



Establishing new millennium goals for 2030: Inducing growth or eliminating inequality?

Introduction

The United Nations, on top of being an important policy-driving organization and the only place where all nations can discuss important political and security topics as equals, is also the largest humanitarian aid provider on Earth. As such, it is highly invested in the fate of third world countries that struggle to achieve the same level of food availability, water availability, healthcare, education, political freedoms, and general wellbeing as the more developed parts of the world. History has proven that simple food aid is not helpful in long term; it can immediately stop the population from starving, but it even more cripples local agriculture and stops growth. Measures that need to be taken so that the poorest countries gain self-sufficiency have to be much more complex and systematic. This is precisely the reason why, at the Millennium Summit on September 6th to 8th of 2000, the Millennium Declaration was signed and ratified.

The Millennium Summit was the largest gathering of world leaders to date. A General Assembly resolution stated that the summit attempted to seize "a unique and symbolically compelling moment to articulate and affirm an animating vision for the United Nations." At the Summit, 189 states agreed to the Millennium Declaration, which stated goals that must be met until the year 2015. The figures present at the Summit are a great witness to its validity; there were a 100 heads of states, 47 heads of government, and 8000 delegates.

The Millennium Declaration was adopted unanimously* by the General Assembly of UN and a follow-up resolution was signed on December 14th, 2000, to guide the implementation of the Declaration. The Millennium Declaration itself is codified as A/RES/55/2. It is a resolution with one operative clause that states "Adopts the following Declaration". The Declaration itself is divided into eight chapters. PORGMUN Highly recommends that each delegate reads the entire text, which can be found in the "Further reading" section.

In a speech delivered by Kofi Annan at the conclusion of the Summit, he declared: *"It lies in your power, and therefore is your responsibility, to reach the goals that you have defined [...] Only you can determine whether the United Nations rises to the challenge. For my part, I hereby re-dedicate myself, as from today, to carrying out your mandate."*

The Millennium Development Goals themselves were set up not long after the Millennium Declaration. They form some of the promises of the Declaration into a complex and measurable set of policies created with the input of IMF, OECD, and World Bank. There is a total of eight goals that comprise 18 targets. The achievement of these targets is measured by statistical data called "indicator". There is a total of 48 indicators, each of them including an agreed source of the data that is to be used when evaluating MDG progress.

Millennium Development Goals

These are the 8 Millennium Development Goals:

- 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) Global Partnership for Development

Below, you will first find a brief summary and the target of each of the 8 goals. In the following section after that, you will find the most recent evaluation of the 8 Millennium Development Goals. The section focuses on what has been achieved and where progress has been made but also highlights where the goals have been unsuccessful.

TARGETS

Goal 1: Eradicate Extreme Poverty and Hunger

The target of the first goal is to halve the proportion of people whose income is less than \$1 a day. The indicators, provided by the World Bank are Proportion of population below \$1, the Poverty gap ration and the Share of poorest quintile in national consumption.

Furthermore, the first goal aims, between 1990 and 2015, to halve the proportion of people who suffer from hunger. The indicators, provided by UNICEF and FAI are Prevalence of underweight children under five years of age and Proportion of population below minimum level of dietary energy consumption.

Goal 2: Achieve Universal Primary Education

The target of the second goal is to ensure that by 2015 children everywhere, boys and girls alike, complete a full course of primary education. The indicators, provided by UNESCO, are Net enrolment ratio in primary education, Proportion of pupils starting grade 1 who reach grade 5 and Literacy rate of 15-24 year-olds.

Goal 3: Promote Gender Equality and Empower Women

The target of the third goal is to eliminate gender disparity in all levels of education by 2015. The indicators, provided by UNESCO, ILO and IPU are Ratio of girls to boys in primary, secondary and tertiary education, Ratio of literate women to men, 15-24 years old, Share of women in wage employment in the non-agricultural sector and Proportion of seats held by women in national parliament.'

Goal 4: Reduce Child Mortality

The target of the fourth goal is to reduce the under-five mortality rate by two-thirds and increase the proportion of one-year-olds immunized against measles. The indicators, provided by the UNICEF-WHO are Under five mortality rate, Infant mortality rate and Proportion of 1 year-old children immunized against measles.

Goal 5: Improve Maternal Health

The target of the fifth goal is to reduce by three-quarters the maternal mortality ratio and achieve universal access to reproductive healthcare. The indicators, provided by the UNICEF are the Maternal mortality ratio and the Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel.

Goal 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, Malaria and Other Diseases

The target of the sixth goal is to halt and begin to reverse the spread of HIV and Aids by 2015 and to achieve, by 2010, universal access to treatment for HIV and Aids for all those who need it. The indicators, provided by the UNAIDS, WHO, UNICEF and UN Population Division are HIV prevalence among pregnant women aged 15-24 years, Condom use rate of the contraceptive prevalence rate, Condom use at last high-risk sex, Percentage of population aged 15-24 years with comprehensive correct knowledge of HIV/AIDS and Contraceptive prevalence rate. Success is also measured by death rates associated with malaria and tuberculosis, and the use of insecticide-treated bednets and anti-malarial drugs.

Goal 7: Ensure Environmental Sustainability

The target of the seventh goal is to integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programmes and reverse the loss of resources, to reduce biodiversity loss, and to halve by 2015 the proportion of people without access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation. There are several indicators concerning goal seven. The most important ones are Proportion of land area covered by forest, the Ratio of area protected to maintain biological diversity to surface area, Energy use per \$1 GDP, the Carbon dioxide emissions per capita and the Proportion of population using solid fuels.

Goal 8: Global Partnership for Development

The target of the last goal is to develop further an open, rule-based trading and financial system, address the special needs of least developed countries, landlocked and small-island developing states, deal comprehensively with debt burdens for developing countries, provide access to affordable essential medicines, and increase access to new technologies. To also foster global links between the public and private sector to drive more and better development.

PROGRESS

Goal 1: Eradicate Extreme Poverty and Hunger

The proportion of people living in extreme poverty fell from nearly a third in 1990 to 19% in 2004. If this trend continues, the MDG target of halving those living on less than \$1 a day is likely to be met. However, it must be noted that progress toward this goal has been unequal throughout the world. Much achievement has been made especially in East and Southeast Asia. Progress in the regions of Sub-Saharan Africa remains slow and it seems unlikely that this goal should be reached there by the end of 2015. With regards to world hunger from 1990-2004, the proportion of children under five who are underweight decreased by one-fifth across the world. Similarly to the previous case, much progress has been made in Asia, especially East and Southeast Asia, while the problem remains ever pressing in Sub-Saharan Africa but also India and its surrounding regions. In conclusion, the goal of halving the number of people suffering from hunger is unlikely to be met globally unless better progress is made in South Asia (India and surrounding regions) and Sub-Saharan Africa.

Goal 2: Achieve Universal Primary Education

The net enrollment in primary education in the developing world increased from 80% in 1990/1 to 88% in 2004/5; two thirds of this increase occurred after 1999. The lowest rates of enrollment, 70%, are in the region of Sub-Saharan Africa. Girls, children from poor families, and children from rural families are the least likely to be enrolled in primary school. Of primary school age children not in school in 2005,

57% were girls; a third of primary school age children in rural areas of the developing world were not in school, while 18% in urban areas were not in school. It should be noted that in conflict and post-conflict situations, official data is not usually available; if this data were available for global estimates, it would likely have a significant downward effect on rates.

Goal 3: Promote Gender Equality and Empower Women

Gender equality, a highly controversial issue in many developing areas, remains a largely unsolved goal. Worldwide, over 60% of unpaid family workers are women; women in rural areas are especially likely to be unpaid. With regards to the employment of women, the participation of women in paid, non-agricultural employment in areas such as South Asia, Western Asia, and Oceania, has increased, but the rates in North Africa have remained largely static.

Goal 4: Reduce Child Mortality

Child mortality rates have been on a constant decline over the past years. Under-5 deaths have continued to decline from 11.6 million in 1990 to 7.2 million deaths in 2011. Of the deaths in 2011, 2.2 million were early neonatal (0 to 6 days), 0.7 million were late neonatal (7 to 28 days), 2.1 million were postneonatal (29 to 364 days), and 2.2 million were during childhood (1 to 4 years). Comparing rates of decline from 1990 to 2000 with 2000 to 2011 shows that 106 countries have accelerated declines in child mortality over the past decade. However, the rates have been uneven throughout the world and remain the highest in sub-Saharan Africa, South Asia, Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) nations in Asia, and in Oceania. In these regions, the most significant factors limiting progress are usually AIDS, malaria and war. Of the 75 countries with the highest number of preventable child deaths, just 17 are expected to meet this target by 2015. UNICEF estimates that goal 4, at the current pace, will not be reached until 2028.

Goal 5: Improve Maternal Health

Globally, an estimated 287 000 women died during pregnancy and childbirth in 2010, a decline of 47% from levels in 1990. Most of them died because they had no access to skilled routine and emergency care. Since 1990, some countries in Asia and Northern Africa have more than halved maternal mortality. There has also been progress in sub-Saharan Africa. But here, unlike in the developed world where a woman's life time risk of dying during pregnancy and childbirth is 1 in 3800, the risk of maternal death is very high at 1 in 39. Increasing numbers of women are now seeking care during childbirth in health facilities and therefore it is important to ensure that quality of care provided is optimal. Globally, over 10% of all women do not have access to or are not using an effective method of contraception. It is estimated that satisfying the unmet need for family planning alone could cut the number of maternal deaths by almost a third. The UN Secretary-General's Global Strategy for Women's and Children's Health aims to

prevent 33 million unwanted pregnancies between 2011 and 2015 and to save the lives of women who are at risk of dying of complications during pregnancy and childbirth, including unsafe abortion.

Goal 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, Malaria and Other Diseases

At the end of 2012, 35.3million people were living with HIV. That same year, some 2.3 million people became newly infected, and 1.7 million died of AIDS, including 230 000 children. Close to 10 million people in low- and middle-income countries were receiving antiretroviral therapy at the end of 2012. More than two-thirds of new HIV infections are in sub-Saharan Africa.

Around the world, 3.3 billion people are at risk of contracting malaria. In 2012, an estimated 207 million cases occurred, and the disease killed approx. 627 000 people – most of them children under five in Africa. On average, malaria kills a child every minute.

There were an estimated 8.6 million new cases of TB in 2012 (including 1.1 million cases among people with HIV) and an estimated 1.3 million deaths (including 320 000 people with HIV), making this disease one of the world's biggest infectious killers.

The world is on track to reach the MDG target of reversing TB incidence by 2015. However incidence is falling very slowly. In addition, all regions, except Africa and Europe, are on track to achieve the Stop TB Partnership target of 50% decline in mortality by 2015.

(WHO)

Goal 7: Ensure Environmental Sustainability

With regards to sustainable development and the usage of environmental resources, the global situation has not improved significantly. In 1990-2005, the world lost 3% of its forests, primarily due to the conversion of forests to agricultural land in developing nations. Greenhouse gas emissions, not only those associated with deforestation, remain extremely high. Emissions in Southeast Asia and North Africa more than doubled between 1990 and 2004. Although much effort has been made to lower emissions of greenhouse gases to the atmosphere, the use of renewable energies still only accounts for 0.5% of total energy consumption.

With regards to safe drinking water, the world has met the MDG target. In 2011, 89% of the population used an improved source of drinking-water compared with 76% in 1990. Progress has however been uneven across different regions, between urban and rural areas, and between rich and poor.

However, with regards to basic sanitation, the current rates of progress are too slow and it is unlikely that this part of goal seven is to be met by the end of 2015. In 2010, 2.5 billion people did not have access to improved sanitation facilities, with

1 billion these people still practicing open defecation. The number of people living in urban areas without access to improved sanitation is increasing because of rapid growth in the size of urban populations.

Goal 8: Global Partnership for Development

Goal 8 has a large number of sub-targets. Due to the nature of the goal – the fact that it covers a broad range of aspirations, the UN taskforce has evaluated the goal recently as one, in which it is difficult to identify areas of significant progress. It merely focuses on what rich countries can and should do. The goal, unlike the others, does not include a specific bound-time targets, which in practice means that develop countries tend to devote less attention to it. The primary target of goal 8 is to improve the trade climate for developing and least developed countries – a total of 83% of least developed country exports enter developed countries duty-free; in 2012, trade of developing countries and transition economies outpace the world average. With regards, to the debt of developing countries, debt relief, better debt management, and the expansion of trade, have all contributed to reducing to burden of debt service of developing countries.

The text above goes to great depths to analyze to progress of each of the individual goals. However, it is also vital to look at and evaluate what the Millennium Development Goals have accomplished as a whole. Millennium development goals have been regarded as the *world's greatest promise*. It seems almost miraculous that the leaders of the world managed to agree on a path towards universal prosperity and to eradicate global poverty. Just over a year and a half now remain until the end of 2015. A number of goals – such as reducing extreme poverty – were met comfortably ahead of schedule. Primary education around the world has increased visibly. The greatest success of the MDGs concerns health – child mortality rates has plummeted in developing countries since 2000. However, there are other goals, which still remain far from being completed. These goals relate mostly to hunger, sanitation, and the environment. The big question now is, whether all the goals, with the final deadline drawing ever close, can be reached. Many fear, that such a task is impossible. As put forward by the UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon in 2011, the greatest problem of MDGs is that the most vulnerable had not managed to benefit from the program. Many countries of the world in fact remain far from reaching a number of the above-mentioned targets. The progress of MDGs has been noticeably uneven throughout the world. There are many reasons for this – the increasing global food price, the recent economic crises and in some cases – military conflict. The world and the United Nations must now focus on the final evaluation of the Millennium Development Goals, on determining which of the world's problems are the most pressing and steps must be taken unconditionally to solve them, and on establishing new post-2015 goals.

Setting up New Millennium Development Goals

Setting up a new set of development goals is an important and lately much discussed topic in the UN; it is also the most important part of the debate in the PORGMUN MDG Committee.

At the 2010 Review Summit that had the purpose of accelerating the fulfillment of MDGs, Post-2015 Development agenda was also discussed. NGOs and Think Tanks joined in on the process and Ban-Ki Moon, the Secretary-General of United Nations, launched a High Level Panel of Eminent Persons. The panel was co-chaired by the President of Indonesia, President of Liberia, and Prime Minister David Cameron of the United Kingdom. It is a part of the inclusive approach that involves member states and civil society in consultations of the post-2015 developmental agenda. The High Level Panel submitted its report to the Secretary-General in May 2013. This landmark report contains recommendations to the Secretary-General that have already started to shape the post-2015 agenda. It states that the success of the goals is a matter of implementation and calls for global cooperation. To encourage the implementation from all parties, the agenda must be coherent, ambitious yet possible to realize, and must bring together the economic growth, social inclusion, and environmental sustainability.

One of the primary focuses of the agenda is to reshape and revitalize the global governance. In order to be the most effective, it must be transparent, accessible to everyone, and cooperating. The global community must not be fragmented and the work of international organizations must not overlap and cause the duplication of efforts. In order to do this, the new goals must be supported by a wide system of international actors, not just by UN itself.

The next step is protecting the environment. This is a global cause, as the deterioration of environment knows no political boundaries. According to the Panel, the poor were hit the hardest with environment degradation. Each country should help accordingly to their responsibility and capacity to create a more stable climate, clean atmosphere, healthy and productive forests and oceans. Disaster preparedness needs to be improved in order to save lives especially in the poor regions of the world.

According to latest reports by the UN Population Division, the human population should peak at approximately 2050 with 9-10 billion of people alive. This means that the world will have to revise the way resources are used to find more sustainable production and, most importantly, consumption. This is why Rio+20 Conference on Sustainable Development initiated the process to create Sustainable Development Goals – SDGs for the post-2015 period. It was agreed that the goals must be coherent with the rest of post-2015 development agenda, they must build upon commitments already made and they must balance all three aspects of the

development agenda – economic, social, and environmental.

Another topic that has been widely discussed as far as world development up to 2030 goes is the eradication of extreme poverty. The High Level Panel co-chaired by David Cameron stressed that meanwhile this promise has been made many times before, today, for the first time in history, it can be reached within a generation. The importance of this issue has also been brought to light by Jim Yong Kim, the President of the World Bank group. In his speech delivered at Georgetown University, he stated that this will be one of his main priorities throughout his mandate. Mr. Kim also identified the cause of the failure of anti-poverty pushes so far; they have not enough focused on unstable regions, especially those in conflict. These are, however, the regions where the fight against poverty is most important and can also be most effective. He also warned about the importance of supervising the delivery of the development, as in some countries it is common that children visit school, but do not learn to read or write there. Similarly, building projects are often approved, but years later still uncompleted.

Structure of the Committee's outcome resolution

Generating a new set of Development Goals is an incredibly complex agenda; it requires that realistic, yet ambitious goals are found and are acceptable to all international parties for the widest support. The best way that UN can use to demonstrate the unity of its Member States is by drafting a declaration. This Declaration should have the format of a resolution as to ensure it is legally clear and unambiguous; the form does not need to be held too strictly, however, so it is understandable to all other parties. To embrace the unity of the Member States (which will surely arise during the debates), each operative clause should start with "We", or "We, the Member States". The Declaration may be divided into several chapters, each focusing on one aspect of the agenda. To pass the agenda legally in the committee, it should be inserted into a resolution. This resolution will have only one operative clause reading: "Adopts the following Declaration". This resolution may not be voted upon. It may be accepted by consensus. Adopting a resolution by consensus means that once all of the delegations are satisfied with the contents of a resolution, the chair will claim that "this resolution was adopted". Unless at least one delegate objects, the resolution is then accepted unanimously without vote. Only single objection is enough to stop the resolution from passing though. As it is in everyone interest to pass a resolution by consensus, because it gives it higher legitimacy, the last objecting Member State gets the advantage of having the high ground in further negotiations.

Conclusion

The Millennium Development Goals Committee is to carefully study all of the

existing MDGs and release a short resolution to assess their successes and their weak points. The main focus of the Committee shall be, however, the creation of new goals by creating a new Declaration. These goals should fully correspond to what the United Nations have agreed to so far with its partners. The most important point is creating global partnerships with governments, think tanks, civil society, and the commercial sector in the cause for creating a better, more sustainable world with no extreme poverty.

Further reading:

Millennium Development Goals Report 2013:

<http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/pdf/report-2013/mdg-report-2013-english.pdf>

Millennium Development Goals: At a Glance:

http://www.un-kampagne.de/fileadmin/downloads/presse/MDGs-at-a-Glance-engl-03-2010_02.pdf

United Nations Millennium Declaration:

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

Millennium Development Goals Detailed Reading:

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

Millennium Development Goals Executive Summary:

[http://www.pnud.cl/odm/resumen\(ingles\).pdf](http://www.pnud.cl/odm/resumen(ingles).pdf)

Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform:

<http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/?menu=1300>

Communiqué from the meeting of the High-Level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda in Bali, Indonesia, 27 March 2013:

<http://www.un.org/sg/management/pdf/Final%20Communique%20Bali.pdf>

2013 Goal 1 Fact Sheet:

http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/pdf/Goal_1_fs.pdf

2013 Goal 2 Fact Sheet:

http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/pdf/Goal_2_fs.pdf

2013 Goal 3 Fact Sheet:

http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/pdf/Goal_3_fs.pdf

2013 Goal 4 Fact Sheet:

http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/pdf/Goal_4_fs.pdf

2013 Goal 5 Fact Sheet:

http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/pdf/Goal_5_fs.pdf

2013 Goal 6 Fact Sheet:

http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/pdf/Goal_6_fs.pdf

2013 Goal 7 Fact Sheet:

http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/pdf/Goal_7_fs.pdf

2013 Goal 8 Fact Sheet:

http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/pdf/Goal_8_fs.pdf