



**The Road to the UN Millennium  
Development Goals**  
Some insights into the International Debate

October 2004

Author: Wendy Harcourt

NCDO  
Postbox 94020  
1090 GA Amsterdam  
Telephone: + 31 (0)20 5688755  
Fax + 31 (0) 20 5688 787  
E-mail: [info@ncdo.nl](mailto:info@ncdo.nl)  
Website: [www.ncdo.nl](http://www.ncdo.nl)

# Contents

<b>1. Foreword</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>2. Introduction</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>3. The MDG Official Process</b>	
<b>Key Documents, Mechanisms And Actors</b>	<b>8</b>
3.1 Introduction	8
3.2 The UN Millennium Declaration, September 2000	8
3.3 The Millennium Development Goals	10
3.4 Monitoring UNDP	12
3.5 UNDP CSO Advisory Committee	12
3.6 UNDP 2003 Human Development Report	13
3.7 Measurement: Monitoring And Tracking UN Indicators	14
3.8 National Reports	15
3.9 Advocacy: The Millennium Campaign	18
3.10 Research: The Millennium Project	20
3.11 Some 'Behind The Scenes' Observations	20
<b>4. Building A Global Partnership For Development</b>	<b>26</b>
4.1 Goal 8	26
4.2 What Are People Saying?	27
<b>5. Gender, Reproductive Rights and Health Debates Around The Goals 3,4,5 And 6</b>	<b>31</b>
5.1 Promoting Gender Equality And The Empowerment Of Women	31
5.2 Major Concerns	33
5.3 Linking With Beijing +10	35
5.4 Improving Maternal Mortality And Reducing Child Mortality	37
5.5 Reversing The Spread Of Hiv/Aids	39
<b>6. Strategic Ways Forward: 2005</b>	<b>43</b>

<b>7. Resource Section</b>	<b>48</b>
7.1 Millennium Summit +5 Review, September, 2005	48
7.2 Web information on Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)	48
7.3 Web Information On Gender And The MDGs	50
7.4 Web And E-Mails Of Global CSOS For Gaol 8	51
7.5 Printed Resources	56
<b>8. Aacknowledgements</b>	<b>58</b>
8.1 List Of Acronyms	58

# 1. Foreword

In the year 2000 the international community committed at the highest level to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The MDGs emerged at the UN Millennium Summit as an important part of the Millennium Declaration. The Declaration reaffirms the outcomes of previous UN conferences and Human Rights instruments, including 'the Women's Convention' (CEDAW). The Goals gather key development commitments from UN World Conferences in the 1990s and prioritize these commitments to be reached by 2015. A plan for the achievement of the MDGs was set up, including a global campaign. This 'road' to the MDGs aims to monitor progress and engage actors at all levels and sections in society who will help to achieve the MDGs, both in the developing countries and in the 'developed' world. The MDGs are increasingly becoming an important benchmark for the UN and member states in their development co-operation policies. But how do they involve citizens and civil society organizations?

Recent research shows that very few people in society are aware of the international agenda to achieve the MDGs. This can be contributed to the general lack information given by the UN and governments to the wider public. But another important factor may be the initial reluctance and resistance among civil society organizations to choose the MDGs as their focus for communication and public campaigns. The MDGs and the UN strategies to achieve them are by no means uncontested.

Critics in the global women's movement for example have pointed to the fact that important agreements reached at previous UN conferences on reproductive rights and gender equality have been sidelined in the MDGs and the process surrounding them. Another concern is that the MDGs do not represent a new compact for structural economic and social change, but rather assume 'business as usual'. Others point to the fact that there are no obvious mechanisms in the roadmap for the MDGs for the engagement of many civil society groups who are involved in poverty issues. There are also vocal critics from other perspectives.

To bring out some of these concerns from the perspective of civil society, and to take lessons for our work in the Netherlands on global citizenship for the MDGs, NCDO invited Wendy Harcourt to write this report. As an internationally respected expert on development and global movements and as the editor of *Development journal* of the Society for International Development (SID), Wendy Harcourt is well positioned to gather and analyze views from different actors in the debate across the globe. She presents them in this report with a frank and independent look. Although all MDGs are discussed in this report, special attention is given to the goals related to gender, reproductive and sexual health and rights. These issues are key to achieving all the goals.

This report helps us to understand the complexity of the international debate on the road to achieving the MDGs. It sketches out why the MDGs are an important tool for promoting global solidarity and social justice in the public and international intergovernmental arena and it underlines that an important opportunity to advance this agenda will be the Millennium Summit to be held in September 2005.

Alide Roerink  
October 2004, NCDO

'This year leading up to the fifth anniversary of the Millennium Declaration must be a year of refocusing direction and re-energizing political commitment ... Increased global awareness, dialogue and a true partnership between the North and South will strengthen global engagement and set us firmly on the road to 2015' *'We the peoples' ... 2004*

*'The MDGs should not merely be an opportunity for development institutions like the World Bank to raise more funds from reluctant donors, but the actual yardstick against which policies and results are measured'* Roberto Bissio

## **2. Introduction**

The UN Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) announced at the Millennium Summit along with the Millennium Agenda Declaration in 2000 are coming up for review in 2005. We know that dozens of countries are way off track to meet the MDGs, and there still remain many questions around the goals, the resources needed and how to achieve them. The 2005 review is therefore a critical moment when heads of States, the UN system and civil society will come together to look at how to put in place measurable, doable programmes to achieve the goals which represent international and shared ideals for a just, humane sustainable development. As the Millennium Project in 24 January 2004 stated the MDGs are 'the international community's time-bound and quantified operational commitment to cut sharply by 2015 the extent of extreme poverty around the world ... and to re-establish international development as the core objective of an international system that has been completely focused on war'.

This report 'On The Road to the UN Millennium Development Goals: Some insights into the international debate' is a timely and frank look at how the different actors, in particular civil society, see the progress of the MDGs. It starts from the assumption that not all readers will know precisely what the MDGs are or the mechanisms that are in place to achieve them. It will begin with summary of the MDGs and the process behind them and give indications for the key resources (on the Web or in print) as well as indicate some of the key people to contact.

The report builds on the work already being done by several civil society organizations (CSOs) as well as the official MDG documents. It will locate and also review some of the documents and view points by civil society and researchers that have engaged in the MDG process. It will also, where possible, report the gist of the conversations that have been held 'off record' among those engaged in the process in order to tease out as much as one can in an on-going process that has so much invested into it, what is happening 'behind the scenes'.

The focus of the report will be to highlight some of the critical concerns that the MDG process has produced. The MDGs and how the UN system has gone about achieving them are not uncontested by any means. There are vocal critics not only among the 'usual suspects' but also among those who are deeply engaged in the process. Indeed, many of the actors do not attempt to hide their own sense of unease in working towards goals that appear to have side

stepped many of the complex arguments they themselves were engaged in elaborating in the last decades.

Although commenting overall on the MDGs that are clearly interlinked, the report focuses in particular on those goals that relate to women, reproductive and sexual health, gender and development. This is partially to answer the concerns raised by one of the most strongly placed civil society groups in the multilateral context - those of women's groups engaged in gender and development and women's rights. The women's groups at national, regional and international levels have been engaged in economic and social justice movements, technical assistance in gender and development policy and programmes, reproductive health and rights advocacy and in North-South solidarity work and have made a huge contribution to the international community's work in these complex areas. The report aims to respond to their very vocal concerns that the agreements reached at: the UN Conference on Population and Development (Cairo, 1994); the Fourth Conference on Women (Beijing, 1995); at the +5 reviews; and in the discussions around the on-going ratifications of the Convention for the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW); have been sidelined in the MDGs and the process surrounding them. The report therefore examines in particular the debates around the MDG 3 (Promoting Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women), MDG 4 and MDG 5 (Improving Maternal Health and Reduce Child Mortality), MDG 6 (Reversing the Spread of HIV/AIDS) and MDG 8 (Building a Global Partnership for Development).

Finally, the report concludes with some of the reasons for why civil society, particularly civil society in Europe working on gender and development issues, needs to consider engaging with the MDG process and the possible mechanisms to do so. The report looks not only at official channels of engagement, events and campaigns but also sketches out why the MDGs are an important global tool, possibly the only one at the moment that takes the idea of global solidarity and social justice into the international intergovernmental arena; one that can be seen as a strategic entry point into critical international debates on poverty that pivot around North-South solidarity and engendered sustainable development.

### **3. The MDG Official Process**

#### **Key Documents, Mechanisms And Actors**

‘Knowledge, capacity and the political will to act and provide sufficient resources are three necessary components of a successful drive to implement the Millennium Declaration’ Secretary General’s Report to the 59th Session of the United Nations General Assembly A/59/282, 27 August 2004

#### **3.1 Introduction**

The MDGs is a UN wide process with several bodies set up to report directly to the Secretary General Kofi Annan as well as part of the General Assembly process. It is a complex and somewhat confusing set of arrangements that aim to follow the spirit of the Millennium Declaration 2000 and to engage the UN agencies, and Bretton Woods Institutions as well as to open the door for outside expertise. As a result there are several structures that have the MDGs as their focus with the mandate to report directly to the SG. The following is a quick sketch of how these mechanisms operate (more details are available on the Web sites which are given in the text and reference section.)

The UN has a four prong strategy:

- the Millennium Campaign, which is mobilizing local support for the MDGs through locally-led campaigns around the world;
- The Millennium Project, which is devising and recommending an operational framework for achieving the MDGs;
- MDG country reporting, coordinated by UNDP, which evaluates countries’ progress towards the MDGs through periodic national reports; and
- Country Operations, actions of all UN agencies, coordinated by the UN Country team, to help countries implement policies and programmes for achieving the MDGs.

‘While the Goals may not by themselves constitute a comprehensive development vision, they are a measurable set of human development benchmarks that can provide clear indications of whether the world is managing to build the more “inclusive and equitable” globalization called for in the Declaration.’ Kofi Annan, to the General Assembly September 2003, UN A/58/323

#### **3.2 The UN Millennium Declaration, September 2000**

In the UN Millennium Declaration 147 heads of State promised to eradicate poverty, promote human dignity and equality, achieve peace, democracy and environmental sustainability through concrete targets for advancing development and reducing poverty by 2015. Subsequent international events produced further documents reinforcing the Declaration (Monterrey

Consensus and the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development, Evian G8 meeting etc.).

Differently from the earlier UN meetings and conventions which were specialised on particular aspects of development (Children, Environment, Human Rights, Social Development, Population, Women, Habitat, Food Security) the Declaration was about overall values and principles of development. The Millennium Development Goals were presented as the best way to achieve these principles by the year 2015 focusing on poverty within a human rights framework and a social justice agenda. The Declaration can be seen as having a uniquely unifying historical place in the UN, a difficult but critical one, particularly given the international community's emphasis on security post September 11 and with the Iraq War. When considering the MDGs, which are so technical and focused on targets, it is important to recall that they are founded on the Millennium Declaration which is a progressive rights based document that contrasts with other trends in the international community (such as the UN Global Compact) that are more focused on free trade, liberalisation and economic growth as a way forward in development.

#### Fundamental values agreed to in the Millennium Declaration

- Freedom. Men and women have the right to live their lives and raise their children in dignity, free from hunger and from the fear of violence, oppression or injustice. Democratic and participatory governance based on the will of the people best assures these rights.
- Equality. No individual and no nation must be denied the opportunity to benefit from development. The equal rights and opportunities of women and men must be assured.
- Solidarity. Global challenges must be managed in a way that distributes the costs and burdens fairly in accordance with basic principles of equity and social justice. Those who suffer, or who benefit least, deserve help from those who benefit most.
- Tolerance. Human beings must respect each other, in all their diversity of belief, culture and language. Differences within and between societies should be neither feared nor repressed, but cherished as a precious asset of humanity. A Culture of Peace and Dialogue among all civilizations should be actively promoted.
- Respect for nature. Prudence must be shown in the management of all living species and natural resources, in accordance with the precepts of sustainable development. Only in this way can the immeasurable riches provided to us by nature be preserved and passed on to our descendants. The current unsustainable patterns of production and consumption must be changed, in the interest of our future welfare and that of our descendants.
- Shared responsibility. Responsibility for managing worldwide economic and social development, as well as threats to international peace and security, must be shared among the nations of the world and should be exercised multilaterally. As the most universal and most representative organization in the world, the United Nations must play the central role. ([www.un.org/millennium/declaration/ares552e.htm](http://www.un.org/millennium/declaration/ares552e.htm))

### 3.3 The Millennium Development Goals

The Millennium Development Goals that emanated from the Millennium Declaration bind countries in a global partnership to meet the overarching goal of cutting poverty in half by 2015. The MDGs began as a review of development policy by the OECD-DAC in the mid-1990s and evolved into the International Development Goals by 2000. They were then revised into the MDGs after the Summit. They are meant to summarize the main commitments from the main UN Conferences and the major development problems of the debate. The Goals aim to eradicate extreme poverty and hunger; achieve universal poverty and hunger; achieve universal primary education; promote gender equality and empower women; reduce child mortality; improve maternal health; combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases; ensure environmental sustainability; and develop a global partnership for development. (see <http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/> for the 18 targets and 48 indicators) The Goals are designed as a set of measurable benchmarks for assessing progress at the national level. They are presented as the way to enable people to hold political leaders accountable, encourage democratic debate, create capable States able to deliver the goals and political reforms and participatory processes. The hope held out by the MDGs is that they represent a consensus among rich and poor countries that poverty is a collective focus, and it assumes that the resources are there if distributed well, and calls on the political will to achieve such a fair distribution. The first 7 MDGs are aimed at developing countries and the last, Goal 8 is aimed at donor countries. Goal 8 (contested by the US) emerged after the other seven goals were approved by the UN SG's report 'A Road Map Towards the Implementation of the UN Millennium Declaration' and is meant to complement the seven goals with their social and environmental targets. It is designed to ensure that rich countries provide resources that will enable developing countries to participate effectively in the global economy.

Resources to meet the Goals are given high priority. The Monterrey Conference on Financing for Development held in 2002 which agreed to Goal 8, emphasized the dramatic shortfall of resources required to achieve agreed development goals, a concern reinforced in the Zedillo Report (the technical section of the High level panel on Financing for Development named after the former President of Mexico who chaired the panel) which suggested that the 2015 goals would probably be in the order of 50 billion a year. (The World Bank and UNDP estimate higher – up to 76 billion in the expert paper prepared for the UNDP Human Development Report 2003).

## Millennium Development Goals: Status 2004

Goals and Targets	Africa 840 million (Population 2002)		Asia 3,738 million				Oceania 8 million	Latin America & Caribbean 536 million	Commonwealth of Independent States (formerly republics of the Soviet Union) 287 million	
	Northern	sub-Saharan	Eastern	Southeastern	Southern	Western			Europe	Asia
<b>POVERTY</b>										
Reduce extreme poverty by half	on track	high, no change	met	on track	on track	increase	---	low, minimal improvement	increase	increase
Reduce extreme hunger by half	low, minimal improvement	very high, no change	on track	on track	progress but lagging	increase	moderate, no change	on track	---	---
<b>PRIMARY EDUCATION</b>										
Universal primary schooling	met	progress but lagging	met	met	progress but lagging	relatively high, no change	progress but lagging	met	decline	met
<b>GENDER EQUALITY</b>										
Equal girls' enrolment in primary schools	met	progress but lagging	met	met	on track	on track	met	met	met	met
Equal girls' enrolment in secondary schools	met	no significant change	---	met	no significant change	decline	on track	met	met	met
Literacy parity between young women and men	lagging	lagging	met	met	low	lagging	lagging	met	met	met
Women's equal representation in national parliaments	progress but lagging	progress but lagging	moderate, no change	progress but lagging	very low, no change	very low, no change	progress but lagging	progress but lagging	decline	decline
<b>CHILD MORTALITY</b>										
Reduce mortality of under-five-year olds by two thirds	on track	very high, no change	progress but lagging	on track	progress but lagging	moderate, no change	progress but lagging	on track	decline	decline
Measles immunization (85% of the population at risk)	met	low, no change	---	on track	progress but lagging	on track	moderate, no change	met	met	met
<b>MATERNAL HEALTH</b>										
Reduce maternal mortality by three quarters	moderate level	very high level	low level	high level	very high level	high level	very high level	high level	---	---
<b>HIV/AIDS, MALARIA &amp; OTHER DISEASES</b>										
Halt and reverse spread of HIV/AIDS	threatened	some progress	some progress	some progress	significant increase	threatened	threatened	some progress	significant increase	threatened
Halt and reverse spread of malaria	continuing threat	pandemic	met	low level	low level	continuing threat	low level	met	low	low
<b>ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY</b>										
Reverse loss of forests		decline	met	decline	small decline		decline	decline (exc. Caribbean)	met	met
Halve proportion without clean drinking water in urban areas	met	no change	decline	high access but no change	met	met	high access but no change	met	met	met
Halve proportion without clean drinking water in rural areas	high access but little change	progress but lagging	progress but lagging	progress but lagging	on track	progress but lagging	low access, no change	progress but lagging	high access but limited change	high access but limited change
Halve proportion without sanitation in urban areas	on track	low, no change	progress but lagging	on track	progress but lagging	met	high but no significant change	high but no significant change	high but no significant change	high but no significant change
Halve proportion without sanitation in rural areas	progress but lagging	no significant change	progress but lagging	progress but lagging	progress but lagging	no significant change	decline	progress but lagging	decline	decline

compiled by: Statistics Division, UN DESA

### UN Millennium Development Goals

Goal 1 Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger

Goal 2 Achieve universal primary education

Goal 3 Promote gender equality and empower women

Goal 4 Reduce child mortality

Goal 5 Improve maternal health

Goal 6 Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases

Goal 7 Ensure environmental sustainability

Goal 8 A global partnership for development

The chart shows the targets set by the Millennium Development Goals for achievement by 2015 (or by 2005, in the case of equal access to schooling for girls).

Green squares indicate that in a particular sub-region, the MDG target has been met, or is on track for achievement or near achievement by 2015. Orange indicates progress, but at a rate that is so far insufficient to meet the target. Red squares flag areas where there is no change or negative change relative to the target, since 1990, or where current levels are unsatisfactory in comparison with global standards. A lack of data is shown by a blank box.

Sources: United Nations, based on data and estimates provided by: World Bank; Food and Agriculture Organization; UNESCO; Inter-Parliamentary Union; UNICEF; World Health Organization; UNAIDS.

Produced by UN Department of Public Information - DPI/2363-A



United Nations

### **3.4 Monitoring UNDP**

The whole UN system is now mandated to work towards the MDGs with UNDP asked to take the lead. The UNDP Administrator Mark Malloch Brown in his capacity of the chair of the UN Development Group is to be 'score keeper' and 'campaign manager' for the MDGs. UNDP's task is to bring together UN agencies, The World Bank and the International Monetary Fund to support the MDG Reports for every developing country. The national reports (which are produced by the government, in collaboration with the private sector and civil society) indicate where countries are on track to meet the Goals and where more efforts are needed. Each country is asked to produce a report by the end of 2004

UNDP's network links and coordinates global and national efforts to reach these Goals. In this work UNDP highlights Democratic Governance, Poverty Reduction, Crisis Prevention and Recovery, Energy and Environment, and HIV/AIDS.

As well as at country level where most of the focus continues, internationally UNDP is working with CSOs to support the MDGs and has just recently embarked on an ambitious film project where 8 world-renown directors will produce a film '8' on the Millennium Goals, in cooperation with UNDP. The film makers who will be contributing segments are: Robert Altman to promote women's equality, Jane Campion on environmental protection, and Wim Wenders on global co-operation for development. In Africa, Gaspar Noe will focus on HIV/AIDS and Tran Anh Hung child mortality. Jan Kounen's part is on maternal health in Nepal and Japanese director Shinya Tsukamoto will highlight primary education and the eradication of poverty. The film, produced by French ad company LDM Productions, will be released in 2005.

<http://www.developmentgoals.org/>

### **3.5 UNDP CSO Advisory Committee**

The UNDP appointed a CSO Advisory Committee to the Administrator in May 2000 in order to set the context for policy partnerships with civil society. It is composed of civic policy leaders from around the world who provide advice to the Administrator and senior management. Members are mainly from the South with gender and regional balance.

In the fourth annual held April 2003 the committee suggested that as scorekeeper of the progress on MDGs, UNDP must ensure that the process of data collection should not decontextualized from the policy framework in which the specific issue or goal is located. They in particular stressed the impact of women's work in the "care economy" as well as the feminization of the labour force in certain manufacturing and service sectors.

The Committee is a potentially an important body through which views of civil society on the MDGs can reach the UNDP administration. See the webpage on

the committee or contact Bharati Sadasivam Policy Advisor, OIC, e-mail: [bharati.sadasivam@undp.org](mailto:bharati.sadasivam@undp.org)

<http://www.undp.org/cso/partnerships/pdf/Highlightsof4thmeeting.pdf>

### 3.6 UNDP 2003 Human Development Report

The UNDP 2003 Development Report on the MDGs is a key resource that lays out how to achieve the MDGs. Put together by the Human Development Report Secretariat at the UNDP headquarters in New York with inputs from a number of experts, the report outlines a 'Millennium Development Compact'. This Compact is a plan of action proposed to help countries to achieve the basic thresholds needed if the goals are to be reached. It underlines the need for policy responses to structural constraints to increase equity rather than just economic growth. To do this it suggests six policy clusters with priorities differing from one region to another.

- Increased public investments in basic human needs – particularly health (including reproductive health and health systems), nutrition, education, water and sanitation, energy services and waste treatment;
  - Increased emphasis on human rights for women and other excluded groups, with a special focus on the critical role women will play in achieving the MDGs and the actions needed to ensure women's access to economic and political opportunities;
  - Promotion of competitive of small farm productivity in marginal agricultural lands where large numbers of poor farmers struggle in extreme poverty. This includes technological investments to promote a still-needed Green Revolution for Africa;
  - Promotion of competitive urban business environments, including investments in core infrastructure (especially transportation), open trading policies and policies to promote non-traditional industries and exports;
  - Special attention to rural environmental management, including reforestation, biodiversity preservation and watershed management, coastal protection and fish stock protection;
  - Special attention to urban environmental management, particularly in the light of population increase, including waste treatment, garbage collection, indoor pollution control and outdoor pollution control;
- (presented by the January 2004 Millennium Project Planning

The message of the HDR 2003, in line with the tradition of earlier UNDP Human Development Reports, is that in order for economies to function better and therefore the MDGs to be reached, resources and know-how have to benefit the poorest people'. The HDR 2003 suggests what it will take to achieve the goals – including making sure that the Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSPs) take on the MDGs in a systematic way. In the introduction to the UNDP Report and in the subsequent chapters a detailed analysis is given on how to achieve the goals, the barriers and the ways to overcome them. The

HDR 2003 maps out the huge task the UN system and countries face particularly the very poor countries and the very poor in the countries whose economic growth is improving (such as India and China). The statistical data that accompanies the analytical chapters show clearly the starting positions of each country, the inequalities within and among countries and importance of a holistic, cross sectoral approach to if overall improvements are going to be made for the poor.

(<http://hdr.undp.org/reports/global/2003/>)

#### **MDG Listserv**

A listserv run by UNDP supports on-going discussions among UN staff, country offices and civil society and provides a continuous flow of information on the MDGs ([www.undp.org](http://www.undp.org)). It is open for all to join (see resource section). There is also MDGender-net discussions focus on gender issues (<http://www.mdgender.net/>)

### **3.7 Measurement: Monitoring and Tracking UN Indicators**

To help track progress, the United Nations Secretariat and the specialized agencies of the UN system, as well as representatives of IMF, the World Bank and OECD have defined a set of time-bound and measurable targets and indicators for combating poverty, hunger, disease, illiteracy, environmental degradation and discrimination against women. (See SG Report - Road Map towards the Implementation of the United Nations Millennium Declaration.) International experts also selected relevant indicators to be used to assess progress over the period from 1990 to 2015, when targets are expected to be met.

In close collaboration with United Nations agencies and funds, the World Bank, IMF, and OECD, the United Nations Statistics Division coordinates data analysis and maintains the database containing the series related to the selected indicators, as well as other background series intended to supplement the basic 48 Millennium indicators, for more in-depth analysis. It is also responsible for issuing an annual report, based on the indicators of progress toward the MDGs that goes to the Secretary General and UN agencies. The figures presented in the database are from international series compiled by the various agencies. The availability of data necessary to calculate the indicators in each country depends on the capacities of the national statistical services. In many instances when country data are not available or are affected by serious quality problems so therefore estimates are used.

In addition there is also an inter-Agency statistical group (with UN agencies and International Finance Institutions represents) which has been reviewing the technical content of indicators and their appropriateness to the goals. They have different sub-groups including one on gender indicators. The Inter-Agency group will be making recommendations to the UN system for changing some of the indicators. And the group is looking at ways to

strengthen/improve the collection of data from countries for each of these indicators.

The World Bank is working extensively on the MDGs given its broad concern in poverty reduction and its interest in domestic finance, trade, and governance. Of particular interest is the Bank's role in relation to the PRSPs and the costing of the MDGs.

[http://www.developmentgoals.org/Achieving\\_the\\_Goals.htm](http://www.developmentgoals.org/Achieving_the_Goals.htm)

The World Bank maintains its existing approach to poverty reduction and there is considerable pressure from UNDP and Millennium Project to align the PRSPs with the MDGs, however it is noted by many in the system that the IMF has a less MDG friendly policy, and some maintain that its influence on macro economic policy undermines pro-poor policy and hence the achievement of the goals. (see Whaites, 2004)

The Millennium indicators and background data series are also organized and presented by country in Millennium country profiles.

[http://millenniumindicators.un.org/unsd/mi/mi\\_goals.asp](http://millenniumindicators.un.org/unsd/mi/mi_goals.asp)

### **3.8 National Reports**

Support for reporting at the country level is done through close consultation by UNDP with partners in the UN Development Group, other UN partners, the World Bank, IMF and OECD and regional groupings and experts. (The UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs is coordinating reporting on progress towards the goals at the global level.)

Monitoring progress is easier for some targets than for others and good quality data for some indicators are not yet available for many countries. The reporting is uneven but what is available is up on the Web. Country reports are currently available from:

Afghanistan | Albania | Algeria | Argentina | Armenia | Azerbaijan | Bahrain | Benin | Bolivia | Bosnia and Herzegovina | Bhutan | Bulgaria | Cambodia | Cameroon | Chad | China | Czech Republic | Egypt | Ethiopia | Gabon | Gambia | Ghana | Guinea | Guatemala | Honduras | Hungary | Indonesia | Ivory Coast | Kazakhstan | Kenya | Kosovo | Kyrgyzstan | Lebanon | Lithuania | Madagascar | Mauritania | Mauritius | Morocco | Mozambique | Nepal | Nicaragua | Occupied Palestinian Territory | Panama | Paraguay | Philippines | Poland | Rwanda | Saudi Arabia | Senegal | Slovakia | Slovenia | Syrian Arab Republic | Tajikistan | Tanzania | Thailand | Tunisia | Ukraine | Uruguay | Viet Nam | Yemen | Zambia

## Report from Nepal

<http://www.undp.org/mdg/countryreports.html>

GOALS	WILL DEVELOPMENT GOAL BE REACHED				STATUS OF SUPPORTIVE ENVIRONMENT			
<b>Extreme Poverty</b> Halve the proportion of people living below the national poverty line by 2015	Probably	Potentially	Unlikely	Lack of Data	Strong	Fair	Weak but improving	Weak
<b>Hunger</b> Halve the proportion of people who suffer from hunger between 1990 and 2015	Probably	Potentially	Unlikely	Lack of Data	Strong	Fair	Weak but improving	Weak
<b>Universal primary education</b> Ensure that by 2015 children everywhere, boys and girls alike, will be able to complete a full course of primary schooling	Probably	Potentially	Unlikely	Lack of Data	Strong	Fair	Weak but improving	Weak
<b>Gender equity</b> Achieve equal access for boys and girls to primary and secondary schooling by 2005	Probably	Potentially	Unlikely	Lack of Data	Strong	Fair	Weak but improving	Weak
<b>Child mortality</b> Reduce under-five mortality by two-thirds by 2015	Probably	Potentially	Unlikely	Lack of Data	Strong	Fair	Weak but improving	Weak
<b>Maternal health</b> Reduce maternal mortality ratio by three-quarters by 2015	Probably	Potentially	Unlikely	Lack of Data	Strong	Fair	Weak but improving	Weak
<b>HIV/AIDS</b> Halt and reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS by 2015	Probably	Potentially	Unlikely	Lack of Data	Strong	Fair	Weak but improving	Weak
<b>Malaria and other major diseases</b> Halt and reverse the incidence of malaria and other diseases by 2015	Probably	Potentially	Unlikely	Lack of Data	Strong	Fair	Weak but improving	Weak
<b>Environmental resources</b> Reverse loss of environmental resources	Probably	Potentially	Unlikely	Lack of Data	Strong	Fair	Weak but improving	Weak
<b>Access to safe drinking water</b> Halve the proportion of people without access to safe drinking water	Probably	Potentially	Unlikely	Lack of Data	Strong	Fair	Weak but improving	Weak

As Ocampo Under Secretary General for Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations states 'The partnership which is intrinsic to the Monterrey Consensus demands efforts by all actors: donor countries, recipient countries and multilateral institutions. The Global Monitoring Report by the BWI ... indicates that by and large developing countries are fulfilling their pledge at Monterrey while the performance of developed countries is uneven'. (April 2004)

Three Donor countries have reported to date: Denmark, The Netherlands and Sweden. A report from Belgium is planned and Canada, Germany and the UK are considering monitoring their achievements on aid, trade, debt and technology transfer. The OECD Development Assistance Committee is also planning to monitor performance against the MDGs in a more systematic matter. (Global Future, 1st quarter, 2004: 4)

- The Netherlands - Goal 8: Development a Global Partnership for Development

For a long time now, the Dutch Official Development Assistance has exceeded the UN target of 0.7 per cent of Gross National Income. The Dutch Government has recently realigned its development policy to boost its quality and effectiveness. This report is the first Dutch progress report on MDG 8. The MDG targets offer a valuable framework for planning and monitoring Dutch efforts, not only in relation to the UN Millennium Declaration, but also to the Monterrey Consensus on Finance for Development and to the WSSD Plan of implementation. It is considered the most comprehensive MDG report produced by a developed country, both substantively and qualitatively and has followed the format that most other MDG reports prepared by developing countries have used. It shows how The Netherlands's performance with regard to aid has been positive, with generally an upward trend since 1990. Some comments have been that though comprehensive it could have been more ambitious particularly in relation to trade and debt while the innovation of Chapter 3 on 'Other Official and Non-Official Resource Flows' goes beyond the targets addressed within MDG 8, and is applauded along with the listing of grants offered through civil society organizations and its prioritizing policy coherence issues, especially through the establishment of concrete structures in the Ministry of Development Cooperation and giving it the lead role in this area.

- Denmark - Goal 8: Establishing a Global Partnership

Denmark is one of the leading providers of development assistance at 0.96 percent of GNP in 2002 and publishes this report as an attempt to encourage other countries to follow suit. The report focuses on Danish initiatives and subsequent results in all important international commitments related to Goal 8.

- Sweden - Making it happen

Sweden has a coherent policy for global development, giving all policy areas an overarching goal: to contribute to an equitable and sustainable global development. One Swedish priority in working toward achieving the MDGs is the empowerment of women.

<http://www.undp.org/mdg/donorcountryreports.html>

### 3.9 Advocacy The Millennium Campaign

The Millennium Campaign was set up specifically by the Secretary General to coordinate throughout the UN System and with international and civil society partners a series of advocacy and awareness building strategies. The primary focus is to galvanize public opinion and awareness of the MDGs - in the North to gain support for development assistance and in the South to build coalitions for action.

Eveline Herfkens, the former development minister for The Netherlands, and also former Executive Director of the World Bank, is the Executive Coordinator for the Millennium Goals Campaign. She has been joined in New York by a staff from many of the active civil society groups, led by Salil Shetty as Director of the Millennium Development Goals Campaign. His role is to network and build partnerships with the aim of transforming the Goals into a global movement. Shetty from India, previously worked in Action Aid -- an international development non-governmental organization as Chief Executive, and Action Aid is closely involved in the Campaign work.

The Focus of the Campaign's efforts in the North is to persuade donors to meet their commitments under Goal 8, including additional and more effective aid, more sustainable debt relief and increased trade and technology for the poor. The Campaign advocates for rich countries to adopt specific targets and deadlines in order for poor countries to realize the Goals. In the South the Campaign aims to stimulate national political debate and harnessing existing national and regional networks and social movements in support of the Goals.

National level campaigning on the Millennium Goals informs the overall international campaigning with the stated aim to adapt the Goals to local contexts. In the South, the focus is on the rights of poor people to realize the Goals. Key issues include appropriate policies; institutions responsive to the legitimate aspirations of poor and marginalized people; adequate public accountability and transparency in budgeting processes. National-level campaigning have to date taken place in El Salvador, Philippines, Kenya, Albania and Cambodia.

In Italy -- where development assistance is the lowest in Europe-- and due to the work of Marina Ponti who came to the Campaign from Manitesse and Social Watch, the Campaign has collaborated with other civil society groups in the bi-annual peace march in support of the "No Excuses 2015" campaign. Work is underway to launch national and sub-national campaigns in other northern countries, including Austria, Belgium, Canada, Germany, Spain, UK and the United States.

The Campaign works closely with media, radio and TV broadcast events working with UNDP joined in a partnership with the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) to raise awareness of the MDGs together with the UN Development Group. During 2003, the project began radio programmes and related broadcast events, and a television programme in Asia and Africa.

<http://www.undp.org/mdg/campaign.html>

The Millennium Campaign was created to build political will for the achievement of the MDGs and to enable people's actions in holding their government to account to the Millennium Pledge.

The Campaign assumptions are:

It is the lack of political will that is the biggest stumbling block to the achievement of the MDGs;

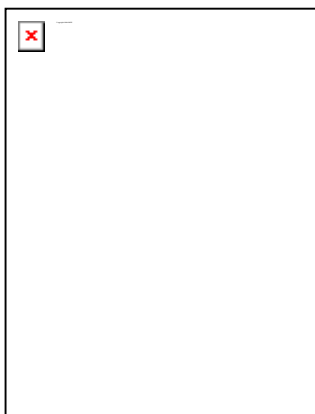
Political leaders are primarily accountable to their electorate, who are local and national;

The Campaign therefore will focus on the national level and below, while recognizing the need to influence global processes;

The Campaign will largely catalyse and facilitate campaigning by other actors, particularly CSOs, but also Parliamentarians and Local Authorities.

Working closely with the media, particularly local and national media, is central to the National Campaigns.

E-mail: [millennium.campaign2015@undp.org](mailto:millennium.campaign2015@undp.org)



<http://www.undp.org/mdg/campaign.html>

*Eveline Herfkens, the Campaign's Executive Coordinator, spreads the word at a peace rally in Italy in support of the "No Excuse 2015 Campaign"*

Another UN Forum open to NGOs is the Annual DPI/NGO CONFERENCE held in New York. In September 2004 it focused on overcoming obstacles such as the lack of political will, inadequate financial resources and corruption to achieve the MDGs.

The three-day Conference, entitled "Millennium Development Goals: Civil Society Takes Action", provided an opportunity for non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to assess the current status of the Goals, address the obstacles that threaten their realization, and share innovative approaches to partnerships.

<http://www.unngodpiconference.org/>

### **3.10 Research The Millennium Project**

The Millennium Project is the research wing of the MDG process. It is directed by Professor Jeffrey Sachs of Columbia University, who serves as Special Advisor to the Secretary-General on the Millennium Development Goals. The Millennium Project through its research and policy discussions over a period of three years will devise a recommended plan of implementation that will hopefully allow all developing countries to meet the MDGs by 2015. The Millennium Project's research focuses on identifying the operational priorities, organizational means of implementation, and financing structures necessary to achieve the MDGs. Ten thematically-orientated Task Forces perform the research. Members are from academia, the public and private sectors, civil society organizations, and UN agencies with the majority of participants coming from outside the UN system. There are also cross cutting thematic task forces on gender equality and health systems and a small secretariat working directly with Jeffrey Sachs.

Each task force is currently preparing a final task force report to be published with background studies by the end of the year. The interim reports for each task force are since April 2004 on the project website. The project is slated to conclude in June 2005 and the results will feed directly into the UN Secretary General Annual Reports on Progress Towards Implementing the Millennium Declaration and the 2005 UN Summit to review progress since the 2000 Millennium Declaration.

As an advisory body to the UN, the Millennium Project will report its findings directly to the UN Secretary-General and the Administrator of the UNDP. The UN Experts Group led by Jan Vandemoortele of UNDP oversees UN participation in the Project. This Group consists of senior representatives from UN agencies whose role is to ensure that the ten Task Forces of the Millennium Project have access to and make full use of the knowledge, experience and capacities of the UN system.

The Project in 2004 has begun to work with selected UN Country teams to assist governments (in Cambodia, the Dominican Republic, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Senegal, Tajikistan and Yemen) to develop 3-5 year poverty reduction strategies (including the PRSPs) in order to achieve the MDGs.  
<http://www.unmillenniumproject.org/html/docs%20and%20reports.shtm>

### **3.11 Some 'Behind The Scenes' Observations**

'The SAP approach of the 1980s and 1990s has really failed. The PRSP is still very much Washington Consensus oriented... We should break the walls and work committedly to reduce poverty in the world. If there is no point of changing a winning team, there's the true sense of sacking a never winning coach, the Washington consensus is one and it is still dominating the PRSP exercise. In the end, what is more relevant to question: the role of the UN

family to the PRSP or the role of the BWIs in the MDGs?' (posting on evalnet, undp internal listserv)

The previous section was a very brief summary of what are very large and powerful institutional bodies of the UN. It is a complex set of interactions at some of the highest policy levels of the UN, with all the history and interests of individuals and agency mandates that implies. Although the Millennium Campaign and Millennium Project are autonomous units they still cooperate with the UN agencies. UNDP has an important but extremely cumbersome task to harness the UN behind the Goals, and the UN Secretariat and World Bank and others to measure progress. But it is at the national level, all agree, that the real results will show, and the national processes seem somewhat behind the global.

Talking to people in these institutions it is clear that it is a complex process that is building both on the strengths and on the deficiencies of the UN bureaucracy. Bringing in outsiders as experts for research and campaigning has led to some confusion around coordination and modes of collaboration. Each group, UNDP, the Campaign and Project claim the others are not working closely with them, at least at the global level, and at the national level it is clear that implications of the different approaches and personalities involved are still to be worked out.

At a global level, many working in-house are concerned that the MDGs have simplified the key issues that have been discussed in the last decades and agreed to by Governments. There is 'off the record' concern that MDGs are being laid on top of on-going work in ways that are not helpful. Experts are also uncertain as whether one can really measure the Goals and there are papers circulating about the economics behind the figures. A paper circulated by Sanjay Reddy from the Colombia University and Antione Heuty consultant at UNDP (March 2004) argues that there is the need to estimate the costs of achieving the MDGs but the approaches used by policy makers globally and nationally lack reliability due to poor quality data, implausible assumptions and estimates over long periods which cannot adjust for unpredictable shocks and are calculated on restricted assumptions. They suggest rather than cost estimates for long term period it is more realistic to work on short and medium term estimates based on a flexible and participatory mechanism for reassessment centred on an inclusive, transparent and periodic review. On top of that, as all statisticians know, there is the problem of collecting quantifiable and useful data. And, as with the UNDP Human Development Reports, whether it is appropriate to be encouraging a competitive approach among countries dealing with the complexities of poverty often with rampant ill health, environmental degradation, conflict, war and other very trying conditions.

Researchers Michael Clemens, Charles J. Kenny, and Todd J. Moss have written a very good paper for the Centre for Global Development 'The Trouble with MDGs' (May 2004). In it they review some of the problems in setting up the MDGs as measurable and achievable just through increase in aid. They review

particularly the costing studies which they point out are not sufficient or even helpful, particularly as the halving of 'global poverty' is not the same as halving poverty in each country. Like many they are concerned that rich countries are not living up to their end of the MDG bargain. Therefore they suggest that the MDGs are best viewed as rejuvenating the aid debate and energizing the development community, even if they are unrealistic goals, unlikely to be met. The danger here is that they may create the unnecessary impression of failure. Even the additional aid as outlined in the cost studies is given, it is unlikely that the MDGs will not be met, there is much more to ensuring good education and health than money. But even if the goals are not met in 2015 this should not be viewed as failure as the MDG process will improve the quality of life for many. At the heart of the issue is political will not money or aid. They conclude that:

'The MDGs might be better viewed not as realistic targets but as reminders of the stark contrast between the world we want and the world we have, and a call to redouble our search to close the gap.'

Policy makers and politicians as Alan Whaites of World Vision comments, 'love targets as they seem so decisive, optimistic and bold' the proliferation of targets however does not mean that the institution itself can deal with them. The UN has thrown itself into the MDGs with enthusiasm though its policy coherence still leaves a lot to be desired and until 'the rich world is willing to align more of its policies in pursuit of pro-poor economic growth the MDGs will be a tough to achieve'. (Whaites, 2004: 11)

At the national level many Governments and civil societies suggest that the MDGs have subverted other agendas, simplifying what are complex issues into targets and indicators undermining other agreements. It is described by some as just another imposition, and by others as an agenda that once again puts the pressure on the developing countries rather than on the developed countries, despite Goal 8 and the focus on ODA, little has changed. (from personal e-mail correspondence with CSOs and government officials in Africa, Europe and South Asia).

Others, quite cynically feel that if the MDGs were to be taken seriously there should be stream lining of the UN to the spirit of the UN Millennium Declaration not a burgeoning of more mechanisms and programmes bringing in outsiders. There seems no real attempt to change the UN system in ways that would be necessary if the MDGs were being taken seriously. The cynics argue that the MDG process, like many other UN processes underneath the rhetoric, is about maintaining institutional viability. The UNDP has taken the lead on the MDGs as a way to defend its role in the global governance structure given that that the World Bank has increasingly taken on the global poverty manager role. The role Jeffrey Sachs (a powerful man with a base outside the UN) plays is a very strong one in this conversation – particularly around making the PRSPs more in line with MDGs.

There are also groups trying to gauge public opinion on the MDGs. The annual reports of the World Federation of United Nations Associations and The North-South Institute 'We the Peoples: A Call to Action for the UN Millennium Declaration' have charted how civil society is engaging with the MDGs through a series of annual surveys to 270 civil society organizations in over 82 countries (in four languages). The three years of reports (2002- 2004) leading to a large report in 2005 show that even as interest grows by civil society in the MDGs the engagement with the UN at the country level remains weak, particularly in the assessment of national reports. There is also a marked gap between civil society awareness of MDGs and the Financing for Development process. The report expresses major concerns about the root causes of poverty and inequality that is not being addressed by the goals. Financing is just not possible as many resources that should be for economic and social needs are diverted to the military to combat the so-called 'war on terror'. The responses cut through a lot of the rhetoric and raise major concerns not only about financing and governance issues but also about human rights, gender and youth perspectives not being fully expressed in the MDGs. The reports also bring out the need for the efforts around achieving the MDGs need to relate to other processes that UN, governments and civil society are undertaking – from the Social Forum process at regional and global levels to the responses of reports such as the Cardoso Panel of Eminent Persons on UN-Civil Society relations. The conclusion is that on the ground initiatives are the only way to bring about change. 'We the Peoples' looks hopefully to processes that ensure a 'reality-connection' to peoples' lives on the ground where UN, governments and civil society groups take up their responsibilities.

Civicus is also polling civil society in October 2004 as a follow up to their General Assembly held in March. They are holding an on-line survey on UN reform, achieving the Millennium Development Goals.  
(<http://www.civicus.org/new/media/e-CIVICUS%20230.doc>)

Ida Mc Donnell for the OECD and NCDO has undertaken a survey of the Dutch public and their awareness of the MDGs and found very few had heard of them, and then very patchily. Concluding as with the We the Peoples Report that the outreach to the public continues to be a difficult job, as even when people have heard of them they are pessimistic about the possibility to achieve them. Perhaps the vision of the MDGs contrast, as she suggests, too much with the negative news of war and conflict covered by the media.

The Monterrey meeting stated that international finance institutions (IFIs) should put the MDGs at the centre of their country strategies. But as the support from the IFIs is sectoral and MDGs are holistic this is according to Governments and civil society in the South not happening. Central to this is the problem of coordination among the IFIs, multilateral and bilateral donors. As Erna Witoelar UN Special Ambassador for the MDGs for Asia and Pacific (former Minister in the Indonesian Government) 'if we want to reach the goals by 2015 we have to coordinate our efforts. Aid is not effective if every donor has its own strategy ... MDGs have to move from direct to local level project

intervention to most strengthening of national and provincial capacity to develop and implement pro-poor strategies'. (ADB Review June 2004: 5)

The link or lack of between MDGs and PRSPs is of critical concern. The Millennium Project is working to reorient latter to the former in some countries, and UNDP and WB signed a one pager on this in 2002 but it remains a mute point that is not being tackled successfully to date. Oxfam, for example, states that if poor countries are to reach the goals it is vital to learn the lessons from the first round of PRSPs. Despite opening some new space for dialogue, Oxfam and partners feel that PRSPs have been disappointing both in terms of process and content. Oxfam welcomes the review of the PRSP process by the Independent Evaluation Office (IEO) and the Operations Evaluation Department (OED).

The Global Monitoring Report 2004 warns that, on current trends, most developing countries will fail to meet most of the Millennium Development Goals that serve as targets for the global effort to reduce poverty and improve services for the poor by 2015.

Accordingly, there is an urgent need to scale up action, on the part of all parties: rich and poor countries, and the international financial institutions such as the Bank and Fund. The agenda proposed by the Global Monitoring Report has three essential elements:

- Accelerating reforms to achieve stronger economic growth-progress in Africa will require a doubling of its current growth rate.
- Empowering and investing in poor people, by broadening and improving the delivery of basic human services.
- Speeding up the implementation of the Monterrey partnership, matching stronger reform efforts by developing countries with increased support from developed countries and international agencies.

[http://siteresources.worldbank.org/DEVCOMMINT/Documentation/20193150/DC2004-0006\(E\)-GMR.pdf](http://siteresources.worldbank.org/DEVCOMMINT/Documentation/20193150/DC2004-0006(E)-GMR.pdf)

Wiseman Nkuhlu, Chairman of the New Partnership for African Development (NEPAD) sees the importance of African countries taking the ownership of the MDGs and in this sense seeing it not as just achieving targets, as it is unlikely with the present approach it can, but by seeing the MDGs as a learning tool monitoring why they achieved or failed to achieve the targets. He argues that the MDGs while very useful in presenting a human development approach, cannot disregard realities, facts, and trends that show that poverty, unemployment, economic and social deprivation, lack of democratic rights are the primary challenges in the continent. Africa has a precarious position in the globalization process and has to face these structural and social upheaval problems squarely. (Nkuhulu, 2004: 13)

For many a major weakness in the entire process is the lack of civil society inputs. This is acknowledged by UNDP and it is openly discussed net discussions (see MDGNet Digest). This is particularly important in light of the

question of what happened to all the other UN processes that did engage civil society and developed an extensive agenda that many CSOs were following – an issue to be tackled up front below in relation to Cairo and Beijing and their reviews. Many CSOs and also developing countries feel that the MDGs are just repackaging old concerns to give the UN, IFIs and the World Bank more business.

## 4. Building A Global Partnership For Development

'... A major breakthrough is needed if the 2015 targets are to be met. Developed countries must fulfil their responsibilities ... indeed, if the vision behind the Millennium Declaration is to be realized, the Goals must be seen as a global deal that is built on mutual commitments and mutual accountability'. Kofi Annan, Secretary General's Report to the 59th Session of the United Nations General Assembly A/59/282, 27 August 2004

'The MDGs could provide a global policy framework for governments, international organizations, private sector and civil society to fight poverty as well as social and gender inequality' (CIDSE-Caritas, October 2003)

'Trade: our path to the MDGs ... No where are the stakes higher than in the area of trade. Estimates show that a 'pro-poor Doha' deal could lift an additional 144 million people out of poverty by 2015' (Millennium Campaign Leaflet, June 2004)

### 4.1 Goal 8

Goal 8 frames the other goals as the only one dealing with international relations. Its key elements are the principles agreed to at the 2000 summit and reaffirmed at Monterrey in 2002 that pledged financial support and policy changes in trade, debt relief and other areas to assist poor countries efforts to meeting the other 7 goals. It is promoted as the development charter for donor policy, 'the driving force for the future of development cooperation' (Herfkens) It reads something of a hodgepodge which indicates the reluctance of some rich countries to be too specific, but it does reflect the Monterrey ideal of a partnership in a compact that aims to help poor countries reach the goals and some mutual responsibilities. As it deals with international relations it is perhaps the most politically challenging Goal and the one that attracts the most debate on a global level while not spoken about very much in terms of the technical support offered. A strong critique is that southern countries feel that the partnership agenda is set by northern interests, and northern countries feel that southern countries are more preoccupied by their own internal political problems than issues around partnerships to achieve the Goals.

The main message is that in order to meet the MDG 8, northern governments need to provide financial resources and fairer trade regime and fiscal measures to respond to the needs of the southern governments. Southern governments need to devote more resource to basic necessities and eliminate internal and international inequalities. Essentially then it is about how to create the political will to achieve this. In general there seems to be some agreements among the international community about how to do this:

- Northern governments need to increase untied ODA and have a poverty eradication focus that is more targeted and efficient using the PRSPs

tailored to the MDGs with substantive investment in technical capacity and assistance to bring the voices of the impoverished people into decision making arenas;

- Debt is a major obstacle for poor countries to provide the basic provisions. There needs to be a cancelling of debt and avoiding a repeated debt problem through the enhanced Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) initiative (which to date has not succeeded) and the establishment of a fair and transparent arbitration process around debt cancellations. Also being proposed is innovative taxing mechanisms such as Currency transaction tax (CTT) which would double the current CTT and greater international tax cooperation;
- Another debate is around the elimination of agricultural export subsidies in favour of supporting sustainable agriculture and rural development in the South. Subsidies and taxes distort the markets resulting in dumping and squeezing out of small farmers. Strong pressure is being applied by civil society to stop dumping and end subsidies;
- Equitable relations between North and South need transparency, accountability and coherence around the conditions on grants, loans and terms of trade. The role of the IFIs in endorsing PRSPs need to be questioned and brought in line with MDG 'human development' targets. Meeting the MDGs requires that the WTO, World Bank, IMF and other financing institutions reorient their policies and programmes to poverty eradication.

If these concerns are taken up, then MDGs can therefore be seen as a tool at the global level to deepen a discourse about accountability and secure political implementation by governments North and South, the UN and IFIs.

## 4.2 What Are People Saying?

'We need to switch from the concept of mainstreaming trade and financial liberalization in development to the more appropriate concept of mainstreaming development needs into trade and finance policies and systems' (Martin Khor, April 2004)

**Martin Khor** from the Third World Network has written several important articles on Goal 8. He argues that the Goal is very critical for all the MDGs as it focuses on the external economic environment and how it impacts on developing countries, particularly those dependent on IFIs and who are members of the WTO. Underlying the Goal's concern on partnership must be the right of developing country governments to take appropriate, pragmatic and selective approach to economic integration. He sets out a series of problems around trade and development, commodities, WTO and global financial reform that he argues must be taken on board if the goal is to be met, both internationally and nationally. Internationally measures are required to avoid policies or agreements that would 'lock' developing countries into financial liberalisation. And nationally developing countries may have no choice but to institute domestic measures to protect themselves from

conditions that can lead to financial crisis and debt repayment. In general, he and others from southern based CSOs, somewhat hopefully, suggest that the MDG 8 could be a way to overhaul the world's trade and finance systems to make it a key component in a global partnership for development. (Speech April 2004, Development Policy Journal April 2003)

**The Centre for Global Development (CGD)** is promoting their 'Commitment to the Development Index' that is published in the Foreign Policy magazine. The Index rates 21 of the world's richest countries ([www.cgdev.org](http://www.cgdev.org)) comparing the rich countries' policies towards the poor countries in six areas: aid, environment, investment, migration, peacekeeping and trade. The Index suggests that many countries have a long way to go. For example, Australia, Canada, Greece and Italy give their foreign aid largely in a form that requires 75% to be spent on consultants or goods from donor countries. The European Union and Norway protect their agriculture in ways that are causing extensive economic damage to producers in poor countries. Nancy Birdsall, President of the CGD, wants to cause 'controversy' to inform 'the public and raise awareness about the lives of the world's poor people, about global interdependence and about commitments already on the books'. (April 2003)

**Salil Shetty** of the Campaign argues that MDG8 is not only about finance and delivering basic means, access to information and communication technologies, but most of all about North-South relations and how to empower people to participate in the development process – within and between developing countries and developed countries and in what mode they can honestly collaborate together while at the same time compete in the global economy. He argues that G8 countries need to take action –most of all in terms of funding – not just 'murmuring' but a serious increase in ODA. Only the UK has increased its funding despite agreements made at Monterrey. He warns that there is the real danger that in terms of new financing the MDGs become another set of fickle promises and it will be 'business as usual'. There is a strong concern that the MDGs end up being another set of donor conditionalities, however, Salil Shetty argues they represent a compact that makes IFIs and rich-country governments accountable in terms of process and outcomes. (Global Future 2004, 3) It is true that 'business as usual' is not going to allow the Goals to happen, but, as the Campaign stresses in its 'No Excuses' Campaign, 'we the people' have to hold their governmental accountable. And what Shetty calls 'the delightfully vague' Goal 8 needs to be much more specific on trade 'the way to the MDGs', debt and technology transfer.

The discussion among CSOs around MG8 focuses on trade, tariffs and quotas, untying aid, cancel debt etc but it also is grounded in the debates around human rights and conflict. Mary Robinson, former UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, underlines the importance of the MDG process engaging with civil society groups particularly working with economic and social rights as part of human rights. She states that the MDGs on paper are too narrowly construed in terms of income, but that in practice durable and sustainable solutions require a commitment to tackling the roots of poverty with consultation among civil society actively engaged in the human rights agenda. She argues that MDGs need to be solidly embedded in a human rights

framework that links human rights and development with human security.  
(November 2003)

**Kalyani Menon Sen** from Jagori, India argues that 'despite the endless agonising over the MDGs in UN-run discussion groups ... the fact remains that no one (not even people in the UN!) sees the MDGs as a magic wand. At best, they are another stick to encourage governments to deliver on their commitments with all the weaknesses inherent in all such international instruments, but with one huge advantage - they club together a range of rights in a way that is intelligible to people who are not part of the usual development circuits and who are not necessarily clued into UN jargon.'  
posting on MDG-Net, 22 October 2003.

**Sakiko Fukuda-Parr**, Director of the UNDP Development Report, sees the Goals as largely reflecting a poor person's agenda, and therefore a human development agenda, intertwining economic growth with the human development goal of expanding the choices and capabilities of people. She feels what is missing are the political and civil liberties and participation in the life of a community. Nevertheless she sees them as a tool of political mobilization that provides a framework of accountability. She sees the MDGs as giving a 'buzz' to the International community and therefore a push to greater partnership among poor and rich countries: 'Developing countries cannot make it alone ... Goal 8 ... envisions a global partnership for development that not only includes aid but also debt relief, trade and access to technology'. This means not only decreasing corruption but also the administrative burden for managing aid, and less conditionality and more focus on performance as well as providing an environment where rich countries can create a global decision making on tariffs, subsidies and trade negotiations that is more inclusive of poor countries. (Oct 2002)

At the national level the MDGs focus on poverty can be given a legitimate point of reference to CSOs working to make PSRPs and national level plans and policies meet the needs of the poor. MDGs, particularly in the discussions around MG 8 give the space to discuss structural impediments to poverty eradication, where trade liberalisation is seen as a means not an end. However aid as such is not enough, there is the need to untie aid, donors to harmonize their practices and reduce administration burdens for recipient countries and to decentralise (as agreed in the Rome Declaration on Harmonization adopted by heads of multilateral and bilateral development institutions in Rome in February 2003). These means new targets that rich countries have to achieve such as ODA to fill in financing gaps (the estimated 50 - 76 billion US dollars) concrete measures to implement the Rome Declaration, remove tariffs and quotas on agricultural products, textiles and clothing, remove subsidies on agricultural exports, finance debt reduction, agree on a more favourable implementation of TRIPS, agree and finance HIPC Initiative.

To this end major CSOs are now working with the MDG campaign. In Europe the Alliance 2015 has been formed. The Social Watch, Third World Network, Civicus, ActionAid and Oxfam International are engaging with the Millennium Campaign. Women's groups such as DAWN, AWID, WEDO, WICEJ (see next section) are also working to ensure a gender perspective on issues around

trade and debt. The Millennium Project's cross cutting gender task force and at the Project's Secretariat push a strong gender approach. Their documents continually state that gender is a cross cutting issue, and the halving of poverty through cancellation of debt and fairer trade relations are crucial in particular for poor women who bear the burden of being the 'poorest of the poor'.

## **5. Gender, Reproductive Rights And Health Debates Around The Goals 3,4,5 And 6**

### **5.1 Promoting Gender Equality And The Empowerment Of Women**

The MDG3 target which represents the goal of gender equality and empowerment of women is eliminating gender disparity in primary and secondary education by 2005 and in all levels of education by 2015. As Caren Grown, Director, Poverty Reduction and Economic Growth Team, (ICRW) and one of the experts for the Millennium Report for Goal 3 states, 'education alone is insufficient for eliminating the range of gender inequalities of for empowering women to participate in society'. She points out that a significant number of countries are off track for primary education. Only 46 out of 133 countries for which data is available will be expected to achieve gender parity or a reverse gender gap and only 20 are predicted to do so due to increases in female rates. The rest are expected to achieve the ratio because of declines in male rates with female rates remaining constant, or declines in both female and male rates with male rates declining greater than female rates. The picture is worse in secondary education only 7 out of 118 countries will achieve parity, only 59 will reverse the gap and 28 appear to be on track to achieve the secondary education target which is set for 2005. Other statistics are equally telling, the female share of the paid non agricultural wage is less than 50% in 96 out of 105 countries, in the political arena women hold 30% or more in only 11 countries and less than 20% in the majority of countries. And in 10-50% of women report being abused in nearly 50 population based surveys.

Although the targets of Goal 3 seem narrowly limited to girls' education, the discussion around it underlines that the fulfilment of the MDGs as a whole means that gender equality cannot be limited to one Goal. The MDGs, in this way, can be seen as an opportunity to advance 'gender mainstreaming', gender justice analysis and a gender equality agenda that addresses global social and economic inequities. This approach is clear for all actors:

The open discussions on the UNDP e-mail discussion group MDg-net on gender openly debate the ways MDGs need to take on board a gender justice and rights perspective. The Action Aid e-consultation (moderated by One World South Asia, Akanksha A. Marphatia (amarphatia@actionaid.org) solicited civil society feedback on the Task Force report reaching out to 1,200 participants in an e-mail debate over three weeks in June and July 2004. The discussion underlined the need to expand the gender equality goal from education to other areas such as reproductive rights, violence, globalization, violence etc. and how men and women can work together to achieve the goals. Many of the participants pointed out that a civil society opinion should have been encouraged earlier, particularly in relation to linking the MDGs to other UN initiatives such as Beijing and the CSW where NGOs are closely involved. Within the UNDP and UNDAW the UN is exploring how to

'engender each goal' and call for a strong linkage with the Cairo and Beijing ten year reviews as well as the Millennium Declaration five year review. The Campaign's 'call for action' underlines the need to bring women into policy formulation and public spending decisions, including more needs and rights for women and girls in legal, social and economic arenas. The Campaign focuses very strongly on the message from the UN Secretary General that we have to 'invest in the world's women'. Women disproportionately suffer the burden of poverty, suffer discrimination in all areas of life and their rights fail to be protected. They argue that the links to the other MDGs broadens out the narrow focus on girls' education while at the same time it is important to have a narrow sector specific set of actions. They stress the spirit of the MDGs is not instrumental but rather reflects the broad agreements of the 4th World Conference of Women and underpinned by the commitment of 171 countries to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). The Millennium Project's cross cutting gender task aims to ensure that women's participation, needs and rights are addressed in the Poverty reduction strategies. The Millennium Project Task Force background papers and interim report 'Promises to Keep: achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women' give an analysis of the targets on indicators of MDG3 as well as propose alternative targets and summarize progress to date. The task force promotes four messages for the international community and national actors:

First, that gender equality is central to all the MDGs. This means institutions need to provide leadership, financial and human resources to address women's empowerment and gender equality. Second, investing in health, education, safety, education and economic well-being of adolescents is a priority (including developing a healthy sexuality, physical safety, good quality education and support from transition from school to work). Third, is reducing women's and girl's time poverty addressing social and economic costs around issues of water supply and sanitation and labour saving technology. Fourth they emphasize the need for sex-disaggregated data.

Their operational framework uses a capability approach that emphasizes basic human abilities as well as access to resources, security and political opportunities. They underline the need not only for better quality secondary education but also the need for increased support for women's sexual health and rights as spelled out in the ICPD +5, the need to improve women and girls' opportunities with property and inheritance rights and addressing the discrimination in employment. Lastly they also put back on the agenda the notable gap on the Millennium goals and targets – violence against women – as one of the key barriers to gender equality and women's empowerment. They call in support of women's movements around the world for a major campaign on gender violence. (WICEJ 2003, pp 42 – 43)

The key messages of the Task Force 3 on Gender given in September 2004 underlined 6 key strategic priorities:

1. Strengthen Opportunities for Secondary Education for Girls and Eliminate Gender Gaps at that level;
2. Guarantee Sexual and Reproductive Rights and Health;

3. Invest in Gender-Responsive Infrastructure to Reduce Women's and Girl's Time Poverty;
4. Guarantee Women's Property and Inheritance Rights and Reduce Discrimination in the Labour Markets;
5. Increase Women's Representation in Political Bodies;
6. End Violence Against Women;

The report also suggests additional indicators for tracking progress:

- Sex-disaggregated completion rates for all levels of education;
- Proportion of expressed desires satisfied, adolescent fertility rate;
- Landownership by sex, type of housing title;
- Share of informal employment, both waged and self-employed, by sex in non-agricultural employment, gender gaps in earning in paid and self-employment;
- Percentage of women elected to local government bodies; and
- Current prevalence rates of intimate partner violence.

The overarching message is that gender equality is not a goal in itself but is a path to achieving the MDGs. The focus is on gender sensitive planning at national levels to hold governments' accountable through monitoring and report backs on gender based discrimination and most importantly sex-disaggregated data. The UN debates in the World Bank, UNDP and in the Millennium Project documents underline that gender equality in education, health, labour markets, political life and social opportunities are fundamental to all MDGs. They stress that 'investment' in adolescents especially girls' education, health safety and economic well-being is a priority. This expands the debate from education to preparing girls for a successful transition to work, access to sexual and reproductive health information education and services and protection from violence. It seems agreed that reducing women and girls poverty can only be achieved through gender sensitive infrastructure and investments and public policies that support women's caring responsibilities bearing in mind the time-use data which in all countries show women working considerably longer hours than men (collecting fuel and water, cooking, caring for children, elderly and disabled etc.)

## 5.2 Major Concerns

There remain, of course, concerns. A major concern is the lack of data for monitoring or even analysing fully women's economic and social situation (caring and informal work etc. Ultimately there remains a strong concern about generating political will to support women's rights given some of the 'back lashes' around rights.

MDGs do not adequately reflect the commitments by governments that women's movement fought for during the rich ICPD and FWCW process. The agreements of Cairo and Beijing nor the politics around those events are missing. And to some extent a rights perspective is also lacking in the MDGs. The affirmation of rights agreements including CEDAW are being sidelined by the more specific goals and targets, and that Goal 8 – the key for a real switch at the international level in terms of financing, fair, equitable and just

international relations – interprets gender equality as ‘gender mainstreaming’ with a view to simply incorporating women into micro efforts without addressing the macro framework. Such a technical, even mechanistic approach, could well undermine the work of many women and men around the working for gender justice. The twin issues of how to hold the IFIs accountable ensuring that new conditionalities are not introduced through the MDGs and that human rights are secured, given today’s geo-political climate, are complex. There is need for a multifaceted strategy to achieve women’s rights within the economic, social and political arenas that the MDGs targeting and measurement approach might well obscure. A critical gender perspective applied to trade, development and governance is needed, one that is not yet there in the MDG process.

Pragmatically, they do reflect a policy paradigm for development that will determine the UN activities until 2015. It is a form of compact that governments have agreed to, perhaps the last possibility to try and ensure the allocation of resources that will enable the international community to ensure the commitments are made nationally and globally.

The MDGs can be seen as challenging the Washington Consensus in their focus on social as well as economic goals, and therefore can enforce a change and alignment of the PRSPs and impact on the G8 and donor policy on policies that impact on women. They can be seen as a policy opportunity to ensure gender equality with all the UN bureaucracy behind the concept of gender equality and women’s empowerment, even the World Bank and IMF are having to coordinate with the different arms of the MDGs. It seems important to not just critique – but consider what are the alternatives to MDGs – they are the tools that could allow the other agreements to go forward, ensure VAW is on board, that MDGs are seen as a package together, going beyond achieving the target (which 32 countries will already miss in 2005), seeing education as a building block. It is important to understand the MDGs as a process even if it is time bound, and has limitations within what is something of a mechanistic approach. Gender equality could be achievable if the MDG process works on all fronts to ensure that the credible commitments are met and there is a strong political lobby to ensure the World Bank, IMF and IFI’s are on board.

Kalayani Menon-Sen suggest that the MDGs can be a very practical tool at the national level. The MDG Reports, can be made into a kind of public report card on the government’s performance. The process, already happening is parallel to the “Green Report Cards” produced for some cities by environmental groups which are now instruments for political action on environmental issues.

She says that although women’s organizations in many countries have tried to shape CEDAW and the Beijing Platform for Action into instruments of struggle these have remained women’s concerns with CEDAW not being well known. Therefore the MDGs are an opportunity to try and encourage the public to make connections between poverty, development and the rights and freedoms of women. She proposes that people’s movements (including women’s movements) need to take the official reports and critique them – perhaps producing shadow reports that question dubious claims and expose the prevarications in the government-produced reports. Unlike the CEDAW

Shadow Reports, the MDG Shadow Reports could potentially bring together a whole range of movements and citizens groups and to support each other in following up with campaigns and political action. It is therefore vital that gender issues and women's issues are not left out of MDG Reports, or not sequestered under a few women-specific goals.

Some views from women around the world (taken from WICEJ Seeking accountability on Women's Human Rights Women Debate the UN Millennium Development Goals):

' As women debate the MDGs they raise larger debates taking place within global feminism about how best to organize for accountability from states, non state actors and multilateral institutions' **Carol Barton, coordinator of WICEJ**  
It is crucial to assess how gender mainstreaming has been carried out as well as to place the MDGs in the broader context of trade and liberalization policies'  
**Gigi Francisco, DAWN, WSF**  
'Despite the resources and importance given to the MDGs by the United Nations, I have yet to be convinced that this is a winnable solution for gender equality and not just a waste of time ... we need to have honest conversations about how change happens if government/ UN/civil society partnerships are going to be real and effective ... I would think that the only they can be used strategically are by gender equality advocates who also understand politics ... and how power works' **Joanna Kerr, Executive Director AWID**  
'The MDGs would have gained more credibility if the social impacts of economic globalization, structural adjustment and economic stabilization policies had been evaluated together with global civil society before the implementation of the MDGs ... women have reason to be doubtful and very skeptical about cooptation ... but the MDGs also incorporate demands for debt cancellation, for the rich to walk their talk, for Government and their citizens to define their own poverty strategies without conditionality, and for the economic costs paid by women to be recognized'. **Yassine Fall UNIFEM now working at the Secretariat of the Millennium Project**  
'Given that the MDGs are weak on the goal of gender equality and that the gender dimensions of the other MDGs are almost invisible, those committed to the advancement of women's equality and empowerment need to consider putting their efforts into developing strategies for monitoring and measuring progress toward the achievement of the Beijing Platform of Action than abandoning it for the MDGs' **Peggy Antrobus, Founder of DAWN and IGTN**

### 5.3 Linking With Beijing +10

The 48th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women (March 1-12, 2004) the consensus was reached first about a postponement of a Fifth UN World Conference on Women to ensure no opening for renegotiations of the text and a focus on a progress review, and secondly about the need to integrate a gender perspective in the implementation and review of the Millennium

Declaration and MDGs at the UN Millennium Summit in September 2005  
([www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2004/wom1447.doc.htm](http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2004/wom1447.doc.htm))

A major strategy of the CSW process in 2004 and 2005 will be to bring the comprehensive discussion on women's equality and empowerment from the Beijing +10 review particularly from the regional meetings being held in 2004 in to the MDG process. The aim will be to celebrate Beijing +10 and through that process re-energize women's movements particularly at the local level, ensure government and UN commitments, and to establish in these events the need for more targeted and time bound indicators and measurable goals for implementation linking the Beijing Platform with the MDGs (and their respective reviews) as well as other UN processes and conventions such as CEDAW. Strategically, the MDGs are an opportunity to push gender with the heads of state meeting at the Millennium Summit +5 given that Beijing +10 is not a strong political moment with no negotiated text and being presented as an opportunity to celebrate the global women's movements.

Specifically the CSW stated the need to:

- Make strategic use of the MDGs review, use task force reports, influence and expand targets and integrate gender throughout the MDGs;
- Call on governments and UN to establish concrete measurable mechanisms for accountability to integrate gender into the MDGs;
- Ask UN DAW to incorporate an assessment of how the Beijing Platform relates to MDGs as an input to the SG's report on B10 and MDGs;
- Link B10 and MDGs assessments in alternative reports in national events as well as at regional meetings and during the CSW review;
- Link feminist agenda to global and regional trade negotiations at the WTO to indicate how gender sensitive trade is and how central to achieve women's equity and the success of the MDGs;
- Take up MDG 8 and push northern governments to address enabling economic environment to fulfil the MDGs and ensure women's empowerment and gender equality;

There are a number of processes in place that are linking the IPCD +10, Beijing +10 and MDG +5 Review process:

The Facilitating global organizations for that process decided at the March CSW are:

The Centre for Women's Global Leadership: [cwgl@igc.org](mailto:cwgl@igc.org)

CSO Committee on the Status of Women: [CSO\\_csw\\_ny@hotmail.com](mailto:CSO_csw_ny@hotmail.com)

Women's Environment and Development Organization: [wedo@wedo.org](mailto:wedo@wedo.org)

There are also regional focal points. European focal point:

- European Women's Lobby [mcphail@womenlobby.org](mailto:mcphail@womenlobby.org)  
Regional Meetings on Beijing +10  
Calendar can be viewed at [www.wedo.org/meetings.htm](http://www.wedo.org/meetings.htm)
- Europe: UNECE, Geneva Beijing +10 Regional Meeting and CSO Forum 5-8 December 2004  
[Patrice.robineau@unece.org](mailto:Patrice.robineau@unece.org) ([www.ece.org](http://www.ece.org))

Resources:

- Siyanda Update: Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), Issue No. 19, March 2004  
<http://www.siyanda.org/>
- MDG GenderNet:  
<http://www.mdgender.net/>

## 5.4 Improving Maternal Mortality And Reducing Child Mortality

'The deliberate exclusion of this fundamental indicator of women's human rights and empowerment from the MDGs ... is inexcusable given that women's sexual and reproductive rights is a crucial indicator of progress under MDG 3, MDG4, MDG5 and MDG6' Peggy Antrobus, 2004)

The MDGs 4 and 5 underline that good care, nutrition and medical treatment necessary to save the 10 million children who die each year in the developing world can only be achieved if the structures, resources and women's rights are also taken into consideration, particularly women's reproductive rights and health. The 50 million women who suffer from poor reproductive health and pregnancy-related illness and disability particularly in Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa are often in difficulty when it comes to caring for their children. High maternal mortality rates in many countries are the result of inadequate reproductive health care for women and inadequately spaced births and the result is the death of many of their children. There is little argument that both these goals are extremely necessary and extremely complex to attain.

A major concern is that the MDGs, as they are framed, fail to bring in the paradigm shift made in Cairo and in the Cairo +5 process that focuses on women's sexual, reproductive health and rights. The Millennium Project, in dealing with this gap, has brought together maternal and child health (see Box 8 which underlines how all the Goals discussed in this section can be linked to the Cairo agenda) and in that linkage has included sexual and reproductive health and rights. It does seem by failing to include VAW and sexual and reproductive rights that the framing of the MDGs is a decade behind, and is being influenced by the US government and other countries negative approach to women's health and rights, but on the other hand it is good that maternal health has received attention and is on the top of the agenda. Certainly maternal mortality is linked so closely to poverty and inequity that it is a major indicator of the failure of development.

The approach taken by the Millennium Project is to look at how development policy has impacted on health systems and thereby on women's demand for and access to primary health as well as reproductive health care. They raise the key issue that health systems are not able to treat obstetrical complications due to inadequate health training and services to treat the complications that cause death or chronic ill health and morbidity as well as other socio-economic factors. Obstetrical training for community nurses, midwives, general physicians, for example, could enable many poor women in rural areas to survive child birth and prevent socially and physically disabling complications

such as vaginal fistulae. This means not only changes in training and education of personnel but changes in legal and professional codes. Reducing maternal mortality requires funding and a reform of health systems that addresses the problems of the decimation of the public health system through privatisation and structural adjustment policies. Beyond financial provisions a strong health system recovery must also include further outreach and education of the population in ways that take into account how neglected health is the 'norm' for poor people – therefore health systems have to be seen as more than just delivery systems, but a core social institution that can tackle the complex issues around equity, social exclusion and gender bias.

Poverty needs to be understood as more than income poverty. It is about ensuring well-being and ensuring health systems work in a holistic sense for poor women. To address poverty given the existing power structures radical reforms are needed. Health systems have to provide care throughout a women's life cycle from early age including antenatal care. In this sense maternal mortality and morbidity as a 'health' issue has to be seen not just in relation to disease but in relation to cross cutting concerns around 'human resources for health', 'ensuring access to health' and 'finance for health'. This approach immediately links the concerns to Goal 8 around economic, trade and partnership and gives women the chance to be at the same table to discuss how maternal health has to be considered at the heart of the political and economic MDG discussions, not put to one side as a technical 'medical' issue.

The issue is not just bio-medical, nor is it simply the lack of resources, it is a complex mix of economic and socio-cultural factors that lead to gender discrimination, neglect and deprivation and ultimately the denial of women's rights to well-being. The MDGs have to reinstate the ICPD paradigm shift, putting in place effective health systems, and ensure rich countries commitments to increase funding to reach the Goals, acutely aware of the economic and social requirements, equity and rights issues at stake.

### **ICPD and The MDGs From the UNFPA booklet Population, Reproductive Health and the MDGs**

Goal 3 Promote gender equality and empower women

Ensuring gender equity and equality and the empowerment of women

depends in part on overcoming cultural, social and economic constraints that limit women's access to education as well as providing universal access to reproductive health services that allow them to control their own fertility.

Combating violence against women and removing social and family barriers to women's wider social participation are essential.

Goal 4 Reduce child mortality

A healthy mother is the first step towards a health child. Infant and child mortality are highest for the youngest mothers and after closely spaced births. High fertility reduces the provision of health care to children.

Unwanted children are more likely to die than wanted ones. Providing Universal access to reproductive health care will help to prevent unwanted pregnancy.

The death of a mother increases the risk that her children will die.

#### Goal 5 Improve maternal health

The highest proposal of women's ill health burden is related to their reproductive role. Universal access to reproductive health care – including family planning; care in pregnancy, during and after childbirth; and emergency obstetric care – would reduce unwanted pregnancy, unsafe abortion and maternal death, saving women's lives and the lives of their children.

Women's empowerment will enable women to address the social conditions that endanger their health and lives.

#### Goal 6 Combat HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and other diseases

Universal access to reproductive health care is critically important in the fight against HIV/AIDS.

The ICPD notes that better information on HIV/AIDS can prevent transmission of HIV and other STIs.

Half of the new HIV infections are among young people. Preventing infection means enabling young people to protect themselves from sexually transmitted infections. This includes ... responsible behaviour at all times, including the responsible use of condoms.

Poor countries need an adequate supply of reproductive health commodities, including male and female condoms and strengthened systems for their supply and distribution.

### 5.5 Reversing The Spread Of Hiv/Aids

In 2002, 42 million adults and 5 million children were living with HIV/AIDS – more than 95 of them in developing countries and 70 percent in Sub-Saharan Africa. There were almost a million new cases in South and East Asia, where more than 7 million people are now living with HIV/AIDS. UNAIDS projects that an additional 45 million people will become infected with HIV in developing countries between 2002 and 2010, unless the world mounts an effective campaign to halt the disease's spread. These statistics underline why it is so important to look at the impact of HIV/AIDS on all areas of development, and the critical necessity to reverse the pandemic.

HIV/AIDS is an enormous development crisis. It has reduced life expectancy in sub-Saharan Africa from 62 years to 47 years. Apart from the terrible personal suffering involved, it is the single biggest threat to the attainment of the MDGs, especially in Africa. The pandemic is reinforcing the problems that link ill-health with poverty. Effective debt relief could help to break this link by releasing the resources needed for a concerted assault on poverty.

The issue is complex politically and technically but from an economic and social imperative only by reversing the spread of HIV/AIDS can the MDGs be reached. Like with maternal mortality and child health the concern is not with the technical know how but the provisions, outreach and therefore accountability of governments that is not disease specific. The MDGs can be seen as a chance to ensure HIV/AIDS treatment can reach the poor people who need it though there is a strong critique the AIDS goal elusive and vague and a major debate about what method is appropriate.

The international debate is heated around the issue of testing, rights and access to drugs and stigmatisation. There is a push to scale up testing and ensure all have access to antiretroviral therapy drugs. Others see this as a complex issue in relation to rights and stigma that might lead to further discrimination of poor women and men and children. Instead they propose prevention education, training and access to needle exchange, condoms and care for HIV positive people.

The information, organization and mobilization of activists including people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA) working within a human rights framework is critical to change national and global public opinion. The greatest successes against AIDS have resulted from working respectfully with persons at highest risk and those living with the disease. Syringe exchange, methadone replacement therapy, supervised injection sites and other measures have greatly reduced new HIV infections among drug users in numerous countries, but these stories have little currency in some parts of the world. The opportunities for real rights-based success against AIDS should not be missed. (Cseste, Development 2004)

The MDGs need to build on the legal and political action that has led multinational pharmaceuticals, governments and international organizations to respond to the pandemic. The media and legal campaigns leading to the reduction of prices of ARV challenged directly national trade and WTO rules resulting in the creation of the Global Fund for AIDS, TB and Malaria and the adoption of universal access of ARV in countries like Brazil, Botswana, and more recently South Africa. (Villar, Development, 2004)

The problem of patents, the subsidizing of private companies are all concerns that need to be considered among the huge number of financial issues around HIV/AIDS. It is not enough to put laws in place it is important to have the capacity to bring about change.

Unsustainable debt in HIPCs represents a huge barrier to progress in the fight against HIV/AIDS. Repayments to creditors by the poorest countries in the world are diverting needed resources. The MDGs are an opportunity to force rich governments to change policies in support of HIV/AIDS programmes in HIPCs where HIV/AIDS leads to more than one million deaths each year.

Apart from the immediate suffering of the people themselves, HIV/AIDS is devastating education systems, placing new demands on already over-stretched health sectors, increasing time demands on women, jeopardising the future of orphaned children, and reducing economic growth. Without a comprehensive strategy to address the threats posed by HIV/AIDS, many heavily indebted countries will miss the human development targets set under the MDGs. Converting debt transfers to creditors into public investments in health could make a real difference. It is critical to revise debt sustainability indicators in light of the financing requirements for addressing the HIV/AIDS crisis and achieving the MDGs.

([http://www.oxfam.co.uk/what\\_we\\_do/issues/hiv aids/resources.htm](http://www.oxfam.co.uk/what_we_do/issues/hiv aids/resources.htm))

There is a complex political and institutional issue around who is taking the lead in creating the enabling environment to meet the MDGs – UNAIDS with its human rights approach, WHO with its 3x5 campaign (3 million AIDS patients receiving ARV treatment by the year 2005) or others engaged in the

MDG process such as the Millennium Project with its team of experts. Organization is needed to ensure that the MDG process bolsters on-going work of other initiatives and efforts to strengthen health systems taking a primary health care approach. It is also important to work with PLWHA who are working to empower and engage people with AIDS, who particularly in Africa and other countries make a large percentage of the economically active population.

What still needs to be taken on board in the international discussions is the alarming problem of human rights abuses related to HIV/AIDS with their origin in stigma or discrimination. It is a sad reality that millions of people for whom the provision of condoms, clean syringes or sound information on prevention of HIV transmission is useless because they are women who face violence when they demand condom use by their sexual partners or they are injection drug users whose access to needle exchange services is blocked by police harassment or social ostracization. Millions of young people cannot realize their right to basic information on HIV and safer sex in part because their governments are influenced or dominated by persons who believe this information encourages immorality. Women are often constrained to remain in unsafe marriages because inequitable property and divorce laws ensure their economic dependence on their husbands. Widows in Africa (and beyond) who may have been infected with HIV by their husbands often face rejection and appropriation of their homes by their husbands' families. The horrifying array of human rights abuses faced by children whose parents are dying or have died of AIDS is testament to deep social disdain of AIDS, particularly since children usually inspire some sympathy in the public mind.

As discussed under the other gender related goals, politics underpins the subordination of women and girls, particularly in places where women are little seen in political office. Governments have generally been unwilling to tackle the hard issues of a double standard for sexual behaviour of women and men that underlie HIV transmission when parliaments and executive branches are so dominated by men. Donor countries could do much more to encourage affected countries to place these problems at the centre of their fight against AIDS.

Through the MDG process, governments should be helped to identify basic legal and policy measures that will afford protection to women and children affected by AIDS, especially in the matter of property and inheritance rights and protection from sexual abuse and violence. Civil rights protections and evidence-based HIV prevention services for injecting drug users, including those in prison, should be a high priority. Realization of the right of all persons to basic information about HIV transmission and access to condoms must be central to prevention programmes.

The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria is an important new player in the AIDS donor world, but its project review criteria give short shrift to human rights concerns (Global Fund, 2004). The Global Fund has shown no signs so far of exerting pressure on governments to include human rights

protections in their HIV/AIDS efforts. The World Bank has devoted hundreds of millions of dollars to AIDS programmes but not used its leverage to address related human rights issues.

The various institutions of the United Nations system, for which human rights key founding principle can use the MDG process to do more. Bureaucratic turf wars need to be tackled more decisively. The UN agencies through their programmes with governments at the national level need to become a voice for the integration of human rights protection and promotion in HIV/AIDS programmes.

## 6. Strategic Ways Forward: 2005

*'Civil Society participation in the Millennium Summit was indirect ... as a result MDGs are largely unknown and there isn't the feeling of ownership.'* Roberto Bissio  
Social Watch 2003

Roberto Bissio, from Social Watch, a CSO that has been monitoring progress in Social Development and Gender Equality since 1995 particularly with regard to the WSSD and FWCW commitments in a key article published in *Journal of Development Policy* (April 2003) and circulated widely sees major obstacles to civil society involvement in the MDGs. There is the undeniable scepticism and lack of ownership due to the Millennium Summit Process along with the need to translate jargon into something understandable in the street. Politically there is the need to move MDG from beyond a debate around aid to global injustice issues around finance, trade and debt. He raises the question about whether the MDGs have 'traded away' too much from earlier agreements in order to reach consensus. He tellingly asks is it a new compact or just business as usual 'the Washington Consensus in Sombrero?' He calls for a vibrant mobilization of civil society around the MDGs but indicates that this mobilization will depend on how clearly the MDGs link to other conventions and agreements forged in the 1990s which have the ownership and support of civil society.

How to engage European civil society in the MDG process is certainly not a straightforward one. The communication of such a complex process, given the lack of coordination already among the different bodies and mechanisms, to CSOs interested in the MDGs appears difficult. There is a maze of information to navigate and there is also need for knowledge of how the UN works, 'inside knowledge' of personalities, and a sense of how the informal as well as formal processes operate. There seems to be a strong resistance of civil society to the MDGs which they see as watering down agendas or as a structure imposed by the UN, and as we have seen above, some governments share that concern, and from 'off record' correspondence even people within the UN.

The divide between 'Campaign' 'Research' 'Measurement' 'Monitoring' seems to place civil society just as an outreach group of the 'Campaign' or possibly a partner in 'Monitoring' whereas civil society needs to be, and sees it self, as engaged in all facets of how to achieve the Goals. It is therefore considered by many key CSOs to be quite disconcerting that beyond the Campaign, which is about awareness raising and advocacy, there are no obvious mechanisms for the engagement of the many civil society groups who are involved in poverty issue on all levels.

There is something of a déjà vu around this as yet another UN top down process, you have to be in it to win it though with a far less open and democratic process than in other UN Conferences and conventions. The key civil society group leaders who have been brought into the Campaign and therefore have personal contacts are networked in. However one could see this

as more a recruiting strategy to bring on board the best individuals rather than trying to work institutionally with civil society.

Although information is available, on the Web, radio, television, many documents and publications, there are no easily advertised communication mechanisms that bring in civil society – even if individuals can be in touch with the people involved officially in different capacities, and in all documents civil society is encouraged to be involved, it is ad hoc and unclear in what way would be most effective way to engage. Listservs are for those in the know, not those who need to ask basic questions. Engagement, and information given out by the CSO-Liaison Service of the UN, Social Watch, CSO advisory groups to UN agencies and CSO networks such as Civicus are double edged in their reaching out. As these groups are used to working very closely with the UN there are almost too much ‘in the know’ to enable a fully transparent process for others interested. As a result, there is not as much outreach to civil society as is needed if the MDGs, particularly the Goals discussed here, are to be attained.

However, there are other considerations. Given the threat to multilateralism in the development arena particularly in the realm of trade it can seem an important and useful strategy to stop being critical of the UN and work with it to make it more effective. The MDGs, as such, do not require new campaigns but rather coordinating and linking existing campaigns to the MDGs as a tool or mechanism that can frame their work. Potentially the MDG process can bring new public constituencies into campaigning on poverty and justice at the national and international levels. The media interest is of particular use (the 8 film, the BBC interest etc) to push the concerns of development CSOs, human rights groups, women’s movement, youth and child rights, peace movements, elderly groups, HIV positive groups, parliamentarians and faith based groups. Given that the MDGs are concrete goals with specific targets and actions civil society certainly can play a monitoring role made by donor and recipient governments and international institutions particularly through the UN Financing for Development process.([www.un.org/esa/ffd](http://www.un.org/esa/ffd)) In both the ECOSOC and the General Assembly CSOs will be able to hold governments and IFIs responsible at the overall assessment of the MDGs in September 2005.

In the North, civil society organizations can put pressure on national parliaments to help finance the MDGs as well as ensuring there are good ways to assess the commitments in particular Goal 8. One initiative in this regard is the Index of rich countries developed by the Centre for Global Development and Foreign Policy in Washington.

The MDG process can be used to pressure for greater coherence among trade, development and finance ministries. The MDGs are a global consensus framework even if a top down effort. CSOs committed to the UN frameworks agreed in the 1990s can link the MDG campaigns to existing frameworks on which CSOs are working. This does mean funding needs to be available to enable CSOs to ‘make governments’ accountable. CSOs have to be engaged or ‘trained’ to enable them to sustain monitoring over time. And above all, CSOs

have to believe that advocacy work related to MDGs will pay off, and that the alliances forged by UN, donors and governments with strategic points for impact can be identified.

The 'Make Poverty History Campaign' by UK CSOs (<http://www.makepovertyhistory.org>) is an important example of how CSOs in a unique UK alliance of charities, trade unions, campaigning groups and celebrities who are mobilising around key opportunities in 2005 to drive forward the struggle against poverty and injustice. They are using the MDGs to harness political support taking up the opportunity of the UK hosting the G8 and the Presidency of the EU and building on the history of the Live Aid, the time conferences. They argue with 'enough public pressure - politicians could change policies on Trade, Debt and Aid, which would change the lives of 800 million people. It is possible.' With the slogans: trade justice, drop the debt, more and better aid they question the inappropriate economic policies imposed by rich countries. By mobilising popular support across a unique string of events and actions, they aim to press the UK government to compel rich countries to fulfil their obligations and promises to help eradicate poverty, and to rethink some long-held assumptions.

Many civil society groups are focussed on the problem of achieving rights, equality and justice within today's political and economic context. The extent to which the MDGs allow that debate to flourish will determine the success of CSOs coming on board. In interviewing various CSOs it was interesting to note that although there were pragmatic responses on how the MDGs could be a useful tool, the key mechanism that the UN is currently promoting they were seeing it primarily as a political opportunity to fit agendas into the MDGs in order to keep going. There was a notable lack of enthusiasm rather it was seen by necessity an initiative to be joined. The contrast with enthusiasm, participation and keenness of civil society groups working in the earlier UN Conferences and also the World Social Forum should at least be noted, and the question raised about how to keep committed CSOs devoting time to contributing to the MDG process.

Communication strategies for the MDGs are critical as outlined by Mc Donnell (2003)'s report and by the work of the Inter Press Service ([www.ips.org](http://www.ips.org)) to translate the research on tracking progress towards the goals into a language that can easily be understood by different publics either through newswires or the Internet or press services. In this regard the Websites of Civicus and Make Poverty History with their powerful video clip introductions to their Websites show what can be done, in somewhat sorry contrast to the Millennium Campaign's rather stagnant Web site.

In terms of the gender goals, in order to ensure that the gains of the women's movement are not lost, it is important to promote a broader view of gender equality and women's empowerment, within all the Goals. In the process of advancing the Goals, women's rights have to be seen as the way to make the MDG a success. The agreements of Cairo on issues such as Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights are critical to be upheld particularly in relation to the current attack on these issues. Those women with a strong

background in gender within the MDG process and in UNDAW, Unifem, and those women's groups working on CSW etc. need to be seen as allies with whom women's groups, women's units and organisations in different regions, can consult and exchange strategic information. A synthesis document is being prepared by Yassine Fall seconded from UNIFEM to Millennium Project secretariat working with the gender task force to ensure gender issues are addressed in all MDG areas (the role of reproductive health care in public health system, quality of care, preventive measures for HIV/AIDS STDs) this will go into interim report to UN Secretary General. CSOs need to know about that process and contribute information. Above all there is need for systematic engagement and dialogue with CSOs that have led the women's initiatives and for the Campaign and Project to work together in the outreach to civil society ensuring allocation of resources are made for better quality servicing of women, and gender issues are addressed in all areas.

If the three MDGs, indeed all the MDGs are to be met, ensuring women's rights will require fundamental transformations in all spheres: in individual relationships, households and communities, in health facilities and care systems, in funding priorities, and in national and international policies. It will require the commitment of a broad range of social actors including health professionals, advocacy groups, women's groups, other community-based movements, legislators, policymakers and the deliberate creation of an environment responsive to this change, and one that will empower women to overcome their current subordinate status in society and put an end to the violations of their rights, including reproductive rights.

What needs to be built is a strong and innovative partnership among civil society, private sector, decision makers who together with governments pushes a broad awareness and understanding leading to the effective operation of the MDGs galvanizing government processes. Such a multi-sector partnership will help to reorient and engage interested industry, nursing and medical professionals, researchers and CSOs working in child rights and women's rights as well as the general public to shift the focus from a bio-medical approach to maternal mortality and morbidity and child survival to the broader promotion of economic, socio-cultural issues of equity, gender, human rights, and sustainability.

'To achieve global progress in the eight prioritised areas laid down in the Millennium Goals during the United Nations Millennium Summit in September 2000, international cooperation is a prerequisite. Sustainable development is a process with economic, ecological and social dimensions. The interrelationship between these dimensions is essential.

The Millennium Goals must be embedded in the human rights as formulated in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, for only then will development become a right and not a mere promise; only then, on the basis of their rights, will people everywhere in the world get a better grip on their own choices and will they be more in control of the way in which their society is set up and given shape.' NCDO from their website accessed October 2004

*The MDGs are an important tool for assessing the progress of the global fight against poverty and as a focal point enabling more effective communication about the complex reality of development and poverty'* Alide Roerink, NCDO December 2003

**MAKEPOVERTYHISTORY** aims to be a powerful coalition ever against world poverty. It calls for urgent action and is looking to Tony Blair as he hosts the G8 and holds the presidency of the EU to improve the lives of millions of poor people around the world who have to live on less than a dollar a day.

This campaign is critical...

2005 will be marked by a number of key moments including:

- April The Commission for Africa Report published
- July The UK hosts the G8
- July 20 th anniversary of Live Aid
- July – Dec The UK holds the presidency of the European Union
- Sep UN Millennium Development Goals Special Summit
- On Saturday July 2nd 2005 thousands of people will take to the streets of Edinburgh in advance of the G8 meeting in Scotland to insist that the leaders of the world's richest nations should take up the challenge to **MAKEPOVERTYHISTORY**.

[www.makepovertyhistory.org](http://www.makepovertyhistory.org)

The organisations that are currently working together to Make Poverty History are:

ACORD, ActionAid, BOND, Book Aid International, CAFOD, CARE International UK, Catholic Institute for International Relations, Christian Aid, Church of Scotland Board of World Mission, Comic Relief, CONCERN, Grow Up Free From Poverty Coalition, Health Unlimited, Help the Aged, IMPACT Foundation, Intermediate Technology Development Group, International Service, Jubilee Debt Campaign, Jubilee Scotland, Leicestershire AIDS Support Services, Methodist Relief & Development Fund, NIDOS, One World Action, One World Week, OXFAM, People & Planet, Plan UK, RESULTS, Save the Children, Skillshare International, Stop AIDS Campaign, Student Partnerships Worldwide, Tearfund, The Fairtrade Foundation, The International Community of Women Living with HIV/AIDS, The Leprosy Mission, The Mother's Union, TIDAL, Trade Justice Movement, TUC, UK Coalition of People Living with HIV and AIDS, UNICEF UK, UNISON, Unitarian & Free Christian Churches, United Reformed Church, Viva Network, Wateraid, World Development Movement, World Emergency Relief, World Vision UK, Y Care International

[www.makingpovertyhistory.org](http://www.makingpovertyhistory.org)

## 7. Resource Section

### 7.1 Millennium Summit +5 Review, September, 2005

The Summit will review the progress made towards:

- all commitments contained in the [Millennium Declaration](#)
- the internationally agreed development goals and the global partnership required for their achievement
- the integrated and coordinated implementation of the outcomes and commitments of the major UN conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields

follow the updated news on preparations for the Summit at

<http://www.undp.org/mdg/>

### 7.2 Web Information On Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)

A special section of the United Nations site on MDGs is available at:

<http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/index.html>

For more information see links to all UN sites on MDGs:

[http://millenniumindicators.un.org/unsd/mi/mi\\_links.asp](http://millenniumindicators.un.org/unsd/mi/mi_links.asp)

Secretary General Reports to the General Assembly on the Progress of the MDGs

UN Secretary General Kofi Annan, Report to the 59th Session of the United Nations General Assembly A/59/282, 27 August 2004

[http://ods-dds-](http://ods-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N04/465/40/PDF/N0446540.pdf?OpenElement)

[ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N04/465/40/PDF/N0446540.pdf?OpenElement](http://ods-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N04/465/40/PDF/N0446540.pdf?OpenElement)

The latest documents from UNDP can be found in:

<http://groups.undp.org/read/?forum=mdg-net> as well as documents stored in the UNDG site at [www.undg.org](http://www.undg.org).

<http://www.undp.org/poverty/docs/mdgfoster-jv-july04.pdf>

UNDP Evaluation Office reports on MDGs:

UNDP Report on the assessment of the MDG Reports: Executive Summary (19 August 2003)

(released at) Executive Board of UNDP and UNFPA, Second Regular Session 2003 (8-12 September 2003)

<http://www.undp.org/execbrd/word/dp03-34.doc>

Report on the assessment of the MDG Reports: Note by the Administrator (25 August 2003)

(released at) Executive Board of UNDP and UNFPA, Second Regular Session 2003 (8-12 September 2003)

<http://www.undp.org/execbrd/word/dp03-41.doc>

UNDP: Millennium Development Goals Reports: An Assessment Volume 1: Main Report

[http://www.undp.org/eo/documents/MDGRs\\_Volume\\_1.pdf](http://www.undp.org/eo/documents/MDGRs_Volume_1.pdf)  
<http://www.undp.org/mdg/donorcountryreports.html>  
Global Monitoring Report 2004  
[http://siteresources.worldbank.org/DEVCOMMINT/Documentation/20193150/DC2004-0006\(E\)-GMR.pdf](http://siteresources.worldbank.org/DEVCOMMINT/Documentation/20193150/DC2004-0006(E)-GMR.pdf)  
National Reports by The Netherlands, Denmark and Sweden  
<http://www.gapminder.org/>  
This includes several free download including Millennium Development Goal Achievement Graphs 2003 and their presentation on FlowerPowerPoint 2004 (the very last one) contains a good explanation of their approach.  
MDGNet Digest  
Elham Seyedsayamdost, the MDGNet Facilitator at the Poverty Group, UNDP, has recommended the following resources that discuss CSO involvement in the goals and the MDGs within the PRSP context including:

'The Millennium Development Goals: Towards a Civil Society Perspective on Reframing Poverty Reduction Strategies in Southern Africa' -  
<http://www.undg.org/documents/2877-English.doc>  
'Integrating the MDGs into a National PRSP Context: Lessons Learned and Best Practices '  
[http://www.undg.org/documents/2297-Integrating\\_the\\_MDGs\\_into\\_a\\_National\\_PRSP\\_Context\\_\\_Albania\\_\\_Lessons\\_Learned\\_and\\_Best\\_Practices\\_-\\_PRSP.doc](http://www.undg.org/documents/2297-Integrating_the_MDGs_into_a_National_PRSP_Context__Albania__Lessons_Learned_and_Best_Practices_-_PRSP.doc)  
MDGNet and HDR Measurement Network Reference Paper (a section on tailoring MDGs to a local context) -  
[http://www.undg.org/documents/2348\\_MDG\\_Net\\_and\\_HDR\\_Measurement\\_Network\\_Reference\\_Paper\\_\\_Tailoring\\_MDGs\\_to\\_a\\_local\\_context\\_-\\_Monitoring.doc](http://www.undg.org/documents/2348_MDG_Net_and_HDR_Measurement_Network_Reference_Paper__Tailoring_MDGs_to_a_local_context_-_Monitoring.doc)  
'Comparative Experiences/MDGs at sub-national level' -  
[http://www.undg.org/documents/3651-Comparative\\_Experiences\\_-\\_MDGs\\_at\\_subnational\\_level.htm](http://www.undg.org/documents/3651-Comparative_Experiences_-_MDGs_at_subnational_level.htm)  
Plain Language for the MDGs - [http://www.undg.org/documents/3299-Nepal\\_Plain\\_Language\\_for\\_the\\_MDGs.htm](http://www.undg.org/documents/3299-Nepal_Plain_Language_for_the_MDGs.htm)  
Role of CSOs in monitoring MDG progress -  
[http://www.undg.org/documents/3307-Role\\_of\\_CSOs\\_in\\_monitoring\\_MDG\\_progress.htm](http://www.undg.org/documents/3307-Role_of_CSOs_in_monitoring_MDG_progress.htm)  
Two emerging MDG issues- UN System Ownership/ NGO-CSO MDGR? -  
[http://www.undg.org/documents/3306-Two\\_emerging\\_MDG\\_issues\\_-\\_UN\\_System\\_Ownership\\_\\_NGO-CSO\\_MDGR\\_.htm](http://www.undg.org/documents/3306-Two_emerging_MDG_issues_-_UN_System_Ownership__NGO-CSO_MDGR_.htm)

'An international perspective on communication strategies for the millennium development goals' by Ida Mc Donnell, OECD (2004). Published by NCDO. This study focuses on which MDG communication strategies are being undertaken and where. It can be found on the NCDO-website [www.ncdo.nl/publicaties](http://www.ncdo.nl/publicaties).

'The UN Millennium Development Goals - Awareness in the Netherlands and comparisons with other DAC countries', by Henny Helmich and Piet van Harn

(NCDO) and Ida Mc Donnell (OECD) (2003). Published by NCDO. Public opinion research about the MDGs in the Netherlands in comparison to other countries. It can be found on the NCDO-website [www.ncdo.nl/publicaties](http://www.ncdo.nl/publicaties).

'Awareness and attitudes in the Netherlands about the United Nations Millennium Development Goals' by Piet van Harn, (april 2003 and june 2004). Published by NCDO. Public opinion research about the MDGs in the Netherlands, follow up for the research in 2003. It can be found on the NCDO-website [www.ncdo.nl/publicaties](http://www.ncdo.nl/publicaties).

The NCDO public campaign on the MDGs (in Dutch) is entitled 'Durf te Dromen Maak het Waar!' (Dear to Dream and Make it Happen!). The campaign homepage provides an example of communication with a wider public who is not aware of the MDG's and tips to take action and links to get informed: [www.maakhetwaar.nl](http://www.maakhetwaar.nl)

### **7.3 Web Information On Gender And The MDGs**

Key documents consulted from the Millennium Project (2003 and 4):  
Interim Report of Task Force 4 on Health and Maternal Health  
Contact: Lynn Freedman [lpf1@coloumbia.edu](mailto:lpf1@coloumbia.edu)

Interim Report of the Task Force on Major Diseases and Access to Medicine subgroup on HIV/AIDS  
Contact: Paul Wilson [Pw2101@colombia.edu](mailto:Pw2101@colombia.edu)

Promises to Keep: Achieving Gender Equality and the engagement of Women  
Background Paper January 2003

Contact: Caren Grown [cgrown@icrw.org](mailto:cgrown@icrw.org)

Seeking Accountability on Women's Human Rights: Women Debate the Millennium Development Goals, Women's Coalition for Economic Justice (WICEJ), 2004

[http://www.siyanda.org/static/wcej\\_hrmdgs.htm](http://www.siyanda.org/static/wcej_hrmdgs.htm)

Common Ground, Women's Access to Natural Resources and the United Nations Millennium Development Goals, Women's Environment & Development Organization (WEDO), 2003

[http://www.siyanda.org/static/wedo\\_naturemdgs.htm](http://www.siyanda.org/static/wedo_naturemdgs.htm)

Proceedings of the International Workshop on Gender Equality and the Millennium Development Goals, World Bank (WB), 2003

[http://www.siyanda.org/static/wb\\_workshopmdgs.htm](http://www.siyanda.org/static/wb_workshopmdgs.htm)

Millennium Development Goals, National Reports: A Look Through a Gender Lens, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), 2003

[http://www.siyanda.org/static/undp\\_mdgsgender.htm](http://www.siyanda.org/static/undp_mdgsgender.htm)

Gender Equality and the Millennium Development Goals, Gender and Development Group, World Bank (WB), 2003

[http://www.siyanda.org/static/wb\\_genderequalitymdgs.htm](http://www.siyanda.org/static/wb_genderequalitymdgs.htm)

Progress of the World's Women 2002: Volume 2: Gender Equality and the Millennium Development Goals, United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), 2003

( [http://www.siyanda.org/static/unifem\\_progressmdgs.htm](http://www.siyanda.org/static/unifem_progressmdgs.htm))

DAWN (Development Alternatives with Women for a New Era) is a network of women scholars and activists from the economic South who engage in feminist research and analysis of the global environment and are committed to working for economic justice, gender justice and democracy.

<http://www.dawn.org.fj/>

WEDO (Women's Environment and Development Organisation) is an international advocacy organisation that seeks to increase the power of women worldwide as policymakers at all levels in governments, institutions and forums to achieve economic and social justice, a healthy and peaceful planet, and human rights for all.

E-mail: [wedo@wedo.org](mailto:wedo@wedo.org)

<http://www.wedo.org/>

#### **7.4 Web And E-Mails Of Global CSOS For Goal 8**

**Afrodad** (African Forum on Debt and Development) is a policy oriented research and advocacy organization that presents excellent information on debt and poverty reduction strategies and the MDGs in Africa

[www.afrodad.org](http://www.afrodad.org)

**Alliance 2015** is a coalition of European CSOs advocating for the realization of the MDGs, seeking to assess critically failure and refocus for a more vigorous effort towards the MDGs

[www.alliance2015.org](http://www.alliance2015.org)

**Centre for global development** is an independent research institution that engages in policy-oriented research on development issues and poverty reduction. The Centre produces the 'Ranking the Rich' index which measures the impact of development country policies on developing countries.

[www.cdgeev.org](http://www.cdgeev.org)

**Choike** is a portal on civil society dedicated to improving the visibility of the work done by CSOs from the South. It gives a comprehensive list of resources from the United Nations and civil society organisations on the MDGs is presented in It serves as a platform where CSOs can disseminate their work and at the same time enrich it with information from diverse sources, presented from the perspective of Southern civil society.Choike is hosted by the Third World Institute (ITeM) in Montevideo, Uruguay, an independent non-profit organisation.

E-mail: [info@choike.org](mailto:info@choike.org)

<http://www.choike.org/>

**Eurodad** (European Network on Debt and Development) is a network of 48 development CSOs from 15 European countries working for national economic and international financing policies that achieve poverty eradication and the empowerment of the poor.

E-mail: [info@eurodad.org](mailto:info@eurodad.org)

<http://www.eurodad.org/>

**Eurostep** (European Solidarity Towards Equal Participation of People) is a network of autonomous European CSOs working towards peace, justice and equality in a world free of poverty. Its membership, rooted in their own societies, works together to influence Europe's role in the world, particularly in pursuing the eradication of injustice and poverty. It advocates changes in Europe's policies and practice based on the perspectives drawn from direct experiences of an active involvement of its members and their partners in development in over 100 countries across the world.

E-mail: [admin@eurostep.org](mailto:admin@eurostep.org)

<http://www.eurostep.org/>

**ESCR-Net** (The International Network on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights) is a new collaborative initiative between groups from around the world working to secure economic and social justice. It seeks to promote the recognition of all rights but with a specific focus on economic, social and cultural rights (ESCR). Through ESCR-Net, groups and individuals can exchange information, develop a collective voice, amplify their actions, demonstrate the concrete advantage of an ESCR approach in working to eliminate poverty, and promote and advocate for fair economic, social and cultural policies and practices at all levels.

E-mail: [escr-net@cesr.org](mailto:escr-net@cesr.org)

<http://www.escr-net.org>

**Focus on Global South** strongly critical articles on MDGs see <http://focusweb.org> The regular electronic bulletin Focus on Trade (available in English Spanish and Bahasa Indonesian) provides updates and analysis of trends in regional and world trade and finance, the political economy of globalisation and peoples resistance and alternatives to global capitalism. Focus on Trade is edited by Nicola Bullard ([n.bullard@focusweb.org](mailto:n.bullard@focusweb.org)).

**Human Rights Watch** is an independent, CSO, supported by contributions from private individuals and foundations worldwide.

To order Human Rights Watch's publications please contact:

E-mail: [hrwdc@hrw.org](mailto:hrwdc@hrw.org) or [genaos@hrw.org](mailto:genaos@hrw.org)

<http://www.hrw.org/>

**IPS** (Inter Press Service) civil society's leading news agency, is an independent voice from the South and for development, delving into globalisation. IPS intends to inherit the goals of the former co-operative of journalists and to carry forward its ideals. It is a public-benefit organisation for development co-operation. Its main object is to contribute to development by promoting free

communication and a professional flow of information to reinforce technical and economic co-operation among developing countries.

E-mail: [editor@ipsnews.net](mailto:editor@ipsnews.net)

<http://www.ips.org/>

**Jubilee Plus** is a programme of the New Economics Foundation, London, building on the achievements of Jubilee 2000 UK, and providing support to economic justice campaigns worldwide.

E-mail: [info.jubilee@neweconomics.org](mailto:info.jubilee@neweconomics.org)

<http://www.jubileeplus.org/>

OXFAM International is a confederation of 12 organisations working together in more than 100 countries to find lasting solutions to poverty, suffering and injustice.

#### **Oxfam International Secretariat**

E-mail: [information@oxfaminternational.org](mailto:information@oxfaminternational.org)

<http://www.oxfaminternational.org/>

Oxfam International Advocacy

E-mail: [advocacy@oxfaminternational.org](mailto:advocacy@oxfaminternational.org)

An important document is Oxfam's From 'Donorship' to Ownership? Moving Towards PRSP Round Two, Oxfam

[http://www.oxfam.org.uk/what\\_we\\_do/issues/debt\\_aid/downloads/bp54\\_imf\\_mdgs.pdf](http://www.oxfam.org.uk/what_we_do/issues/debt_aid/downloads/bp54_imf_mdgs.pdf)

[http://www.oxfam.org.uk/what\\_we\\_do/issues/democracy\\_rights/bp51\\_prsp.htm](http://www.oxfam.org.uk/what_we_do/issues/democracy_rights/bp51_prsp.htm)

**MAKE POVERTY HISTORY** is a campaign launched in September 2004 by solidarity groups, NGOs, charities, celebrities and Trade Unions in the UK that aims to be a powerful coalition against world poverty using the unique political opportunity in 2005 where the UK Government will host the G8 meeting and hold the Presidency of the EU. This campaign is now renamed as **Global Call Against Poverty**

<http://www.makepovertyhistory.org>

**NCDO** is an independent organization uniquely embedded and positioned in Dutch society. The NCDO's core goal is to strengthen and highlight public support for international cooperation and sustainable development and the achievement of the Millennium Goals. The NCDO lays stress on the reinforcement of the input of the 'Voice of the South' in the Netherlands. The selection of those regions whose 'Voice' is to be amplified is to be based on existing historic ties with Dutch society. Consequently, the emphasis, also in choice of theme, is on Indonesia, Africa, Central/Eastern Europe and the developing countries in the Mediterranean Area. NCDO campaigns on the MDG's with a focus on reaching out to a wider public.

[www.maakhetwaar.nl](http://www.maakhetwaar.nl)

[www.ncdo.nl](http://www.ncdo.nl)

**NORTH SOUTH INSTITUTE** is a nonprofit, independent organization in Canada engaging in research for a fairer world

[www.nsi-ins.ca](http://www.nsi-ins.ca)

**SAPRIN** (Structural Adjustment Participatory Review International Network) is a global network established to expand and legitimise the role of civil society in economic policymaking and to strengthen the organised challenge to structural adjustment programmes by citizens around the globe. The network is working with a broad range of citizens' groups in various countries on four continents to organise public processes to assess the real impact of World Bank and IMF-supported economic-reform programs and to chart a new course for the future.

E-mail: [secretariat@saprin.org](mailto:secretariat@saprin.org)

<http://www.saprin.org/>

**Social Watch** is an international network informed by national citizens' groups aiming at following up the fulfillment of the internationally agreed commitments on poverty eradication and equality. These national groups report, through the national Social Watch report, on the progress - or regression- towards these commitments and goals. The Social Watch web page carries updated news on the MDGs and actively promotes dialogue about the national social development priorities that MDGs aim to uphold. The latest Social Watch 2004 is on human security around the world and are major obstacles to achieving the development goals agreed to by all countries of the world. The international secretariat of Social Watch is hosted by the Third World Institute in Montevideo, Uruguay

E-mail: [socwatch@socialwatch.org](mailto:socwatch@socialwatch.org)

<http://www.socialwatch.org/>

**The Tax Justice Network** is a global network which arose out of meetings at the European Social Forum in Florence, 2002, and at the World Social Forum in Porto Alegre, 2003. It is a response to harmful trends in global taxation, which threaten states' ability to tax the wealthy beneficiaries of globalisation.

E-mail: [info@taxjustice.net](mailto:info@taxjustice.net)

<http://www.taxjustice.net/>

**The Third World Network** (TWN) is an independent non-profit international network of organisations and individuals involved in issues relating to development, the Third World and North-South issues.

The TWN's international secretariat is based in Penang, Malaysia. It has offices in Montevideo, Uruguay (for South America); Geneva, Switzerland; and Accra, Ghana.

Publications can be ordered from TWN's secretariat:

E-mail: [twonet@po.jaring.my](mailto:twonet@po.jaring.my)

<http://www.twinside.org.sg/>

Third World Network-Latin America

E-mail: [redtm@chasque.apc.org](mailto:redtm@chasque.apc.org)

<http://www.redtercermundo.org.uy>

TWN features are available electronically through the APC networks in the conference <twinside>, and in Spanish in the conference <redtm.analysis>.

<http://www.redtercermundo.org.uy/>

TWN-Africa publishes African Agenda :

E-mail: [contact@twnafrica.org](mailto:contact@twnafrica.org)

<http://twnafrica.org/>

The **Tobin Tax** is a proposal to tax currency transactions on foreign exchange markets, through multilateral co-operation, and to utilise the revenue for basic environmental and human needs. Such a tax will tame currency market volatility and restore national economic sovereignty. (The name Tobin Tax derives from James Tobin, a Nobel-laureate economist at Yale University.)

Tobin Tax Initiative, CEED/IIRP

E-mail: [cecilr@humboldt1.com](mailto:cecilr@humboldt1.com)

<http://www.ceedweb.org/iirp/>

**Trade Observatory** is a joint project between IATP (Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy), Friends of the Earth International, and Centre for International Environmental Law that monitors WTO activity in Geneva in an effort to facilitate advocacy by civil society actors to redress imbalances in the world trading system. WTO Watch has merged with the IATP Trade Observatory to provide the most comprehensive collection of information resources related to trade, globalisation and sustainable development.

E-mail: [iatp@iatp.org](mailto:iatp@iatp.org)

<http://www.tradeobservatory.org/>

**Transparency International** is an international non-governmental organisation devoted to combating corruption, bringing civil society, business, and governments together in a powerful global coalition. Through its International Secretariat and more than 85 independent national chapters around the world, it works at the national and international level to curb both the supply and demand of corruption.

E-mail: [ti@transparency.org](mailto:ti@transparency.org)

<http://www.transparency.org/>

WFUNA (World Federation of United Nations Associations) is a network of people in support of the United Nations

<http://www.wfuna.org>

**World Social Forum.** Under the slogan "Another world is possible", the World Social Forum aims at becoming a new international arena for the consideration of alternatives to prioritise human development and the separation of the markets in each country and in the international relationships by all those who are opposed to the neoliberal policies. Since 2001 the World Social Forum takes place in Porto Alegre, Brazil every year at the same time as the World Economic Forum, which happens in Davos, Switzerland, at the end of January. For the first time in 2004, the IV World Social Forum was held in Mumbai, India, between January 16 and 21, 2004. In 2005, the WSF will again take place in Porto Alegre, Rio Grande do Sul (Brazil).

In India:

E-mail: [wfindia@vsnl.net](mailto:wfindia@vsnl.net)

<http://www.wfindia.org/>

In Brazil:

E-mail: [fsminfo@forumsocialmundial.org.br](mailto:fsminfo@forumsocialmundial.org.br)  
<http://www.forumsocialmundial.org.br/>

## 7.5 Printed Resources

- ADB, 'The Millennium Development Goals – Will Asia and the Pacific Ever Achieve them?' ADB Review: News from the Asia Development Bank June 2004
- Birdsall, Nancy and Michael Clemens, 'From Promise to Performance: how rich countries can help poor countries help themselves', CGD Brief, Vol 2 Issue 1, April 2003
- Bissio, Robert, 'Civil Society and the MDGs', UNDP Development Policy Journal, vol. 3, August 2003
- Caritas/CIDSE International Campaign on the MDGs, UK:Caritas, October 2003
- Civicus/Millennium Campaign, Shaping the Millennium Campaign: Strategy Brainstorm Workshop with Southern CSOs 17-18 December Mozambique, Civicus, January 2004
- Clemens Michael A., Charles J. Kenny and Todd J. Moss, 'The Trouble with the MDGs: Confronting Expectations of Aid and Development Success, Working Paper Number 40, The Centre for Global Development, Washington, May 2004
- Csete, Joanne Missed Opportunities: Human rights and the politics of HIV/AIDS/, The Politics of Health, Development vol 47 no 2, 2004
- CWGL, 'NGO Commission on Status of Women and WEDO 2005 CSW Review of Beijing +10 and NGO Discussions at the 48th Session of CSW March 1-12, New York: 2004 March 2004
- Foster, John, 'The Millennium Declaration: Mobilizing Civil Society Organizations', UNDP Development Policy Journal vol. 3, August 2003
- Fukada Parr, Sakiko 'The MDGs and Human Development' International Symposium, Tokyo 9 October 2002
- Grow up Free From Poverty Coalition/Save the Children, 80 Million Lives: Meeting the Millennium Development Goals in child and maternal survival, Grow up Free From Poverty Coalition: UK, 2003 ([www/save the children.org.uk](http://www/save the children.org.uk))
- Khor, Martin, Statement at the ECOSOC Meeting with Bretton Woods Institutes and the WTO, UN: New York 26 April 2004
- Khor, Martin, 'Mainstreaming Development, Trade and Finance: a key to Global Partnership', UNDP Development Policy Journal, vol. 3, August 2003
- NGLS, 'NGOs Assess the MDGs', NGLS Roundup 105, July 2003
- Mc Donnell, Ida An International Perspective on Communications Strategies for the Millennium Development Goals, NCDO and OECD Development Centre, Paris, 2003
- Ocampo, Jose Antonio, Statement to OECD Development Committee, Washington DC 25 April 2004
- Rasheed, Sadig Meeting the Millennium Development Goal on Maternal Mortality: A response to women and girls' reproductive rights in South Asia /, The Politics of Health, Development vol 47 no 2, 2004
- Reddy, Sanjay and Antoine Heuty, Achieving the MDGs: A review strategy unpublished paper, New York, UNDP/Columbia University, March 9 2004

(abridged version forthcoming in Development journal of Society for International Development)

Roerink, Alide 'Mobilizing Global Citizens for International Cooperation', Report on the Law and Development CILC Conference December 2003 Society for International Development 'UN and Global Governance' special issue Development: journal of SID Volume 48 no1 (www.sidint.org/development) (March 2005)

UNDP, 'The Millennium Development Goals: A compact among nations to end human poverty', The Human Development Report 2003, New York, Oxford OUP, 2003

Villar, Eugenio Empowering the Poor: The politics of health and poverty reduction programmes / The Politics of Health, Development vol 47 no 2, 2004 World Vision, 'The Millennium Development Goals – More Broken Promises?' Global Future, A World Vision Journal of Human Development First Quarter 2004

World Federation of United Nations Associations and The North-South Institute 'We the Peoples: A Call to Action for the UN Millennium Declaration', Canada NSI (2004) www.nsi-ins.ca/ [www.wfuna.org](http://www.wfuna.org)

## 8. Acknowledgements

The following people gave their time and advise to help me put together the report, I of course take full responsibility for all errors, but their insights were invaluable: Carol Barton, Stan Bernstein, Eva Charkiewicz, Joanne Cseste, Arturo Escobar, Gigi Francisco, Lynn Freedman, Henny Helmich, Caren Grown, Caroline Knowles, Arthur Muliro, Khawar Mumtaz, Miquel de Paladella, Marina Ponti, Alide Roerink, Muthoni Wanyeki, Bharati Sadisvam and Paul Wilson.

### 8.1 List Of Acronyms

**Beijing +10** UN Fourth World Conference on Women 10 year Review (2005)

**Cairo +10** UN International Conference on Population and Development 10 year Review (2004)

**CEDAW** UN Convention to Eliminate All Forms of Discrimination Against Women

**CSOs** Civil Society Organization

**DPI** UN Department of Public Information

**FDI** Foreign Direct Investment

**FWCW** UN Fourth World Conference on Women

**HIPC** Heavily Indebted Poor Countries

**ICPD** International Conference on Population and Development

**IFIs** International Financial Institutions

**IMF** International Monetary Fund

**MDGs** Millennium Development Goals

**MDG1** refers to Goal 1 MDG 2 to Goal 2 etc.

**MDGRs** Millennium Development Goal Reports

**NCDO** National Committee for International Cooperation and Sustainable Development in the Netherlands

**ODA** Overseas Development Assistance

**PRSP** Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers

**SID** Society for International Development

**UN** United Nations

**UNDAW** United Nations Division of the Advancement of Women

**UNFPA** United Nations Population Fund

**UNDP** United Nations Development Fund

**UNIFEM** United Nations Development Fund for Women

**VAW** Violence Against Women

**WB** World Bank

**WSSD** World Summit for Social Development

**WTO** World Trade Organisation