

UNITED NATIONS



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THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

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**WELCOME ADDRESS AND SPEAKING
NOTES AT OPENING SESSION OF
“MDG SUCCESS: ACCELERATING ACTION
AND PARTNERING FOR IMPACT”**

New York, 23 September 2013

10:00

H.E. Mr. Ollanta Humala, President of Peru,

H.E. Mr. Hailemariam Desalegn,

Prime Minister of Ethiopia,

Mr. Jim Yong Kim, President of the World Bank,

Mr. Paul Polman, CEO, Unilever,

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

When world leaders agreed on the

Millennium Declaration in the year 2000, few could have imagined what would follow.

For the first time in human history countries came together at the United Nations and turned noble principles and high aspirations into a set of time-bound common goals and targets for development – the Millennium Development Goals.

This bold experiment has helped to catalyze one of the greatest surges in human well-being that the world has ever seen.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Thirteen years later, I am pleased to report that success in many areas and many countries is within reach.

Poverty has plummeted, health has begun to improve and literacy has soared.

What first seemed fanciful and naïve to some has become achievable.

Clearly, our progress remains incomplete, and many MDG targets are yet to be met.

And the clock is ticking.

We have but 829 days until the end of 2015,
our deadline to achieve the MDGs.

So why, with so much left to do,
and under a looming deadline, do I say
that success is within our reach?

Simply put, because people working together
all over the world have proven
that transformational change is possible
in an accelerated timeframe.

Today you will see proof.

You will see evidence of government focus,
of international institutions doing things
differently.

You will see progress driven by coalitions of actors that have come together across every imaginable barrier.

Together they – we – have produced real, massive and inspiring change.

Even as we rightfully celebrate these achievements, we must learn from both success and failure, to deepen and accelerate our efforts in the precious two years that remain.

We must focus, strategize, and mobilize.

And let us do all that, based not on theory but on actual practice and all the experience represented here in this room today.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The MDGs were agreed by governments,
but governments alone cannot realize them.

In this chamber we have representatives
of governments, civil society, business,
finance and philanthropy, knowledge
institutions and international organizations.

The quantum leaps necessary for MDG
success have come, and will come,
from partnerships and coalitions among
a broad range of stakeholders such
as those here today.

Multi-stakeholder partnerships are being increasingly recognized as development **game-changers**, fostering a race for results.

From galvanizing **political will** to **filling financial gaps**, the added value of diverse partners is profound.

I, and the entire United Nations system, have invested in **leading major multi-stakeholder partnerships** because they **deliver**.

We need only look to those that will feature on the programme today to see that this is so: from Every Woman Every Child and the Global Education First Initiative, to Sustainable Energy for All, Scaling up Nutrition and the Zero Hunger Challenge, as well as the Call to Action on Sanitation, and the UN Global Pulse.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The day after tomorrow, at the Special Event hosted by the President of the General Assembly, Member States will consider what remains to be done to meet the 2015 MDG deadline.

I hope the discussions today will offer insights for these deliberations and others.

We must transcend the limiting sector-specific thinking that unfortunately tends to dominate our development strategies.

This morning, we will begin by considering the key overarching lessons learned from our MDG and partnership efforts to date, across many issues.

What has worked, and what hasn't?

How can we adapt our strategies accordingly?

Thus armed, we can address the unique challenges of working in country-specific contexts.

Together we can chart ever more efficient paths from global will to community impact.

In the afternoon, we will examine two trends.

First, philanthropy.

This is a rising tide many parts of the world.

It represents an exciting opportunity, especially in Africa.

Let us look at how philanthropists from the continent can catalyse action at scale, especially in those places where it is needed most.

Second, innovations in science and technology.

These offer game-changing opportunities for effectiveness and efficiency.

So does innovation in organization and mobilization models, and in institutional structures and ways of doing business.

Let us look at how we can best leverage innovation in service of our MDG goals and beyond.

Our panel members are passionate, engaged, and committed leaders in their fields.

The vibrant discussions today will show us that, when we work together, anything is possible.

I urge you all to maintain the momentum of today and continue these discussions tomorrow, the day after and beyond.

Thank you.

This concludes my formal remarks.
I am honoured to be joined
by the distinguished leaders sitting with me.
Thank you to all of you in the room
and watching on the internet.

I would now like to give the floor
to President Ollanta Humala of Peru.

[President Humala to give remarks.]

**Thank you, President Humala.
Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn,
the floor is now yours.**

[Prime Minister Desalegn to give remarks.]

**Thank you for your remarks, Prime Minister.
Dr. Jim Yong Kim, President of the World
Bank, let me now turn to you.**

[Dr. Kim to give remarks.]

**Thank you, Dr. Kim. Mr. Paul Polman,
CEO of Unilever, let me now welcome you
to give remarks.**

[Mr. Polman to give remarks.]

Thank you, Mr. Polman.

Thank you all for your contribution.

I am very encouraged.

I am convinced that the power of partnership is the recipe for meeting the MDGs and advancing the development agenda after 2015.

I would now like to turn the programme over to the next speakers and their moderator, Dr. Margaret Chan, Director-General of the World Health Organization.

Thank you very much.

[The Secretary-General and all those on the podium leave.]

**Proposed Scenario for the Secretary-General
Opening Session of the MDG Success Event
Monday, 23 September 2013**

Venue: Trusteeship Council, Conference Building
Time: 10:00 – 10:45 a.m.

10:00 The Secretary-General and Mrs. Ban arrive at the venue and are escorted to their respective seats. *[Seating at the podium from left to right facing the audience: Mr. Paul Polman, CEO, Unilever; H.E. Mr. Hailemariam Desalegn, Prime Minister of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia; the Secretary-General; H.E. Mr. Ollanta Humala Tasso, President of Peru; Mr. Jim Yong Kim, President of the World Bank]*

[Unseen overhead voice announcement will welcome the Secretary-General and limit interventions of speakers to 5 min max bearing in mind the need for the Secretary-General to leave at 10:45 a.m., time at which he will need to depart under any circumstances given his hectic schedule during this period]

10:01 **Opening Remarks by the Secretary-General (10 mins)** *[From the podium]*

At the end of his remarks, the Secretary-General gives the floor to the speakers *[Each speaker will make an intervention of approx. 5 min max from the podium]:*

Remarks by H.E. Mr. Ollanta Humala Tasso, President of Peru

Remarks by H.E. Mr. Hailemariam Desalegn, Prime Minister of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia

Remarks by Mr. Jim Yong Kim, President of the World Bank

Remarks by Mr. Paul Polman, Chief Executive Officer, Unilever

10:44 The Secretary-General thanks participants and invites Dr. Margaret Chan, Director-General, World Health Organization, to take over the moderation of the panel that follows the opening *[Dr. Chan and the speakers of her panel will go to the podium as soon as the Secretary-General and the other opening speakers leave the podium].*

[Note: Bollywood actress Kajol, who is supporting Unilever's work in India on Every Woman Every Child initiative, will be in attendance and may approach the Secretary-General with Mr. Polman at the end of the Opening for a hand shake]

10:45 The Secretary-General Mrs. Ban depart venue
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