

# Some international commitments on poverty

## Documentary evidence

With comments

Matt Berkley

18 September 2015

In 2000 national leaders pledged in the Millennium Declaration to reduce child mortality by two-thirds not from 1990 rates, but from 2000 rates.

On 6 September 2001, the Secretary-General proposed generally easier "Millennium Development Goal" targets with 1990 baselines – reducing the number of children's lives to be saved in 2000-15 by about 5 million.

Contrary to popular belief, the United Nations General Assembly did not commit to the easier targets in 2000 or 2001.

On 16 December 2002 the Assembly encouraged "interested parties...to continue to pursue vigorously the achievement of the objectives and goals contained in the Millennium Declaration".

and the other more ambitious goals from conferences and summits

Leaders reaffirmed the Declaration in 2005 and 2013. 2010.

In July 2015 national leaders reaffirmed a statement that countries would bring economic conditions to fulfil agreed goals, including Millennium Declaration pledges. Several of those are, at a global level and for most countries, more ambitious than the "Millennium Development Goal" targets which were publicised instead of the actual pledges. The document also stated that countries would help publicise agreed goals including the Declaration's pledges with 2000 baselines.

<http://www.un.org/millennium/declaration/ares552e.htm>

<http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/sgreport2001.pdf>

[http://unstats.un.org/unsd/mdg/Resources/Static/Products/GAResolutions/57\\_144/a\\_res57\\_144e.pdf](http://unstats.un.org/unsd/mdg/Resources/Static/Products/GAResolutions/57_144/a_res57_144e.pdf)

[http://mdgs.un.org/unsd/mdg/Resources/Attach/Indicators/ares60\\_1\\_2005summit\\_eng.pdf](http://mdgs.un.org/unsd/mdg/Resources/Attach/Indicators/ares60_1_2005summit_eng.pdf)

<http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/pdf/Outcome%20documentMDG.pdf>

[http://www.un.org/ga/search/view\\_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/69/313](http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/69/313)

[http://www.ycsg.yale.edu/assets/downloads/monterrey\\_consensus.pdf](http://www.ycsg.yale.edu/assets/downloads/monterrey_consensus.pdf)

**July 2015:**

"We, the **Heads of State and Government** and High Representatives... **reaffirm** and build on the 2002 **Monterrey Consensus**"

2002 Monterrey Consensus:

"...economic conditions needed to **fulfil** internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the **Millennium Declaration... will be our first step** to ensuring that the twenty-first century becomes the century of development for all."

"**we should encourage**...coordination...and coherence...to **meet the Millennium Declaration development goals**"

"**We shall support**...a global **information campaign on the internationally agreed development goals** and objectives, including those contained in the **Millennium Declaration**."

[http://www.ycsg.yale.edu/assets/downloads/monterrey\\_consensus.pdf](http://www.ycsg.yale.edu/assets/downloads/monterrey_consensus.pdf)

In 2005 and 2010

~~In 2013~~ leaders renewed some more ambitious global pledges than the Millennium Development Goals. ~~The high-level UN meeting of 2013 said:~~

~~"We, the Heads of State and Government and heads of delegation... **reaffirm** our commitment to the Millennium Declaration", the outcome document of Rio+20, the Monterrey Consensus, the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development and the outcomes of **all the major UN conferences** and summits in the economic, social, and environmental fields. We will continue to be guided by the values and principles enshrined in these texts."~~

<http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/pdf/Outcome%20documentMDG.pdf>

Contrary to popular belief, the UN **General Assembly did not mention the MDGs in 2000 or 2001.**

On 21 December 2001 and in later resolutions it reaffirmed the 2000-baseline Declaration.

The internationally **agreed goals include** this:

### **1996, World Food Summit, Rome Declaration on World Food Security:**

We, the Heads of State and Government, or our representatives, gathered at the World Food Summit...

pledge our political will...

with an immediate view to reducing the **number** of undernourished people to **half their present level** no later than 2015."

<http://www.fao.org/docrep/003/w3613e/w3613e00.htm>

In 2006 the BBC understated the commitment by wrongly claiming the baseline is "1990-2":

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/6099460.stm>

### **Millennium Declaration, 8 September 2000:**

"We resolve...by the year 2015...

to have reduced maternal mortality by three-quarters, and child mortality by two thirds, of their **current rates**"

[to about 3.6 million child deaths in 2015, or 10,000 deaths a day]

<http://www.un.org/millennium/declaration/ares552e.htm>

"The declaration endorsed...**halving** by the year 2015 the 22 percent of the world's population **now existing** on less than a dollar a day."

Reuters, 8 September 2000

<http://www.itnsource.com/en/shotlist/RTV/2000/09/08/009080017/?s=millennium%20summit>

"secretary-general...suggests...that the world could try to **halve** by 2015 the figure of 1.2 billion people or 22% of its population, **who currently exist** in extreme poverty on less than \$1 a day."

6 April 2000

<http://www.economist.com/node/299914>

"A main target, set by Mr Annan and agreed to by the summiters, is to halve by 2015 **the 22% of people who live** on less than a dollar a day"

Editorial

7 September 2000

<http://www.economist.com/node/359559>

"Baseline year – 1990 or 2000?"

...In two cases - maternal mortality and under-five mortality - the term "**current rates**" is used, directly specifying a 2000 baseline. For the remainder, the targets are stated in the form of "to halve by 2015..." This would imply a **2000 baseline** year of the **Millennium Declaration**. After discussions within the UN system and with other partners, the issues [?] have been resolved in favour of **1990** serving as the baseline year."

Guidance Note sent by heads of UNDP, UNICEF, UNFPA, WFP to country offices  
United Nations Development Group  
Reporting on the Millennium Development Goals at the Country Level  
October 2001

[http://web.archive.org/web/\\*/http://undg.org/archive\\_docs/2356-English.doc](http://web.archive.org/web/*/http://undg.org/archive_docs/2356-English.doc)

US Government after the easier 1990-baseline MDGs were proposed:

"Justice demands that global terrorism be silenced so that the **Millennium Declaration** of the United Nations can be heard."

October 1, 2001

<http://2001-2009.state.gov/p/io/rls/rm/2001/5127.htm>

"... **PEOPLE... ASSUME** THAT THE **"MDGS" ARE** AGREED DEVELOPMENT GOALS FROM THE **MILLENNIUM DECLARATION, WHICH THE UNITED STATES SUPPORTS.** OFTEN THE UN SECRETARIAT AND REPRESENTATIVES OF A NUMBER OF **COUNTRIES, HOWEVER,** USE IT TO **REFER TO THE SECRETARIAT GOALS**.....

SUBJECT: THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS (MDGS) -- WHAT ARE THEY?

**04/26/05**

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO ALL DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR POSTS COLLECTIVE

pdf.usaid.gov/pdf\_docs/PCAAB560.pdf

2005: "We, Heads of State and Government...reaffirm the United Nations Millennium Declaration....

we commit ourselves to: ...integrating [the reproductive health] goal in strategies to attain the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration, aimed at reducing maternal mortality, improving maternal health, reducing child mortality...."

"We therefore resolve to create a more peaceful, prosperous and democratic world and to undertake concrete measures to continue finding ways to implement the outcome of the Millennium Summit"

"We emphasize the critical role of both formal and informal education in the achievement of poverty eradication and other development goals as envisaged in the Millennium Declaration"

"We call for strengthened cooperation between the United Nations and national and regional parliaments, in particular through the Inter-Parliamentary Union, with a view to furthering all aspects of the Millennium Declaration"

[http://mdgs.un.org/unsd/mdg/Resources/Attach/Indicators/ares60\\_1\\_2005summit\\_eng.pdf](http://mdgs.un.org/unsd/mdg/Resources/Attach/Indicators/ares60_1_2005summit_eng.pdf)

"...Charter of this United Nations...Universal Declaration of Human Rights...a decade ago, at the dawn of a new millennium, we set concrete goals... These are the standards that we set."

Remarks by the President at the Millennium Development Goals Summit  
22 September 2010

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2010/09/22/remarks-president-millennium-development-goals-summit-new-york-new-york>

.....

What are countries now committed to?

In **July 2015** leaders renewed some relevant commitments:

a) to **ensure economic conditions to meet agreed pledges** including those in the Millennium Declaration

and

b) to **publicise the pledges**.

Some of these pledges are generally more ambitious than the Millennium Development Goals first mentioned by leaders in 2005, because their baselines were not backdated.

In July 2015 leaders and the Assembly reaffirmed commitments to:

1) economic conditions to fulfil agreed goals including those in the **Millennium Declaration** – which has a 2000 baseline -

and

2) a global **information campaign** on the **Millennium Declaration** and other agreed goals.

The other agreed goals include the 1996 **World Food Summit** pledge to work on halving the 1996 number of hungry people to, by current official FAO method and estimates, about **500 million**.

(though the estimates are not very reliable).

[http://www.un.org/ga/search/view\\_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/69/313](http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/69/313)

The current estimate is around 800 million: [millenniumdeclaration.org/hunger.pdf](http://millenniumdeclaration.org/hunger.pdf) .

The child mortality target pledged in the Millennium Declaration is about 3.6 million child deaths in 2015, not the 4.3 million implied by the MDG target.

millenniumdeclaration.org

The difference in 2000-15 with constant progress is about 5 million deaths or children saved, and rising as time goes by. It is very roughly 2,000 children per day in 2015.

July 2015:

"We, the Heads of State and Government and High Representatives...**reaffirm** and build on the 2002 **Monterrey Consensus**"

2002 Monterrey Consensus:

"...economic conditions needed to **fulfil** internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the **Millennium Declaration**...**will be our first step** to ensuring that the twenty-first century becomes the century of development for all."

**"we should encourage**...coordination...and coherence...to **meet the Millennium Declaration development goals**"

**"We shall support** ...a global **information campaign** on the internationally agreed development **goals** and objectives, including those contained in the **Millennium Declaration**."

[http://www.ycsg.yale.edu/assets/downloads/monterrey\\_consensus.pdf](http://www.ycsg.yale.edu/assets/downloads/monterrey_consensus.pdf)

"I am pleased that the Declaration we are about to adopt at this Summit has such a broad range of commitments, and the **specificity** of the language and **the time scales** mean that we can and **will be held accountable** for delivery."

Bertie Ahern, Prime Minister of Ireland 6 September 2000

"...**let us be honest** at this Millennium Summit, too many times we have set **new deadlines** to reach old goals."

Poul Nyrup Rasmussen, Prime Minister of Denmark 8 September 2000

<http://daccess-ods.un.org/access.nsf/Get?Open&DS=A/55/PV.7&Lang=E>

"We resolve...by the year 2015...to have reduced **maternal mortality by three-quarters, and child mortality by two thirds, of their current rates**"

[to about **3.6 million child deaths** in 2015, or 10,000 deaths a day]

Millennium Declaration

8 September 2000

<http://www.un.org/millennium/declaration/ares552e.htm>

*"The Co-Chairperson (Namibia): We have come to the close of this historic Millennium Summit... We cannot, therefore, afford to go back home from here and continue **business as usual.**"*

*"The declaration endorsed...**halving** by the year 2015 the 22 percent of the world's population **now existing** on less than a dollar a day."*

Reuters, 8 September 2000

<http://www.itnsource.com/en/shotlist/RTV/2000/09/08/009080017/?s=millennium%20summit>

*"Millennium Development Goals...*

*The proposed formulation of the 8 goals, 18 targets and 40+ indicators are listed below. ...*

*...the normal **baseline** year for the targets will be **1990**..."*

*"proposed list of goals, targets...listed below...between 1990 and 2015"*

[Relevant targets mention 1990 except for water]

Report of the Secretary-General: Implementation of the United Nations Millennium Declaration

6 September 2001

<http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/sgreport2001.pdf>

(MDG target is for c. **4.3 million child deaths in 2015**)

*"Staff from...the UN...,IMF, OECD-DAC, and the World Bank...reached agreement on a presentation of the Millennium Development Goals...*

*...standard **baseline** year of 1990...*

*(with an exception of using **2000 for the safe water goal** as that was agreed in a recent UN conference)." [!]*



Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development

Note by the Secretariat

17 September 2001

[http://www.mofat.go.kr/webmodule/common/download.jsp?boardid=106&tablename=TYPE\\_DAT\\_ABOARD&seqno=075ffcfdafa0fa2ff1fd103b&fileseq=05b06bfb1fd504dfa303b07b](http://www.mofat.go.kr/webmodule/common/download.jsp?boardid=106&tablename=TYPE_DAT_ABOARD&seqno=075ffcfdafa0fa2ff1fd103b&fileseq=05b06bfb1fd504dfa303b07b)

[.pdf document which may need the extension .pdf to be added] ; or

<http://millenniumdeclaration.org/mdgwaterbaseline.pdf>

## REMARKS BY SECRETARY OF STATE COLIN L. POWELL AT WORLD SUMMIT ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

September 4, 2002

Here in Johannesburg, we have recommitted ourselves to achieving, by 2015, the development **goals** set forth **in the Millennium Declaration**.

<http://wfile.ait.org.tw/wf-archive/2002/020904/epf306.htm>

16 December 2002:

"The General Assembly...

**Reaffirming the importance** of the implementation of and follow-up to the **Millennium Declaration** in a **comprehensive**.....manner...

2. Recognizes the uneven progress made so far in achieving the objectives agreed upon in the **Millennium Declaration**, and **urges** Member States to continue to undertake with **determination** appropriate measures towards its implementation;

3. Invites the organizations and agencies...and encourages other interested parties...to continue **to pursue vigorously** the achievement of the objectives and **goals** contained **in the Millennium Declaration**..."

23 December 2003:

"The General Assembly...

**Reaffirming the United Nations Millennium Declaration**...

2005: "We, **Heads of State and Government...**  
**reaffirm the Millennium Declaration**"

[http://mdgs.un.org/unsd/mdg/Resources/Attach/Indicators/ares60\\_1\\_2005summit\\_eng.pdf](http://mdgs.un.org/unsd/mdg/Resources/Attach/Indicators/ares60_1_2005summit_eng.pdf)

*"Let us resolve therefore: - To **halve**, by the time this century is 15 years old, **the proportion** of the world's people (**currently 22 per cent**) whose income is less than one dollar a day.*

*- To halve, by the same date, the proportion of people (currently 20 per cent) who are unable to reach, or to afford, safe drinking water."*

*"Specifically, I urge the Summit to adopt the target of reducing by half, **between now and 2015**, the proportion of people who lack sustainable access to adequate sources of affordable and safe water."*

Secretary-General

**Millennium Report**

27 March 2000

[www.un.org/en/events/pastevents/pdfs/We\\_The\\_Peoples.pdf](http://www.un.org/en/events/pastevents/pdfs/We_The_Peoples.pdf)

*"The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has worked hard to build international support **for the UN Secretary-General's proposals** for the Millennium Summit."*

UK Parliament. House of Commons, Written Answers for 15 May 2000. Mr Hain.  
<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm199900/cmhansrd/vo000515/text/00515w09.htm>

**"The Clinton Administration strongly supports** Secretary General Kofi Annan's call to action on poverty alleviation, on economic and social development"

U.S. Efforts on the **Millennium Report** "Call To Action" on Poverty and Economic Development Issues  
The White House September 7, 2000  
[http://clinton5.nara.gov/WH/new/html/Wed\\_Oct\\_4\\_132349\\_2000.html](http://clinton5.nara.gov/WH/new/html/Wed_Oct_4_132349_2000.html)

**"President Clinton** is **strongly committed** to working...to meet the vision of a sustainable future outlined in the Secretary General's **Millennium Report**."

The White House September 7, 2000  
[http://clinton5.nara.gov/WH/new/html/Wed\\_Oct\\_4\\_133235\\_2000.html](http://clinton5.nara.gov/WH/new/html/Wed_Oct_4_133235_2000.html)

"in September 2000...Annan...In his report ...  
**The assembly ... accepted his report wholesale.**"

Mark Malloch Brown  
Head of UN Development Programme in 2000  
The Unfinished Global Revolution  
Penguin Books, 2011

"His **Millennium Report**...offers concrete, accomplishable and far-sighted recommendations. **Austria** welcomes this roadmap for the future course of UN activities and **will follow its guidelines.**"

Austrian Minister for Foreign Affairs Benita Ferrero-Waldner  
<http://www.un.org/ga/webcast/statements/austriaE.htm>

**Speeches at the Millennium Summit:**

"...**Millennium Report** serves as an excellent reference for checking whether our homework has been properly done."

Mr Persson, Prime Minister of **Sweden**

"Secretary-General...**the report he presented**...sets out clear and precise objectives. **Belgium** fully supports it. My country **commits itself** ...to support all actions that can help attain those objectives"

"I am pleased that the Declaration we are about to adopt at this Summit has such a broad range of commitments, and the **specificity of the language and the time scales mean that we can and will be held accountable for delivery.**"

Bertie Ahern, Prime Minister of **Ireland**

6 September 2000

"...**let us be honest** at this Millennium Summit, too many times we have set **new deadlines** to reach old goals."

Poul Nyrup Rasmussen, Prime Minister of **Denmark**

8 September 2000

<http://daccess-ods.un.org/access.nsf/Get?Open&DS=A/55/PV.7&Lang=E>

"... we must overcome poverty.... **It would be unforgivable** if we do not gather the means to do it. We heartily support the objectives set out to this end in the **Secretary-General's report** for the Millennium Summit..."

**Spain**

"The Co-Chairperson (Finland): I now give the floor to the Chairman of the round table held yesterday afternoon..."

President Chávez Frías ( spoke in Spanish ): ...round table with heads of State, representatives of Governments of **America, Asia, Africa, Europe and Oceania**. ...we spent about four hours there...I am going to make a major effort in these first few minutes to reflect the spirit that prevailed...

My colleagues and I **agree** on one question **based on** the deliberations we are witnessing here and on the excellent **report submitted by the Secretary-General** to guide us at this Millennium Summit. **How can the goals determined there** be met? ...

**Let us inform our peoples** about what was discussed here, about the conclusions that were drawn in this Summit..."

"We resolve...by the year 2015...to have **reduced maternal mortality by three-quarters, and child mortality by two thirds, of...current rates**"

[to about **3.6 million child deaths** in 2015, or 10,000 deaths a day]

<http://www.un.org/millennium/declaration/ares552e.htm>

"The Co-Chairperson (Namibia): We have come to the close of this historic Millennium Summit...

We cannot, therefore, afford to go back home from here and continue business as usual. We, as heads of State or Government, have the mandate and the responsibility individually and collectively to take bold steps....

We must act now by translating our commitments into action. It is time to combine our vision and our renewed commitment with the increased resources for the United Nations in a purposeful manner....We must fulfil our promises..."

[The following text of the co-chairperson's statement is from a press release, <http://www.un.org/press/en/2000/20000908.ga9758.doc.html> , since the official record refers to a non-existent paragraph in the Declaration: ]

"I ... call upon [the new President of the General Assembly, Harri Holkeri] to ensure the implementation of the Millennium Declaration and pay particular attention to paragraph 31."

Paragraph 31 of the Millennium Declaration reads:

"We request the **General Assembly to review** on a regular basis the progress made in **implementing the provisions of this Declaration...**"

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<http://wfile.ait.org.tw/wf-archive/2002/020904/epf306.htm>

2005: "We, **Heads of State and Government...**  
**reaffirm the Millennium Declaration**"

[http://mdgs.un.org/unsd/mdg/Resources/Attach/Indicators/ares60\\_1\\_2005summit\\_eng.pdf](http://mdgs.un.org/unsd/mdg/Resources/Attach/Indicators/ares60_1_2005summit_eng.pdf)

*"The United Nations General Assembly embraced the eight Goals*

[target about **4.3 million child deaths in 2015**, or 11800 a day: see millenniumdeclaration.org]

*only as late as October 2005."*

Human Rights and the Millennium Development Goals in Practice:

A review of country strategies and reporting

United Nations, 2010

<http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Publications/HRAndMDGsInPractice.pdf>

A former UK Department for International Development Director-General:

"(MDGs), of which the authoritative version was contained in an Annex to a 'Road Map' produced by the Secretary-General in September 2001...

the Annex to the 'Road Map' was **not formally endorsed by the UN membership**, but merely described as 'a useful guide' in the relevant Resolution"

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/j.1759-5436.2010.00098.x/abstract>

[Note by MB: That is not quite accurate.

**The General Assembly** in the resolution of 14 December 2001 recommended the 58-page "Road Map" be considered as a useful guide. It **did not mention**, as Richard Manning states, **the Annex containing the MDG framework**. The 2001 resolution did not mention the MDG targets as some academics have claimed. The Assembly did not make clear whether it was referring to the MDGs

as a useful guide, or other parts of the report.

[http://mdgs.un.org/unsd/mdg/Resources/Static/Products/GAResolutions/56\\_95/a\\_res56\\_95e.pdf](http://mdgs.un.org/unsd/mdg/Resources/Static/Products/GAResolutions/56_95/a_res56_95e.pdf) ]

Richard Manning is however correct here:

"...despite this **less than robust formal basis**, there can be no doubt that the MDGs have become highly influential at least at the level of international discourse about development."

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/j.1759-5436.2010.00098.x/abstract>  
2010

The Impact and Design of the MDGs: Some Reflections

Richard Manning

Former UK Department for International Development Director General

The same author wrote correctly in 2009 that it was the Road Map, not the MDGs, which the Assembly mentioned:

*"The results of this exercise, a framework containing 8 Goals, 18 Targets and 48 Indicators, were annexed to the Secretary-General's Road Map of 2001. This list became the authoritative statement of the MDG framework, despite the fact that, ironically, it was never endorsed as such by the General Assembly, not least because of both US and G77 reservations (from different perspectives) about aspects of Goal Eight. Instead the relevant resolution, though adopted without a vote, recommended that the Secretary-General's report 'Road map towards the implementation of the United Nations Millennium Declaration' be considered 'a useful guide',... mandate to the Secretariat, adopted in the same Resolution, to monitor progress towards implementing the goals of the Millennium Declaration."*

Richard Manning, former Director General, UK Department for International Development  
2009

<http://www.oecd.org/site/progresskorea/44117550.pdf>

*"Millennium Development Goals...*

*The **proposed** formulation of the 8 goals, 18 targets and 40+ indicators are listed below. ...  
...the normal baseline year for the targets will be 1990..."*

*"**proposed list** of goals, targets...listed below...**between 1990 and 2015"***

[relevant targets mention 1990 except for water target]

Report of the Secretary-General: Implementation of the United Nations Millennium Declaration  
6 September 2001

<http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/sgreport2001.pdf>

(MDG target is for c. **4.3 million child deaths in 2015**)

*"OECD*

*MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS*

*(Note by the Secretariat)*

*17 September 2001*

*...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"*

[MB note: That means:

a) civil servants' generally easier 1990-baseline International Development Goals whose seven-goals-21-indicators structure and baseline were the basis of the MDG framework,  
and

b) the world leaders' 2000-baseline Declaration goals for 2015; there were some other differences].

*"In subsequent correspondence **they reached agreement on a presentation of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)**...*

*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)."*

[http://www.mofat.go.kr/webmodule/common/download.jsp?boardid=106&tablename=TYPE\\_DAT\\_ABOARD&seqno=075ffcfdafa0fa2ff1fd103b&fileseq=05b06bfb1fd504dfa303b07b](http://www.mofat.go.kr/webmodule/common/download.jsp?boardid=106&tablename=TYPE_DAT_ABOARD&seqno=075ffcfdafa0fa2ff1fd103b&fileseq=05b06bfb1fd504dfa303b07b)

[.pdf document which may need the extension .pdf to be added]

or

<http://millenniumdeclaration.org/mdgwaterbaseline.pdf> .

On 6 November 2001 the heads of UNDP, UNICEF, WFP and UNFPA announced to UN country representatives,

*"The International Development Goals (IDGs) and the development goals contained in the Millennium Declaration have recently been merged under the designation of "Millennium Development Goals" (MDGs). They have been agreed by the United Nations system, World Bank, International Monetary Fund, and OECD/DAC."*



They attached a guidance note for country reporting. This stated that the text of the Declaration "would imply" a baseline of 2000 for both the mortality and other relevant pledges.

[http://web.archive.org/web/\\*/http://undg.org/archive\\_docs/1607-MDGs - letter - MDGs - letter.pdf](http://web.archive.org/web/*/http://undg.org/archive_docs/1607-MDGs_-_letter_-_MDGs_-_letter.pdf)

*"The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)...*

*For the purpose of monitoring progress, the normal baseline year for the targets will be **1990**...  
...the Secretary-General is to report annually to the General Assembly on progress towards a subset of the MDGs..."*

*"Baseline year – 1990 or 2000?"*

*...In two cases - maternal mortality and under-five mortality - the term "current rates" is used, directly specifying a 2000 baseline. For the remainder, the targets are stated in the form of "to halve by 2015..." This **would imply a 2000 baseline year of the Millennium Declaration**. After discussions within the UN system and with other partners, the issues have been resolved in favour of 1990 serving as the baseline year."*

Guidance Note sent by heads of UNDP, UNICEF, UNFPA, WFP to country offices  
United Nations Development Group  
Reporting on the Millennium Development Goals at the Country Level  
October 2001

[http://web.archive.org/web/\\*/http://undg.org/archive\\_docs/2356-English.doc](http://web.archive.org/web/*/http://undg.org/archive_docs/2356-English.doc)

In December 2001 the General Assembly did not say it "adopted" the new targets but recommended "that the "road map" be considered as a useful guide in the implementation of the Millennium Declaration".

Even then it requested

*"the Secretary-General to prepare an **annual report** and a comprehensive report every five years on progress...towards implementing the Millennium Declaration, drawing upon the "road map" map" and in accordance with resolution 55/162...while the quinquennial comprehensive reports examine **progress achieved towards implementing all the commitments made in the Declaration**".*

It looks like member states were asking the Secretary-General to report not just on the generally easier MDG4 and MDG5 but on their pledges of 2000.

This interpretation is boosted by the fact that they at the same time invited "**specific measures to give widespread publicity to the Millennium Declaration**".

[http://mdgs.un.org/unsd/mdg/Resources/Static/Products/GAResolutions/56\\_95/a\\_res56\\_95e.pdf](http://mdgs.un.org/unsd/mdg/Resources/Static/Products/GAResolutions/56_95/a_res56_95e.pdf)

Resolution 55/162 reads:

*"The General Assembly...requests the Secretary-General to prepare a comprehensive report every five years, supplemented by an annual report on progress achieved towards implementing the Millennium Declaration...*

*(a) The annual reports should reflect the broad array of specific goals and **commitments enunciated in the Millennium Declaration**...*

*(b) All reports should focus, in this respect, on the results and **benchmarks** achieved, identify gaps in implementation....*

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly  
55/162 Follow-up to the outcome of the Millennium Summit  
14 December 2000  
<http://www.un.org/Docs/journal/asp/ws.asp?m=A/RES/55/162>

National leaders did not make any explicit statement at the UN on MDGs until September 2005.

The USA's position earlier in 2005 emphasised that the MDG framework was "solely a Secretariat product" and not formally endorsed by the UN membership.

[pdf.usaid.gov/pdf\\_docs/PCAAB560.pdf](http://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf_docs/PCAAB560.pdf)

2013: "We, the **Heads of State and Government and heads of delegation... reaffirm our commitment to the Millennium Declaration**"

<http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/pdf/Outcome%20documentMDG.pdf>

"Resolution adopted by the General Assembly  
55/2. 8 September 2000  
United Nations Millennium Declaration

...We, **heads of State and Government**, have gathered...As leaders we have a duty therefore to...in particular, the children...

We **resolve**...

- 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. ...

- By the same date, to have reduced **maternal mortality** by three quarters, and under-five child mortality by two thirds, **of their current rates**. ....

We **request the General Assembly** to **review** on a regular basis the progress made in implementing **the provisions of this Declaration**...

We therefore pledge our **unstinting support** for **these common objectives** and our determination to achieve them."

<http://www.un.org/millennium/declaration/ares552e.htm>

"On behalf of Canada I would like to voice strong support for the Monterrey Consensus. A consensus that is unprecedented in scope and participation. That seeks to take an indispensable step forward together in securing a fundamental common cause of the United Nations. As expressed in the Millennium Declaration."

Monterrey, Mexico March 2002

"To achieve the aims of the Millennium Summit, the World Bank estimates it will be necessary to double the amount currently spent on poverty eradication."

Jacques Chirac, President of France

<http://www.un.org/ffd/statements/franceE.htm>

"We are conscious of the absolute moral imperative of combating the extreme poverty suffered by

one fifth of humanity and we have **fully endorsed** the historic development **goals** written into the **Millennium Declaration**.

We know that in order to attain these objectives it is necessary...."

European Community

Romano Prodi President of the European Commission at the International Conference on Financing for Development

Monterrey, Mexico

March 22, 2002

<http://www.un.org/ffd/statements/ecE.htm>

"Something must be done to galvanize the global political will for an accelerated drive to meet the **Millennium Declaration** targets. ...

I am convinced that the UN **Millennium Declaration** points the way forward."

Han Seung-soo

President of the General Assembly of the United Nations

International Conference on Financing For Development, Monterrey, Mexico

March 2002

<http://www.un.org/ffd/statements/gaunE.htm>

On 27 July 2015 the UN General Assembly reaffirmed member states' commitment to

1) economic conditions to fulfil goals of the **Millennium Declaration** - the Declaration is in at least one respect more ambitious than later "Millennium Development Goal" targets, since it has a 2000 baseline -

and

2) a global information campaign on the **Millennium Declaration** and the other agreed goals, which include the **World Food Summit** goal of halving the 1996 number of **hungry** people to, by current official FAO method and estimates, about **500 million**.

[http://www.un.org/ga/search/view\\_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/69/313](http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/69/313)

The target pledged in the Millennium Declaration is about 3.6 million child deaths in 2015, not the 4.3 million implied by the MDG target.

July 2015:

"We, the Heads of State and Government and High Representatives...**reaffirm** and build on the 2002 **Monterrey Consensus**"

2002 Monterrey Consensus:

"...economic conditions needed to **fulfil** internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the **Millennium Declaration**...**will be our first step** to ensuring that the twenty-first century becomes the century of development for all."

"**we should encourage**...coordination of international institutions and coherence...to **meet the Millennium Declaration development goals**"

"**We shall support** the United Nations in the implementation of a global **information campaign** on the internationally agreed development **goals** and objectives, including those contained in the **Millennium Declaration**."

[http://www.ycsg.yale.edu/assets/downloads/monterrey\\_consensus.pdf](http://www.ycsg.yale.edu/assets/downloads/monterrey_consensus.pdf)

"The declaration endorsed targets set by Secretary-General Kofi Annan in a near-Utopian report last April that called for **halving** by the year 2015 the 22 percent of the world's population **now existing** on less than a dollar a day."

Reuters, 8 September 2000

<http://www.itnsource.com/en/shotlist/RTV/2000/09/08/009080017/?s=millennium%20summit>

"A main target, set by Mr Annan and agreed to by the summiteers, is to halve by 2015 **the 22% of people who live** on less than a dollar a day"

The Economist, editorial. 7 September 2000

<http://www.economist.com/node/359559>

"A declaration to be signed on Friday when the summit meeting ends has set ambitious benchmarks....

One such goal proposes to reduce **by half over the next 15 years** the number of people earning less than a dollar a day. To achieve that, President Hugo Chavez of Venezuela reckoned, "we should increase that income to levels of fairness and dignity for 140,000 persons each day of each month and of each year from the present until Dec. 31, 2015."

"The Italian prime minister, Giuliano Amato, agreed that radical efforts were required. "

"Published: September 8, 2000 United Nations, Sept. 7"

<http://www.nytimes.com/2000/09/08/world/summit-in-new-york-the-orators-un-speakers-urge-increase-in-charity-to-the-poor.html>

"Setting out to **halve in fifteen years** the number of poor people **we now have** is an undoubtedly remarkable endeavor..."

Felipe Perez Roque, Cuban Minister of Foreign Affairs, General Debate of the 55th General Assembly

<http://www.un.org/ga/webcast/statements/cubaE.htm>

15 September 2000

"Proponernos reducir a la mitad, dentro de quince años, el número de pobres que hoy tenemos, es un empeño sin duda encomiable..."

<http://www.un.org/ga/webcast/statements/cubaS.htm>

"the targets set by the Millennium Summit, including the target to halve, by the year 2015, **the current proportion** of the world's poor people"

Nguyen Dzy Nien, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Vietnam,  
General Debate of the 55th Session of the UN General Assembly  
13 September 2000

<http://www.un.org/ga/webcast/statements/vietnamE.htm>

"PLEDGES MADE AT 2000 MILLENNIUM SUMMIT MUST BE TRANSFORMED INTO REALITY, SPEAKERS STRESS..."

JEAN DE RUYT (Belgium), speaking on behalf of **the European Union**, said the Union would

like the **Millennium Declaration** to be the **touchstone** for any practical steps taken by the United Nations and its specialized agencies, and by all governments."

19 November 2001

Press Release

<http://www.un.org/press/en/2001/GA9973.doc.htm>

"Resolution adopted by the General Assembly  
56/95. Follow-up to the outcome of the Millennium Summit

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 55/2 of 8 September 2000, by which it adopted the United Nations Millennium Declaration as the outcome of the Millennium Summit of the United Nations, held at Headquarters from 6 to 8 September 2000,

Recalling also its resolution 55/162 of 14 December 2000, in which it, inter alia, requested the Secretary-General to prepare a long-term "road map" towards the implementation of the Millennium Declaration within the United Nations system and to submit it to the General Assembly at its fifty-sixth session,

Reaffirming the need to **maintain the will and momentum of the Millennium Summit**, as well as the importance of a comprehensive and balanced approach in the implementation of and follow-up to the Millennium Declaration,

1. Takes note with appreciation of the report of the Secretary-General entitled "Road map towards the implementation of the United Nations Millennium Declaration";
2. Recommends that the "road map" be considered as a **useful guide in the implementation of the Millennium Declaration** by the United Nations system, and invites Member States, as well as the Bretton Woods institutions, the World Trade Organization and other interested parties to **consider the "road map"** when formulating plans for implementing **goals related to the Declaration**;
3. **Requests the Secretary-General** to prepare an annual **report** and a comprehensive report every five years on progress achieved by the United Nations system and Member States towards implementing the **Millennium Declaration, drawing upon the "road map" and in accordance with resolution 55/162**, and requests that the annual reports focus on cross-cutting and cross-sectoral issues, as well as on the major areas set forth in the "road map", while the **quinquennial comprehensive reports** examine **progress achieved towards implementing all the commitments made in the Declaration**;

4. Invites the United Nations system, in cooperation with Member States, to adopt specific measures to give **widespread publicity to the Millennium Declaration** and to **increase the dissemination of information on the Declaration**;

5. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-seventh session the item entitled "Follow-up to the outcome of the Millennium Summit".

86th plenary meeting

14 December 2001

[http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view\\_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/56/95&Lang=E](http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/56/95&Lang=E)

2000: "As leaders we have a duty therefore to...in particular, the children... We resolve...by the year 2015...to have **reduced child mortality by two thirds, of... current rates**"

[to about 3.6 million child deaths in 2015, or 10,000 deaths a day]

<http://www.un.org/millennium/declaration/ares552e.htm>

2005: "We, **Heads of State and Government... reaffirm the Millennium Declaration**"

[http://mdgs.un.org/unsd/mdg/Resources/Attach/Indicators/ares60\\_1\\_2005summit\\_eng.pdf](http://mdgs.un.org/unsd/mdg/Resources/Attach/Indicators/ares60_1_2005summit_eng.pdf)

2013: "We, the **Heads of State and Government and heads of delegation... reaffirm our commitment to the Millennium Declaration**"

<http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/pdf/Outcome%20documentMDG.pdf>



## World Summit on Sustainable Development

2-4 September 2002

(Earth Summit)

Johannesburg Declaration:

“We, the representatives of the peoples of the world...  
commit ourselves to the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation and to expedite the achievement of  
the time-bound, socio-economic and environmental targets contained therein.”

Plan of Implementation:

"Reduce, by 2015, mortality rates for infants and children under 5 by two thirds, and maternal  
mortality rates by three quarters, of the **prevailing rate in 2000**"

[http://www.johannesburgsummit.org/html/documents/summit\\_docs/1009wssd\\_pol\\_declaration.htm](http://www.johannesburgsummit.org/html/documents/summit_docs/1009wssd_pol_declaration.htm)

[http://www.johannesburgsummit.org/html/documents/summit\\_docs/2309\\_planfinal.htm](http://www.johannesburgsummit.org/html/documents/summit_docs/2309_planfinal.htm)

"(MDGs), of which the authoritative version was contained in an Annex to a ‘Road Map’ produced  
by the Secretary-General in September 2001...the Annex to the ‘Road Map’ was **not formally  
endorsed by the UN membership, but merely described as ‘a useful guide’** in the relevant  
Resolution,

[Clarification by MB: **The General Assembly** in the resolution of 14 December 2001  
recommended the "Road Map" as a useful guide. It **did not mention the Annex containing the  
MDG framework**. The full text is later in this document]

and that the subsequent updating has been carried out by the so-called Inter-Agency and Expert  
Group on the Millennium Development Goal Indicators, a body whose status is pleasingly unclear.  
Nevertheless, despite this **less than robust formal basis**, there can be no doubt that the MDGs  
have become highly influential at least at the level of international discourse about development."

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/j.1759-5436.2010.00098.x/abstract>  
2010

The Impact and Design of the MDGs: Some Reflections

Richard Manning (former UK Department for International Development Director General)

Ban Ki-moon, UN Secretary-General:

“The norms and values embedded in the Millennium Declaration and international human rights instruments must continue to provide the foundation for engagement, in particular the key human rights principles of non-discrimination, meaningful participation and **accountability**”.

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/MDG/Pages/Quotes.aspx>

"...the deputy secretary general pointed out. "What the Summit will do is elevate the level of commitment to make it a **commitment by the leaders themselves. This makes a big difference.**"

30 August 2000

<http://wfile.ait.org.tw/wf-archive/2000/000830/epf304.htm>

"Let us resolve therefore: - **To halve, by the time this century is 15 years old, the proportion of the world's people (currently 22 per cent)** whose income is less than one dollar a day.

- To halve, by the same date, the proportion of people (currently 20 per cent) who are unable to reach, or to afford, safe drinking water."

"Specifically, I urge the Summit to adopt the target of reducing by half, **between now and 2015**, the proportion of people who lack sustainable access to adequate sources of affordable and safe water."

[www.un.org/en/events/pastevents/pdfs/We\\_The\\_Peoples.pdf](http://www.un.org/en/events/pastevents/pdfs/We_The_Peoples.pdf)

### **In 2001 member states at the UN did not refer to the Secretary-General's proposed MDG structure at all.**

The resolution of 14 December 2001 only referred to the 58-page "road map" containing the MDGs, not the MDGs themselves.

The "road map" has many more suggestions. Member states did not say which parts they welcomed, recommended as a useful guide, or invited the Secretary-General to take into account for his reports on implementing the Declaration.

Far from formally adopting the easier 1990-baseline MDGs, the next week **member states reaffirmed the 2000-baseline Declaration** more than once:

"The General Assembly...**Reaffirming** also the United Nations **Millennium Declaration**"

Resolution 56/188. Women in Development

21 December 2001

[http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view\\_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/56/188](http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/56/188)

**"Reaffirming** also the United Nations **Millennium Declaration** adopted by heads of State and Government"

Resolution 56/189.

Human resources development

21 December 2001

[www.worldlii.org/int/other/UNGARsn/2001/272.pdf](http://www.worldlii.org/int/other/UNGARsn/2001/272.pdf)

[http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view\\_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/56/189](http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/56/189)

**"Reaffirming** the United Nations **Millennium Declaration**, in particular the targets and **commitments** relating to development and poverty eradication ....

**Requests** the Secretary-General to provide the General Assembly at its fifty-seventh session with an **overview** of the challenges and constraints as well as **progress** made towards achieving the major development **goals and objectives adopted** by the United Nations during the past decade"

Resolution 56/191.

Implementation of the Declaration on International Economic Cooperation, in particular the Revitalization of Economic Growth and Development of the Developing Countries, and implementation of the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade

21 December 2001

<http://www.worldlii.org/int/other/UNGARsn/2001/274.pdf>

[http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view\\_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/56/191](http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/56/191)

- as well as, for example (in addition to leaders' reaffirming the Declaration in 2005 and 2013):

Resolution 62/206 of 2008,

Women in Development

[css.escwa.org.lb/GARes/62-206.pdf](http://css.escwa.org.lb/GARes/62-206.pdf) .

While the Assembly on 14 December 2001 did invite the Secretary-General to draw on the "road map" for his reports, it also invited him to submit reports in accordance with Resolution 55/162:

"The General Assembly...

requests the Secretary-General to prepare a comprehensive report every five years, supplemented by an annual report on progress achieved towards implementing the **Millennium Declaration**, taking into account the following:

(a) The annual reports should reflect the broad array of **specific goals and commitments** enunciated **in the Millennium Declaration**...

(b) All reports should focus, in this respect, on the results and benchmarks achieved, identify gaps in implementation..."

55/162 Follow-up to the outcome of the Millennium Summit

14 December 2000

<http://www.un.org/Docs/journal/asp/ws.asp?m=A/RES/55/162>

So any idea that the Assembly in 2001 was giving up the pledges and replacing them with the easier MDG targets seems to be misplaced.

The Assembly agreed the 2000-baseline Declaration, and again in 2001 and later.

"The General Assembly adopted resolution 56/192...on 21 December 2001. **Reaffirming the Millennium Declaration goal** of reducing by **half, between 2000 and 2015**, the proportion of people who are unable to reach or to afford safe drinking water, the Assembly welcomed..."

Global Ministerial Environment Forum

Governing Council of the UN Environmental Programme

Note by the Secretariat

30 January 2002

<http://www.unep.org/GC/GCSS-VII/Documents/k0260039.pdf>

The General Assembly debate on the Secretary-General's Road Map on implementing the Millennium Declaration, which contained the proposed easier MDG targets, took place on 19 November 2001.

19 November 2001

United Nations Press Release GA/9973

**"PLEDGES MADE AT 2000 MILLENNIUM SUMMIT MUST BE TRANSFORMED INTO REALITY, SPEAKERS STRESS, AS GENERAL ASSEMBLY CONSIDERS SUMMIT FOLLOW-UP**

Takes Up

[? – the resolution for this debate was not until 14 December, and the mention of the Road Map in that resolution, 56/95, was not exactly that the Assembly "took it up"]

‘Road Map’ to Millennium Declaration Implementation

... Before the Assembly there is a report of the Secretary-General on the **road map** towards the implementation of the United Nations Millennium Declaration (document A/56/326). The report contains an integrated and comprehensive overview of the current situation. It outlines **potential strategies** for action that are designed to meet **the** goals and **commitments** made by the 147 heads of State and government, and 189 Member States in total, who adopted the **Millennium Declaration**"

"Speaking on behalf of the European Union, the Belgian representative said that one must not forget the **goals of the Millennium Declaration**. ... The Millennium Declaration offered the opportunity to make multifaceted action more effective and coherent, with a view to realizing the objectives that governments had set themselves, particularly in the area of development and human rights.

One must not forget that the **goals of the Millennium Declaration** were ambitious, he continued."

"JEAN DE RUYT (Belgium), speaking on behalf of the **European Union**, said the Union would like the **Millennium Declaration** to be the **touchstone** for any practical steps taken by the United Nations and its specialized agencies, and by all governments. .... The Millennium Declaration offered the opportunity to make multifaceted action more effective and coherent, with a view to realizing the objectives that governments had set themselves, particularly in the area of development and human rights.

One must not forget that the goals of the Millennium Declaration were ambitious, he continued. The road leading to the Millennium objectives was a difficult one, as it was both foggy and much travelled, which was why it needed to be clearly and precisely marked. "

"KISHORE MAHBUBANI (Singapore) said that the history of the United Nations was replete with summits and declarations. They came, they went, and nothing much changed. It was, therefore, easy to become cynical about such summits and their results. If the **Millennium Summit and its**

**results were not to be tarnished** with such cynicism, the international community would have to be serious about matching beautiful words with beautiful deeds. To ensure that the United Nations did not once again fail to **implement agreed commitments**, Member States should complement the excellent “road map” produced by the Secretariat with an objective analysis of the “roadblocks” that had prevented the implementation of **previous commitments**."

"GERT ROSENTHAL (Guatemala) said ... His delegation, however, observed that in requesting, in its resolution 55/162, a “road map,” the General Assembly may have erred, for the **Millennium Declaration itself constituted such a map**."

[General Assembly](#)

[Press Release](#)

<http://www.un.org/press/en/2001/GA9973.doc.htm>

"If the **Millennium Declaration** of the United Nations were not to become another waste paper lying buried in the archives, it would have to be **implemented in** all sincerity and **entirety**, said the representative of Pakistan this afternoon, as the General Assembly continued its consideration of the follow-up to the Millennium Summit."

"The pace of the follow-up to the outcome of the Millennium Summit fell far short of **the goals set in the Millennium Declaration**, said the representative of China. ... WANG YINGFAN (China) said ..."

"Switzerland, said ... Road Map presented by the Secretary-General. ... closely followed the main guidelines of the Millennium Declaration. ... The best way forward would be to concentrate on **the objectives** put forward during the **Millennium Summit**."

"(Brazil) said that the road map prepared by the Secretary-General was extremely useful. ... Many of the goals of the Millennium Declaration had been with us for years, he said. Brazil believed that to be effective, assessment must be continuous and it therefore endorsed the Secretary-General's proposal to follow up the road map with yearly reports, supported by strategic five-year evaluations on the long-term implementation of the millennium goals."

"(Argentina) **reaffirmed the commitments of the Millennium Declaration** and said it was a matter of political will for States to implement the road map the Secretary-General had set out."

Kazakhstan "supported the strategies of the “road map” prepared by the Secretary-General. It was

committed to a peaceful, stable and environmentally safe world, and **supported all of the objectives of the Millennium Summit.**"

"(Cameroon) said that in the Millennium Declaration, a year ago, the world's leaders had embodied all the highest aspirations of the world's people for peace and development. The documents before the Assembly today represented the Secretary-General's roadmap for implementing the ideal then set out."

United Nations

Press Release 19 November 2001

<http://www.un.org/press/en/2001/GA9974.doc.htm>

"The General Assembly...

**Reaffirming** the goal of reducing by **half, between 2000 and 2015**, the proportion of people who are unable to reach or to afford safe drinking water..."

Resolution 56/192

21 December 2001

[http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view\\_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/56/192](http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/56/192)

<http://www.worldlii.org/int/other/UNGA/2001/301.pdf>

"The General Assembly...Endorses the Addis Ababa Action Agenda...

Addis Ababa Action Agenda... We, the Heads of State and Government and High Representatives, gathered in Addis Ababa from 13 to 16 July 2002... **reaffirm** and build on the 2002 **Monterrey Consensus**..."

[http://www.un.org/ga/search/view\\_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/69/313](http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/69/313)

Monterrey Consensus 2002:

"...achieving the...economic conditions needed to **fulfil** internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the **Millennium Declaration**... **will be our first step** to ensuring that the twenty-first century becomes the century of development for all."

**"commitments of the Millennium Declaration** and other internationally agreed development targets can help countries to set short- and medium-term national priorities..."

**"we should encourage**...coordination of international institutions and coherence...to **meet the Millennium Declaration development goals"**

"We recognize the link between financing of development and attaining internationally agreed development goals and objectives, including those contained in the **Millennium Declaration**, in **measuring development progress** and helping to guide development priorities. We welcome **in that regard** the intention of the United Nations to prepare a **report annually**. We encourage close cooperation between the United Nations, the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund and the World Trade Organization in the preparation of **that report**. **We shall support** the United Nations in the implementation of a **global information campaign** on the internationally agreed development **goals** and objectives, including those contained in the **Millennium Declaration**. In that respect, we would like to encourage the active involvement of all relevant stakeholders, including civil society organizations and the private sector."

Final text of agreements and commitments adopted at the International Conference on Financing for Development

Monterrey, Mexico, 18-22 March 2002

[http://www.ycsg.yale.edu/assets/downloads/monterrey\\_consensus.pdf](http://www.ycsg.yale.edu/assets/downloads/monterrey_consensus.pdf)

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UNITED  
NATIONS



Governing Council  
of the United Nations  
Environment Programme

30 January 2002



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Seventh special session  
Cartagena, Colombia, 13-15 February 2002

## GLOBAL MINISTERIAL ENVIRONMENT FORUM...

### Note by the secretariat

...The General Assembly adopted resolution 56/192 on 'Status of preparations for the International Year of Freshwater, 2003', on 21 December 2001. **Reaffirming the Millennium Declaration goal of reducing by half, between 2000 and 2015**, the proportion of people who are unable to reach or to afford safe drinking water, the Assembly welcomed...

By its resolution 56/95 on the 'Follow-up to the outcome of the Millennium Summit' of 14 December 2001, the Assembly, reaffirming the **need to maintain the will** and momentum **of the Millennium Summit** as well as the importance of a comprehensive and balanced approach in the implementation of and follow-up to the Millennium Declaration, recommended that the "Road map towards the implementation of the United Nations Millennium Declaration" submitted by the Secretary-General (document A/56/326) be considered as a useful guide in the implementation of the Millennium Declaration by the UN system. The Assembly requested the Secretary-General to prepare, drawing upon the road map and **in accordance with its resolution 55/162**, an annual report and a comprehensive report every five years on progress achieved by the UN system and Member States towards **implementing the Millennium Declaration**, and requested that the annual reports focus on cross-cutting and cross-sectoral issues, as well as on the major areas set forth in the road map, while the quinquennial comprehensive **reports** examine progress achieved towards implementing **all the commitments made in the Declaration**. In this regard, the Assembly invited the UN system, in cooperation with Member States, to adopt specific measures to give widespread **publicity to the Millennium Declaration** and to increase the dissemination of information thereon.

### **World Summit on Sustainable Development 2002**

(Earth Summit)

Johannesburg Declaration 2002:

**"We, the representatives of the peoples of the world...commit** ourselves to the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation and to expedite the achievement of the time-bound, socio-economic and environmental targets contained therein. ... we **solemnly pledge** to the peoples of the world and the generations that will surely inherit this Earth that **we are determined to ensure** that our collective hope for sustainable development is realized. "

Plan of Implementation:

""**We also commit** ourselves to achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations **Millennium Declaration** and in the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and international agreements since 1992"

"Develop programmes and initiatives to **reduce, by 2015, mortality rates** for infants and children under 5 by two thirds, and maternal mortality rates by three quarters, of the **prevailing rate in 2000** "

[http://www.johannesburgsummit.org/html/documents/summit\\_docs/1009wssd\\_pol\\_declaratio  
n.htm](http://www.johannesburgsummit.org/html/documents/summit_docs/1009wssd_pol_declaratio<br/>n.htm)

[http://www.johannesburgsummit.org/html/documents/summit\\_docs/2309\\_planfinal.htm](http://www.johannesburgsummit.org/html/documents/summit_docs/2309_planfinal.htm)

“How will Government adherence to **commitments made in Johannesburg** be monitored?

Following decisions made at the Summit, the UN Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) will now have an enhanced role in respect of reviewing and monitoring ...”

[http://www.johannesburgsummit.org/html/basic\\_info/faqs.html#joburg12](http://www.johannesburgsummit.org/html/basic_info/faqs.html#joburg12)

“2. Endorses the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development”

<http://daccess-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N02/738/17/PDF/N0273817.pdf>

"... the need to achieve the internationally agreed development goals, including those set out in the Millennium Declaration..."

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

57/7.

Final review and appraisal of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s and support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development

4 November 2002

"We, the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Group of 77 and China...at the United Nations Headquarters in New York on 25 September 2003, adopted the following declaration:

...We **reaffirm our commitment to the Millennium Declaration** and call upon the international community to fully and speedily implement the **provisions set out therein** and in **other major United Nations conferences and summits**"

[www.g77.org/doc/decg77-xxvii-mm%28english%29.pdf](http://www.g77.org/doc/decg77-xxvii-mm%28english%29.pdf)

"The General Assembly...

Reaffirming the United Nations Millennium Declaration...

Recognizes that a substantial increase in official development assistance and other resources will be required if developing countries are to achieve the internationally agreed development goals and objectives, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration...

Encourages the international community, the United Nations system, the private sector and civil society to continue to provide the necessary financial resources to assist national Governments in their efforts to meet the development targets and benchmarks agreed upon at the World Summit for Social Development, the Fourth World Conference on Women, the International Conference on Population and Development, the Millennium Summit..."

23 December 2003

A/RES/58/206

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

<http://daccess-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N03/460/64/PDF/N0346064.pdf>

**"We reaffirm our commitment to** fight global poverty and to help countries achieve the international development **goals of the Millennium Declaration**"

Statement by G-7 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors, 2004

<http://www.treasury.gov/press-center/press-releases/Pages/js1979.aspx>

2005:

"We strongly reiterate our determination to ensure the timely and full realization of the development goals and objectives agreed at the major United Nations conferences and summits, including **those agreed at the Millennium Summit that are described as the Millennium Development Goals...** " [!]

"Mr. Chairman, Excellencies Heads of State and Government,  
At the **Millennium Summit**, leaders across the world declared they would spare no effort...  
The peoples of the world are looking to us in anticipation. They expect real steps towards  
realising **the goals in the Millennium Declaration.**"

Kjell Magne Bondevik, Prime Minister of Norway  
International Conference on Financing for Development, Monterrey, Mexico  
March 2002

"1.2 billion people around the World live in extreme poverty. They live on less than one dollar-a-day. They constitute approximately **one fifth** of the World population. In the United Nations Millennium Declaration we decided to reduce **this share by half in 2015.** ...the target of halving the number of poor by 2015."

Per Stir Møller, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Denmark.  
Statement at the International Conference on Financing for Development Monterrey, Mexico  
18th-22th March 2002

"...in the year 2000 we had 150 heads of states and government and princes come to the UN  
...They have challenged us to reduce abject poverty **by 50 per cent between now and 2015.**"

Secretary-General  
Press conference  
Boston, 6 May 2002

<http://www.un.org/sg/offthecuff/?nid=67>

<http://www.un.org/sg/cuffarch/sgcu0402.shtml>

"Dozens of heads of government from Africa, Asia and Latin America came to what was billed as an effort to **halve the number of hungry people, from more than 800 million to 400 million** ...

The summit was called to generate money and momentum for a flagging effort, launched at a similar gathering in 1996, to halve the number of hungry people by 2015. Those who did come to Rome yesterday admitted that, six years on, little progress had been made.

The UN secretary general, Kofi Annan, said 24,000 people died each day from hunger. "In a world of plenty, ending hunger is within our grasp. **Failure to reach this goal should fill every one of us with shame.** The time for making promises is over. It is time to act."

Western leaders snub UN food summit

UK sends lowest-ranking delegation to event...

Rory Carroll in Rome

Tuesday 11 June 2002 16.05 BST Last modified on Thursday 13 June 2002 16.05 BST

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2002/jun/11/famine.rorycarroll>

#### REMARKS BY SECRETARY OF STATE COLIN L. POWELL AT WORLD SUMMIT ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

September 4, 2002

Here in Johannesburg, we have recommitted ourselves to achieving, by 2015, the development **goals** set forth **in the Millennium Declaration.**

<http://wfile.ait.org.tw/wf-archive/2002/020904/epf306.htm>

On behalf of the European Union...the world community still has far to go if we are to meet the **goals of the Millennium Declaration.**

For many countries, the United Nations is first and foremost about combating poverty. How to ensure everyone access to the essentials of life; the next meal; the medicine and health care to survive; and access to basic education. These are **the promises contained in the Millennium Declaration.** And we must not let the world down."

Statement by H.E. Anders Fog Rasmussen

Prime Minister of Denmark on behalf of the European Union

Fifty-Seventh Session Of The General Assembly

General Debate

New York, 12 September 2002

<http://www.un.org/webcast/ga/57/statements/020912denmarkE.htm>

"The President: The Assembly will now hear an address by His Excellency Mr. John Agyekum Kufuor, President of the Republic of Ghana.

President Kufuor: The eyes of the people of Africa are on us today. For so long they have heard pledges and promises from their leaders and their development partners, and they have seen those **promises broken**.

We appeal to this Organization, and through it to the world, to seize this opportunity to work together with Africa to implement NEPAD, which is our framework for **achieving the vision of the Millennium Declaration**."

"Unless we can speed things up dramatically, we shall find when we get to 2015, that the **words of the Declaration** ring hollow."

Kofi Annan  
Associated Press  
1 Oct 2002

<http://www.aparchive.com/metadata/UN-Annan/98e563abc1f9ea8f00130359afb0f962>

16 December 2002:

57/144. Follow-up to the outcome of the Millennium Summit

The General Assembly... **Reaffirming the importance** of the implementation of and follow-up to the **Millennium Declaration** in a **comprehensive**, integrated, coordinated and balanced manner...

2. Recognizes the uneven progress made so far in achieving the objectives agreed upon in the **Millennium Declaration**, and **urges** Member States to continue to undertake with **determination** appropriate measures towards its implementation;

3. Invites the organizations and agencies of the United Nations system, the Bretton Woods institutions and the World Trade Organization, and encourages other interested parties,

including civil society and the private sector, to continue **to pursue vigorously** the achievement of the objectives and **goals** contained **in the Millennium Declaration**...

6. Decides to consider... a high-level plenary meeting... [in 2005-6] on the review of the implementation of the Millennium Declaration and consideration of the quinquennial comprehensive **report** of the Secretary-General **on** the progress achieved towards **implementing** the **Millennium Declaration**;

7. Also decides that the review process of the implementation of the development **goals** contained in the **Millennium Declaration** will be considered within the framework of... follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields, while taking into account the need to attach **more importance**, coherence and visibility to the implementation of the **Millennium Declaration** and its review process;

8. Invites the United Nations system, in cooperation with Member States, to **promote awareness of the Millennium Declaration**, and the development **goals** contained therein, through increased dissemination of information and widespread publicity...

[http://unstats.un.org/unsd/mdg/Resources/Static/Products/GAResolutions/57\\_144/a\\_res57\\_144e.pdf](http://unstats.un.org/unsd/mdg/Resources/Static/Products/GAResolutions/57_144/a_res57_144e.pdf)

23 December 2003:

"The General Assembly...

### **Reaffirming the United Nations Millennium Declaration...**

...resources will be required if developing countries are to achieve the internationally agreed development **goals** and objectives, including those contained **in the United Nations Millennium Declaration**...

**Encourages** ...to continue to provide...resources...to meet the development **targets**... **agreed upon at** ...the **Millennium Summit**..."

A/RES/58/206

<http://daccess-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N03/460/64/PDF/N0346064.pdf>

6 May 2004

Resolution 58/291

"The General Assembly,

1. Decides to convene in New York in 2005...a high-level plenary meeting of the Assembly with the participation of heads of State and Government...
2. ...this major event will undertake a comprehensive **review** of the progress made in the fulfilment of **all the commitments** contained in the United Nations **Millennium Declaration**...**and** of the progress ...of the outcomes and **commitments** of the major United Nations **conferences and summits** in the economic, social and related fields, on the basis of a comprehensive report to be submitted by the Secretary-General"

[http://www.omdg.org/en/images/a\\_res\\_58\\_291.pdf](http://www.omdg.org/en/images/a_res_58_291.pdf)

2005:

"We, Heads of State and Government...call for strengthened cooperation..., in particular through the Inter-Parliamentary Union, with a view to furthering all aspects of the **Millennium Declaration**"

[http://mdgs.un.org/unsd/mdg/Resources/Attach/Indicators/ares60\\_1\\_2005summit\\_eng.pdf](http://mdgs.un.org/unsd/mdg/Resources/Attach/Indicators/ares60_1_2005summit_eng.pdf)

*"The MDGs were informally endorsed at the UN Conference on International Financing for Development at Monterrey in 2002..."*

MB note: Very informally if so. I think the sentence is misleading. The 2002 Monterrey outcome document does not mention MDGs at all, but does mention the Declaration. So did speakers representing countries.

*"...The **Declaration** has a longer and higher set of aspirations, and **should not be confused with the very specific and time-bound set of indicators which comprise the 8 MDGs and 21 targets** through with progress towards the Declaration is to be measured. ..."*

MB note: That account omits the fact that the Declaration had already set specific, time-bound indicators – as Prime Minister Ahern stated at the Summit.

*"As late as 2005, in the build up to the World Summit, the government of the **United States argued** for removing the references to the MDGs in the draft Summit Outcome Document, with the rationale that **they had never been agreed** (although they were eventually persuaded to retain them). The final **2005 World Summit Outcome** document **reaffirms the UN**"*



*Millennium Declaration on the first page, but only **begrudgingly recognizes the MDGs in paragraph seventeen**"*

A post-2015 global development agreement: why, what, who?

Claire Melamed and Andy Sumner

[www.odi.org/resources/docs/7369.pdf](http://www.odi.org/resources/docs/7369.pdf)

**"The commitment by world leaders** at this month's United Nations Millennium Summit to halve global poverty and hunger ...These and other goals that the world signed up to are...**best-case scenarios...might be called a "stretch target."**

Mark Malloch Brown

Administrator, United Nations Development Programme

September 21, 2000

[http://www.nytimes.com/2000/09/21/opinion/21iht-edbrown.t\\_0.html](http://www.nytimes.com/2000/09/21/opinion/21iht-edbrown.t_0.html)

**"[MDG] targets were formulated based on historical trends....projections to 2015 based on the global trends in the 60s, 70s and 80s."**

Yongyi Min

United Nations Statistics Division

[http://mdgs.un.org/unsd/mdg/Resources/Attach/Capacity/manila/Presentations/S6\\_P6.2\\_2\\_MDG%20monitoring%20Post%202015%20rev.1.ppt](http://mdgs.un.org/unsd/mdg/Resources/Attach/Capacity/manila/Presentations/S6_P6.2_2_MDG%20monitoring%20Post%202015%20rev.1.ppt)

"The Co-Chairperson (Namibia): We have come to the close of this historic Millennium Summit...

We cannot, therefore, afford to go back home from here and continue **business as usual.**"

***"few observers ever noticed** that the Millennium Declaration left considerable room for interpretation as to the level of ambition of the global targets.*

*It was left to the group of UN experts*

[MB note: It was UN, World Bank, OECD, IMF]

*to set the baseline year. The choice quickly fell on 1990, for two reasons. First, **it proved unrealistic***

[MB note: How did they know it "proved unrealistic" less than a year into 15-year pledges? Is leadership not about leadership?]

*to reduce hunger, poverty and the proportion of people without access to safe drinking water by half, infant and child mortality by two-thirds, and maternal mortality by three-quarters between 2000 and 2015."*

Jan Vandemoortele, co-chair of group in 2001 agreeing MDG framework, 2011

<http://courses.arch.vt.edu/courses/wdunaway/gia5524/vandem11.pdf>

[MB note: I cannot agree with Dr Vandemoortele that the Declaration left room for interpretation on the baseline. If someone says "I will double your salary" and then later says "I meant from its level ten years ago" that would not be fair. The leaders knew perfectly well that what they said would be taken as meaning from 2000. The Secretary-General's recommendations, the speakers' words at the Summit, and arguably the fact that the focus of the Summit was the 21<sup>st</sup> century and not the 20th confirm what common sense might say. In any case, even where the politicians did make the baseline clear – for the mortality goals and for the 1996 hunger pledges – the civil servants, and later others, began falsely claiming that the politicians set 1990 or "1990-2" baselines.]

*"MDGs, 18 targets and 40 indicators...were **decided by measuring global trends** in human development over a 25-year period from **1965-1990**, and applying them to living standards over the 1990-2015 period, **assuming that rates of progress stayed the same.***

*The MDGs were **not intended to increase rates of progress** in human development so much as maintain them. "*

<http://www.euractiv.com/development-policy/mdg-designer-fears-un-goals-dege-news-530429>