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**DEVELOPMENT CO-OPERATION DIRECTORATE  
DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE COMMITTEE**

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**MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS**

(Note by the Secretariat)

**17 September 2001**

*This information note charts the progress, since Members of the DAC last received an update in April 2001, on aligning the International Development Goals (IDGs) with the targets in the Millennium Declaration. The UN, IMF, OECD and World Bank Secretariats have reached agreement on a formulation of eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and associated targets and indicators. The UN is publishing the formulation in the week beginning 17 September as part of its "road map" of reporting on the Millennium Declaration. The other agencies are considering issuing co-ordinated press releases at that time. Future reporting on progress will be against the MDGs, with a short update included in this year's "Development Co-operation Report". As a corollary the MDGs will now succeed the IDGs in advocacy for development.*

Contact: Brian Hammond, DCD/RSD: Tel: (33-1) 45 24 90 34; Fax: (33-1) 44 30 61 46;  
E-mail: [brian.hammond@oecd.org](mailto:brian.hammond@oecd.org)

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## MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS

### From IDGs to MDGs

1. Members of the DAC received an update on aligning the International Development Goals (IDGs) with the targets in the Millennium Declaration at their 762<sup>nd</sup> meeting held on 3 April 2001 (see Room Document No. 3, from which the Chairman's letter - JCF(01)47 - to heads of UN agencies is attached as Annex 1 for ease of reference). That letter asked the UN to work on aligning the goals in partnership with the agencies that co-operated on the production of *A Better World for All*.

2. This co-operation has materialised. Staff from the Secretariats of the UN (Secretary General's Office and UNDG), IMF, OECD-DAC, and the World Bank met in New York on 21 June 2001 to discuss aligning the goals. In subsequent correspondence they reached agreement on a presentation of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) as in the Annex 2. This presentation will be published in a UN Press Release during the week beginning 17 September, possibly supported by co-ordinated press releases from the other agencies.

3. The agreement is a major step forward. Following the publication of *Shaping the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*, and again after the selection of indicators in 1998, the DAC HLM asked for ownership of the IDGs to be broadened, particularly in the UN. The Millennium Declaration provided UN endorsement of the goal of halving the proportion of people living under \$1 a day by 2015. That declaration offered an occasion, and strong demand, to add more recent conference goals to the IDGs—on hunger, HIV/AIDS and major diseases, and housing. And the process to agree a presentation for the MDGs offered an opportunity for more balance between the responsibilities of developing and developed countries when reporting on development progress. This responds to such calls after the publication of *A Better World for All*. The balance was achieved by adding an 8<sup>th</sup> goal to "Develop a global partnership for development", with supporting indicators that include aid volume, market access, and debt relief. This is consistent with the language of the Millennium Declaration as well as in *Shaping the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*, which referred to adequate resources and policy coherence.

4. The agreement strikes a balance between having to respect the text of the Millennium Declaration and retaining the compact presentation and focus of the IDGs. This involved compromises. Extensive UN consultations with the G77 and OECD country representatives in New York showed their concern was primarily to cover all the text of Section III of the Millennium Declaration (see Annex 3) neither to add to it, nor subtract from it, recognising that 189 countries, including 147 Heads of State, signed it.

### What's changed?

5. Continuity with the IDGs was achieved as far as possible by listing the many targets of the Millennium Declaration under eight goals and using indicators to add precision where it was lacking. The eight goals are:

1. Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger

2. Achieve universal primary education
3. Promote gender equality and empower women
4. Reduce child mortality
5. Improve maternal health
6. Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases
7. Ensure environmental sustainability
8. Develop a Global Partnership for Development

6. Goals 1 to 5 and 7 are as in the IDGs. Goal 8 is new, as already discussed above. Goal 6 replaces the IDG of universal access to reproductive health services, acknowledging that this goal was consciously omitted from the Millennium Declaration. Nevertheless the indicators used to measure it—the contraceptive prevalence rate and HIV prevalence—remain in the MDG indicator list. And the preamble in the text agreed with the UN notes that "The list of MDGs does not undercut in any way agreements on other goals and targets reached at the global conferences of the 1990s." Just as with the IDGs, the MDGs are not a straitjacket. Countries set their own strategies and this could include a focus on reproductive health. The same is true for donors.

7. All but one of the 21 indicators for the IDGs have been retained. The exception is the indicator for effective processes for sustainable development. But the target to "integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programmes and reverse the loss of environmental resources" remains. This was at OECD's strong insistence, to retain a goal for the environment even though it was included in Section IV rather than Section III of the Millennium Declaration.

8. But there are many more targets (18 in all) and indicators (48 in all). Why? Mainly to achieve the balance noted above, by having Goal 8 with 7 new targets and 17 associated indicators. But there are also 5 new targets for development outcomes:

- Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people who suffer from hunger
- Have halted by 2015, and begun to reverse, the spread of HIV/AIDS
- Have halted by 2015, and begun to reverse, the incidence of malaria and other major diseases
- Halve, by 2015, the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water
- By 2020, to have achieved a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers

9. And 11 new indicators:

- Proportion of population below minimum level of dietary energy consumption
- Share of women in wage employment in the non-agricultural sector
- Proportion of seats held by women in national parliament
- Proportion of 1 year old children immunised against measles
- Number of children orphaned by HIV/AIDS
- Prevalence and death rates associated with malaria
- Proportion of population in malaria risk areas using effective malaria prevention and treatment measures
- Prevalence and death rates associated with tuberculosis
- Proportion of TB cases detected and cured under DOTS (Directly Observed Treatment Short Course)
- Proportion of people with access to improved sanitation
- Proportion of people with access to secure tenure

10. It was agreed that there should be a standard baseline year of 1990 against which to measure progress (with an exception of using 2000 for the safe water goal as that was agreed in a recent UN conference).

### **Reporting**

11. An important part of the agreement was the continuation of close collaboration on reporting. The UN will produce an annual report, starting in 2002, based on participation by all the relevant agencies, in order to have a common global assessment. The common assessment will, in effect, be the successor to *A Better World for All*, but will not be a joint publication as the UN have the mandate and responsibility to report on the Millennium Declaration. The other agencies will use that shared assessment in their own publications.

12. In DCD we plan to do just that, starting with a brief overview of the goals and indicators and showing progress on some of them in the 2001 edition of the *Development Co-operation Report*.

13. A major new feature is the production of national reports, drawing on national strategies such as Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSPs), UN Common Country Assessments (CCAs) and National Human Development Reports (NHDRs). This provides a link, and an important point of entry, for the work of the PARIS21 Consortium [see DCD/DAC(2001)19].

### **Advocacy**

14. While the MDGs are not as compact as the IDGs, they have the benefit of universal ownership and balance. Their presentation as 8 goals, along with judicious selection of targets and indicators from the list, will allow the MDGs to replace the role of the IDGs in advocacy for development. Indeed, there are already discussions underway about a campaign for the MDGs. The agreement presented in this note paves the way to present the MDG in a systematic format, which lends itself to monitoring and reporting.

**Annex 1**

JCF(01)47

29 March 2001

To: Heads of UN Agencies and Programmes

Cc: UN, IMF and World Bank participants at the 19-20 March Seminar on the IDGs  
Delegates to the Development Assistance Committee

From: Jean-Claude Faure

**Subject: Global Progress towards the Millennium International Development Goals:  
*The Role of A Better World for All***

As I understand that there is a meeting next week of the Administrative Co-ordinating Committee in Nairobi, I wanted to reconfirm the DAC's strong commitment to the partnership with the UN family on setting and monitoring development goals.

We in the DAC are delighted with the convergence in the international community on the importance of a common set of development goals to make the case for development and achieve real progress on poverty reduction and sustainable development. The adoption of the Millennium Declaration and the partnership between the UN, OECD, IMF and World Bank to produce *A Better World for All* are two very concrete examples of this shared agenda.

At "From consensus to action: a seminar on the international development goals" hosted by the World Bank on 19-20 March, a number of participants encouraged a process of joint reporting on the International and Millennium Development Goals. We especially welcome the call by Mark Malloch-Brown, in his address to the seminar, for a continuation of *A Better World for All* by the four sponsoring organisations. We also welcome the calls for *A Better World for All* to present a balance of information on progress towards the set of development goals and on progress on aid resources and other policies affecting development on the part of OECD countries.

As you know, the DAC has played an important role to date in the IDGs, and we look forward to doing so in the next phase, as we take account of goals from the Millennium Declaration. More specifically, as the body that collects data on aid flows, the DAC is well placed to contribute and analyse that data. And the OECD as a whole has a particular advantage in reporting on progress towards policy coherence on aid, trade and investment by donor countries. This advantage is strengthened by the initiative just launched across the OECD on policy coherence.

Following the seminar a small group that was active in the production of *A Better World for All 2000* met to discuss how to align the International Development Goals with the quantifiable global objectives in the Millennium Declaration and how and when a sequel to BWA should be produced.

For the former a comparison of the quantified goals reveals that both draw on a common set of indicators. The group suggested that the goals can be aligned within the seven-goal structure of the IDGs by expanding the poverty reduction goal to include the goals of reducing by half the rate of malnutrition in children under-5 and the proportion of the population lacking access to affordable safe drinking water and by incorporating the goal of reversing the spread of HIV/AIDS in the reproductive health goal. I attach a note showing how this might look, updating the presentation agreed at the joint UN/DAC/World Bank/IMF Forum on Development Progress that we hosted in March 2000 and presented in BWA.

For BWA the group suggested short updates, probably on an annual cycle, with full reports in the quinquennial years (2005, 2010, and 2015). This clearly needs to be addressed as part of the wider discussion of the "road map" to agree on annual reporting to the General Assembly on progress with the Millennium Declaration. I re-iterate the DAC Secretariat's offer to assist with developing this road map in any way we can.

While there will be no report on progress to the General Assembly this year, the group felt an update in September 2001 would make the most of new data on several of the goals as a result of work by UNICEF, UNESCO, and WHO in preparation for the Children's Summit. It would allow a commonly agreed statement to be used by the General Assembly, the annual meetings of the IMF and World Bank, in my annual report on Development Co-operation and at the Financing for Development Conference in 2002.

So I hope that in your deliberations in the ACC next week you will be able to take the opportunity to reaffirm the UN family's commitment to continuing the BWA partnership. A reasonable next step would be to ask the partnership to reach early agreement on the alignment of the international and millennium development goals and the timing and role of BWA in regular reporting to the General Assembly on development progress.

## Millennium Development Goals

TEXT AND TABLE NOT FOR PUBLIC RELEASE UNTIL ADVISED
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As part of the preparation of the Road Map report on the implementation of the Millennium Declaration, consultations were held among members of the United Nations Secretariat and representatives of the IMF, OECD and the World Bank in order to harmonize reporting on the development goals in the Millennium Declaration and the International Development Goals. The group discussed the respective targets and selected relevant indicators with a view to developing a comprehensive set of indicators for the Millennium Development Goals. The main reference document was section III of the Millennium Declaration on 'Development and Poverty Eradication'.

The list of MDGs does not undercut in any way agreements on other goals and targets reached at the global conferences of the 1990s. The eight goals represent a partnership between the developed countries and the developing countries determined, as the Declaration states, "to create an environment – at the national and global levels alike – which is conducive to development and the elimination of poverty."

In order to help focus national and international priority-setting, goals and targets should be limited in number, be stable over time, and communicate clearly to a broad audience. Clear and stable numerical targets can help trigger action and promote new alliances for development. Recognizing that quantitative monitoring of progress is easier for some targets than for others and that good quality data for some of the indicators are simply not (yet) available for many countries, we underscore the need to assist in building national capacity while engaging in further discussion (as in the ECOSOC mandated process) with national statistical experts. For the purpose of monitoring progress, the normal baseline year for the targets will be 1990, which is the baseline that has been used by the global conferences of the 1990s.

United Nations will report on progress towards the MDGs at the global and country levels, coordinated by UNDESA and UNDP, respectively. Reporting will be based on two principles: (a) close consultation and collaboration with all relevant institutions, including the UN Development Group (including WHO and UNCTAD), other UN departments, funds, programmes and specialised agencies, the World Bank, IMF and OECD and regional groupings and experts; and (b) the use of nationally-owned poverty reduction strategies, as reported in Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSPs), UN Common Country Assessments (CCAs) and National Human Development Reports (NHDRs), that emphasize a consultative process among the development partners. The main purpose of such collaboration and consultation will be to ensure a common assessment and understanding of the status of the MDGs at both the global and national levels. The United Nations Secretariat will invite all relevant institutions to participate in and contribute to global and country-level reporting with a view to issuing an annual UN report that has the wide support of the international community and that can be used by other institutions in their regular reporting on the goals.

The proposed formulation of the 8 goals, 18 targets and 40+ indicators are listed below. Other selected indicators for development, not related to specific targets, include population, total fertility rate, life expectancy at birth, adult literacy rate, and gross national income per capita. Where relevant, the indicators should be calculated for sub-national levels -- urban and rural areas, regions, socio-economic groups, and by age and gender.

<b>Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)</b>	
<b>Goals and Targets</b>	<b>Indicators</b>
<b>Goal 1: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger</b>	
<b>Target 1:</b> Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people whose income is less than one dollar a day	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Proportion of population below \$1 per day</li> <li>2. Poverty gap ratio [incidence x depth of poverty]</li> <li>3. Share of poorest quintile in national consumption</li> </ol>
<b>Target 2:</b> Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people who suffer from hunger	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4. Prevalence of underweight children (under-five years of age)</li> <li>5. Proportion of population below minimum level of dietary energy consumption</li> </ol>
<b>Goal 2: Achieve universal primary education</b>	
<b>Target 3:</b> Ensure that, by 2015, children everywhere, boys and girls alike, will be able to complete a full course of primary schooling	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6. Net enrolment ratio in primary education</li> <li>7. Proportion of pupils starting grade 1 who reach grade 5</li> <li>8. Literacy rate of 15-24 year olds</li> </ol>
<b>Goal 3: Promote gender equality and empower women</b>	
<b>Target 4:</b> Eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education preferably by 2005 and to all levels of education no later than 2015	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9. Ratio of girls to boys in primary, secondary and tertiary education</li> <li>10. Ratio of literate females to males of 15-24 year olds</li> <li>11. Share of women in wage employment in the non-agricultural sector</li> <li>12. Proportion of seats held by women in national parliament</li> </ol>
<b>Goal 4: Reduce child mortality</b>	
<b>Target 5:</b> Reduce by two-thirds, between 1990 and 2015, the under-five mortality rate	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>13. Under-five mortality rate</li> <li>14. Infant mortality rate</li> <li>15. Proportion of 1 year old children immunised against measles</li> </ol>
<b>Goal 5: Improve maternal health</b>	
<b>Target 6:</b> Reduce by three-quarters, between 1990 and 2015, the maternal mortality ratio	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>16. Maternal mortality ratio</li> <li>17. Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel</li> </ol>
<b>Goal 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases</b>	
<b>Target 7:</b> Have halted by 2015, and begun to reverse, the spread of HIV/AIDS	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>18. HIV prevalence among 15-24 year old pregnant women</li> <li>19. Contraceptive prevalence rate</li> <li>20. Number of children orphaned by HIV/AIDS</li> </ol>
<b>Target 8:</b> Have halted by 2015, and begun to reverse, the incidence of malaria and other major diseases	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>21. Prevalence and death rates associated with malaria</li> <li>22. Proportion of population in malaria risk areas using effective malaria prevention and treatment measures</li> <li>23. Prevalence and death rates associated with tuberculosis</li> <li>24. Proportion of TB cases detected and cured under DOTS (Directly Observed Treatment Short Course)</li> </ol>
<b>Goal 7: Ensure environmental sustainability</b>	
<b>Target 9:</b> Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programmes and reverse the loss of environmental resources	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>25. Proportion of land area covered by forest</li> <li>26. Land area protected to maintain biological diversity</li> <li>27. GDP per unit of energy use (as proxy for energy efficiency)</li> <li>28. Carbon dioxide emissions (per capita) [Plus two figures of global atmospheric pollution: ozone depletion and the accumulation of global warming gases]</li> </ol>
<b>Target 10:</b> Halve, by 2015, the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>29. Proportion of population with sustainable access to an improved water source</li> </ol>
<b>Target 11:</b> By 2020, to have achieved a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>30. Proportion of people with access to improved sanitation</li> <li>31. Proportion of people with access to secure tenure [Urban/rural disaggregation of several of the above indicators may be relevant for monitoring improvement in the lives of slum dwellers]</li> </ol>



**Goal 8: Develop a Global Partnership for Development\***

**Target 12:** Develop further an open, rule-based, predictable, non-discriminatory trading and financial system

Includes a commitment to good governance, development, and poverty reduction – both nationally and internationally

**Target 13:** Address the Special Needs of the Least Developed Countries

Includes: tariff and quota free access for LDC exports; enhanced programme of debt relief for HIPC and cancellation of official bilateral debt; and more generous ODA for countries committed to poverty reduction

**Target 14:** Address the Special Needs of landlocked countries and small island developing states

(through Barbados Programme and 22nd General Assembly provisions)

**Target 15:** Deal comprehensively with the debt problems of developing countries through national and international measures in order to make debt sustainable in the long term

*Some of the indicators listed below will be monitored separately for the Least Developed Countries (LDCs), Africa, landlocked countries and small island developing states.*

Official Development Assistance

- 32. Net ODA as percentage of DAC donors' GNI [targets of 0.7% in total and 0.15% for LDCs]
- 33. Proportion of ODA to basic social services (basic education, primary health care, nutrition, safe water and sanitation)
- 34. Proportion of ODA that is untied
- 35. Proportion of ODA for environment in small island developing states
- 36. Proportion of ODA for transport sector in land-locked countries

Market Access

- 37. Proportion of exports (by value and excluding arms) admitted free of duties and quotas
- 38. Average tariffs and quotas on agricultural products and textiles and clothing
- 39. Domestic and export agricultural subsidies in OECD countries
- 40. Proportion of ODA provided to help build trade capacity

Debt Sustainability

- 41. Proportion of official bilateral HIPC debt cancelled
- 42. Debt service as a percentage of exports of goods and services
- 43. Proportion of ODA provided as debt relief
- 44. Number of countries reaching HIPC decision and completion points

**Target 16:** In cooperation with developing countries, develop and implement strategies for

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## **Resolution adopted by the General Assembly**

*[without reference to a Main Committee (A/55/L.2)]*

### **55/2. United Nations Millennium Declaration**

*The General Assembly*

*Adopts the following Declaration:*

#### **United Nations Millennium Declaration**

*(Extract - Sections III and IV only)*

#### **III. Development and poverty eradication**

11. We will spare no effort to free our fellow men, women and children from the abject and dehumanizing conditions of extreme poverty, to which more than a billion of them are currently subjected. We are committed to making the right to development a reality for everyone and to freeing the entire human race from want.

12. We resolve therefore to create an environment – at the national and global levels alike – which is conducive to development and to the elimination of poverty.

13. Success in meeting these objectives depends, *inter alia*, on good governance within each country. It also depends on good governance at the international level and on transparency in the financial, monetary and trading systems. We are committed to an open, equitable, rule-based, predictable and non-discriminatory multilateral trading and financial system.

14. We are concerned about the obstacles developing countries face in mobilizing the resources needed to finance their sustained development. We will therefore make every effort to ensure the success of the High-level International and Intergovernmental Event on Financing for Development, to be held in 2001.

15. We also undertake to address the special needs of the least developed countries. In this context, we welcome the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries to be held in May 2001 and will endeavour to ensure its success. We call on the industrialized countries:

- To adopt, preferably by the time of that Conference, a policy of duty- and quota-free access for essentially all exports from the least developed countries;
- To implement the enhanced programme of debt relief for the heavily indebted poor countries without further delay and to agree to cancel all official bilateral debts of those countries in return for their making demonstrable commitments to poverty reduction; and
- To grant more generous development assistance, especially to countries that are genuinely making an effort to apply their resources to poverty reduction.

16. We are also determined to deal comprehensively and effectively with the debt problems of low- and middle-income developing countries, through various national and international measures designed to make their debt sustainable in the long term.

17. We also resolve to address the special needs of small island developing States, by implementing the Barbados Programme of Action and the outcome of the twenty-second special session of the General Assembly rapidly and in full. We urge the international community to ensure that, in the development of a vulnerability index, the special needs of small island developing States are taken into account.

18. We recognize the special needs and problems of the landlocked developing countries, and urge both bilateral and multilateral donors to increase financial and technical assistance to this group of countries to meet their special development needs and to help them overcome the impediments of geography by improving their transit transport systems.

19. We resolve further:

- To halve, by the year 2015, the proportion of the world's people whose income is less than one dollar a day and the proportion of people who suffer from hunger and, by the same date, to halve the proportion of people who are unable to reach or to afford safe drinking water.
- To ensure that, by the same date, children everywhere, boys and girls alike, will be able to complete a full course of primary schooling and that girls and boys will have equal access to all levels of education.
- By the same date, to have reduced maternal mortality by three quarters, and under-five child mortality by two thirds, of their current rates.
- To have, by then, halted, and begun to reverse, the spread of HIV/AIDS, the scourge of malaria and other major diseases that afflict humanity.
- To provide special assistance to children orphaned by HIV/AIDS.
- By 2020, to have achieved a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers as proposed in the "Cities Without Slums" initiative.

20. We also resolve:

- To promote gender equality and the empowerment of women as effective ways to combat poverty, hunger and disease and to stimulate development that is truly sustainable.
- To develop and implement strategies that give young people everywhere a real chance to find decent and productive work.
- To encourage the pharmaceutical industry to make essential drugs more widely available and affordable by all who need them in developing countries.
- To develop strong partnerships with the private sector and with civil society organizations in pursuit of development and poverty eradication.
- To ensure that the benefits of new technologies, especially information and communication technologies, in conformity with recommendations contained in the ECOSOC 2000 Ministerial Declaration, are available to all.

#### **IV. Protecting our common environment**

21. We must spare no effort to free all of humanity, and above all our children and grandchildren, from the threat of living on a planet irredeemably spoilt by human activities, and whose resources would no longer be sufficient for their needs.

22. We reaffirm our support for the principles of sustainable development, including those set out in Agenda 21, agreed upon at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development.

23. We resolve therefore to adopt in all our environmental actions a new ethic of conservation and stewardship and, as first steps, we resolve:

- To make every effort to ensure the entry into force of the Kyoto Protocol, preferably by the tenth anniversary of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in 2002, and to embark on the required reduction in emissions of greenhouse gases.
- To intensify our collective efforts for the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests.
- To press for the full implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa.

- To stop the unsustainable exploitation of water resources by developing water management strategies at the regional, national and local levels, which promote both equitable access and adequate supplies.
- To intensify cooperation to reduce the number and effects of natural and man-made disasters.
- To ensure free access to information on the human genome sequence.