion of people in the world suffering from malnutrition and hunger has fallen since the early 1990s, the number of people with insufficient access to food has risen. Most of the poor in developing countries are net food buyers. With the increase in food prices, about 1 billion people go hungry, while at least another estimated 2 billion are undernourished. The food price spikes are believed to have pushed over 100 million more people into extreme poverty. This has made it even more difficult to reach the Millennium Development Goal target of halving the proportion of people suffering from hunger between 1990 and 2015. The decrease in child malnutrition has also been slow; the proportion of children in the developing world who are underweight decreased from 33 to 27 per cent between 1990 and 2005, well short of the target of reducing by half the percentage in 1990. Currently, about 143 million children under 5 years of age in the developing countries suffer from malnutrition, which exacerbates the impact of disease and reduces their health and education potential.

10. This situation demands urgent and decisive action. Countries need to continue to promote sustained, pro-poor growth strategies, maintain macroeconomic stability and enhance agricultural productivity in an environmentally sustainable manner, particularly in developing countries. The promotion of good governance and strong and accountable institutions is also essential, as are strengthened global partnerships to secure and accelerate progress towards Millennium Development Goal 1 (see sect. V below). In addition to these measures, rising food prices underscore the need for well-designed safety nets for the worst affected.

11. Various factors have contributed to the spikes in prices of basic grains and vegetable oils over the past year. The present crisis in global food security has revealed the collective neglect of food agriculture in developing countries from the eighties, causing a significant deceleration in agricultural productivity growth since then. The crisis calls for a coordinated comprehensive response, encompassing emergency assistance and urgent action to address short-term and longer-term issues:

(a) In order to provide emergency food assistance, adequate aid flows have to be made available to support the World Food Programme and other food aid programmes. International aid agencies and donors must boost food aid and also support other social protection measures in poor countries, such as school feeding programmes and conditional cash transfers, while taking into account the special needs of infants and pregnant and lactating women. Countries may also wish to consider ways to improve food security through cooperative solutions, such as regional grain security systems;

(b) Further analysis is needed of the relationship between the increasing use of biofuels and the rise in food prices. One concern is that agricultural production may be shifting towards the more profitable biofuel inputs. The trade-offs between the benefits of biofuel production and the negative effects in the food market must be assessed to develop a strategy for the sustainable production of biofuels;

(c) Increasing food productivity in the developing world, where much of the production takes place on smallholder farms, requires the taking of several steps that will have immediate effects. It is essential to improve agricultural credit, insurance, input and product markets. Countries may also wish to consider well-targeted programmes for making inputs, such as improved seeds, fertilizers and pesticides, available at affordable prices with the aim of stimulating production;

(d) These measures must be supported by strengthened extension systems, better small-scale water management practices and rural seed banks. In addition, it is important to secure ownership of land among the poor and ensure that they have access to resources and benefit proportionately from productivity increases. Such support must also ensure that landless rural workers, especially women, gain from productivity improvements, with particular attention given to women's access to land, decision-making in rural development, social security, education and health care, including reproductive health. Some of these measures will require enhanced aid for agriculture from donor countries;

(e) No less critical are measures that will only begin to show results in the medium and longer term. Accelerated investments in the research, development and adoption of yield-enhancing technologies will be needed to sustain increases in food production. The Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research and its centres should be much better financed and reinvigorated. Such investments must also take into account the need to adapt to climate change, which threatens the long-term sustainability of progress towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals. Massive and sustained support is urgently needed from donors and philanthropic and other civil society organizations to carry out this plan of action.

12. Apart from the measures to produce more food, we need to ensure that the poor earn enough to buy it. Agriculture is the main livelihood for an estimated 86 per cent of the rural population, and provides jobs for an estimated 1.3 billion smallholders and landless workers. Steps must be taken to provide the rural poor with opportunities for pursuing sustainable livelihoods in this sector. It is critical to link rural areas to local, regional and global markets through a reliable transport and communications network. This must be accompanied by the creation of entrepreneurial and employment opportunities. The Doha Round of trade negotiations must ensure adequate preferential market access for poor countries, and the Aid for Trade initiative should assist countries to strengthen their productive and trading capacities, and compensate them for lost revenue and income. Accelerating the implementation of the Enhanced Integrated Framework for Trade-related Technical Assistance to Least Developed Countries will also facilitate the integration of the least developed countries into the multilateral trading system by increasing their access to funds under Aid for Trade.

13. To tackle the food crisis in a comprehensive manner, the high-level United Nations Task Force on the Global Food Security Crisis has developed a comprehensive framework for action which outlines the critical short and long-term steps that the international community should take immediately to address the current global food crisis, achieve food security and alleviate poverty.

14. Rapid urbanization has profoundly altered the distribution and face of poverty. As cities grow, so do their slum populations. Slum-dwellers, who presently account for 1 billion of the worldwide urban population, are more likely to die earlier, experience more hunger and disease, attain less education and have fewer chances

of employment. To address this challenge, there is a need to implement the full employment and decent work for all agenda, along with policies to promote sustainable small and medium-sized enterprises. For both urban and rural areas, countries and their development partners must work to develop the infrastructure and services that will promote integration into the global economy and to enhance the productive capacity of enterprises. Countries should also adopt urban development policies that will upgrade slums and guarantee the provision of basic services.

15. These efforts must all be designed to encompass all categories of the poor, especially the groups or regions that may be particularly disadvantaged or vulnerable. Such groups could include women, children and young people, older persons and persons with disabilities, and groups that often suffer from social exclusion, such as ethnic, religious or linguistic minorities, indigenous peoples and migrants. Countries in which there are regional pockets of poverty may need to devote special attention to this issue.

16. Recent developments have also indicated two opportunities that should be exploited. The first is the enhanced fiscal space accorded some commodity-producing developing countries following the dramatic increase in their export revenues from primary commodities, including oil. However, for revenues that result from commodity booms to have a long-term impact on poverty reduction efforts, countries will need first to secure and manage such windfalls and then to invest and plan expenditure for the future, bearing in mind that booms are often followed by busts. The second development is the recent decline in the number of military conflicts, which offers a unique opportunity to harness the peace dividend for poverty eradication. The countries concerned need to maintain better control over their resource revenues and manage them effectively to finance their comprehensive development strategies. The international community also needs to reliably provide countries emerging from conflict with assistance in peacebuilding, reconstruction aid and technical support over the medium to long term.¹

Action points for consideration

- Promote bilateral, regional and global cooperation to enhance food security and reduce trade distortions.
- Assist developing countries, especially in sub-Saharan Africa, to transform subsistence agriculture in order to ensure long-term, sustainable productivity increases and the development of a diversified economic base.
- Support research and development into yield-enhancing technologies and inputs.
- Minimize the adverse consequences on the poor of the global financial turmoil and the rising food and energy prices by establishing effective and efficient social safety nets.
- Ensure universal access to staple foods and key nutrients, and promote school feeding programmes.

¹ See *World Economic and Social Survey 2008: Overcoming Economic Insecurity* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.08.II.C.1); available at <http://www.un.org/esa/policy/wess/wess2008files/wess2008.pdf>.

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- Actively promote equitable access to resources, decent work opportunities, basic education and health care, and the active participation of women and vulnerable groups in decision-making processes.
 - Form effective partnerships with civil society organizations, non-governmental organizations, the private sector and philanthropic foundations to develop, in a participatory manner, pro-poor urban and rural development strategies.
 - Work with partners to develop infrastructure and services and to promote their integration into the global economy with the aim of enhancing the productive capacity of enterprises.

II. Education and health

Education

17. In 2006, primary school enrolment in developing countries reached 88 per cent on average, up from 83 per cent in 2000; however, sub-Saharan Africa continues to lag behind. In all regions, inequalities in access to education continue to pose major barriers to fully attaining the Millennium Development Goal 2 target of ensuring that, by 2015, children everywhere, boys and girls alike, will be able to complete a full course of primary schooling. The quality of education remains poor in many contexts, with impoverished children less likely to finish school and students in most developing countries recording lower levels of achievement in core subjects.

18. Despite evidence of some success, especially in enrolment at the primary level, gender disparities in education are still evident in some regions, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa. At the current rate of progress, the Millennium Development Goal 3 target of eliminating gender disparity in primary and secondary education, preferably by 2005, and in all levels of education no later than 2015, remain far from being achieved. Community outreach and advocacy campaigns, early education programmes targeting girls, provision of separate sanitation facilities for girls and boys, and hiring more female teachers to act as role models can promote girls' school attendance (see sect. IV).

19. Countries affected by or emerging from conflict typically lag far behind in achieving social targets. Hence, ensuring education is an important part of any good humanitarian response to post-conflict and emergency situations, including the establishment of safe learning spaces and the use of innovative solutions to restore educational systems.

20. Strategies that have proven effective for increasing school enrolment and retention include: eliminating school fees, particularly for low-income families; providing cash transfers to poor families conditional on their children's enrolment or attendance in school; offering free meals and basic health services at school to improve children's health, nutrition and cognitive development; expanding pre-primary school educational programmes; and ensuring an attractive environment that will encourage the enrolment of girls and reduce absenteeism and drop-out rates. To improve the quality of education, it is also necessary to train more teachers and effectively retrain and strongly motivate those in the profession. Ensuring adequate teaching materials and distributing textbooks free of charge are equally important.

21. Governments need to raise domestic spending on education to 15 to 20 per cent of national budgets, giving priority to basic education. As most resources for education come from national budgets, multilateral and bilateral assistance can play a significant role in providing predictable budget support. Although aid directed to basic education for low-income countries increased from \$1.6 billion in 1999 to \$5.0 billion in 2006,² it is still well below the estimated \$11 billion in aid required annually to reach universal primary education by 2015.³ In 2005 and 2006, there was an estimated funding gap of around \$0.5 billion each year to support around 20 countries with national education plans endorsed by the Education for All initiative.⁴

22. Since 2000, the increased assistance for education has mainly been driven by new partnerships and innovative financing mechanisms, such as the Education for All Fast Track Initiative. Yet, trust funds created to accelerate progress in developing countries with no regular access to bilateral and multilateral funds are supported by very few donors and resources are too limited to provide reliable budget support. Additional efforts will have to be made to improve aid effectiveness for education by strengthening the capacity of national education systems to improve access to quality education for all.

Health

23. Worldwide, under-five mortality declined from 93 to 72 deaths per 1,000 live births between 1990 and 2006. Nevertheless, in 62 countries, under-five mortality is not declining fast enough to meet the Millennium Development Goal 4 target of reducing by two thirds the mortality rate for children under 5 years of age. In 27 countries, the rate is stagnant or getting worse. Sub-Saharan Africa has one fifth of the world's children under 5 but accounts for one half of all child deaths. In many countries, malnutrition, and lack of access to quality primary health care and basic infrastructure, including water and sanitation, continue to be major causes of ill health and death among mothers and children.

24. Over 500,000 women die annually, mainly in low-income countries, because of complications related to pregnancy and childbirth. Women in sub-Saharan Africa or parts of Asia, where maternal mortality rates have barely changed since 1990, are several hundred times more likely to die of maternity complications than those in developed countries. Fully achieving the Millennium Development Goal 5 target of reducing by three quarters, between 1990 and 2015, the maternal mortality ratio, remains a challenging task; it is the area of least progress among all the MDGs. Attendance by trained health workers during and after pregnancy and childbirth, and timely access to emergency obstetric services when life-threatening complications arise, are essential to preventing maternal mortality and disability. The lifetime risk of maternal death can be reduced by providing family planning services. Having fewer pregnancies and spacing births increase the survival rate of both women and

² Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, Development Assistance Committee, *Development Database on Aid from DAC Members: DAC Online* (Paris, 2008), accessed on 30 May 2008.

³ United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, *Education for All by 2015: Will we make it?*, Education for All (EFA) Global Monitoring Report 2008 (Paris, 2007). The estimate is the outcome of consultations with all EFA partners.

⁴ Education for All Fast Track Initiative, at <http://www1.worldbank.org/education/efafti/faq.asp#III-9>.

their children. However, achieving the Millennium Development Goal 5 target of universal access to reproductive health remains a distant dream in many countries.

25. Measures to achieve the necessary reductions in child mortality should include: full and permanent coverage of immunization programmes; vitamin A supplementation; exclusive breastfeeding for children under six months of age and breastfeeding plus appropriate complementary feeding for children aged six months to two years; adequate nourishment for children of poor families, despite food price rises; promotion of hand-washing and treatment of home drinking water; and prevention and effective treatment of pneumonia, diarrhoea, malaria and other infectious diseases. Coverage of primary health-care systems — with the engagement of community health workers — needs to be comprehensive and universal and accompanied by sustained delivery of health services.

26. Official development assistance for maternal, newborn and child health increased from \$2.1 billion in 2003 to \$3.5 billion in 2006,⁵ but this is not sufficient to meet the targets. Additional aid flows, in the order of \$10.2 billion per year, are required to ensure sufficient financing for the strengthening of health systems to meet the demand for maternal and childcare and other reproductive health services.⁶

27. Globally, an estimated 33 million people were living with HIV/AIDS in 2007.⁷ In sub-Saharan Africa, the region most adversely affected by the epidemic, about 60 per cent of adults living with HIV are women.⁷ Women continue to be particularly vulnerable to HIV infection, especially in crisis situations. Significant progress has been made in expanding treatment: in 2007, antiretroviral treatment covered 3 million of the 9.7 million people in need of antiretroviral treatment in low and middle-income countries. Among HIV-positive pregnant women 33 per cent are receiving antiretroviral treatment to prevent mother-to-child transmission, up from 9 per cent in 2004. Nevertheless, most countries are struggling to meet the Millennium Development Goal 6 targets of achieving, by 2010, universal access to treatment for HIV/AIDS for all those who need it and of halting, by 2015, and reversing the spread of HIV/AIDS. In countries for which information is available, no more than 40 per cent of men and 36 per cent of women aged 15 to 24 understand how HIV is transmitted and how to prevent infection, well below the 95 per cent target. In many countries, population groups especially vulnerable to infection lack adequate access to HIV prevention services, often because there is inadequate legal protection against discrimination.

28. Responding to HIV/AIDS requires a long-term, multi-stakeholder and multisectoral approach based on national AIDS plans that ensure the involvement of all relevant sectors, including health, education and social services. International funding to combat AIDS, including through the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, has increased considerably. There has been an unprecedented scaling up of access to antiretroviral treatment, with a large number

⁵ G. Greco, T. Powell-Jackson, J. Borghi and A. Mills, "Countdown to 2015: assessment of donor assistance to maternal, newborn, and child health between 2003 and 2006", *The Lancet*, vol. 371, No. 9620 (12 April 2008), pp. 1268-1275.

⁶ Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health (2008), "A global call for G8 Leaders and other donors to champion maternal, newborn and child health"; available at <http://www.who.int/pmnch/events/2008/g8calltoaction/en/index.html>.

⁷ Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS, *Report on the Global AIDS Epidemic* (Geneva, 2008).

of programmes funded through the Global Fund. However, with 70 per cent of those in need of antiretroviral treatment still not receiving it and key HIV prevention services still not reaching those who need them, efforts to expand prevention, treatment and care programmes have to be strengthened. Scaling up HIV prevention is essential to control the epidemic. International funding for programmes in low and middle-income countries reached \$10 billion in 2007, a tenfold increase in less than a decade. Yet, this sum falls short of the \$18 billion in assistance required annually to combat AIDS.

29. Malaria kills over 1 million people annually, 80 per cent of whom are children under 5 in sub-Saharan Africa. There continue to be between 350 million and 500 million cases of malaria worldwide each year.⁸ Progress has been made in malaria control interventions, particularly through the use of insecticide-treated bednets. Since 2000, all countries in Africa for which trend data are available have shown significant progress in expanding the use of insecticide-treated nets, but levels of use remain low. Earlier this year, the Secretary-General sounded a call to action to reach full coverage of key interventions in Africa by 2010 to end malaria deaths. An estimated 250 million nets are required to reach 80 per cent coverage in sub-Saharan Africa. To date, the funds committed will provide only 100 million nets — less than one half of the requirement. It is also urgent to scale up other proven and cost-effective preventive and curative interventions, such as those identified by the Roll Back Malaria Partnership. While funding still has not reached necessary levels, major advances in implementation have begun, thanks to international funding from key philanthropic, bilateral and multilateral sources, including the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the United States President's malaria initiative, the Global Fund, the World Bank Global Strategy and Booster Program to Fight Malaria, and other partnerships.

30. While the incidence rate of tuberculosis has stabilized in most regions, the total number of cases is rising, with an estimated 9.2 million new cases and 1.7 million deaths in 2006. Treatment for tuberculosis is well established; the major challenges are in expanding coverage and dealing with drug resistance. There is a need to ensure that diagnosis and treatment are fully integrated into health services, and critical funding gaps, such as those for the DOTS programmes and research and development activities for new vaccine development, are met. Challenges continue to be faced in achieving Millennium Development Goal 6 with respect to halting and reversing the incidence, prevalence and deaths associated with tuberculosis.

31. Ensuring adequate access to essential drugs is a critical component of the prevention and treatment of infectious diseases. This is also true for the neglected tropical diseases, which continue to affect 1 billion people among the world's poorest and whose crippling effects make these diseases perpetrators of poverty. To the extent that those drugs remain largely unaffordable for most residents of developing countries, the health Millennium Development Goals will not be achieved. Additional funding must be committed for the global partnership in regard to affordable essential drugs, as discussed in section V below.

32. Achievement of Millennium Development Goals 4, 5 and 6 on health depends on well-functioning health systems able to deliver services in a gender-sensitive manner appropriate to the different stages of life. Of particular concern is the

⁸ World Health Organization and UNICEF, *World Malaria Report 2005* (Geneva, 2005).

extension of health services to poor and underserved populations, such as those living in rural areas or urban slums, including through innovative and participatory approaches to health delivery at the community level. Global resources and interventions to support the achievement of the Millennium Development Goal health targets should help strengthen health systems by training additional health personnel and by building primary health-care facilities and clinics to improve basic health services. The Secretary-General has identified this issue as a priority. Both the Global Fund and the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization are developing new approaches to support the strengthening of health systems, but additional funding will be required.

33. Overall, since the adoption of the Millennium Declaration, ODA for health has more than doubled, from \$6.8 billion in 2000 to \$16.7 billion in 2006.⁹ There are more than 40 bilateral donors and 90 global initiatives on health, with the resulting fragmentation increasing transaction costs and undermining aid effectiveness. To increase aid effectiveness, the International Health Partnership and related initiatives¹⁰ are working to improve coordination and ensure predictable long-term financing, both domestic and external, to support national health plans and strategies that are results-oriented, and to promote mutual accountability monitored at the global and national levels.

Water and sanitation

34. About 1 billion people do not have access to safe drinking water, and 2.5 billion lack access to basic sanitation services. While women are forced to spend large parts of their day fetching water, children, and especially girls, are denied their right to education because their schools lack private and decent sanitation facilities. Current trends suggest that the world may meet the drinking water target, but not that for sanitation. There are huge disparities among regions. For example, the proportion of people using improved sources of drinking water is only 58 per cent in sub-Saharan Africa but much higher in Eastern Asia (88 per cent), Western Asia (90 per cent) and Northern Africa (92 per cent). Wide disparities also exist in access to sanitation, with sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia both lagging far behind. Likewise, there are huge urban-rural disparities. In 2006, more than 8 out of the 10 people without access to improved drinking water sources lived in rural areas. Seven of the 10 people without improved sanitation also lived in rural areas.

35. To meet the Millennium Development Goal 7 target of halving, by 2015, the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation, over 87 million people each year need to gain access to water and 173 million to sanitation over the period from 2006 to 2015. While regional needs may vary, this will require investing in infrastructure, prioritizing water and sanitation-related interventions in national development plans, scaling up good practices, improving the governance of public utilities, enabling equitable and affordable access, and empowering communities in rural areas to manage water and sanitation systems. Countries need targeted capacity-building strategies to ensure

⁹ World Bank and International Monetary Fund, *Global Monitoring Report 2008: MDGs and the Environment: Agenda for Inclusive and Sustainable Development* (Washington, D.C., 2008).

¹⁰ Including the Catalytic Initiative, the Global Campaign for the Health MDGs, Providing for Health, and Results-based Financing. These initiatives together with the International Health Partnership are referred to as IHP+.

the sustained provision of water and sanitation services. It is essential that efforts target those who entirely lack access to basic services. It is estimated that the costs of closing the gap between current trends and target trends for achieving the Millennium Development Goal on water and sanitation, based on low-cost, sustainable technologies, is at least \$10 billion per year.¹¹ Under-spending on water and sanitation is a problem. Typically, expenditures on water sanitation are less than 0.5 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP). Ideally, countries should increase expenditures to at least 1.0 per cent of GDP. International aid flows will need to double, rising by \$3.6 to \$4.0 billion per year, to reach the targets.¹²

Action points for consideration

- Increase assistance and support to scale up the implementation of proven health, education, and water and sanitation interventions targeting the poorest and vulnerable groups.
- Establish multi-year commitments on ODA for education and health to poor countries, in line with the Paris Declaration principles, and promote mechanisms to increase substantially multi-country funding for the research and development of essential drugs to treat tuberculosis, malaria, HIV/AIDS and other infectious diseases.
- Provide integrated support for the development of sustainable national health and education systems, with a special focus on improved capacities to deliver quality services and on the retention of professional staff.
- Ensure predictable and sustained funding for a long-term response to the HIV/AIDS epidemic.
- Support governments in overcoming the obstacles faced by women and girls in obtaining equitable access to health and education services.
- Establish dedicated national programmes to reduce maternal mortality and ensure universal access to reproductive health.
- Formulate strategies and action plans, in partnership with civil society organizations, local authorities and/or the private sector, to improve the accessibility and quality of health, education, and water and sanitation services.

III. Environmental sustainability

36. Environmental degradation can undermine efforts aimed at sustainable development and therefore the Millennium Development Goals, as the rural poor, in particular, often depend on the natural resource base for their livelihoods. Such

¹¹ Another estimate for the annual cost of meeting the Millennium Development Goal targets on water and sanitation by 2015 is \$11.3 billion, \$9.5 billion of which is for sanitation alone (United Nations Children's Fund, *Progress for Children: A Report Card on Water and Sanitation*, No. 5 (September 2006); and G. Hutton and L. Haller, "Evaluation of costs and benefits of water and sanitation improvements at global level", World Health Organization document WHO/SDE/WSH/04.04).

¹² United Nations Development Programme, *Human Development Report 2006: Beyond Scarcity: Power, Poverty and the Global Water Crisis* (New York, 2006), pp. 8-9.

degradation erodes the natural adaptability of ecosystems, which in the past has ensured their resilience in situations of disaster and saved both lives and livelihoods. Better management presents an opportunity for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. Indeed, the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment in 2003 concluded that any progress achieved in addressing the goals of poverty and hunger eradication, improved health and environmental protection is unlikely to be sustained if most of the services provided by the ecosystems upon which humanity relies continue to be degraded. The urban poor also suffer from degraded conditions in rapidly growing slum communities. Integrating poverty and environmental concerns into the mainstream of development policy, planning and investments therefore remains an urgent priority.

37. Crucial to making progress towards sustainable development is broad public participation, including the poor and marginalized groups, in decision-making and implementation. Also essential are the principles of intergenerational and intragenerational equity in the use of the earth's resources. Since the convening of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (the Earth Summit) in Rio de Janeiro in 1992, and, most recently, with the sobering findings of the fourth assessment report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, the world has become acutely aware of the need for stronger international cooperation and a more equitable sharing of resources to address global sustainability challenges.

Integration of sustainable development principles into national strategies

38. Despite the contribution of the environment and natural resources to poverty reduction and development, the sector remains largely under-financed in many countries, even though more than 80 countries have implemented national sustainable development strategies which involve broad participation by all major stakeholders. Clearly, an implementation gap remains between the commitments in those strategies and progress on the ground. It is important to integrate national sustainable development strategies with other development planning processes, such as poverty reduction strategies. This is both a pathway to reinforcing linkages among the environment, development and poverty reduction agendas, thereby driving collective progress towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals, and a critical instrument for securing and harmonizing support from donor governments, international organizations and major groups.

39. Natural disasters and extreme events can set back progress. The more severe the disaster or event and the more vulnerable the community, the bigger the setback. Climate change is intensifying a variety of disasters, including extreme weather events, storm surges, floods and droughts. It is therefore vital that national development strategies incorporate measures aimed at strengthened community resilience through economic development, increased income diversification, strengthened natural and infrastructural defences, and improved disaster preparedness.

Natural resources and biodiversity

40. In spite of the increase of forest area managed in a sustainable manner, deforestation worldwide — mostly owing to land use change — continues at a disturbing rate of about 13 million hectares a year. The rate of loss has been fastest

in some of the world's most biologically diverse regions and old growth forest ecosystems, including South-East Asia, Oceania, Latin America and sub-Saharan Africa. This is contributing to climate change, loss of biodiversity and increased risk of natural disasters, and is threatening the livelihoods of forest-dependent rural families and indigenous peoples. Many forest-rich countries need financial resources, as well as improved technology and capacity, to implement sustainable, participatory forest management and conservation practices that are consistent with national development strategies.

41. In many places, soil and freshwater resources are being severely depleted and degraded; climate change will exacerbate these problems, including through more extensive desertification. Some ecosystems, such as lakes and marine areas, remain largely unprotected despite the proportion of protected areas globally having gone up: by 2006, about 20 million square kilometres of land and sea were under protection. Yet only a fraction of these protected areas — about 2 million square kilometres — are marine ecosystems, despite their important role in the sustainability of fish stocks and coastal livelihoods.

42. More and more fish stocks are overexploited, threatening the most important source of animal protein for billions of people. Increased large-scale industrial fishing and poorly regulated access to fisheries have exacerbated the problem. Currently, only 22 per cent of the world's fisheries are sustainable, compared to 40 per cent in 1975.

43. Despite these constraints, there are promising examples of conservation and rehabilitation of natural resources and ecosystems that reduce poverty. For example, a number of community-based initiatives in the developing world have shown positive environmental and developmental outcomes, and in parts of the African Sahel, where desertification is contributing to poverty, decentralization of the authority to manage and benefit from local resources also shows promise of reversing earlier forest losses.

44. Careful, participatory natural resource management practices are required, from an expanded, strengthened management and enforcement capacity in relation to protected areas to financial resources, stronger incentives for sustainably managed harvested forests and aquatic products, improved regulatory and economic instruments, including application of the polluter-pays principle, community and joint management of natural resources, and greater coherence among policies concerning agriculture, forestry, energy, tourism and natural resource conservation. Increased cooperation at the country level, which brings together governments, donors, civil society and the private sector in partnership in the delivering of effective conservation and management, will be critical. Regional and international cooperation will also be vital to reversing the loss of natural resources and significantly reducing the loss of biodiversity.

Energy, air pollution and climate change

45. Lack of affordable access to clean modern energy services is widespread. Sizeable investments will be required to bring electricity and cleaner cooking fuels to the hundreds of millions of people who still lack them. Modern, efficient fuels reduce the adverse impacts on health, economic productivity and the environment of reliance on traditional biomass fuels and inefficient coal burning, thereby benefiting those most exposed to the negative impacts, particularly women and children.

46. Biofuels may make a contribution to reducing greenhouse gas emissions, limiting fossil fuel dependency and increasing rural income and employment opportunities, depending on the feedstock and technology used and on the implications for land use. The sustainable production of biofuels should not compete with the use of land and water resources for food production or encroach on forested land, either directly or indirectly. Intensified research is needed to enhance the productivity of first-generation biofuel technologies and further develop next-generation technologies.

47. Although the private sector may be well placed to deliver many required energy technologies in a cost-effective and timely manner, in some regions, notably Africa, public investment will still be critical. Governments need to create a policy framework which encourages quality investment in energy sources, efficiency and cleaner energy technologies. Governments also have a key role to play in the research and development of low-carbon energy technologies, including through public-private partnerships. Regional cooperation can facilitate the development of cross-border energy infrastructure and energy trade.

48. Close international cooperation is essential to addressing climate change, ensuring effective mitigation and adaptation measures and access by all countries to the financial and technological resources that make taking such measures possible. The Montreal Protocol has been highly effective in phasing out ozone-depleting substances and holds the prospect of reducing certain greenhouse gas emissions as well. Timely conclusion of the current negotiations under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change will be crucial to addressing the phenomenon, without which reaching and then maintaining the MDGs will be hardly possible.

Water resources

49. Many countries suffer from water scarcity and access to water is becoming a major limiting factor in their socio-economic development. Today, about 700 million people in 43 countries live below the water-stress threshold; by 2025, more than 3 billion people could be living in water-stressed countries. In many countries, water scarcity is the product of public policies which have encouraged unsustainable use of water through subsidies and underpricing, coupled with low investment in the infrastructure and institutional capacity for water management. Climate change will only exacerbate the situation in most countries. Pollution of water resources is on the increase, thus putting additional stress on available water resources. More effective ways to conserve, use and manage the world's water resources are needed to meet continuously increasing demand and to ensure equitable access nationally and internationally. Investments in physical infrastructure should be combined with demand management measures to improve water use efficiency, especially agricultural water use. Action is also needed on the appropriate water resource governance structures to promote the sharing and best use of those resources, nationally and internationally.

Slums

50. Based on estimates of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), the global population of slum-dwellers has grown at roughly the same rate as the urban population over the past decade and a half. The situation is

especially challenging in sub-Saharan Africa and South and West Asia. Even if the target of significantly improving the lives of at least 100 million slum-dwellers by 2020 were met, this number represents only 10 per cent of the estimated world slum population which, at current rates of expansion, is expected to triple, to 3 billion by 2050.

51. Capacity-building is needed in many developing countries to strengthen legal, institutional and human resources to respond adequately to rapid urbanization. Local authorities need resource mobilization capacities commensurate with their responsibilities for planning, developing and managing sustainable cities. This will require planning for urban land use and transport planning, significant infrastructural development, investment in affordable housing, guaranteeing of vital community services and promotion of an environment conducive to productive employment creation.

52. It is essential to ensure human and civil rights of the slum-dwellers in order to prevent their further political, economic and social exclusion. Strategic partnerships with international and regional financial institutions can help scale up country-level slum upgrading programmes. Finance for low-cost housing should be better mobilized by using multiple channels, including inclusive finance and remittances. Waste management systems need improvement, especially in slum communities.

Action points for consideration

- Promote the scaling up of implementation of programmes and initiatives that deliver pro-poor environmental outcomes at the national and local levels.
- Introduce innovative financial mechanisms (locally, nationally and internationally) to significantly raise revenue for the management of the environment.
- Invest in the establishment and maintenance of pro-poor, participatory and community-based natural resource and ecosystems management systems and develop the capacities of local service delivery agents.
- Introduce measures to significantly reduce global greenhouse gas emission.
- Integrate climate risk rejection and adaptation into development programmes and projects, as well as national and local strategies and plans.
- Promote and fund the development, transfer and diffusion of climate-friendly technologies, including through innovative mechanisms, such as the clean development mechanism.
- Implement measures to scale up slum upgrading and to support investment in decent, affordable housing for the poor.

IV. Gender equality and the empowerment of women

53. Promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women — critical objectives in themselves — are widely recognized as effective ways to combat poverty, hunger and disease and to promote sustainable development. The achievement of Millennium Development Goal 3 depends not only on the extent to which specific targets — such as increasing women's political and economic

empowerment, literacy rates and participation in non-agricultural wage employment — are addressed, but also on the extent to which the actions taken to achieve the other Millennium Development Goals are designed to promote the equality of women and men. While focusing on Goal 3, the present section should therefore be read in conjunction with the remainder of the document.

54. Commitments to Millennium Development Goal 3 have increased efforts, including resource allocations, at the local, national, regional and global levels to ensure progress. More needs to be done to combat the gender inequalities that constrain the potential to achieve high levels of well-being in societies around the world.

Gender equality in education

55. Progress has been made towards the elimination of gender disparities in education, with most of the gains in enrolment ratios made at the primary school level, where nearly two thirds of countries reached gender parity by the target year of 2005. Progress is, however, not fast enough to ensure a basic education for the millions of girls still not in school, and gains have been very uneven across regions. Of the 113 countries which missed meeting the gender parity school enrolment target for both primary and secondary levels, only 18 are likely to achieve the goal by 2015. Only 35 per cent of countries have reached parity at the secondary level and 3 per cent parity in tertiary education.

56. Accelerating the achievement of Millennium Development Goal 3 in respect of education will require, in addition to the measures suggested in section II above, gender-specific interventions, such as providing transportation to and from schools, undertaking national awareness-raising campaigns aimed at reducing girls' domestic responsibilities, and preventing early marriage, pregnancy and violence against women. Measures to be taken within the educational system include gender-sensitive curricula, gender sensitization for all teachers and school officials, and the recruitment and training of female teachers. Investment in gender equality in secondary and higher levels of education must be strengthened, given that the long-term benefits for women and girls, including access to remunerated, competitive work opportunities, are highest at these levels (see below). Efforts must also aim to enhance non-formal education for girls and women, such as vocational or skills training and literacy programmes.

Gender equality in employment

57. Globally, female participation in the labour force has increased. Women now account for almost 40 per cent of all paid employment outside agriculture, up from 36 per cent in 1990. However, there are wide regional differences in the economic participation of women, with particular constraints in rural areas. The global unemployment rate for women has also been higher than for men.

58. Increasing educational attainment can only be effective as an empowerment strategy if it translates into equality of economic opportunity. Women's paid work in many areas is characterized by occupational segregation and women are often concentrated in low-paid and/or temporary and informal jobs. Gender wage gaps persist throughout the world. Women's unequal share of unpaid household work often restricts their access to full employment and steers them into the informal economy, particularly in the context of HIV/AIDS and the food crisis.

59. Support must be provided for women's self-employment and entrepreneurship, especially in rural areas, including through improved access to microcredit, agricultural inputs such as seeds and fertilizers, training and markets. Women's land and property rights must be guaranteed through legal reform. Land and property ownership provides economic security and can be a stepping stone for economic development.

60. Empowering women in the labour market requires also the ratification and enforcement of the International Labour Organization conventions, and stepped-up efforts by all countries towards implementation of decent work principles, such as social protection and freedom from harassment. Effective measures on childcare and parental leave can do much to expand women's employment opportunities. Measures to address the working conditions and remuneration of women in the informal sector need to be developed. Advances in the areas suggested above will all contribute to the equal participation of women in the labour market.

Gender equality in political participation

61. The progress made in increasing the political representation of women in national parliaments has been steady but very slow and uneven across regions. Between 2000 and 2008, the proportion of seats for women in parliaments only increased from 13.5 to 17.9 per cent. Only 20 countries have achieved over 30 per cent female representation in parliament. While such representation is an important indicator of women's capacity to influence decision-making, representation in leadership positions is also critical. Yet, the number of women serving as presiding officers in parliaments has only increased from 10 per cent in 1995 to 10.7 per cent in 2008. More progress needs to be made in enhancing the participation of women at all levels of government and their role in other decision-making positions in the private sector, civil society and the media.

62. Experience shows that women have a higher probability of being elected in greater numbers in proportional representation electoral systems. The effectiveness of quota systems for increasing women's representation has been demonstrated; other supportive mechanisms include transparent selection processes within political parties, support from senior political leaders, access to public funding, training of women candidates and elected officials, awareness-raising for the public at large with a view to changing social attitudes, and protecting women from violence. The strength of civil society is critical in mobilizing support for women candidates and elected officials.

Accelerating progress and enhancing the measurement of progress

63. Accelerating progress towards the achievement of Millennium Development Goal 3 will require increased financial commitments, through domestic resource allocation, funding from bilateral and multilateral sources, and non-traditional funding mechanisms. Ministries of women's affairs need increased access to resources for capacity-building to enable them to play their important role in implementing national gender equality strategies and monitoring the mainstreaming of gender perspectives across the other Millennium Development Goal sectors.

64. Methodologies and tools for assessing both the resource needs and the way in which budgets are allocated in support of gender mainstreaming and gender equality programmes have to be improved. Although the Millennium Development Goal 3

indicators provide important measures of gender equality and empowerment of women, there is need for additional, more comprehensive indicators. This will require concomitant improvements in official statistics at both the national and international levels in order to produce such data regularly and with sufficient country coverage to cover the additional priority areas identified by Heads of State at the 2005 World Summit. New indicators of women's share of productive, full and decent employment and reproductive health have been incorporated into the Millennium Development Goal framework and will be reported for the first time in 2008. Some countries have developed country-specific Millennium Development Goal 3 indicators which target particular gender equality issues.

65. Gender inequality is deeply rooted in entrenched attitudes and institutions, and political commitment at the highest international and national levels is essential to ensure the allocation of resources and promotion of the social changes necessary to achieve gender equality and women's empowerment. Strengthening the capacity of the United Nations in support of country-owned gender equality strategies will be critical to meeting this objective.

Action points for consideration

- Scale up promising practices to combat the obstacles to achieving the Millennium Development Goal targets for women in relation to education, employment and their full and equal political representation and access to decision-making.
- Identify and initiate innovative financing mechanisms and partnerships for interventions and mainstreaming gender perspectives in all Millennium Development Goal sectors.
- Improve statistical capacity at the national level in order to monitor more effectively the progress made in regard to gender equality and empowerment of women.
- Strengthen the substantive and programmatic work of the United Nations system on gender equality and the empowerment of women.

V. Global partnership for development

66. In the global partnership for development, developing countries take primary responsibility for their development and for mobilizing domestic resources and ensuring good governance, while developed countries agree to provide assistance and promote an enabling international environment. More can and needs to be done in a number of areas to meet the targets proposed by the global partnership for development under Millennium Development Goal 8.¹³ This is critical for providing developing countries with both better opportunities to gain from trade and technology and the additional resources and fiscal space needed to complement their own efforts towards achievement of Millennium Development Goals 1 to 7. Gender

¹³ See the annexed table on the implementation gaps in relation to commitments for strengthening global partnerships and required policy responses. A more elaborate account of implementation gaps in the global partnership can be found in the 2008 Report of the MDG Gap Task Force, MDG-8: Delivering on the Global Partnership for Achieving the MDGs.

perspectives should be integrated in aid modalities and in efforts to enhance aid delivery mechanisms.

Trade

67. In the area of trade, only slow progress has been made towards achieving the Millennium Development Goal 8 target of developing further an open, rule-based, predictable, non-discriminatory trading and financial system which serves the development agenda. There has been no agreement on a trading system that will deliver substantial benefits to developing countries since the initiation in 2001 of the Doha Round of trade negotiations. Instead, countries are increasingly committed to bilateral, plurilateral and regional trade, investment and other economic agreements.

68. Meanwhile, little progress has been made in addressing the special needs of the least developed countries, as articulated in target 13 of Millennium Development Goal 8. The degree of preference given to them, compared to other developing countries, has been eroded by the proliferation of preferential schemes granted by developed countries. Preferential treatment for the least developed countries only remains significant in regard to agriculture, in terms of duty-free market access and the average level of applied tariffs. Excluding the trade in arms and oil, duty-free access to the markets of developed countries covers only 79 per cent of the exports of the least developed countries, far below the 97 per cent target established in the Ministerial Declaration adopted at the Sixth Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization held in Hong Kong, China, in December 2005.

69. Preferential market access for the least developed countries to foster growth and poverty reduction should be complemented by a significant Aid for Trade programme which would assist poorer countries in realizing their productive and export potential and support their employment creation and export diversification efforts. Thus far, very limited resources have been committed to the Aid for Trade initiative. Aid commitments decreased in 2005 and there is little evidence that such resources are additional to previous commitments. Moreover, existing procedures to access Aid for Trade resources lack transparency. Additional support is required to identify investment priorities and bankable projects in the areas of trade facilitation, infrastructure and production for exports and to strengthen the capacity of countries to access Aid for Trade resources. The Enhanced Integrated Framework seeks to facilitate the integration of the least developed countries into the multilateral trading system by increasing their access to funds under the Aid for Trade initiative.

Official development assistance

70. Efforts to step up ODA have been set back. In 2007, the only countries to reach or exceed the agreed target of 0.7 per cent of gross national income (GNI) were Denmark, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway and Sweden. Total net aid flows from members of the Development Assistance Committee fell to \$103.7 billion in 2007, representing 0.28 per cent of the combined national income of the developed countries. Financial assistance to the least developed countries also falls short of the commitments made. In addition to the aforementioned countries, only Belgium, Ireland and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland have met the target of providing aid to the least developed countries in magnitudes of at least 0.15 to 0.20 per cent of their GNI. In real terms, aid flows to developing

countries dropped by 8.4 per cent from the 2006 level, which was already lower than the peak level reached in 2005. Aid flows peaked in 2005 as a consequence of large sums of debt relief for Nigeria and Iraq and one-time increases in humanitarian relief, rather than an expansion of support for core development programmes.

71. At various world summit meetings, donor countries have pledged to increase aid from \$80 billion in 2004 to \$130 billion in 2010 (at constant 2004 prices). The present rate of increase of aid for core development programmes (excluding debt relief) will have to more than double over the next three years if the level of aid committed for 2010 is to be met. As of 2008, only \$21 billion of the additional ODA commitments has been delivered or programmed. At the summit meeting of the Group of Eight in Gleneagles, Scotland, in 2005, its members made a commitment to double ODA to Africa by 2010. Preliminary data for 2007 show that, excluding debt relief, bilateral ODA to the region has increased by no more than 9 per cent since 2005.

72. Increases in the volume of ODA should be accompanied by improvements in ODA quality and predictability. As called for under the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness adopted in 2005, ODA needs to be aligned with the priorities and systems of recipient countries so as to increase the likelihood that it will be spent effectively. The global donor timetables for ODA programming established in 2005 also need to be broken down for country-level delivery schedules. At present, only some recipient countries receive projections of the amount of ODA that they will be likely to receive in forthcoming years.¹⁴ As a result, it is difficult for developing countries to plan for the increase in ODA in launching Millennium Development Goal projects. Developed countries should make available to each recipient country reliable medium-term schedules for future ODA flows.

73. Accelerated progress towards meeting the targets set in the Paris Declaration should not only help to improve the predictability of aid and avoid aid fragmentation and high transaction costs in the administration of aid resources, but should also reduce the degree of aid tied to the purchase of goods and services provided by donor countries and contribute to improving the alignment of aid flows with national budgets, thus broadening the policy space for countries to define their own development priorities. It is also important for donors non-members of the Development Assistance Committee to be cognizant of national ownership.

Debt relief

74. The Millennium Development Goal target of dealing comprehensively with the debt problems of developing countries has not been achieved in full. Additional actions need to be taken to relieve the debt burden of countries not part of the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) Initiative. Indeed, most progress has been made in terms of debt relief for the poorest countries. As of June 2008, 33 of the 41 eligible countries to receive debt relief under the HIPC Initiative had reached decision point, whereas 23 of these has reached completion point which is when creditors are expected to irrevocably provide the full amount of debt relief

¹⁴ Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, Development Assistance Committee, *Scaling Up: Aid Fragmentation, Aid Allocation and Aid Predictability: Report of 2008 Survey of Aid Allocation Policies and Indicative Forward Spending Plans* (Paris, May 2008); available at <http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/37/18/40636952.pdf>.

committed at decision point. The 23 post-completion point countries have also benefited from debt relief under the Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative (MDRI). Debt relief in all forms (HIPC, MDRI, traditional debt relief and other “voluntary” bilateral debt relief) would reduce debt stock for the 33 post-decision point countries from \$105 billion to \$9 billion (2006 NPV), which is a reduction of more than 90 per cent. This, together with high commodity prices, has helped to reduce the debt service ratio for all developing countries, from 12.5 per cent in 2000 to 6.6 per cent in 2006 and to around 3 per cent in 2007, thereby creating an environment for investment and recovery without heavy debt burdens. This trend may be reversed, however, if commodity prices are less buoyant in the coming years.¹⁵ Moreover, the debt vulnerability indicators of most HIPC participants have tended to deteriorate after debt relief is received. In addition, debt relief efforts have not been available to non-HIPC debt-distressed countries which have no mechanisms in place for orderly sovereign debt restructuring.

75. Debt relief thus requires complementary efforts to keep debt levels sustainable. There has been insufficient progress in developing adequate institutional mechanisms for better debt management and sustainability, and in establishing a sovereign debt arbitration mechanism for countries under severe debt distress. Many developing countries still carry levels of debt that, while considered sustainable, leave insufficient fiscal space to scale up public spending on education, health, infrastructure and poverty reduction to achieve the Millennium Development Goals. With the debt relief for HIPC countries, average expenditure on health and education has increased, but not public investment in infrastructure and long-term economic development.

Access to affordable essential drugs

76. The Millennium Development Goal target of providing access to affordable essential drugs has triggered actions to increase the availability of essential drugs and treatments to fight HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis. However, in many developing countries, many essential drugs remain unaffordable. Part of the difficulty in tracking the commitment made in regard to essential drugs is the lack of a specific target and the ambiguity in relation to medicines considered essential. Efforts need to be stepped up to meet this target by adopting clear targets and intensifying interventions to expand the access of poor people in developing countries to essential medicines at a reasonable cost.

77. Many countries still lack well-defined policies for the adoption of generic substitutes for essential medicines, updated lists of essential medicines, and mechanisms for regular monitoring of medicine prices and availability. At the global level, pharmaceutical companies should adopt differential pricing policies that significantly reduce the price of essential medicines in developing countries, produce generic drugs and increase funding for research and development in respect of essential drugs for neglected tropical diseases. Developing countries especially should make better use of their rights under the World Trade Organization Agreement on Trade-related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) to issue compulsory licences to import life-saving drugs.

¹⁵ See United Nations, *World Economic Situation and Prospects 2008: Update as of mid-2008*; available at <http://www.un.org/esa/policy/wess/wesp2008files/wesp08update.pdf>.

Transfer of technology

78. Improving the access of developing countries to new technology is critical for accelerating progress towards meeting other Millennium Development Goal targets. Rapid innovation to increase productivity, sustain economic growth and reduce poverty requires continuous access to the most recent technology. Achieving progress in health and education also requires adequate access to technology to improve service delivery and reduce costs. Currently, the Millennium Development Goal framework does not have a defined quantitative target on technology. While there has been a significant expansion of access in developing countries to mobile telephony and computers, the digital divide has widened between developed and developing countries and between high and low-income groups. There is an urgent need to strengthen global public-private partnerships in this area, including interventions to improve access to electricity and to accelerate progress in human resource development in order to make more effective use of technology. At the global level, more generous regulations on intellectual property rights, differential pricing to reduce the cost of technology and products for developing countries, and a substantial increase in reducing the costs of access to and use of knowledge would contribute to closing the technological gap.

Action points for consideration

- Develop specific steps and actions to complete the Doha Round of trade negotiations to reduce existing trade distortions in favour of more equitable mechanisms.
- Extend HIPC and other debt relief mechanisms to developing countries in severe debt distress, as well as support to sovereign debt restructuring mechanisms.
- Promote low-cost or subsidized access to essential drugs and other life-saving interventions and promote the transfer of technology for development.
- Promote proven and effective public-private partnerships at the national and international levels to improve access to digital and other new technology with the aim of accelerating development, especially in the areas of information and communications technology, agriculture and adaptation to climate change.

VI. Concluding remarks

79. The present note has provided an overview, as well as a reminder, of the vast and demanding challenge in achieving the Millennium Development Goals, and of the common resolve and commitment to focused collaborative action at the national and international levels. What has been achieved thus far confirms the wisdom of a shared strategy to achieve enduring development for all. What needs to be done from this point onwards must build on this shared strategy for social and economic development, in which the actions of development partners complement and support each other, and in which all stakeholders have a role and the space to fulfil it.

80. The High-level Event on the Millennium Development Goals provides Governments, civil society and the private sector the opportunity to examine and strengthen commitments, and launch new initiatives, partnerships and alliances, to

undertake the many demanding tasks in the years ahead to ensure the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals by 2015.

81. The outcomes of the High-level Event, including commitments made at its side events, could provide Member States and all other stakeholders with a platform for action to achieve the Millennium Development Goals. In this regard, Member States could agree to review the progress made in that regard at the summit level in 2010.

Annex

Implementation gaps in relation to commitments for strengthening global partnerships^a and required policy responses

	<i>Gap</i>	<i>National policies</i>	<i>Required global response</i>
Official development assistance	Aid commitments from 1970 — reaffirmed by donors in 2002 and 2005 — are not being met. Aid resources reached fell to 0.28 per cent of the gross national income (GNI) of Development Assistance Committee (DAC) members in 2007, well short of the intermediate target of 0.5 per cent of GNI for 2010 and the final commitment target of 0.7 per cent of GNI		Increase aid flows by \$18 billion (current prices) annual between 2008 and 2010 in order to meet agreed targets by 2010 Ensure that the International Development Association has sufficient resources to guarantee that it will be able to provide additionality in its support to least developed countries committed to poverty reduction, post-Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative (MDRI)
Aid effectiveness	Commitments on improving aid effectiveness are not being met Twelve indicators in the 2005 Paris Declaration to improve aid effectiveness have not achieved agreed levels	Improve aid coordination in line with national priorities Adopt national systems of procurement	Donors, including non-DAC partners, and recipient countries to accelerate progress for aid alignment, harmonization, management for results and mutual accountability
ODA to the least developed countries	ODA commitments under the 2001 Brussels Action Plan to the least developed countries are not being met. Only eight DAC member countries currently allocate 0.15 to 0.2 per cent of GNI to these countries		Increase annual allocation of ODA to the least developed countries by \$8.8 billion (at current prices) between 2008 and 2010
ODA to Africa	ODA commitments to Africa are not being met. The goal to double aid to Africa (from \$25 billion in 2004 to \$50 billion, at constant price United States dollars, by 2010) will not be met at current trends (excluding debt relief: ODA to Africa increased 9 per cent in 2007)		Provide additional \$7.3 billion ODA (in current prices) to Africa per year between 2008 and 2010

^a Millennium Development Goal 8.

	<i>Gap</i>	<i>National policies</i>	<i>Required global response</i>
Trade	Failure to conclude a multilateral trade round that delivers real and substantial benefits to developing countries	Prioritize trade links to development and poverty reduction in national development strategies	<p>Refocus on the elements that would make the Doha Round negotiations a “development” Round and to work to conclude it</p> <p>Discourage plurilateral, bilateral and economic partnerships that undermine multilateral agreements</p>
Market access	<p>No improvement towards reaching even the 97 per cent commitment made in the Hong Kong, China, ministerial declaration in 2005 to grant duty and quota free access to developed country markets for exports from the least developed countries. Once trade in arms and oil are excluded, duty and quota free access was 79 per cent in 2006, same as 10 years ago</p> <p>Preferential market access for the least developed countries is eroding</p>		Substantial reduction of tariffs and non-tariff barriers imposed by developed countries on agricultural products and textiles and clothing from developing countries
Agricultural subsidies	Eliminate subsidies to agriculture in developed countries in line with the 2005 Hong Kong, China, ministerial commitment to eliminate them by 2013. Current level of support ranges from 30 to 70 per cent of the gross incomes of farmers in developed countries. In 2006 agricultural support in OECD countries was estimated at \$363 billion	<p>Enhance food security, including by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greater investment in rural infrastructure • Promote research and development to improve agricultural production technologies • Promote agricultural development • Input support for small holders • Accelerate green revolution in Africa 	<p>Accelerate the elimination of domestic and export subsidies on agricultural production in developed countries</p> <p>Eliminate tariffs on agricultural exports from developing countries</p> <p>In conjunction with global food crisis, provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emergency food assistance to groups and regions at risk of hunger • Compensatory finance for low-income countries that face adverse effects as a result of high food prices

	<i>Gap</i>	<i>National policies</i>	<i>Required global response</i>
Aid for trade	<p>Insufficient ODA to enhance productive capacity, infrastructure and trade</p> <p>Lack of clarity in the design of the Aid for Trade initiative and procedures to access resources</p> <p>Finalize the operational mechanisms of the Enhanced Integrated Framework</p>	<p>Needs assessments should be completed to identify investment priorities</p>	<p>Urgently assess regional and country needs for Aid for Trade to ensure total available resources and allocations meet those needs</p> <p>Accelerate progress to make the Enhanced Integrated Framework operational</p>
Debt relief	<p>Debt problems of developing countries that do not qualify for the Enhanced Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative (eHIPC) MDRI are not being dealt with comprehensively</p> <p>Nine eHIPC countries have not reached completion point</p> <p>Debt relief not available to all debt distressed countries</p> <p>Cancellation of all official bilateral debt has not occurred</p>	<p>Strengthen production and export capacity</p> <p>Strengthen debt management systems</p>	<p>Remove obstacles that delay eHIPC completion, including additional resources for countries that have not yet reached completion point</p> <p>Encourage non-Paris Club official bilateral creditors and private creditors to provide comparable relief on HIPC terms for eligible outstanding debt</p> <p>Review and improve the existing Debt Sustainability Framework</p> <p>Establish an orderly sovereign debt restructuring process for non-HIPCs with debt distress</p> <p>Increase bilateral resource allocations to grant assistance rather than concessional lending</p>
Essential drugs	<p>No specific numerical targets for the global partnership on essential drugs have been defined</p> <p>In spite of progress in individual countries to increase access to essential drugs and treatments to fight HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis, access to essential medicines in developing countries is not adequate</p>	<p>Eliminate taxes and duties on essential drugs</p> <p>Update national policy on medicines</p> <p>Update national list of essential medicines</p> <p>Adopt generic substitution policies for essential medicines</p>	<p>Encourage pharmaceutical companies to reduce prices of essential medicines in developing countries where generic equivalents are not available</p> <p>Remove barriers to production and promote uptake of generic medicines</p>

<i>Gap</i>		<i>National policies</i>	<i>Required global response</i>
Improved access to technology	No specific numerical targets for the global partnership on technology have been defined Despite rapid diffusion of ICT in developing countries, the digital divide between developed and developing countries is widening	Ensure transparent and reduced mark-ups on essential medicines	Increase funding for research and development in medicines relevant to developing countries, including most neglected diseases
		Increase availability of medicines in the public sector	
		Routinely monitor medicine prices to ensure affordable availability	
		Formulate national information and communications technology (ICT) strategies aligned with broader development strategies	Introduce flexibility into the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights to accelerate the diffusion of technology for development
		Expand both basic infrastructure (such as electricity supply) and infrastructure facilitating ICT, especially in low-income countries	Create incentives for the private sector to undertake research and development of technology relevant to development and poverty reduction in low-income countries
		Promote the use of modern, cleaner household fuel and energy technology	Apply differential pricing more widely in order to reduce costs of key technologies in developing countries and to make access affordable to all



General Assembly

Distr.: General
18 September 2000

Fifty-fifth session
Agenda item 60 (b)

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[without reference to a Main Committee (A/55/L.2)]

55/2. United Nations Millennium Declaration

The General Assembly

Adopts the following Declaration:

United Nations Millennium Declaration

I. Values and principles

1. We, heads of State and Government, have gathered at United Nations Headquarters in New York from 6 to 8 September 2000, at the dawn of a new millennium, to reaffirm our faith in the Organization and its Charter as indispensable foundations of a more peaceful, prosperous and just world.
2. We recognize that, in addition to our separate responsibilities to our individual societies, we have a collective responsibility to uphold the principles of human dignity, equality and equity at the global level. As leaders we have a duty therefore to all the world's people, especially the most vulnerable and, in particular, the children of the world, to whom the future belongs.
3. We reaffirm our commitment to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, which have proved timeless and universal. Indeed, their relevance and capacity to inspire have increased, as nations and peoples have become increasingly interconnected and interdependent.
4. We are determined to establish a just and lasting peace all over the world in accordance with the purposes and principles of the Charter. We rededicate ourselves to support all efforts to uphold the sovereign equality of all States, respect for their territorial integrity and political independence, resolution of disputes by peaceful means and in conformity with the principles of justice and international law, the right to self-determination of peoples which remain under colonial domination and foreign occupation, non-interference in the internal affairs of States, respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, respect for the equal rights of all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion and international cooperation in solving international problems of an economic, social, cultural or humanitarian character.

5. We believe that the central challenge we face today is to ensure that globalization becomes a positive force for all the world's people. For while globalization offers great opportunities, at present its benefits are very unevenly shared, while its costs are unevenly distributed. We recognize that developing countries and countries with economies in transition face special difficulties in responding to this central challenge. Thus, only through broad and sustained efforts to create a shared future, based upon our common humanity in all its diversity, can globalization be made fully inclusive and equitable. These efforts must include policies and measures, at the global level, which correspond to the needs of developing countries and economies in transition and are formulated and implemented with their effective participation.
6. We consider certain fundamental values to be essential to international relations in the twenty-first century. These include:
 - **Freedom.** Men and women have the right to live their lives and raise their children in dignity, free from hunger and from the fear of violence, oppression or injustice. Democratic and participatory governance based on the will of the people best assures these rights.
 - **Equality.** No individual and no nation must be denied the opportunity to benefit from development. The equal rights and opportunities of women and men must be assured.
 - **Solidarity.** Global challenges must be managed in a way that distributes the costs and burdens fairly in accordance with basic principles of equity and social justice. Those who suffer or who benefit least deserve help from those who benefit most.
 - **Tolerance.** Human beings must respect one other, in all their diversity of belief, culture and language. Differences within and between societies should be neither feared nor repressed, but cherished as a precious asset of humanity. A culture of peace and dialogue among all civilizations should be actively promoted.
 - **Respect for nature.** Prudence must be shown in the management of all living species and natural resources, in accordance with the precepts of sustainable development. Only in this way can the immeasurable riches provided to us by nature be preserved and passed on to our descendants. The current unsustainable patterns of production and consumption must be changed in the interest of our future welfare and that of our descendants.
 - **Shared responsibility.** Responsibility for managing worldwide economic and social development, as well as threats to international peace and security, must be shared among the nations of the world and should be exercised multilaterally. As the most universal and most representative organization in the world, the United Nations must play the central role.
7. In order to translate these shared values into actions, we have identified key objectives to which we assign special significance.

II. Peace, security and disarmament

8. We will spare no effort to free our peoples from the scourge of war, whether within or between States, which has claimed more than 5 million lives in the

past decade. We will also seek to eliminate the dangers posed by weapons of mass destruction.

9. We resolve therefore:

- To strengthen respect for the rule of law in international as in national affairs and, in particular, to ensure compliance by Member States with the decisions of the International Court of Justice, in compliance with the Charter of the United Nations, in cases to which they are parties.
- To make the United Nations more effective in maintaining peace and security by giving it the resources and tools it needs for conflict prevention, peaceful resolution of disputes, peacekeeping, post-conflict peace-building and reconstruction. In this context, we take note of the report of the Panel on United Nations Peace Operations¹ and request the General Assembly to consider its recommendations expeditiously.
- To strengthen cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations, in accordance with the provisions of Chapter VIII of the Charter.
- To ensure the implementation, by States Parties, of treaties in areas such as arms control and disarmament and of international humanitarian law and human rights law, and call upon all States to consider signing and ratifying the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court.²
- To take concerted action against international terrorism, and to accede as soon as possible to all the relevant international conventions.
- To redouble our efforts to implement our commitment to counter the world drug problem.
- To intensify our efforts to fight transnational crime in all its dimensions, including trafficking as well as smuggling in human beings and money laundering.
- To minimize the adverse effects of United Nations economic sanctions on innocent populations, to subject such sanctions regimes to regular reviews and to eliminate the adverse effects of sanctions on third parties.
- To strive for the elimination of weapons of mass destruction, particularly nuclear weapons, and to keep all options open for achieving this aim, including the possibility of convening an international conference to identify ways of eliminating nuclear dangers.
- To take concerted action to end illicit traffic in small arms and light weapons, especially by making arms transfers more transparent and supporting regional disarmament measures, taking account of all the recommendations of the forthcoming United Nations Conference on Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons.
- To call on all States to consider acceding to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-personnel Mines and

¹ A/55/305-S/2000/809; see *Official Records of the Security Council, Fifty-fifth Year, Supplement for July, August and September 2000*, document S/2000/809.

² A/CONF.183/9.

on Their Destruction,³ as well as the amended mines protocol to the Convention on conventional weapons.⁴

10. We urge Member States to observe the Olympic Truce, individually and collectively, now and in the future, and to support the International Olympic Committee in its efforts to promote peace and human understanding through sport and the Olympic Ideal.

III. Development and poverty eradication

11. We will spare no effort to free our fellow men, women and children from the abject and dehumanizing conditions of extreme poverty, to which more than a billion of them are currently subjected. We are committed to making the right to development a reality for everyone and to freeing the entire human race from want.
12. We resolve therefore to create an environment – at the national and global levels alike – which is conducive to development and to the elimination of poverty.
13. Success in meeting these objectives depends, *inter alia*, on good governance within each country. It also depends on good governance at the international level and on transparency in the financial, monetary and trading systems. We are committed to an open, equitable, rule-based, predictable and non-discriminatory multilateral trading and financial system.
14. We are concerned about the obstacles developing countries face in mobilizing the resources needed to finance their sustained development. We will therefore make every effort to ensure the success of the High-level International and Intergovernmental Event on Financing for Development, to be held in 2001.
15. We also undertake to address the special needs of the least developed countries. In this context, we welcome the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries to be held in May 2001 and will endeavour to ensure its success. We call on the industrialized countries:
 - To adopt, preferably by the time of that Conference, a policy of duty- and quota-free access for essentially all exports from the least developed countries;
 - To implement the enhanced programme of debt relief for the heavily indebted poor countries without further delay and to agree to cancel all official bilateral debts of those countries in return for their making demonstrable commitments to poverty reduction; and
 - To grant more generous development assistance, especially to countries that are genuinely making an effort to apply their resources to poverty reduction.
16. We are also determined to deal comprehensively and effectively with the debt problems of low- and middle-income developing countries, through various national and international measures designed to make their debt sustainable in the long term.

³ See CD/1478.

⁴ Amended protocol on prohibitions or restrictions on the use of mines, booby-traps and other devices (CCW/CONF.I/16 (Part I), annex B).

17. We also resolve to address the special needs of small island developing States, by implementing the Barbados Programme of Action⁵ and the outcome of the twenty-second special session of the General Assembly rapidly and in full. We urge the international community to ensure that, in the development of a vulnerability index, the special needs of small island developing States are taken into account.
18. We recognize the special needs and problems of the landlocked developing countries, and urge both bilateral and multilateral donors to increase financial and technical assistance to this group of countries to meet their special development needs and to help them overcome the impediments of geography by improving their transit transport systems.
19. We resolve further:
 - To halve, by the year 2015, the proportion of the world's people whose income is less than one dollar a day and the proportion of people who suffer from hunger and, by the same date, to halve the proportion of people who are unable to reach or to afford safe drinking water.
 - To ensure that, by the same date, children everywhere, boys and girls alike, will be able to complete a full course of primary schooling and that girls and boys will have equal access to all levels of education.
 - By the same date, to have reduced maternal mortality by three quarters, and under-five child mortality by two thirds, of their current rates.
 - To have, by then, halted, and begun to reverse, the spread of HIV/AIDS, the scourge of malaria and other major diseases that afflict humanity.
 - To provide special assistance to children orphaned by HIV/AIDS.
 - By 2020, to have achieved a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers as proposed in the "Cities Without Slums" initiative.
20. We also resolve:
 - To promote gender equality and the empowerment of women as effective ways to combat poverty, hunger and disease and to stimulate development that is truly sustainable.
 - To develop and implement strategies that give young people everywhere a real chance to find decent and productive work.
 - To encourage the pharmaceutical industry to make essential drugs more widely available and affordable by all who need them in developing countries.
 - To develop strong partnerships with the private sector and with civil society organizations in pursuit of development and poverty eradication.

⁵ Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (*Report of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Bridgetown, Barbados, 25 April-6 May 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.94.I.18 and corrigenda), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II).

- To ensure that the benefits of new technologies, especially information and communication technologies, in conformity with recommendations contained in the ECOSOC 2000 Ministerial Declaration,⁶ are available to all.

IV. Protecting our common environment

21. We must spare no effort to free all of humanity, and above all our children and grandchildren, from the threat of living on a planet irredeemably spoilt by human activities, and whose resources would no longer be sufficient for their needs.
22. We reaffirm our support for the principles of sustainable development, including those set out in Agenda 21,⁷ agreed upon at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development.
23. We resolve therefore to adopt in all our environmental actions a new ethic of conservation and stewardship and, as first steps, we resolve:
 - To make every effort to ensure the entry into force of the Kyoto Protocol, preferably by the tenth anniversary of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in 2002, and to embark on the required reduction in emissions of greenhouse gases.
 - To intensify our collective efforts for the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests.
 - To press for the full implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity⁸ and the Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa.⁹
 - To stop the unsustainable exploitation of water resources by developing water management strategies at the regional, national and local levels, which promote both equitable access and adequate supplies.
 - To intensify cooperation to reduce the number and effects of natural and man-made disasters.
 - To ensure free access to information on the human genome sequence.

V. Human rights, democracy and good governance

24. We will spare no effort to promote democracy and strengthen the rule of law, as well as respect for all internationally recognized human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the right to development.
25. We resolve therefore:

⁶ E/2000/L.9.

⁷ *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigenda), vol. I: *Resolutions adopted by the Conference*, resolution 1, annex II.

⁸ See United Nations Environment Programme, *Convention on Biological Diversity* (Environmental Law and Institution Programme Activity Centre), June 1992.

⁹ A/49/84/Add.2, annex, appendix II.

- To respect fully and uphold the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.¹⁰
- To strive for the full protection and promotion in all our countries of civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights for all.
- To strengthen the capacity of all our countries to implement the principles and practices of democracy and respect for human rights, including minority rights.
- To combat all forms of violence against women and to implement the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.¹¹
- To take measures to ensure respect for and protection of the human rights of migrants, migrant workers and their families, to eliminate the increasing acts of racism and xenophobia in many societies and to promote greater harmony and tolerance in all societies.
- To work collectively for more inclusive political processes, allowing genuine participation by all citizens in all our countries.
- To ensure the freedom of the media to perform their essential role and the right of the public to have access to information.

VI. Protecting the vulnerable

26. We will spare no effort to ensure that children and all civilian populations that suffer disproportionately the consequences of natural disasters, genocide, armed conflicts and other humanitarian emergencies are given every assistance and protection so that they can resume normal life as soon as possible.

We resolve therefore:

- To expand and strengthen the protection of civilians in complex emergencies, in conformity with international humanitarian law.
- To strengthen international cooperation, including burden sharing in, and the coordination of humanitarian assistance to, countries hosting refugees and to help all refugees and displaced persons to return voluntarily to their homes, in safety and dignity and to be smoothly reintegrated into their societies.
- To encourage the ratification and full implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child¹² and its optional protocols on the involvement of children in armed conflict and on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography.¹³

VII. Meeting the special needs of Africa

27. We will support the consolidation of democracy in Africa and assist Africans in their struggle for lasting peace, poverty eradication and sustainable development, thereby bringing Africa into the mainstream of the world economy.

¹⁰ Resolution 217 A (III).

¹¹ Resolution 34/180, annex.

¹² Resolution 44/25, annex.

¹³ Resolution 54/263, annexes I and II.

28. We resolve therefore:

- To give full support to the political and institutional structures of emerging democracies in Africa.
- To encourage and sustain regional and subregional mechanisms for preventing conflict and promoting political stability, and to ensure a reliable flow of resources for peacekeeping operations on the continent.
- To take special measures to address the challenges of poverty eradication and sustainable development in Africa, including debt cancellation, improved market access, enhanced Official Development Assistance and increased flows of Foreign Direct Investment, as well as transfers of technology.
- To help Africa build up its capacity to tackle the spread of the HIV/AIDS pandemic and other infectious diseases.

VIII. Strengthening the United Nations

29. We will spare no effort to make the United Nations a more effective instrument for pursuing all of these priorities: the fight for development for all the peoples of the world, the fight against poverty, ignorance and disease; the fight against injustice; the fight against violence, terror and crime; and the fight against the degradation and destruction of our common home.

30. We resolve therefore:

- To reaffirm the central position of the General Assembly as the chief deliberative, policy-making and representative organ of the United Nations, and to enable it to play that role effectively.
- To intensify our efforts to achieve a comprehensive reform of the Security Council in all its aspects.
- To strengthen further the Economic and Social Council, building on its recent achievements, to help it fulfil the role ascribed to it in the Charter.
- To strengthen the International Court of Justice, in order to ensure justice and the rule of law in international affairs.
- To encourage regular consultations and coordination among the principal organs of the United Nations in pursuit of their functions.
- To ensure that the Organization is provided on a timely and predictable basis with the resources it needs to carry out its mandates.
- To urge the Secretariat to make the best use of those resources, in accordance with clear rules and procedures agreed by the General Assembly, in the interests of all Member States, by adopting the best management practices and technologies available and by concentrating on those tasks that reflect the agreed priorities of Member States.
- To promote adherence to the Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel.¹⁴

¹⁴ Resolution 49/59, annex.

- To ensure greater policy coherence and better cooperation between the United Nations, its agencies, the Bretton Woods Institutions and the World Trade Organization, as well as other multilateral bodies, with a view to achieving a fully coordinated approach to the problems of peace and development.
 - To strengthen further cooperation between the United Nations and national parliaments through their world organization, the Inter-Parliamentary Union, in various fields, including peace and security, economic and social development, international law and human rights and democracy and gender issues.
 - To give greater opportunities to the private sector, non-governmental organizations and civil society, in general, to contribute to the realization of the Organization's goals and programmes.
31. We request the General Assembly to review on a regular basis the progress made in implementing the provisions of this Declaration, and ask the Secretary-General to issue periodic reports for consideration by the General Assembly and as a basis for further action.
 32. We solemnly reaffirm, on this historic occasion, that the United Nations is the indispensable common house of the entire human family, through which we will seek to realize our universal aspirations for peace, cooperation and development. We therefore pledge our unstinting support for these common objectives and our determination to achieve them.

*8th plenary meeting
8 September 2000*



General Assembly

Distr.: General
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Sixtieth session
Agenda items 46 and 120

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[without reference to a Main Committee (A/60/L.1)]

60/1. 2005 World Summit Outcome

The General Assembly

Adopts the following 2005 World Summit Outcome:

2005 World Summit Outcome

I. Values and principles

1. We, Heads of State and Government, have gathered at United Nations Headquarters in New York from 14 to 16 September 2005.
2. We reaffirm our faith in the United Nations and our commitment to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and international law, which are indispensable foundations of a more peaceful, prosperous and just world, and reiterate our determination to foster strict respect for them.
3. We reaffirm the United Nations Millennium Declaration,¹ which we adopted at the dawn of the twenty-first century. We recognize the valuable role of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields, including the Millennium Summit, in mobilizing the international community at the local, national, regional and global levels and in guiding the work of the United Nations.
4. We reaffirm that our common fundamental values, including freedom, equality, solidarity, tolerance, respect for all human rights, respect for nature and shared responsibility, are essential to international relations.
5. We are determined to establish a just and lasting peace all over the world in accordance with the purposes and principles of the Charter. We rededicate ourselves to support all efforts to uphold the sovereign equality of all States, respect their territorial integrity and political independence, to refrain in our international relations from the threat or use of force in any manner inconsistent with the purposes and principles of the United Nations, to uphold resolution of disputes by

¹ See resolution 55/2.

peaceful means and in conformity with the principles of justice and international law, the right to self-determination of peoples which remain under colonial domination and foreign occupation, non-interference in the internal affairs of States, respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, respect for the equal rights of all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion, international cooperation in solving international problems of an economic, social, cultural or humanitarian character and the fulfilment in good faith of the obligations assumed in accordance with the Charter.

6. We reaffirm the vital importance of an effective multilateral system, in accordance with international law, in order to better address the multifaceted and interconnected challenges and threats confronting our world and to achieve progress in the areas of peace and security, development and human rights, underlining the central role of the United Nations, and commit ourselves to promoting and strengthening the effectiveness of the Organization through the implementation of its decisions and resolutions.

7. We believe that today, more than ever before, we live in a global and interdependent world. No State can stand wholly alone. We acknowledge that collective security depends on effective cooperation, in accordance with international law, against transnational threats.

8. We recognize that current developments and circumstances require that we urgently build consensus on major threats and challenges. We commit ourselves to translating that consensus into concrete action, including addressing the root causes of those threats and challenges with resolve and determination.

9. We acknowledge that peace and security, development and human rights are the pillars of the United Nations system and the foundations for collective security and well-being. We recognize that development, peace and security and human rights are interlinked and mutually reinforcing.

10. We reaffirm that development is a central goal in itself and that sustainable development in its economic, social and environmental aspects constitutes a key element of the overarching framework of United Nations activities.

11. We acknowledge that good governance and the rule of law at the national and international levels are essential for sustained economic growth, sustainable development and the eradication of poverty and hunger.

12. We reaffirm that gender equality and the promotion and protection of the full enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all are essential to advance development and peace and security. We are committed to creating a world fit for future generations, which takes into account the best interests of the child.

13. We reaffirm the universality, indivisibility, interdependence and interrelatedness of all human rights.

14. Acknowledging the diversity of the world, we recognize that all cultures and civilizations contribute to the enrichment of humankind. We acknowledge the importance of respect and understanding for religious and cultural diversity throughout the world. In order to promote international peace and security, we commit ourselves to advancing human welfare, freedom and progress everywhere, as well as to encouraging tolerance, respect, dialogue and cooperation among different cultures, civilizations and peoples.

15. We pledge to enhance the relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, accountability and credibility of the United Nations system. This is our shared responsibility and interest.

16. We therefore resolve to create a more peaceful, prosperous and democratic world and to undertake concrete measures to continue finding ways to implement the outcome of the Millennium Summit and the other major United Nations conferences and summits so as to provide multilateral solutions to problems in the four following areas:

- Development
- Peace and collective security
- Human rights and the rule of law
- Strengthening of the United Nations

II. Development

17. We strongly reiterate our determination to ensure the timely and full realization of the development goals and objectives agreed at the major United Nations conferences and summits, including those agreed at the Millennium Summit that are described as the Millennium Development Goals, which have helped to galvanize efforts towards poverty eradication.

18. We emphasize the vital role played by the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields in shaping a broad development vision and in identifying commonly agreed objectives, which have contributed to improving human life in different parts of the world.

19. We reaffirm our commitment to eradicate poverty and promote sustained economic growth, sustainable development and global prosperity for all. We are encouraged by reductions in poverty in some countries in the recent past and are determined to reinforce and extend this trend to benefit people worldwide. We remain concerned, however, about the slow and uneven progress towards poverty eradication and the realization of other development goals in some regions. We commit ourselves to promoting the development of the productive sectors in developing countries to enable them to participate more effectively in and benefit from the process of globalization. We underline the need for urgent action on all sides, including more ambitious national development strategies and efforts backed by increased international support.

Global partnership for development

20. We reaffirm our commitment to the global partnership for development set out in the Millennium Declaration,¹ the Monterrey Consensus² and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation.³

21. We further reaffirm our commitment to sound policies, good governance at all levels and the rule of law, and to mobilize domestic resources, attract international

² Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development (*Report of the International Conference on Financing for Development, Monterrey, Mexico, 18-22 March 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.II.A.7), chap. I, resolution 1, annex).

³ Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (*Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II. A.1 and corrigendum), chap I, resolution 2, annex).

flows, promote international trade as an engine for development and increase international financial and technical cooperation for development, sustainable debt financing and external debt relief and to enhance the coherence and consistency of the international monetary, financial and trading systems.

22. We reaffirm that each country must take primary responsibility for its own development and that the role of national policies and development strategies cannot be overemphasized in the achievement of sustainable development. We also recognize that national efforts should be complemented by supportive global programmes, measures and policies aimed at expanding the development opportunities of developing countries, while taking into account national conditions and ensuring respect for national ownership, strategies and sovereignty. To this end, we resolve:

(a) To adopt, by 2006, and implement comprehensive national development strategies to achieve the internationally agreed development goals and objectives, including the Millennium Development Goals;

(b) To manage public finances effectively to achieve and maintain macroeconomic stability and long-term growth and to make effective and transparent use of public funds and ensure that development assistance is used to build national capacities;

(c) To support efforts by developing countries to adopt and implement national development policies and strategies through increased development assistance, the promotion of international trade as an engine for development, the transfer of technology on mutually agreed terms, increased investment flows and wider and deeper debt relief, and to support developing countries by providing a substantial increase in aid of sufficient quality and arriving in a timely manner to assist them in achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals;

(d) That the increasing interdependence of national economies in a globalizing world and the emergence of rule-based regimes for international economic relations have meant that the space for national economic policy, that is, the scope for domestic policies, especially in the areas of trade, investment and industrial development, is now often framed by international disciplines, commitments and global market considerations. It is for each Government to evaluate the trade-off between the benefits of accepting international rules and commitments and the constraints posed by the loss of policy space. It is particularly important for developing countries, bearing in mind development goals and objectives, that all countries take into account the need for appropriate balance between national policy space and international disciplines and commitments;

(e) To enhance the contribution of non-governmental organizations, civil society, the private sector and other stakeholders in national development efforts, as well as in the promotion of the global partnership for development;

(f) To ensure that the United Nations funds and programmes and the specialized agencies support the efforts of developing countries through the common country assessment and United Nations Development Assistance Framework process, enhancing their support for capacity-building;

(g) To protect our natural resource base in support of development.

Financing for development

23. We reaffirm the Monterrey Consensus² and recognize that mobilizing financial resources for development and the effective use of those resources in developing countries and countries with economies in transition are central to a global partnership for development in support of the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals. In this regard:

(a) We are encouraged by recent commitments to substantial increases in official development assistance and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development estimate that official development assistance to all developing countries will now increase by around 50 billion United States dollars a year by 2010, while recognizing that a substantial increase in such assistance is required to achieve the internationally agreed goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, within their respective time frames;

(b) We welcome the increased resources that will become available as a result of the establishment of timetables by many developed countries to achieve the target of 0.7 per cent of gross national product for official development assistance by 2015 and to reach at least 0.5 per cent of gross national product for official development assistance by 2010 as well as, pursuant to the Brussels Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010,⁴ 0.15 per cent to 0.20 per cent for the least developed countries no later than 2010, and urge those developed countries that have not yet done so to make concrete efforts in this regard in accordance with their commitments;

(c) We further welcome recent efforts and initiatives to enhance the quality of aid and to increase its impact, including the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness, and resolve to take concrete, effective and timely action in implementing all agreed commitments on aid effectiveness, with clear monitoring and deadlines, including through further aligning assistance with countries' strategies, building institutional capacities, reducing transaction costs and eliminating bureaucratic procedures, making progress on untying aid, enhancing the absorptive capacity and financial management of recipient countries and strengthening the focus on development results;

(d) We recognize the value of developing innovative sources of financing, provided those sources do not unduly burden developing countries. In that regard, we take note with interest of the international efforts, contributions and discussions, such as the Action against Hunger and Poverty, aimed at identifying innovative and additional sources of financing for development on a public, private, domestic or external basis to increase and supplement traditional sources of financing. Some countries will implement the International Finance Facility. Some countries have launched the International Finance Facility for immunization. Some countries will implement in the near future, utilizing their national authorities, a contribution on airline tickets to enable the financing of development projects, in particular in the health sector, directly or through financing of the International Finance Facility. Other countries are considering whether and to what extent they will participate in these initiatives;

⁴ A/CONF.191/13, chap. II.

(e) We acknowledge the vital role the private sector can play in generating new investments, employment and financing for development;

(f) We resolve to address the development needs of low-income developing countries by working in competent multilateral and international forums, to help them meet, inter alia, their financial, technical and technological requirements;

(g) We resolve to continue to support the development efforts of middle-income developing countries by working, in competent multilateral and international forums and also through bilateral arrangements, on measures to help them meet, inter alia, their financial, technical and technological requirements;

(h) We resolve to operationalize the World Solidarity Fund established by the General Assembly and invite those countries in a position to do so to make voluntary contributions to the Fund;

(i) We recognize the need for access to financial services, in particular for the poor, including through microfinance and microcredit.

Domestic resource mobilization

24. In our common pursuit of growth, poverty eradication and sustainable development, a critical challenge is to ensure the necessary internal conditions for mobilizing domestic savings, both public and private, sustaining adequate levels of productive investment, increasing human capacity, reducing capital flight, curbing the illicit transfer of funds and enhancing international cooperation for creating an enabling domestic environment. We undertake to support the efforts of developing countries to create a domestic enabling environment for mobilizing domestic resources. To this end, we therefore resolve:

(a) To pursue good governance and sound macroeconomic policies at all levels and support developing countries in their efforts to put in place the policies and investments to drive sustained economic growth, promote small and medium-sized enterprises, promote employment generation and stimulate the private sector;

(b) To reaffirm that good governance is essential for sustainable development; that sound economic policies, solid democratic institutions responsive to the needs of the people and improved infrastructure are the basis for sustained economic growth, poverty eradication and employment creation; and that freedom, peace and security, domestic stability, respect for human rights, including the right to development, the rule of law, gender equality and market-oriented policies and an overall commitment to just and democratic societies are also essential and mutually reinforcing;

(c) To make the fight against corruption a priority at all levels and we welcome all actions taken in this regard at the national and international levels, including the adoption of policies that emphasize accountability, transparent public sector management and corporate responsibility and accountability, including efforts to return assets transferred through corruption, consistent with the United Nations Convention against Corruption.⁵ We urge all States that have not done so to consider signing, ratifying and implementing the Convention;

(d) To channel private capabilities and resources into stimulating the private sector in developing countries through actions in the public, public/private and

⁵ Resolution 58/4, annex.

private spheres to create an enabling environment for partnership and innovation that contributes to accelerated economic development and hunger and poverty eradication;

(e) To support efforts to reduce capital flight and measures to curb the illicit transfer of funds.

Investment

25. We resolve to encourage greater direct investment, including foreign investment, in developing countries and countries with economies in transition to support their development activities and to enhance the benefits they can derive from such investments. In this regard:

(a) We continue to support efforts by developing countries and countries with economies in transition to create a domestic environment conducive to attracting investments through, inter alia, achieving a transparent, stable and predictable investment climate with proper contract enforcement and respect for property rights and the rule of law and pursuing appropriate policy and regulatory frameworks that encourage business formation;

(b) We will put into place policies to ensure adequate investment in a sustainable manner in health, clean water and sanitation, housing and education and in the provision of public goods and social safety nets to protect vulnerable and disadvantaged sectors of society;

(c) We invite national Governments seeking to develop infrastructure projects and generate foreign direct investment to pursue strategies with the involvement of both the public and private sectors and, where appropriate, international donors;

(d) We call upon international financial and banking institutions to consider enhancing the transparency of risk rating mechanisms. Sovereign risk assessments, made by the private sector should maximize the use of strict, objective and transparent parameters, which can be facilitated by high-quality data and analysis;

(e) We underscore the need to sustain sufficient and stable private financial flows to developing countries and countries with economies in transition. It is important to promote measures in source and destination countries to improve transparency and the information about financial flows to developing countries, particularly countries in Africa, the least developed countries, small island developing States and landlocked developing countries. Measures that mitigate the impact of excessive volatility of short-term capital flows are important and must be considered.

Debt

26. We emphasize the high importance of a timely, effective, comprehensive and durable solution to the debt problems of developing countries, since debt financing and relief can be an important source of capital for development. To this end:

(a) We welcome the recent proposals of the Group of Eight to cancel 100 per cent of the outstanding debt of eligible heavily indebted poor countries owed to the International Monetary Fund, the International Development Association and African Development Fund and to provide additional resources to ensure that the financing capacity of the international financial institutions is not reduced;

(b) We emphasize that debt sustainability is essential for underpinning growth and underline the importance of debt sustainability to the efforts to achieve national development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, recognizing the key role that debt relief can play in liberating resources that can be directed towards activities consistent with poverty eradication, sustained economic growth and sustainable development;

(c) We further stress the need to consider additional measures and initiatives aimed at ensuring long-term debt sustainability through increased grant-based financing, cancellation of 100 per cent of the official multilateral and bilateral debt of heavily indebted poor countries and, where appropriate, and on a case-by-case basis, to consider significant debt relief or restructuring for low- and middle-income developing countries with an unsustainable debt burden that are not part of the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative, as well as the exploration of mechanisms to comprehensively address the debt problems of those countries. Such mechanisms may include debt for sustainable development swaps or multicreditor debt swap arrangements, as appropriate. These initiatives could include further efforts by the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank to develop the debt sustainability framework for low-income countries. This should be achieved in a fashion that does not detract from official development assistance resources, while maintaining the financial integrity of the multilateral financial institutions.

Trade

27. A universal, rule-based, open, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system, as well as meaningful trade liberalization, can substantially stimulate development worldwide, benefiting countries at all stages of development. In that regard, we reaffirm our commitment to trade liberalization and to ensure that trade plays its full part in promoting economic growth, employment and development for all.

28. We are committed to efforts designed to ensure that developing countries, especially the least-developed countries, participate fully in the world trading system in order to meet their economic development needs, and reaffirm our commitment to enhanced and predictable market access for the exports of developing countries.

29. We will work towards the objective, in accordance with the Brussels Programme of Action,⁴ of duty-free and quota-free market access for all least developed countries' products to the markets of developed countries, as well as to the markets of developing countries in a position to do so, and support their efforts to overcome their supply-side constraints.

30. We are committed to supporting and promoting increased aid to build productive and trade capacities of developing countries and to taking further steps in that regard, while welcoming the substantial support already provided.

31. We will work to accelerate and facilitate the accession of developing countries and countries with economies in transition to the World Trade Organization consistent with its criteria, recognizing the importance of universal integration in the rules-based global trading system.

32. We will work expeditiously towards implementing the development dimensions of the Doha work programme.⁶

Commodities

33. We emphasize the need to address the impact of weak and volatile commodity prices and support the efforts of commodity-dependent countries to restructure, diversify and strengthen the competitiveness of their commodity sectors.

Quick-impact initiatives

34. Given the need to accelerate progress immediately in countries where current trends make the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals unlikely, we resolve to urgently identify and implement country-led initiatives with adequate international support, consistent with long-term national development strategies, that promise immediate and durable improvements in the lives of people and renewed hope for the achievement of the development goals. In this regard, we will take such actions as the distribution of malaria bed nets, including free distribution, where appropriate, and effective anti-malarial treatments, the expansion of local school meal programmes, using home-grown foods where possible, and the elimination of user fees for primary education and, where appropriate, health-care services.

Systemic issues and global economic decision-making

35. We reaffirm the commitment to broaden and strengthen the participation of developing countries and countries with economies in transition in international economic decision-making and norm-setting, and to that end stress the importance of continuing efforts to reform the international financial architecture, noting that enhancing the voice and participation of developing countries and countries with economies in transition in the Bretton Woods institutions remains a continuous concern.

36. We reaffirm our commitment to governance, equity and transparency in the financial, monetary and trading systems. We are also committed to open, equitable, rule-based, predictable and non-discriminatory multilateral trading and financial systems.

37. We also underscore our commitment to sound domestic financial sectors, which make a vital contribution to national development efforts, as an important component of an international financial architecture that is supportive of development.

38. We further reaffirm the need for the United Nations to play a fundamental role in the promotion of international cooperation for development and the coherence, coordination and implementation of development goals and actions agreed upon by the international community, and we resolve to strengthen coordination within the United Nations system in close cooperation with all other multilateral financial, trade and development institutions in order to support sustained economic growth, poverty eradication and sustainable development.

39. Good governance at the international level is fundamental for achieving sustainable development. In order to ensure a dynamic and enabling international

⁶ See A/C.2/56/7, annex.

economic environment, it is important to promote global economic governance through addressing the international finance, trade, technology and investment patterns that have an impact on the development prospects of developing countries. To this effect, the international community should take all necessary and appropriate measures, including ensuring support for structural and macroeconomic reform, a comprehensive solution to the external debt problem and increasing the market access of developing countries.

South-South cooperation

40. We recognize the achievements and great potential of South-South cooperation and encourage the promotion of such cooperation, which complements North-South cooperation as an effective contribution to development and as a means to share best practices and provide enhanced technical cooperation. In this context, we note the recent decision of the leaders of the South, adopted at the Second South Summit and contained in the Doha Declaration⁷ and the Doha Plan of Action,⁸ to intensify their efforts at South-South cooperation, including through the establishment of the New Asian-African Strategic Partnership and other regional cooperation mechanisms, and encourage the international community, including the international financial institutions, to support the efforts of developing countries, inter alia, through triangular cooperation. We also take note with appreciation of the launching of the third round of negotiations on the Global System of Trade Preferences among Developing Countries as an important instrument to stimulate South-South cooperation.

41. We welcome the work of the United Nations High-Level Committee on South-South Cooperation and invite countries to consider supporting the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation within the United Nations Development Programme in order to respond effectively to the development needs of developing countries.

42. We recognize the considerable contribution of arrangements such as the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries Fund initiated by a group of developing countries, as well as the potential contribution of the South Fund for Development and Humanitarian Assistance, to development activities in developing countries.

Education

43. We emphasize the critical role of both formal and informal education in the achievement of poverty eradication and other development goals as envisaged in the Millennium Declaration,¹ in particular basic education and training for eradicating illiteracy, and strive for expanded secondary and higher education as well as vocational education and technical training, especially for girls and women, the creation of human resources and infrastructure capabilities and the empowerment of those living in poverty. In this context, we reaffirm the Dakar Framework for Action adopted at the World Education Forum in 2000⁹ and recognize the importance of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization strategy for the eradication of poverty, especially extreme poverty, in supporting the Education for

⁷ A/60/111, annex I.

⁸ Ibid., annex II.

⁹ See United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, *Final Report of the World Education Forum, Dakar, Senegal, 26-28 April 2000* (Paris, 2000).

All programmes as a tool to achieve the millennium development goal of universal primary education by 2015.

44. We reaffirm our commitment to support developing country efforts to ensure that all children have access to and complete free and compulsory primary education of good quality, to eliminate gender inequality and imbalance and to renew efforts to improve girls' education. We also commit ourselves to continuing to support the efforts of developing countries in the implementation of the Education for All initiative, including with enhanced resources of all types through the Education for All fast-track initiative in support of country-led national education plans.

45. We commit ourselves to promoting education for peace and human development.

Rural and agricultural development

46. We reaffirm that food security and rural and agricultural development must be adequately and urgently addressed in the context of national development and response strategies and, in this context, will enhance the contributions of indigenous and local communities, as appropriate. We are convinced that the eradication of poverty, hunger and malnutrition, particularly as they affect children, is crucial for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. Rural and agricultural development should be an integral part of national and international development policies. We deem it necessary to increase productive investment in rural and agricultural development to achieve food security. We commit ourselves to increasing support for agricultural development and trade capacity-building in the agricultural sector in developing countries. Support for commodity development projects, especially market-based projects, and for their preparation under the Second Account of the Common Fund for Commodities should be encouraged.

Employment

47. We strongly support fair globalization and resolve to make the goals of full and productive employment and decent work for all, including for women and young people, a central objective of our relevant national and international policies as well as our national development strategies, including poverty reduction strategies, as part of our efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals. These measures should also encompass the elimination of the worst forms of child labour, as defined in International Labour Organization Convention No. 182, and forced labour. We also resolve to ensure full respect for the fundamental principles and rights at work.

Sustainable development: managing and protecting our common environment

48. We reaffirm our commitment to achieve the goal of sustainable development, including through the implementation of Agenda 21¹⁰ and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation.³ To this end, we commit ourselves to undertaking concrete actions and measures at all levels and to enhancing international cooperation, taking into account the Rio principles.¹¹ These efforts will also promote the integration of the

¹⁰ *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigenda), vol. I: *Resolutions adopted by the Conference*, resolution I, annex II.

¹¹ *Ibid.*, annex I.

three components of sustainable development – economic development, social development and environmental protection – as interdependent and mutually reinforcing pillars. Poverty eradication, changing unsustainable patterns of production and consumption and protecting and managing the natural resource base of economic and social development are overarching objectives of and essential requirements for sustainable development.

49. We will promote sustainable consumption and production patterns, with the developed countries taking the lead and all countries benefiting from the process, as called for in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation. In that context, we support developing countries in their efforts to promote a recycling economy.

50. We face serious and multiple challenges in tackling climate change, promoting clean energy, meeting energy needs and achieving sustainable development, and we will act with resolve and urgency in this regard.

51. We recognize that climate change is a serious and long-term challenge that has the potential to affect every part of the globe. We emphasize the need to meet all the commitments and obligations we have undertaken in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change¹² and other relevant international agreements, including, for many of us, the Kyoto Protocol.¹³ The Convention is the appropriate framework for addressing future action on climate change at the global level.

52. We reaffirm our commitment to the ultimate objective of the Convention: to stabilize greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that prevents dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system.

53. We acknowledge that the global nature of climate change calls for the widest possible cooperation and participation in an effective and appropriate international response, in accordance with the principles of the Convention. We are committed to moving forward the global discussion on long-term cooperative action to address climate change, in accordance with these principles. We stress the importance of the eleventh session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, to be held in Montreal in November 2005.

54. We acknowledge various partnerships that are under way to advance action on clean energy and climate change, including bilateral, regional and multilateral initiatives.

55. We are committed to taking further action through practical international cooperation, inter alia:

(a) To promote innovation, clean energy and energy efficiency and conservation; improve policy, regulatory and financing frameworks; and accelerate the deployment of cleaner technologies;

(b) To enhance private investment, transfer of technologies and capacity-building to developing countries, as called for in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, taking into account their own energy needs and priorities;

(c) To assist developing countries to improve their resilience and integrate adaptation goals into their sustainable development strategies, given that adaptation to the effects of climate change due to both natural and human factors is a high

¹² United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1771, No. 30822.

¹³ FCCC/CP/1997/7/Add.1, decision 1/CP.3, annex.

priority for all nations, particularly those most vulnerable, namely, those referred to in article 4.8 of the Convention;

(d) To continue to assist developing countries, in particular small island developing States, least developed countries and African countries, including those that are particularly vulnerable to climate change, in addressing their adaptation needs relating to the adverse effects of climate change.

56. In pursuance of our commitment to achieve sustainable development, we further resolve:

(a) To promote the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development and the International Decade for Action, "Water for Life";

(b) To support and strengthen the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa,¹⁴ to address causes of desertification and land degradation, as well as poverty resulting from land degradation, through, inter alia, the mobilization of adequate and predictable financial resources, the transfer of technology and capacity-building at all levels;

(c) That the States parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity¹⁵ and the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety¹⁶ should support the implementation of the Convention and the Protocol, as well as other biodiversity-related agreements and the Johannesburg commitment for a significant reduction in the rate of loss of biodiversity by 2010. The States parties will continue to negotiate within the framework of the Convention on Biological Diversity, bearing in mind the Bonn Guidelines,¹⁷ an international regime to promote and safeguard the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources. All States will fulfil commitments and significantly reduce the rate of loss of biodiversity by 2010 and continue ongoing efforts towards elaborating and negotiating an international regime on access to genetic resources and benefit-sharing;

(d) To recognize that the sustainable development of indigenous peoples and their communities is crucial in our fight against hunger and poverty;

(e) To reaffirm our commitment, subject to national legislation, to respect, preserve and maintain the knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities embodying traditional lifestyles relevant to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, promote their wider application with the approval and involvement of the holders of such knowledge, innovations and practices and encourage the equitable sharing of the benefits arising from their utilization;

(f) To work expeditiously towards the establishment of a worldwide early warning system for all natural hazards with regional nodes, building on existing national and regional capacity such as the newly established Indian Ocean Tsunami Warning and Mitigation System;

¹⁴ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1954, No. 33480

¹⁵ *Ibid.*, vol. 1760, No. 30619.

¹⁶ UNEP/CBD/ExCOP/1/3 and Corr.1, part two, annex.

¹⁷ UNEP/CBD/COP/6/20, annex I, decision VI/24A.

(g) To fully implement the Hyogo Declaration¹⁸ and the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005–2015¹⁹ adopted at the World Conference on Disaster Reduction, in particular those commitments related to assistance for developing countries that are prone to natural disasters and disaster-stricken States in the transition phase towards sustainable physical, social and economic recovery, for risk-reduction activities in post-disaster recovery and for rehabilitation processes;

(h) To assist developing countries' efforts to prepare integrated water resources management and water efficiency plans as part of their national development strategies and to provide access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation in accordance with the Millennium Declaration¹ and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation,³ including halving by 2015 the proportion of people who are unable to reach or afford safe drinking water and who do not have access to basic sanitation;

(i) To accelerate the development and dissemination of affordable and cleaner energy efficiency and energy conservation technologies, as well as the transfer of such technologies, in particular to developing countries, on favourable terms, including on concessional and preferential terms, as mutually agreed, bearing in mind that access to energy facilitates the eradication of poverty;

(j) To strengthen the conservation, sustainable management and development of all types of forests for the benefit of current and future generations, including through enhanced international cooperation, so that trees and forests may contribute fully to the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration, taking full account of the linkages between the forest sector and other sectors. We look forward to the discussions at the sixth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests;

(k) To promote the sound management of chemicals and hazardous wastes throughout their life cycle, in accordance with Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, aiming to achieve that by 2020 chemicals are used and produced in ways that lead to the minimization of significant adverse effects on human health and the environment using transparent and science-based risk assessment and risk management procedures, by adopting and implementing a voluntary strategic approach to international management of chemicals, and to support developing countries in strengthening their capacity for the sound management of chemicals and hazardous wastes by providing technical and financial assistance, as appropriate;

(l) To improve cooperation and coordination at all levels in order to address issues related to oceans and seas in an integrated manner and promote integrated management and sustainable development of the oceans and seas;

(m) To achieve significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum-dwellers by 2020, recognizing the urgent need for the provision of increased resources for affordable housing and housing-related infrastructure, prioritizing slum prevention and slum upgrading, and to encourage support for the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation and its Slum Upgrading Facility;

¹⁸ A/CONF.206/6 and Corr.1, chap. I, resolution 1.

¹⁹ Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters (A/CONF.206/6 and Corr.1, chap. I, resolution 2).

(n) To acknowledge the invaluable role of the Global Environment Facility in facilitating cooperation with developing countries; we look forward to a successful replenishment this year along with the successful conclusion of all outstanding commitments from the third replenishment;

(o) To note that cessation of the transport of radioactive materials through the regions of small island developing States is an ultimate desired goal of small island developing States and some other countries and recognize the right of freedom of navigation in accordance with international law. States should maintain dialogue and consultation, in particular under the aegis of the International Atomic Energy Agency and the International Maritime Organization, with the aim of improved mutual understanding, confidence-building and enhanced communication in relation to the safe maritime transport of radioactive materials. States involved in the transport of such materials are urged to continue to engage in dialogue with small island developing States and other States to address their concerns. These concerns include the further development and strengthening, within the appropriate forums, of international regulatory regimes to enhance safety, disclosure, liability, security and compensation in relation to such transport.

HIV/AIDS, malaria, tuberculosis and other health issues

57. We recognize that HIV/AIDS, malaria, tuberculosis and other infectious diseases pose severe risks for the entire world and serious challenges to the achievement of development goals. We acknowledge the substantial efforts and financial contributions made by the international community, while recognizing that these diseases and other emerging health challenges require a sustained international response. To this end, we commit ourselves to:

(a) Increasing investment, building on existing mechanisms and through partnership, to improve health systems in developing countries and those with economies in transition with the aim of providing sufficient health workers, infrastructure, management systems and supplies to achieve the health-related Millennium Development Goals by 2015;

(b) Implementing measures to increase the capacity of adults and adolescents to protect themselves from the risk of HIV infection;

(c) Fully implementing all commitments established by the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS²⁰ through stronger leadership, the scaling up of a comprehensive response to achieve broad multisectoral coverage for prevention, care, treatment and support, the mobilization of additional resources from national, bilateral, multilateral and private sources and the substantial funding of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria as well as of the HIV/AIDS component of the work programmes of the United Nations system agencies and programmes engaged in the fight against HIV/AIDS;

(d) Developing and implementing a package for HIV prevention, treatment and care with the aim of coming as close as possible to the goal of universal access to treatment by 2010 for all those who need it, including through increased resources, and working towards the elimination of stigma and discrimination, enhanced access to affordable medicines and the reduction of vulnerability of

²⁰ Resolution S-26/2, annex.

persons affected by HIV/AIDS and other health issues, in particular orphaned and vulnerable children and older persons;

(e) Ensuring the full implementation of our obligations under the International Health Regulations adopted by the fifty-eighth World Health Assembly in May 2005,²¹ including the need to support the Global Outbreak Alert and Response Network of the World Health Organization;

(f) Working actively to implement the “Three Ones” principles in all countries, including by ensuring that multiple institutions and international partners all work under one agreed HIV/AIDS framework that provides the basis for coordinating the work of all partners, with one national AIDS coordinating authority having a broad-based multisectoral mandate, and under one agreed country-level monitoring and evaluation system. We welcome and support the important recommendations of the Global Task Team on Improving AIDS Coordination among Multilateral Institutions and International Donors;

(g) Achieving universal access to reproductive health by 2015, as set out at the International Conference on Population and Development, integrating this goal in strategies to attain the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration, aimed at reducing maternal mortality, improving maternal health, reducing child mortality, promoting gender equality, combating HIV/AIDS and eradicating poverty;

(h) Promoting long-term funding, including public-private partnerships where appropriate, for academic and industrial research as well as for the development of new vaccines and microbicides, diagnostic kits, drugs and treatments to address major pandemics, tropical diseases and other diseases, such as avian flu and severe acute respiratory syndrome, and taking forward work on market incentives, where appropriate through such mechanisms as advance purchase commitments;

(i) Stressing the need to urgently address malaria and tuberculosis, in particular in the most affected countries, and welcoming the scaling up, in this regard, of bilateral and multilateral initiatives.

Gender equality and empowerment of women

58. We remain convinced that progress for women is progress for all. We reaffirm that the full and effective implementation of the goals and objectives of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action²² and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly is an essential contribution to achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration, and we resolve to promote gender equality and eliminate pervasive gender discrimination by:

(a) Eliminating gender inequalities in primary and secondary education by the earliest possible date and at all educational levels by 2015;

(b) Guaranteeing the free and equal right of women to own and inherit property and ensuring secure tenure of property and housing by women;

²¹ World Health Assembly resolution 58.3.

²² *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

- (c) Ensuring equal access to reproductive health;
- (d) Promoting women's equal access to labour markets, sustainable employment and adequate labour protection;
- (e) Ensuring equal access of women to productive assets and resources, including land, credit and technology;
- (f) Eliminating all forms of discrimination and violence against women and the girl child, including by ending impunity and by ensuring the protection of civilians, in particular women and the girl child, during and after armed conflicts in accordance with the obligations of States under international humanitarian law and international human rights law;
- (g) Promoting increased representation of women in Government decision-making bodies, including through ensuring their equal opportunity to participate fully in the political process.

59. We recognize the importance of gender mainstreaming as a tool for achieving gender equality. To that end, we undertake to actively promote the mainstreaming of a gender perspective in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programmes in all political, economic and social spheres, and further undertake to strengthen the capabilities of the United Nations system in the area of gender.

Science and technology for development

60. We recognize that science and technology, including information and communication technology, are vital for the achievement of the development goals and that international support can help developing countries to benefit from technological advancements and enhance their productive capacity. We therefore commit ourselves to:

- (a) Strengthening and enhancing existing mechanisms and supporting initiatives for research and development, including through voluntary partnerships between the public and private sectors, to address the special needs of developing countries in the areas of health, agriculture, conservation, sustainable use of natural resources and environmental management, energy, forestry and the impact of climate change;
- (b) Promoting and facilitating, as appropriate, access to and the development, transfer and diffusion of technologies, including environmentally sound technologies and corresponding know-how, to developing countries;
- (c) Assisting developing countries in their efforts to promote and develop national strategies for human resources and science and technology, which are primary drivers of national capacity-building for development;
- (d) Promoting and supporting greater efforts to develop renewable sources of energy, such as solar, wind and geothermal;
- (e) Implementing policies at the national and international levels to attract both public and private investment, domestic and foreign, that enhances knowledge, transfers technology on mutually agreed terms and raises productivity;
- (f) Supporting the efforts of developing countries, individually and collectively, to harness new agricultural technologies in order to increase agricultural productivity through environmentally sustainable means;

(g) Building a people-centred and inclusive information society so as to enhance digital opportunities for all people in order to help bridge the digital divide, putting the potential of information and communication technologies at the service of development and addressing new challenges of the information society by implementing the outcomes of the Geneva phase of the World Summit on the Information Society and ensuring the success of the second phase of the Summit, to be held in Tunis in November 2005; in this regard, we welcome the establishment of the Digital Solidarity Fund and encourage voluntary contributions to its financing.

Migration and development

61. We acknowledge the important nexus between international migration and development and the need to deal with the challenges and opportunities that migration presents to countries of origin, destination and transit. We recognize that international migration brings benefits as well as challenges to the global community. We look forward to the high-level dialogue of the General Assembly on international migration and development to be held in 2006, which will offer an opportunity to discuss the multidimensional aspects of international migration and development in order to identify appropriate ways and means to maximize their development benefits and minimize their negative impacts.

62. We reaffirm our resolve to take measures to ensure respect for and protection of the human rights of migrants, migrant workers and members of their families.

63. We reaffirm the need to adopt policies and undertake measures to reduce the cost of transferring migrant remittances to developing countries and welcome efforts by Governments and stakeholders in this regard.

Countries with special needs

64. We reaffirm our commitment to address the special needs of the least developed countries and urge all countries and all relevant organizations of the United Nations system, including the Bretton Woods institutions, to make concerted efforts and adopt speedy measures for meeting in a timely manner the goals and targets of the Brussels Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001–2010.⁴

65. We recognize the special needs of and challenges faced by landlocked developing countries and therefore reaffirm our commitment to urgently address those needs and challenges through the full, timely and effective implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action: Addressing the Special Needs of Landlocked Developing Countries within a New Global Framework for Transit Transport Cooperation for Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries²³ and the São Paulo Consensus adopted at the eleventh session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development.²⁴ We encourage the work undertaken by United Nations regional commissions and organizations towards establishing a time-cost methodology for indicators to measure the progress in implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action. We also recognize the special difficulties and concerns of landlocked developing countries in their efforts to integrate their economies into the

²³ *Report of the International Ministerial Conference of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation, Almaty, Kazakhstan, 28 and 29 August 2003 (A/CONF.202/3), annex I.*

²⁴ TD/412, part II.

multilateral trading system. In this regard, priority should be given to the full and timely implementation of the Almaty Declaration²⁵ and the Almaty Programme of Action.²³

66. We recognize the special needs and vulnerabilities of small island developing States and reaffirm our commitment to take urgent and concrete action to address those needs and vulnerabilities through the full and effective implementation of the Mauritius Strategy adopted by the International Meeting to Review the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,²⁶ the Barbados Programme of Action²⁷ and the outcome of the twenty-second special session of the General Assembly.²⁸ We further undertake to promote greater international cooperation and partnership for the implementation of the Mauritius Strategy through, inter alia, the mobilization of domestic and international resources, the promotion of international trade as an engine for development and increased international financial and technical cooperation.

67. We emphasize the need for continued, coordinated and effective international support for achieving the development goals in countries emerging from conflict and in those recovering from natural disasters.

Meeting the special needs of Africa

68. We welcome the substantial progress made by the African countries in fulfilling their commitments and emphasize the need to carry forward the implementation of the New Partnership for Africa's Development²⁹ to promote sustainable growth and development and deepen democracy, human rights, good governance and sound economic management and gender equality and encourage African countries, with the participation of civil society and the private sector, to continue their efforts in this regard by developing and strengthening institutions for governance and the development of the region, and also welcome the recent decisions taken by Africa's partners, including the Group of Eight and the European Union, in support of Africa's development efforts, including commitments that will lead to an increase in official development assistance to Africa of 25 billion dollars per year by 2010. We reaffirm our commitment to address the special needs of Africa, which is the only continent not on track to meet any of the goals of the Millennium Declaration by 2015, to enable it to enter the mainstream of the world economy, and resolve:

(a) To strengthen cooperation with the New Partnership for Africa's Development by providing coherent support for the programmes drawn up by African leaders within that framework, including by mobilizing internal and

²⁵ *Report of the International Ministerial Conference of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation, Almaty, Kazakhstan, 28 and 29 August 2003 (A/CONF.202/3), annex II.*

²⁶ *Report of the International Meeting to Review the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Port Louis, Mauritius, 10-14 January 2005 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.05.II.A.4 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.*

²⁷ *Report of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Bridgetown, Barbados, 25 April-6 May 1994 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.94.I.18 and corrigenda), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.*

²⁸ Resolution S-22/2, annex.

²⁹ A/57/304, annex.

external financial resources and facilitating approval of such programmes by the multilateral financial institutions;

(b) To support the African commitment to ensure that by 2015 all children have access to complete, free and compulsory primary education of good quality, as well as to basic health care;

(c) To support the building of an international infrastructure consortium involving the African Union, the World Bank and the African Development Bank, with the New Partnership for Africa's Development as the main framework, to facilitate public and private infrastructure investment in Africa;

(d) To promote a comprehensive and durable solution to the external debt problems of African countries, including through the cancellation of 100 per cent of multilateral debt consistent with the recent Group of Eight proposal for the heavily indebted poor countries, and, on a case-by-case basis, where appropriate, significant debt relief, including, inter alia, cancellation or restructuring for heavily indebted African countries not part of the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative that have unsustainable debt burdens;

(e) To make efforts to fully integrate African countries in the international trading system, including through targeted trade capacity-building programmes;

(f) To support the efforts of commodity-dependent African countries to restructure, diversify and strengthen the competitiveness of their commodity sectors and decide to work towards market-based arrangements with the participation of the private sector for commodity price-risk management;

(g) To supplement the efforts of African countries, individually and collectively, to increase agricultural productivity, in a sustainable way, as set out in the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme of the New Partnership for Africa's Development as part of an African "Green Revolution";

(h) To encourage and support the initiatives of the African Union and subregional organizations to prevent, mediate and resolve conflicts with the assistance of the United Nations, and in this regard welcomes the proposals from the Group of Eight countries to provide support for African peacekeeping;

(i) To provide, with the aim of an AIDS-, malaria- and tuberculosis-free generation in Africa, assistance for prevention and care and to come as close as possible to achieving the goal of universal access by 2010 to HIV/AIDS treatment in African countries, to encourage pharmaceutical companies to make drugs, including antiretroviral drugs, affordable and accessible in Africa and to ensure increased bilateral and multilateral assistance, where possible on a grant basis, to combat malaria, tuberculosis and other infectious diseases in Africa through the strengthening of health systems.

III. Peace and collective security

69. We recognize that we are facing a whole range of threats that require our urgent, collective and more determined response.

70. We also recognize that, in accordance with the Charter, addressing such threats requires cooperation among all the principal organs of the United Nations within their respective mandates.

71. We acknowledge that we are living in an interdependent and global world and that many of today's threats recognize no national boundaries, are interlinked and

must be tackled at the global, regional and national levels in accordance with the Charter and international law.

72. We therefore reaffirm our commitment to work towards a security consensus based on the recognition that many threats are interlinked, that development, peace, security and human rights are mutually reinforcing, that no State can best protect itself by acting entirely alone and that all States need an effective and efficient collective security system pursuant to the purposes and principles of the Charter.

Pacific settlement of disputes

73. We emphasize the obligation of States to settle their disputes by peaceful means in accordance with Chapter VI of the Charter, including, when appropriate, by the use of the International Court of Justice. All States should act in accordance with the Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Cooperation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations.³⁰

74. We stress the importance of prevention of armed conflict in accordance with the purposes and principles of the Charter and solemnly renew our commitment to promote a culture of prevention of armed conflict as a means of effectively addressing the interconnected security and development challenges faced by peoples throughout the world, as well as to strengthen the capacity of the United Nations for the prevention of armed conflict.

75. We further stress the importance of a coherent and integrated approach to the prevention of armed conflicts and the settlement of disputes and the need for the Security Council, the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Secretary-General to coordinate their activities within their respective Charter mandates.

76. Recognizing the important role of the good offices of the Secretary-General, including in the mediation of disputes, we support the Secretary-General's efforts to strengthen his capacity in this area.

Use of force under the Charter of the United Nations

77. We reiterate the obligation of all Member States to refrain in their international relations from the threat or use of force in any manner inconsistent with the Charter. We reaffirm that the purposes and principles guiding the United Nations are, inter alia, to maintain international peace and security, to develop friendly relations among nations based on respect for the principles of equal rights and self-determination of peoples and to take other appropriate measures to strengthen universal peace, and to that end we are determined to take effective collective measures for the prevention and removal of threats to the peace and for the suppression of acts of aggression or other breaches of the peace, and to bring about by peaceful means, in conformity with the principles of justice and international law, the adjustment or settlement of international disputes or situations that might lead to a breach of the peace.

78. We reiterate the importance of promoting and strengthening the multilateral process and of addressing international challenges and problems by strictly abiding

³⁰ Resolution 2625 (XXV), annex.

by the Charter and the principles of international law, and further stress our commitment to multilateralism.

79. We reaffirm that the relevant provisions of the Charter are sufficient to address the full range of threats to international peace and security. We further reaffirm the authority of the Security Council to mandate coercive action to maintain and restore international peace and security. We stress the importance of acting in accordance with the purposes and principles of the Charter.

80. We also reaffirm that the Security Council has primary responsibility in the maintenance of international peace and security. We also note the role of the General Assembly relating to the maintenance of international peace and security in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter.

Terrorism

81. We strongly condemn terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, committed by whomever, wherever and for whatever purposes, as it constitutes one of the most serious threats to international peace and security.

82. We welcome the Secretary-General's identification of elements of a counter-terrorism strategy. These elements should be developed by the General Assembly without delay with a view to adopting and implementing a strategy to promote comprehensive, coordinated and consistent responses, at the national, regional and international levels, to counter terrorism, which also takes into account the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism. In this context, we commend the various initiatives to promote dialogue, tolerance and understanding among civilizations.

83. We stress the need to make every effort to reach an agreement on and conclude a comprehensive convention on international terrorism during the sixtieth session of the General Assembly.

84. We acknowledge that the question of convening a high-level conference under the auspices of the United Nations to formulate an international response to terrorism in all its forms and manifestations could be considered.

85. We recognize that international cooperation to fight terrorism must be conducted in conformity with international law, including the Charter and relevant international conventions and protocols. States must ensure that any measures taken to combat terrorism comply with their obligations under international law, in particular human rights law, refugee law and international humanitarian law.

86. We reiterate our call upon States to refrain from organizing, financing, encouraging, providing training for or otherwise supporting terrorist activities and to take appropriate measures to ensure that their territories are not used for such activities.

87. We acknowledge the important role played by the United Nations in combating terrorism and also stress the vital contribution of regional and bilateral cooperation, particularly at the practical level of law enforcement cooperation and technical exchange.

88. We urge the international community, including the United Nations, to assist States in building national and regional capacity to combat terrorism. We invite the Secretary-General to submit proposals to the General Assembly and the Security Council, within their respective mandates, to strengthen the capacity of the United

Nations system to assist States in combating terrorism and to enhance the coordination of United Nations activities in this regard.

89. We stress the importance of assisting victims of terrorism and of providing them and their families with support to cope with their loss and their grief.

90. We encourage the Security Council to consider ways to strengthen its monitoring and enforcement role in counter-terrorism, including by consolidating State reporting requirements, taking into account and respecting the different mandates of its counter-terrorism subsidiary bodies. We are committed to cooperating fully with the three competent subsidiary bodies in the fulfilment of their tasks, recognizing that many States continue to require assistance in implementing relevant Security Council resolutions.

91. We support efforts for the early entry into force of the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism³¹ and strongly encourage States to consider becoming parties to it expeditiously and acceding without delay to the twelve other international conventions and protocols against terrorism and implementing them.

Peacekeeping

92. Recognizing that United Nations peacekeeping plays a vital role in helping parties to conflict end hostilities and commending the contribution of United Nations peacekeepers in that regard, noting improvements made in recent years in United Nations peacekeeping, including the deployment of integrated missions in complex situations, and stressing the need to mount operations with adequate capacity to counter hostilities and fulfil effectively their mandates, we urge further development of proposals for enhanced rapidly deployable capacities to reinforce peacekeeping operations in crises. We endorse the creation of an initial operating capability for a standing police capacity to provide coherent, effective and responsive start-up capability for the policing component of the United Nations peacekeeping missions and to assist existing missions through the provision of advice and expertise.

93. Recognizing the important contribution to peace and security by regional organizations as provided for under Chapter VIII of the Charter and the importance of forging predictable partnerships and arrangements between the United Nations and regional organizations, and noting in particular, given the special needs of Africa, the importance of a strong African Union:

(a) We support the efforts of the European Union and other regional entities to develop capacities such as for rapid deployment, standby and bridging arrangements;

(b) We support the development and implementation of a ten-year plan for capacity-building with the African Union.

³¹ Resolution 59/290, annex.

94. We support implementation of the 2001 Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects.³²

95. We urge States parties to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention³³ and Amended Protocol II to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons³⁴ to fully implement their respective obligations. We call upon States in a position to do so to provide greater technical assistance to mine-affected States.

96. We underscore the importance of the recommendations of the Adviser to the Secretary-General on Sexual Exploitation and Abuse by United Nations Peacekeeping Personnel,³⁵ and urge that those measures adopted in the relevant General Assembly resolutions based upon the recommendations be fully implemented without delay.

Peacebuilding

97. Emphasizing the need for a coordinated, coherent and integrated approach to post-conflict peacebuilding and reconciliation with a view to achieving sustainable peace, recognizing the need for a dedicated institutional mechanism to address the special needs of countries emerging from conflict towards recovery, reintegration and reconstruction and to assist them in laying the foundation for sustainable development, and recognizing the vital role of the United Nations in that regard, we decide to establish a Peacebuilding Commission as an intergovernmental advisory body.

98. The main purpose of the Peacebuilding Commission is to bring together all relevant actors to marshal resources and to advise on and propose integrated strategies for post-conflict peacebuilding and recovery. The Commission should focus attention on the reconstruction and institution-building efforts necessary for recovery from conflict and support the development of integrated strategies in order to lay the foundation for sustainable development. In addition, it should provide recommendations and information to improve the coordination of all relevant actors within and outside the United Nations, develop best practices, help to ensure predictable financing for early recovery activities and extend the period of attention by the international community to post-conflict recovery. The Commission should act in all matters on the basis of consensus of its members.

99. The Peacebuilding Commission should make the outcome of its discussions and recommendations publicly available as United Nations documents to all relevant bodies and actors, including the international financial institutions. The Peacebuilding Commission should submit an annual report to the General Assembly.

100. The Peacebuilding Commission should meet in various configurations. Country-specific meetings of the Commission, upon invitation of the Organizational

³² See *Report of the United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects*, New York, 9-20 July 2001 (A/CONF.192/15), chap. IV, para. 24.

³³ Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-personnel Mines and on Their Destruction (United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2056, No. 35597).

³⁴ Amended Protocol II to the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects (CCW/CONF.1/16 (Part I), annex B).

³⁵ A/59/710, paras. 68-93.

Committee referred to in paragraph 101 below, should include as members, in addition to members of the Organizational Committee, representatives from:

- (a) The country under consideration;
- (b) Countries in the region engaged in the post-conflict process and other countries that are involved in relief efforts and/or political dialogue, as well as relevant regional and subregional organizations;
- (c) The major financial, troop and civilian police contributors involved in the recovery effort;
- (d) The senior United Nations representative in the field and other relevant United Nations representatives;
- (e) Such regional and international financial institutions as may be relevant.

101. The Peacebuilding Commission should have a standing Organizational Committee, responsible for developing its procedures and organizational matters, comprising:

- (a) Members of the Security Council, including permanent members;
- (b) Members of the Economic and Social Council, elected from regional groups, giving due consideration to those countries that have experienced post-conflict recovery;
- (c) Top providers of assessed contributions to the United Nations budgets and voluntary contributions to the United Nations funds, programmes and agencies, including the standing Peacebuilding Fund, that are not among those selected in (a) or (b) above;
- (d) Top providers of military personnel and civilian police to United Nations missions that are not among those selected in (a), (b) or (c) above.

102. Representatives from the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund and other institutional donors should be invited to participate in all meetings of the Peacebuilding Commission in a manner suitable to their governing arrangements, in addition to a representative of the Secretary-General.

103. We request the Secretary-General to establish a multi-year standing Peacebuilding Fund for post-conflict peacebuilding, funded by voluntary contributions and taking due account of existing instruments. The objectives of the Peacebuilding Fund will include ensuring the immediate release of resources needed to launch peacebuilding activities and the availability of appropriate financing for recovery.

104. We also request the Secretary-General to establish, within the Secretariat and from within existing resources, a small peacebuilding support office staffed by qualified experts to assist and support the Peacebuilding Commission. The office should draw on the best expertise available.

105. The Peacebuilding Commission should begin its work no later than 31 December 2005.

Sanctions

106. We underscore that sanctions remain an important tool under the Charter in our efforts to maintain international peace and security without recourse to the use of force, and resolve to ensure that sanctions are carefully targeted in support of clear

objectives, to comply with sanctions established by the Security Council and to ensure that sanctions are implemented in ways that balance effectiveness to achieve the desired results against the possible adverse consequences, including socio-economic and humanitarian consequences, for populations and third States.

107. Sanctions should be implemented and monitored effectively with clear benchmarks and should be periodically reviewed, as appropriate, and remain for as limited a period as necessary to achieve their objectives and should be terminated once the objectives have been achieved.

108. We call upon the Security Council, with the support of the Secretary-General, to improve its monitoring of the implementation and effects of sanctions, to ensure that sanctions are implemented in an accountable manner, to review regularly the results of such monitoring and to develop a mechanism to address special economic problems arising from the application of sanctions in accordance with the Charter.

109. We also call upon the Security Council, with the support of the Secretary-General, to ensure that fair and clear procedures exist for placing individuals and entities on sanctions lists and for removing them, as well as for granting humanitarian exemptions.

110. We support efforts through the United Nations to strengthen State capacity to implement sanctions provisions.

Transnational crime

111. We express our grave concern at the negative effects on development, peace and security and human rights posed by transnational crime, including the smuggling of and trafficking in human beings, the world narcotic drug problem and the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons, and at the increasing vulnerability of States to such crime. We reaffirm the need to work collectively to combat transnational crime.

112. We recognize that trafficking in persons continues to pose a serious challenge to humanity and requires a concerted international response. To that end, we urge all States to devise, enforce and strengthen effective measures to combat and eliminate all forms of trafficking in persons to counter the demand for trafficked victims and to protect the victims.

113. We urge all States that have not yet done so to consider becoming parties to the relevant international conventions on organized crime and corruption and, following their entry into force, to implement them effectively, including by incorporating the provisions of those conventions into national legislation and by strengthening criminal justice systems.

114. We reaffirm our unwavering determination and commitment to overcome the world narcotic drug problem through international cooperation and national strategies to eliminate both the illicit supply of and demand for illicit drugs.

115. We resolve to strengthen the capacity of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, within its existing mandates, to provide assistance to Member States in those tasks upon request.

Women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts

116. We stress the important role of women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts and in peacebuilding. We reaffirm our commitment to the full and effective implementation of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) of 31 October 2000 on

women and peace and security. We also underline the importance of integrating a gender perspective and of women having the opportunity for equal participation and full involvement in all efforts to maintain and promote peace and security, as well as the need to increase their role in decision-making at all levels. We strongly condemn all violations of the human rights of women and girls in situations of armed conflict and the use of sexual exploitation, violence and abuse, and we commit ourselves to elaborating and implementing strategies to report on, prevent and punish gender-based violence.

Protecting children in situations of armed conflict

117. We reaffirm our commitment to promote and protect the rights and welfare of children in armed conflicts. We welcome the significant advances and innovations that have been achieved over the past several years. We welcome in particular the adoption of Security Council resolution 1612 (2005) of 26 July 2005. We call upon States to consider ratifying the Convention on the Rights of the Child³⁶ and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict.³⁷ We also call upon States to take effective measures, as appropriate, to prevent the recruitment and use of children in armed conflict, contrary to international law, by armed forces and groups, and to prohibit and criminalize such practices.

118. We therefore call upon all States concerned to take concrete measures to ensure accountability and compliance by those responsible for grave abuses against children. We also reaffirm our commitment to ensure that children in armed conflicts receive timely and effective humanitarian assistance, including education, for their rehabilitation and reintegration into society.

IV. Human rights and the rule of law

119. We recommit ourselves to actively protecting and promoting all human rights, the rule of law and democracy and recognize that they are interlinked and mutually reinforcing and that they belong to the universal and indivisible core values and principles of the United Nations, and call upon all parts of the United Nations to promote human rights and fundamental freedoms in accordance with their mandates.

120. We reaffirm the solemn commitment of our States to fulfil their obligations to promote universal respect for and the observance and protection of all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all in accordance with the Charter, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights³⁸ and other instruments relating to human rights and international law. The universal nature of these rights and freedoms is beyond question.

Human rights

121. We reaffirm that all human rights are universal, indivisible, interrelated, interdependent and mutually reinforcing and that all human rights must be treated in a fair and equal manner, on the same footing and with the same emphasis. While the significance of national and regional particularities and various historical, cultural and religious backgrounds must be borne in mind, all States, regardless of their

³⁶ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1577, No. 27531.

³⁷ Resolution 54/263, annex I.

³⁸ Resolution 217 A (III).

political, economic and cultural systems, have the duty to promote and protect all human rights and fundamental freedoms.

122. We emphasize the responsibilities of all States, in conformity with the Charter, to respect human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, without distinction of any kind as to race, colour, sex, language or religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status.

123. We resolve further to strengthen the United Nations human rights machinery with the aim of ensuring effective enjoyment by all of all human rights and civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to development.

124. We resolve to strengthen the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, taking note of the High Commissioner's plan of action, to enable it to effectively carry out its mandate to respond to the broad range of human rights challenges facing the international community, particularly in the areas of technical assistance and capacity-building, through the doubling of its regular budget resources over the next five years with a view to progressively setting a balance between regular budget and voluntary contributions to its resources, keeping in mind other priority programmes for developing countries and the recruitment of highly competent staff on a broad geographical basis and with gender balance, under the regular budget, and we support its closer cooperation with all relevant United Nations bodies, including the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Security Council.

125. We resolve to improve the effectiveness of the human rights treaty bodies, including through more timely reporting, improved and streamlined reporting procedures and technical assistance to States to enhance their reporting capacities and further enhance the implementation of their recommendations.

126. We resolve to integrate the promotion and protection of human rights into national policies and to support the further mainstreaming of human rights throughout the United Nations system, as well as closer cooperation between the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and all relevant United Nations bodies.

127. We reaffirm our commitment to continue making progress in the advancement of the human rights of the world's indigenous peoples at the local, national, regional and international levels, including through consultation and collaboration with them, and to present for adoption a final draft United Nations declaration on the rights of indigenous peoples as soon as possible.

128. We recognize the need to pay special attention to the human rights of women and children and undertake to advance them in every possible way, including by bringing gender and child-protection perspectives into the human rights agenda.

129. We recognize the need for persons with disabilities to be guaranteed full enjoyment of their rights without discrimination. We also affirm the need to finalize a comprehensive draft convention on the rights of persons with disabilities.

130. We note that the promotion and protection of the rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities contribute to political and social stability and peace and enrich the cultural diversity and heritage of society.

131. We support the promotion of human rights education and learning at all levels, including through the implementation of the World Programme for Human Rights Education, as appropriate, and encourage all States to develop initiatives in this regard.

Internally displaced persons

132. We recognize the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement³⁹ as an important international framework for the protection of internally displaced persons and resolve to take effective measures to increase the protection of internally displaced persons.

Refugee protection and assistance

133. We commit ourselves to safeguarding the principle of refugee protection and to upholding our responsibility in resolving the plight of refugees, including through the support of efforts aimed at addressing the causes of refugee movement, bringing about the safe and sustainable return of those populations, finding durable solutions for refugees in protracted situations and preventing refugee movement from becoming a source of tension among States. We reaffirm the principle of solidarity and burden-sharing and resolve to support nations in assisting refugee populations and their host communities.

Rule of law

134. Recognizing the need for universal adherence to and implementation of the rule of law at both the national and international levels, we:

(a) Reaffirm our commitment to the purposes and principles of the Charter and international law and to an international order based on the rule of law and international law, which is essential for peaceful coexistence and cooperation among States;

(b) Support the annual treaty event;

(c) Encourage States that have not yet done so to consider becoming parties to all treaties that relate to the protection of civilians;

(d) Call upon States to continue their efforts to eradicate policies and practices that discriminate against women and to adopt laws and promote practices that protect the rights of women and promote gender equality;

(e) Support the idea of establishing a rule of law assistance unit within the Secretariat, in accordance with existing relevant procedures, subject to a report by the Secretary-General to the General Assembly, so as to strengthen United Nations activities to promote the rule of law, including through technical assistance and capacity-building;

(f) Recognize the important role of the International Court of Justice, the principal judicial organ of the United Nations, in adjudicating disputes among States and the value of its work, call upon States that have not yet done so to consider accepting the jurisdiction of the Court in accordance with its Statute and consider means of strengthening the Court's work, including by supporting the Secretary-General's Trust Fund to Assist States in the Settlement of Disputes through the International Court of Justice on a voluntary basis.

³⁹ E/CN.4/1998/53/Add.2, annex.

Democracy

135. We reaffirm that democracy is a universal value based on the freely expressed will of people to determine their own political, economic, social and cultural systems and their full participation in all aspects of their lives. We also reaffirm that while democracies share common features, there is no single model of democracy, that it does not belong to any country or region, and reaffirm the necessity of due respect for sovereignty and the right of self-determination. We stress that democracy, development and respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms are interdependent and mutually reinforcing.

136. We renew our commitment to support democracy by strengthening countries' capacity to implement the principles and practices of democracy and resolve to strengthen the capacity of the United Nations to assist Member States upon their request. We welcome the establishment of a Democracy Fund at the United Nations. We note that the advisory board to be established should reflect diverse geographical representation. We invite the Secretary-General to help to ensure that practical arrangements for the Democracy Fund take proper account of existing United Nations activity in this field.

137. We invite interested Member States to give serious consideration to contributing to the Fund.

Responsibility to protect populations from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity

138. Each individual State has the responsibility to protect its populations from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity. This responsibility entails the prevention of such crimes, including their incitement, through appropriate and necessary means. We accept that responsibility and will act in accordance with it. The international community should, as appropriate, encourage and help States to exercise this responsibility and support the United Nations in establishing an early warning capability.

139. The international community, through the United Nations, also has the responsibility to use appropriate diplomatic, humanitarian and other peaceful means, in accordance with Chapters VI and VIII of the Charter, to help to protect populations from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity. In this context, we are prepared to take collective action, in a timely and decisive manner, through the Security Council, in accordance with the Charter, including Chapter VII, on a case-by-case basis and in cooperation with relevant regional organizations as appropriate, should peaceful means be inadequate and national authorities are manifestly failing to protect their populations from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity. We stress the need for the General Assembly to continue consideration of the responsibility to protect populations from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity and its implications, bearing in mind the principles of the Charter and international law. We also intend to commit ourselves, as necessary and appropriate, to helping States build capacity to protect their populations from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity and to assisting those which are under stress before crises and conflicts break out.

140. We fully support the mission of the Special Adviser of the Secretary-General on the Prevention of Genocide.

Children's rights

141. We express dismay at the increasing number of children involved in and affected by armed conflict, as well as all other forms of violence, including domestic violence, sexual abuse and exploitation and trafficking. We support cooperation policies aimed at strengthening national capacities to improve the situation of those children and to assist in their rehabilitation and reintegration into society.

142. We commit ourselves to respecting and ensuring the rights of each child without discrimination of any kind, irrespective of the race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national, ethnic or social origin, property, disability, birth or other status of the child or his or her parent(s) or legal guardian(s). We call upon States to consider as a priority becoming a party to the Convention on the Rights of the Child.³⁶

Human security

143. We stress the right of people to live in freedom and dignity, free from poverty and despair. We recognize that all individuals, in particular vulnerable people, are entitled to freedom from fear and freedom from want, with an equal opportunity to enjoy all their rights and fully develop their human potential. To this end, we commit ourselves to discussing and defining the notion of human security in the General Assembly.

Culture of peace and initiatives on dialogue among cultures, civilizations and religions

144. We reaffirm the Declaration and Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace⁴⁰ as well as the Global Agenda for Dialogue among Civilizations and its Programme of Action⁴¹ adopted by the General Assembly and the value of different initiatives on dialogue among cultures and civilizations, including the dialogue on interfaith cooperation. We commit ourselves to taking action to promote a culture of peace and dialogue at the local, national, regional and international levels and request the Secretary-General to explore enhancing implementation mechanisms and to follow up on those initiatives. In this regard, we also welcome the Alliance of Civilizations initiative announced by the Secretary-General on 14 July 2005.

145. We underline that sports can foster peace and development and can contribute to an atmosphere of tolerance and understanding, and we encourage discussions in the General Assembly for proposals leading to a plan of action on sport and development.

V. Strengthening the United Nations

146. We reaffirm our commitment to strengthen the United Nations with a view to enhancing its authority and efficiency, as well as its capacity to address effectively, and in accordance with the purposes and principles of the Charter, the full range of challenges of our time. We are determined to reinvigorate the intergovernmental organs of the United Nations and to adapt them to the needs of the twenty-first century.

⁴⁰ Resolutions 53/243 A and B.

⁴¹ See resolution 56/6.

147. We stress that, in order to efficiently perform their respective mandates as provided under the Charter, United Nations bodies should develop good cooperation and coordination in the common endeavour of building a more effective United Nations.

148. We emphasize the need to provide the United Nations with adequate and timely resources with a view to enabling it to carry out its mandates. A reformed United Nations must be responsive to the entire membership, faithful to its founding principles and adapted to carrying out its mandate.

General Assembly

149. We reaffirm the central position of the General Assembly as the chief deliberative, policymaking and representative organ of the United Nations, as well as the role of the Assembly in the process of standard-setting and the codification of international law.

150. We welcome the measures adopted by the General Assembly with a view to strengthening its role and authority and the role and leadership of the President of the Assembly and, to that end, we call for their full and speedy implementation.

151. We call for strengthening the relationship between the General Assembly and the other principal organs to ensure better coordination on topical issues that require coordinated action by the United Nations, in accordance with their respective mandates.

Security Council

152. We reaffirm that Member States have conferred on the Security Council primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security, acting on their behalf, as provided for by the Charter.

153. We support early reform of the Security Council - an essential element of our overall effort to reform the United Nations - in order to make it more broadly representative, efficient and transparent and thus to further enhance its effectiveness and the legitimacy and implementation of its decisions. We commit ourselves to continuing our efforts to achieve a decision to this end and request the General Assembly to review progress on the reform set out above by the end of 2005.

154. We recommend that the Security Council continue to adapt its working methods so as to increase the involvement of States not members of the Council in its work, as appropriate, enhance its accountability to the membership and increase the transparency of its work.

Economic and Social Council

155. We reaffirm the role that the Charter and the General Assembly have vested in the Economic and Social Council and recognize the need for a more effective Economic and Social Council as a principal body for coordination, policy review, policy dialogue and recommendations on issues of economic and social development, as well as for implementation of the international development goals agreed at the major United Nations conferences and summits, including the Millennium Development Goals. To achieve these objectives, the Council should:

(a) Promote global dialogue and partnership on global policies and trends in the economic, social, environmental and humanitarian fields. For this purpose, the Council should serve as a quality platform for high-level engagement among

Member States and with the international financial institutions, the private sector and civil society on emerging global trends, policies and action and develop its ability to respond better and more rapidly to developments in the international economic, environmental and social fields;

(b) Hold a biennial high-level Development Cooperation Forum to review trends in international development cooperation, including strategies, policies and financing, promote greater coherence among the development activities of different development partners and strengthen the links between the normative and operational work of the United Nations;

(c) Ensure follow-up of the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits, including the internationally agreed development goals, and hold annual ministerial-level substantive reviews to assess progress, drawing on its functional and regional commissions and other international institutions, in accordance with their respective mandates;

(d) Support and complement international efforts aimed at addressing humanitarian emergencies, including natural disasters, in order to promote an improved, coordinated response from the United Nations;

(e) Play a major role in the overall coordination of funds, programmes and agencies, ensuring coherence among them and avoiding duplication of mandates and activities.

156. We stress that in order to fully perform the above functions, the organization of work, the agenda and the current methods of work of the Economic and Social Council should be adapted.

Human Rights Council

157. Pursuant to our commitment to further strengthen the United Nations human rights machinery, we resolve to create a Human Rights Council.

158. The Council will be responsible for promoting universal respect for the protection of all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, without distinction of any kind and in a fair and equal manner.

159. The Council should address situations of violations of human rights, including gross and systematic violations, and make recommendations thereon. It should also promote effective coordination and the mainstreaming of human rights within the United Nations system.

160. We request the President of the General Assembly to conduct open, transparent and inclusive negotiations, to be completed as soon as possible during the sixtieth session, with the aim of establishing the mandate, modalities, functions, size, composition, membership, working methods and procedures of the Council.

Secretariat and management reform

161. We recognize that in order to effectively comply with the principles and objectives of the Charter, we need an efficient, effective and accountable Secretariat. Its staff shall act in accordance with Article 100 of the Charter, in a culture of organizational accountability, transparency and integrity. Consequently we:

(a) Recognize the ongoing reform measures carried out by the Secretary-General to strengthen accountability and oversight, improve management

performance and transparency and reinforce ethical conduct, and invite him to report to the General Assembly on the progress made in their implementation;

(b) Emphasize the importance of establishing effective and efficient mechanisms for responsibility and accountability of the Secretariat;

(c) Urge the Secretary-General to ensure that the highest standards of efficiency, competence, and integrity shall be the paramount consideration in the employment of the staff, with due regard to the principle of equitable geographical distribution, in accordance with Article 101 of the Charter;

(d) Welcome the Secretary-General's efforts to ensure ethical conduct, more extensive financial disclosure for United Nations officials and enhanced protection for those who reveal wrongdoing within the Organization. We urge the Secretary-General to scrupulously apply the existing standards of conduct and develop a system-wide code of ethics for all United Nations personnel. In this regard, we request the Secretary-General to submit details on an ethics office with independent status, which he intends to create, to the General Assembly at its sixtieth session;

(e) Pledge to provide the United Nations with adequate resources, on a timely basis, to enable the Organization to implement its mandates and achieve its objectives, having regard to the priorities agreed by the General Assembly and the need to respect budget discipline. We stress that all Member States should meet their obligations with regard to the expenses of the Organization;

(f) Strongly urge the Secretary-General to make the best and most efficient use of resources in accordance with clear rules and procedures agreed by the General Assembly, in the interest of all Member States, by adopting the best management practices, including effective use of information and communication technologies, with a view to increasing efficiency and enhancing organizational capacity, concentrating on those tasks that reflect the agreed priorities of the Organization.

162. We reaffirm the role of the Secretary-General as the chief administrative officer of the Organization, in accordance with Article 97 of the Charter. We request the Secretary-General to make proposals to the General Assembly for its consideration on the conditions and measures necessary for him to carry out his managerial responsibilities effectively.

163. We commend the Secretary-General's previous and ongoing efforts to enhance the effective management of the United Nations and his commitment to update the Organization. Bearing in mind our responsibility as Member States, we emphasize the need to decide on additional reforms in order to make more efficient use of the financial and human resources available to the Organization and thus better comply with its principles, objectives and mandates. We call on the Secretary-General to submit proposals for implementing management reforms to the General Assembly for consideration and decision in the first quarter of 2006, which will include the following elements:

(a) We will ensure that the United Nations budgetary, financial and human resource policies, regulations and rules respond to the current needs of the Organization and enable the efficient and effective conduct of its work, and request the Secretary-General to provide an assessment and recommendations to the General Assembly for decision during the first quarter of 2006. The assessment and recommendations of the Secretary-General should take account of the measures already under way for the reform of human resources management and the budget process;

(b) We resolve to strengthen and update the programme of work of the United Nations so that it responds to the contemporary requirements of Member States. To this end, the General Assembly and other relevant organs will review all mandates older than five years originating from resolutions of the General Assembly and other organs, which would be complementary to the existing periodic reviews of activities. The General Assembly and the other organs should complete and take the necessary decisions arising from this review during 2006. We request the Secretary-General to facilitate this review with analysis and recommendations, including on the opportunities for programmatic shifts that could be considered for early General Assembly consideration;

(c) A detailed proposal on the framework for a one-time staff buyout to improve personnel structure and quality, including an indication of costs involved and mechanisms to ensure that it achieves its intended purpose.

164. We recognize the urgent need to substantially improve the United Nations oversight and management processes. We emphasize the importance of ensuring the operational independence of the Office of Internal Oversight Services. Therefore:

(a) The expertise, capacity and resources of the Office of Internal Oversight Services in respect of audit and investigations will be significantly strengthened as a matter of urgency;

(b) We request the Secretary-General to submit an independent external evaluation of the auditing and oversight system of the United Nations, including the specialized agencies, including the roles and responsibilities of management, with due regard to the nature of the auditing and oversight bodies in question. This evaluation will take place within the context of the comprehensive review of the governance arrangements. We ask the General Assembly to adopt measures during its sixtieth session at the earliest possible stage, based on the consideration of recommendations of the evaluation and those made by the Secretary-General;

(c) We recognize that additional measures are needed to enhance the independence of the oversight structures. We therefore request the Secretary-General to submit detailed proposals to the General Assembly at its sixtieth session for its early consideration on the creation of an independent oversight advisory committee, including its mandate, composition, selection process and qualification of experts;

(d) We authorize the Office of Internal Oversight Services to examine the feasibility of expanding its services to provide internal oversight to United Nations agencies that request such services in such a way as to ensure that the provision of internal oversight services to the Secretariat will not be compromised.

165. We insist on the highest standards of behaviour from all United Nations personnel and support the considerable efforts under way with respect to the implementation of the Secretary-General's policy of zero tolerance regarding sexual exploitation and abuse by United Nations personnel, both at Headquarters and in the field. We encourage the Secretary-General to submit proposals to the General Assembly leading to a comprehensive approach to victims' assistance by 31 December 2005.

166. We encourage the Secretary-General and all decision-making bodies to take further steps in mainstreaming a gender perspective in the policies and decisions of the Organization.

167. We strongly condemn all attacks against the safety and security of personnel engaged in United Nations activities. We call upon States to consider becoming parties to the Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel⁴² and stress the need to conclude negotiations on a protocol expanding the scope of legal protection during the sixtieth session of the General Assembly.

System-wide coherence

168. We recognize that the United Nations brings together a unique wealth of expertise and resources on global issues. We commend the extensive experience and expertise of the various development-related organizations, agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system in their diverse and complementary fields of activity and their important contributions to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and the other development objectives established by various United Nations conferences.

169. We support stronger system-wide coherence by implementing the following measures:

Policy

- Strengthening linkages between the normative work of the United Nations system and its operational activities
- Coordinating our representation on the governing boards of the various development and humanitarian agencies so as to ensure that they pursue a coherent policy in assigning mandates and allocating resources throughout the system
- Ensuring that the main horizontal policy themes, such as sustainable development, human rights and gender, are taken into account in decision-making throughout the United Nations

Operational activities

- Implementing current reforms aimed at a more effective, efficient, coherent, coordinated and better-performing United Nations country presence with a strengthened role for the senior resident official, whether special representative, resident coordinator or humanitarian coordinator, including appropriate authority, resources and accountability, and a common management, programming and monitoring framework
- Inviting the Secretary-General to launch work to further strengthen the management and coordination of United Nations operational activities so that they can make an even more effective contribution to the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, including proposals for consideration by Member States for more tightly managed entities in the fields of development, humanitarian assistance and the environment

⁴² United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2051, No. 35457.

Humanitarian assistance

- Upholding and respecting the humanitarian principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality and independence and ensuring that humanitarian actors have safe and unhindered access to populations in need in conformity with the relevant provisions of international law and national laws
- Supporting the efforts of countries, in particular developing countries, to strengthen their capacities at all levels in order to prepare for and respond rapidly to natural disasters and mitigate their impact
- Strengthening the effectiveness of the United Nations humanitarian response, inter alia, by improving the timeliness and predictability of humanitarian funding, in part by improving the Central Emergency Revolving Fund
- Further developing and improving, as required, mechanisms for the use of emergency standby capacities, under the auspices of the United Nations, for a timely response to humanitarian emergencies

Environmental activities

- Recognizing the need for more efficient environmental activities in the United Nations system, with enhanced coordination, improved policy advice and guidance, strengthened scientific knowledge, assessment and cooperation, better treaty compliance, while respecting the legal autonomy of the treaties, and better integration of environmental activities in the broader sustainable development framework at the operational level, including through capacity-building, we agree to explore the possibility of a more coherent institutional framework to address this need, including a more integrated structure, building on existing institutions and internationally agreed instruments, as well as the treaty bodies and the specialized agencies

Regional organizations

170. We support a stronger relationship between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations, pursuant to Chapter VIII of the Charter, and therefore resolve:

- (a) To expand consultation and cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations through formalized agreements between the respective secretariats and, as appropriate, involvement of regional organizations in the work of the Security Council;
- (b) To ensure that regional organizations that have a capacity for the prevention of armed conflict or peacekeeping consider the option of placing such capacity in the framework of the United Nations Standby Arrangements System;
- (c) To strengthen cooperation in the economic, social and cultural fields.

Cooperation between the United Nations and parliaments

171. We call for strengthened cooperation between the United Nations and national and regional parliaments, in particular through the Inter-Parliamentary Union, with a view to furthering all aspects of the Millennium Declaration in all fields of the work of the United Nations and ensuring the effective implementation of United Nations reform.

Participation of local authorities, the private sector and civil society, including non-governmental organizations

172. We welcome the positive contributions of the private sector and civil society, including non-governmental organizations, in the promotion and implementation of development and human rights programmes and stress the importance of their continued engagement with Governments, the United Nations and other international organizations in these key areas.

173. We welcome the dialogue between those organizations and Member States, as reflected in the first informal interactive hearings of the General Assembly with representatives of non-governmental organizations, civil society and the private sector.

174. We underline the important role of local authorities in contributing to the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals.

175. We encourage responsible business practices, such as those promoted by the Global Compact.

Charter of the United Nations

176. Considering that the Trusteeship Council no longer meets and has no remaining functions, we should delete Chapter XIII of the Charter and references to the Council in Chapter XII.

177. Taking into account General Assembly resolution 50/52 of 11 December 1995 and recalling the related discussions conducted in the General Assembly, bearing in mind the profound cause for the founding of the United Nations and looking to our common future, we resolve to delete references to “enemy States” in Articles 53, 77 and 107 of the Charter.

178. We request the Security Council to consider the composition, mandate and working methods of the Military Staff Committee.

*8th plenary meeting
16 September 2005*

The Millennium Development Goals Report



UNITED NATIONS

2007



This report is based on a master set of data that has been compiled by an Inter-Agency and Expert Group on MDG Indicators led by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat, in response to the wishes of the General Assembly for periodic assessment of progress towards the MDGs. The Group comprises representatives of the international organizations whose activities include the preparation of one or more of the series of statistical indicators that were identified as appropriate for monitoring progress towards the MDGs, as reflected in the list below. A number of national statisticians and outside expert advisers also contributed.

INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANIZATION

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION

WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

THE WORLD BANK

INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND

INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR WESTERN ASIA

JOINT UNITED NATIONS PROGRAMME ON HIV/AIDS

UNITED NATIONS CHILDREN'S FUND

UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT

UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT FUND FOR WOMEN

UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

UNITED NATIONS FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE

UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES

UNITED NATIONS HUMAN SETTLEMENTS PROGRAMME

UNITED NATIONS POPULATION FUND

INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION

ORGANISATION FOR ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT

WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

The Millennium Development Goals Report 2007



UNITED NATIONS

NEW YORK, 2007



Foreword

Since their adoption by all United Nations Member States in 2000, the Millennium Declaration and the Millennium Development Goals have become a universal framework for development and a means for developing countries and their development partners to work together in pursuit of a shared future for all.

We are now at the midpoint between the adoption of the MDGs and the 2015 target date. So far, our collective record is mixed. The results presented in this report suggest that there have been some gains, and that success is still possible in most parts of the world. But they also point to how much remains to be done. There is a clear need for political leaders to take urgent and concerted action, or many millions of people will not realize the basic promises of the MDGs in their lives.

The MDGs are still achievable if we act now. This will require inclusive sound governance, increased public investment economic growth, enhanced productive capacity, and the creation of decent work. Success in some countries demonstrates that rapid and large-scale progress towards the MDGs is feasible if we combine strong government leadership, good policies and practical strategies for scaling up public investments in vital areas with adequate financial and technical support from the international community.

To achieve the Goals, nationally-owned development strategies and budgets must be aligned with them. This must be backed up by adequate financing within the global partnership for development and its framework for mutual accountability.

The world wants no new promises. It is imperative that all stakeholders meet, in their entirety, the commitments already made in the Millennium Declaration, the 2002 Monterrey Conference on Financing for Development, and the 2005 World Summit. In particular, the lack of any significant increase in official development assistance since 2004 makes it impossible, even for well-governed countries, to meet the MDGs. As this report makes clear, adequate resources need to be made available to countries in a predictable way for them to be able to effectively plan the scaling up of their investments. Yet, these promises remain to be fulfilled.

I commend this report as a key resource to help show what can be achieved and how much still needs to be done. Reliable and timely information is key to formulating the necessary policies and strategies to ensure progress, monitor development and make the MDGs achievable.

Ki Moon Ban
BAN KI-MOON
Secretary-General, United Nations

Overview

Progress at the MDG mid-point

The Millennium Declaration set 2015 as the target date for achieving most of the Goals. As we approach the midway point of this 15-year period, data are now becoming available that provide an indication of progress during the first third of this 15-year period.

This report presents the most comprehensive global assessment of progress to date, based on a set of data prepared by a large number of international organizations within and outside the United Nations system.

The results are, predictably, uneven. The years since 2000, when world leaders endorsed the Millennium Declaration, have seen some visible and widespread gains. Encouragingly, the report suggests that some progress is being made even in those regions where the challenges are greatest. These accomplishments testify to the unprecedented degree of commitment by developing countries and their development partners to the Millennium Declaration and to some success in building the global partnership embodied in the Declaration.

The results achieved in the more successful cases demonstrate that success is possible in most countries, but that the MDGs will be attained only if concerted additional action is taken immediately and sustained until 2015. All stakeholders need to fulfil, in their entirety, the commitments they made in the Millennium Declaration and subsequent pronouncements.

The following are some measures of the progress that has been achieved:

- The proportion of people living in extreme poverty fell from nearly a third to less than one fifth between 1990 and 2004. If the trend is sustained, the MDG poverty reduction target will be met for the world as a whole and for most regions.
- The number of extremely poor people in sub-Saharan Africa has levelled off, and the poverty rate has declined by nearly six percentage points since 2000. Nevertheless, the region is not on track to reach the Goal of reducing poverty by half by 2015.
- Progress has been made in getting more children into school in the developing world. Enrolment in primary education grew from 80 per cent in 1991 to 88 per cent in 2005. Most of this progress has taken place since 1999.
- Women's political participation has been growing, albeit slowly. Even in countries where previously only men were allowed to stand for political election, women now have a seat in parliament.
- Child mortality has declined globally, and it is becoming clear that the right life-saving interventions are proving effective in reducing the number of deaths due to the main child killers – such as measles.

- Key interventions to control malaria have been expanded.
- The tuberculosis epidemic, finally, appears on the verge of decline, although progress is not fast enough to halve prevalence and death rates by 2015.

By pointing to what has been achieved, these results also highlight how much remains to be done and how much more could be accomplished if all concerned live up fully to the commitments they have already made. Currently, only one of the eight regional groups cited in this report is on track to achieve all the Millennium Development Goals. In contrast, the projected shortfalls are most severe in sub-Saharan Africa. Even regions that have made substantial progress, including parts of Asia, face challenges in areas such as health and environmental sustainability. More generally, the lack of employment opportunities for young people, gender inequalities, rapid and unplanned urbanization, deforestation, increasing water scarcity, and high HIV prevalence are pervasive obstacles.

Moreover, insecurity and instability in conflict and post-conflict countries make long-term development efforts extremely difficult. In turn, a failure to achieve the MDGs can further heighten the risk of instability and conflict. Yet in spite of a technical consensus that development and security are mutually dependent, international efforts all too often treat them as independent from one another.

The following are some of the key challenges that have to be addressed:

- Over half a million women still die each year from treatable and preventable complications of pregnancy and childbirth. The odds that a woman will die from these causes in sub-Saharan Africa are 1 in 16 over the course of her lifetime, compared to 1 in 3,800 in the developed world.
- If current trends continue, the target of halving the proportion of underweight children will be missed by 30 million children, largely because of slow progress in Southern Asia and sub-Saharan Africa.
- The number of people dying from AIDS worldwide increased to 2.9 million in 2006, and prevention measures are failing to keep pace with the growth of the epidemic. In 2005, more than 15 million children had lost one or both parents to AIDS.
- Half the population of the developing world lack basic sanitation. In order to meet the MDG target, an additional 1.6 billion people will need access to improved sanitation over the period 2005-2015. If trends since 1990 continue, the world is likely to miss the target by almost 600 million people.
- To some extent, these situations reflect the fact that the benefits of economic growth in the developing world have

been unequally shared. Widening income inequality is of particular concern in Eastern Asia, where the share of consumption of the poorest people declined dramatically between 1990 and 2004.

- Most economies have failed to provide employment opportunities to their youth, with young people more than three times as likely as adults to be unemployed.
- Warming of the climate is now unequivocal. Emissions of carbon dioxide, the primary contributor to global climate change, rose from 23 billion metric tons in 1990 to 29 billion metric tons in 2004. Climate change is projected to have serious economic and social impacts, which will impede progress towards the MDGs.

This report also points to disparities within countries, where particular groups of the population – often those living in rural areas, children of mothers with no formal education and the poorest households – are not making enough progress to meet the targets, even where the rest of the population is. This is particularly evident in access to health services and education. In order to achieve the MDGs, countries will need to mobilize additional resources and target public investments that benefit the poor.

Rapid and large-scale progress is feasible

Several developing countries are demonstrating that rapid and large-scale progress towards the MDGs is possible when strong government leadership and policies and strategies that effectively target the needs of the poor are combined with adequate financial and technical support from the international community.

In particular, impressive results have been achieved in sub-Saharan Africa in areas such as raising agricultural productivity (in Malawi, for example), boosting primary school enrolment (as in Ghana, Kenya, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania), controlling malaria (as in Niger, Togo, Zambia, Zanzibar), widening access to basic rural health services (Zambia), reforesting areas on a large scale (Niger), and increasing access to water and sanitation (Senegal and Uganda). These practical successes now need to be replicated and scaled-up.

With support from the United Nations, many developing countries – particularly in Africa – have advanced in preparing strategies to achieve the MDGs. As of mid-2007, 41 countries in sub-Saharan Africa had started the process of preparing national development strategies aligned with the MDGs and other development goals agreed upon through the United Nations. During this mid-point year, the international community needs to support the preparation of these strategies and to accelerate implementation of the MDGs.

In general, strategies should adopt a wide-ranging approach that seeks to achieve pro-poor economic growth, including through the creation of a large number of additional opportunities for decent work. This, in turn, will require comprehensive programmes for human development, particularly in education and health, as well as building productive capacity and improved physical infrastructure. In

each case, an effort should be made to quantify the resources required to implement these programmes. Implementation should be based on a medium-term approach to public expenditure. A sound national statistical system and enhanced public accountability are necessary to support all these efforts.

The MDGs should also be systematically integrated into post-conflict recovery strategies by coordinating security and humanitarian operations with long-term development efforts. The MDGs provide outcome objectives that countries can use as benchmarks for the transition from relief and recovery to long-term development.

Success in achieving the MDGs in the poorest and most disadvantaged countries cannot be achieved by these countries alone. Developed countries need to deliver fully on longstanding commitments to achieve the official development assistance (ODA) target of 0.7 per cent of gross national income (GNI) by 2015. It requires, in particular, the Group of 8 industrialized nations to live up to their 2005 pledge to double aid to Africa by 2010 and European Union Member States to allocate 0.7 per cent of GNI to ODA by 2015. In spite of these commitments, ODA declined between 2005 and 2006 and is expected to continue to fall slightly in 2007 as debt relief declines.

Aid has to be improved by ensuring that assistance is aligned with the policies that recipient countries have adopted, and that flows to individual countries are continuous, predictable and assured and are not tied to purchases in the donor country. To this end, donors should reduce the present unpredictability of aid by providing multi-year schedules of aid flows to each recipient country. One of the uses of the additional resources should be to multiply, within and across countries, the number of “quick impact” initiatives that have proven their efficacy in the past few years.

As a further element of their development partnership, and as agreed to in Doha in 2001, all governments should redouble their efforts to reach a successful and equitable conclusion to the present trade negotiations – an outcome that ensures that the international trading system and global trading arrangements become more conducive to development in all developing countries.

Addressing the challenge of climate change has to be a new but integral element of each country's development strategy. More importantly, however, it should become an enhanced part of the international development agenda: All development partners should collaborate intensively in devising a shared global strategy to address this global problem.



JOSÉ ANTONIO OCAMPO
Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs

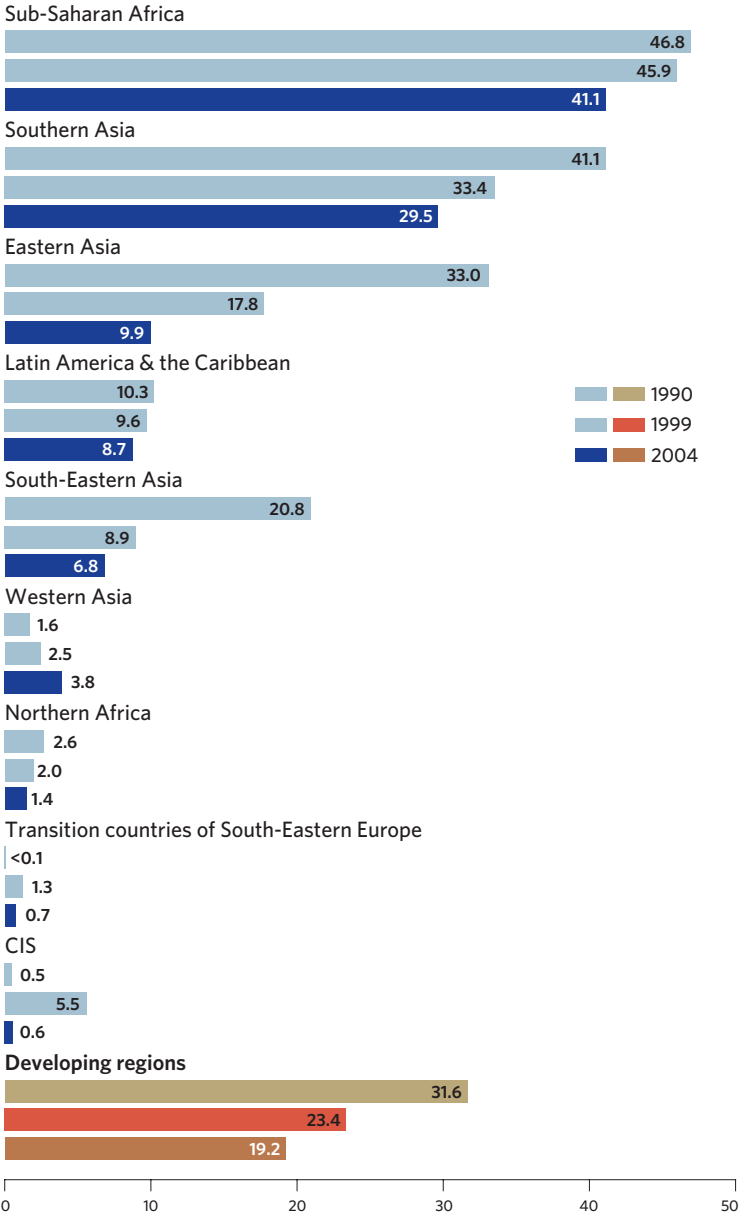
Goal 1 Eradicate extreme poverty & hunger



TARGET
Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people whose income is less than \$1 a day

Extreme poverty is beginning to fall in sub-Saharan Africa

Proportion of people living on less than \$1 a day, 1990, 1999 and 2004 (Percentage)



Worldwide, the number of people in developing countries living on less than \$1 a day fell to 980 million in 2004 – down from 1.25 billion in 1990. The

proportion of people living in extreme poverty fell from nearly a third to 19 per cent over this period. If progress continues, the MDG target will be met. However, success is unequally shared, since the decline in global poverty is mostly due to rapid economic growth in Asia. Eastern and South-Eastern Asia, in particular, experienced impressive reductions in poverty, and accelerating growth in India has also put Southern Asia on track to achieve the goal.

In contrast, poverty rates in Western Asia more than doubled between 1990 and 2005. Extreme poverty rose sharply in the early 1990s in the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) and the transition countries of South-Eastern Europe. Poverty rates in those regions are now dropping, however, and approaching the levels of the 1980s.

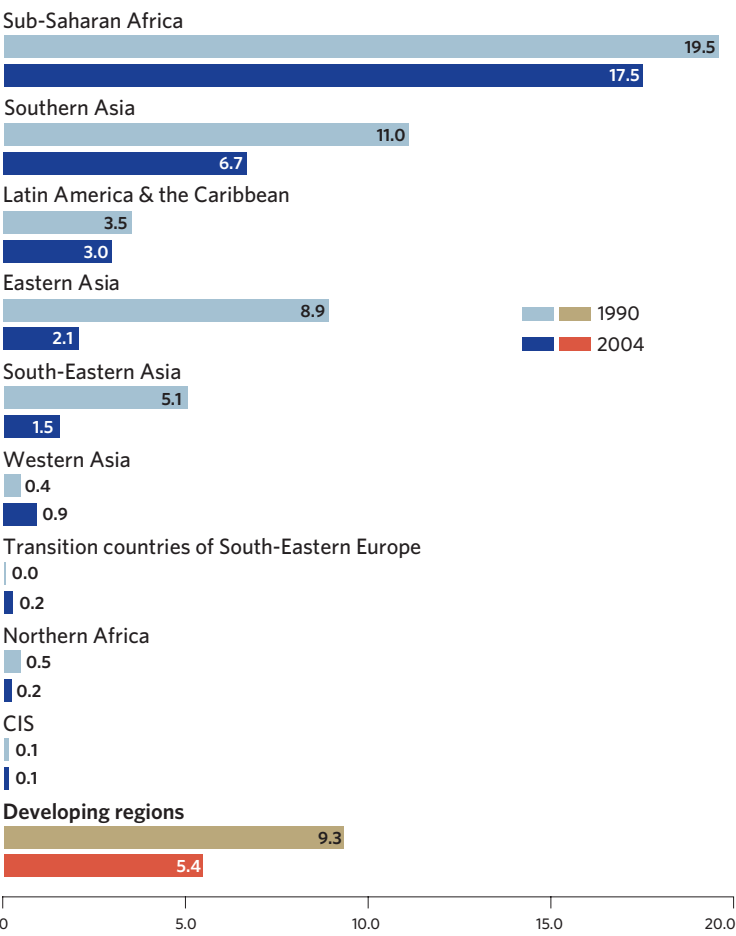
In sub-Saharan Africa, the proportion of people living in extreme poverty fell from 46.8 per cent in 1990 to 41.1 per cent in 2004. Most of this progress was achieved since 2000. The number of people living on less than \$1 a day is also beginning to level off, despite rapid population growth. The per capita income of seven sub-Saharan countries grew by more than 3.5 per cent a year between 2000 and 2005; another 23 had growth rates of more than 2 per cent a year over this period, providing a degree of optimism for the future.

The international poverty line is being redrawn

The latest estimates on poverty draw on over 500 household surveys from 100 developing countries, representing 93 per cent of the population of the developing world. The international poverty line is based on a level of consumption representative of the poverty lines found in low-income countries. Since 2000, the international poverty line has been set at \$1.08 a day, measured in terms of 1993 purchasing power parity (PPP). In the coming year, new estimates of PPP, based on 2005 prices, will be produced by the International Comparison Program. These new measures of the relative cost of living among countries will require a revision to the international poverty line and may change our understanding of the extent and distribution of global poverty.

The poorest are getting a little less poor in most regions

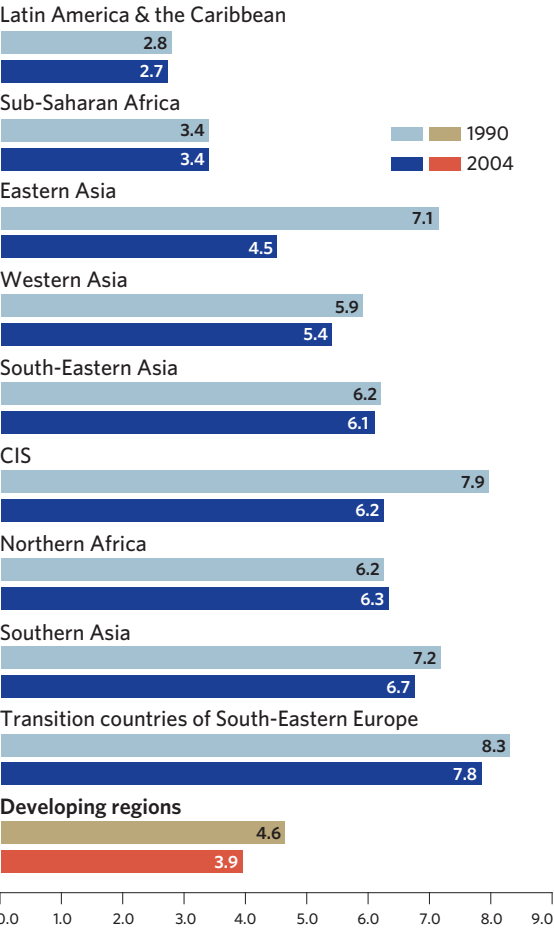
Poverty gap ratio, 1990 and 2004 (Percentage)



In most developing regions, the average income of those living on less than \$1 a day has increased. The poverty gap ratio, which reflects the depth of poverty as well as its incidence, has decreased in all regions except Western Asia, where the rising poverty rate has caused the poverty gap to increase, and in the transition countries in Europe and the CIS, where there has been marginal deterioration or no change. In contrast, the poor in Eastern and South-Eastern Asia have made important gains. In spite of some improvement, the poverty gap ratio in sub-Saharan Africa remains the highest in the world, indicating that the poor in that region are the most economically disadvantaged in the world.

Poverty reduction has been accompanied by rising inequality

Share of poorest quintile in national consumption, 1990 and 2004 (Percentage)



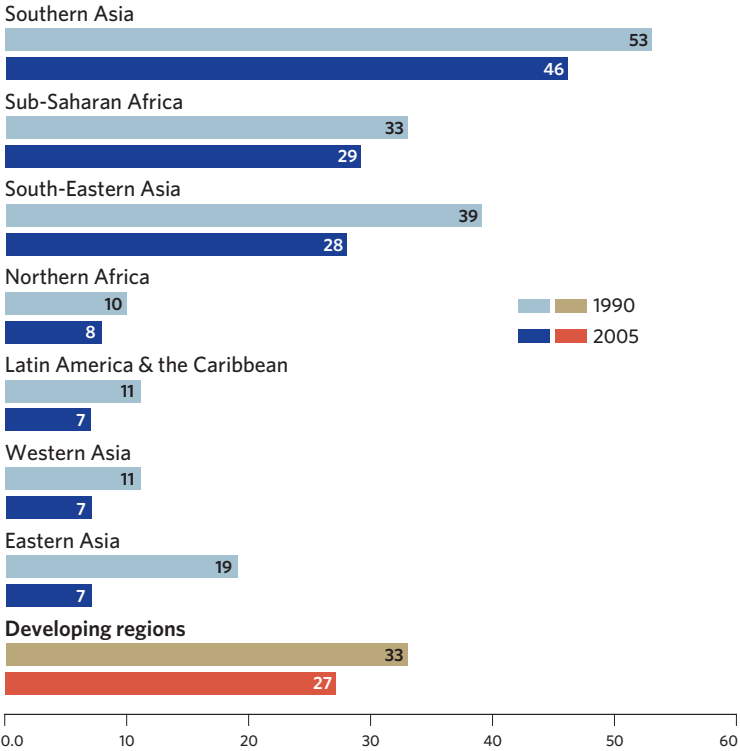
The benefits of economic growth in the developing world have been unequally shared, both within and among countries. Between 1990 and 2004, the share of national consumption by the poorest fifth of the population in developing regions decreased from 4.6 to 3.9 per cent (in countries where consumption figures were unavailable, data on income were used). Widening income inequality is of particular concern in Eastern Asia, where the share of consumption among the poorest people declined dramatically during this period. Still, inequality remains the highest in Latin America and the Caribbean and in sub-Saharan Africa, where the poorest fifth of the people account for only about 3 per cent of national consumption (or income).

TARGET

Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people who suffer from hunger.

Child hunger is declining in all regions, but meeting the target will require accelerated progress

Proportion of children under age five who are underweight, 1990 and 2005 (Percentage)



Globally, the proportion of children under five who are underweight declined by one fifth over the period 1990-2005. Eastern Asia showed the greatest improvement and is surpassing the MDG target, largely due to nutritional advances in China. Western Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean have also demonstrated significant progress, with underweight prevalence dropping by more than one third. The greatest proportions of children going hungry continue to be found in Southern Asia and sub-Saharan Africa. Poor progress in these regions means that it is unlikely that the global target will be met. If current trends continue, the world will miss the 2015 target by 30 million children, essentially robbing them of their full potential.



Goal 2

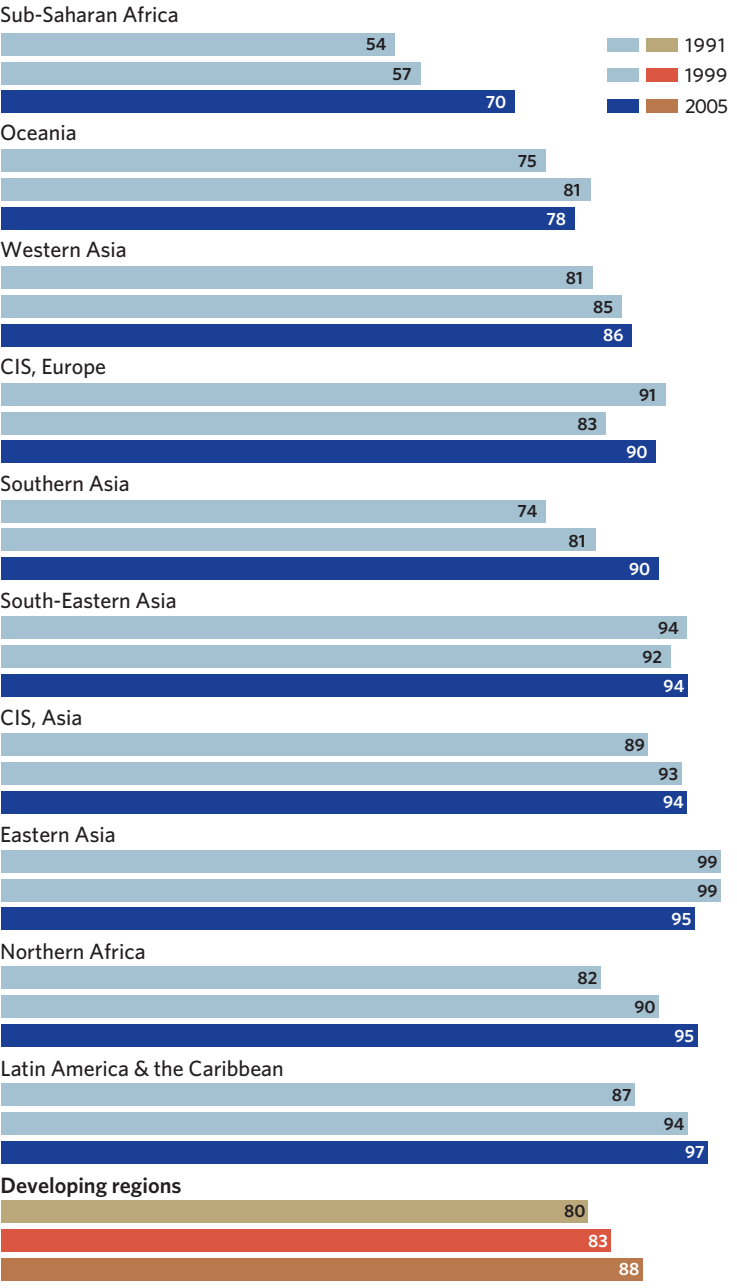
Achieve universal primary education



TARGET
Ensure that, by 2015, children everywhere, boys and girls alike, will be able to complete a full course of primary schooling

Sub-Saharan Africa is making progress towards universal enrolment, but has a long way to go

Total net enrolment ratio in primary education,* 1990/1991, 1998/1999 and 2004/2005 (Percentage)

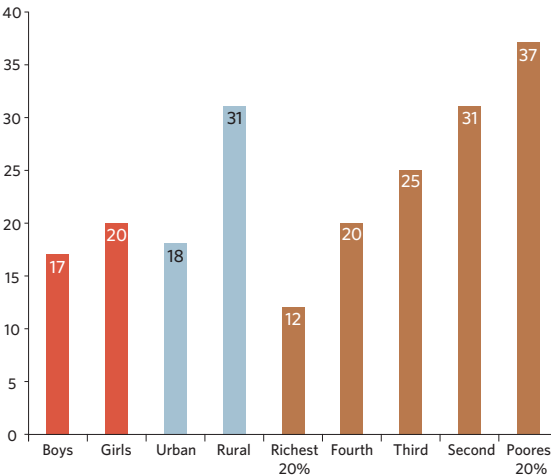


*Number of pupils of the theoretical school-age group for primary education, enrolled either in primary or secondary education, expressed as a percentage of the total population in that age group.

The net enrolment ratio in primary education in the developing regions increased to 88 per cent in the school year 2004/2005, up from 80 per cent in 1990/1991. Two thirds of the increase occurred since 1999. Although sub-Saharan Africa has made significant progress over the last few years, it still trails behind other regions, with 30 per cent of its children of primary school age out of school. A strong push will be needed over the next few years to enrol all children in school and to fulfil their right to a quality education.

Girls and children from poorer or rural families are least likely to attend school

Children of primary school age out of school, by sex, place of residence and household wealth, 2005 (Percentage)



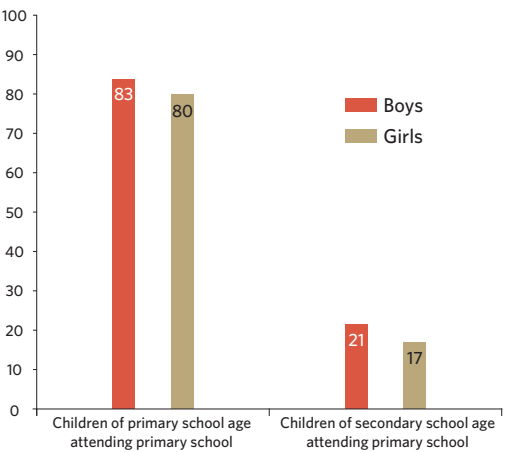
Progress has been made in reducing the number of children out of school. Still, the number is unacceptably high. Based on enrolment data, about 72 million children of primary school age were not in school in 2005; 57 per cent of them were girls. As high as this number seems, surveys show that it underestimates the actual number of children who, though enrolled, are not attending school. Moreover, neither enrolment nor attendance figures reflect children who do not attend school regularly. To make matters worse, official data are not usually available from countries in conflict or post-conflict situations. If data from these countries were reflected in global estimates, the enrolment picture would be even less optimistic.

The children most likely to drop out of school or to not attend at all are those from poorer households or living in rural areas. For example, nearly a third of children of

primary school age in rural areas of the developing world are out of school, compared with 18 per cent of children in the same age group living in cities. Girls are still excluded from education more often than boys, a pattern that is particularly evident in Western and Southern Asia.

One child in five who is old enough to attend secondary school is still enrolled in primary school

Net school attendance in primary school by children of official age and by children of secondary school age in all developing regions, 2005 (Percentage)



When many children entering school are under or over the official age for enrolment, the net enrolment ratios for primary school do not accurately reflect the situation of children in school. Surveys indicate that attendance by over-age children is very common, especially in some regions. In sub-Saharan Africa, for example, more children of secondary school age are attending primary school than secondary school. Though late enrolment is better than not enrolling at all, it represents a challenge for the education system and reflects the difficulties families face in sending their children to school. Late enrolment also puts children at a disadvantage by causing potential learning problems and lessening opportunities to advance to a higher level of education. Where the information is available, data show that children who start school at least two years later than the official age are more likely to be from poorer households and have mothers with no formal education.

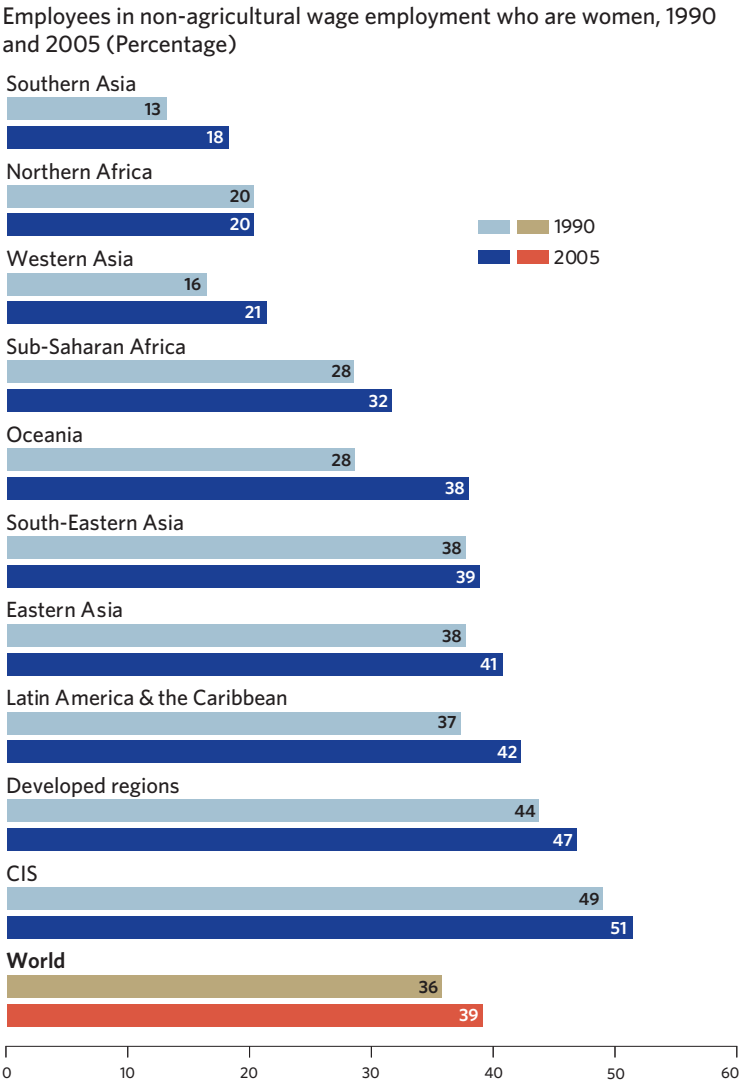
Goal 3

Promote gender equality and empower women



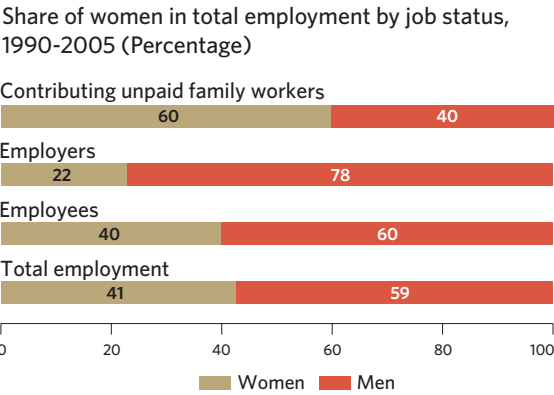
TARGET
Eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education preferably by 2005 and in all levels of education no later than 2015

Doors are opening slowly for women in the labour market



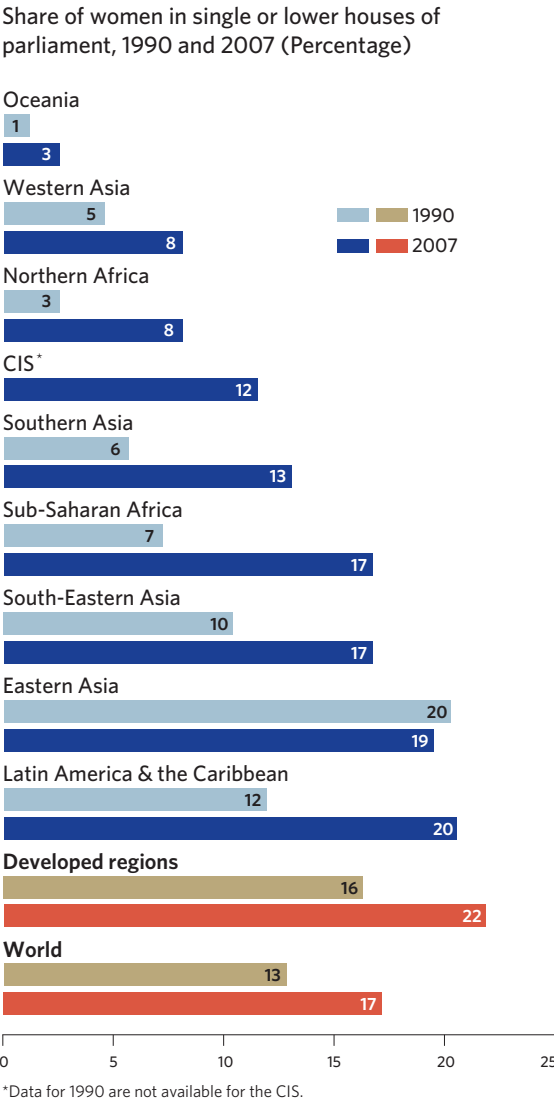
Women’s participation in paid, non-agricultural employment has continued to increase slowly. The greatest gains are in some of the regions where women have the least presence in the labour market – in Southern Asia, Western Asia and Oceania. In Northern Africa, where women’s participation is also low, progress has been insignificant. Only one in five paid employees in that region is a woman, a situation that has remained unchanged for the last 15 years. In other regions, women are slowly gaining access to paid employment at a level on par with men, or, in the case of the CIS, exceeding it.

Women’s labour is more likely than men’s to be unpaid



Wage employment in most of Africa and in many parts of Asia and Latin America is concentrated in urban areas. Outside cities and towns, most employment is in agriculture, and mainly for family subsistence. Women in developing regions are more likely than men to work in agriculture, and as contributing but unpaid family workers. Worldwide, over 60 per cent of unpaid family workers are women – meaning that women continue to lack access to job security and social protection.

Women gain ground politically, though men still wield control



Women’s political participation is growing, albeit slowly. Globally, as of January 2007, women represented 17 per cent of single and lower houses of parliament, up from 13 per cent in 1990. However, women represented at least 30 per cent of parliamentarians in only 19 countries. Rwanda is still leading the way, and is close to parity with 49 per cent of parliamentary seats occupied by women, followed by Sweden and Costa Rica, where women’s representation is 47 and 39 per cent, respectively. At the other end of the spectrum, women lawmakers are absent altogether in some countries. In 2006 elections in the Solomon Islands and Tuvalu, no women were elected to the lower houses of parliament.

Encouraging signs, however, are coming from the Arab States. In 2006, for the first time, both women and men ran for election in Kuwait, where women obtained 2 parliamentary seats, and in the United Arab Emirates, where they won 23 per cent of seats. In Bahrain, a woman was elected to the lower house of parliament for the first time in that nation’s history.

Worldwide, women’s entry into political leadership positions is also widening. As of March 2007, 35 women were presiding officers in parliament – more than ever before – including, for the first time, in Gambia, Israel, Swaziland, Turkmenistan and the United States. In contrast, there is no clear positive trend in the number of women in the highest positions of state or government. Thirteen women were heads of state or government in 2006, compared to 9 in 2000 and 12 in 1995. A record number of women took up these top positions in 2006 – six in all – in Chile, Jamaica, Liberia, the Republic of Korea and Switzerland, and as acting president in Israel.

A number of factors are at play in determining women’s political representation – including political will, the strength of national women’s movements and continued emphasis by the international community on gender equality and women’s empowerment. However, the most decisive factor remains gender quota systems. In 2006, countries with quotas nearly doubled the number of women elected, compared to countries without any form of gender quota system. Other countries have supported women’s election bids through training and funding.

Goal 4

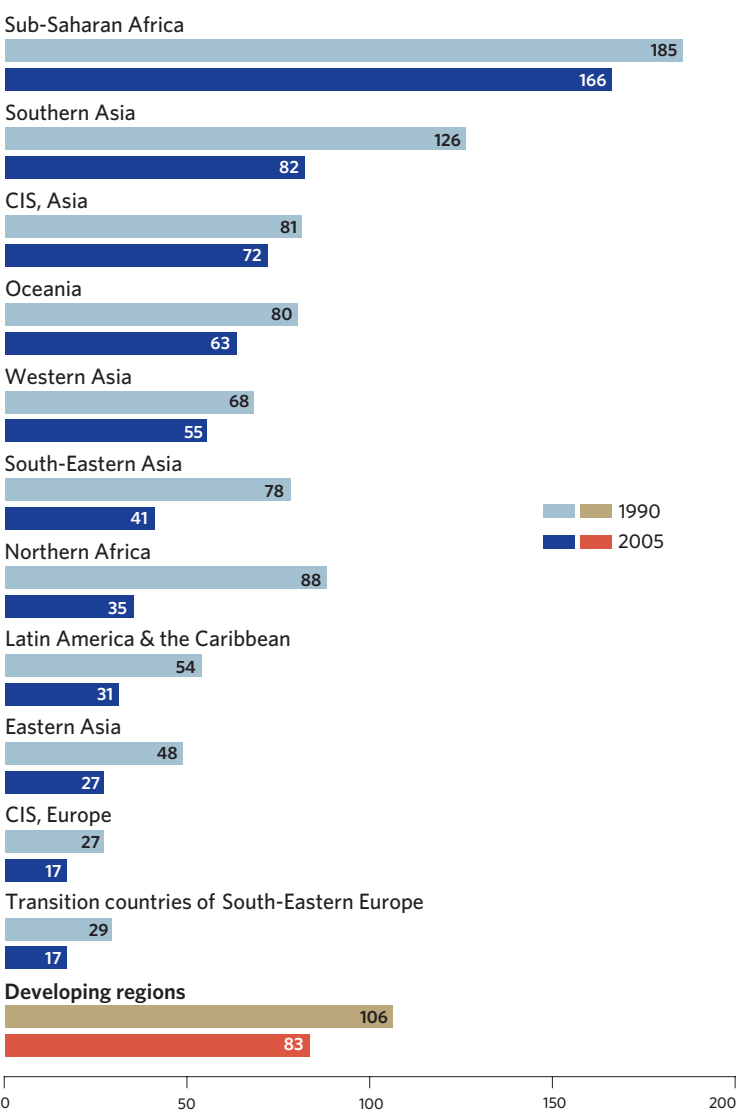
Reduce child mortality



TARGET
Reduce by two thirds, between 1990 and 2015, the under-five mortality rate

Child survival rates show slow improvement, and are worst in sub-Saharan Africa

Under-five mortality rate per 1,000 live births, 1990 and 2005



Estimates for 2005 indicate that 10.1 million children died before their fifth birthday, mostly from preventable causes. Though infant and child mortality rates have declined globally, the pace of progress has been uneven across regions and countries. Accelerated improvements are needed most urgently in sub-Saharan Africa, Southern Asia, CIS countries in Asia and in Oceania. Not surprisingly, the lack of progress in child survival has been mirrored by neglect of many basic health services in parts of the developing world.

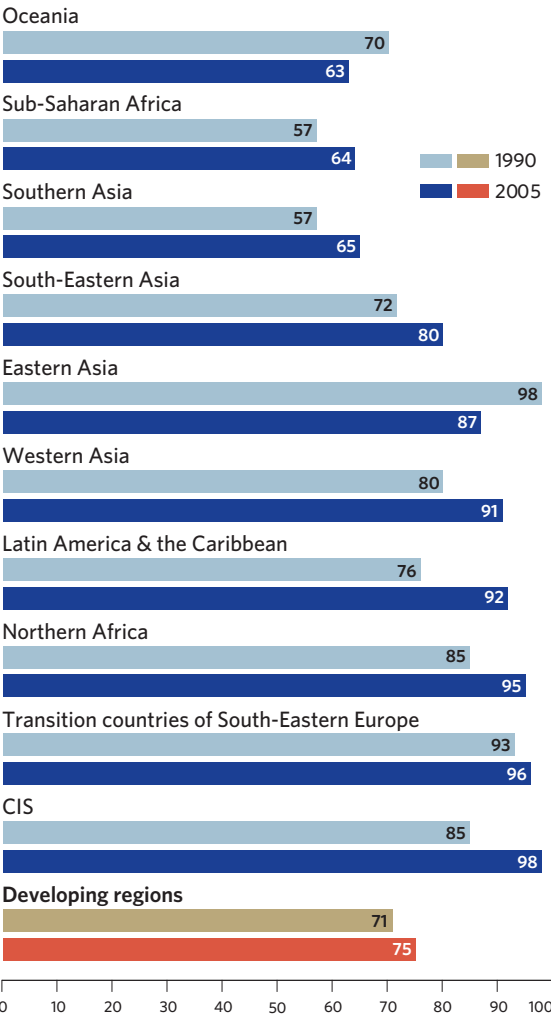
Recent surveys show that substantial improvements are possible, though disparities were found in the countries studied. Even in countries that have made good progress (i.e., that have seen a drop of at least 15 per cent in child mortality rates between 1998 and 2004), different patterns are observed. Survival rates have improved at all ages within the five-year span, but in some countries gains were most pronounced during certain periods – for example, in the vulnerable first month of life. Evidence from the latest surveys will be further studied to determine the key interventions necessary to reduce mortality during the various stages of a child’s early life.

Changes in the levels of child mortality also show wide differentials according to socio-economic status. In most countries that have made substantial reductions in child mortality in recent years, the largest changes were observed among children living in the richest 40 per cent of households, or in urban areas, or whose mothers have some education.

In countries where progress is lagging or where child mortality has increased, AIDS is likely to be a major contributing factor. Malaria, too, continues to kill vast numbers of children. In other countries, war and conflict have been the leading causes of increasing child mortality in the recent past.

Vaccinations spur decline in measles and expansion of basic health services

Percentage of children 12-23 months old who received at least one dose of measles vaccine, 1990 and 2005 (Percentage)



Measles is one of the leading causes of child death among diseases that can be prevented by vaccines. Globally, deaths from measles fell by over 60 per cent between 2000 and 2005 – a major public health success. According to the latest data available, the number of these deaths dropped from 873,000 in 1999 to 345,000 in 2005. The most striking gains were found in Africa, where measles deaths decreased by nearly 75 per cent over the same period – from an estimated 506,000 to 126,000.

These achievements are attributed to improved immunization coverage throughout the developing world, as well as immunization campaigns that supplement routine services. While coverage stagnated between 1990 and 1999, immunization has rapidly gained ground since 2000. In sub-Saharan Africa, coverage dipped to 49 per cent in 1999 and increased again to 64 per cent by the end of 2005. This was largely the result of advocacy and support provided by the international Measles Initiative – which targeted 47 priority countries – together with the commitment of the African governments involved.

Routine measles immunization serves as a proxy indicator for access to basic health services among children under five. Accelerated activities to control measles are contributing to the development of health infrastructure that supports routine immunization and other health services. Moreover, measles vaccination campaigns have become a channel for delivering other life-saving interventions, such as mosquito nets to protect against malaria, de-worming medicine and vitamin A supplements.

Goal 5

Improve maternal health

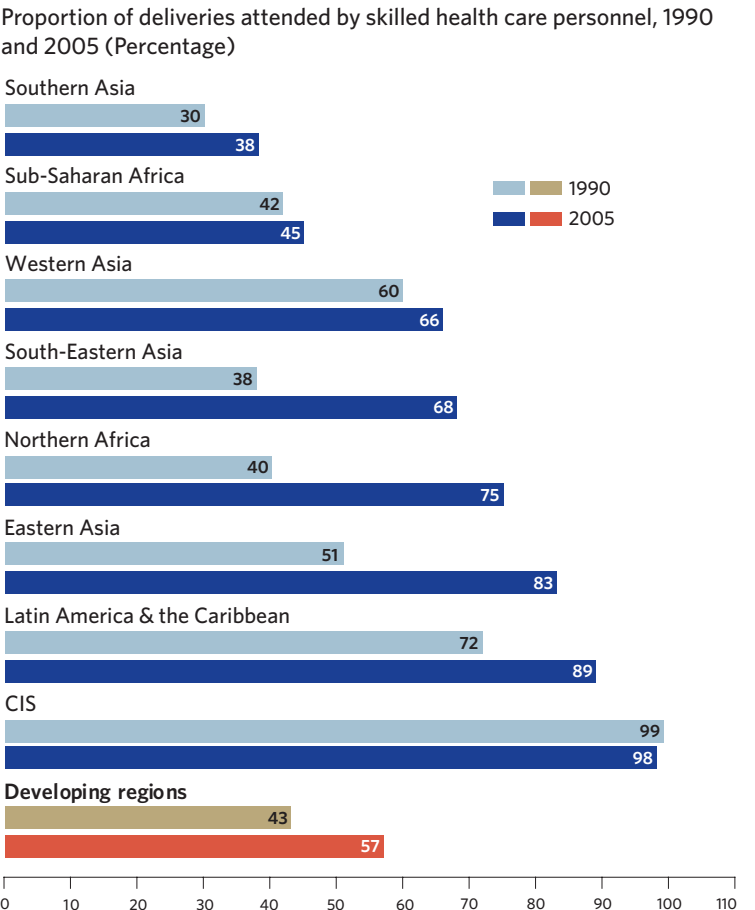


TARGET
Reduce by three quarters, between 1990 and 2015, the maternal mortality ratio

Half a million women continue to die each year during pregnancy or childbirth, almost all of them in sub-Saharan Africa and Asia

A number of middle-income countries have made rapid progress in reducing maternal deaths. Nevertheless, maternal mortality levels remain unacceptably high across the developing world, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa and Southern Asia. Each year, more than 500,000 women die from treatable or preventable complications of pregnancy and childbirth. In sub-Saharan Africa, a woman's risk of dying from such complications over the course of her lifetime is 1 in 16, compared to 1 in 3,800 in the developed world.

Health-care interventions can reduce maternal deaths, but need to be made more widely available



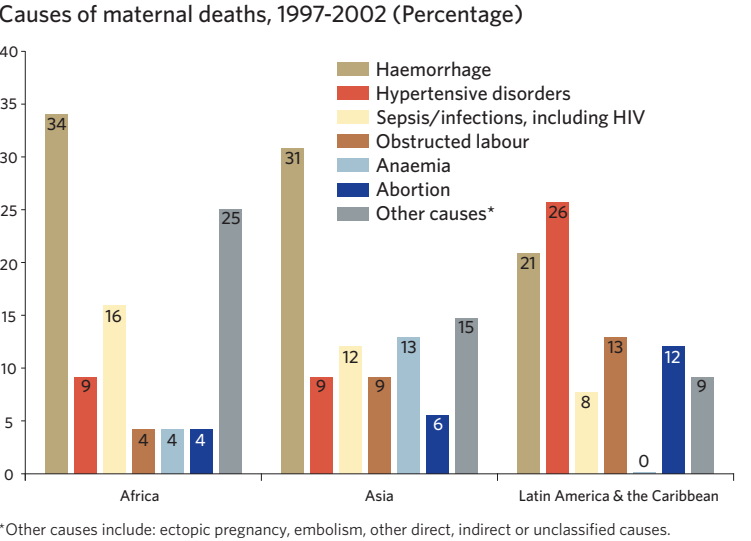
The vast majority of maternal deaths and disabilities could be prevented through appropriate reproductive health services before, during and after pregnancy, and through life-saving interventions should complications arise. Attendance at delivery by skilled health personnel (doctors, nurses, midwives) who are trained to detect problems early and can effectively provide or refer women to emergency obstetric care when needed is essential. The regions with the lowest proportions of skilled health attendants at birth are Southern Asia and sub-Saharan Africa, which also have the highest numbers of maternal deaths.

Disparities in the support available to women during pregnancy and childbirth are evident both among countries and within them. According to surveys conducted between 1996 and 2005 in 57 developing countries, 81 per cent of urban women deliver with the help of a skilled attendant, versus only 49 per cent of their rural counterparts. Similarly, 84 per cent of women who have completed secondary or higher education are attended by skilled personnel during childbirth, more than twice the rate of mothers with no formal education.

Antenatal care has long been recognized as a core component of maternal health services. It can help women identify potential risks and plan for a safe delivery. It also can serve as an entry point into the wider health-care system. Since 1990, every region has made progress in ensuring that women receive antenatal care at least once during their pregnancy. Even in sub-Saharan Africa, where the least progress has occurred, more than two thirds of women receive antenatal care at least one time during pregnancy.

For antenatal care to be effective, international experts recommend at least four visits to a trained health-care practitioner during pregnancy. However, in many countries, particularly in Africa, there is a large gap between the proportion of women who receive antenatal care at least once compared to those who receive care four or more times. In Kenya, for example, in 2003, 87 per cent of women received antenatal care at least once, while only 51 per cent received care the recommended four times. Similarly, women in Madagascar were twice as likely to receive antenatal care at least once rather than four or more times.

No single intervention can address the multiple causes of maternal deaths



Efforts to reduce maternal mortality need to be tailored to local conditions, since the causes of death vary across developing regions and countries. In Africa and Asia, haemorrhage is the leading cause of maternal death, while in Latin America and the Caribbean, hypertensive disorders during pregnancy and childbirth pose the greatest threat. Obstructed labour and abortion account for 13 and 12 per cent, respectively, of maternal mortality in Latin America and the Caribbean. In Asia, anaemia is a major contributor to maternal deaths, but is a less important cause in Africa and a negligible factor in Latin America. In Africa, particularly parts of Southern Africa, HIV and AIDS are frequently involved in deaths during pregnancy and childbirth.

Preventing unplanned pregnancies alone could avert around one quarter of maternal deaths, including those that result from unsafe abortion. Still, an estimated 137 million women have an unmet need for family planning. An additional 64 million women are using traditional methods of contraception with high failure rates. Contraceptive prevalence increased slowly from 55 per cent in 1990 to 64 per cent in 2005, but remains very low in sub-Saharan Africa, at 21 per cent.

In addition, in regions where the adolescent birth rate remains high, a large number of young women, particularly very young women, and their children face increased risk of death and disability. In sub-Saharan Africa, Southern Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean, the high adolescent birth rates prevailing in 1990 have not declined significantly, despite continued reductions in total fertility in those regions.

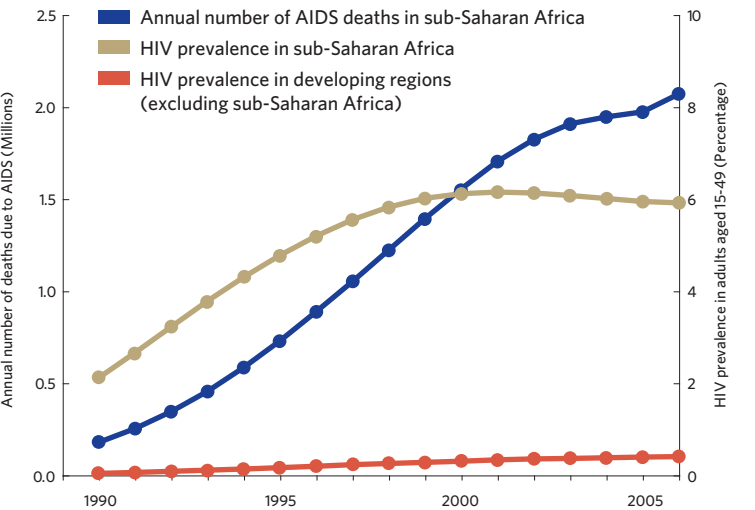
Goal 6

Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria & other diseases

TARGET
Have halted by 2015 and begun to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS

HIV prevalence has levelled off in the developing world, but deaths from AIDS continue to rise in sub-Saharan Africa

HIV prevalence in adults aged 15-49 in sub-Saharan Africa and all developing regions (Percentage) and number of AIDS deaths in sub-Saharan Africa (Millions), 1990-2006

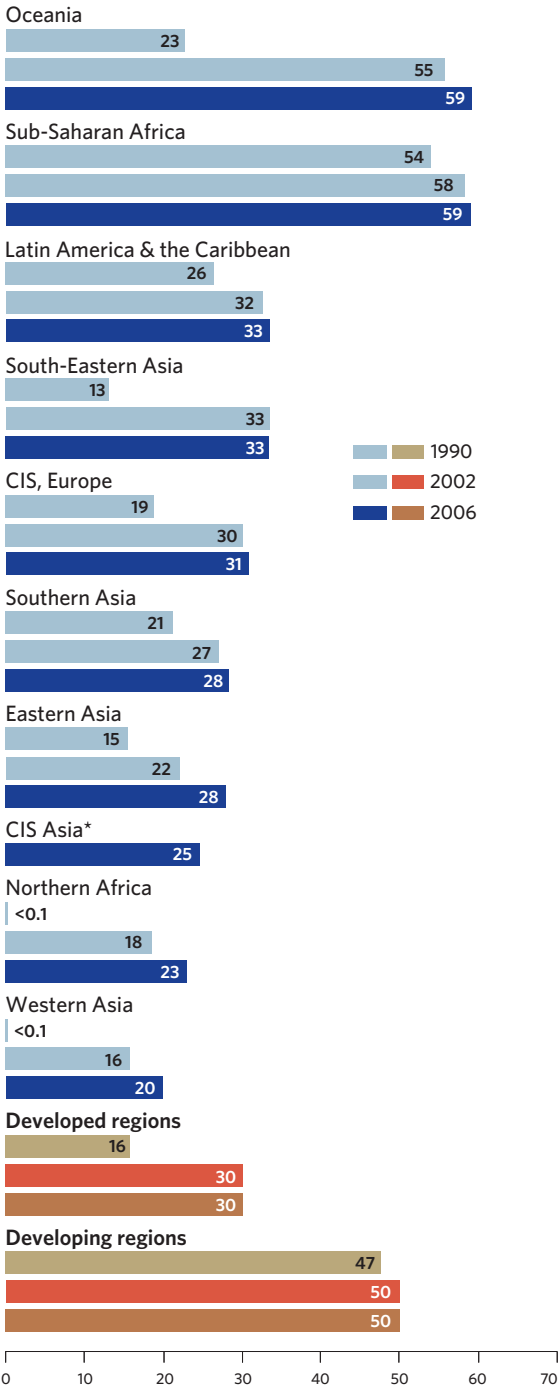


By the end of 2006, an estimated 39.5 million people worldwide were living with HIV (up from 32.9 million in 2001), mostly in sub-Saharan Africa. Globally, 4.3 million people were newly infected with the virus in 2006, with Eastern Asia and the CIS showing the fastest rates of infection. The number of people dying from AIDS has also increased – from 2.2 million in 2001 to 2.9 million in 2006.

The use of non-sterile injecting drug equipment remains the main mode of HIV transmission in CIS countries. Recently, injecting drug use has emerged as a new factor for HIV infection in sub-Saharan Africa, especially in Mauritius, but also in Kenya, Nigeria, South Africa and the United Republic of Tanzania. In Southern and South-Eastern Asia, people are most often infected through unprotected sex with sex workers. Over the past two years, HIV outbreaks among men who have sex with men have also become evident in Asia – in Cambodia, China, India, Nepal, Pakistan, Thailand and Viet Nam.

In hardest hit areas, more than half of those living with HIV are women

Share of adults aged 15 years and older living with HIV, who are women, 1990, 2002 and 2006 (Percentage)



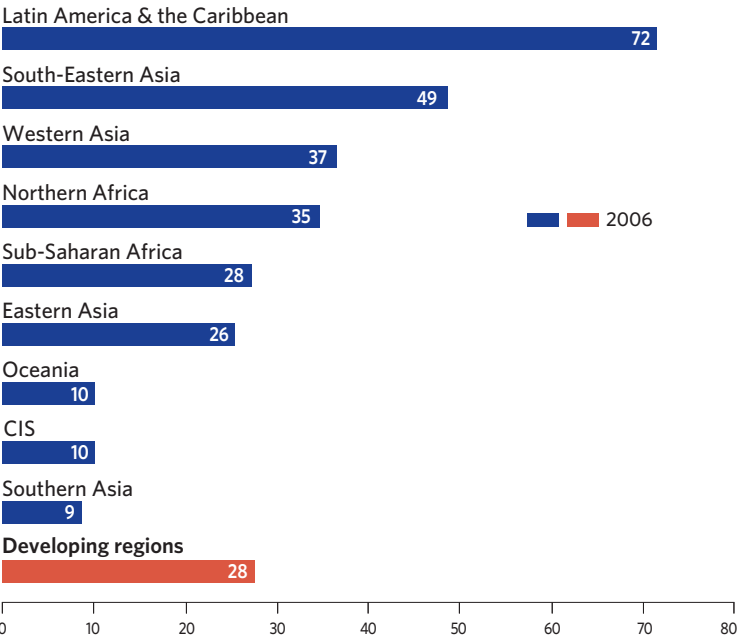
*Data for 1990 and 2002 are not available because the epidemic in this region is recent.

Power imbalances between men and women continue to drive the “feminization” of the HIV epidemic, though the dynamics are changing. Increasing numbers of married women are becoming infected, along with girls and young women. In 2006, women comprised 48 per cent of people around the world living with HIV.

Youth also places people of both genders at risk. In 2006, 40 per cent of new infections among people aged 15 and older were in the 15 to 24-year age group.

Though access to AIDS treatment has expanded, the need continues to grow

Population living with HIV in need of treatment who are receiving antiretroviral therapy, 2006 (Percentage)



Efforts to provide treatment for those living with HIV and AIDS continue to expand. As of December 2006, an estimated 2 million people were receiving antiretroviral therapy in developing regions. This represents 28 per cent of the estimated 7.1 million people in need. Though sub-Saharan Africa is home to the vast majority of people worldwide living with HIV (63 per cent), only about one in four of the estimated 4.8 million people there who could benefit from antiretroviral therapy are receiving it.

The magnitude of the problem is growing: Though 700,000 people received treatment for the first time in 2006, an estimated 4.3 million people were newly infected that year, highlighting the urgent need to intensify prevention efforts. If current trends continue, the number of people with advanced HIV infection in need of therapy will rise faster than treatment services can be scaled up.

Prevention measures are failing to keep pace with the spread of HIV

Slight declines in HIV prevalence among young people since 2000/2001 were reported in eight of the 11 African countries where sufficient information was available to assess trends. Improvements were most evident in Kenya, in urban areas of Côte d'Ivoire, Malawi and Zimbabwe, and in rural parts of Botswana. In general, however, prevention measures are failing to keep pace with the growth of the epidemic. In sub-Saharan Africa, less than a third of young men and just over a fifth of young women demonstrated a comprehensive and correct knowledge of HIV. In most countries, stigma and discrimination against people living with HIV further discourage many from taking an HIV test and disclosing their status to sexual partners. According to recent surveys in a dozen of the worst-affected countries in Africa, the median percentages of men and women who had been tested and received the results were only 12 per cent and 10 per cent, respectively.

In 2005, only 11 per cent of pregnant women in low- and middle-income countries who were HIV-positive were receiving services to prevent the transmission of the virus to their newborns.

Care of orphans is an enormous social problem, which will only get worse as more parents die of AIDS

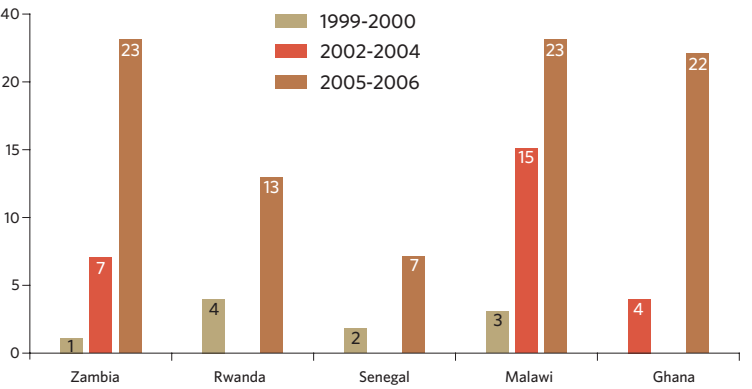
In 2005, an estimated 15.2 million children had lost one or both parents to AIDS, 80 per cent of them in sub-Saharan Africa. By 2010, the figure is likely to rise to more than 20 million. Several countries are making progress in providing a minimum package of services for orphans and vulnerable children, including education, health care, and social welfare and protection. But far more work is needed to provide a humane and comprehensive response to this unprecedented social problem.

TARGET

Have halted by 2015 and begun to reverse the incidence of malaria and other major diseases

Malaria-control efforts are paying off, but additional effort is needed

Proportion of children sleeping under insecticide-treated bed nets in selected countries, 1999-2006 (Percentage)



Key interventions to control malaria have been expanded in recent years, thanks to increased attention and funding. A number of African countries, for example, have widened coverage of insecticide-treated bed nets (ITNs), which are among the most effective tools available for preventing the mosquito bites that cause malaria. Preliminary results from household surveys conducted in 2005-2006 show that many other countries are advancing on the bed net front as well, though final results will only be available later this year. Still, only a few countries came close to the 2005 target of 60 per cent coverage set at the African Summit on Roll Back Malaria in 2000. A strengthened commitment from all concerned is needed if countries are to reach the revised target of 80 per cent ITN use by 2010.

Countries will also need to ensure that coverage is more equitable. In sub-Saharan Africa, only 5 per cent of children under five sleep under insecticide-treated bed nets. And in rural areas of countries where malaria is endemic, the burden of malaria is often highest and ITN coverage lowest. According to the most recent surveys of 30 African countries (conducted from 2000 to 2006), children under five living in urban areas were nearly 2.5 times as likely to be sleeping under an insecticide-treated net as their rural counterparts.

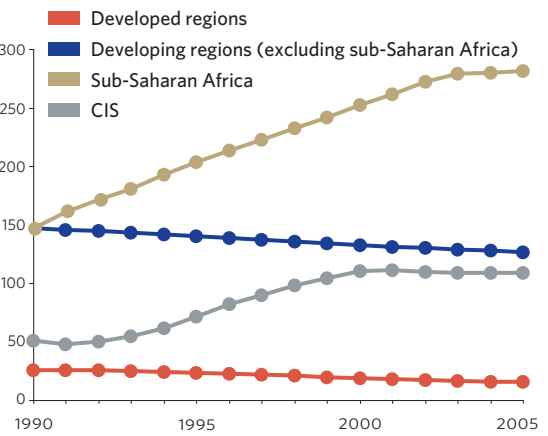
To meet the MDG target, the most effective treatment for malaria must also be made available to those in need. A significant proportion of the nearly 40 per cent of children with fever in sub-Saharan Africa who received anti-malarial drugs were treated with chloroquine, which has lost some of its effectiveness due to widespread resistance. A number of African countries have shifted their national drug policies to encourage the use of

artemisinin-based combination therapy (ACT). But to get these medicines to people who could benefit from them will require better forecasting of needs and improved management of procurement and supply-chain processes.

Around \$3 billion are needed worldwide – \$2 billion for Africa alone – to fight malaria in countries hardest hit by the disease. International funding for malaria control has risen more than tenfold over the past decade, but the amount available in 2004 was still only around \$600 million.

The incidence of tuberculosis is levelling off globally, but the number of new cases is still rising

Number of new tuberculosis cases per 100,000 population (excluding people who are HIV-positive), 1990-2005

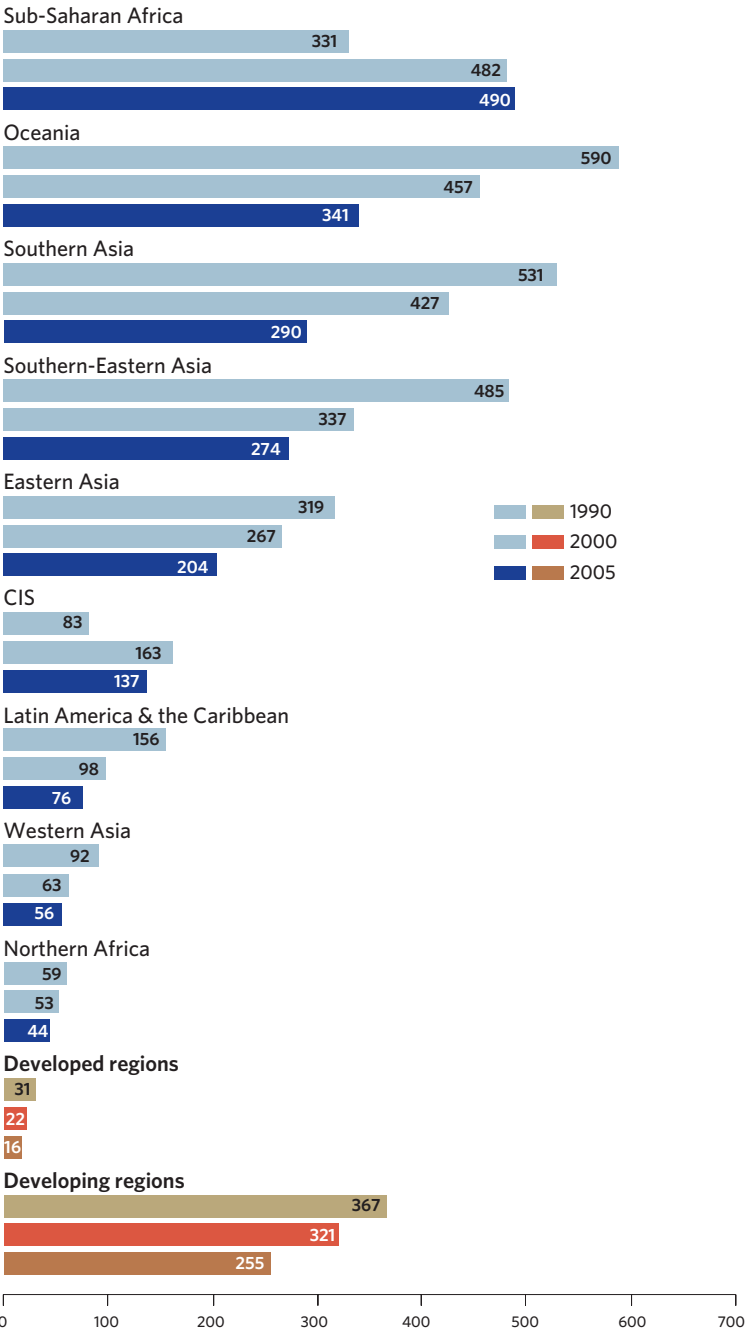


The incidence of tuberculosis – measured by the number of new cases per 100,000 people – has stabilized or begun to fall in most regions, following earlier downturns in prevalence and mortality. However, the total number of new cases was still rising slowly in 2005 due to population growth. An estimated 8.8 million new tuberculosis cases were reported in 2005, 7.3 million of which were in sub-Saharan Africa and the four Asian regions. A total of 1.6 million people died of tuberculosis in 2005, including 195,000 people infected with HIV.

While the incidence of tuberculosis increased dramatically in sub-Saharan Africa and in countries of the CIS throughout the 1990s, it had levelled off in both regions by 2005.

Reaching global targets for tuberculosis control will require accelerated progress, especially in sub-Saharan Africa and the CIS

Number of tuberculosis cases per 100,000 population (excluding people who are HIV-positive), 1990, 2000 and 2005



The global tuberculosis epidemic appears to be on the threshold of decline as incidence has begun to stabilize. However, progress is not fast enough to reach additional targets set by the Stop TB Partnership – to halve prevalence and death rates by 2015 (from 1990 levels). Based on recent progress, sub-Saharan Africa and the CIS are least likely to reach these new targets.

Goal 7

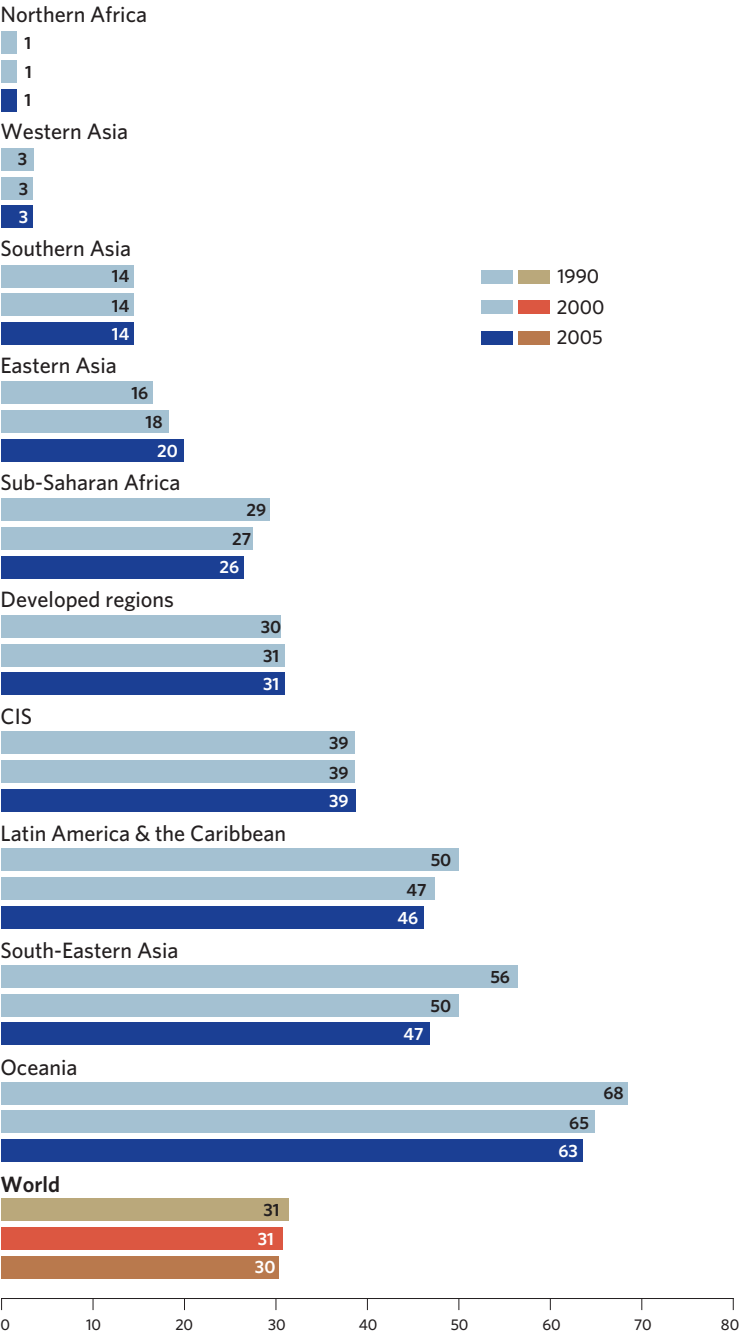
Ensure environmental sustainability



TARGET
Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programmes and reverse the loss of environmental resources

Deforestation continues, especially in biologically diverse regions

Proportion of land area covered by forests, 1990, 2000 and 2005 (Percentage)



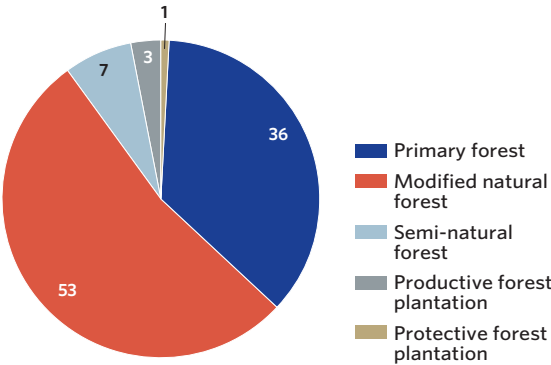
From 1990 to 2005, the world lost 3 per cent of its forests, an average decrease of 0.2 per cent a year. Deforestation, primarily due to the conversion of forests to agricultural land in developing countries, continues at an alarming rate – about 13 million hectares a year. The rate of loss has been fastest in some of the world’s most biologically diverse regions, including South-Eastern Asia, Oceania, Latin America, and sub-Saharan Africa. In addition to the loss of biodiversity, between 18 and 25 per cent of greenhouse gas emissions each year are associated with deforestation, making it a key factor in climate change.

The planting of trees, restoration of degraded lands and the natural expansion of woodlands – especially in Europe, parts of North America and Eastern Asia – have increased forested areas in these regions, particularly in recent years. As a result, the net decrease in forest cover over the period 2000-2005 is about 7.3 million hectares a year – down from 8.9 million hectares a year from 1990 to 2000. Still, forested areas totalling about 200 square kilometres – an area twice the size of Paris – are being lost every day.

Recent efforts to curb deforestation – in Brazil, for example – are positive signs. In parts of the African Sahel, where desertification is contributing to poverty, the decentralization of authority to manage and benefit from local resources also shows promise of reversing earlier forest losses.

Tree plantations increase while old-growth forest ecosystems continue to be lost

Forest characteristics, 2005 (Percentage)



Maintaining the integrity of the world’s forests and other ecosystems plays an important role in biodiversity conservation. More than a third (36 per

cent) of the world’s forests remain largely undisturbed by human activity. Yet these primary forests were lost at a rate of about 6 million hectares a year between 2000 and 2005, because of selective logging and other human interventions. Over this same period, forest plantations increased by about 2.8 million hectares a year, mainly due to large-scale tree-planting schemes in China. Forest plantations represent less than 5 per cent of the world’s total forest area. Slightly more than three quarters of all plantations are intended for harvesting, primarily of timber and fiber, while the remaining quarter are protective plantations, established mainly for the conservation of soil and water.

Despite increased efforts to conserve the land and seas, biodiversity continues to decline

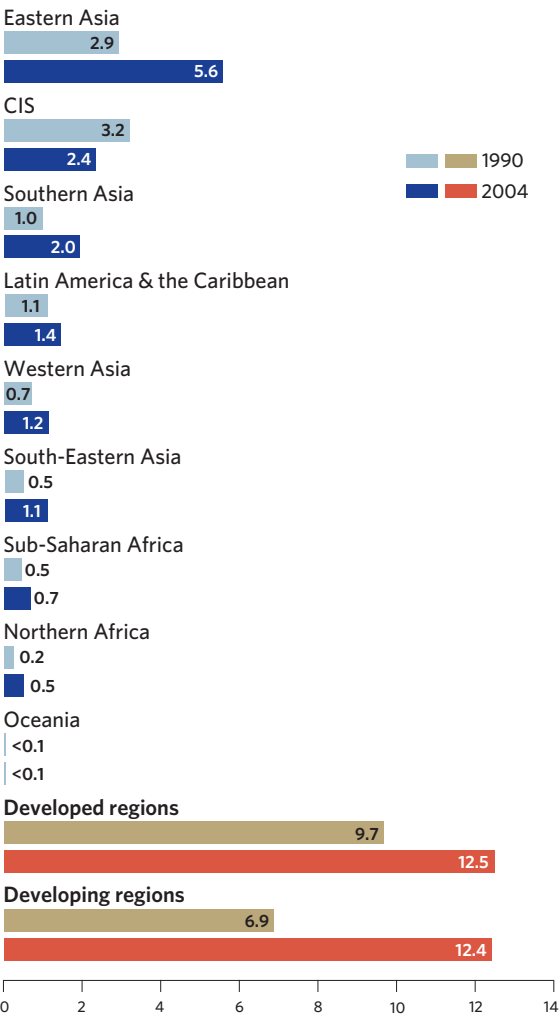
In response to the loss of global biodiversity, the international community has been encouraging protection of the Earth’s land and marine environments. The proportion of protected areas globally has steadily increased, and a total of about 20 million square kilometres of land and sea were under protection by 2006. This is an area more than twice the size of China. However, not all protected areas are effectively managed for conservation. Further clouding the picture is the fact that only a fraction of these areas – about 2 million square kilometres – are marine ecosystems, despite their important role in the sustainability of fish stocks and of coastal livelihoods.

Even though more areas are being protected, the proportion of species threatened with extinction continues to increase, and individual populations continue to decline. Unprecedented efforts will be required to conserve habitats and to manage ecosystems and species in a sustainable way if the rate of species loss is to be significantly reduced by 2010.

The world’s fisheries are at particular risk, and will require continued international cooperation and management to maintain current stocks and to allow depleted ones to recover. After decades of deterioration, the proportion of overexploited, depleted and recovering fish stocks has now stabilized at around 25 per cent since the 1990s. But the proportion of underexploited fisheries is steadily declining. Currently, only 22 per cent of the world’s fisheries are sustainable, compared to 40 per cent in 1975.

Growing greenhouse gas emissions continue to outpace advances in sustainable energy technologies

Emissions of carbon dioxide (CO₂), 1990-2004
(Billions of metric tons)



According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, the science is now unequivocal: Human activities are driving changes in the Earth’s climate, with subsequent risks to livelihoods and human well-being. Mean global surface temperatures have increased by about 0.5 degrees Celsius since 1970. One expected result is an increase in severe weather patterns in many parts of the world. Shortages of fresh water – perhaps our most precious but degraded natural resource – are also likely to be exacerbated. In regions such as sub-Saharan Africa, where climate models predict less rainfall, the resulting drop in crop

yields and the critical decline in food, shelter materials and water could prove catastrophic.

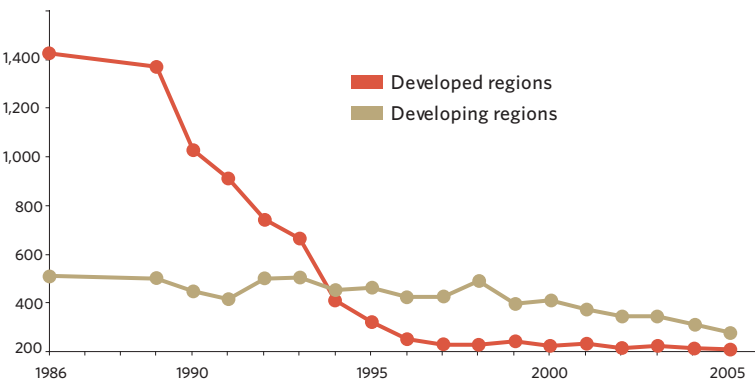
The primary contributor to climate change is carbon dioxide (CO₂), released by the burning of fossil fuels. Carbon dioxide emissions reached 29 billion metric tons in 2004 and continue to rise, as evidenced by increasing concentrations of CO₂ in the atmosphere. In South-Eastern Asia and Northern Africa, emissions more than doubled between 1990 and 2004. Yet, on a per capita basis, developing regions continue to emit far less CO₂ than developed regions. In 2004, developed regions accounted for about 12 tons per person on average. Western Asia, the highest per capita emitter among developing regions, produced less than half that amount. An individual in sub-Saharan Africa accounts for less than one tenth of the CO₂ produced by an average person in the developed world.

As global energy consumption continues to expand – an increase of 20 per cent since 1990 – progress has been made in the development and use of cleaner energy technologies. Energy from renewable resources, such as hydropower and bio-fuels, now accounts for more than 12 per cent of total energy use. The development of more modern renewables, which have no negative impact on people’s health or the environment, has increased tenfold over the last several decades. However, these newer technologies, including those that rely on wind, solar, wave and geothermal energy, still account for only 0.5 per cent of total energy consumption.

A continuing reliance on fossil fuels is likely for some time to come. Stronger international action is needed to accelerate the transition to cleaner and more efficient energy sources.

A global effort to eliminate ozone-depleting substances is working, though damage to the ozone layer will persist for some time

Consumption of all ozone depleting substances, 1989-2005 (Thousands of metric tons of ozone-depleting potential)



Emissions of ozone-depleting substances (ODS) have been drastically reduced – from almost 1.5 billion tons in 1989 to 89 million tons in 2005 – since threats to the protective ozone layer were first recognized. The

progress to date, 20 years after the Montreal Protocol was signed, demonstrates what can be achieved when countries act together, and in a concerted way, to resolve global environmental problems.

Concentrations of ozone-depleting chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) have begun to recede in the atmosphere. However, until they diminish significantly, the ozone layer cannot begin to heal and ultraviolet radiation will continue to harm human health, crop productivity and wildlife.

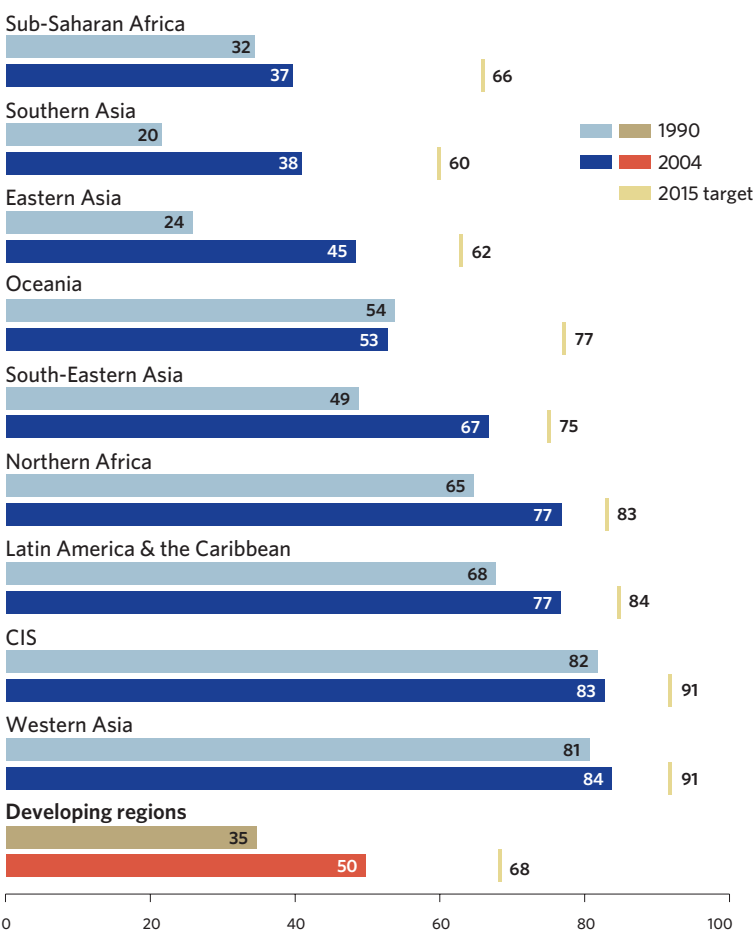
Since the 1990s, every region has exceeded its commitments under the Montreal Protocol. CFCs have already been phased out in developed countries, and developing countries are on track to do so by 2010. Similarly, every region has reduced its consumption of other ozone-depleting substances. However, countries have yet to completely eliminate their use, which is in accordance with the timelines proposed under the Protocol. Complicating the issue is the fact that significant amounts of CFCs continue to be produced and traded illegally. Management of ODS stockpiles is another concern, since the cost of destroying them is high and environmentally unsound disposal methods could spew disastrous amounts of ozone-depleting substances into the atmosphere. Maintaining momentum and funding for the final phase-out and for monitoring the ozone layer is crucial to a happy conclusion to this unprecedented international success story.

TARGET

Halve, by 2015, the proportion of the population without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation

With half the developing world without basic sanitation, meeting the MDG target will require extraordinary efforts

Proportion of population using improved sanitation, 1990 and 2004 (Percentage)

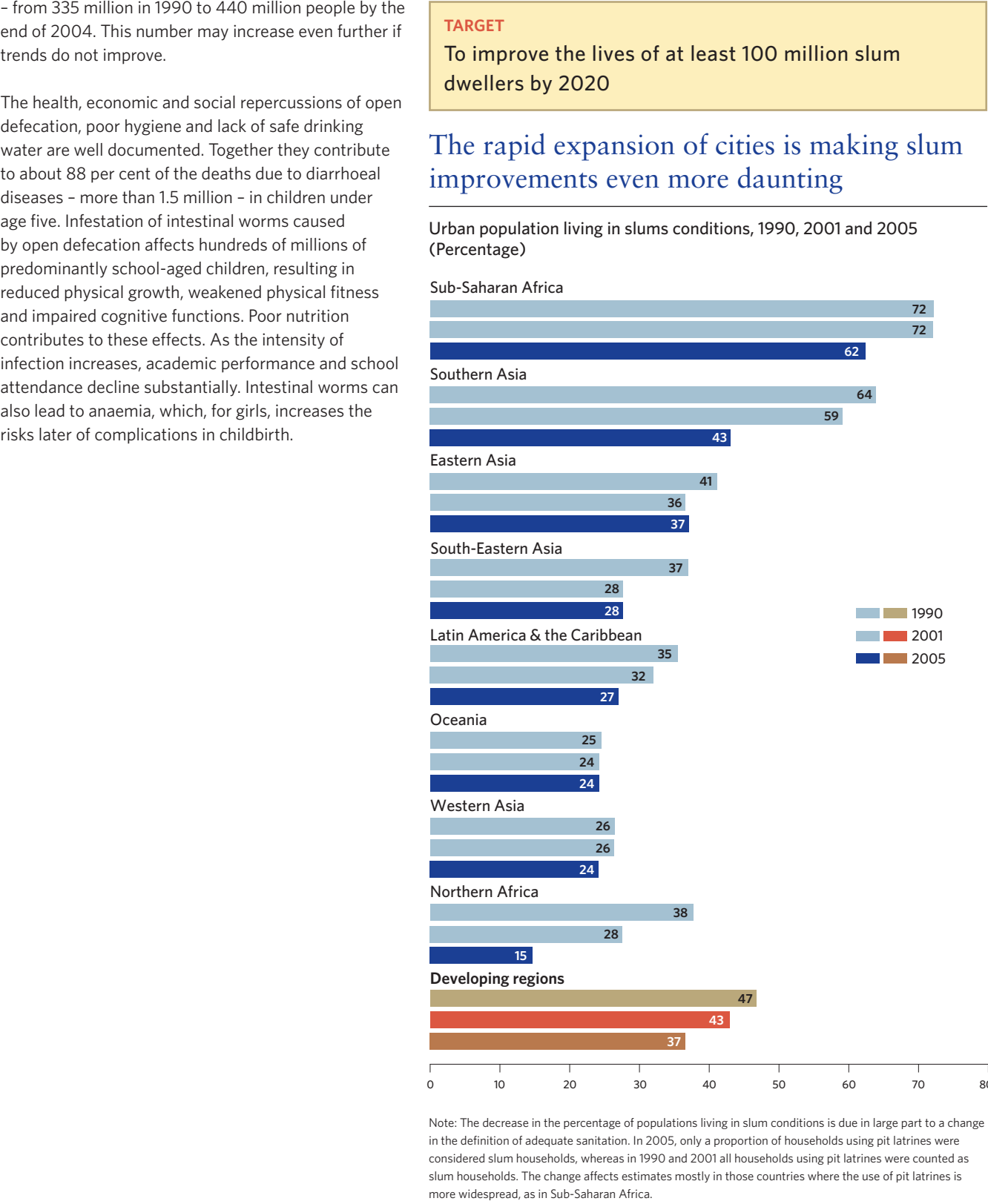


An estimated 1.6 billion people will need access to improved sanitation over the period 2005-2015 to meet the MDG target. Yet if trends since 1990 continue, the world is likely to miss the target by almost 600 million people.

Only Eastern, South-Eastern and Western Asia, Northern Africa and Latin America and the Caribbean are on track to halve the proportion of people without basic sanitation by 2015. All other developing regions have made insufficient progress towards this target. In sub-Saharan Africa, the absolute number of people without access to sanitation actually increased

– from 335 million in 1990 to 440 million people by the end of 2004. This number may increase even further if trends do not improve.

The health, economic and social repercussions of open defecation, poor hygiene and lack of safe drinking water are well documented. Together they contribute to about 88 per cent of the deaths due to diarrhoeal diseases – more than 1.5 million – in children under age five. Infestation of intestinal worms caused by open defecation affects hundreds of millions of predominantly school-aged children, resulting in reduced physical growth, weakened physical fitness and impaired cognitive functions. Poor nutrition contributes to these effects. As the intensity of infection increases, academic performance and school attendance decline substantially. Intestinal worms can also lead to anaemia, which, for girls, increases the risks later of complications in childbirth.



Already, nearly half the world’s population live in cities in towns. But due to urban migration and rapid population growth, the number of urban dwellers will continue to expand, from 3.2 billion people today to nearly 5 billion by 2030, with most of the growth taking place in Africa and Asia.

In 2005, one out of three urban dwellers was living in slum conditions – that is, lacking at least one of the basic conditions of decent housing: adequate sanitation, improved water supply, durable housing or adequate living space. Even if the growth rate of slum dwellers decreases, the rapid expansion of urban areas will make it challenging to improve living conditions quickly enough to meet the target.

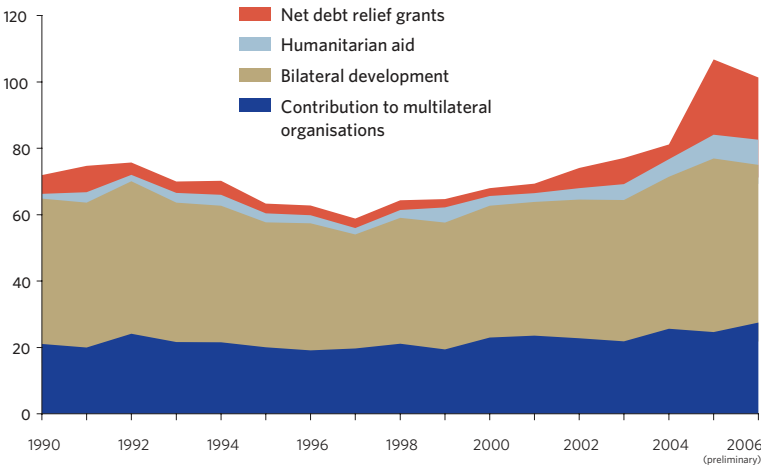
Sub-Saharan Africa and Southern Asia are still the regions where lack of adequate shelter among urban populations is most acute. Looking beyond the regional averages, the situation is even more discouraging. In countries including Chad, the Central African Republic and Ethiopia, four out of five urban dwellers live in slums. In most of Asia and in Latin America, where the majority of urban dwellers have access to improved water and sanitation, slum conditions are characterized mainly by overcrowding and makeshift shelters. The non-durability of housing, in fact, is a problem for an estimated 117 million people living in cities of the developing world. Over half of these people live in Asia; Northern Africa has the fewest people living in non-durable housing. In 2005, about one fifth of the urban population in the developing world lived in overcrowded houses (with more than three persons sharing a bedroom); two thirds of them were in Asia, with half in Southern Asia.





Development aid falls, despite renewed commitments by donor countries

Official development assistance from developed countries, 1990-2006 (Constant 2005 United States dollars)



In 2005, aid rose to a record \$106.8 billion due to large debt relief operations, most notably for Iraq and Nigeria. In 2006, substantial debt relief to these two countries began to drop out of the equation, causing net aid disbursements to fall to \$103.9 billion – equivalent to 0.3 per cent of developed countries’ combined national income. In real terms, official aid dropped by 5.1 per cent, the first decline since 1997. Even excluding debt relief, aid still declined by 1.8 per cent from the year before.

The only donors to reach or exceed the United Nations target of 0.7 per cent of gross national income for development aid were Denmark, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway and Sweden. Sixteen of the 22 member countries of the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) met the 2006 targets for official development assistance they set at the 2002 Monterrey Conference on Financing for Development.

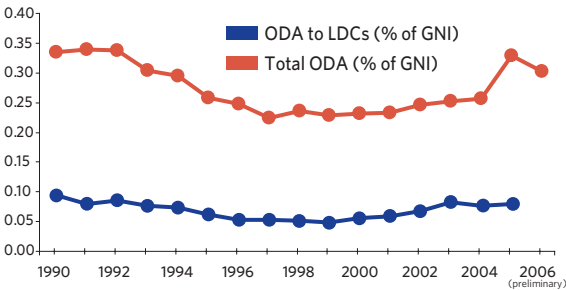
Aid is expected to continue to fall slightly in 2007 as debt relief declines further. Other forms of aid will increase if donors fulfil their recent pledges. However, the present rate of increase in core development programmes will have to triple over the next four years if donors are to deliver on their promises.

TARGET

Address the special needs of the least developed countries, landlocked countries and small island developing states

Donors pledge to double their aid to Africa, but there is little to show so far

Official development assistance from developed countries as a proportion of donors’ gross national income, 1990-2006 (Percentage)



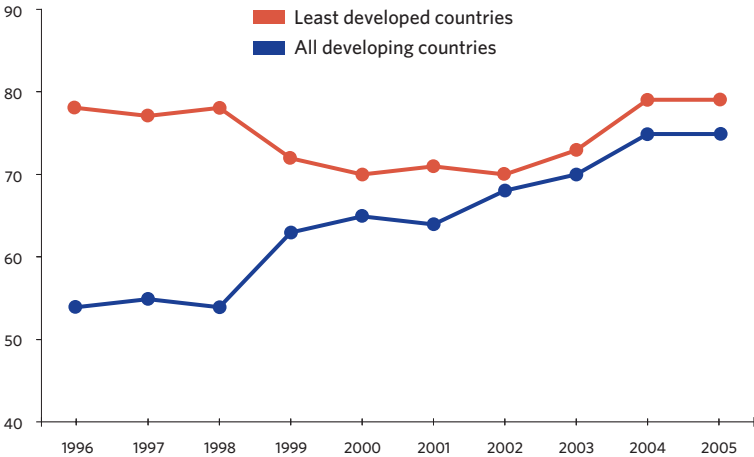
Development assistance is mainly targeted at the poorest countries. However, aid to the least developed countries (LDCs) has essentially stalled since 2003. Aid to sub-Saharan Africa, excluding debt relief for Nigeria, increased by only 2 per cent between 2005 and 2006. This reflects poorly on donors, who pledged to double aid to Africa by 2010 at the summit of the Group of 8 industrialized nations in Gleneagles in 2005.

TARGET

Develop further an open, rule-based, predictable, non-discriminatory trading and financial system

Preferential market access has stalled for most developing countries

Proportion of imports from developing countries (excluding arms and oil) admitted to developed countries duty-free, 1996-2005 (Percentage)



In the Millennium Declaration, governments agreed that globalization should become a positive force for all. To this end, members of the World Trade Organization decided at a 2001 meeting in Doha to complete, by the end of 2004, a series of trade negotiations that would focus on improving the prospects of developing countries. As of early 2007, there was still no agreement on the overall programme of measures to be adopted. This represents an important opportunity lost.

As part of these broader negotiations, developed countries (and developing countries in a position to do so) agreed in 2005 to eliminate duties and quotas on most imports from least developed countries (LDCs). As a result, trade barriers for these countries have diminished, but remain significant for some products and some LDCs. In addition, more than 40 developing countries, including China, are now willing to enhance duty-free access for least developed countries under the auspices of the Global System of Trade Preferences.

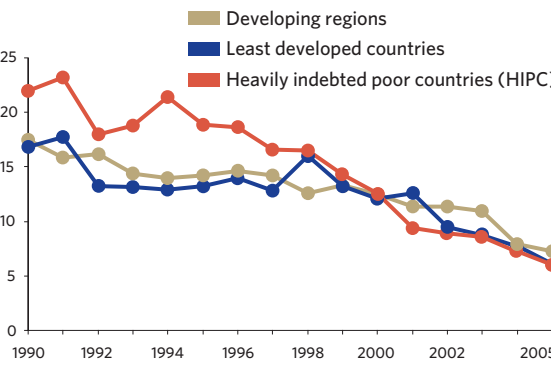
In 2005, the share of goods entering developed country markets duty-free was unchanged from the year before, for both developing countries as a whole and for the least developed countries. Moreover, the liberalization of existing quotas on sensitive products, such as clothing and textiles, resulting from the end of the Agreement on Textiles and Clothing in 2005, unleashed a global restructuring of trade flows. This benefited some developing countries but was detrimental to others – ranging from some upper-middle-income countries in Asia and Latin America to several least developed countries in Africa.

Opening the markets of rich or middle-income economies does not, by itself, always benefit the poorest developing countries. Through various initiatives, African LDCs have almost full market access to most developing countries duty-free. However, supply constraints severely limit their capacity to exploit such opportunities. In addition, restrictive conditions – including rules on origins of products and other administrative obstacles – often make these preferences difficult to take advantage of. To raise LDCs out of poverty, improved market access needs to be complemented by a significant programme of Aid for Trade, a call that was reiterated in the World Trade Organization’s Ministerial Declaration in 2005. However, between 2001 and 2005, the proportion of official aid going to trade-related technical assistance and capacity-building has declined from 4.4 to 3.5 per cent.

TARGET
Deal comprehensively with developing countries’ debt

The debt service burden of developing countries continues to lighten

External debt service payments as proportion of export revenues, 1990-2005 (Percentage)



The poorest countries continue to be relieved of their external debt burdens under two programmes: the Highly Indebted Poor Country (HIPC) Initiative and the Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative (MDRI). The MDRI, proposed by the Group of 8 industrialized nations, was launched in 2005 to reduce further the debts of highly indebted countries and to provide additional resources to help them meet the Millennium Development Goals.

Under the programme, three multilateral institutions – the International Development Association, International Monetary Fund and African Development Fund – provide 100 per cent debt relief for eligible debts of countries that have completed the HIPC initiative process, which requires meeting certain criteria. In early 2007, the Inter-American Development Bank decided to provide similar debt relief to the five Latin American and Caribbean countries that are part of the HIPC programme.

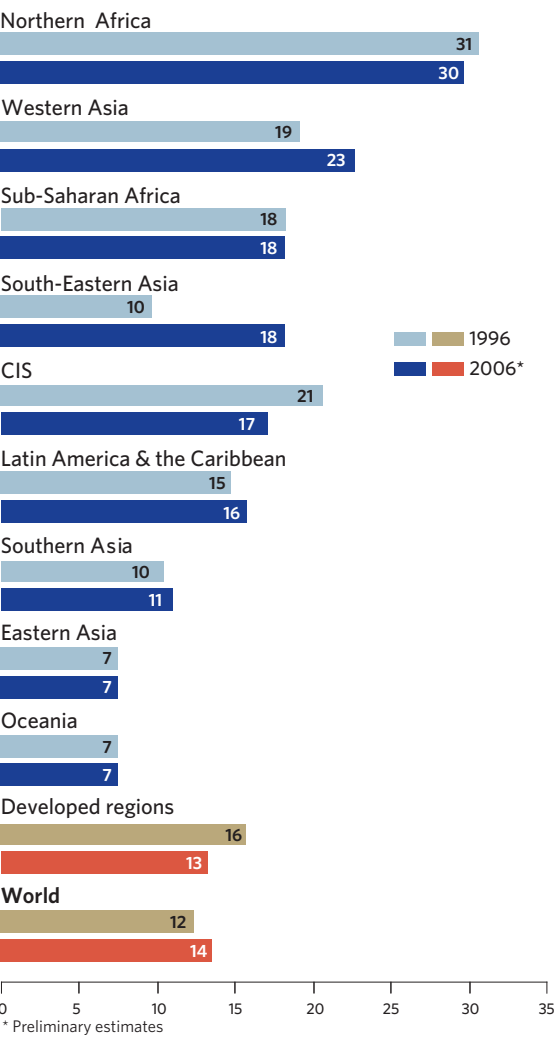
By April 2007, 22 of the 40 HIPC countries had fulfilled all conditions and been granted debt relief; eight had completed the first stage of the process (called the ‘decision point’) and received debt relief on a provisional basis. The remaining 10 countries have received commitments of HIPC debt relief worth \$12.5 billion in present value terms and could become eligible for further debt relief under the MDRI. Eleven other countries remain potentially eligible for debt relief under the HIPC initiative, but have been unable to seize the opportunity because of conflict, poor governance or arrears in payments.

By mid-2006, nearly \$60 billion in debt relief had been committed to countries that had reached the HIPC decision point. Relief under the two initiatives is expected to reduce the debt stocks of these countries by almost 90 per cent. Their estimated debt service payments fell to about 6 per cent of export earnings in 2005; it is expected that they will have declined even further – to about 4 per cent – in 2006. Debt service paid by these countries fell by about 2 per cent of their gross domestic product between 1999 and 2005, and is expected to decline further over the next several years.

TARGET
In cooperation with developing countries, develop and implement strategies for decent and productive work for youth

In all regions, economies have failed to provide full employment for their young people

Youth unemployment rates, 1996 and 2006 (Percentage)



Both developed and developing economies are failing to provide job opportunities at a fast enough pace to fully employ their young people. Since 1996, the

number of jobless youth has grown from 74 million to 86 million in 2006. This represents almost half of the 195 million jobless people in the world. Young people tend to have more difficulty finding work than adults and, in many countries, they are more than three times as likely to be without jobs. In 2006, youth unemployment stood at 13.6 per cent, compared to the adult unemployment rate of 4.4 per cent.

Coping with the employment challenge is made more urgent by the staggering number of projected job entrants over the next few years, especially in developing countries – home to 89 per cent of the world’s youth. The total number of young people has increased by over 142 million since 1996 and is expected to grow by an additional 18 million by 2015, to nearly 1.2 billion. Ensuring that young people have a productive outlet for their energy and talents is an indispensable element of poverty eradication.

The successful integration of young people into the labour market – especially youth from poor or underprivileged households – is also important for economic growth. With the right start in the labour market comes a wider range of options through which young people can improve their lives as well as those of future dependants. The result: an end to the spread of intergenerational poverty. Moreover, young men and women who have the means to support a family may be less likely to resort to anti-social behaviour, violence or crime.

Unemployment is only one aspect of underperforming labour markets. All too often, people have a job but work unacceptably long hours under intermittent and insecure work arrangements, characterized by low productivity, meagre earnings, reduced labour protection and diminished rights. All of these dimensions should be considered part of a broader definition of decent and productive work, an analysis of which would aid our understanding of the progress being made towards full employment for all. Everyone – women and young people included – has the right to fulfil their potential and escape the poverty trap through decent and productive work.

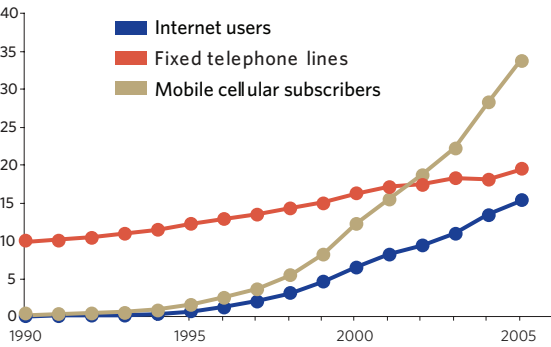


TARGET

In cooperation with the private sector, make available the benefits of new technologies, especially information and communications

Access to information and communication technologies grows fastest in the mobile sector

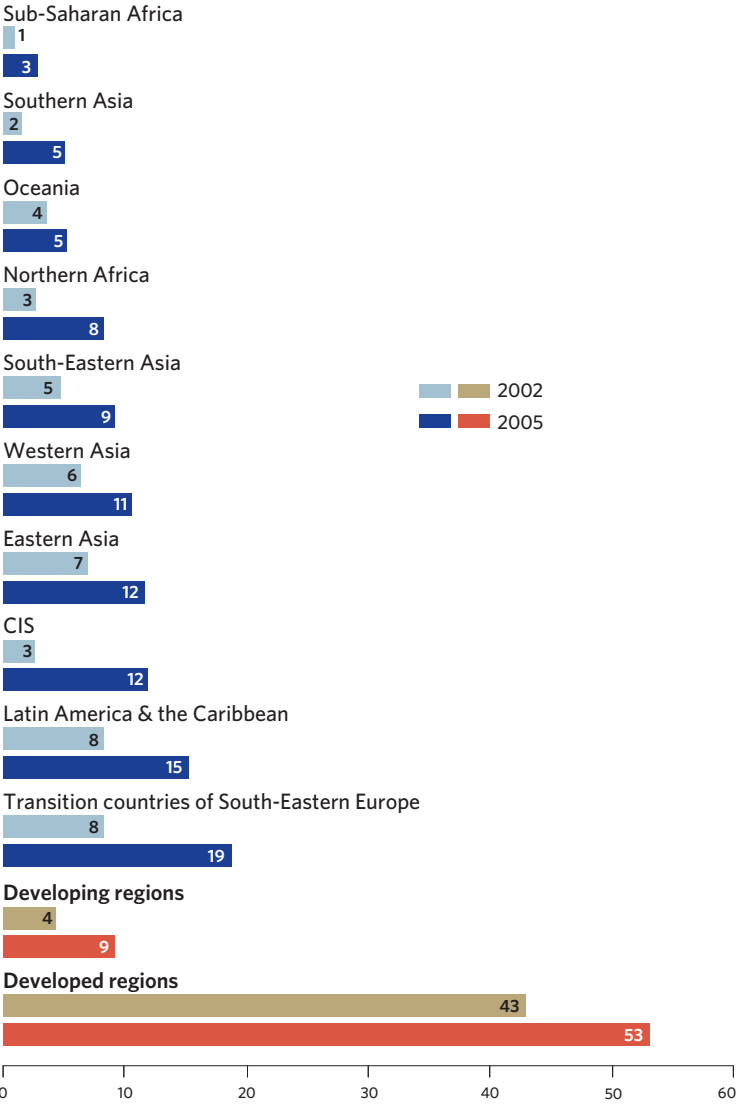
Number of telephone subscriptions and Internet connections per 100 population, 1990-2005 (Percentage)



Connectivity is increasing, with the number of Internet users and telephone subscribers expanding worldwide. The most rapid growth has taken place in the mobile sector, which has been critical to improving communications in regions with few fixed telephone lines. The number of mobile subscribers worldwide rose from 11 million in 1990 to 2.2 billion in 2005, compared to growth in fixed lines of 520 million to 1.2 billion over the same period. In Africa, almost every country has more mobile than fixed telephone subscribers, and over 55 million new mobile subscribers were added in 2005. By the end of 2005, a total of 130 million Africans had subscriptions to mobile phones. This represents 15 per cent of the African population, compared to 3 per cent with fixed telephone lines and 4 per cent using the Internet.

Internet use is growing, but remains low throughout the developing world

Number of Internet users per 100 population, 2002 and 2005



By the end of 2005, just over 15 per cent of the world’s population were using the Internet. However, the proportions are skewed in favour of richer countries. Over half the population in developed regions were using the Internet in 2005, compared to 9 per cent in developing regions and 1 per cent in the 50 least developed countries.



A note to the reader

Charting progress towards the MDGs

The Millennium Declaration, signed by world’s leaders of 189 countries in 2000, established 2015 as the deadline for achieving most of the Millennium Development Goals. The majority of MDG targets have a baseline of 1990, and are set to monitor achievements over the period 1990-2015. This report presents an assessment of progress midway through the process, based on data available as of June 2007.¹ Since more data are now becoming available for the period after 2000, data for 2000 are also presented whenever possible, to provide a more detailed picture of progress since the Declaration was signed.

The basis for this analysis

This analysis is based on regional and subregional figures compiled by the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on MDG Indicators. In general, the figures were obtained through weighted averages of country data – using the population of reference as a weight. To ensure comparability across countries and regions, the data are those used by international agencies within their area of expertise (see inside front cover for a list of contributing organizations). For each indicator, one or more agencies were designated to be the official data providers and to take the lead in developing appropriate methodologies for data collection and analysis.

Data are typically drawn from official statistics provided by governments to the international agencies responsible for the indicator. This is done through a mechanism of periodic data collection. In the case of data on employment, for example, the International Labour Organization collects labour force indicators from labour ministries and national statistical offices in every country; in the area of health, the World Health Organization gathers administrative records and household survey data on major diseases from ministries of health and national statistical agencies around the globe.

To fill frequent data gaps, many of the indicators are supplemented by or derived exclusively from data collected through surveys sponsored and carried out by international agencies. These include many of the health indicators, which are compiled for the most part from Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys and Demographic Health Surveys.

In some cases, countries may have more recent data that have not yet become available to the specialized agency in question. In other cases, countries do not produce the data required to compile the indicator, and the responsible international agencies estimate the missing values. Finally, even when countries regularly produce the necessary data, adjustments are often needed to ensure international comparability. The United Nations Statistics Division maintains

the official website of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on MDG Indicators and its database – accessible at mdgs.un.org – containing the aggregated data as well as the country data series as provided by all partner agencies. The database also presents the detailed metadata on the calculation of the indicators and the methodologies used for regional aggregations.

Aggregated figures are used in this report to provide an overall assessment of regional progress under the eight goals and are a convenient way to track advances over time. However, the situation in individual countries within a given region may vary significantly from the averages presented here.

Building stronger statistical systems

The availability of good statistics and the capacity of governments, donors and international organizations to systematically measure, monitor and report on progress in all social and economic spheres are at the heart of development policy and the achievement of the MDGs.

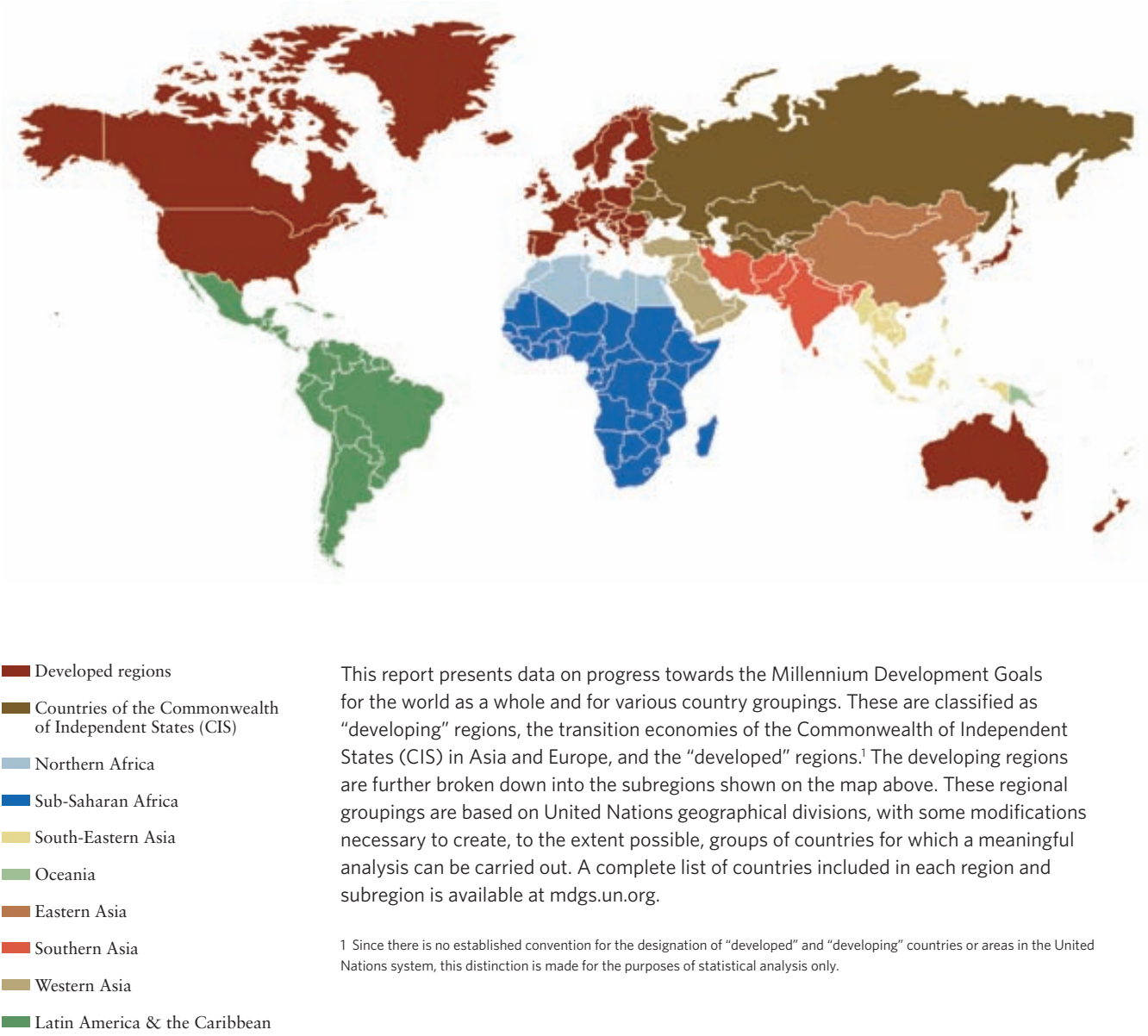
Reliable data at the national and local levels are indispensable to informing policies, identifying and measuring the effectiveness of key interventions, and monitoring progress. Since periodic assessment of the MDGs began over five years ago, a number of initiatives have been launched to address the needs of developing countries to strengthen their capacity to produce, analyse and disseminate data. A major step in this direction was the 2004 endorsement of the “Marrakech Action Plan for Statistics - Better Data for Better Results, An Action Plan for Improving Development Statistics,” by the Second International Roundtable on Managing for Development Results, comprising aid recipients and donor stakeholders.

In line with the Marrakech Plan, the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on MDG Indicators has also made statistical capacity-building one of its priority areas of work. Towards this end, the Inter-Agency Group, together with international agencies, donors and representatives from national statistical offices, are identifying national priorities in statistical capacity-building. They are also making specific recommendations for improvements in the delivery and coordination of statistical assistance to countries.

More recently, the United Nations Statistical Commission, comprised of representatives of national statistical services, has called the attention of UN Member States to the urgent need to build statistical capacity in countries where resources are limited. A Resolution on Statistical Capacity-Building was proposed by the Commission in March 2006 and later approved by the Economic and Social Council in July 2006. Building such capacity will require increased and better coordinated financial and technical support from the international community. Achieving success will depend on country ownership and government commitment to spur the institutional changes needed to ensure the sustainability of capacity-building initiatives.

¹Given the time lag between collecting data and analysing them, few indicators have data for the current year or 2006.

Regional Groupings



This report presents data on progress towards the Millennium Development Goals for the world as a whole and for various country groupings. These are classified as “developing” regions, the transition economies of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) in Asia and Europe, and the “developed” regions.¹ The developing regions are further broken down into the subregions shown on the map above. These regional groupings are based on United Nations geographical divisions, with some modifications necessary to create, to the extent possible, groups of countries for which a meaningful analysis can be carried out. A complete list of countries included in each region and subregion is available at mdgs.un.org.

¹ Since there is no established convention for the designation of “developed” and “developing” countries or areas in the United Nations system, this distinction is made for the purposes of statistical analysis only.

The designations employed and the presentation of the material in the present publication do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Secretariat of the United Nations concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.

For more information:
Visit the UN Statistics Division Millennium Development Goals website at mdgs.un.org

Visit the UN Millennium Development Goals website at www.un.org/millenniumgoals

Visit the UN Millennium Campaign Office website at www.millenniumcampaign.org

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“In the Millennium Declaration of 2000, world leaders set forth a new vision for humanity... Leaders committed themselves ‘to spare no effort to free our fellow men, women and children from the abject and dehumanizing conditions of extreme poverty’.

We must recognize the nature of the global trust at stake and the danger that many developing countries’ hopes could be irredeemably pierced if even the greatest anti-poverty movement in history is insufficient to break from ‘business as usual’.

Are we on course to look back, in 2015, and say that no effort was spared?”

– *Meeting the Challenges of a Changing World*

(Annual Report of the Secretary-General on the Work of the Organization, 2006)



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