



GLOBAL COOPERATION NEWSLETTER **September 2010**

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The Millennium Development Goals Summit

The Summit has concluded. About 183 national leaders spoke. Each speech was recorded and can be viewed on the UN website. In addition to the speeches there are recordings of side events, “media stakeouts” and speeches by global leaders including the UN Secretary General, the President of the World Bank, head of the World Trade Organisation etc. You can see what your national leader said by visiting <http://www.unmultimedia.org/tv/webcast/2010/09/opening-statements-mdg-debate.html>

What can be said about the Summit? The editorial in the Financial Time (25th September 2010) was entitled “Too many promises made at UN summits are empty ones”. The editorial was critical of the “cynical made-for-the-media announcements that routinely disfigure summits. Too few development campaigners were prepared to challenge the rhetoric..” Further, “Development charities have asked too few questions of the plans. True the activists were somewhat better on this week’s aid announcements, treating the \$40bn – a masterpiece of vaguery, relabeling and double-counting – with deserved contempt. But still enthusiastically cheer-led a \$750m commitment to ‘basic education’ by the World Bank.” The editorial concluded, “If there is one thing these summits need, it is to have such fictions exposed. There was too little of that this week.”

ICSW has long held that we need a dynamic civil society to move people out of poverty. We need strong civil society organisations to influence governments in determining their national budget priorities in a transparent way. Few donors, international agencies and international NGOs seem to have any understanding of the need to build national civil society. Too much money is wasted on discursive non structural approaches to civil society that falsely increase hope but provide no long-lasting change or support to underresourced indigenous organisations.

Civil society organisations in the global North are also at fault as they allow their governments to continue policies that increase poverty in the global South. Just two examples. USA farm programmes push subsidised cotton on to world markets causing further impoverishment of African farmers. Donor governments have policies that require a large proportion of their development expenditure to be directed to consultants and suppliers in the donor country.

I have listened too often to politicians saying they are elected and national civil society leaders do not have the same legitimacy. This is arrant nonsense. Curiously the same accusation is not made of corporate lobbyists. Civil society is part of society and has a legitimate voice.

Denys Correll Editor and Executive Director

More on the Summit

The Development Goals (MDG Summit) was held from 20 to 22 September 2010 in New York. The UN Secretary-General proposed and the General Assembly decided to convene the MDG summit. The primary objective was to accelerate progress towards all the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by 2015, taking into account the progress made towards the internationally agreed development goals.

It is ten years since the original adoption of the MDGs at the 2000 Millennium Summit. Despite progress in some countries, many countries are falling short in their achievement of the goals. The shortfalls have been further aggravated by the combined effects of the global food, climate, energy and economic crises. Improvements in the lives of the poorest had started to improve in many countries but the impact of the crises has dumped many back into poverty.

In the documents circulated before the Summit the UN said "If the MDGs are to be achieved by 2015, not only must the level of financial investment be increased but innovative programmes and policies aimed at overall development and economic and social transformation must be rapidly scaled up and replicated. The MDGs are achievable, but there is clearly an urgent need to address challenges, acknowledge failures and come together to overcome the obstacles to their achievement. This will require the embrace of pioneering ideas and political will on the part of governments and their development partners."

Civil society organisations were included in the hearings of the General Assembly as part of the official process. These were held from 14 to 15 June 2010 in New York.

Papers including the *Outcome Document* can be found on the summit website at http://www.un-ngls.org/spip.php?page=amdq10&id_article=2233

Nine organisations in the ageing sector write to UN Secretary General on the MDGs

The organisations wrote to the Secretary General before the MDG Summit and the International Day of Older Persons (1st October). The following are extracts from the letter. "As a group of NGOs in Consultative Status with the UN working on strengthening older women and men's rights globally, we are concerned about the continued exclusion of older women and men in the MDGs and the lack of recognition of, and support to, the critical contribution they make towards their achievement."

"Older people remain invisible in efforts to achieve the MDGs."

"You recognised in the MDG Global Report 2010 that 'it is clear that improvements in the lives of the poor have been unacceptably slow'. Poverty affects whole households and is transmitted across generations. Old age can be a period of extreme vulnerability to poverty, ill health and social exclusion. It has been estimated that currently less than 20% of older people in the world are covered by pensions which suggests that as many as 607 million people aged 60 and above lack income security. Furthermore research found that in 11 out of 15 low-income sub-Saharan African countries the incidence of poverty among households with older people is on average 15% higher than the national average which highlights the risks of intergenerational poverty traps."

"Despite this, older people are not explicitly mentioned in any of the MDG targets or indicators to measure their progress."

"As a result most development policies and programmes focus their efforts on children, young people and the working age poor, lacking any understanding of the critical social, economic and caring contributions of older people. Even though the UN Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing (2002) recommended that older people be included in policies and programmes to achieve the poverty reduction target in MDG1, there is scant acknowledgement of and action to address unprecedented demographic ageing which now means that 66% of the world's older people live in low and middle-income countries, with this set to rise to 80% by 2050."

"The contribution older women and men make to society is invaluable. Many poor older people continue to work well past usual retirement ages to support themselves and their families. In some parts of sub-Saharan Africa, for instance, 80% of men and 70% of women over 60 work for a living. Older people are also central to the response to HIV and AIDS: in seven sub-Saharan African countries up to 40% of people living with HIV were being cared for by older people and in Tanzania and Zimbabwe as many as 40-60% of orphaned children are cared for by their grandparents."

"When older people's rights are respected and their efforts supported, the contribution they make is even greater and significantly contributes to achieving the MDGs."

“In order for progress towards the MDGs to be accelerated we, therefore, urge you to support the following:

The explicit recognition in the High-level Plenary Meeting in September 2010 in New York and in your address on the International Day of Older People of the critical role which older women and men play in accelerating progress towards the MDGs. The adoption of a more inclusive, rights-based approach to ensure all those living in chronic poverty, including older women and men, be reached. The inclusion of age disaggregated data in the UN MDG database to ensure the effective monitoring and evaluation of the MDGs for all age groups.”



MDG Gap Task Force Report 2010 – released September 2010

The MDG Gap Task Force, which integrates more than 20 United Nations agencies, as well as the World Bank the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and World Trade Organisation (WTO) has released the MDG Gap Task Force Report 2010 entitled *The Global Partnership for Development at a Critical Juncture*. In addition to the usual stuff about falling short of the goals the report states, “The international community should recommit to the United Nations aid target of 0.7% and set a time path for its realisation, ensure transparency in individual donor pledges;

urgently replenish the multilateral and regional development funds; fully deliver the committed additional resources to priority country groups (e.g. the least developed countries (LDCs)); increase the share of aid provided as budget support and ensure that earmarking of ODA is consonant with national priorities of recipient countries; deliver on aid effectiveness commitments and set new targets.”

To read the report and other recommendations the report is available [online](http://www.un.org/esa/policy/mdggap/mdggap2010/mdg8report2010_engw.pdf).
http://www.un.org/esa/policy/mdggap/mdggap2010/mdg8report2010_engw.pdf

UNICEF work on social protection

Each month Global Cooperation will try to bring you something new on the social protection floor initiative. This month we feature initiatives from UNICEF. UNICEF is doing critical work to highlight the importance of social and economic policy issues on children all over the world. The following are reports and papers prepared by UNICEF.

Social Protection: Accelerating the MDGs with Equity, Isabel Ortiz, Gaspar Fajth and Jennifer Yablonski, UNICEF

http://www.unicef.org/socialpolicy/index_55915.html

MDG progress is measured in terms of national averages but these statistical averages often disguise that progress has not accrued to those at the bottom -- arguably those who need it most. Social protection is essential to accelerate MDGs with equity by facilitating access to essential services and decent living standards. Specifically, there is strong evidence that social protection contributes to MDGs 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 -- with stronger impacts for the disadvantaged. In the aftermath of the global crisis there is a historical opportunity to expand social protection in developing countries.

Conditional Cash Transfers: A Global Perspective, Gaspar Fajth, MDG Insights

http://www.unicef.org/socialpolicy/index_52916.html

Conditional Cash Transfers (CCTs) are social protection programmes that transfer cash based on the premise that households – typically those with children and young family members – will use health, education or other services that policymakers consider of public interest. The increasing popularity of CCTs is one of the most significant developments in global social policy since the expansion of social security in industrialised countries. Following decades when combining economic growth with provision of basic social services was considered the hallmark of development, CCTs have focused attention on addressing the demand for these services and barriers to access.

This shift is highly relevant for the Millennium Development Goals. Over the last two decades, poor and disadvantaged populations have benefitted little from economic growth and improving services, undermining countries' progress on nutrition, education and health-related goals in many countries.

Recovery for All: A Call for Collaborative Action, UNICEF

http://www.unicef.org/socialpolicy/index_55305.html

This concept note outlines a Recovery for All strategy to assist countries to meet their CRC obligations through a robust social and economic recovery. It builds on UNICEF's progress in advancing upstream social and economic policies, as well as ongoing technical assistance to interested protection and pro-poor socio-economic policies. At the same time partnerships are essential — the approach is premised on strong collaboration among UN agencies and other international agencies that work closely in supporting governments. Ultimately, Recovery for All seeks to avoid retrogression in the realisation of children's rights and to ensure that recovery efforts benefit the most excluded children and families, rather than accentuating social and economic disparities

Joint Statement on Child-Sensitive Social Protection Available in

English http://www.unicef.org/socialpolicy/index_53801.html

French http://www.unicef.org/socialpolicy/files/CSSP_joint_statement_French.pdf and

Spanish http://www.unicef.org/socialpolicy/files/CSSP_joint_statement_Spanish.pdf

In recent years, social protection has emerged as a major new focus in efforts to reduce poverty around the world. Social protection is generally understood as a set of public actions that address poverty, vulnerability and exclusion as well as provide means to cope with risks throughout the life cycle. Investing in social protection not only supports progress towards a range of Millennium Development Goals, it has the potential to reduce poor people's vulnerabilities to global challenges such as aggregate economic shocks, instability in the price of food or other essential commodities, and climate change.

Child sensitive social protection systems mitigate the effects of poverty on families, strengthen families in their child care role, and enhance access to basic services for the poorest and most marginalised, including at-risk children living outside family care. UNICEF works together with a large number of partners - central and local governments, civil society organisations, the private sector and international agencies - for enhancing crisis support and making social protection more child, age and gender-sensitive in all major regions of operation.

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