PO advice 18/09/08

Millennium Summits

DESA

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Note to the Deputy Secretary-General

Action-oriented outcome for the High-Level Event on MDGs

1. I refer to your note of 3 September 2008 regarding the action-oriented document for the High-level Event on the MDGs. The document will be issued as an addendum to the background note by the Secretary-General and released before the High-level Event. The final version as approved by your Office is attached.

2. Based on your advice that the Secretary-General invite Member States to inform DESA if they intend to announce any initiatives or commitments on 25 September, I am pleased to inform you that the Secretary-General used his briefing on 9 September to orally invite the Member States to inform my Department of their intended announcements by 19 September. My follow-up letter to Permanent Representatives is attached.

沙祖康

Sha Zukang
15 September 2008

cc: Chef de Cabinet
Deputy Chef de Cabinet
Mr. Jomo
Mr. Stelzer

United Nations Nations Unies

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15 September 2008

Excellency,

I would like to recall the Secretary-General's request, during his 9 September briefing on the High-level Event on the Millennium Development Goals, for Member States to provide the Department of Economic and Social Affairs - by 19 September 2008 - with information on any concrete actions and initiatives that their Governments have taken or plan to take to ensure the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals by 2015.

I would appreciate it if you could send your input by e-mail to Mr. Nikhil Seth, Director, Office for ECOSOC Support and Coordination, Department of Economic and Social Affairs (seth@un.org).

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

沙祖康

Sha Zukang
Under-Secretary-General

To All Permanent Representatives
and Permanent Observers
to the United Nations
New York

United Nations

…..September 2008

Original: English

High-level Event on the Millennium Development Goals
25 September 2008

MDG Action Points

Addendum to the background note by the Secretary-General on Committing to Action: Achieving the Millennium Development Goals

High-level Event on the Millennium Development Goals

Key Action Points for Consideration by Governments and Other Stakeholders

1. Little time is left to take decisive action to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by the target year of 2015. The High-level Event on the Millennium Development Goals, to be convened on 25 September 2008 by the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the President of the General Assembly, provides a timely opportunity for world leaders and all development actors to review progress, renew and reinforce commitments, and identify concrete actions and initiatives to ensure that all countries achieve the MDGs by 2015.

2. The following action points and their implementation involve the whole range of stakeholders working in partnership. The role of Governments remains central to any substantive progress. The United Nations system is a key partner, and other intergovernmental organizations as well as the private sector and civil society organizations, including philanthropic institutions, have significant roles to play.

Poverty and Hunger

New World Bank estimates suggest that the number of people living in extreme poverty fell from 1.8 billion in 1990 to 1.4 billion in 2005, largely due to progress in China. Meanwhile, the number of people living in extreme poverty rose by 100 million in sub-Saharan Africa. Recent high food prices may well have increased the number of poor by over a hundred million. Over half the world's population may now be undernourished, if not hungry. It is critical to take urgent measures to:

- Secure adequate resources to enable the World Food Programme and other food-aid programmes to provide emergency food assistance.
- Ensure universal access to staple foods and key nutrients, while promoting specific targeted programmes such as school feeding programmes.
- Scale up investment in agriculture, with particular emphasis on smallholder farmers, as key elements of the fight against poverty, hunger and malnutrition.
- Redouble efforts to conclude the Doha Round of trade negotiations on truly developmental terms, including ensuring adequate preferential market access for poor countries, implementing the Aid for Trade initiative with increased additional funding and providing sound technical assistance to the Least Developed Countries.
- Implement the full employment and decent work for all agenda.
- Assist developing countries, especially in sub-Saharan Africa, to pursue national development strategies to accelerate economic progress and productive employment creation.

Education

Education is a prerequisite for the betterment of peoples' lives and the achievement of most MDGs. There is an urgent need to:

- Raise domestic public spending on education to 15 to 20 percent of national budgets.

- Strengthen education systems and expand the teaching work force by at least 18 million teachers at the primary level by 2015 to improve access to and the quality of education.
- Abolish school fees and give priority to basic education to achieve universal education by 2015 as more than 70 million children currently do not attend and complete primary school.
- Scale up aid for basic education in low-income countries to $11 billion annually to achieve universal primary education by 2015.
- Emphasize inclusion to reach the most marginalized children, including those from poor, rural and indigenous households.
- Ensure a safe and healthy learning environment, particularly in post-conflict and emergency situations.

Health

Health related MDGs continue to pose a daunting challenge. Far too many people continue to die from preventable diseases and have no or limited access to treatment. There is an urgent need to:

- Secure aid flows, in the order of $10.2 billion per year, to ensure sufficient financing for strengthening health systems to meet the needs of maternal and childcare and other reproductive health services.
- Ensure comprehensive and universal health services, including for poor and underserved populations in rural areas and urban slums.
- Establish dedicated national programmes to drastically reduce maternal mortality and ensure universal access to reproductive healthcare.
- Reduce under-five mortality from 80 per thousand live births in 2006 to 34 in 2015; special attention is required for sub-Saharan Africa, where over two-thirds of the countries not on track for achieving MDG4 are located.
- Provide trained community health workers during and after pregnancy and ensure access to reproductive health services, including timely emergency obstetric services. Increase the share of births attended to by skilled health personnel from 61% in 2006 to achieve full coverage by 2015.
- Take decisive action to control and treat major diseases.
- Increase funding substantially for research and development of essential drugs to treat tuberculosis, malaria, HIV/AIDS and other neglected tropical diseases.
- Implement a long-term multi-stakeholder and multi-sectoral approach, based on national AIDS plans and ensure predictable and sustained funding to bridge the $18 billion gap annually required to combat AIDS.
- Fill critical funding gaps for the WHO strategy to combat tuberculosis (DOTS) programmes, as well as for new research and development activities, including work on a vaccine.
- Ensure 150% more funding for the Roll Back Malaria Partnership to cut malaria deaths in Africa in half by 2010, including by securing the 250 million nets required to reach 80% coverage in sub-Saharan Africa.
- Increase the share of people with access to improved sanitation from 53% in 2006 to 71% in 2015.

- Improve drinking water supplies for almost a billion people lacking them, including about 300 million in sub-Saharan Africa.

Environmental Sustainability

Environmental degradation poses a serious threat to our common future. The combined effect of a degraded environment and climate change can jeopardize human development and undermine gains and efforts in the fight against poverty. Urgent and resolute action is required to:

- Ensure effective conservation and management of natural resources and significantly reduce loss of biodiversity.
- Ensure an effective and equitable United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change by late 2009.
- Enhance climate risk reduction and adaptation programmes, particularly in small island developing states (SIDS) and least developed countries. Promote climate-friendly and climate-change adaptation technologies.
- Scale-up programmes and initiatives for pro-poor environmental outcomes.
- Develop participatory, pro-poor natural resource and ecosystem management.
- Mainstream environmental sustainability measures into national development strategies. Introduce innovative mechanisms to significantly increase financing for the environment.
- Create strong incentives and financial support for participatory sustainable forest management and conservation practices.
- Promote selective bio-fuel development based on global comparisons of energy ratios and impacts on land, water, deforestation and food prices of different options.
- Increase spending on water and sanitation from 0.5% to at least 1.0% of GDP to greatly increase access as scheduled.
- Scale-up slum upgrading and provide decent, affordable housing for the poor.

Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women

Despite the progress made, gender gaps remain considerable and the full potential of women is untapped. Decisive action is needed to:

- Scale up and finance promising practices to achieve the MDG targets for women on education and employment, and women's full and equal political representation and access to decision-making.
- Support women's self-employment and entrepreneurship.
- Undertake national awareness-raising campaigns aimed at reducing girls' domestic responsibilities and preventing early marriage and early pregnancy.
- Increase advocacy, partnerships and concrete action at the national level to end violence against women.
- Improve national statistical capacity and develop more comprehensive MDG3 indicators to more effectively monitor progress on gender equality and empowerment of women.
- Ensure adequate and timely funding needed to achieve MDG3.
- Strengthen the substantive and programmatic work of the UN system on gender equality and the empowerment of women.

Global Partnership for Development

An effective global partnership for development is critical for achievement of the MDGs. While there has been progress on several fronts, delivery on commitments made by Member States has been deficient. It is essential that urgent action is taken to:

- Improve delivery on ODA commitments, especially the 2002 Monterrey Consensus' reaffirmation of the 0.7% of rich countries' gross national income (GNI); the Brussels Action Plan ODA commitments of 0.15–0.20% of GNI to the least developed countries (LDCs); and the 2005 G8 Gleneagles Summit commitment to increase global ODA to $80 billion (in 2004 US$) and ODA to Africa by US$25 billion (in 2004 US$) by 2010.
- Improve the quality, effectiveness, predictability and coherence of ODA. Promote mutual accountability monitored at the global and national levels.
- Extend the enhanced Highly Indebted Poor Country (eHIPC) debt relief initiative, the Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative (MDRI) and other debt relief mechanisms to other developing countries with severe debt distress problems. Develop a sovereign debt restructuring mechanism.
- Ensure low-cost access to essential drugs and other life-saving interventions.
- Improve affordable access to technology, including digital technologies, especially ICT, and technologies for agriculture and climate change mitigation and adaptation.
- Initiate innovative financing mechanisms and partnerships to facilitate technology transfer, research and development in developing countries to achieve the MDGs.
- Encourage non-government partners, including the private sector and philanthropic organizations, to sustain funding for MDG projects and programmes.
- Improve statistical capacity at all levels to more effectively monitor progress on the MDGs.

Follow-up and Monitoring

3. I mplementation of these key actions will be critical to achieve the MDGs by 2015.
   - *Governments* are encouraged to set further benchmarks in their efforts to achieve the MDGs based on national commitments and development strategies, including contributions by the *private sector, philanthropic institutions and civil society organizations.*
   - Working closely with Governments and all other stakeholders, the *United Nations system* should continue to support national efforts and to help assess progress, based on agreed indicators and benchmarks. Particular emphasis must be given to gender- specific indicators impacting on women and girls.
   - The Inter-agency and Expert Group on MDG Indicators, as well as the UN MDG Gap Task Force, will help ensure international review and assessment of MDG achievement.
   - The *intergovernmental process*, including through the General Assembly and ECOSOC's Annual Ministerial Review (AMR) and Development Cooperation Forum (DCF), will continue to play critical monitoring roles.

- A decision by the General Assembly to convene a High-level MDG Review Conference with all stakeholders in 2010, to evaluate international performance in fulfilling commitments to deliver on the Goals, could prove an effective means to better monitor progress, enhance implementation and accountability and sustain political resolve.
- An active *media campaign* -- focusing on strategies, policies and initiatives geared to attaining the goals – will be required to maintain momentum and heighten awareness of the MDGs and their role in the betterment of the lives of hundreds of millions of people around the world.