



# *Brasilia Declaration:*

*Proposal for Implementing the  
Millennium Development Goals*

*November 17, 2003*

# Preamble

The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) constitute a set of agreed and measurable targets. As expressed in the United Nations Millennium Declaration (adopted in September 2000 by 191 heads of state and government at the Millennium Summit), they provide an unprecedented basis for building a partnership between developed and developing countries to achieve poverty reduction and sustainable development with equity.

The Millennium Development Goals, mainly targeted for 2015, seek to halve the numbers of those suffering extreme poverty and hunger; to achieve universal primary education and gender equality; to reduce by two thirds the mortality rate among children under five; to reduce by three quarters the maternal mortality ratio; to halt the spread of HIV/AIDS and malaria; to guarantee environmental sustainability; and to promote a global partnership for development with specific goals for foreign aid, debt relief, trade expansion and technology transfer.

A pledge for action on the part of the international community, the Millennium Declaration has provided new perspectives and set down the foundations for a broad, comprehensive and more effective development agenda, with emphasis on the human dimension.

The Millennium Declaration contains a statement of values, a set of renewed commitments, and puts poverty reduction at the top of the challenges confronting the world in the new century. To resolve this problem, what is required — both domestically and internationally — is a context that encourages equitable and sustainable development.

The objectives and targets of the Millennium Declaration coincide with the mandates and priorities adopted in the Summits of the Americas. Like the Millennium Declaration, the Declaration of the 2001 Quebec Summit focuses on the issues and challenges that confront the countries of the hemisphere, and gives priority to the elimination of poverty within a context of equity, democratic governance and environmental sustainability. It also recognizes the interdependence of these problems and the need for better coordination and participation on the part of governments, parliaments, civil society organizations, the private sector and international agencies.

It is with a view to reaffirming the commitments undertaken by the region and the international community at the Millennium Summit, and more recently at the International Finance for Development Conference held in Monterrey, Mexico, in 2002, and to push ahead the agenda agreed by the various parties, that the Inter-American Development Bank, the World Bank, the UN Development Program and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, jointly with the Brazilian government, organized the international conference entitled “Promoting Political Consensus around the Implementation of the Millennium Development Goals in Latin America and the Caribbean.”

On November 16 and 17, 2003, Heads of State, government ministers, parliamentarians, senior officials and representatives from civil society and the private sector met in the city of Brasília, Brazil, with representatives of the international community.

The participants identified both the obligations and opportunities that fulfilling the Millennium Development Goals agenda presupposes for the various actors. Their conclusions are expressed in the present document, which includes proposals for implementing the Millennium Development Goals that need to be supported by the various actors involved.

## Governments

The role that governments should play in fulfilling the Millennium Development Goals was discussed. The priority actions that were identified include:

- Promoting a socioeconomic platform inspired by the principles of the Summits of the Americas, and the Doha, Johannesburg and Monterrey agendas, in order to eradicate poverty and promote social equity in the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean.
- Promoting and stimulating national debates on the Millennium Development Goals among parliaments, civil society organizations and the private sector, with a view that all the relevant social actors will adopt the goals as their own.
- Adapting the Millennium Development Goals to the specific local conditions of each country, including dimensions such as equity, ethnicity, gender and those arising from local diversity.
- Creating appropriate government mechanisms for horizontal coordination, for instance an inter-ministerial commission, to carry forward comprehensive and multi-sectoral initiatives and activities to meet the Millennium Development Goals
- Focusing public sector performance on the impact of its actions by means of effective programs, results-based management practices, program monitoring and evaluation, with a view to improve and enhance policy effectiveness and use financial resources in effective, timely and responsible ways.
- Ensuring greater transparency in budget execution and incorporating the Millennium Development goals into domestic planning and budgeting.
- Institutionalizing social and environmental policies and programs in ways that promote viable business conditions, strengthen public governance and promote democracy and respect for human rights to ensure that development goals are achieved and sustained.
- Creating ties between the national and international communities to help mobilize the resources needed for national programs, especially those designed to mitigate hunger and poverty.
- Creating integrated information systems that enable follow-up on the results of public policy and governmental programs, as well as monitoring progress on implementation of the Millennium Development Goals.
- Proposing initiatives to the international community geared to supporting governments, where relevant, through concessional resources and technical assistance that help meet the targets derived from the Millennium Development Goals within the time frames set.

## Legislators

The role and basic policy instruments at the disposal of legislative bodies for meeting the Millennium Development Goals were discussed. The priority actions agreed include:

- Overcoming the scant dissemination of the Millennium Development Goals among the legislative bodies of the region by means of an information strategy aimed at their officials, members and specialized committees on the policies, programs, targets and indicators involved.
- Supporting development plans through the promotion of laws, strategies, public policies, financing and budget allocations needed to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, gearing their design to the new logic and ethics that underpin them, especially raising the priority afforded to issues of poverty, equity, education, health, gender, ethnicity and environmental sustainability.

- Designing mechanisms to improve the effectiveness of parliamentary committees, especially those dealing with budgets and finance, on matters to do with poverty reduction, equity and social inclusion. Special attention should be given to strategies related to permanent training and information for legislators.
- Turning the Millennium Development Goals into a reference framework for strategies of regional integration, free trade agreements and international financial negotiations.
- Helping in the oversight of progress and results in meeting the Millennium Development Goals, particularly those related to poverty, equity and social inclusion, and strengthening the linkages with government at the national, regional and local levels, as well as with civil society and the private sector.

## *Civil Society*

The role that different social actors can play in driving implementation of the Millennium Development Goals was discussed, and how this role could be enhanced. The priority actions identified include:

- Participating in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals, acknowledging the role of civil society organizations and the private sector in developing new methodologies and building up experience that will help enhance policy-making at the national and local levels.
- Providing improved opportunities and mechanisms for institutional development among civil society organizations, respecting their autonomy and identity as well as those of the social movements of which they form part.
- Strengthening the ties between civil society organizations and government bodies, as well as those of the United Nations and other multilateral organizations, within the ambit of strengthening of democratic institutions and systems and policies to fight poverty and promote social inclusion.
- Promoting wider dissemination of the Millennium Development Goals in local languages and dialects to ensure that knowledge of them is widely distributed throughout society and by so doing to enable opinions to be formed and to give everyone a part to play in achieving them.
- Helping the people of each country to adopt the Millennium Development Goals as their own, contributing to the creation of reference standards, institutional capacities, strategies, targets and indicators appropriate to local conditions.
- Promoting a culture of peace that values sustainable development as key elements in building a climate of solidarity for implementing the Millennium Development Goals, acknowledging ethnic, cultural and gender perspectives and giving voice to the vulnerable and excluded.
- Promoting a globalization with solidarity that respects the human rights of all citizens, men and women, in every country, and takes into account the environment as a variable that guarantees a better quality of life for present and future generations.
- Establishing mechanisms to ensure transparency in the efficient use of public resources so as to fulfil the Millennium Development Goals, and promoting participatory structures in those countries that do not have poverty reduction strategies, involving state entities and social agents in monitoring, following-up and evaluating the Millennium Development Goals.
- Helping to oversee fulfillment of the commitments made by the international community with regard to the Millennium Development Goals, especially in striving for a clear definition of targets and indicators, as well as norms to monitor fulfillment.

## *The International Community*

Additional and more effective contributions on the part of the international community in helping the Millennium Development Goals to be achieved were discussed. Agreed priority actions include:

- Directing the community's efforts in such ways as to contribute to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals within a system of shared responsibilities.
- Taking on board the commitments made at the Monterrey Conference with regard to the needs for international development finance, so that international cooperation reaches the levels set and its effectiveness increases in line with a set of performance targets related to the eighth Millennium Development Goal.
- Making the utmost effort to renew the dialogue and reach a satisfactory conclusion of the Doha Development Round, thereby increasing the opportunities for trade, reducing trade barriers, and progressively eliminating the agricultural subsidies employed by developed countries that distort international market prices.
- Making the utmost effort to support national poverty eradication programs, stressing the congruence between the work of donors and national priorities and harmonizing bilateral programs and their relationship to multilateral ones, both at headquarters as well as at the country level, in line with the agreements contained in the Rome Declaration.
- Supporting technological progress and taking steps to reduce the digital divide between countries and regions, stimulating the generation and expansion of opportunities in the knowledge economy, and promoting the transfer of state-of-the-art technologies that developing countries need to implement the Millennium Development Goals.
- Supporting the adoption of international environmental indicators and standards and backing their effective implementation.
- Providing an effective contribution to meeting the eighth Millennium Development Goal. This implies a set of commitments on the part of developed economies to support initiatives that lead to more development aid, the building of a non-discriminatory trade system, the relief and sustainable financing of foreign debt, as well as the periodic follow-up and evaluation of the commitments made by developed countries (along the lines anticipated in the recommendations of the Development Aid Committee of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, OECD).

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**We are practically at the half-way point between 1990 and 2015. It is the moment not only to evaluate the advances made so far, but more importantly to intensify individual and collective efforts to fulfil the commitments in order to attain a future with peace, justice and welfare for the great majority of people, and better conditions for all.**

*Political Consensus regarding the Implementation of the  
Millennium Development Goals for Latin America and the Caribbean*



**Inter-American  
Development Bank**



**WORLD  
BANK**