

GLOBAL NETWORK For JUSTICE

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57th UN-DPI/NGO CONFERENCE

The 57th United Nations Department of Public Information/Non-Governmental Organizations Conference on its theme “Millennium Development Goals (MDGs): Civil Society Takes Action”, was held in New York City last September 8-10, 2004.

Webcast live around the world on an interactive United Nations web site www.undpingoconference.org had brought together at the UN Headquarters some 2,700 representatives from more than 700 non-governmental organizations (NGOs) worldwide.□

Secretary-General said at the opening of the 57th Annual Conference of NGOs that there is no time to lose in ending extreme poverty and putting the world on a more humane and just path. People everywhere wanted a fair chance for themselves and their children. If the MDGs were not met we will all be poorer.□They were different from other bold, yet unmet, pledges. The Goals were measurable, had garnered unprecedented political support, and were achievable.□For their part, NGOs could be proud of their contributions. □They had put pressure on governments to deliver on their commitments and had brought real change into people’s lives.

Secretary-General’s Executive Coordinator for the Millennium Development Goals Campaign, Eveline Herfkens said that civil society had insisted on a rights-based approach, demanding government action and

claiming participation. □The Goals had transformed the face of global development cooperation. □In country after country, it had been civil society spurring action.□After all, it was not at the United Nations that the Goals would be achieved, but in each country through the efforts of the governments and the people.

Under-Secretary General for Communication and Public Information, Sashi Tharoor chaired the opening session. He told the participants to have no doubt about their positive impact on the work of the United Nations. □ There had been genuine improvements in reducing extreme poverty and extending access to primary education in many regions of the world.□If the Goals are to be more than mere possibility, greater resources are needed from both domestic and external sources. The governments, the private sector and civil society would have to maintain their focus and increase their efforts.□

UN General Assembly President Julian R. Hunte from Saint Lucia said that it is time to take up the hard issues and ask the difficult questions even when there were no easy answers.□The NGOs extended the global reach of the United Nations and helped raise public awareness of the issues before it.□They brought particular expertise and experience to bear on policy setting and the implementation of the agreed courses of actions.□They also positively influenced public opinion towards the United Nations by carrying the message of what it was doing to improve the lives of the world’s peoples.□NGOs significant participation at the Conference underscored their determination to take action in partnership with the United Nations achieve the Goals.

Millennium Development Goals

By 2015 all 189 United Nations Member States have pledged to:

1. ERADICATE EXTREME POVERTY AND HUNGER

Target for 2015: Halve the proportion of people living on

less than a dollar a day and those who suffer hunger.

**2. ACHIEVE UNIVERSAL PRIMARY
EDUCATION**

Target for 2015: Ensure that all boys and girls complete primary school.

**3. PROMOTE GENDER EQUALITY AND
EMPOWER WOMEN**

Target for 2005 and 2015: Eliminate gender disparities in primary and secondary education preferably by 2005 and at all levels by 2015.

4. REDUCE CHILD MORTALITY

Target for 2015: Reduce by two thirds the mortality rate among children under five.

5. IMPROVE MATERNAL HEALTH

Target for 2015: Reduce by three quarters the ratio of women dying in childbirth.

**6. COMBAT HIV/AIDS, MALARIA AND OTHER
DISEASES**

Target for 2015: Halt and begin to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS and the incidence of malaria and other major diseases.

**7. ENSURE ENVIRONMENTAL
SUSTAINABILITY**

*Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programs and reverse the loss of environmental resources.

*By 2015, reduce by half the proportion of people without access to safe drinking water.

*By 2020, achieve significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers.

**8. DEVELOP A GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP FOR
DEVELOPMENT**

*Develop further an open trading and financial system that includes a commitment to good governance, development and poverty reduction – nationally and internationally.

*Address the least developed countries' special needs, and the special needs of landlocked and small-island

developing states.

*Deal comprehensively with developing countries' debt problems.

*Develop decent and productive work for youth.

*In cooperation with pharmaceutical companies, provide access to affordable essential drugs in developing countries.

*In cooperation with the private sector, make available the benefits of new technologies – especially information and communications technologies.

For more information

Visit www.unngodpconference.org

www.un.org/millenniumgoals

WHY DO THE MDGs MATTER?

The 8th Goal, reaffirmed in Monterrey and Johannesburg, calls on rich countries to relieve debt, increase aid and give poor countries fair access to their markets and their technology. The MDGs are a test of political will to build stronger PARTNERSHIPS. Developing countries have the responsibility to undertake policy reforms and strengthen governance to liberate the creative energies of their people. But they cannot reach the Goals on their own without new aid commitments, equitable trading rules and debt relief. The Goals offer the world a means to accelerate the pace of development and to measure results.

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**Rich Nations Urged to Fulfill Promises Against
Hunger**

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