Momentum builds toward UN Summit on the Millennium Development Goals

As preparations enter into high gear for the September summit on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), a series of report launches, official events and press briefings are taking place at the UN in New York over the coming two weeks, building momentum for this year’s big push to accelerate progress – just five years from the 2015 deadline for achieving the Goals.

Selected events open to the press:

17 June, 12:15 pm, Dag Hammarskjold Library Auditorium
Launch of *What Will It Take to Achieve The Millennium Development Goals? An International Assessment* by Helen Clark, Administrator of the UN Development Programme (UNDP), as guest at the noon briefing. The report identifies a concrete eight-point action agenda to accelerate and sustain development progress on the MDGs over the next five years based on evidence of successful poverty alleviation programmes from 50 countries. Contact: sausan.ghosheh@undp.org

21 June, 12:20 pm, Dag Hammarskjold Library Auditorium
Press briefing giving a preview of the UN Secretary-General’s messages for the G20 summit, the MDG Report 2010, the impact of the economic crisis on the most vulnerable and other issues. Speaking as guests at the noon briefing will be Robert Orr, Assistant Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Strategic Planning in the Executive Office of the Secretary-General; Jomo Kwame Sundaram, Assistant Secretary-General for Economic Development at the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA); and Olav Kjorven, Assistant Secretary-General and Director of the Bureau for Development Policy at UNDP. Contact: okabe@un.org

21 June
The UN Millennium Campaign and the Overseas Development Institute are issuing a five-page brochure highlighting the top 20 countries in terms of MDG achievement. The publication is part of a larger MDG Report Card: Learning from Progress to be issued in September. Contact: mandy.kibel@undp.org

22 June, 2:00 pm, Dag Hammarskjold Library Auditorium
Background briefing on the *Millennium Development Goals Report 2010* by the lead author of the report, a senior official from DESA. Contact: pascale@un.org or donlon@un.org

23 June, 11:00 am, Dag Hammarskjold Library Auditorium
UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon will brief the press on his vision for the G20 summit, and will launch the *Millennium Development Goals Report 2010*. This annual assessment of regional progress towards the Goals reflects the most comprehensive, up-to-date data compiled by over 25 UN and international agencies. Produced by the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the report has been designated by the General Assembly as an official input to the upcoming September MDG Summit. Contact: pascale@un.org or donlon@un.org

23 June, 2:00 pm, Dag Hammarskjold Library Auditorium
This press conference with ministers from Denmark, India and the United Kingdom, in conjunction with the Global Compact Leaders Summit, focuses on the role of Governments in engaging the private sector for the achievement of the MDGs. Contact: stausberg@un.org

23 June, 3:00 pm, UN ECOSOC Chamber
Deputy Secretary-General Asha-Rose Migiro chairs the Ministerial session of the Global Compact Leaders Summit on how Governments can promote corporate responsibility and engage the private sector in development cooperation, particularly in support of the Millennium Development Goals.
23 June, 6:00 pm, UN General Assembly Hall
Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon hosts the welcome session for the Global Compact Leaders Summit, with an inspirational appeal for business to scale up efforts that advance shared goals of development, peace and human rights.

23 June
Launch of the UN Citizen Ambassadors video contest on YouTube, calling for short videos on the MDGs addressed to world leaders. The campaign will feature public figures and celebrities including Lionel Messi, Jackie Chan and Angélique Kidjo. It is part of a series of new media initiatives launched by the Secretary-General, seeking to utilize the power of online social networking to engage a new generation of world citizens. Website: www.uncitizenambassadors.org. Contact: temkin@un.org

24 June, Marriott Marquis Hotel, Times Square
At 9:30 am, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg open the Global Compact Leaders Summit. At 11:00 am, the Secretary-General participates in a press briefing with business leaders. Contact: stausberg@un.org

24 June, 2:00 pm, Dag Hammarskjold Library Auditorium
Briefing for UN correspondents by Jeffrey Sachs, the UN Secretary-General’s Special Advisor on the Millennium Development Goals, focusing on the MDGs in the context of the upcoming G8/G20 summits and the September UN summit. Contact: trowbridge@ei.columbia.edu

25 June, Marriott Marquis Hotel, Times Square
At 9:00 am, Jeffrey Sachs moderates a discussion on how to increase business action in support of the Millennium Development Goals and sustainable development. At 12:00 noon, Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs Sha Zukang delivers closing remarks to the Global Compact Leaders Summit.

25 June, 11:00 am, Dag Hammarskjold Library Auditorium
Hamidon Ali, President of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), will give a curtain-raiser press briefing on the 2010 ECOSOC High-Level Segment (28 June -2 July), with Nikhil Seth, Director in the Office for ECOSOC Support and Coordination (DESA). The week of high-level meetings will include the Annual Ministerial Review – focusing on implementing the international goals for gender equality and the empowerment of women – and the Development Cooperation Forum – focusing on “Development Cooperation in Times of Crises: New Commitments to Reach the MDGs”. Contact: kanhema@un.org

28 June, 9:45 am, UN ECOSOC Chamber
Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and Hamidon Ali, President of the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), open the High-Level Segment of the ECOSOC session. Contact: kanhema@un.org

28 June, 12:30 pm, Dag Hammarskjold Library Auditorium
Former President of Chile Michelle Bachelet and actress Geena Davis will brief the press in connection with the opening of the high-level segment of the UN Economic and Social Council focused on gender equality and the empowerment of women. Contact: kanhema@un.org

29 June, 11:00 am, Dag Hammarskjold Library Auditorium
Rob Vos, senior economist in DESA, will launch the World Economic and Social Survey 2010 on “Retooling Global Development”. The report focuses on the recent global crises that have exposed systemic weaknesses and the need to harmonize the workings of institutions that were created more than 60 years ago. Contact: kanhema@un.org

More information on the MDG summit and a list of UN System spokespeople and media contacts can be found at www.un.org/en/mdg/summit2010.

All press conferences and official events will be webcast at www.un.org/webcast.

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