



UNITED NATIONS

WE CAN END POVERTY

MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS AND BEYOND 2015

OVERVIEW

Report of the UN Secretary-General: A Life of Dignity for All

At the President of the General Assembly's Special Event towards achieving the MDGs, on 25 September, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon will present to Member States his report entitled "A Life of Dignity for All". The General Assembly had requested the Secretary-General to report annually on progress in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals until 2015 and to make recommendations for further steps to advance the UN development agenda beyond 2015. Below is an overview of the report.

- ✧ The world's quest for dignity peace, prosperity, justice, sustainability and an end to poverty has reached an unprecedented moment of urgency.
- ✧ This is an historic opportunity—we can be the generation that can end poverty and put our planet on a sustainable course before it is too late.
- ✧ This report outlines the Secretary-General's broad vision to galvanize greater efforts to end poverty and achieve sustainable and inclusive growth. The report is about addressing global challenges in a world that has seen radical changes during the 13 years of the new millennium.
- ✧ New economic powers have emerged; new technologies are reshaping our lives. A new era demands a new vision and a responsive global framework.
- ✧ The 193 Member States of the UN are now grappling with these changes as they work to move forward, accelerating efforts to reduce poverty as they develop a new international development agenda.
- ✧ The UN is revamping the way it works to meet the needs of people in a changing world. In an unprecedented undertaking, the UN asked people worldwide about their main concerns. More than a million people responded.
- ✧ The Secretary-General recognizes that the Millennium Development Goals have mobilized an inspiring constellation of groups and individuals to tackle the many dimensions of poverty. These efforts have generated remarkable advances in human development.
- ✧ There has been much progress on many Goals: fewer children are out of school; fewer children die before their fifth birthday. And fewer mothers die in childbirth. Intensified action is needed, however, to complete the job.
- ✧ Many of the gains made in the last decade are at risk due to climate change. Emissions of carbon dioxide are now 46 per cent higher than they were in 1990. Biodiversity loss continues at a rapid pace, and land degradation and desertification, ocean acidification and the loss of species and forests continue at an alarming rate.
- ✧ The experience with the MDGs shows us that setting global goals can be a powerful way of mobilizing common action. Countries, at Rio+20, agreed to develop "sustainable development goals" that are "coherent with and integrated in the post-2015 development agenda." These goals will inevitably need to be broader than the MDGs in order to address new challenges and concerns.

- ✧ The MDGs have helped us understand what works and what does not. Strong national ownership and well managed policies that foster robust and inclusive growth have produced gains.
- ✧ Inclusive economic growth with decent employment and decent wages are essential, as are targeted investments in public health systems, fighting diseases, education, infrastructure and agricultural productivity.
- ✧ Fulfilling our existing commitments and promises on the MDGs must remain our foremost priority. We need to focus on the MDGs that are most off-track and on countries that face the stiffest development challenges, such as the least developed countries. Success on the MDGs will provide a firm foundation upon which to build the next development agenda.
- ✧ With less than 1,000 days to the 2015 target date for achieving the MDGs, accelerated progress and bolder action are needed in many areas. One in eight people worldwide remain hungry. Too many women die in childbirth when we have the means to save them. More than 2.5 billion people lack improved sanitation facilities. Inequalities between and within countries persist. Our resource base is in serious decline, with continuing losses of forests, species and fish stocks, in a world already experiencing the impacts of climate change.
- ✧ The Secretary-General's vision for the post-2015 development agenda calls for goals that are measurable and adaptable to both global and local settings and universal—applying to all countries.
- ✧ The key elements of the emerging vision for the post-2015 development agenda include
 - i) universality, to mobilize all developed and developing countries and leave no one behind;
 - ii) sustainable development, to tackle the interlinked challenges facing the world, including a clear focus on ending extreme poverty in all its forms;
 - iii) inclusive economic transformations ensuring decent jobs, backed by sustainable technologies, and to shift to sustainable patterns of consumption and production;
 - iv) peace and governance, based on the rule of law and sound institutions, as key outcomes and enablers of development;
 - v) a new global partnership, recognizing shared interests, different needs and mutual responsibilities, to ensure commitment to and means of implementing this new vision; and
 - vi) being “fit for purpose”, to ensure the international community is equipped with the right institutions and tools to address the challenges of implementing the sustainable development agenda at the national level.
- ✧ The Secretary-General, in his report, calls on countries and the international community to
 - 1) do everything possible to achieve the MDGs,
 - 2) adopt a post-2015 agenda that is universal and based on sustainable development,
 - 3) embrace a more coherent and effective response to support this new agenda, and
 - 4) provide clarity on the roadmap to 2015.



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