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**Keeping the Promise**

**A forward-looking review to promote an agreed action agenda to achieve the MDGs by 2015<sup>1</sup>**

**Report of the Secretary-General**

**Summary**

This report<sup>2</sup> presents progress made with regard to the Millennium Development Goals, through a comprehensive review of successes, best practices and lessons learnt, obstacles and gaps, challenges and opportunities, leading to concrete strategies for action. It consists of four main sections. The first section examines the importance of the Millennium Declaration and how it drives the United Nations development agenda. The second section reviews progress on achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), presenting both shortfalls and successes in the global effort, and identifying key success factors. The third section sums up lessons learnt to shape new efforts for accelerating progress to meet the MDGs. The fourth and final section lists specific recommendations for action. The report calls for a new pact toward the acceleration of MDG progress in the coming years among all stakeholders committed towards equitable and sustainable development for all.

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<sup>1</sup> In preparing this report, reference is made to many other reports, including the Task Force Report on Innovative International Financing for Health (*The Consensus for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health*, 2009), the Secretary-General's *Millennium Development Goals Report 2009*, the MDG Africa Steering Group Recommendations: *Achieving the Millennium Development Goals in Africa* (June 2008), the UN Millennium Project (*Investing in Development*, 2005), *Rethinking Poverty: Report on the World Social Situation 2010 (RWSS 2010)* and others. Invaluable inputs were received from the different funds, programmes, agencies and departments of the UN that have been working closely with governments, civil society and the private sector over the past decade to advance progress towards the MDGs.

<sup>2</sup> Issued pursuant to General Assembly resolution 64/184

## **1. Introduction**

1. The adoption of the Millennium Declaration in 2000 by 189 Member States of the UN General Assembly, including 147 Heads of State, was a defining moment for global cooperation in the 21st Century. The Declaration captured previously agreed goals on international development and gave birth to a set of concrete and measurable development objectives known as the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Spurred by the Declaration, leaders from both developed and developing countries committed to achieve these interwoven goals by 2015.

2. The MDGs are the highest profile articulation of the internationally agreed development goals (IADGs), associated with the United Nations development agenda, representing the culmination of several important UN Summits – including Summits on sustainable development, education, children, food, women, population, and social development – held during the previous decade. They are the world's quantified time-bound targets for addressing extreme poverty, hunger and disease, while promoting gender equality, education, and environmental sustainability. They are also an expression of basic human rights – the rights of all to good health, education and shelter. The eighth MDG, building a global partnership for development, includes commitments in the areas of development assistance, debt relief, trade, and access to technologies.

3. During the past decade, the Millennium Declaration and the MDGs have led to unprecedented commitments and partnerships reaffirmed in successive Summits and meetings, including the 2002 International Conference on Financing for Development at Monterrey, the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg and the 2005 World Summit in New York. During this same period, the public and their governments have also had to contend with new unanticipated challenges. Some have been specific to countries or regions, while others have been global, such as the food and economic crises of the last three years.

4. Our challenge today is to agree on an action agenda to achieve the MDGs. With five years to go to the MDGs target date of 2015, the prospect of falling short of the Goals due to lack of commitment is very real. This would be an unacceptable failure, moral and practical. If we fail, the dangers in the world – instability, violence, epidemic diseases, environmental degradation, runaway population growth – will all be multiplied.

5. The MDGs remain feasible with adequate commitment, policies, resources and effort. Collectively, the Millennium Declaration represents the most important promise ever made to the world's most vulnerable people. This promise is not based on pity or charity, but on solidarity, justice and the recognition that we are increasingly dependent on one another for our shared prosperity and security.

6. The MDGs provide a historic framework for focus and accountability. This fabric of accountability, however, is being tested and will need to be further strengthened to achieve the MDGs by 2015. This is all the more important as the MDGs are crucial stepping stones towards equitable and sustainable development for all. Meanwhile, the devastating impact of climate change looms large, and the international community is challenged to work together to ensure the end of extreme poverty and sustainable development to save the planet and its people, especially the most vulnerable.

7. This report calls on all stakeholders – including national governments, donor and other supportive governments, the business community and civil society at large – to work in concert to ensure the MDGs are met by 2015. The MDG High-Level Plenary Meeting (HLPM) in September provides a unique opportunity to strengthen collective efforts and partnerships for the push to 2015. This report assesses achievements and shortfalls thus far, and suggests an action agenda for 2011-15.

## **2. Progress so far**

8. A number of countries have achieved major successes in combating extreme poverty and hunger, improving school enrolment and child health, and expanding access to clean water, control of malaria, tuberculosis, and neglected tropical diseases, and access to HIV treatment. This has happened in some of the poorest countries, demonstrating that the MDGs are indeed achievable with the right policies, adequate levels of investment, and international support. Considering their historical experience, some poor countries and whole regions have made remarkable progress. For example, Sub-Saharan Africa has made huge improvements in child health and in primary school enrolment over the last two decades. Between 1999 and 2004, Sub-Saharan Africa achieved one of the largest reductions in measles' deaths worldwide ever.<sup>3</sup>

9. Yet, progress has been uneven and – without additional efforts – several of the MDGs are likely to be missed in many countries. The challenges are most severe in the least developed countries (LDCs), land-locked developing countries (LLDCs), some small island developing states (SIDS) and those vulnerable to natural hazards. Countries in or emerging from conflict are more likely to be poor and face greater constraints as basic infrastructure, institutions and adequate human resources are often absent while lack of security hampers economic development.

10. Later this year, the 2010 *Millennium Development Goals Report* and *MDG Gap Report* will assess progress on the MDGs. Also, the latest update of the 60 official MDG indicators will be presented in an Annex to this report to be issued later this spring. The next section assesses successes, obstacles and gaps to draw lessons on actions needed to achieve the MDGs.

### ***A mixed picture***<sup>4</sup>

#### *Progress on poverty reduction has been uneven and is now threatened*

11. According to the World Bank's much cited "dollar-a-day" international poverty line, revised in 2008 to \$1.25 a day in 2005 prices, there were still 1.4 billion people living in extreme poverty in

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<sup>3</sup> It should be noted that accurately measuring progress towards the MDGs is sometimes difficult when precise data are not available or come with a long time lag. Furthermore, progress at the global level obscures uneven progress at the regional, country, and local levels. Thus, caution is needed in interpreting aggregate data and making judgement about overall progress. Evaluating the goals, targets and indicators by country may understate progress by the poorest countries, e.g. halving poverty from 60 to 30 per cent is much more difficult than from 6 to 3 per cent, especially as a twenty per cent increase in per capita income from one thousand dollars per annum is worth only a tenth of a similarly proportioned increase from ten thousand dollars.

<sup>4</sup> This section draws on the *MDG Report 2009* unless otherwise indicated.

2005, down from 1.8 billion in 1990.<sup>5</sup> However, as China has accounted for most of this decline, without it, progress does not look very encouraging; the number of people living in extreme poverty actually went up between 1990 and 2005 by about 36 million. In Sub-Saharan Africa and parts of Asia, poverty and hunger remain stubbornly high. The number of ‘\$1/day poor’ went up by 92 million in Sub-Saharan Africa and by 8 million in West Asia during 1990-2005.<sup>6</sup> The poverty situation is more serious when other dimensions of poverty, acknowledged by the 1995 Social Summit, such as deprivation, social exclusion and lack of participation, are also considered.<sup>7</sup>

### *Hunger is increasing and remains important global challenge*

12. Despite earlier progress, the number of hungry has been rising since 1995 while the proportion of the hungry in the global population has been rising since 2004-2006. There are still over a billion hungry people, and more than 2 billion deficient in micronutrients; 129 million children were underweight and 195 million under 5 were stunted. The number of hungry people globally rose from 842 million in 1990-92 to 873 million in 2004-06 and 1.02 billion people during 2009 – the highest level ever. This is largely a result of reduced access to food because of high food prices and the global financial and economic crisis, which has led to lower incomes and higher unemployment. Rising global hunger has undermined confidence in the declining global poverty estimates, as extreme poverty is supposed to be measured in terms of the income or expenditure considered necessary to avoid hunger.<sup>8</sup> Of the 117 countries for which data are available, 63 are now on track to meet the MDG underweight target compared with 46 countries in 2006. Most of the 20 countries without any visible progress are in Sub-Saharan Africa.<sup>9</sup>

### *Full and decent employment for all remains unfulfilled*

13. Even though there is no deadline for meeting the target of achieving “full and productive employment and decent work for all”, no country can claim to have reached this target. Economic growth in many countries over the past decades did not produce rapid job growth, prompting the term, “jobless growth”. The lack of progress in creating productive and decent jobs in urban areas, together with stagnant farm productivity in many rural areas, have been the key reasons for the persistence of poverty and the rise in the number of working poor. It is estimated that in 2008, some 633 million workers – 21.2 per cent of the workers in the world – lived with their families on less than \$1.25 per person per day. As a result of the economic and financial crisis, it is estimated that in 2009, this number increased by up to 215 million, including 100 million in South Asia and 28

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<sup>5</sup> This new estimate is about 50 per cent higher than the earlier World Bank estimate of poverty in 2005, based on its earlier \$1.08/day poverty line, up from the original \$1/day line in 1993 prices. Using the 1993 as the baseline, and adjusting for US consumer price inflation, would suggest a poverty line in 2005 of \$1.45, rather than the \$1.25 used by the Bank.

<sup>6</sup> The food and fuel crises in 2007-2008 and the global financial and economic crisis have made the situation worse. The World Bank estimates that 100 million people in low-income countries were pushed deeper into poverty due to doubling of food prices. According to the World Bank’s *Global Economic Prospects 2010*, globally, and notwithstanding upward revisions to growth projections for 2010, the number of people living on \$1.25 per day or less is still expected to increase by some 64 million as compared with a no-crisis scenario.

<sup>7</sup> See *RWSS 2010*

<sup>8</sup> FAO (2009), *State of Food Insecurity, 2009*, Rome

<sup>9</sup> UNDG (2009), *MDG Task Force Thematic Paper on MDG 1; Review of Progress, 2000-2010*, New York.  
<http://www.undg.org/docs/10816/MDG-1.doc>

million in Sub-Saharan Africa.<sup>10</sup> This suggests that up to an additional 7 per cent of workers were at risk of falling into poverty between 2008 and 2009.

14. Over 300 million new jobs will need to be created over the next five years to return to pre-crisis levels of unemployment.<sup>11</sup> These workers need more than just jobs, especially decent work that will give them adequate income and rights. The unemployment rate for youth (between 15 and 24) has risen faster than the overall unemployment rate worldwide. It reached up to 14 per cent in 2009, an increase of 1.9 percentage points since 2008.<sup>12</sup>

*Progress on universal access to education but the goal remains unmet*

15. There has been remarkable progress towards achieving universal primary education in developing countries since 2000, with many countries having crossed the 90 per cent enrolment threshold.<sup>13</sup> Enrolment in primary education has increased fastest in Sub-Saharan Africa, from 58 per cent in 2000 to 74 per cent in 2007. However, the rapid rise in enrolment may cause undue pressures on the capacity of schools and teachers to deliver quality education.

16. Around 126 million children are still involved in hazardous work, while more than 72 million children of primary school age around the world — about half in Sub-Saharan Africa — remain out of school. Furthermore, dropout rates remain high in many countries, implying that achieving 100 per cent primary school completion rates remain a challenge.

17. Inequalities continue to pose major barriers to attaining universal primary education. Children from the poorest 20 per cent of households account for over 40 per cent of all out-of-school children in many developing countries. In most, children from the wealthiest 20 per cent of households have already achieved universal primary education while those from the poorest quintile have a long way to go.<sup>14</sup> Income-based disparities intersect with wider inequalities: children from rural areas, slums and areas affected by or emerging from conflict, children with disabilities and other disadvantaged children face major obstacles in accessing good quality education.

*Insufficient progress on gender equality*

18. Redressing gender inequality remains one of the most difficult goals almost everywhere with cross-cutting implications. The root cause of gender disadvantage and oppression lies in societal attitudes and norms, as well as power structures, as identified in the Beijing Platform for Action (BPfA).

19. Women's share of national parliamentary seats has only increased slowly, averaging 18 per cent as of January 2009. While the proportion is far from the 30 per cent target envisioned in the BPfA, it represents a rise from 11 per cent ten years earlier, a significantly greater increase than the

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<sup>10</sup> ILO, *Global Employment Trends, January 2010*

<sup>11</sup> ILO (2009), *Recovering from the Crisis: A Global Jobs Pact*, adopted by the International Labour Conference at its 98<sup>th</sup> Session, 19 June, Geneva

<sup>12</sup> ILO, *Global Employment Trends, January 2010*

<sup>13</sup> UNESCO, *Education for All Global Monitoring Report 2009*

<sup>14</sup> UNESCO (2009), *Education for All Global Monitoring Report 2009*

one per cent increase between 1975 and 1995. Still, at the present rate, it will take another 40 years for developing countries to reach between 40 and 60 per cent.<sup>15</sup>

20. The gender gap in primary school enrolment has narrowed in the past decade, although at a slow pace, with over 95 girls of primary school age in school for every 100 boys in developing countries in 2007, compared to 91 in 1999. Progress in secondary schooling has been slower. In some regions, gaps are widening. In Sub-Saharan Africa, the ratio of girls' to boys' enrolment in secondary education fell from 82 per cent in 1999 to 79 per cent in 2007. Only 53 of the 171 countries with available data had achieved gender parity in both primary and secondary education, 14 more than in 1999.<sup>16</sup>

21. While female participation in the labour force has increased, there are still significant gender gaps in participation rates, occupational levels and wages. Paid employment for women has expanded slowly and women continue to assume the largest share of unpaid work. Close to two-thirds of all employed women in developing countries work as contributing family workers or as own-account workers – typically forms of extremely vulnerable employment lacking security and benefits. Women's share of waged non-agricultural employment has increased in the last decade, but only marginally, and women have generally failed to get decent jobs. In the Middle East, North Africa and South Asia, for example, the share of females in total employment is below 30 per cent.<sup>17</sup>

22. Violence against women everywhere remains a major blight on humanity. While there have been increased initiatives to address violence against women, such efforts are often not comprehensive, consistent, sustained or well coordinated.<sup>18</sup>

#### *Significant progress on some health-related MDGs*

23. Deaths among children under five have been reduced from 12.5 million per year (1990) to 8.8 million (2008).<sup>19</sup> The number of people in low and middle-income countries receiving antiretroviral therapy for HIV increased ten-fold in five years (2003-2008),<sup>20</sup> and there has been significant progress in reducing measles deaths and providing interventions to control TB and malaria. More than 500 million people are now treated annually for one or more neglected tropical diseases.

24. Nonetheless, based on current trends, many countries are unlikely to achieve the MDG health targets by 2015. The child mortality rate in developing countries fell from 99 deaths per thousand live births in 1990 to 72 in 2008.<sup>21</sup> This is well short of the target of a two-thirds reduction (to 33 per thousand live births). Furthermore, the rate of improvement has been uneven among and

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<sup>15</sup> UNIFEM, *Progress of the World's Women, 2008/09*

<sup>16</sup> UNDG (2009), *MDG Task Force Thematic Paper on MDG 3; Review of Progress, 2000-2010*, New York <http://www.undg.org/docs/10816/MDG-1.doc>

<sup>17</sup> International Monetary Fund and World Bank (2009), *Global Monitoring Report 2009: A Development Emergency. Annex, Monitoring the MDGs: Selected Indicators*, World Bank, Washington, DC

<sup>18</sup> UNIFEM, *Progress of the World's Women, 2008/09*

<sup>19</sup> [www.childinfo.org](http://www.childinfo.org)

<sup>20</sup> UNAIDS, *AIDS Epidemic Update 2009*

<sup>21</sup> [www.childinfo.org/mortality.html](http://www.childinfo.org/mortality.html)

within countries. Most noteworthy is the lack of progress in reducing deaths during the first month after birth (the neonatal period). Globally, 36 per cent of deaths among children under five happen in this period.

25. The number of new HIV infections was 2.7 million in 2008, a decline of 30 per cent from the peak of 3.5 million in 1996. Meanwhile, the proportion of people receiving antiretroviral therapy increased from less than 5 per cent of those in need at the beginning of the decade to 42 per cent in 2008 and the number of women receiving treatment for prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV trebled from 15 per cent in 2005 to 45 per cent in 2008.<sup>22</sup>

26. However, this progress has not yet been enough to reverse the trajectory of the epidemic because needed interventions on prevention and treatment often fall short in coverage: for every two persons starting anti-retroviral treatment, there are five new HIV infections. Prevention has not received sufficient priority.

27. Moreover, in 2008, only 21 per cent of pregnant women received HIV testing and counselling, while only one third of those identified as HIV-positive during antenatal care were subsequently assessed for eligibility to receive antiretroviral therapy for their own health.<sup>23</sup> The voluntary family planning needs of persons living with HIV and their access to services are not routinely monitored. These problems are most pressing in Sub-Saharan Africa, where the prevalence of HIV is, by far, the highest. Elsewhere, HIV epidemics are mostly concentrated among key populations at greater risk, including injecting drug users, sex workers and men who have sex with men.

28. The global incidence of tuberculosis appears to have peaked in 2004, and is now falling slowly in most parts of the world (except African countries with a high prevalence of HIV). However, the burden of TB remains high. The epidemic of multi-drug resistant TB (MDR-TB) is a major concern, with growing evidence of extensively drug-resistant TB (XDR-TB).

29. Approximately 250 million malaria episodes occurred in 2008 – leading to approximately 850,000 deaths.<sup>24</sup> About 90 per cent of these deaths occurred in Africa – most among children under five years of age. However, major progress in scaling up key malaria control interventions with a proven impact on the number of cases and deaths has been documented in many countries/areas. Approximately 200 million nets -- out of the more than 340 million nets needed to achieve universal coverage (defined here as one net for every two people) -- were delivered to African countries during 2004-2009. Use of insecticide-treated nets by children – one of the most vulnerable groups -- rose from just 2 per cent in 2000 to 22 per cent in 2008 in a subset of 26 African countries with trend data (covering 71 per cent of the under-five population in Africa) -- with 11 of these countries achieving at least a 10-fold gain.<sup>25</sup>

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<sup>22</sup> UNAIDS, *AIDS Epidemic Update, 2009*

<sup>23</sup> WHO, UNAIDS, UNICEF, *Towards Universal Access, Progress Report 2009*

<sup>24</sup> WHO, *World Malaria Report 2009*.

<sup>25</sup> Prompt and effective treatment is critical for addressing life-threatening complications from malaria. Anti-malarial treatment for children with fever is moderately high across Africa, although many febrile children are still being treated at home and with less effective medicines. Only four African countries currently have trend data for the use of

### *Least progress in reducing maternal mortality*

30. Access to reproductive health services remains poor where women's health risks are greatest. Deliveries attended by skilled health workers in the developing regions have increased since 1990, from 53 per cent in 1990 to 61 per cent in 2007, but there has been little progress in reducing maternal deaths – maternal mortality only declined marginally from 480 deaths per 100,000 live births in 1990 to 450 in 2005. At this rate, the target of 120 deaths per 100,000 live births by 2015 cannot be achieved. As part of broader investments in public health programmes, adequate financing for maternal health, especially dedicated to ensure safe deliveries, is critical.

31. Adolescent pregnancy rates have declined most in countries with relatively low initial levels, while high adolescent fertility has persisted in many countries. The adolescent birth rate is the highest in Sub-Saharan Africa, where the rate of 123 births per 1,000 teenage girls was almost twice that of Latin America and the Caribbean, the second ranked region.

32. Unsafe abortions continued to account for one of eight maternal deaths in 2005 despite increased contraceptive use among married women and those in unions. Nevertheless, 11 per cent of women in developing countries (including 24 per cent in Sub-Saharan Africa) wanting to delay or stop childbearing are not using contraception.

### *Limited progress on environmental sustainability*

33. Some progress has been achieved towards halving the proportion of people without access to clean water. But the proportion without improved sanitation decreased by only 8 percentage points between 1990 and 2006.<sup>26</sup> The goal of improving the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers has proven to be much less ambitious than necessary to reverse the trend of increasing numbers of slum dwellers.

34. The Montreal Protocol has successfully phased out the production and use of over 98 per cent of all controlled ozone-depleting substances. In contrast, the rate of growth of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions has been much higher during 1995-2004 than during 1970-1994, and the trend has not changed so far. While net deforestation rates have come down, some 13 million hectares of the world's forests are still lost each year, including six million hectares of primary forest.<sup>27</sup> This loss has only been partially compensated for by afforestation. As a result, worldwide, around 7 million hectares of forest cover is lost every year.

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artemisinin-based combination therapies (ACTs) among febrile children, which is the first-line treatment for uncomplicated malaria in nearly all African countries. But these limited data show promising gains in effective treatment coverage. For example, Ghana increased ACT coverage from 4 per cent in 2006 to 22 per cent in 2008, while Tanzania's coverage rose from 2 per cent in 2005 to 21 per cent in 2008 (World Malaria Day 2010 brochure – forthcoming, April 25, 2010).

<sup>26</sup> WHO and UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply and Sanitation (JMP), *Progress on Drinking Water and Sanitation: Special Focus on Sanitation*, UNICEF, New York, and WHO, Geneva, 2008

<sup>27</sup> *Global Monitoring Report 2009: A Development Emergency, Annex, Monitoring the MDGs; Selected Indicators*, World Bank, Washington D.C., 2009

35. The target to reduce the rate of biodiversity loss by 2010 has not been met. In the latest reports submitted to the Convention on Biological Diversity, many governments admit that the target will be missed at the national level. “Nearly 17,000 plant and animal species are known to be threatened with extinction. Major threats and drivers of biodiversity loss, such as including over-consumption, habitat loss, invasive species, pollution and climate change, are not yet being effectively tackled”.<sup>28</sup>

### **Emerging issues and challenges**

36. This section highlights some challenging and mitigating factors. They have the potential to roll-back gains and create obstacles to achieving development goals, including the MDGs. The challenge is to turn them into opportunities with proper analysis of the underlying causes and appropriate policies to tackle them.

#### ***Climate change***

37. The most severe impacts of climate change are being experienced by vulnerable populations who have contributed least to the problem. But addressing the climate change challenge provides opportunities for broader improvements in economies, governance, institutions and inter-generational relations and responsibilities. Achieving the MDGs should also contribute to the capacities needed to tackle climate change.

38. Switching to low greenhouse gas emitting, high-growth pathways to meet the development and climate challenges is both necessary and feasible.<sup>29</sup> Combating global warming cannot be achieved without eventual emissions reductions by both developed and developing countries. Technological options for a shift towards such pathways exist. Such a switch would entail unprecedented and costly socio-economic adjustments in developing countries. For this to happen, the shift will require much greater international support and solidarity.

39. Achieving such a transformation hinges on a global new deal capable of raising investment levels and channelling resources towards massive investments in renewable energy and building resilience with respect to unavoidable climate changes. Most developing countries currently do not have the financial resources, technological know-how and institutional capacity to deploy such strategies at a speed commensurate with the urgency of the climate challenge. Failure to honour long-standing commitments of international support in these three areas remains the single biggest obstacle to meeting the challenge.

40. Climate-resistant development is imperative, and investments to achieve it will be the main way to overcome the perception of a trade off between developing and addressing climate change. Beyond existing ODA commitments, adaptation and mitigation in developing countries would

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<sup>28</sup> IUCN, *Wildlife in a Changing World, 2009*. A report based on the analysis of the 44, 838 species on the IUCN Red List.

<sup>29</sup> *World Economic and Social Survey 2009: Promoting Development, Saving the Planet*. United Nations, New York, 2009.

require financial assistance of perhaps an additional one per cent of rich countries' 2015 GDP<sup>30</sup> – a small sum compared to the likely costs of inaction. Many alternative approaches -- such as large-scale solar power or restoration of heavily degraded or unused land – will need to be encouraged, supported and even subsidized. Economic incentives will be required to accelerate a transition to cleaner technologies.

### ***Current crises: Finance, economy and food security***

41. Although the measures taken so far in response to the global financial and economic crisis have been able to prevent a deeper recession, they do not yet add up to a sustainable long-term solution. Little has been done to address speculative forces that caused financial markets to undermine the real sector priorities. Official international discussion of financial reforms was until recently largely focused on executive remuneration, rather than on better regulation of financial markets, let alone its impacts on currency and commodity markets and on the trading system.

42. The global financial architecture will need to be overhauled. The failings of the financial sector certainly require improved regulatory oversight, higher buffer capital requirements, effective and equitable measures to deal with financial institutions deemed too-big-to-fail, as well as making financial markets less volatile and more predictable. At the same time, these initiatives will need to be properly designed to ensure they also help boost both investment and private demand as well as to make sure that the economic recovery does not collapse as soon as public efforts are withdrawn. It is also vital that recovery efforts do not resort to open or disguised protectionist measures. Productive integration of economies must proceed with an eye to increasing equity and providing social floors and other social protection.

43. Innovative measures should be used to address the food and other crises. There are many important cost-effective innovations in the field of nutrition ready for scaling up. They include nutritious complementary and supplementary food items (nutrient supplements) addressing the specific needs of young children and the ill, including those living with HIV; more diversified and nutritious local production of foodstuffs. Agriculture's share of ODA -- merely 4 per cent in 2006, down from almost 20 per cent a few decades ago -- should increase. There should be significant new investments in enhancing small farmer capacities, more efficient water management technologies, restoration of soil nutrients, more stress-resistant agricultural varieties and market opportunities for small farmers.

### ***Intensifying prevention and responses to humanitarian crises***

44. Disaster risk is increasing globally, and is highly concentrated in middle- and low-income countries.<sup>31</sup> Reducing disaster risk and increasing resilience to natural hazards in different development sectors can have multiplier effects and accelerate achievement of the MDGs. The Hyogo Framework for Action (2005-2015) endorsed by UN Member States commits all countries to

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<sup>30</sup> Nicholas Stern, *Deciding our future in Copenhagen: Will the world rise to the challenge of climate change?*, Grantham Research Institute on Climate Change and the Environment, Policy Brief, December 2009, p. 3. *World Economic and Social Survey 2009*

<sup>31</sup> UN, *2009 Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction: Risk and Poverty in a Changing Climate*,

make major efforts to reduce their disaster risk by 2015. The horrific loss of life in Haiti underscores the need to ensure that the human built environment is resilient in the face of an array of potential hazards, both seismic and climatic.

45. Armed conflicts (inter-state and civil) are also a major threat to human security as well as to the hard-won MDG gains. Thus, there is urgent need for focusing on the root causes of these conflicts and advancing people-centred solutions. This requires strengthening institutions that mitigate conflicts as well as identifying and resolving existing tensions before they turn into armed conflicts and lead to humanitarian crises. Reforms to strengthen institutions should include promoting transparency and giving voice and representation to previously underrepresented communities to make them stakeholders in the peace process.

46. Post-conflict resolution steps are also vital. These should include promoting the rule of law, early economic recovery support, rebuilding capacities, building democratic institutions and reengaging countries in the global architecture without undermining national ownership of these strategies. This period must be used more effectively to eliminate inequalities and discrimination in law and in practice, and to guarantee equal access to resources and opportunities.

#### ***Addressing the special needs of the most vulnerable***

47. Attention must be focused on the special needs of the most vulnerable and the large and increasing inequalities in various economic and social dimensions including geography, sex, age, disability, ethnicity and other vulnerabilities. Some urgent issues are highlighted below:

- *Children from poor households, rural areas, slums and other disadvantaged groups* face major obstacles in access to a good quality education. The literacy gap between the children from the wealthiest 20 per cent of households and those from the poorest 20 per cent is more than forty percentage points. *Children with disabilities* remain among the most marginalized and least likely to go to school.<sup>32</sup>
- *Very young children* are especially vulnerable. Children who are stunted at age 2 tend to suffer severe life-long consequences in terms of reduced health, cognitive development and economic opportunities.
- *Indigenous people* are overrepresented among the poor, with their levels of access to adequate health and education services well below national averages; they are especially vulnerable to environmental degradation. Indigenous peoples make up 15 per cent of the world's poor and a third of the world's 900 million extremely poor rural people.<sup>33</sup>
- Around 1.8 million children under 15 in Sub-Saharan Africa live with *HIV* while some 12 million children under age 18 have lost one or both parents to *HIV*. In 56 countries for which recent household survey data are available, orphans who had lost both parents were 12 per cent less likely to be in school, and often become heads of households, assuming

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<sup>32</sup> UNESCO (2009), *Education for All Global Monitoring Report 2009*

<sup>33</sup> IFAD (2007), *Statistics and key facts about indigenous peoples*

enormous responsibilities at an early age. The impact of being orphans may be especially severe for girls, who are generally more likely than boys not to be in school.<sup>34</sup> Children without the guidance and protection of their primary caregivers are more at risk of becoming victims of violence, exploitation, trafficking, discrimination or other abuses resulting in malnutrition, illness, physical and psychosocial trauma, and impaired cognitive and emotional development. Unaccompanied girls are at especially high risk of sexual abuse.

- At the end of 2008, there were some 42 million *forcibly displaced people* worldwide. This includes 15.2 million refugees, 827,000 asylum-seekers (pending cases) and 26 million internally displaced persons. Women and girls represent 47 per cent of refugees and asylum-seekers, and half of all internally displaced persons and returnees. 44 per cent of refugees and asylum-seekers are children below 18 years of age. More than 5.7 million refugees trapped in protracted situations for which there is limited hope of finding a solution in the near future, including some 70 per cent of refugees in Africa.<sup>35</sup> Seven out of ten refugees in Sub-Saharan Africa reside in often isolated and insecure refugee camps, with restrictions on movements affecting employment, education and limited health and other services.<sup>36</sup> They become dependent on subsistence-level assistance, or less, and lead lives of poverty, frustration and unrealized potential.

### 3. Lessons learnt for accelerating progress

#### Lessons learnt<sup>37</sup>

48. **National ownership** of development strategies is fundamental, as one size fits all policies and programmes are bound to fail due to wide variations among countries in terms of their capacity (resources, institutions, administration, etc) and historical as well as geographical circumstances. Ownership is also vital for national commitment to development goals. Successful countries pursued pragmatic heterodox policy mixes, with enhanced domestic capacities. Therefore, countries should be encouraged to design and implement their own development strategies and to strengthen their domestic capacities. Global partnerships should support such national development strategies and domestic capacity building efforts.

49. **Sustained and equitable growth** based on dynamic structural economic change is necessary for making substantial progress in reducing poverty. It also enables faster progress towards the other MDGs. While economic growth is a necessary, it is not a sufficient condition for progress. Countries that were most successful in reducing extreme poverty managed to sustain high economic growth over prolonged periods and most managed to do so by jumpstarting the growth process by

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<sup>34</sup> UNAIDS (2008), *Report on the Global AIDS Epidemic 2008*

<sup>35</sup> UNHCR (2009), *2008 Global Trends: Refugees, Asylum-seekers, Returnees, Internally Displaced and Stateless Persons*

<sup>36</sup> UNHCR (2006), *The State of The World's Refugees 2006: Human Displacement in the New Millennium*

<sup>37</sup> For evidence and analytical discussion, see *RWSS 2010* and the UNDG MDG Task Force (see <http://www.undg.org>). Also see, World Bank (2005), *Economic Growth in the 1990s: Learning from a Decade of Reform*, Washington DC: The World Bank.

increasing agricultural productivity followed by dynamic growth of modern industry and services sectors. Effective industrial policies typically underpinned the economic transformation and high growth facilitated job creation and income growth for workers. Income growth underpinned greater resource availability facilitating – when combined with adequate social policies – better coverage and quality of social services in support of the achievement of the other MDGs.

50. ***Forward-looking macroeconomic policies*** are needed to safeguard the sustainability of public investment strategies in support of broad-based growth and the achievement of the MDGs. Macroeconomic policies should not narrowly focus on debt stabilization and curbing inflation, but should ultimately be supportive of growth of real output and employment. Therefore, it is often necessary to relax unnecessarily stringent fiscal and monetary restrictions and to use counter-cyclical fiscal and monetary policies to boost employment and incomes and to minimize the impact of external and other shocks on poverty. This requires countries to strengthen domestic resource mobilization and adopt mechanisms for counter-cyclical policy responsiveness. Enhanced international cooperation to strengthen tax revenue collection and increase sovereign debt sustainability can greatly buttress the fiscal capacities of all governments.

51. ***Ensuring universal access to social services and providing a social protection floor with wide coverage*** are essential to consolidate and achieve further MDG gains. The social consequences of economic crises have been felt hardest in countries where social protection systems were weakest and most inadequate, worsened by their weak institutional and fiscal capacity. More importantly, when growth collapses due to external shocks or natural disasters or health epidemics, societal cohesion may rupture, leading to civil violence. Not surprisingly, civil violence is more prevalent and also more likely to recur in poorer societies, especially where governments are unwilling or unable to afford social protection and social integration efforts. Countries should therefore have universal social protection floors in place to support the maintenance and regeneration of livelihoods, particularly of disadvantaged and vulnerable groups. The Social Protection Floor concept promotes a set of social transfers and rights allowing individuals to access essential goods and services. Social protection schemes are not only desirable, but also a necessary *sine-qua-non* for inclusive development to address inequality and social exclusion. Social development should be considered broadly to include: support for smallholder agriculture, nutrition programmes, school feeding, access to primary health and education, access to safe water and sanitation, and support for indigent, disabled, and otherwise impoverished households. Food-for-work programmes can often provide a vital buffer. The provision of basic social protection schemes (like social pensions and other cash transfer programmes) for all are fiscally affordable for most developing economies,<sup>38</sup> but not for the poorest, unless they receive ample international assistance to finance such programmes.

52. ***Addressing inequality and social exclusion*** which limits the contribution of growth to the MDGs. Inequalities of access, social protection and opportunities need to be greatly reduced. While most MDG interventions primarily seek to redress inequalities in access to services (employment, health, education, water and sanitation, etc.), other interventions put greater emphasis on inequalities in social protection and economic opportunities.

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<sup>38</sup> International Labour Office, "Can low-income countries afford basic social security?" *Social Security Policy Briefings*, No. 3, ILO, Geneva, 2008

53. ***Holistic, community-led strategies*** are more effective than stand-alone programmes. The Millennium Villages Project, supported by the United Nations Development Programme with many partner institutions in civil society, academia, and business, has shown that synergistic investments in agriculture, health, education, infrastructure, business development and environmental conservation, can lead to rapid and considerable progress in food security, school attendance and performance, reduced hunger and improved livelihoods in a short period of time. Governments and development partners should put more emphasis on such holistic approaches in both rural and urban contexts, and should scale up successful efforts now underway.

54. ***Targeted intervention*** programmes, based on complementary public and private investments, have proven successful and have been crucial for progress towards most MDGs. Investments in smallholder agriculture are vital to fighting hunger; investments in schools and teachers are vital to universal primary education; investments in public health are vital to MDGs 4, 5, and 6. Investments in water and sanitation are vital to MDG 7. When public investments are targeted and of sufficient scale, MDG progress is more likely to be rapid. When public investments are not forthcoming, as for safe maternal deliveries, then progress has been modest at best.

55. ***Accelerating interventions*** is feasible and of paramount importance to speed up progress where current trends make achievement of the MDGs unlikely. Targeted interventions can quickly improve people's lives by providing access to essential goods and services. Examples include providing subsidized agricultural inputs, scaling-up school meal programmes, eliminating user fees for education and health care, and providing conditional cash transfers to poor households. While such measures should not substitute well planned and managed national development strategies backed by responsive partnerships for development, they should not wait for longer-term structural transformations as delays have irreversible adverse consequences for the poorest and most vulnerable.

56. ***Adequate, consistent and predictable financial support*** as well as a coherent and predictable policy environment, both at national and international levels, are crucial for achievement of the MDGs. Lack of adequate and predictable international financing has been an important constraint. There is an urgent need to broaden and strengthen partnerships to ensure supportive international frameworks for trade, taxation, technology and climate change mitigation and adaptation to sustain long-term human development; and sufficient, predictable and well-coordinated financing for development, including budget, official development assistance (ODA), philanthropy, debt relief, and new financing sources, instruments, arrangements and institutions.

57. ***Governance and institutional implementation capacities*** at the country level, which are both development outcomes and desirable ends-in-themselves, can contribute to accelerating progress towards the MDGs. Countries can accelerate progress towards the MDGs by adhering to the fundamental norms and values of the Millennium Declaration, including human rights, gender equality and democratic governance. For MDG achievement, integrity, accountability and transparency are crucial for managing resources, recovering assets and combating abuse, corruption and organized crime adversely affecting the poor. Democratic governance, as a process of empowering communities, is essential for human development. However, 'good governance' goals should be pursued in conjunction with development as they do not constitute an essential

prerequisite for development, especially in the face of limited fiscal resources and administrative capacities. Pragmatic developmental governance reforms to address bottlenecks to accelerating development and progress towards the MDGs should be emphasized in the short term.

58. **Better monitoring and data** are vital for better design and timely intervention with programmes and policies. It is also crucial for ensuring accountability by development partners and stakeholders.<sup>39</sup> Although slowly improving, the availability of reliable statistics for monitoring development remains inadequate in many poor countries and the challenge of building effective in-country capacity to produce better policy relevant data remains huge. Although statistics are increasingly recognized as an indispensable tool for development, resources devoted to statistics are still very minor. With support from development partners, countries also need to increase public expenditure for national statistical systems to effectively monitor progress towards the MDGs and other development indicators to better inform policy interventions.

**Key success factors**<sup>40</sup>

- 1. Effective government leadership and national ownership of development strategies**
- 2. Effective policies to support implementation**, defined here as laws, regulations, standards, administrative procedures, and guidelines (general or MDG specific) that affect private behaviour and the conduct of service providers and others with whom they must interact.
- 3. Improved quantity, quality and focus of investments**, financed both by domestic sources and international development assistance, based on a holistic approach including smallholder agriculture, health, education, infrastructure, business development and environmental conservation.
- 4. Appropriate institutional capacity to deliver quality services equitably at national scale**, such as adequate facilities, competent staff, appropriate supplies and equipment, and effective monitoring and evaluation.
- 5. Civil society and community involvement and empowerment**, which enhances the likelihood of success by giving individuals and communities the ability to take charge of their own lives.
- 6. Effective global partnerships**, involving all relevant stakeholders, including donor governments, local communities, NGOs, the private sector and foundations, with mutual accountability of all stakeholders.
- 7. Good governance** by donors and recipients, which – *inter alia* – involves timely and predictable delivery of aid by donors, on the one hand, and enhanced state and societal capacity of recipient countries to manage scaled-up resource flows transparently and with accountability, on the other.

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<sup>39</sup> MDG Tracking and Monitoring at Global, Regional and Country Level, Briefing Note prepared by the Cluster on Inclusive Development for Poverty Reduction, Poverty Group, Bureau for Development Policy, UNDP, 27 August 2009.,

<sup>40</sup> For further details, see UNDP (forthcoming), *Accelerating progress towards the MDGs and the UNDG MDG Task Force* (see <http://www.undg.org>).

One significant achievement of the past decade is that national governments and their partners – even in countries lagging far behind on many MDGs – have a good sense of the programmes and interventions required to meet the MDGs. The three critical challenges, in most cases, have been a feasible national scale-up plan, adequate financing based on both domestic and foreign sources, including development assistance, and well-functioning delivery mechanisms for public investments and service delivery. The success stories highlight, for each MDG, how these critical success factors came together to produce remarkable results. While country characteristics (geographic, demographic, economic, cultural, etc.) inevitably vary and the specific interventions that have been successfully implemented differ with country specificities, the country examples demonstrate these common success factors.

The success stories underscore furthermore the imperative of a holistic approach and confirm that positive results across the Goals and the broader enabling environment enhance the likelihood of sustained progress towards each of the goals. They help define our collective accountability, but must be seen holistically. The synergies among the MDGs are clear and indisputable, as demonstrated in the Millennium Villages. Taking advantage of these will reduce costs, increase effectiveness and catalyze local action. The education target, for example, requires progress on health. The health targets require progress on hunger and nutrition. The hunger target requires progress in agriculture and nutrition, and so on. There are many positive examples of integrated approaches to the MDGs yielding tremendous success. We must learn from these examples and scale up successful interventions. The goals, targets and indicators of the MDGs were conceived to reflect an integrated approach to development as worded in the Millennium Declaration and the 2005 World Summit Outcome document.

### **Accelerating progress**

59. The critical question before us today is how to dramatically increase the pace of change on the ground in the remaining five years so that the promises of 2000 translate into real progress for the world's poorest people, particularly at this time of global economic downturn. In light of the 2015 deadline, *accelerating progress* is essential, and with barely half a decade left, much more accelerated progress is required, especially for the poorest countries.

60. Significant gaps still remain and many targets are not on track to being achieved in a good number of countries. Moreover, challenges persist in areas such as environmental sustainability, even in countries that have made impressive gains in reducing poverty over the past decade, including large parts of Asia. Rollbacks on progress due to the food, fuel and financial crises, and emerging issues, such as climate change, have compounded the challenge. Delayed job recovery from the global economic downturn remains a major challenge for poverty reduction in the years to come, and climate change is likely to have devastating impacts on vulnerable countries and communities.

61. Although the primary focus of MDGs is developing countries where deprivation is most stark, deficits in human development are to be found in developed countries as well, especially among particular marginalized communities. Vulnerability, discrimination and social exclusion and gender disparities still persist in advanced countries and must not be overlooked.

62. As the country success stories demonstrate, targeted, near-term, “acceleration” interventions -- such as subsidizing crucial agriculture inputs, immunization, eliminating user fees for education and health services and addressing human resource constraints in health -- are still of paramount importance to speed up progress where current trends make achievement of the MDGs unlikely. New technology-based solutions, that did not exist when the MDGs were endorsed, can and should be leveraged to allow for rapid scaling up. The most important of these new technologies are mobile phones, broadband internet, and other information and communications technologies.

63. At the same time, these interventions need to be framed in the context of national development strategies that define actions to ensure sustainability of the results in the long term. Especially, even if not exclusively, in times of global economic, food and climate volatility, when MDG reversals are a real possibility, creating the enabling environment essential to sustaining progress towards the goals can be just as important as accelerating achievements. While a short-term perspective, focused on securing immediate gains, can be effective in saving lives and alleviating suffering, it should not be understood as exclusive of, or even incompatible with, longer term structural changes necessary to sustain progress over time.

64. The very fact that the challenges of poverty, food, energy, global recession and climate change are all inter-related has presented the global community with a unique opportunity to tackle them together. The critical requirement for a Global Green New Deal is a commitment by all to front-load large public investments in renewable energy in order to achieve economies of scale and learning, generate employment in both rich and poor countries, and lay the foundation for a new phase of global economic and technological advancement. Besides benefiting the poor, such investment would also lay the basis for sustainable development, stimulate complementary investments in infrastructure and agriculture, and help raise agricultural productivity, thus enhancing food security and creating decent jobs for the rural poor.<sup>41</sup>

65. The main elements of this framework include ensuring that responses to the economic downturn provide support for what has worked in the past, especially protecting the growth momentum in developing countries, sustaining support for integrated poverty eradication programmes, enhancing the reach of targeted interventions, laying the infrastructural foundations for a new era of sustainable economic development, and protecting poor countries and communities from the adverse impacts of global crises

66. Both acceleration and sustainability of progress must therefore be pursued concomitantly. Accelerated and sustainable progress towards achievement of the MDGs will be contingent on our combined efforts to do three things much more effectively than we have been able to do in the past:

- *Scale-up implementation of proven and innovative interventions* in such key domains as gender, sustainable agriculture (including inputs for smallholders and sustainable environmental management), energy, education and health. This effort needs to be backed by

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<sup>41</sup> The *World Economic and Social Survey 2009* has developed a detailed proposal for synergistic achievement of developmental and climate goals. Also see, World Bank, *World Development Report 2010: Development and Climate Change*.

targeted investments, informed community participation, adequate institutional capacities to effectively mobilize and manage financial resources and deliver public services.

- *Build the structural and economic foundations to support and sustain progress and mitigate risks of MDG reversal* through effective social and economic policies and institutions grounded in universal rights and supportive of structural changes and social cohesion, improved conditions for peace, security and good governance, public and private investments that lead to faster pro-poor growth and effective measures to ensure environmental sustainability.
- *Broaden and strengthen partnerships* to ensure greater global and regional integration, a supportive international framework for trade, technology transfer, and climate change mitigation and adaptation to sustain long-term human development; and sufficient, predictable, and well-coordinated financing for development, including national budgets, official development assistance (ODA), philanthropy, debt relief, and new financing instruments. This third element builds on the recognition that both within and across countries, no single stakeholder can achieve the first two strategic priorities on their own.

67. Specific MDGs will require specific acceleration efforts:

#### **Poverty and Hunger (MDG 1)**

- Poor countries with large agricultural sectors should focus on bolstering agricultural productivity and output quality. A sharp increase of agricultural productivity can accomplish several things simultaneously: (1) reduced hunger; (2) reduced child mortality through improved nutrition; (3) reduced maternal mortality through improved nutrition; and (4) higher household incomes and economic growth.
- To boost productivity, smallholder farmers must gain immediate access to inputs -- such as fertilizer, high-yield seeds, equipment, small-scale irrigation, technical extension, and post-harvest storage -- in order to modernize and commercialize traditional farming. At the same time, sustainable agriculture practices need to be introduced. Intensive farming, if not properly regulated, can lead to the depletion of water sources, pollution by chemical fertilizers and pesticides, and a loss of biodiversity.
- Producing more food directly affects only one aspect of food security<sup>42</sup> (i.e. availability) and must be complemented by other interventions to address inequities of access to food and to bolster nutrition. Food security programmes should therefore also address issues of access to adequate nutritious food (taking into account local food consumption preferences and different nutritional requirements), implement integrated nutrition programmes for the poor and vulnerable. In the short term, hunger hotspots within countries should be a top priority. Prevention-based interventions such as the distribution of vital micronutrient fortification and supplementation, as well as targeted support of children through the provision of school-

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<sup>42</sup> Food security exists when all people, at all times, have access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food for an active and healthy life.

based meals, must also be complemented by treatment-based interventions such as the treatment of severe and moderate acute malnutrition and mass de-worming for children.

- Access to decent and productive employment as well as promotion of entrepreneurship is fundamental to pro-poor growth and efforts to address poverty and hunger. Successful programmes, especially employment-intensive initiatives, small and medium-enterprise promotion, employment guarantee schemes and conditional cash transfers as well as vocational and technical training and entrepreneurial skills development, especially for unemployed youth, can yield positive results in reducing poverty and should be more widely applied to cover larger parts of the population, especially women and rural areas.
- Close attention should be given to the recommendations contained in the Global Jobs Pact, adopted by the governments, employers' and workers' delegates of the ILO's 183 Member States. The Pact proposes a range of tested crisis-response and recovery measures that focus on employment and social protection. It is not a one-size-fits-all solution, but a portfolio of tried and tested policy options that countries can adapt to their specific needs and situation.

## **Education (MDG 2)**

- National education systems need to be strengthened by addressing infrastructure, human resource and governance constraints, backed by international donor support.
- When scaling up education budgets inequalities across income, gender, geographical, linguistic and ethnic lines should be addressed when allocating resources. Interventions should address problems of access to schooling from the supply and demand side. On the supply side, adequate services need to be provided and made accessible based on a robust needs analysis. On the demand side, targeted measures need to be put in place to attract children from poor household, rural areas or minority ethnic groups to school. Successful examples include making primary education more available, accessible and affordable include abolishing school fees, subsidies for other costs (e.g. textbooks, uniforms and transportation) and innovative approaches to school (e.g. community schools, mobile schooling and distance learning, multi-grade teaching). Programmes strengthening linkages between education, health and nutrition, such as school feeding programmes and social protection measures (e.g. cash transfers, social insurance), have also proven successful.
- Progression through the school system -- retention, completion and learning achievement -- is another challenge which needs to be urgently addressed. Appropriate learning environments and quality of education can be ensured through the development of child friendly schools, effective and comprehensive teacher strategies (e.g. recruitment and retention policies, underpinned by initial and in-service teacher education and development; teacher status and working conditions), enhanced pedagogical support and learner-relevant curriculum, educational materials and languages of instruction.

### **Gender Equality (MDG 3)**

- Remove key barriers to girls' education, including by providing scholarships, cash transfers and eliminating user fees; expand support for girls especially at the secondary level, where all too many girls are forced to leave school because of school expenses; tracking completion and attendance rates; improving the quality of education; and scaling up investments in girls' enrolment in secondary school.
- Make the generation of full and productive employment and the creation of decent work and income the primary goal of macroeconomic, social and development policies, for those beyond school age, including by promoting equal skills development and employment opportunities, reducing wage gaps between women and men.
- Introduce social protection measures and labour laws and policies that are gender-responsive; and introducing and enforcing legal protections for the most vulnerable women workers. Particular attention should be paid to gender gaps in school-to-work transition for youth, making education and training relevant to labour market demand, based on a life-cycle and rights-based approach.
- Introduce positive action to improve the numbers and influence of women in all political decision-making, including by investing in women's leadership in local decision-making structures and by creating an even playing field for men and women within political parties. With few exceptions, the 26 countries that have achieved or surpassed the goal of women securing 30 per cent of seats in national assemblies over the past five years have introduced some form of positive action.
- Improve national level capacity to track and report on progress, gaps and opportunities through better generation and use of sex-disaggregated data and statistics, including on time use.
- Reduce women's work burden through investments in infrastructure, labour saving technologies and gender-responsive economic stimulus packages.
- Strengthen accountability for enhancing women's rights and ending gender discrimination – in line with commitments in Commission for the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), the Beijing Platform for Action (BPfA), and relevant ILO Conventions – including through eliminating inequalities in access to land and property and by investing in implementation of laws, policies and programmes to prevent and address violence against women.
- Scale up investments for gender equality, including by institutionalizing 'gender-responsive budgeting', as part of public financial management reforms to ensure that financial commitments advance gender equality.

## **Health (MDGs 4, 5, 6)**

- Strengthening national health systems with the active participation of civil society organizations can significantly improve both maternal and child health. Strengthening health systems involves addressing human resource constraints, building new infrastructure, upgrading and improving supply systems, improving governance and stewardship through a larger role in informal, formal and decentralized systems of health protection. Additional international development assistance is vital for health-systems scale-up in low-income countries.
- Targeted interventions in key areas – such as immunization programmes, increasing the number of trained midwives or the use of insecticide-treated bed-nets – are known to have strong positive impacts but are more sustainable when embedded in a strategy aiming at providing comprehensive universal primary healthcare.
- Interventions which have the greatest impact on health related MDG targets, such as universal access to sexual and reproductive health, immunization and key child survival interventions, HIV prevention, mitigation and treatment, prevention and treatment of Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs), prevention and treatment services for Malaria and TB and low cost access to safe water and sanitation should be urgently scaled-up and made universal to accelerate progress on the health MDGs.
- There is a need for a scale up of global financing, but it needs to be done in predictable ways. Targeted disease-control programmes have been highly successful.
- Prioritizing regions, vulnerable and marginalized groups (with special attention to the poor, rural and populations, women and youth) with a view to extending health protection to those in need and the excluded.
- Strengthening the capacity of all stakeholders to address issues of gender equality and delivery of health services as well as promoting partnerships with civil society organizations including women's groups, NGOs and with the private sector.

## **Promoting Sustainable Development (MDG 7)**

67. One of the difficulties in making progress towards the overall MDG7 objective is lack of a framework or means of integrating different components of environmental sustainability. While MDG7 contains elements that contribute to environmental sustainability, when added together, they do not provide a full picture. This weakness can be exacerbated at the national level if countries mechanically adopt the global set of targets and indicators without explicitly linking or tailoring them to national priorities. What is needed is for countries to adopt the principle of environmental sustainability and then adapt that principle to national priorities and policies, the local context, and sub-national or ecosystem specificities.

### *Ecological sustainability and addressing climate change*

- Efforts to accelerate progress towards the MDGs must take account of the rapidly changing development landscape transformed by ecosystem decline including the challenges posed by climate change. Pro-poor development centred on natural resources can be pursued at a local, community-level or at a national scale. Both approaches are necessary for maximum poverty reduction. Comprehensive and coherent development planning frameworks, including national sustainable development strategies, are a useful means of integrating all of the aspects related to environmental sustainability that are relevant to any given country in a balanced manner. This is one of the conclusions drawn from the indicators that are making good progress. Successful strategies further tend to build on the active involvement of local and municipal authorities and population, as well as all relevant stakeholders in the planning, programming and budgeting cycle as well as the adoption of strong national legislation with mandatory targets and commitments towards the attainment of the objectives. It is important that public-private partnerships ensure genuine contributions by the private sector that would otherwise not have been occurred without such partnerships.
- Greater efforts are needed in both developed and developing countries to promote alternative renewable energy sources and low-emission technologies. Policy reforms to substantially reduce perverse subsidies for carbon-intensive development, and to create positive incentives, appropriate taxes and other initiatives (such as a global feed-in tariff arrangement to encourage renewal energy generation and use), which will encourage the adoption of renewable energy sources and low-emission technologies, are urgently needed. The internationally subsidized generation of renewable energy as the basis for development in developing countries will address the perceived trade-off between addressing climate change at the expense of development besides providing major new opportunities for private investments to come out of the economic crisis and generate considerable employment.
- Greatly expanded investments in sustainable ecosystem management to reduce the vulnerability of the poor, and to maximize the contribution of natural resources to rural development. Poor people need secure resource rights and other enabling conditions for poverty reduction. Biodiversity protection measures must respect indigenous peoples' traditional rights to marine and forest based livelihoods.
- National action plans and investments in energy efficiency and renewable energy will be key to shifting to low carbon growth, creating 'green' employment and reducing poverty.

### *Safe drinking water and sanitation*

- Considering the lack of progress on sanitation, delivering on sanitation targets will require considerable political will together with significant financial, technical, and human resources. Past experience suggests that the main problems have been over-reliance on supply-driven approaches, neglect of user needs and emphasis on large scale projects, often due to public sector neglect or relinquishment of responsibility, often due to fiscal constraints. A demand-responsive approach is almost always constrained by poor people not having enough purchasing power to pay for improved sanitation. Retaining public

provisioning of such services often conserves scarce governance and regulatory capabilities in developing countries, while achieving more universal access.

- Integrated national water strategies addressing the four main uses of fresh water -- agriculture, households, industry, and ecosystem services – must robustly respond to the growing water shortages, exacerbated by climate change.

#### *Reducing slum populations*

- Cities in developing countries around the world are home to rising numbers of poor people and do not have the capacity to create jobs to sustainably absorb the population influx and achieve the necessary progress needed to meet the MDGs. In the face of rapid urbanization, these challenges are only going to become more acute unless adequate corrective actions are taken. These measures should include sound urban planning, essential for the sustainable growth of urban centres. They should stipulate the roles of the key stakeholders -- local authorities, organizations of the urban poor, private sector (formal and informal), central government, district/state/provincial authorities, and line ministries. Ultimately, more balanced growth, including rural development, is the only long term solution in so far as it addresses the pull and push factors involved in rural-urban migration.

#### **Expanding and strengthening international partnerships (MDG 8)**

68. In the countdown to 2015, amidst a global economic crisis, the need to accelerate delivery on MDG 8 commitments has now reached emergency proportions, rather than simply being a matter of urgency.

#### *Official development assistance*

69. Although ODA reached its highest level ever in 2008, there remain large gaps in meeting existing and long-standing commitments. The Gleneagles G8 ODA target for 2010 is approximately \$154 billion in present values, and additional flows of \$35 billion by 2010 will need to be delivered this year to achieve this target. Africa would need an extra \$20 billion of the increase in ODA in 2010 in order to reach the Gleneagles target level of \$63 billion for the region by 2010. In 2007, ODA to the least developed countries (LDCs) was equivalent to 0.09 per cent of OECD countries' GNI, with less than half the OECD/DAC countries meeting the 0.15-0.20 per cent target for aid to the LDCs.

70. The distribution of development assistance remains highly skewed. Although the share of ODA flows allocated to the poorer countries increased somewhat between 2000 and 2007, with Sub-Saharan Africa continuing to be the largest recipient of ODA, having more than doubled receipts in current dollar terms, most of the increase in ODA since 2000 has been limited to a few post-conflict countries, including Iraq and Afghanistan. Together, these two countries received about a sixth of country allocations from DAC countries, even though they account for less than two per cent of the total population of the developing countries. African aid lags far behind commitments and far behind needs. Detailed analyses by the IMF and the UNDP have shown that

highly worthy MDG-based programmes are unfunded because of non-delivery of promised donor funding.<sup>43</sup>

71. There is an urgent need to improve the quality, predictability and durability of aid, in addition to the quantity. Developing countries and their partners will have to reduce the fragmentation of assistance, and ensure that ODA supports national development strategies. Pooling of donor resources into multi-donor funds has proved time and again to be a fruitful approach, with great successes, for example, in the control of several infectious diseases. The 2005 Paris Declaration and the 2008 Accra Agenda for Action set out a number of principles and practices to enhance aid effectiveness which needs to be implemented urgently. The \$20 billion over three years pledged for food security by the G8 at L'Aquila and the G20 at Pittsburgh should be provided urgently to initiate implementation of the comprehensive plan of action for smallholder farmers, notably through the launch of a new multi-donor trust fund.

### ***Trade and development***

72. The failure to reach agreement in the Doha Round of multilateral trade negotiations represents a major gap in strengthening the global partnership for achieving the MDGs by depriving developing countries of the benefits of more timely completion of a truly developmental Round. As currently envisaged, the Round falls short of the original developmental promise intention of the Doha Round. This would include effective market access for agriculture, manufactures and services exports, particularly in sectors and modes of supply of interest to the developing countries including Modes 1 (cross-border supply) and 4 (movement of natural persons), and removal of trade distorting agricultural subsidies. In the negotiations, there has been some progress in reaching agreement on a range of hitherto intractable issues, but progress on other key issues, including implementation issues and concerns of developing countries as well as special and differential treatment, is falling short of what had been envisioned. Also, the process of accession to the WTO of developing countries and countries with economies in transition should be facilitated, consistent with WTO agreements and their development status.

73. There are large regional and sectoral variations in market access conditions between developing countries and LDCs, as well as among LDCs. Generally, non-LDC developing countries continue to face higher average tariffs than LDCs for their exports including agriculture, textiles and clothing. Since 2000, small island and African LDCs have gained substantial preferences in major markets for their exports, while Asian LDCs, which tend to be more competitive, continue to face higher tariffs and receive lower duty-free access, especially on their clothing and textile exports. However, the preferential access of LDCs, compared to all developing countries, continues to be eroded, except in agricultural exports.

74. Aid for Trade is also critical in helping LDCs who continue to experience difficulties in fully utilizing preferential schemes as well as in overcoming supply-side constraints. In 2007, total Aid for Trade commitments increased by 8 per cent from 2006 and by over 20 per cent from the 2002-2005 baseline; but more than half the amount was provided to only 11 countries.

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<sup>43</sup> UNDP and IMF (2009), *Scaling Up Development Assistance to Africa: The Gleneagles Scenario Approach*.

75. Donors need to deliver on commitments to substantially increase technical, financial and political support for Aid for Trade and the Enhanced Integrated Framework initiative. Aid for Trade is especially vital to finance export-oriented infrastructure (roads, ports, power, etc.) to support the export competitiveness of low-income countries. Developed countries also need to honour the 2005 pledge to eliminate, by 2013, all export subsidies, including on agriculture, which remain a major distortion affecting trade and farm production in developing countries. Even though overall agricultural support in relation to developed countries' GDP declined further in 2007, it remained high in absolute terms and in relation to ODA.

76. Since late 2007, the multilateral trading system has come under heightened pressure as the food and financial crises have given rise to new waves of protectionism. It is crucial to maintain an open, equitable, rule-based, predictable and non-discriminatory multilateral trading system during the crises by ensuring that protectionist measures are dismantled as soon as possible and that new measures, including new non-tariff barriers, are resisted.

### ***Debt sustainability***

77. Substantial progress has been made with regard to debt relief, but full delivery on the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) Initiative requires continued efforts from the international community. By September 2009, 35 out of 40 eligible countries had qualified for debt relief under the HIPC Initiative, 26 of whom had qualified for irrevocable debt relief under the HIPC Initiative and the Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative (MDRI). The 35 qualifying countries have received, or are expected to receive debt relief totalling \$57 billion under the HIPC as well as \$23 billion in additional debt relief under the MDRI.

78. Prior to the global financial turmoil, high commodity prices and strong trade growth had improved the export revenues of many developing countries. Consequently, the burden of servicing external debt for the developing countries as a group had fallen from almost 13 per cent of export earnings in 2000 to below 4 per cent in 2007. This has allowed the HIPC countries to increase their social expenditure, but this trend is being reversed as developing country exports and commodity prices have fallen starkly as a consequence of the current crisis. The ratios of external debt to GDP and external debt service to exports for developing countries have risen significantly since the last quarter of 2008. Developing countries also face significant reversals in access to new external financing because of the global credit crunch.

79. The combination of these factors is creating increasing balance-of-payments problems for a large number of countries. Rising risk premiums on borrowing by developing countries and currency depreciations are also increasing the cost of external public borrowing. This, in turn, is limiting the ability of developing countries to undertake counter-cyclical measures and to sustain adequate levels of public spending on infrastructure, education, health and social protection. In the light of the global crisis, measures such as additional concessional financing, standstills on debt obligations, debt relief and debt restructuring should be considered to help countries facing severe financial distress as a consequence of the crisis to avoid harsh domestic adjustments jeopardizing the achievement of the MDGs and avoid public indebtedness reaching unsustainable levels.

### *Access to affordable essential medicines*

80. Many essential medicines are inaccessible to the poor in developing countries for two main reasons. First, there are large gaps in the availability of medicines in both the public and private sectors; second, the prices of the medicines that are available are high in relation to their international reference prices. The multinational drug companies, based mostly in developed countries, should be encouraged to practice dual pricing policies – lower prices for developing countries.

81. Access to affordable essential medicines remains a concern, particularly as the response to outbreaks of contagious diseases and the development of resistant strains of infection create new difficulties. Basic packages of essential medical services require more adaptation to local needs, and better alignment to MDG health targets. The affordability of medicines is expected to deteriorate as a result of the global economic crisis. Incomes for many are falling and currency depreciations are further pushing up the cost of imported medicines. The situation is most difficult for countries with poorly funded or inefficiently run public sector procurement and distribution systems, countries where poorer households have no access to health insurance or public supplies of medicines, and countries where medicines are mostly brand names, rather than generic. Actions are needed to protect low-income families from increases in the costs of medicines brought about by the crisis.

### *Access to new technologies*

82. Advances in technology provide an opportunity to accelerate poverty reduction through pathways not available to countries that developed earlier. Reducing the technology gap can accelerate ‘leap-frogging’ to innovative and low-cost development solutions. Such technology facilitates communication and information exchange. Simple access to mobile phone translates into reductions in mortality rates through provision of information about prevention and treatment and improvement of transport to vital interventions (e.g., emergency obstetric care), long-distance learning, better chances of survival and adaptation by sharing information on the location of pastures and water using mobile telephony, and empowerment of community health workers and other health personnel.

83. Considerable progress had been made in access to information and communications technologies (ICT), especially in cellular telephony, in recent years. Use of the Internet increased steadily, with almost one fourth of the world’s population online. However, less than 18 per cent of the population in developing countries was using the Internet (and only 4 per cent in the least developed countries), compared with over 60 per cent in developed countries<sup>44</sup>. Greater efforts are needed, especially through strengthened public-private partnerships, to close the large gaps that remain in access and affordability across countries and income groups.

84. Addressing the challenges of climate change has necessitated further access to new technologies. For both climate change mitigation and adaptation, massive investments are needed in research, development and deployment of technologies.

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<sup>44</sup> International Telecommunication Union, World Telecommunication/ICT Indicators database 2007/2008

#### **4. The Way Forward**

85. The MDGs work by engaging national and global society as a whole. The actions of individuals, organizations, private companies and governments in the cause of international development cooperation should be guided by the following key principles.

##### ***Guiding principles for action agenda***

- National ownership and leadership complemented by supportive global programmes, measures and policies that align with national priorities and respect national sovereignty are essential.
- The interdependence of human rights, gender equality, governance, development and peace and security must be recognized to attain success and sustainability.
- The need to look at the MDGs through a gender lens is critical, since women and girls typically face the greatest burdens of extreme poverty, hunger and disease. All of the action areas need to include specific strategies for tackling challenges faced by girls and women. On top of this, critical actions are needed to focus on overarching priorities for gender equality, including challenges of women's political representation and the intolerable ongoing epidemic of violence against women.
- The norms and values embedded in the Millennium Declaration and international human rights instruments must continue to provide the foundation for engagement, in particular the key human rights principles of non-discrimination, meaningful participation and accountability.
- The need to empower the poor: through scaled-up efforts focused on citizen monitoring of MDG delivery, capacity building and improving access to financial and legal services.

##### ***Action oriented agenda for all stakeholders***

###### ***Creating the policy and fiscal space to accelerate and sustain progress***

86. Achieving the MDGs will need accelerated interventions in key areas. These interventions should be framed within the broader development framework of National Development Strategies for long-term equitable and sustainable growth and structural change. The immediate priority would be to ensure the sustainability of economic recovery, rising rural productivity, and decent work generation in a period in which economic growth is likely to be slower than before the current crisis.

87. National governments, with the full involvement of civil society organizations and supported by the international community must take urgent measures to implement Growth and trade strategies enabling accelerated reduction in poverty, inequality and marginalization. This means promoting the fiscal space for delivery of key public services and long-term public investments in infrastructure, agriculture, and human skills. It also means re-examination of prevailing macroeconomic frameworks, particularly to restore national capabilities to minimize the

adverse effects of capital mobility, which has severely undermined domestic resource mobilization and monetary and exchange rate management. Without sustained employment and income growth, all measured MDG progress will prove to be short-lived.

88. Financial sector policies must be supportive of accelerating proven interventions in addition to seeking stability through prudential regulations. These policies should also promote financial inclusion and may include specialized financial institutions and/or incentive measures for financial institutions to cater to SMEs, poor populations, agriculture and non-farm activities. Inclusive finance will involve a continuum of affordable financial services (savings, loans, payments, receipts and insurance) available to poor households to improve their standards of living, and for enterprises to grow. Trade and industry policies should support dynamic sectors and activities in terms of productivity growth and creation of decent jobs characterized by high wage and employment security.

89. Progress must be protected in an era of increased economic insecurity arising from global economic instability, volatile food prices, natural disasters or health epidemics. This requires universal social protection and measures to support the most vulnerable communities. There should be effective measures to address all forms of discrimination and social exclusion including through legislative and enforcement measures, awareness campaigns and social mobilization.

*Expanded global partnership to support the MDG agenda*

90. Working in partnership with all stakeholders, the international community must support national development strategies, expand national policy space, accelerate investments in developing countries, minimize the likelihood of crisis and conflict and substantially improve the international response to humanitarian, rehabilitation and recovery needs, and encourage and sustain reforms for a more conducive international environment for development. In the coming months, concrete steps will be taken at all levels to improve coordination and management in support of the MDGs. The entire UN Country Team, central to the UN's country efforts, will be tasked to support Member States' overall and sector-specific MDG plans.

91. MDG interventions along the lines outlined above will require expanded fiscal and institutional capacity at all levels in both donor and recipient circles, and rigorous public-private management systems to ensure that the money gets to the right place, at the right time, and for the right uses. For several MDGs, despite knowledge of what effective interventions are required, there have been shortfalls in the financing and management needed for effective implementation.

92. Raising resources to finance the MDGs should start at home. Therefore, effective and innovative measures to raise domestic revenues in a sustainable manner and to efficiently allocate these resources for development are essential. Most importantly, the international community should intensify international tax cooperation, respecting the sovereign right of countries and enabling them to raise much more domestic fiscal resources. The onus of responsibility falls most heavily on the OECD economies which should not only support domestic financial resource mobilization in developing countries, but also reform international economic relations to enhance financing for development by ensuring developmental reforms in the areas of international investment, international trade, aid, debt and systemic reform as promised by the Monterrey Consensus and reiterated by the 2008 Doha Declaration.

93. The community of donors must deliver on its existing promises of greatly expanded official development assistance, while enhancing aid effectiveness and eliminating onerous conditionalities. If these promises are not met, the poor will suffer and, indeed, die in large numbers. Honouring commitments by the rich countries is a bulwark of global solidarity and a *sine qua non* for MDG success in the low-income countries.

94. In the past few months, several governments have put forth promising proposals to ensure adequate financing of the MDGs, including the call for new financing to build better health systems, the G8's 2009 L'Aquila Food Security Initiative and the associated call for financing a Multi-Donor Trust Fund could support millions of farm families seeking to enhance food productivity, the UNFCCC climate change mitigation and adaptation funds and others. These opportunities must be acted upon quickly to ensure that longstanding international commitments are kept by the time of this year's G8 and G20 Summits in Canada.

95. At the same time, we must also look beyond traditional ODA to more innovative financing models that can increase financial flows and their predictability. Several new programmes, schemes and models are promising, and should be urgently considered for scale-up opportunities. Private philanthropy for the MDGs has also grown considerably in recent years and proven effective in mobilizing support from individuals and supplementing available financing to achieve the MDGs.

96. Developed countries must also live up to their promises by eliminating trade distorting agricultural subsidies and finally giving genuinely unrestricted market access to developing countries to help them lift themselves out of poverty.

97. The time has come for an accountability mechanism between developed and developing countries (as agreed in the Monterrey Consensus and the Accra Plan of Action), and between governments and their citizens, to ensure that MDG commitments are honoured. The 2010 HLPF should be the occasion for the endorsement of an accountability framework that consolidates global commitments, links them to results with timelines, and establishes monitoring and enforcing mechanisms.

#### *Harnessing private sector potential for sustainable development*

98. This begins with the farmer in the rural village, who is the backbone of the private sector in his/her country. It extends all the way to the major multinational companies that often operate in more than 100 countries around the world. The private sector often plays the central role in economic development, but can play that role effectively only when the public sector is doing its job as well: in regulation, public investments in key infrastructure such as roads and power, and the provision of public services such as education and health.

99. Many businesses are already taking specific action in support of the MDGs -- assisting in poverty reduction, food security, environmental stewardship, gender equality, healthcare, and education through their core business operations, social investments and advocacy. Beyond responsible practices, business should think of new and creative ways of working with and investing in pro-poor business models, products and services that can bring about thriving markets.

100. The UN Global Compact, in which the world's major companies are committed to global social responsibility, will this year take on the MDGs as a central focus of its participating companies. These companies will share technologies, business models, outreach strategies and skilled managers towards the scaling-up of MDG initiatives in many parts of the world. At its Summit, the UN will release a framework for strategic business action in support of the MDGs. We will also call on companies to align their social investments with the development in general and the achievement of the MDGs in particular. Many are already partners in the Millennium Villages and related programmes. Many more companies can and will join the global MDG effort.

101. The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) have triggered the largest cooperative effort in world history to fight poverty, hunger, and disease. They have become a rallying cry in poor and rich countries alike, and a standard for non-governmental organizations and corporations as well. Nearly ten years after they were adopted, they are alive and stronger than ever, which is a rarity among global goals. The world wants them to work.

102. The shortfalls in progress towards the MDGs are not because they are unreachable or because the time is too short, but rather because of unmet commitments, inadequate resources, lack of focus and accountability, and insufficient interest in sustainable development. This has resulted in failure to deliver on the finance, services, technical support and partnerships necessary. As a consequence of these shortfalls, aggravated by the global *food and economic crises* as well as the failure of various development policies and programmes, improvements in the lives of the poor have been unacceptably slow, while some hard won gains are being eroded.

103. The MDGs represent a "pact", not just among governments, but also among all development stakeholders. Each actor must focus on the best use of its assets, acting efficiently, effectively and collectively:

- Developing countries, establish policies and institutions to achieve the Goals, involving administrations, communities and citizens towards this end. Through South-South cooperation, they also pledge to help other developing countries through the transfer of knowledge, technology and resources;
- Civil society actors – ranging from those ensuring government accountability and those delivering services – commit to the MDG agenda;
- Private businesses disseminate technologies, create decent employment and otherwise work to support the goals;
- Private philanthropy provides a catalytic role in fostering new innovations for later adoption by public sector and through public-private partnerships.
- Developed countries fulfil existing commitments to increase the quantity and improve the effectiveness of development assistance and improve market access for developing countries' exports;
- The multilateral system – including the United Nations funds, programmes and agencies – improves its coherence and effectiveness in support of the MDGs.

104. Ten years have past ever since the adoption of the Millennium Declaration and the historical commitment to cut extreme poverty by half through the implementation of eight measurable and time-bound goals: the Millennium Development Goals. This vision and measures remain relevant today. Our world possesses the knowledge and the resources to achieve the MDGs and embrace sustainable development processes for a brighter, more secure and more prosperous future for all. Coming together in September with a renewed commitment to build on our achievements so far and to bridge the gaps identified, we can deliver on our shared responsibility to build a better world for generations to come.

105. The United Nations has affirmed the right to development in addition to the other economic, social and cultural rights stated in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The rights approach affirms human rights to social protection as well as rejection of social exclusion, thus contributing to overall security and well-being. Fulfilling the rights of each and every citizen requires adequate resources. The MDG framework has identified stakeholders and duty-bearers with well-defined responsibilities, establishing accountability for development outcomes.

106. In recent decades, government resources for development have often become increasingly constrained while the private sector has taken over many areas of service and utility provision. New and innovative instruments are being promoted to finance development needs, including through multi-donor trust funds such as the L'Aquila Food Security Initiative. However, the promise of delivering adequate aid still remains unfulfilled, while the urgency to ensure the international financial and trading systems support development has heightened in the wake of the current global crisis. Hence, ensuring the adequacy of resources is the major challenge in achieving development, including the MDGs.

107. We must not fail the billions who look to the international community to fulfil the promise of the Millennium Declaration for a better world. Let us meet in September to keep the promise.

## **Annex I**

### **Suggested themes for the Roundtables**

#### ***1. Poverty, hunger and gender equality***

- How can we better support and facilitate employment-intensive, sustained and equitable growth and structural change?
- How can we support holistic community-led approaches to achieve the synergies of the MDGs?
- How can international commitments support national efforts to raise agricultural output in order to overcome hunger and ensure food security?
- How can we ensure that new and existing commitments (by all stakeholders) are adequately monitored and met?
- What institutional reforms and commitments are required to overcome gender inequality and the main obstacles to women's empowerment?
- How can governments be supported to expand social protection systems where they indicate this is a priority?

#### ***2. Health and education***

- How do we enhance access to public health care?
- What cost-effective key interventions in health are needed, especially to improve maternal health? How can national policies and international partnerships overcome the current institutional and resource constraints?
- What are the best strategies to overcome institutional and resource deficiencies in achieving Education for All?
- How can we ensure that new and existing commitments (by all stakeholders) are adequately monitored and met?

#### ***3. Promoting sustainable development***

- What are the most cost effective national policies to increase the availability of safe drinking water on a sustainable basis, and to improve sanitation?

- What international partnerships and resources are needed to support national efforts?
- What are the most cost effective ways of improving slum dwellers' welfare and of ensuring their access to basic services on a sustainable basis?
- What institutions and reforms will protect bio-diversity and forest cover?
- How can we ensure that new and existing commitments (by all stakeholders) are adequately monitored and met?

#### ***4. Widening and strengthening partnerships***

- How do we ensure that aid commitments are met and what else can be done to improve aid predictability?
- How do we ensure debt sustainability through enhanced international cooperation? What are the best ways to facilitate debt relief and debt workouts?
- How do we ensure that the Doha Round (of WTO trade negotiations) realizes its development promise?
- How do we ensure easier and cheaper access to medicines and new agricultural and renewable energy technology?
- How can we ensure that new and existing commitments (by all stakeholders) are adequately monitored and met?

#### ***5. Addressing the special needs of the most vulnerable***

- What more should be done to address the special needs of the poorest countries?
- What should be done to better identify and address the special needs of the most vulnerable countries, communities and people?
- What can be done to break the cycle of poverty, political and economic exclusion, and civil violence?
- What is the developmental potential of humanitarian, disaster relief and peace-building efforts?
- How can we ensure that new and existing commitments (by all stakeholders) are adequately monitored and met?

## ***6. Addressing emerging issues and evolving approaches***

- What are the most effective measures to enhance food security?
- How should climate change mitigation and adaptation be incorporated into broader efforts to enhance sustainable development?
- How can financing be ensured for global public goods, including meeting existing commitments on financing for development and new challenges such as climate change?
- How should the international community address new emerging issues intimately linked with the achievement of the MDGs, such as security, migration, and others?
- How should the international financial system be reformed to better support sustainable and equitable development?
- How should the international community reform international economic governance to better support sustainable and equitable development?
- How can we ensure that new and existing commitments (by all stakeholders) are adequately monitored and met?