

# Towards a Global MDG Breakthrough Plan:

## An NGLS Global Civil Society Consultation Report



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Since the UN General Assembly Hearings with civil society and other actors were first instituted in 2005, NGLS has played a pioneering role not only in facilitating the Hearings and civil society participation in them, but also in conducting a series of online consultations that have sought to enable civil society's concerns and views to be heard on a larger scale. In 2009, NGLS held the "Civil Society Consultation on the Work of the President of the UN General Assembly's Commission of Experts on Reforms of the International Monetary and Financial System." The resulting report of the consultation fed into the "Stiglitz Commission" as it prepared its findings, and then later into the June 2009 UN Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and its Impact on Development. Earlier consultations undertaken by NGLS include the consultation on the 2005 World Summit and a consultation on the draft Guiding Principles on Extreme Poverty and Human Rights.

The United Nations Non-Governmental Liaison Service (NGLS) promotes constructive relations between the United Nations, governments and a growing range of non-state actors, in particular civil society organizations. By providing strategic information, analysis and support, NGLS is part of the United Nations' efforts to build coherence around cross-cutting and emerging issues on the UN's agenda; to strengthen multistakeholder policy dialogue; and to ensure meaningful civil society engagement in UN processes.

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**To download the full report**, access all civil society submissions and other information on the consultation, visit: [www.un-ngls.org/mdgconsultation](http://www.un-ngls.org/mdgconsultation)

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## Background on the MDG summit

2010 will be a critical year in determining which development pathways our world will pursue. In 2000, UN Member States agreed to the Millennium Declaration and committed themselves to achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by 2015.

Only five years remain to achieve the MDGs, and despite considerable progress in some areas and countries, collectively we are falling short. The consequence of our collective failure is that improvements in the lives of the poorest are slow to be realized – or not at all – and are now being further eroded by the onset of multiple economic, food and climate crises.

UN Member States will again come together this September in New York for an “MDG summit” (High-level Plenary Meeting), with the primary objective of accelerating progress towards the achievement of the MDGs by 2015, taking into account the progress made towards the internationally agreed development goals (see [www.un-ngls.org/mdg2010](http://www.un-ngls.org/mdg2010)).

As a part of the process leading to the summit, the General Assembly convened “Hearings” with representatives of civil society and the private sector from 14-15 June. The outcome of these Hearings is to be integrated into the political process leading to the summit and its outcome document.

In an effort to enhance the participation and inclusiveness of this process, the United Nations Non-Governmental Liaison Service (UN-NGLS), in cooperation with the UN Millennium Campaign, undertook a consultation with civil society groups across the globe to compile their views into a single report made available to Member States and other interested stakeholders.

## Methodology for this Consultation

The NGLS consultation aimed to be as inclusive as possible and was designed to enable civil society perspectives to build on the Secretary-General’s report for the MDG Summit *Keeping the Promise*. In commenting on this report, contributors were asked to provide analysis and recommendations around four themes:

1. Why are we so far behind in key areas?
2. Emerging issues and challenges;
3. Proposals to accelerate progress; and
4. An action- and accountability-oriented agenda for all stakeholders.

The consultation also drew on the findings of the May 2010 UNCTAD Public Symposium co-organized with NGLS, which brought together over 300 civil society organizations worldwide to discuss implications for MDGs of “*Responding to Global Crises: New Development Paths*.” ([www.unctad.org/publicsymposium](http://www.unctad.org/publicsymposium))

NGLS has an extensive outreach capacity to civil society organizations; and, once informed, the organizations themselves took it upon themselves to advertise the consultation within their own networks.

Over 200 responses from some 160 organizations were received during the consultation, many of them from different networks that bring together millions of people on different issues (development, health, trade, gender, global unions, environment, etc.) across several countries from the North and the South. Many of the organisations that responded are networks or federations of hundreds of organizations or even “networks of networks” representing thousands of member organisations. Other submissions reflect the views of a smaller number of civil society entities and people.

The report outlines civil society perspectives on the status of MDGs’ implementation, (factors responsible for achievements and constraints encountered) and suggestions for actions that need to be carried out between 2010 and 2015 to ensure that the MDGs are achieved and are sustainable.

The report itself is structured into three main parts:

- I. Introduction: The MDGs in Context
- II. Proposals for the Way Forward; and
- III. Compendium of MDG-specific Proposals Scaling up and replicating success.

This structure aligns closely with the proposed structure of the draft Summit outcome document as well.<sup>1</sup>

The NGLS report does not represent a “consensus document” among NGOs, but aims to reflect the content of civil society proposals for creating a “Global Breakthrough Plan” for achieving the MDGs over the next five years. It is hoped that it will serve to foster debate and generate innovative thinking on how to take the agenda forward.

For further information on methodology of this consultation, see the NGLS website ([www.un-npls.org/mdgconsultation](http://www.un-npls.org/mdgconsultation)). The full report and all substantive submissions can also be found there.

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<sup>1</sup> “Zero Draft” introduced by Co-facilitators on 31 May 2010

## Executive Summary

*Civil society organizations are mobilizing around the world to make their voices heard in global discussions on how to accelerate and sustain progress in meeting the 2015 target for the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in the lead-up to the September 2010 MDG summit. Many of their concerns and proposals will be expressed in Hearings of the General Assembly with civil society and the private sector (14-15 June 2010). NGLS undertook a global online consultation that was designed to scale up and deepen that engagement.*

*The briefing gives an overview of the recommendations that came out of the consultation, to which over 160 international, national and local civil society organizations representing millions of people from around the world contributed. It also draws on the findings of the 2010 UNCTAD Public Symposium, co-organized with NGLS, which brought together over 300 civil society organizations worldwide to discuss implications for MDGs of “Responding to Global Crises: New Development Paths.” The following is the Executive Summary of a much larger report that compiles proposals ranging from measures to deal with the immediate expansion of effective initiatives to deeper reforms of the global development and economic system.*

### I. The MDGs in Context

Most responses emphasized that the MDGs have proven to be a useful mobilization tool and an often unifying and powerful force in development. The contributions affirmed that strong and strategic social investment directly contributes to reductions in poverty and overall improvements in health, education, social protection and inclusion as well as for our natural environment. Contributors identified many examples of success in the implementation of initiatives that directly contributed to major progress in some areas (see Box, p. 12).

These positive examples need to be replicated and scaled-up. But the overwhelming majority of contributors were also concerned about the limitations of the MDG framework if it was divorced from a broader transformational agenda based on the need for new development paths that integrate the goal of full and productive employment, the transition to a greener economy and a much more explicit use of human rights in accountability frameworks.

For most contributors, the onset of the multiple global food, economic and climate crises was the latest wake-up call alerting the world to the many flaws of the prevailing development model of recent decades. The multiple crises only reinforced demands among many contributors for a major breakthrough in the “global partnership” embodied in Goal 8 on international economic and development cooperation, which is the only MDG without time-bound targets.

Many participants echoed the UN Secretary-General’s call for strengthened national ownership of policies to pursue more inclusive, equitable and environmentally sustainable development paths. This implied greater policy space to mobilize domestic resources and align forward-looking macroeconomic and sectoral policies with development goals – currently often still restricted by inappropriate external conditionalities, trade rules and the dictates of international financial markets.

However, a number of civil society groups insisted that the current failure to deliver on Goal 8 should not be used by national governments as an excuse to not better use existing policy space – such as redeploying excess military budgets to social and development programmes and undertaking courageous national re-distributional policies. For many, national ownership meant first and foremost breaking from a “dependency mentality.”

Thus the many proposals for new development paths discussed in Part II also place emphasis on much stronger and participatory national accountability frameworks based on fundamental human rights.

Many contributors welcomed the UN Secretary-General’s insistence on a holistic approach to the MDGs. A “sectoral” approach to the MDGs could lead to dysfunctional outcomes, such as young people having benefited from adequate health and education services only to face an economic system that does not provide enough productive jobs. Likewise, the MDGs have a number of targets designed to redress some of the most glaring gender inequalities – with much greater progress on access to education for girls than on reducing maternal mortality. But the focus on specific targets should not obscure the fact that overcoming gender inequality is a factor in achieving all the MDGs. In the same vein, biodiversity, ecosystems and natural processes (under Goal 7) provide key building blocks for poverty reduction under Goal 1: their demise increases the vulnerability of the poor and seriously jeopardizes the chances of meeting the MDGs.

Understanding how all the MDGs are inter-related is essential for thinking on how to move forward. For instance it was suggested that calls for more investments to improve the position of the most off-track MDGs and regions should be backed by additional resources to avoid cut backs on continued progress on other MDGs (for instance, a choice between access to schools and access to water, between health care and food). A broader holistic approach means fully addressing the cross-cutting obstacles that undermine the realization of all MDGs (whether in relation to difficulties in mobilizing additional resources, unsustainable and inequitable development paths, or unaccountable governance structures at national and international levels). In addition to the many MDG-specific proposals to scale up progress (see Part III of the full report) this was the principle outcome and value-added of this consultation. Proposals on cross-cutting priorities to accelerate progress are summarized below.

## II. Proposals for the Way Forward

### 1. A Breakthrough Plan for Goal 8

1.1 **Live up to development aid commitments:** Donor countries should commit to interim targets between 2010 and 2015 to demonstrate how they will achieve their targets, as well as to Heads of State level reviews of progress from now to 2015. To strengthen national ownership, the summit should call for budget support to become the main vehicle for aid delivery to countries committed to poverty reduction and good domestic accountability systems.

1.2 **Align debt sustainability with MDG resource requirements:** Emergency support for counter-cyclical crisis mitigation should be in the form of grants not loans to avert a new debt crisis, which inevitably would entail regressions on most MDGs. Debt cancellation (not diverted from ODA) to the poorest countries should be part of the crisis response, while illegitimate debt should be audited and cancelled. The summit should agree to establish a fair and transparent debt workout mechanism under UN auspices and to redefine debt sustainability with the domestic resources required to meet the MDGs.

1.3 **Agree to implement a Financial Transactions Tax:** The summit should agree on implementing various innovative financing mechanisms – first and foremost a financial transactions tax to help generate the hundreds of billions of dollars needed each year to support developing countries in dealing with climate change and transition to more equitable and sustainable development paths capable of meeting all MDGs. The allocation of these funds should be managed within a UN framework.

1.4 **Step up international tax cooperation:** Various international measures to combat capital flight, tax competition, corporate tax evasion and transfer pricing are essential to enable developing countries to mobilize domestic resources to finance all MDGs and beyond. The summit should support the adoption of a multilateral agreement on automatic exchange of information, country-by-country reporting by multinational companies and give a strong political mandate to the UN Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters.

1.5 **Explore the development role of reformed SDR mechanisms:** The summit should agree that the UN should continue exploring the potential of extended and more equitable forms of Special Drawing Rights (SDR) allocation as a new form of international liquidity that could greatly increase policy space in developing countries to mobilize resources to fight climate change and invest in more sustainable development paths – including through regional mechanisms, involving reserve pooling, regional currencies and public development banks.

1.6 **Reregulate global finance – especially in food and commodity markets:** The summit should recognize the right of developing countries to implement appropriate capital controls, not only for crisis prevention but to direct investments to meet development goals. It should give impetus to rein in financial speculation in general, and speculation in food and commodity markets in particular – given the major setbacks it has caused, especially on the hunger target under Goal 1 and child mortality under Goal 4.

1.7 **Promote fair trade rules to meet the MDGs:** The summit should agree to a review of the current Doha trade agenda and other trade agreements with a view to removing elements that could lead to further MDG regressions caused by inappropriate trade liberalization in developing countries. It should endorse the call by Least-Developed Countries (LDCs) for an “early harvest” of unilateral trade measures in favour of LDCs, and support the adoption of food and livelihoods safeguard mechanisms in all multilateral, regional and bilateral trade agreements – without *qui pro quo* concessions by developing countries – as an essential means to stabilize progress, notably under MDG 1. It should also support the right of developing countries to fully use the flexibilities with the TRIPs agreement to source affordable medicines, including for HIV/AIDS and malaria treatment.

### 2. A Breakthrough Plan for New Development Paths

2.1 **Fully implement the Global Jobs Pact within the next five years:** Among the most important decisions taken at the last global MDG review was the introduction of “*full and productive employment and decent work for all*” as a new target for MDG 1. This provides a

powerful tool to better hold national and international economic policy making bodies accountable as to whether their policies are supporting or undermining the MDGs.<sup>2</sup> The summit should agree to implement all the commitments in the 2009 Global Jobs Pact, including employment-intensive counter-cyclical measures, a universal social protection floor (see below) and reforms of international finance to ensure that it serves the real economy and decent work for all.

**2.2 Implement a universal “Social Protection Floor”:** The summit should agree on a set of national and international measures to rapidly ensure that an effective social protection floor is in place in every country, providing access to essential public services and a basic set of social transfers that establish a minimum level of income security and health care for all. The summit should agree that such a floor is only the first step to fulfilling Article 22 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The summit must also call for the elimination of policies that undermine this objective, including the elimination of user fees on all essential services. This would not only benefit Goal 1, but also MDGs related to education (when cash transfers are conditional on school attendance and user fees are eliminated) and to health (through access to a basic health care package). Such a floor of minimum income security would also help promote gender equality by reducing the burden of reproductive and unpaid work, as well as cope with climate change-induced livelihood disruptions, thus a relevant climate adaptation element pertaining to Goal 7.

**2.3 Support a “localization agenda” based on expanding productive employment and decent work for all:** The summit should agree that development strategies should be reoriented to rely more on domestic sources of demand growth, based on forward looking macroeconomic and sectoral policies that promote more employment-intensive growth, higher wages and incomes for working people, as well as domestic productive capacities to supply local and regional markets and generate green jobs. This would not only directly benefit poverty and hunger reduction under Goal 1, but also increase family incomes to send children to school or pay for health bills, and help empower women through non-discrimination at the workplace. The localization agenda would also contribute to reducing CO2 emissions under Goal 7 by reducing trade-related transport pollution costs of export-led models of development.

**2.4 Support and protect the livelihoods and capacities of smallholder farmers:** The summit should agree on an overhaul in agricultural policy that must not only be aimed at strengthening the capacity of smallholder farmers to produce more staple foods for local markets, but also ensure that they get a higher share of income, that external support builds on indigenous knowledge, and trade and other policies protect their livelihoods from import surges, price drops and environmental disasters. This is an essential reorientation to support progress under Goal 1, but should not be a substitute to stepping up nutrition programmes as a necessary complement to fight hunger and child mortality.

**2.5 Mobilize greater domestic resources for the transition:** The summit should agree that developing countries should, where possible, use better their domestic policy space to improve progressive tax collection and redistribution to finance Goals 1 to 7, but this should be in tandem with the global breakthrough plan under Goal 8 to reverse a “race-to-the-bottom” in progressive tax revenue.

**2.6 Integrate human rights in new development paths:** The summit should agree to integrate human rights prerogatives in the pursuit of new development paths, as an essential foundation for a more inclusive and equitable political process of resource allocation between now and 2015. The application of human rights principles are fundamental for progress on MDGs related to gender equality, access to food, decent work, education, health (including universal HIV/AIDS care, prevention and treatment), water, sanitation, housing, environmental protection and also international economic and development cooperation. Progress on meeting MDGs for vulnerable groups such as women, children, the disabled and indigenous peoples should be integrated in the MDG monitoring frameworks. The summit should also explicitly reiterate that the MDGs rest upon the Millennium Declaration and ultimately, the international community and individual Member States are accountable to the full realization of all human rights. In this respect, much more needs to be done to operationalize the Right to Development.

### **3. Accountability frameworks 2010-2015**

**3.1 Implement mechanisms for accountability to international policy coherence:** The summit should agree to establish and implement mechanisms at national, regional and international levels to ensure international policy coherence for development. These mechanisms (such as the EU’s Policy Coherence for Development) should ensure that policies in areas such as trade, finance, investment, technology, energy and agriculture support and do not undermine development and progress towards the MDGs. All these policies should be assessed in terms of their MDG impact between now and 2012, with full participation of civil society and parliaments.

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<sup>2</sup> See *Decent Work and Fair Globalization: A Guide to Policy Dialogue*, UN Non-Governmental Liaison Service, May 2010 available on: [www.un-ngls.org/decentwork](http://www.un-ngls.org/decentwork)

3.2 **Establish a public register of all development commitments:** The summit should agree that the UN secretariat establishes a public register of commitments for development that should inscribe commitments made by any government in any policy area with clear indication of aim, destination, conditions, targets, indicators and timetables.

3.3 **Step up accountability of the international aid architecture:** The summit should strengthen mechanisms for monitoring and mutual accountability between donors and recipient countries and greater coherence of development policy – within a participatory framework that ensures more balanced country representation. The UN’s Development Cooperation Forum should thus be strengthened as the more legitimate and balanced forum to reform international development cooperation, in a manner that gives equal weight to the participation of civil society and parliamentarians and brings in all the major development actors.

3.4 **Democratize and hold international financial institutions accountable:** The summit must give further impetus to urgent democratization of the international financial institutions (IFIs), starting with national and international mechanisms to ensure that the IFIs future operations are free of harmful policy conditionalities that undermine the MDGs.

3.5 **Consider establishing an accountable global economic governance framework:** The summit should recognize that global economic governance cannot continue operating outside of an accountability framework, where global economic coordination and reform decisions are not subject to the test of coherence with development goals and the scrutiny of the wider UN membership and civil society. The summit should thus consider establishing within the UN system a leaders’ forum (such as a Global Economic Council), that would be (a) inclusive of the poorest countries; (b) representative in composition; (c) transparent and accountable—and informed by expert groups from academia, civil society and relevant UN bodies; and (d) open to civil society by institutionalizing effective consultations ahead of and between summit meetings.

3.6 **Accelerate Gender Equality Architecture Reform (GEAR):** The summit should agree to establish as soon as possible the new gender equality entity with adequate resources, to strengthen the various UN and Member State commitments to advancing gender equality and women’s empowerment and hold them more accountable to these cross-cutting prerogatives. Women’s organizations and grassroots women must have formal mechanisms of meaningful and systematic participation in the new entity at the global, regional and national levels.

3.7 **Step up the use of human rights accountability mechanisms:** The summit should ensure an increased role of existing national and international human rights accountability mechanisms, including by providing such institutions with legal authority to monitor and hear complaints on human rights violations. Governments should report on their MDG performance to such bodies and comply with their decisions. More specifically, Member States should ratify Optional Protocols to human rights treaties, especially the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women. They should systematically integrate reporting on national and international implementation of the MDGs in their reports to the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of the Human Rights Council and to international human rights treaty monitoring bodies.

3.8 **Guarantee civil and political rights of participation and organization:** The summit should recognize that a meaningful accountability framework at national level requires all Member States to ensure rights to freedom of expression, information, assembly and association, and provide enabling conditions for the work of human rights defenders. This must include closing the “democratic deficit” in the participation of indigenous peoples and other cultural minorities, and ensure that all future development operations affecting their territories are subject to indigenous peoples’ “free, prior and informed consent.” The latter principle should also apply to protect small-holder farmers and local communities from the abuse linked to increased “land grabbing” in developing countries.

3.9 **A gender and social exclusion based audit of the MDGs:** The summit should call on governments to work with civil society in undertaking an audit to measure to what extent MDG achievements have reached marginalized and excluded communities. This audit must include an analysis of the adverse effects of the global economic and financial crisis on marginalized groups – in particular women and girls, migrant workers, people with disabilities and ethnic minorities.

3.10 **Introduce more equity and human rights adjusted monitoring:** The summit should agree to introduce MDG targets and indicators that better disaggregate outcomes on vulnerable groups, including in terms of gender, age, ethnicity, disability, inequality and regional disparities. National MDG targets should be established or revised and improved through public consultation at the national and local level.

3.11 **Strengthen the capacity of all stakeholders to engage:** The summit should agree that future MDG initiatives must set aside a percentage of funds to support civil society and parliamentary participation in policy, programme and project design, implementation and monitoring. This should include capacity-building on alternative (“heterodox”) economic and development strategies for both civil society and government officials.

3.12 **Make greater use of new and “traditional” media:** The summit should encourage all stakeholders, especially youth, to make much greater use of not only modern media to promote awareness about the MDGs, but also traditional media, such as radio, music, dance and drama,

which are more effective at reaching remote villages, where a great majority of the world's poor still live.

Other more MDG-specific recommendations to scale up and replicate success are summarized in a compendium of proposals in Part III of the full consultation report. These include sectoral proposals in the areas of hunger and nutrition, education, gender, health (including the treatment of HIV/AIDS and non-communicable diseases), human settlements (including slums, urban development, water and sanitation) and environmental sustainability (including biodiversity and climate change).

### **III. Sustaining Progress amidst New Threats and Challenges**

The world has experienced many transformations since the MDGs were agreed in 2000. Amidst this change, the MDGs have shown to be a useful anchor to mobilize for change and sustain policy dialogue.

Yet despite the strength and unifying force of the MDGs, and as acknowledged by the Secretary-General, the global economic crisis rolled back hard-earned MDG progress in many countries. The current inability to achieve food security for millions of citizens in developing countries, the growing challenges posed by climate change as well as entrenched gender and other inequalities question the prospect of the international community meeting the goals on time – at least without a dramatic change of course. Indeed, systemic weaknesses within the current international economic system affect both rich and poor countries' ability to mobilize resources for change. In fact, the current behaviour of international financial markets – calling for austerity measures even in advanced countries – is on a collision course with implementation of the MDGs and other international commitments.

This is why decisive progress on a global breakthrough plan for MDG 8 and to support new development paths must be a central priority of the summit, starting now and extending beyond the next five years.

As also discussed in Part III of the full report, the growth of armed violence as well as the growing incidence of non-communicable diseases are among other cross-cutting factors undermining MDG achievement which must be urgently addressed. The world cannot forget that the MDGs rest upon the full body of the Millennium Declaration and other international commitments to peace, security, human rights and inclusive and sustainable development.

The core message that emerged from the consultation is that achieving the MDGs requires a holistic approach that looks at the interconnectedness and systemic implications of the different challenges faced by the international community. To truly make the MDGs transformative and sustainable – beyond 2015 – more must be done to ensure that MDG implementation is accompanied by a stronger effort to address root causes and transition to more sustainable and equitable development paths.

# TOWARDS A GLOBAL MDG BREAKTHROUGH PLAN

## Part I: Introduction – The MDGs in context

### MDGs have proven to be a useful mobilization tool

Many contributions emphasized the unique role of MDGs in mobilizing various stakeholders around key development objectives and stressed the value of having time-bound targets to hold governments accountable.

*The setting of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), a decade ago at the 2000 Millennium conference, represented the most significant collective effort ever made by the international community to eradicate extreme poverty. [CONCORD/Bond]*

*The real strength of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) is that they have enabled numerous and varied stakeholders to become united behind the same objectives. Widely known, they have led to a significant mobilization of public opinion, as well as by Member States who have reinvigorated overseas development aid and come together to mobilize the necessary resources. [International Movement ATD Fourth World]*

*The MDGs have been useful and effective for generating popular awareness and broad consensus, mobilizing political commitment and coordinating action around key human development concerns. [IBON Foundation]*

*Significant progress has been made on the MDGs. It is a cause for celebration that so many people have escaped from poverty in the last fifty years, and a testament to the courage, initiative and energy of millions of poor men and women. [Overseas Development Institute (ODI)]*

### There are many examples of success

As also illustrated in Box 1, there have been many examples of success.

*In Oxfam's experience, real progress is made in achieving the MDGs when there's a combination of public leadership to guarantee the basic rights for the poorest, and the delivery of increased quality financing. Where developing countries have formulated national plans (this particularly relates to MDG 2 and MDG 6), and donors have increased the amount of assistance they deliver through harmonized and predictable multilateral funds there exists the most marked levels of progress.... Oxfam International believes that accelerating MDG results is possible and urgent, and that right policies and sufficient resources are available. **It's just a matter of political will.** [Oxfam International]*

*The MDGs' distillation of the vast array of development commitments into a single set of measurable goals and targets, and their endorsement by world leaders has provided a crucial unity of purpose among all stakeholders. [Amnesty International]*

## **Box 1: Making a difference**

### **Abolishing user-fees**

*In 2006, when the government of Burundi announced free health care for maternal deliveries and children under five, births in hospitals rose by 61%. Nepal has abolished user fees to ensure universal, free health services. In just five years the under-five mortality rate has been reduced by around a third and since 1996 maternal mortality rate has fallen by 50%. In the past year an extra 60,000 women were able to give birth in health facilities. [Oxfam International]*

### **Debt cancellation**

*Witnessing the impact of debt relief initiatives such as the Highly Indebted Poor Countries Initiative (HIPC) on countries such as Zambia, CIDSE has long argued that debt cancellation enables countries to invest significantly more in development, and in an economic crisis, gives them greater breathing space to design their own fiscal stimulus responses. In Mozambique, for instance, where poverty reducing expenditures has tripled from US\$792 million to over US\$2 billion, partly as a result of debt reductions, 120,000 more women per year were able to give birth in a hospital or clinic. [CIDSE]*

### **Budget support**

*To meet and exceed the MDGs, we need long-term, predictable funding in support of strong public institutions. Combining direct budget support with domestic resources, the government of Mali has been able to increase its spending on education in relation to GNP by more than a third since 1999 and recruit more than 20,000 new teachers. As a result the number of children going to primary school has risen 34% since 2001; more than half of children of primary age now attend school and more children are staying until the final year of primary school and completing their education. [Oxfam International]*

### **A Basic Income Grant**

*Led by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in the Republic of Namibia (ELCRN), civil society groups decided in 2008 to implement a Pilot Basic Income Grant (BIG) based on a proposal of a government commission to provide every citizen with a monthly cash grant of not less than N\$100 (~13 US\$) as a right. In the pilot area the proportion of residents living below the food poverty line fell from 76% to 37% within one year of the BIG. Child malnutrition was reduced within a year of implementation from 42% to 10%. The average per capita income in the pilot area increased from N\$160 to N\$303, far exceeding the value of the BIG. Econometric calculations suggest it is affordable to implement BIG on a national scale. [Lutheran World Federation]*

### **An employment guarantee**

*Measures (such as India's rural employment guarantee scheme) to support the purchasing power of low income earners, including single-earner households, which are predominantly female-headed, can assist in the eradication of poverty and hunger while increasing gender equality simultaneously. [ITUC]*

## **But there is a need for a broader transformational and human rights-based agenda**

These positive examples need to be replicated and scaled-up. But the overwhelming majority of contributors were also concerned about the limitations of the MDG framework, if it was divorced from a broader transformational agenda, based on the **need for new development paths that integrate the goal of full and productive employment, the transition to a greener economy and a much more explicit use of human rights in accountability frameworks.**

*The MDGs have delivered welcome progress towards poverty alleviation. However, as a vehicle to pursue the eradication of poverty, a more ambitious plan of action is required. The emphasis on addressing a partial set of the symptoms of poverty, without considering the major causes; while this can yield welcome short-term benefits for many, it cannot deliver sustainable progress towards the ultimate goal of poverty eradication. [Tax Justice Network]*

*[T]he MDGs merely deal with the most obvious symptoms of poverty and underdevelopment while remaining silent (and uncritical) on the structural conditions that breed poverty and underdevelopment in the first place. [IBON Foundation]*

*The promise to decisively move towards poverty eradication is the essence of the MDGs. And that promise is not being kept. The numbers clearly show that since the Millennium Declaration, poverty is actually INCREASING in most regions of the world, with the exception of China. The*

*Summit will be a lost opportunity if it does not clearly acknowledge this basic fact and address its causes. A “business as usual approach,” based on the illusion of minor (yet welcomed) positive steps in some areas is not what we need....*

*While the United Nations has insisted in the view that the MDGs are not a substitution of the development agenda spelled out by the international conferences of the nineties, in practice many countries and international actors have understood the MDGs as an alternative to addressing the development and social agendas, concentrating exclusively on the “bottom billion” as objects of global charity and not as individuals and communities entitled to rights. [Social Watch]*

*Amnesty International finds that a key factor in improvements in MDG areas is the human rights gap in the MDG framework and related policies and programmes. [Amnesty International]*

*One of the main causes of poor performance of the MDGs [in one African country] analyzed from several years of monitoring of government policies to fight against poverty and policy dialogue, lies in the failure to adopt a human rights approach by the authorities. [Civil Society Organizations Network for Development]*

*The enormous challenges we face go beyond the MDG framework. The most important issue identified by civil society organizations in Benin is the realization of human rights and in particular economic, social and cultural rights. Beyond MDGs in the strict sense is the need to address people’s vulnerability in the face of human rights violations and move towards a more holistic approach. [Social Watch Bénin – translated from French]*

### ***Lessons from the last decade and multiple crises***

For most contributors, the onset of the multiple global food, economic and climate crises was the latest wake-up call alerting to the many flaws of the prevailing development model of the last decade and more.

*In practice, the MDGs have been pursued within the broader context of the neoliberal restructuring of the global economy (trade and investment liberalization, privatization, deregulation) which has actually worsened many human development indicators in most regions. Unbridled market liberalization has weakened many governments’ capacity to ensure the progressive realization of human rights, and has undermined even the most modest development goals that are the MDGs.... [T]he MDGs have ... been embedded within a particular approach to national policy which assumes that global integration, through the Washington Consensus policy package, together with good governance and more social spending, will lead to substantial poverty reduction and improved human development. But these policies have not been able to generate sufficient productive employment opportunities and livelihoods in poor countries, and they have been unable to build up those countries’ productive base and thus allow them to become less dependent on aid. [IBON Foundation]*

*Before the onset of the multiple crises, progress towards achieving the MDGs was already mixed, with some developing countries making progress on some MDGs and sub-targets ... while others were lagging far behind. With the onset of the crises, countries have experienced serious setbacks, with poverty and hunger once more on the rise, while unemployment has reached unprecedented levels. Indeed, rising unemployment and increasing income inequality are among the most telling of signs that the world is not on track to meet the MDGs by 2015. [International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC)]*

*[F]or too many people, the journey out of poverty is not a one-way ticket, but instead is marked with false starts and the constant threat of moving back into poverty if times get harder. Over the last few years, this threat has become reality for millions of people affected by rising food prices, by recession, and by greater climate variability and natural disasters. [ODI]*

*Inappropriate market liberalization in developing countries – usually following the application of economic policy conditionalities included in loan agreements with the international financial institutions – have also arrested progress. For instance, the World Bank and IMF [International Monetary Fund] have encouraged the privatization of health services in developing countries in a bid to accelerate progress on MDG 4, 5 and 6. Based on evidence from Oxfam’s own research the complete or partial privatization of health systems has caused deeper exclusion of the poorest. User fees, as acknowledged by the [Secretary-General’s] report, are a principal obstacle for progress especially for MDG 5. [Oxfam International]*

*[K]ey donors are still putting too much faith in economic liberalization policies, such as promoting the part-privatization of extension services, undermining government intervention*

*policies that could work better for small-scale food providers like farmers, pastoralists, fishers, indigenous peoples.* [CONCORD/Bond]

*The global financial crisis has demonstrated a deep systemic failure of the prevailing economic system. Since the Millennium Development Goals cannot be met and maintained within neoliberal economic structures, we can now welcome this opportunity to set forth an alternative economic model that holds promise for a new economy that serves both people and planet.* [Earth Rights Institute]

The change of course needed was seen by many as not simply enabling the poorest countries to emulate the policies of the more successful developing countries:

*And there's the rub.... The forces responsible for the economic miracle that lifted more than 270 million Asians out of poverty in the past 15 years are the same ones creating all the inequalities between and within countries. It is also the same forces damaging Asia's environment and compromising the region's further development and long-term security.*

*Economic growth means more production, more money to buy and enjoy the amenities of modernity. But it also means more deforestation, further depletion of fisheries, more chemicals into the soil, rivers and water bodies, more air pollution, more social and environmental disasters.* [Philippine Rural Reconstruction Movement (PRRM)]

*[W]e urge the UN to see the parallelism between the recent collapse of the economic and financial system and the possibly upcoming collapse of ecosystems.... [T]he financial crisis can be tackled by economic means, the natural system collapse is irreversible.* [CEEweb for Biodiversity]

#### **Goal 8: A cross-cutting accountability gap**

The multiple crises only reinforced concerns among many contributors that a major breakthrough is needed in the “global partnership” embodied in Goal 8 on international economic and development cooperation, which is the only MDG without time-bound targets.

*Growing poverty is a result, among other reasons, of developed countries not meeting their commitments (MDG 8) to create global partnerships around trade, aid and debt and technology transfer. Since 2000 there was some partial progress in bilateral and multilateral debt cancellation benefitting Iraq, Nigeria and some of the poorest countries, but the creation of a balanced debt workout mechanism is still pending. A “development round” of trade negotiations began in Doha in September 2001, but it is still far from being concluded and its development component is insignificant. ODA [official development assistance] in proportion to the total economy of the donor countries “peaked” in 2008 ... at the same percentage level of 1992! OECD [Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development] estimates that DAC [Development Assistance Committee] countries will fall short of US\$21 billion from their 2010 Gleneagles commitment and as a group developed countries are still far from achieving the longstanding goal of mobilizing 0.7% of GNP[gross national product] in ODA....*

*MDG 8, to be met largely by developed countries, is the only Goal which lacks time-bound commitments and the one where less progress is registered. This exemplifies the asymmetries in global governance – where the weak are held to international standards while the powerful can simply ignore their part in creating a better world.* [Social Watch]

*Since MDG 8 was set, despite many international commitments to debt cancellation and increases in aid, many developing countries are still struggling to meet the MDG targets and the international financial system is still heavily weighted against those countries. The EU continues to pursue free market trade policies that exacerbate poverty in developing countries.... The impact of the recent financial crisis has seriously impacted developing countries in terms of their ability to mobilize their domestic resources, facing the challenges of unjust trade rules, lack of financial reform and debt... Trade liberalization has been a major contributor to the food crisis by dismantling the very foundations on which localized food systems should be based, while local agriculture has suffered because of cheap imports. Liberalization of trade and markets facilitated the speculation in food and commodities that sparked the price spikes.* [CONCORD/Bond]

*[T]he Doha Development Round of the WTO [World Trade Organization] has not lived up to its promise, and reform of global trade remains a fundamental necessity. In the absence of agreement on Doha, developed countries and blocs have pursued bilateral trade agreements with developing countries that are driven by self interest rather than development objectives. Further trade liberalization will not achieve global food security.* [CIDSE]

*Numerous reasons can be given to account for the present situation in regard to the progress made in the achievement of the MDGs. Clearly, the economic and financial crisis has had a significant impact on progress in the immediate past and continues into the present. However, there are other reasons that have impacted the past 10 years. One important one in that Goal 8, which concerns partnerships and resources, has not been adequately addressed. Many countries have not been faithful to their commitments in regard to ODA and other development assistance promises. [Company of the Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul]*

*The opacity of international financial markets and cross-border financial activities of companies and individuals has strong negative impacts on a sustainable and inclusive global development in general and on achieving the Millennium Development Goals in particular:*

- *Continuous large-scale capital flight via secrecy jurisdictions constrains domestic resource mobilization in developing countries necessary for MDG-relevant basic social services and infrastructure investments. As a result dependency on aid and new debt is increasing.*
- *Secrecy jurisdictions are favouring not only tax evasion and avoidance but also corruption and criminal activities thereby undermining public institutions, democratic accountability and participation especially in vulnerable and conflict countries.*
- *Lack of transparency was at the root of the present financial and economic crisis. Reduced fiscal space as a consequence of this crisis makes donor countries fall back behind their commitments for development assistance much needed for achieving the MDGs.*
- *Financial non-transparency leading to mistrust and growing inequalities is aggravating international cooperation to achieve global public goods such as poverty reduction and climate preservation. [Tax Justice Network]*

A breakthrough in Goal 8 was seen as all the more essential to mobilize the resources to face multiple new threats and challenges:

*International aid commitments (0.7%) must be met but will not be enough to deal with new global challenges such as climate change, food and energy crises and the effects of the financial crisis. The EU [and broader international community] needs to find additional sources of financing to deal with these challenges. [CONCORD/Bond]*

### **National ownership: policy space AND political will is needed**

Many participants echoed the UN Secretary-General's call for strengthened *national ownership* of policies to pursue more inclusive, equitable and environmentally sustainable development paths. This implies greater policy space to mobilizing domestic resources or to align economic policies with social and environmental goals – currently often restricted by inappropriate external conditionalities, trade rules or by the dictates of unregulated financial markets. As discussed in Part II, a breakthrough in the “global partnership” implies a major overhaul in the international financial, economic and development cooperation architecture, as called for by the UN Secretary-General.

However, a number of civil society groups insisted that failure to deliver on Goal 8 should not be used by national governments as an excuse to not better use existing policy space – such as redeploying excess military budgets to social and development programmes and undertaking courageous national re-distributional policies. For many, national ownership meant first and foremost breaking from a “dependency mentality”:

*National governments are hesitant in assuming the responsibility that pertains to them in implementing the MDGs. They need to break with the culture of externality. It is time for them to work coherently in accordance with the function they are carrying out. If the MDGs are to be achieved, the participation of the world's leaders is needed, but this does not mean that there should be an increase in the dependence of the developing nations on the developed nations. [Teresian Association]*

Thus the proposals for new development paths discussed in Part II also place emphasis on much stronger and participatory national accountability frameworks based on fundamental human rights, which, among other things, were seen to serve as a means to pressure governments to take action against entrenched interests at the national level.

### **A broader holistic approach to the MDGs**

*The MDGs remain a valuable framework for development action to 2015, but should be seen as a broad initiative to reduce poverty, not a detailed blueprint for separate interventions. [CRY]*

*While we are drawing attention to the groups and issues excluded from the MDG framework, it is also of vital importance to remember the important linkages between the Goals, and the fact that*

*very often if one Goal is to be met, then others must be too. The current failure to reach the MDGs is only enhanced by a mutually reinforcing negative cycle of knock-on effects. **We cannot treat the MDGs as silos: meeting all Goals is vital to the achievement of any one of the MDGs.*** [CONCORD/Bond]

Many contributors welcomed the UN Secretary-General's insistence on a holistic approach to the MDGs. Participants at the May 2010 UNCTAD Public Symposium had expressed concern that a "sectoral" approach to the MDGs could lead to dysfunctional outcomes, such as young people having benefited from adequate health and education services then face an economic system that does not provide enough productive jobs. For many, the addition of a new MDG 1 target on "**full and productive employment and decent work for all**" resulting from the 2005 MDG review summit is a pivotal step forward in determining whether the world is on track or not to meet the MDGs and better holding economic institutions to account on that front.

*Not only do decent jobs directly combat poverty and hunger by providing income to families and communities, they are also directly related to MDG 3, since gender equality in the workplace is a necessary component of the Decent Work Agenda.* [ITUC]

Likewise progress on **gender equality** affects progress on many other MDGs:

*The MDGs have a number of targets designed to redress some of the most glaring gender inequalities that continue to mar many societies. Some, like those on access to education, have seen considerable progress, while the picture for others, like the targets on maternal mortality, is less good. However, the focus on specific targets has obscured the fact that overcoming gender inequality is a factor in the achievement of all the MDGs.* [ODI]

On environmental sustainability, many were particularly concerned about the international community's failure to meet its 2010 MDG 7 target on achieving a significant reduction of **biodiversity loss** and to reach a meaningful agreement on **climate change**.

*The Millennium Ecosystem Assessment indicates that at least 60% of the essential services provided by ecosystems are degraded and used unsustainably. Biodiversity, ecosystems and natural processes provide key building blocks for poverty reduction; their demise increases the vulnerability of the poor and seriously jeopardizes the chance of meeting the MDGs.* [WWF]

*There are strong links between biodiversity loss and poverty reduction, including meeting the MDGs, and the economic and welfare impacts of biodiversity loss are enormous. For example biodiversity loss is resulting in the disruption of agriculture and a decrease in fish catches. It is estimated that each year we lose ecosystem services worth €50 billion; by 2050 the cumulative loss of ecosystem services will amount to €14 trillion per year. Climate change will further exacerbate this, and in turn this will reduce resilience to cope with climate impacts.* [CONCORD/Bond]

The consultation revealed another problem with a fragmented approach. On the one hand there is a need for the summit to agree to invest heavily in the MDGs that are most off-track:

*[T]he Global MDG Breakthrough Plan [to be] agreed at the summit, and any individual country commitments, [should] give **priority to investing in the most off-track targets.*** [World We Want open letter to the UN Secretary-General]

But at the same time:

*MDGs are inter-dependent and inter-linked, so interventions to accelerate progress on the most off-track **must not be at the expense of continued investment in the progress of the other MDGs.** This means any proposals or initiatives included in the outcome document to improve the position of the most off-track MDGs and regions **have to be backed with additional resources**, to ensure that these measures do not mean a choice between access schools and access to water, between health care and food.* [Oxfam International]

This reinforces the need for a breakthrough in proposals for new forms of resource mobilization discussed in Part II and summarized in the executive summary.

A broader holistic approach also needs to account for other factors undermining the realization of MDGs. Many contributors in this regard emphasized the need to deal with the rise of **armed violence**:

*A key crosscutting issue that needs to be considered in order to ensure the achievement of the MDGs is the interrelation between armed violence and the MDGs. Two recent reports from the*

*UN Secretary-General clearly state that armed violence is a major global issue, that it undermines development and constitutes an impediment to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (UN A/64/228). “Armed violence [is] a major threat to human security and to hard-won Millennium Development Goal gains....” (UN A/64/655)*

*Robust evidence shows that armed violence exacerbates both household poverty and food insecurity, and unemployment in turn exacerbates armed violence. Conflict is cited as obstructing access to education, especially amongst the most excluded communities. Community exclusion is also associated with increased risk of violence.*

[Action on Armed Violence (former Landmine Action)]

*The wars and armed violence in the Democratic Republic of Congo have had a disastrous impact on generating extreme poverty, widespread unemployment, denying access to essential service such as health and education and to adequate and sufficient food. International aid does not get to the grassroots because international organizations are scared off by insecurity, while local civil society groups are not equipped to meet local community MDG needs. [Centre de Développement Agro-pastoral de Djolu – translated from French]*

The following section on proposals for the way forward focuses on cross-cutting issues related to (1) global economic and development cooperation reform; (2) accountability frameworks at international levels; (3) new development paths; and (4) participatory national accountability frameworks. Part III provides a compendium of MDG-specific sectoral proposals in the areas of hunger and nutrition; education; gender; health (including HIV/AIDS and non-communicable diseases); human settlements (including slums, urban development, water and sanitation); and environmental sustainability (including biodiversity and climate change). It also contains a section on addressing the rise of armed conflict.

## **Part II: Proposals for the Way Forward**

### **1. Global economic and development cooperation reform (Linked to Goal 8)**

*[T]he capacity to act translates into a responsibility to act, and not to do so represents a massive moral failure. [Justitia et Pax Netherlands]*

*The recent global financial crisis is evidence that a global effort such as the MDGs cannot be achieved in isolation of the financial architecture. This provides an impetus for the UN to play a greater role in defining this architecture. [Eastern African Sub-regional Support Initiative for the Advancement of Women]*

*Implement recommendations from the “Outcome Document of the United Nations Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and its Impact on Development” June 2009 [Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers/Maryknoll Sisters of St. Dominic]*

#### **Living up to development aid commitments**

Many participants expressed concern about the perennial failure of donor countries to live up to their aid commitments. They were especially worried that aid flows would drop as a result of belt-tightening after the mammoth bank bailouts to rescue the financial system.

*[Referring to the 0.7% GNI [gross national income] for ODA commitment for OECD countries, as well as other commitments made by the G8 (on additional aid for Africa and the poor countries)], [t]he outcome document should acknowledge the disappointment vis-à-vis donor governments in their failure to deliver on their promises, and commit using the urgency of the 2015 target to get back on track. They should commit to interim targets between 2010 and 2015 to demonstrate how they will achieve their targets, as well as Heads of State level review of progress each year now to 2015. [Oxfam International]*

*Development aid is more important than ever, since the financial crisis has shrunk other sources such as private capital flows, remittances and export revenues to developing countries.... International aid commitments (0.7%) must be met but will not be enough to deal with new global challenges such as climate change, food and energy crises and the effects of the financial crisis. [CONCORD/BOND]*

*Developed countries must meet the longstanding goal of mobilizing 0.7% of GNP in ODA and scale up their existing bilateral and multilateral ODA commitments and targets made in several international fora. In order to meet the agreed commitments and targets in ODA, developed countries must establish clear and transparent timetables within their national budget allocation process to reach the level of at least 0.5% of ODA by 2010 and 0.7% by 2015, at the latest.*

*Debt relief should not be counted as part of the ODA contribution.*

*Additionally, as Paragraph 28 of the Outcome Document of the United Nations Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and its Impact on Development (Outcome Document) states “Donors should review and, if appropriate, increase or redirect their assistance to developing countries to enable them to mitigate and more effectively respond to the crisis in accordance with their national strategies.” [Social Watch]*

Some put forward the idea of legally binding commitments on increases in aid volumes as well as aid effectiveness, including at the 4<sup>th</sup> High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness, to be held in Seoul in 2011. [CONCORD/Bond]

#### **Scaling up budget support**

In order to make donor support more manageable for recipient governments and promote “national ownership,” a number of contributions emphasized the need to scale up “budget support” (aid money going directly into the national budget rather than a proliferation of donor-driven projects), as called for at the first UN Development Cooperation Forum in 2008.

*We believe that there is strong existing evidence of the kinds of interventions that have worked to increase progress towards meeting the MDGs. Increasing aid effectiveness, and delivering more general and sector budget support is proven to have accelerated progress to meet the MDGs in countries where donors have invested. The outcome document must acknowledge that accelerating and replicating such successes as a priority [see examples of success stories in Box 1]. [Oxfam International]*

*Support from donors needs to be provided on a long-term (at least 5 year) and predictable basis and funding by both donors and the country government must be transparent. Donor funding must primarily support the national budget as the central institution of national policy. [World Vision International]*

### **Avoid a new debt crisis**

Well before the debt crisis in Europe drew worldwide attention, many civil society groups were warning of the risks of a new debt crisis in developing countries, which, if left unchecked, would almost certainly jeopardize the ability of even committed governments to fulfil their MDG commitments.

*Recent IMF data has revealed that up to 37 low income countries are at a high risk of debt distress due to the ongoing global crisis. [CIDSE]*

*Many developing countries had to rely on increased borrowing from the international financial institutions. The World Bank increased its lending commitments by US \$12.8 billion in 2009 to record levels, and the IMF made additional commitments of US \$70 billion. The deepening financial crisis in combination with other concurrent crises threatens to increase the debt and therefore threatens the debt sustainability of developing countries. This growing pressure limits the ability of these States to enact the appropriate fiscal measures to mitigate the impact of the crisis or engage in development financing. Appropriate measures must be taken to mitigate the negative effects of the crisis on the indebtedness of developing States and to avoid a new debt crisis. [Social Watch]*

### **Cancel debt unconditionally to the poorest countries – grants not loans...**

As shown in Box 1, debt relief and cancellation to the poorest countries can dramatically scale up the capacity of developing countries to meet the MDGs. Many groups are thus calling for much bolder efforts to provide unconditional debt cancellation to the poorest countries – and provide crisis relief for counter-cyclical measures in the form of grants not loans.

*Cancel all debt for those developing countries which currently cannot finance the MDGs from domestic resources. [CONCORD/Bond]*

*For many LDCs [least developed countries] like Afghanistan, Nepal and Timor-Leste, the costs of reaching the Millennium Development Goal targets represent more than 15% of GDP. It is therefore impossible for LDCs to finance increased efforts towards the MDGs without additional assistance. These economies are already economically-weak, and are spending a large proportion of their GDPs to service loans from international financial institutions (IFIs). In the spirit of Goal 8 (Global Partnership for Development), the world's 49 poorest countries should be able to count on debt waivers from donor countries and IFIs....*

*LDC-specific financial stimulus package in the form of grants and NOT loans, is the need of the hour as the LDCs are already battling with their heavy debt crisis. LDC Watch therefore advocates for total and unconditional cancellation of illegitimate debt of LDCs on the basis of justice and not charity. [LDC Watch]*

*A temporary moratorium on all external debt service payments of developing countries should also be adopted immediately. This would easily free up additional resources for the world's most indebted countries and would represent an effective way to release extra funds for critical social investment, while ensuring that no additional debt would be incurred. [IBON Foundation]*

*[T]here is an urgent need for countries to commit to debt forgiveness or debt moratorium for low- and middle-income countries, especially those countries that are spending more on debt servicing than on education or health for their citizens.*

*Grants, free of conditions, rather than loans, are among various other ways that developed countries could contribute to the efforts being made by developing countries to provide for the basic needs of their citizens and advance their country's development strategies. [Company of the Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul]*

*[T]o avoid future debt crises among the LDCs, stimulus packages for financing the MDGs should be concessionary in nature, relying on ODA and other grant arrangements as far as possible, rather than on IMF-backed debt-creating loans. [ITUC]*

*Given the strength of EU Member States within the IFIs, CONCORD believes the EU must exercise moral and political leadership in international debt negotiations and pursue a common policy of 100% cancellation of the external debts of the poorest countries where debt repayments are seriously hindering efforts to reach the MDGs by 2015....*

*At the very least, offer a temporary moratorium on external debt service payments, without the accumulation of interest charges. This moratorium should be made available on demand to all those countries that are currently behind in achieving MDGs by the target date of 2015.* [CONCORD/Bond]

### **...As well as audit and cancel illegitimate debt**

*Acknowledge the illegitimacy of much past debt and work to audit and cancel such debts. Continuing to force repayments of such illegitimate debts is having a major impact on the ability of countries to meet the MDGs, as acknowledged by the UN Special Expert on Foreign Debt.* [CONCORD/Bond]

### **Establish a fair and transparent debt workout mechanism**

Many civil society groups reiterated demands made since the 1997-98 East Asian crisis that the UN establishes a fair and transparent debt workout mechanism that would be arbitrated by an independent panel under UN auspices, ensuring equal burden sharing between debtors and creditors of debt restructuring outcomes.

*The crisis has shown that there is a “need and feasibility” for “a more structured framework” (para 34 of the Outcome Document [UN Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and its Impact on Development]) to solve debt problems of developing countries. Such a debt work out mechanism is now urgently needed and it should have “broad creditors’ and debtors’ participation and comparable burden-sharing.”* [Social Watch]

*The recognition [in the Secretary-General’s report] of the need for standstills on debt obligations, debt relief and debt restructuring to help countries facing severe financial distress as a consequence of the global crisis (para 79) is welcomed and we call for Fair and Transparent Debt workout mechanisms to be included in the MDG Breakthrough Plan.* [World We Want open letter to the UN Secretary-General]

*Support a fair and transparent debt work-out procedure. This must be based in a neutral international space, such as the UN, rather than the IFIs and have a mutually agreed neutral arbitrator. The procedure could be instigated by either party, must include an immediate stay on payments, be empowered to investigate both payability and legitimacy of debts and include the right for civil society representation.* [CONCORD/Bond]

*Another key area for reforms is debt restructuring. Without substantial debt relief and debt-exit strategies, many heavily indebted poor countries (HIPCs) will be unable to implement counter-cyclical policies. A Sovereign Debt Restructuring Mechanism (SDRM) is needed to provide a framework for fair and transparent debt workout, led by a neutral arbiter or ombudsperson that is not the creditor, thereby avoiding conflicts of interest. In countries where severe debt overhangs are compromising the capacity to introduce counter-cyclical measures, and in those countries burdened by illegitimate and odious debt, measures such as debt moratoria and debt cancellation should be considered. The SDRM framework should also serve to protect countries from predatory practices such as vulture funds.* [ITUC]

*A new framework for sovereign debt workouts needs to differ from existing procedures in several aspects if it is to address the changed landscape of new lending. Key principles of an orderly, effective and fair debt workout mechanism are:*

- *One single “insolvency” process needs to involve all creditors.*
- *Impartiality in decision making, rather than the present creditors’ hegemony over the negotiation process.*
- *Automatic stay on loan enforcement, once a case has been filed.*
- *Impartial assessment of a sovereign’s sustainable debt level and hence income exempt from debt servicing.*

*These principles essentially do not reflect more than leading principles of corporate or individual insolvency laws in civilized nations around the globe.* [Year of Relief 2000/Erlassjahr]

### **...And a new debt sustainability framework**

Many denounced the faulty characteristics of the current debt sustainability framework which is based on the ability to export enough to earn foreign exchange for debt servicing. Attaining the MDGs should be the basis for defining debt sustainability.

*Agree on a set of responsible lending standards ... to ensure that debt sustainability is permanent.... These standards must make explicit that “sustainable” and “payable” debt does not equate simply to ability to earn foreign currency, but to the primary importance of developing countries investing to meet their Millennium requirements **before** servicing debts.* [CONCORD/Bond]

### **Innovative sources of finance: Agree to implement a Financial Transactions Tax (FTT)**

To mobilize resources on the scale needed to meaningfully support holistic approaches to development and the massive investments required to finance the transition to low-carbon development paths, an overwhelming majority of contributors called on the summit to decide on implementing a Financial Transactions Tax (FTT). Some mentioned a Currency Transactions Tax (CTT) but an FTT would cover a broader range of financial instruments such as derivatives. Other types of taxes mentioned included a carbon tax and land capture value.

*We also believe the outcome document should include commitment to delivering additional financing to support development and climate adaptation and mitigation through innovative sources of finance. A Financial Transactions Tax that could raise between US\$400 and US\$700 billion is a clear option, as supported by the recent IMF paper to the G20 and this should be directly referenced in the outcome document.* [Oxfam International]

*[I]t is clear that the emergency proportions and challenges of the inter-linked global crises require support for new forms of financing for development, most notably a Financial Transactions Tax. Such a tax would accelerate achievement of the MDGs in areas of full and productive employment, providing resources for social protection, essential services, and the financing needs of developing countries in climate mitigation and adaptation. This tax could also contribute to reforming the financial architecture by reducing speculation and excessive liquidity, thereby promoting greater equity and stability of the financial system.* [World We Want open letter to the UN Secretary-General]

*Financial, fiscal and economic justice – the financial sector should pay for the crisis they created, through a financial transaction tax or similar mechanism.... Carbon taxes and international Financial Transactions Taxes are two mechanisms with enormous potential both to generate resources for the global public good and to control public bads such as climate change and financial volatility.* [Social Watch]

*Introducing “innovative” sources of finance (ie, in addition to traditional ODA). These include the Financial Transactions Tax. The EU must advocate for this agenda internationally but also act swiftly to put in place such measures within the Eurozone in the short term.* [CONCORD/Bond]

*[T]he implementation of a Financial Transactions Tax (FTT) at global level should be given careful consideration. Trade unions support the FTT as a viable option capable of generating the necessary revenue needed to reduce deficit spending in all countries, to stimulate demand-led growth through the creation of decent jobs, and for financing development (MDG 1), as well as for the financing of mitigation and adaptation measures to address the climate crisis, (MDG 7). It is estimated that the FTT could generate from US\$200 to US\$900 billion annually, depending on the specific types of taxes, and the rates at which they are set.* [ITUC]

*CIDSE has long advocated for serious political consideration of an innovative mechanism such as a Currency Transaction Tax and more recently the general Financial Transactions Tax (FTTs) that would tackle systemic weakness while generating massive resources for development. Recent studies by the International Monetary Fund and the European Commission have acknowledged the popular support and the feasibility of the tax even though they raise questions of practicability, political acceptability and overall value of the tax. Independent research and experts have countered these criticisms with sound arguments pointing to the bias in these studies’ arguments. From a civil society perspective, it is clear that presently the only obstacle that remains in the way of adopting a global Financial Transactions Tax is political will. **The MDG summit is a clear opportunity for political will to manifest itself in a global agreement to implement a FTT.*** [CIDSE]

*A FTT should be adopted immediately as it can raise from under US\$10 billion to US\$1 trillion annually, depending on the rates and coverage of the tax, and part of the proceeds be used for international development. At the same time, the FTT can discourage speculative financial trading and reduce financial volatility. [IBON Foundation]*

### **...To be managed by the UN**

*CIDSE believes that the UN, as the organization that represents the interests of all countries of the globe, whether least developed countries, emerging economies or industrialized countries, should play an instrumental role in determining the destination of the revenue generated by FTTs and any other innovative mechanism. We also foresee a key role for the UN in safeguarding the additionality of resources to ODA; in ensuring that resources are administered and utilized based on principles that guarantee their desired impact and that policies concerning the implementation of the mechanisms, their enactment and governance of their proceeds are coherent with the universal objectives of the UN to uphold human rights and international cooperation, achieve justice and human progress and respect international law. [CIDSE]*

*A tax on financial activities as a means to avoid future bailouts is under discussion in several institutions that are overlooking the fact that the fulfilment of the MDGs must be a global, common priority, as well as the need for legitimacy in what refers to the management of global taxes. Instead, these institutions divert the public attention from the task carried out to date in favour of the CTT, and promote taxes to be managed by non democratic, non legitimate institutions, such as the IMF. An essential message departs from this situation: The international community should prioritize the CTT as a mechanism to meet the MDGs, and to be managed by the UN, the only stakeholder legitimized to collect and distribute global funds to manage global public goods. [World Forum on Civil Society Networks (UBUNTU)]*

### **Strengthened international tax cooperation**

In order for countries to increase their capacity to mobilize domestic revenues and strengthen “national ownership,” an equally important number of contributions stressed the need to step up meaningful international tax cooperation, in which again the UN should play a central role. Many noted that the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development and the Outcome Document of United Nations Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and its Impact on Development both recognized that the international community has a responsibility to tackle the problems of **capital flight and tax evasion** through enhanced cooperation.

*As for the cause of the economic crises, the G20 clearly stated that the main causes were the lack of regulation and transparency of companies, bank secrecy, tax havens. Oxfam believes the outcome document should state that an automatic multilateral exchange of fiscal information should be the first step towards a sustainable solution, as well as new regulation of multinational tax information to guarantee more transparency on the profits and taxes they [companies] make and pay country by country. [Oxfam International]*

*Banking secrecy needs to be curtailed and the “race to the bottom” in taxes stopped so that countries are able to tap successfully on domestic resources for their own development. In this regard it is essential to strengthen and upgrade the United Nations Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters. [Social Watch]*

*To accelerate progress we propose the following:*

- Raise awareness for financial transparency and tax compliance in the general public and in the private sector (e.g. through Corporate Social Responsibility agenda);*
- Improve public budget transparency at national and local level (e.g. by support for EITI [Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative], PWYP [Publish What You Pay], IATI [International Aid Transparency Initiative] and local budget monitoring initiatives from civil society);*
- Start negotiating a binding multilateral agreement on automatic exchange of information in tax matters;*
- Introduce country-by-country reporting in revised international accounting standards for multinational enterprises;*
- Increase and improve capacity development for national and regional tax administrators in developing countries (e.g. ATAF [African Tax Administration Forum], CIAT [Inter-American Center for Tax Administration] to address cross-border tax evasion and avoidance;*
- Increase developing countries (including low income countries) participation in international policy and standard setting bodies. [Tax Justice Network]*

*Provide developing countries with the tools they need to mobilize domestic resources effectively, including through tackling capital flight, tax competition, corporate tax evasion and avoidance,*

*transfer pricing, bank secrecy. In particular, the EU should champion the creation of a global multilateral information exchange convention, a country-by-country financial reporting standard for Multi-National Companies, and a strengthened UN Committee of Tax Experts with a political mandate. The EU should work multilaterally to achieve these three objectives by 2015.* [CONCORD/Bond]

*A global tax on multinational corporations should also be explored along with the establishment of internationally coordinated mechanisms for fighting tax evasion and tax havens.* [IBON Foundation]

*The creation of a global multilateral information exchange convention, with the potential to move towards automatic information exchange.* [CONCORD/Bond]

*A strengthened UN Committee of Tax Experts with a political mandate and additional resources.* [CONCORD/Bond]

*Time-bound negotiations for multilateral agreements on automatic exchange on tax information and for country-by-country reporting by transnational corporations to stop tax evasion and other illicit capital flows.* [Alliance Sud]

*Provide developing countries with the tools they need to mobilise and retain domestic resources effectively, through supporting the creation of a multilateral information exchange agreement on tax and a country-by-country financial reporting standard for transnational and multinational companies.* [Trocaire]

*A country-by-country financial reporting standard for MNCs [multinational corporations, which should help]... prevent excessive risk-taking in addition to tax avoidance and tax evasion.* [CONCORD/Bond]

*[There is a need for] an international consensus to adopt the requirement of country-by-country reporting as a global accounting standard to tackle the practice of transfer pricing by transnational companies and providing information needed for cost effective transfer pricing risk assessment of these companies by tax administrations with limited resources. Another important issue is securing a global agreement on automatic exchange of tax information through a multilateral convention.*

*... CIDSE believes that the UN should play a stronger role in harnessing international cooperation on tax issues through the ECOSOC and a strengthened and reformed Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters.* [CIDSE]

### **A development role for Special Drawing Rights (SDRs)...**

Many participants insisted that the summit should follow up on the work of the Commission of Experts of the President of the General Assembly on Financial and Monetary Reforms (“Stiglitz Commission”) and the Outcome Document of the UN Conference on the World Economic and Financial Crisis and its Impact on Development regarding the more equitable use of Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) [international reserve assets aimed to supplement a country’s official reserves] for the purposes of freeing resources for development – as well as crisis prevention and mitigation.

*SDRs for development purposes and for expanding liquidity: The decision by the G20 to revive the SDRs allocation had limited benefits for developing countries, since SDRs are allocated in proportion to the quotas in the IMF, which is skewed in favour of developed countries. More needs to be done for SDRs to have an effect in LDCs and those who fall short in relationship to financing for development. There is a need for keeping under review the allocation of SDRs for development purposes. There is a need to study the potential of expanded SDRs to help increase global liquidity in response to the urgent financial shortfalls caused by this crisis and to help prevent future crises.* [Social Watch]

*Measures should include activating the IMF SDRs programme in a way that makes it accessible to developing country needs, accelerating regional currency cooperation, and mobilizing resources from current account surplus countries, including their Sovereign Wealth Funds in order to fulfil development objectives, including the MDGs.... [There is an] urgency of establishing a mechanism for channelling SDRs to core development priorities including the MDGs.* [ITUC]

### ...Including through alternative regional financial/monetary architectures

Participants at the UNCTAD Public Symposium also discussed the role of SDRs to support development and climate change adaptation/mitigation. But emphasis was in addition placed on developing “bottom up” regional financial and monetary systems to support new development paths, especially in light of the difficulties in reforming the Bretton Woods institutions.

*Regional financial and monetary initiatives could be a way for governments to regain some lost policy space. In the case of Latin America, a group of countries was in the process of constructing a regional financial and monetary cooperation framework, which, it was suggested, would not result in tighter fiscal and monetary restrictions of the type associated with the Eurozone experiment. Instead, the three pillars of a regional development bank, a common reserve fund, and a regional settlements clearing system based on a new currency unit (coexisting and supporting national currencies) could help shield national economies from the vagaries of global financial markets, while enabling public policy to better direct finance towards supporting local productive investment initiatives and full employment goals. [UNCTAD Public Symposium report (TD/B/57/5)]*

### Re-regulate global finance – especially in the food and commodity markets

A number of contributions insisted that the summit should also address the need to re-regulate global finance. This would include recognizing the right of countries to implement **capital controls** not only for crisis prevention and mitigation purposes, but also to help direct investments to more socially desirable goals [Social Watch, Alliance Sud, Social Watch Bénin]. In view of the MDG 1 target on reducing hunger and the devastating impact of the recent global food crisis, many contributions urged for action to be taken against financial **speculation of the food and commodity markets**.

*Improving financial regulation: There is a critical need for expanding the scope of regulation and supervision and for making it more effective, with respect to all major financial centers, instruments and actors, including financial institutions, credit rating agencies and hedge funds. The need for tighter and more coordinated regulation of incentives, derivatives and the trading of standardized contracts is also clear. [Social Watch]*

*Hunger and human insecurity are exacerbated by speculative investment and capital intensive, export oriented agricultural production. Unregulated speculative investment in food commodities futures markets has contributed to high and volatile food prices and resultant food insecurity around the world. In the 1990s and again in 2000, the US government deregulated the commodities futures markets to allow large institutional investors to participate in these markets without limits or adequate transparency. National and international reregulation of these markets is essential. [Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers/Maryknoll Sisters of St. Dominic]*

*The Secretary-General's report advocates systemic reforms in response to the financial and economic crisis. However, systemic changes are equally necessary to address global food insecurity. The world has seen outrageous price fluctuations on the international markets for agricultural products in the last years, which have greatly exacerbated food insecurity and contributed to the explosion of food prices in 2008, with speculative financial movements on the raw material markets significantly contributing to this volatility. Steps must be taken to make markets less volatile, including supporting the creation of stocks, and the elimination of speculative finance (including hedge funds) in food stock exchange and futures markets for food and agriculture. [CIDSE]*

*Financial activities must be strictly regulated, taking into account the risks posed by highly leveraged speculative activities, unregulated financial instruments and institutions, and secrecy jurisdictions; in particular, activities of a purely speculative nature on food and energy as well as speculation on land must be strictly limited. [CONCORD/Bond]*

### Fair trade rules to meet the MDGs

In contrast to many mainstream pronouncements in favour of rapid completion of the Doha Round of multilateral trade negotiations, many contributors expressed concern that the current Doha “Development” Round agenda had “little development left” and contained items that could cause further regressions in the fulfilment of the MDGs. In terms of achieving greater market access for LDCs without subjecting developing countries to concessions in other areas, some called for the summit to support the so-called “**early harvest**” proposal by Least Developed Countries elaborated in the Dar Es Salaam Declaration prior to the 7<sup>th</sup> WTO Ministerial meeting [Trocaire]. Many called for a halt to further market liberalization in developing countries

promoted through a proliferation of **North-South regional and bilateral Free Trade Agreements (FTAs)**.

*There should be no rush through to a completion of the Doha WTO Round – a deal that developing countries have rejected several times due to concerns at the potential impact on their economies.* [CONCORD/Bond]

*Developed countries should resist protectionist measures and rectify cases of agricultural subsidies and non-tariff barriers to trade which undermine the efforts of producers in developing countries. The right of developing countries to use legitimate trade defense measures and to fully utilize their policy space in accordance with their national priorities has to be reaffirmed.* [Social Watch]

Referring to what it described as *the negative impact of [bilateral or regional North-South] Free Trade Agreements on achieving the MDGs, specifically food security, employment, accessibility of health services and availability of generic drugs*, the World We Want coalition called for *the MDG Breakthrough Plan to recognize the rights of countries to only enter trade deals which support the needs and interests of their own people.* [World We Want open letter to the UN Secretary-General]

*The disciplines imposed by trade and investment agreements and policy conditionalities by the Bretton Woods institutions are restricting the policy space of developing countries to take the paths that successfully lifted some countries out of poverty a few decades ago, without having created mechanisms for a predictable and commensurate transfer of resources.* [Social Watch]

*Stop pushing developing countries to liberalize and deregulate their economies in the financial, industrial, agricultural or wider service sectors, via the WTO or EU regional and bilateral negotiations.* [CONCORD/Bond]

*Desist from engaging in bilateral and international trade and economic agreements that undermine the regional integration process and impact negatively on women's rights and advancement in Africa.* [African Women's Development and Communication Network (FEMNET)]

*Undertake a fundamental review of the EU trade and investment agenda in order to prioritise development objectives and the fulfillment of universal human rights as part of the EU2020 process.* [Trocaire]

*[A]id for trade must not be tied to the signing [developing country partners] of far-reaching trade and investment liberalization commitments.* [CONCORD/Bond]

*Building on human rights commitments, the international trade system should be open, rules based, predictable and non-discriminatory, and should address the special needs of least developed countries, including tariff and quota free access for their exports. As noted in the Secretary-General's report, developed countries must live up to their commitments to eliminate export subsidies by 2013, including agriculture; they must recognize developing countries' right to policy space in trade agreements and ensure the provision of an effective and accessible Special Safeguard Mechanism under all trade agreements with developing countries.* [CIDSE]

## **2. Accountability frameworks at international levels**

### **Accountability to international policy coherence**

Many contributors emphasized the need to ensure that the commitment expressed in the Millennium Declaration for greater policy coherence at the international level be taken much more seriously from now on.

*[T]he MDGs need to be part of a coherent policy framework to support growth with equity, and well-designed sectoral policies. MDG policy coherence must be improved drastically at the international level. Ultimately, global economic governance may be more important to MDG delivery than the creation of new funds for health or education.* [CRY]

In relation to the European Union (EU), the development NGO coalition CONCORD made a number of detailed suggestions that would also be relevant to other developed countries.

*Trade, agricultural, environmental, migration, financial, and many other European policies have an impact on the capacity of developing countries to attain the MDGs. Not only have these policies not sufficiently and directly contributed to poverty eradication globally, but their*

*inconsistence with development goals can be costly and can negate the impact of development aid. Achieving the MDGs will only be possible if we ensure that all policies elaborated at EU and national level are consistent with the EU's legally binding development objectives.*

***Policy Coherence for Development (PCD)*** [a commitment adopted by the EU in 2005 in 12 policy areas] *is an important tool that, if implemented effectively, could have a markedly beneficial impact on sustainable development, respect for human rights and poverty reduction. For this to happen, CONCORD has identified the changes needed:*

- *Make more explicit the multiple linkages between different policy areas in order to give a better understanding of the complexities of policy solutions.*
- *Ensure that its policy-making becomes more transparent and participatory (ie, participation of the relevant stakeholders in Europe and in developing countries, including civil society and parliaments) from the earliest stages and that the EU is held accountable for the harmful impact of its policies on development.*
- *Strengthen the capacity of both national and EU administrations to improve the coherence of their respective policies in relation to EU and national level development objectives as well as international commitments on development; with a view to have an effective impact, to identify the incoherencies regardless of the policy areas involved and suggest solutions in order to improve impact.*
- *Make sure that the work programme on PCD for the 2010-2013 period is developed with a view to attaining the MDG targets and to assessing the impact of all relevant EU policies on the progress made towards the MDGs. [CONCORD/Bond]*

### **Stepping up accountability of the international aid architecture**

There were many proposals to improve the effectiveness of international aid architecture and holding the donor community more accountable, but within a spirit of “mutual accountability.”

*Accountability is, and should be, the critical theme in this year's review. As such, we believe the outcome document should include a re-statement of existing commitments (e.g. Monterrey, Gleneagles) by every Member State is essential....*

*As a civil society organization, we are very interested in the proposal of an accountability framework. As this should be a key part of the MDG summit, we would like to see the main features of this accountability mechanism described in detail in the outcome document. We would like the SG to propose **a public register of commitments for development, where commitments made by any government in any policy area should be inscribed with clear indication of aim, destination, conditions, targets, indicators and timetables.** The SG should consider which UN body is best able to offer an understandable overview of progress of those commitments as a preparatory public document of every General Assembly until 2015 at least. [Oxfam International]*

*Failure of donors to live up to their commitments calls for a new approach to secure greater accountability and transparency. CIDSE believes that ODA commitments should become legal obligations in order to make donors accountable to the citizens of their own countries and ultimately to the main beneficiaries of development assistance in recipient countries. [CIDSE]*

*A monitoring mechanism should be set up within the UN and a comprehensive review of the ODA framework must be undertaken by donors and recipients in a balanced framework not dominated by the donors and in conjunction with non-governmental organizations and civil society with a view to promoting better coordination, avoiding fragmentation, and duplication of activities, ensuring predictable flows over multiple year periods, and allocating adequate resources to the countries most in need, especially the LDCs. [Social Watch]*

One organization provided specific ideas to strengthen the UN's **Development Cooperation Forum** (DCF) established as an outcome from the 2005 MDG review, as a potentially powerful tool for greater coherence and accountability.

*[C]hanges in the global governance of aid and international development cooperation [should tilt] the weight of ownership and control to the side of developing countries rather than donors.*

*A central feature of this new architecture should be a multilateral and multi-stakeholder forum at the international level that can help enhance harmonization in development cooperation policies in line with human rights obligations and internationally agreed development goals while respecting democratic and local ownership of the development process. This should also enhance policy coherence in order to ensure that the broad range of development-related policies implemented by donors and programme countries – in foreign investment, trade, migration,*

industry, agriculture, energy, environment and so on – are mutually supportive and development effective in the sense that they contribute to and not undermine human rights, equity, justice and ecological sustainability.

*The Development Cooperation Forum has the potential for a more legitimate, holistic and balanced approach to reforming international development cooperation for the fulfilment of the right to development. It can be the focal point within the UN system for mutual learning and greater harmonization in aid and development policies of Northern and Southern countries together with development agencies such as the International Labour Organization, the Food and Agriculture Organization, United Nations Development Fund for Women, etc., as well as human rights treaty bodies. But meaningful multi-stakeholder participation by other development actors – including CSOs, and parliamentarians – in the preparations and deliberations of the DCF must also be strengthened as full and equal participants. Their perspectives should be brought to bear on reforms on the development cooperation system. [IBON Foundation]*

Many insisted in this context on much greater **mutual accountability** between donors and developing countries, with **strong civil society participation**.

*To accelerate progress towards 2015 and build greater mutual accountability all countries should translate their development commitments into annual steps and these should be reviewed each year at the country level by a committee made up of donor and developing nations that work with that country. This review process should apply to both donor and developing nations. [World Vision International]*

*Donor and developing nations need to accelerate the implementation of their aid effectiveness commitments under the Paris and Accra agreements. The monitoring of progress against these commitments needs to be strengthened and reported annually. Also all donor nations and intergovernmental development agencies should become signatories to the International Aid Transparency Initiative. The 2011 HLF-4 can provide an opportune moment for donor and recipient governments to renew their commitments to aid effectiveness through an ambitious yet realistic technical and political aid effectiveness agenda for 2010 to 2015. [World Vision International]*

*[W]hen reviewing progress on the MDGs leading up to the Comprehensive Review in September 2010, it is imperative that progress in LDCs is considered separately. This is because while the situation in developing countries may be improving with regards to the MDGs, conditions in LDCs are likely to deteriorate in this decade. Therefore, LDC Watch emphasizes that between now and 2015, we must ensure that new and concerted efforts are made towards meeting the MDGs in LDCs – by meeting the 0.15-0.20% target, by improving the quality of the aid delivered, and by establishing systems of trade, finance and technology transfer that are pro-poor and equitable, to support the achievement of the MDGs by 2015. [LDC Watch]*

*Mutual accountability between donors and the developing country is essential and this should be focused around an annual review of progress chaired by the focus country. Mutually agreed and transparent conditions for cooperation should include results-based criteria for both developing countries and donors and be focused on the MDGs. [World Vision International]*

*Trade unions and other civil society organizations have a strong role to play as partners in a binding, accountable, and transparent development framework, including development cooperation, [which] should be enshrined in MDG8, (a global partnership for development). Consultative arrangements should be put in place that are inclusive, ensuring the continuing engagement of trade unions and other representative civil society organizations at all levels, in the follow-up and implementation of measures for effective governance of the global economy, development effectiveness, restored global growth and shared prosperity, in order to fully achieve the MDGs by 2015. [ITUC]*

This section reviewed proposals for greater accountability at the international level. Proposals for better and more **participatory national accountability frameworks** are reviewed in section 4, as part of the checks and balances needed to guide new development paths.

### **Reforming the international financial institutions (IFIs)**

There were many long-standing proposals to accelerate reforms of the international financial institutions (IFIs) as part of the countdown to 2015.

*World Bank governance reform: Voice and participation of developing countries in the governance of the World Bank needs to be reformulated so that it effectively reflects its development mandate.*

*IMF governance reform: It is imperative to undertake a comprehensive and fast-tracked reform of the IMF giving its increasing role in lending to developing countries. This process will increase its credibility and accountability and can also have direct effects on the availability of resources for developing countries for financing and social protection. [Social Watch]*

*Push for a major democratisation of the governance of the IFIs, starting with the establishment of truly democratic structures and the improvement of transparency based on the principle of the right to information. [CONCORD/Bond]*

*Reform of the IFIs driving the development policy agenda is a key challenge related to overcoming the crisis and achieving the MDGs. It is clear that the harmful policy conditionalities of the IFIs, including tight monetary policies, pressure for capital market and labour market deregulation, privatization, promotion of export-led growth, and implicit support for the unregulated, risky behaviour of institutional investors, have all contributed to or exacerbated the crisis. [ITUC]*

*[A]ny reform of the IFI's and other international fora must give a better voice to developing countries and must give them the policy space to engage in their own development platforms, if developing countries are to achieve the Millennium Development Goals. [ITUC]*

### **Towards a democratically accountable “global leader’s forum:” Consider establishing a Global Economic Council**

Many contributions expressed strong concern that the G20, as the emerging global leaders’ forum to tackle global economic reform and coordination, lacks legitimacy and transparency (including to its own members) without established procedures to introduce issues in the agenda or reach consensus when different views collide. [Social Watch]

*[W]e are deeply concerned about the informal institution of the G20. The few rich States members of the G20 focus on the mapping out of a policy aimed more at the conservation of their own privileged status than at the amelioration of the state of poor countries. [Marangopoulos Foundation for Human Rights]*

Many referred to the much more comprehensive global economic reform for development agenda developed within the United Nations – whether in reference to the UN General Assembly, the proposals of the Stiglitz Commission and of particular UN bodies such as DESA and UNCTAD, which the G20 has so far not listened to. Many were indeed concerned that there is no link between the UN General Assembly and the G20 – where actual decisions are made. For greater accountability and coherence in global economic governance needed to meet the MDGs, many proposed that the summit agrees to the establishment of a Global Economic Council under UN auspices as a way to make a global leaders’ forum more legitimate, effective and equitable.

In particular, Social Watch made a number of specific recommendations:

*This leaders’ forum must be more accountable to, and representative of the interests of the global community. To deal with the gaps in accountability and representation of the interests of the global community, governments should adhere to five key principles and benchmarks for renewing multilateralism:*

*1) Be inclusive of the poorest countries – starting with the African Union. There is great diversity among developing countries. Brazil, India, China and South Africa have emerged as important new players, but they cannot be expected to speak effectively to the interests of Sub-Saharan Africa or low-income countries and least developed countries, which face specific unique challenges for recovery.*

*2) Representative in composition. A global leaders’ forum may need to be limited in size, but to be legitimate and credible, it must also be representative. Different regions must be engaged through a constituency system with decision-making by consensus, similar to the practices of other international institutions.*

*3) Transparent and accountable. A leaders’ forum should put in place an “Accountability Framework” thereby ensuring they report regularly on progress made against commitments. The decision making should be broadly informed by “expert groups” that include academics CSOs and others. These groups should in turn operate transparently by making meeting schedules, agendas and reports publicly available.*

*4) Strengthens the role of the UN. The UN Commission of Experts on the International Monetary and Financial System led by Joseph Stiglitz called on the establishment of a **Global Economic Coordinating Council** within the UN. This can be a good model.*

*5) Open to civil society. Civil society critiques and proposals have positively affected governments’ understanding of the issues, policy agendas and methods of work. Within a UN*

*framework, a leaders' forum would institutionalize effective consultations with civil society ahead of, and between, summit meetings. [Social Watch]*

This was supported by other international organizations, such as ITUC.

*The international financial and development institutions have not been up to the task of addressing the root causes of the crises. They must recognize that deep systemic reforms are needed as part of sustained exit strategies out of the crises, and in order to avert new ones. Of paramount importance is the need for global, coordinated, coherent strategies that take the needs and capacities of all countries into account. Global coordination also requires a global forum. While the G20 has been rapid and effective in addressing urgent questions, such as interventions to shore up financial markets and strengthen financial regulation, even these are not robust enough, and many issues of a global nature, affecting all countries require the voice and inputs of the non-G20 countries. The Ad Hoc Working Group of the UN General Assembly, charged with follow-up of the crises, should be strengthened. Moreover, **trade unions lend their full support to the proposal for a Global Economic Council of the UN General Assembly**, as an inclusive Forum for deliberations and decision-making on global economic and financial questions (the Stiglitz Commission Report). Trade unions call on the Ad Hoc Working Group of the GA [UN General Assembly] to bring this proposal back on the table for serious consideration. [ITUC]*

### 3. New Development Paths

This section focuses more specifically on the challenges related to MDG 1 on reducing hunger and poverty. However, more analysis and recommendations pertaining to MDGs 2 to 7, as well as reducing armed violence, are covered in Part III.

This section specifically reviews proposals for a reorientation of development paths focused on achieving full and productive employment and decent work for all, a social protection floor, the transition to environmentally more sustainable development, anchored within a human rights framework of accountability. As discussed in the introduction, many civil society groups felt that failure to adopt a broader and more holistic approach would undermine any chance for a meaningful MDG breakthrough in the next five years.

IBON Foundation provided a broad panorama of what new development paths could consist of:

*[It] is imperative to examine policy alternatives that are being put forward by heterodox economists and civil society, particularly those that deal with the different dimensions of the structural imbalances between labour and capital; between the real economy and high finance; and between developed and underdeveloped countries.... Resolving the systemic crises that afflicts the world today requires no less than changing the dominant model of development and transitioning to an ecologically sustainable system – one centred on improving the quality of life and ensuring the basic material and social needs of all, rather than on accumulation and overconsumption of the few....*

*This should include policies that redirect the economy towards creating decent jobs for all, ensuring universal access to essential services and reducing inequalities along gender, ethnic, and geographic lines. This means greater reliance on public employment and public expenditures on labour-intensive services like education, health, water, housing, public infrastructure and green investments. This also entails expansion of public ownership or public control over critical sectors that cannot be left to the market such as finance, (renewable) energy, mass transportation, [...] along with redistributive measures such as agrarian reform. These measures require greater domestic resource mobilization through progressive tax reforms, controls on capital flows, plugging tax leakages and illicit financial flows, reallocating military budgets and introducing new sources of finance such as a financial transactions tax. [IBON Foundation]*

#### **A “localization” agenda based on productive employment...**

In contrast to the prevailing model of deep global economic integration and “export-led growth,” many submissions emphasized the need for much greater reliance on domestic demand-led growth, which requires changes in macroeconomic and sectoral policies to support more employment-intensive growth and higher wages and income for working people. This was also discussed at the UNCTAD Public Symposium.

*Developing countries hoarded foreign currency reserves in order to protect themselves against capital flight and market volatility at high opportunity costs. The surpluses were not invested in productive capacity. Developing countries, too, had to rethink their internal financial architectures, which were focused on export-led growth at the expense of wage-led, domestic-*

*consumption-led growth. This was, in essence, a self-defeating strategy.* [UNCTAD Public Symposium report (TD/B/57/5)]

*A new policy approach is needed, one that puts the emphasis on demand-led growth, the social dimensions of macro-economic policies, robust measures to ensure fair, redistributive growth with developing countries having the policy space to determine their development priorities....* [ITUC]

*In a great number of African countries, there is not a reliable industrial policy enabling to generate value-added from locally-produced raw materials (commodities) in order to produce transformed goods in local, regional and international markets at a fair price ... local purchasing power (incomes and wages) is too weak to stimulate local demand and kick-start a growth pattern capable of generating enough productive jobs.* [Ligue Camerounaise des Droits Humains – summarized and translated from French]

*[I]mplement macroeconomic policies and promote growth models aimed at fighting unemployment, and eradicating poverty.* [Marangopoulos Foundation for Human Rights]

### **...And to support environmental sustainability**

*Regional integration with an emphasis on local production to provide a good quality of life for every person in the region may provide a more real improvement in quality of life for impoverished people and reduce the carbon emissions from transport of goods over long distances.... We believe that great care must be taken to ensure that efforts to “boost investment and private demand” are at the service of real, not created needs. We need authentic economies that produce measurable improvements in real quality of life for marginalized and impoverished people, not investment that depends on the exploitation of cheap labour and/or the externalization of environmental costs.* [Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers/Maryknoll Sisters of St. Dominic]

### **Toward full and productive employment and decent work for all...**

Many contributors emphasized the new MDG target on full and productive employment and decent work for all as an essential means to gauge progress on poverty reduction, with positive spill-over effects on other MDGs.

*Achievement of productive employment has a direct impact on the achievement of other goals and their targets – access to food, health services, education throughout life, and sustainable use of environment. It should be at the heart of the MDG Breakthrough Plan.* [World We Want open letter to the UN Secretary-General]

*Employment and social protection, two critical avenues towards achieving pro-poor growth and the MDGs, have not received enough attention in public policy making.... Productive employment and decent work are the main routes out of poverty. Well-functioning labour markets and an enabling environment for local entrepreneurship are essential to increase employment opportunities for the poor. Policies that recognize and improve conditions in the informal economy, where most poor women and men earn their livelihoods, are critical to poverty reduction. Increasing the employability of poor people, especially for older people, women and youth, unlocks their potential to contribute to growth.* [HelpAge International]

*Economic growth alone is not sufficient for poverty eradication. Full employment and Decent Work should be at the heart of national poverty reduction strategies. We fully support the ILO “Global Jobs Pact,” particularly their call for more to be done to ensure employment for young people and gender equality measures for women.* [Marianists International]

*Once there is decent work for the majority of society, it will be able to provide by themselves social standards as health care and education and decent life for those excluded from the labour market.* [International Association of Charities]

### **...For sustainable crisis recovery**

*The implementation of **the ILO Global Jobs Pact** should be promoted as a policy framework for achieving MDG1 and the other MDGs in a time of crisis.... It provides a framework of policies and measures that would serve to remove the “jobless growth” syndrome accompanying the economic recovery, providing decent jobs, social protection, skills training and micro-credit to enhance employability and employment, providing support to boost the agricultural and rural sectors and the informal economy, with measures aimed at progressively formalizing the informal economy....*

*As regards the design of stimulus packages in response to the crisis, a key element is promoting social infrastructure investment that would generate employment opportunities, focusing on provision of quality public services in the social sectors: education, health, water, sanitation. This approach also introduces an important gender dimension by freeing women from the burden of unpaid work in the care economy, and providing them with decent jobs. This alone addresses several of the MDGs and acts as a cross purpose development mechanism. [ITUC]*

*It is evident that among the concrete short- and medium-term measures needed to ensure the sustainability of economic recovery is to increase rural productivity and the generation of decent work. [Centro Educativo y Desarrollo Integral del Antiplano – translated from Spanish]*

### **...And a green jobs agenda to combat poverty and climate change**

*In this economic downturn we must keep our sights set on the long term and continue with investments for creating green jobs, creating a green economy and sustainable development. [Emirates Environmental Group]*

*Large-scale investment in green infrastructure, as a response to the climate crisis, should also be prioritized. This enhances energy efficiency by introducing renewable energies, as well as green construction and transport. This would also stimulate the creation of high quality employment across a range of sectors, while equipping workers through skills development for new, green and decent jobs. [ITUC]*

### **A universal “Social Protection Floor”**

Social protection is one of the four pillars of the Decent Work Agenda. So implicit in the MDG target on decent work for all is “social protection for all.” Many contributions referred to the ILO Global Jobs Pact’s commitment to establishing a Social Protection Floor in every country, which is also a prominent recommendation of the UN Secretary-General to the summit.

*Trade unions lend their full support to the ILO’s initiative to strengthen the social protection component of the Decent Work Agenda, through the provision of a **universal social protection floor**. The idea is to provide basic, guaranteed income and social security coverage to needy households, allowing them to meet their basic needs for food, shelter, education and health care, through various measures such as cash transfers, employment guarantee schemes, establishing social security schemes for workers in the informal economy. Support for the meeting of health care needs is especially important for achieving MDG 4 (reducing child mortality), MDG 5 (improving maternal health), and MDG 6 (combating HIV/AIDS).*

*Measures (such as India’s rural employment guarantee scheme) to support the purchasing power of low income earners, including single-earner households, which are predominantly female-headed, can assist in the eradication of poverty and hunger while increasing gender equality simultaneously. Providing income support through expanded unemployment benefits and other social protection measures and creating or strengthening automatic macroeconomic stabilisers and social insurance systems to help developing countries weather the crisis would create an effective backup mechanism to prevent future catastrophe and ensure that the negative impacts on the MDGs by the current crises are not repeated. [ITUC]*

*Universalize an unconditional social protection floor: To improve the MDGs’ response to the special needs of vulnerable populations through increasing the accessibility and universality of the MDGs, a minimum and decent level of income security and access to basic services must be ensured for all. As proposed by the ILO/WHO collaboration with the UN Chief Executives Board, a universal social protection floor would better protect vulnerable groups from the disproportionately adverse effects of external shocks such as economic and climate crises, enable equitably sustainable growth, and promote social cohesion and stability. [International Movement ATD Fourth World]*

*Marianists International would like to affirm the ILO proposal noted in “Keeping the Promise” for governments to enact a “Social Protection Floor” for their citizens. There are basic services, e.g., access to water and food, shelter, education, health care that are guaranteed under the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Governments have the responsibility to see that the most vulnerable populations can receive the resources necessary to not only survive but also achieve their natural potential. [Marianists International]*

*Social protection directly reduces poverty and helps make growth more pro-poor. It stimulates the involvement of poor women and men in economic growth, protects the poorest and most vulnerable in a downturn and contributes to social cohesion and stability. It helps build human capital, manage risks, promote investment and entrepreneurship and improve participation in*

labour markets. Social protection programmes can be affordable, including for the poorest countries, and represent good value for money. Social pensions in particular are a key first element of a package of social transfers that reduce old age poverty and have intergenerational benefits in a household. [HelpAge International]

Oxfam International research on the impact of the economic crisis in developing countries shows that those countries that have invested most in public essential systems in recent years have been more able to protect the poor, while those with weakest health and education services have been more exposed to vulnerabilities. [Oxfam International]

### **A Social Protection Floor makes economic sense...**

The 2009 Social Watch Report, based on reports from civil society organizations in over 60 countries, found a lot of evidence that to invest in the poor, through social services or even direct cash transfers makes for a better stimulus package for the economies as a whole than subsidizing the already rich. The reason for this match of the ethical imperative with economic good sense is simple, in times of crisis affluent people save when they can and risk-aversion demoralizes investors, whereas those living in poverty can only spend any support they get. [Social Watch]

### **...But it should be understood as a minimum “floor” not a “ceiling”**

We call for fully funded national plans to achieve universal access to health, education throughout life, water and sanitation to be a core part of the MDG Breakthrough Plans. In addition, while welcoming the mentioned Social Protection Floor as a beginning of the realization of the right to social security under Article 22 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and as a potential tool for achieving minimum standards and core obligations of human rights, we believe it must be coupled with State commitments to the progressive realization of higher levels of protection as resources become available. [World We Want open letter to the UN Secretary-General]

### **An overhaul in agricultural policy to support smallholder farmers**

During the 2010 UNCTAD Public Symposium, with reference to Africa, civil society participants suggested that the underlying causes of the recent food crisis had been the legacy of export-oriented development strategies, which had prompted a shift from producing staple foods for local needs to exporting cash crops, coupled with long-standing underinvestment in rural areas. There was a need to refocus on the production of staple foods and on food self-sufficiency, but this would involve **an exemption of food and rural livelihoods security-related policies from the ongoing trade negotiations.**

While many contributors welcomed renewed interest in mainstream development policy circles to reinvest in agriculture after decades of neglect, they warned against a simplistic approach of increasing food production (often through large-scale plantations) rather than placing the priority on supporting small-holder farmers' staple food productive capacities and livelihood security.

*Low external input agro-ecological approaches, which improve climate resilience as well as productivity at lower costs to farmers, should be given particular priority.... Tackling hunger necessitates more than simply increasing food production – affordable access, reducing losses and wastes, improving local storage, increasing local control are among other measures needed.* [CONCORD/Bond]

*A focus on smallholder farmers should not be limited to provision of inputs, intensification and commercialization, each of which are highlighted in the Secretary-General's report. The integration of smallholder food producers into local, national and even international value chains is to be welcomed. However this should never come at the expense of their own food security.*

*There must thus be investment in creating the enabling conditions for sustainable small-scale food production, processing and trade in developing countries; these include secure and adequate access for smallholders to land, water, credit, and markets.*

*Furthermore, it is necessary to strengthen smallholder capacity to organize and to enhance their bargaining power vis-à-vis other value chains actors. Enhancing the incomes of smallholder farmers – especially women – to enable sustainable small-scale food chains will increase empowerment, self-reliance, resilience, food availability, and environmental management.* [CIDSE]

## **Build on indigenous agricultural knowledge**

Contributors emphasized the need to promote diverse and sustainable farming methods rather than a single model for agricultural modernization. Building on local and indigenous knowledge was seen as an essential step, as emphasized in the UN inter-governmental **International Assessment of Agricultural Knowledge, Science and Technology for Development (IAASTD)**.

*Maryknoll experience with indigenous and smallholder farmers, especially in Mexico, Panama and Brazil, leads us to agree strongly that the crises of hunger and environmental destruction will benefit from increased attention to small farmers. In particular, we believe that many indigenous communities already hold important knowledge about soil and water management and maintain a wide variety of traditional seeds, many of which have stress-resistant characteristics. Serious attention should be given to learning from the wisdom of these and other small farmers, rather than discounting their experience and encouraging them to adopt unsustainable and expensive agricultural techniques. We are deeply concerned about the threat to biodiversity and therefore food security that genetic modification for stress-resistance, added nutritional value, or other factors present. [Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers/Maryknoll Sisters of St. Dominic]*

*The IAASTD 2008 report provides significant evidence for how small scale bio-diverse agriculture can achieve greater food security and reduce poverty in developing countries, but has so far been largely ignored by international policymakers. As noted in the IAASTD report, support must be given to agricultural practices that are sustainable and ecologically efficient, based on local agro-ecological systems, involving mixed land use. A large number of diversified farming systems exist across the globe, each of which has its own ecology, logic, problems and potential for further development. Based on this diversity, different options must be sought to stimulate sustainable development. [CIDSE]*

## **Mobilizing domestic fiscal resources to finance the transition**

The change of course described in this section will require significant resources for new investments and redistributive policies to combat inequalities. As noted by some contributors, much can be done on a purely domestic level through reformed tax authorities and improved tax collection [ODI]. However, the capacity to significantly mobilize domestic resources is intrinsically linked to progress on reversing a “race-to-the-bottom” in progressive tax revenue, as discussed in Section 1 – as part of the MDG breakthrough in global partnership.

*Most developing country governments have the potential to raise significant amounts of money through domestic taxation, including taxation of multinational companies. Helping all low- and middle-income countries to attain just 15% of national income through tax in 2007 (when the OECD average was 37%) would have made an additional US\$198 billion.*

*Even with improved capacity for domestic revenue raising, international finance for development will continue to be important. In many countries the domestic tax base is too small to provide a sufficient source of finance to meet the MDGs. For these countries, predictable and effective official aid will continue to be key. However, it’s not certain that official aid commitments can deliver the kinds of increases in spending that would allow spending on social sectors, in particular on social protection schemes, to be scaled up to the extent needed to reach the MDGs. [ODI]*

## **A human rights-based foundation for change**

Many contributors saw an MDG breakthrough plan in terms of shifting the political economy of resource allocation in favour of new development paths as essentially shifting relations of power between entrenched interests and the weaker members of society. More explicit use of international human rights instruments and strengthening national human rights institutions were seen as essential foundations to reshape and democratize the political process for change between now and 2015.

*Ending poverty is inherently a political process specific to local economic, social, cultural, ecological and gender equality circumstances in each country. As the work of Amartya Sen demonstrates, people-centred development for poverty eradication is ultimately about recognizing the rights of the vulnerable, and transforming the power relations, and cultural and social interests that sustain inequality. Development is therefore a political process that engages people, particularly the poor and the powerless, in negotiating with each other, with their governments, and with the world community for policies and rights that advance their livelihood and secure their future in their world. So while the MDGs are modest goals in themselves,*

*achieving them is no mean feat for it requires that we democratize control over resources and decision-making in society. [IBON Foundation]*

### **Everyone counts**

A large number of submissions insisted that without integrating human rights in the run-up to 2015, the MDG framework based on average indicators may suggest progress is made, when in reality, massive regressions may be taking place with no consequence for governments.

*[A]s they stand, [MDGs] mask continuing discrimination, which is a major cause of poverty; they fail to address the pervasive human rights abuses that keep people poor and directly obstruct progress towards the MDGs themselves; and they provide no consequence for governments, rich or poor, that fail to fulfil their MDG commitments....*

*When countries report on their progress towards meeting MDG targets, however, with few exceptions, they do so through aggregate data – general averages drawn from the results of the population as a whole. To take the most often quoted figure in relation to poverty as an example – those living on less than US\$1 a day – governments provide data on how many people in the country are at that level. The MDGs do not require them to break down this number by gender, ethnicity, caste or other social group. **It is entirely possible, therefore, that the position of already marginalized groups may stagnate or worsen, even as total numbers of people rise above US\$1 a day, and out of “poverty.”** [Amnesty International]*

*[T]he current MDG structure does not explicitly take into account excluded or marginalized groups, creating a real danger that they will be further pushed to the periphery in the drive to reach general targets and indicators. This includes people with disabilities, who comprise one of the single largest groups of marginalized and chronically poor people in the world with one in five of the poorest people being disabled, older people with an estimated 180 million people over the age of 60 living in poverty, children, with 8.8 million children worldwide dying before their fifth birthday in 2008, and minority and indigenous communities, which reside on the margins of society and are excluded from decisions regarding development taken at the national level. [CONCORD/Bond]*

*The present approach to the MDGs constitutes a response in quantitative programming terms and does not seek to take into account all of those experiencing poverty. A human-rights based approach provides a more favourable response in quantitative and qualitative terms. [International Movement ATD Fourth World]*

### **Avoiding the trap of selective targeting**

However, for some contributors, the need to disaggregate the impact of policies on different groups should not imply limiting action to selective targeting of social policy.

*The UN Secretary-General reminds us in his report that the MDGs are an expression of basic human rights.... However, poverty eradication where successful was not based exclusively in charity or focalized attention to the most urgent needs of the poor, but on an integrated approach to economic and social policies that favour the **well being of all citizens**. A holistic approach to poverty eradication is consistent with a rights based approach and requires direct and consistent actions to promote productive employment and equitable social development. ...[I]t requires States to move beyond selectivity in approaching social policy towards development oriented policy making **and universalism**. [Social Watch]*

This last statement is not in contradiction with the imperative to address the needs of the most vulnerable, but brings forth another limitation of a narrow interpretation of the MDG framework:

### **Reintegrating legally-binding human rights instruments**

*As they stand, some of the MDG targets fall short of the existing international legal commitments that governments have freely entered into to respect and protect human rights. One of the criticisms of the MDGs is that they only set partial goals. To halve the proportion of those who are hungry by 2015, for example, or reduce by two-thirds the under-5 mortality rate. Yet under existing human rights treaty commitments, many entered into decades ago, States have already pledged to meet these commitments in full. These human rights commitments demand that States proactively commit to strategies to realize rights, **not just reduce by half violations of these rights**. [Amnesty International]*

*The best way to help people realise their rights is to invest in social and human development, and intensify the implementation of existing commitments enshrined in numerous human rights treaties... [CONCORD/Bond] (see next section).*

One proposal for the way forward is adoption by 2012 of the **Draft Guiding Principles on Extreme Poverty and Human Rights** currently under consideration at the UN Human Rights Council (as indicated in the resolution A/HRC/12/19).

*They set out clear and detailed guidelines for effectively designing and implementing policies and programmes that ensure the full enjoyment of human rights by all people, including people living in extreme poverty. They promote a human rights approach, which emphasizes the process as well as the outcomes.... Such guiding principles would orientate the approach of the international community and national governments toward extreme poverty in all countries regardless of their level of economic development. [International Movement ATD Fourth World]*

*Only an international and systematic plan of action – on the implementation of which all countries or at least a whole region should collaborate – could result in significant amelioration of the current situation. To this end, sincere international political will is required. A relevant international effort in this direction is the [Draft Guiding Principles on Extreme Poverty], which lays down principles and measures aimed at the effective elimination of extreme poverty at international level. It is worth noting that among the measures provided by the above Draft are penal sanctions to be imposed by the national legislative authorities. [Marangopoulos Foundation for Human Rights]*

One concrete example of the difference judicially enforceable economic, social and cultural rights can make was discussed at the UNCTAD Public Symposium:

*Some civil society organizations had taken it upon themselves to pressure the State into action by advancing the right to food. This was the case of India, where the right to food had been translated into a legal entitlement, enforceable before the courts. Since then, the State had been investing heavily in ensuring the right to food, with a total budget of over US\$10 billion and a comprehensive programme involving over 2,000 civil society organizations. [UNCTAD Public Symposium report (TD/B/57/5)]*

#### **Operationalizing the Right to Development**

Most contributions focused on the role of human rights in terms of domestic obligations of States. But some insisted also on the need to operationalize the Right to Development in terms of the shared but differentiated responsibilities among developed and developing country governments in the realization of this right as part of a forward-looking development agenda.

*While achieving the MDGs is urgent, it is also high time to start discussing a post-2015 international development agenda that goes deeper and beyond the MDGs. This new agenda should focus on the full operationalization of the Right to Development with a greater emphasis on self-determination, people's sovereignty over productive resources, democratic participation, equity, sustainability and justice. This can be the subject of a new convention that spells out shared but differentiated responsibilities among developed and developing countries, with quantitative and qualitative indicators, time-bound targets, and mechanisms to ensure democratic ownership of the development process and accountability of all development actors. [IBON Foundation]*

#### **4. Participatory national accountability frameworks**

*Governments have made repeated, public commitments, to meet the MDG targets. But what if, as seems likely, they fail? Will we simply await a new set of goals, with modified targets and new deadlines, and set to work again to build support to achieve them? MDGs 2.0? How many versions can we expect before there is sufficient progress to claim success? We cannot wait another millennium. The price of failure is too high. [Amnesty International]*

*Democracy is defined many ways, but essentially, it is governance with the consent of the governed. We are losing ground in achieving the MDGs because of not consulting and involving “the governed,” the people in the decision-making and implementing process. The politicians and the bureaucrats think that they know better than the illiterate, uneducated or poor resource-less people and since they are going to give something to them, they are not at all liable to be consulted and they must accept happily, whatever is being given. Hence, the things given in charity do not make any impact or strengthen the democracy. For example, the poor rural women are never consulted on how to protect their children from “infant mortality” or improve antenatal care coverage. Then how could MDGs 4 and 5 be achieved? [Gram Bharati Samiti]*

This section focuses on proposals to strengthen national accountability frameworks to meet the MDGs that should be participatory and within a human rights framework.

### **Improving accountability: The need for a human rights framework**

*Some civil society organizations are ... advocating an “accountability framework 2010-2015” to ensure that **civil society and parliamentarians are consulted and can hold governments accountable in the process of future MDG country reporting.** [Oxfam International]*

*This framework must balance collecting quantitative and qualitative data without preference for one over the other and civil society must be recognized as an active stakeholder within the mechanism. Most importantly, the framework must consolidate global commitments related to the MDGs, bind them to deadlines and include monitoring and enforcing mechanisms. Governments must **also ensure an increased role of existing national and international human rights accountability mechanisms**, including by providing such institutions with legal authority to **monitor and hear complaints on human rights, reporting on their MDG performance** to such bodies and complying with their decisions. [World We Want open letter to the UN Secretary-General]*

To this end, FOCO proposed a UN/civil society monitoring programme similar to that applied for compliance with human rights. *In this sense, it will be necessary to create a **special representative** that is supported by an international commission of eminent persons to request them to visit countries in the field to find out what is being done to meet the MDGs. It is the only way to achieve them.* [Foro Ciudadano de participación por la Justicia y los Derechos Humanos (FOCO)]

Amnesty International suggested *to increase scrutiny of government compliance with international human rights treaties by **ratifying Optional Protocols** to these human rights treaties, in particular those relating to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women; [and to] systematically integrate reporting on national and international implementation of the MDGs in their reports to the **Universal Periodic Review (UPR)** of the Human Rights Council, and to international **human rights treaty monitoring bodies.** [Amnesty International]*

Others proposed that a **minimum of 5% of programme funding should be allocated to the monitoring and evaluation** of all development programmes, in addition to any specific funding to promote civil society participation [and that] *the results of all monitoring and evaluation programmes should be publicly available and accessible, including for people without literacy and/or internet.* [World Vision International]

### **Ensuring participation and including the excluded**

Many civil society contributions drew attention to the need to actively involve the people, including the most vulnerable (women, children and youth, the elderly, the disabled, rural dwellers, indigenous peoples, people living in extreme poverty, and other minorities often discriminated upon), as well as civil society at large in the design, implementation and monitoring and evaluation of national human development strategies, projects and programmes in order to make them more effective and more adjusted to people’s needs and local conditions. [Alliance Sud, International Movement ATD Fourth World, Droits Humains Sans Frontières, Centre d’Accompagnement des Alternatives Locales de Développement, Organisation Nationale pour l’Enfant, la Femme et la Famille, Consejo de desarrollo socioeconomico para sudamerica, GCAP Peru]

Some reasons for the current lack of equal involvement identified by civil society are the gap between policy makers and grassroots realities; the fear for political instability; language barriers; power relations/corruption; and an urban bias. [Centre de Développement Agro-pastoral de Djolu, Khuwambile Arwela Youth Association, SKYIANS, Nation Builders Foundation] Ultimately, this results in **a lack of understanding of what those living in extreme poverty experience and expect.** *Policy-makers are too often unaware of the daily realities of people’s lives. This often leads to national governments putting in place specific programmes, without sufficient understanding of all that is at stake, nor the necessary participation of the people destined to be on the receiving end.* [International Movement ATD Fourth World]

Therefore, *people living in poverty must be able to participate meaningfully in MDG planning, implementation and monitoring at all level..... This action should be guided by the principle, as affirmed in the UN Secretary-General’s report “to empower the poor: through scaled-up efforts focused on citizen monitoring of MDG delivery, capacity building and improving access to*

*financial and legal services.” This requires respecting **rights to freedom of expression, information, assembly and association**, and providing enabling conditions for the work of human rights defenders. [Amnesty International]*

It was further noted that:

***Parliamentarians** should be encouraged to play a role in agreeing MDG plans and projects, regional and local governments too, and their legislative bodies, ought to be involved. [Amnesty International]*

***Faith groups**, such as local churches, are vital for challenging negative cultural norms and bringing about long-term behaviour change, as well as holding governments accountable for implementing their policies – strengthening the relationship between State and citizens. [Tearfund]*

*Special effort should be made to address the **Indigenous Peoples “democratic deficit”** and to get cultural minorities involved in formal political processes. This should be done by supporting the development of policy and legislative frameworks that ensure the effective participation of indigenous peoples at all levels of governance, from local decentralization processes to global standard-setting, [...and] in national MDG processes. [Health Poverty Action] ... the MDGs should encapsulate the development needs of indigenous peoples based on their “**free, prior and informed consent**.” [Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd]*

Regarding youth populations, several contributions pointed out the need to **encourage the participation of youth** at both community and national levels, to invest in the development of their capabilities and to include them in accountability processes.

*Civil society representatives, including children and youth, need to be involved in the planning, implementation and review of all programmes from community to national level and donor and country funding needs to provide support for this. [World Vision International]*

*The participation of youth groups is a fundamental strategy required to improve competencies, promote autonomy, reduce the vulnerability of society, and uphold universal human rights. [International Institute for Development of the Citizenship]*

### **National Anti-Poverty Observatory Councils**

A way to enhance the equal representation and participation of different stakeholders including various civil society actors, is the establishment of National Anti-Poverty Observatory Councils. The Southern African Youth Movement, in its contribution, for example, noted that South Africa was in the process of setting up a National Anti-Poverty Observatory Council in partnership with civil society organizations.

National Anti-Poverty Observatory Councils are structures that have been recently created by governments in Southern Africa (including the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Madagascar, Mauritius, and Mozambique) in order to develop participatory processes for national poverty reduction planning and monitoring. The Councils have as an objective to facilitate the interaction between civil society and the government in decision-making processes regarding poverty reduction activities, and make sure that all sectors of society are equally represented and engaged in the formulation, implementation, and monitoring of poverty reduction projects. In Mozambique, for example, the selection of civil society representatives is done through a coordinated effort by the government and civil society itself, in consultation with the following institutions: religious institutions, workers’ unions, private sector associations (trade association, industry association), NGO networks, scientific associations, and universities. [Poverty Observatory in Mozambique]

Among the main challenges encountered is the need to strengthen the capacity of civil society to engage in these processes (see also below).

### **Programme Implementation and Monitoring Committees**

Another proposal is to set up Programme Implementation and Monitoring Committees (PIMC). *A mechanism should be developed under which Programme Implementation and Monitoring Committees (PIMC) must be constituted comprising all the key stakeholders of the area, particularly the women, youth and local CSO/NGOs. The PIMC should be equipped with all the essential resources (in terms of budget, transportation, personnel, tools, etc.) and powers to implement the programmes related to each MDG [...and] decide monthly, quarterly, half yearly and yearly targets against the indicators of the MDG. It should also observe/supervise the implementation of the programmes, organize the meeting of its members every month, discuss the*

*progress and solve the problem, if any. To make the PIMC transparent and accountable, it is further proposed that it would report on a monthly basis to its higher level, that is performance will be examined on a quarterly basis according to set indicators and periodical targets through examining bodies comprising people's representatives.* [Gram Bharati Samiti]

### **Dealing effectively with the information gap**

Various civil society organizations made the point that the local population is generally not well informed about the MDGs and their importance for human development. [Kanuri Development Association; Society of the Sacred Heart; Aube Nouvelle pour la Femme et le Développement (ANFD); Teresian Association; Organisation Nationale pour l'Enfant, la Femme et la Famille] Often, governments have not developed a communication plan to inform citizens about development strategies and policies [Centre d'Accompagnement des Alternatives Locales de Développement], or only report on them when they have to present reports [Espace Associatif]. This results in a lack of knowledge among the population about what is happening within their country; it also excludes them from participation and opportunities to hold their government accountable.

*In Burkina Faso, for example, the Parliament adopted 764 laws containing general or specific provisions since the return to constitutional democracy in 1992. Citizens, including most scholars, however, remain in complete ignorance of these legal provisions concerning the rights they could benefit.* [Civil Society Organization Network for Development]

*In order to build knowledge and to be able to monitor development processes, sufficient data should be available. However, civil society groups note that in many countries a **data gap** as well as **data incoherence** persists. Furthermore, they often question the way in which data is collected.* [Nepal Forum of Environmental Journalists]

*Governments must therefore **report fully and in public on development plans** directed at achieving the MDGs.* [Amnesty International] To extend this information to a larger audience, civil society groups [e.g. OSDUY, Kanuri Development Association] argue that governments and NGOs should make **better use of low-tech media** like radio, television, print materials, music, drama, movies, etc., and that information should be translated in local languages in order to reach out to the rural populace whose lives are directly affected by the MDGs. In particular, the use of radio is seen as important:

*Free radios should be distributed to the traditional, religious and the clan leaders of the local communities living within the Sub-Saharan African nations, because listening to radio is more effective tool in making information reaching the local communities at the grassroots in this part of the world than campaigning about the MDGs on the television, newspapers, magazines or the billboards.* [Kanuri Development Association]

### **Capacity building and funding of civil society actors**

Various civil society organizations noted that civil society strengthening through capacity building, increased funding [Richbone Initiative Foundation (Ghana); Comision Pro Fomento Vecinal Cuauhtémoc], and greater inclusion in decision-making is a prerequisite to hold stakeholders to account in attaining the MDGs. *A broad survey of 640 civil society organizations worldwide indicated a **worrying decline in the capacity of many CSOs** to fulfill their advocacy and service delivery mission as a direct result of the global financial crisis.* [Erlasjahr]

*Domestic accountability actors can be a critical voice and essential driver for development. In many countries, domestic accountability actors such as parliaments (with relevant committees), CSOs and auditor general's offices, need strengthening to hold stakeholders to account to attain the MDGs....* [World Vision International]

*Civil society strengthening: By 2012, every development partner should develop, through an inclusive process, strategies for providing significant support for strengthening the organizational capacity and programmatic reach of civil society organizations promoting human rights, health, education, the environment, poverty reduction, democracy, and government accountability. Developing countries should increase support for such organizations as well, including through funding, greater inclusion in decision-making, and stronger partnerships.* [Physicians for Human Rights/Health Workforce Advocacy Initiative]

World Vision International proposed *a **minimum of 5% of programme funding should be allocated to support civil society input**....* [World Vision International]

To build the capacity of non-state actors, the Kanuri Development Association proposed to organize series of “**train the trainer workshops**” on the MDGs for non-governmental organizations working at the local/grassroot level as well as for traditional, religious and clan leaders within local communities within the next two years.

To enhance youth participation in development, the International Institute for Development of the Citizenship, for example, has developed a programme that targets youth to voluntarily participate in community development or to become development protagonists and supports them by making them aware of their citizen capacities, and in realizing social actions. It notes that it is necessary to reinforce this process by investing in the development of **youth capacities** for community socio-economic emancipation.

### **Dealing effectively with the lack of financial transparency and corruption**

According to various other contributions [i.e. Aube Nouvelle pour la Femme et le Développement, Centre d'Accompagnement des Alternatives Locales de Développement], lack of transparency in the monitoring and evaluation of national MDG programmes is an important cause of regression in some of the MDGs.

*[V]ery little efforts have been put in place to deal with the issues of corruption, misuse of the public resources and public education on governance and accountability. [Droits Humains Sans Frontières]*

*There is clear evidence that the social, legal, political and economic aspects of development are all linked, and that corruption in any one of these sectors impedes progress in all of them. In the socio-political arena, corruption poses a major threat to social justice, political stability, the rule of law, and sustainable peace. In some cases, corruption has resulted in undermining the legitimacy of governments, eroding confidence in the political leadership, diverting public money away from development projects, reducing productivity, worsening poverty, marginalizing the poor, and spreading unrest and violence. [Africa Youth Coalition Against Hunger Sierra Leone]*

ANFD for example suggested that the international community, United Nations organizations and other international financial bodies should implement a **Finance Tracking Programme** to achieve the MDGs in each Member State.

Another contribution suggests that:

*If governments are really serious about achieving their MDG goals they would seek to strengthen strong democratic principles of governance and seriously address the question of corruption. Individual or corporate greed should not prevail over the common good.... Endemic corruption cannot be halted without values education, laws and good practice by local and national governments. [International Presentation Association]*

The Teresian Association drew attention to **participatory budgeting processes**, which have been initiated in various Brazilian cities, of which the most known one is **Porto Alegre**. *Community-based participatory budgeting processes are good mechanisms to fight local corruption as they give the political power to the community to determine the destination of local budgets, based on justice and equity criteria, and according to local and basic needs. [Teresian Association]*

### **Setting better indicators and targets for progress**

According to several civil society organizations, States should adopt more appropriate and **equity-adjusted success indicators based on people's access to rights**, including all economic, social and cultural rights.

*States should set and implement national targets to realize all economic, social and cultural rights, in particular minimum essential levels, in the shortest possible time. Governments should develop time-bound and measurable targets, taking into account existing levels of progress and the resources available nationally and through international co-operation and assistance. [Amnesty International]*

*The exclusive focus on absolute financial metrics (US\$1.25/day, poverty gap ratio, poorest quintile in national consumption) is inadequate to quantify poverty. Targets seeking average, partial improvements (i.e. to halve the proportion of people living on less than US\$1.25/day) do not include or address the conditions of those experiencing the severest poverty, and result in policy-making that reaches only those closest to the poverty line, further entrenching those worst off in even greater poverty if initiatives are unattainable. [International Movement ATD Fourth World]*

*[T]he focus on averages has concealed the fact that there are large groups of people – the chronically poor and those who live in fragile States – whose lives have remained almost untouched by existing progress on the MDGs and who need a different approach, more focused on inequality and exclusion, to tackle their particular problems.... This would involve introducing equity adjusted indicators against the major MDG targets – incorporating measurement by gender and income quintile. This could be instituted within this year, and a commitment made to report against these indicators as far as possible in the UN’s 2011 MDG report. [ODI]*

Indicators of progress should also be **disaggregated by disability, age, gender and ethnicity**. This will guarantee that action to reduce poverty effectively targets and reaches those who are currently marginalized. [CONCORD/Bond] Health Poverty Action proposes specific complementary indicators for indigenous peoples.

A good example in this regard is the **Basic Capabilities Index (BCI)**, an index designed by Social Watch to identify poverty situations not based on income, but on capabilities and (denial of) human rights. *“The BCI is based on three indicators: percentage of children who reach fifth grade; mortality among children under five; and, percentage of deliveries attended by skilled health personnel. By themselves these indicators express different dimensions addressed by internationally agreed development goals – education, children’s health and reproductive health.”*

*“The countries that have succeeded in ensuring these basic capabilities for most or all of their populations are in the two categories with the highest BCI values (medium and acceptable BCI) ... which means that these countries meet minimum essential requirements in order to progress towards higher levels of happiness and well-being. [Philippine Rural Reconstruction Movement]*

Another proposal is to **localize the MDGs** which would see targets and indicators largely set nationally. In devising the indicators and targets that would be reflective of all of their citizens, governments should ensure that aggregated data are collected and internalized into policies that specifically address the needs of their most vulnerable populations by working in partnership with them. [International Movement ATD Fourth World]

**Some States have already adopted relevant measures.** Thailand and Malaysia, for example, have included disaggregated national indicators to take regional and ethnic disparities and inequalities into account; and Ecuador has also developed additional indicators in their efforts to meet the MDGs, in order to better reflect the rights of women, indigenous people and other excluded groups. [Amnesty International]

With regard to labour and employment indicators, ITUC notes:

*Monitoring of targets and indicators should be stepped up. Monitoring the achievement of **decent work objectives through the indicators developed for MDG 1, Target 1B: Achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all, including women and young people**, namely: growth rate of GDP per person employed; employment-to-population ratio; proportion of employed people living below US\$1 (PPP) per day; proportion of own-account and contributing family workers in total employment, and **for the employment-related indicator of MDG 3 (gender equality): share of women in wage employment in the non-agricultural sector**. These should be complemented by other ILO decent work indicators on social protection, social dialogue and workers’ rights. Such monitoring will provide important feedback on whether poverty reduction is really taking place, as measured by increased incomes, access to social protection, and decent working conditions through trade union organizing and collective bargaining. [ITUC]*

## **Part III: Compendium of MDG-specific Proposals – Scaling up and replicating success**

This compendium attempts to capture the broad range of sectoral proposals that were put forth by civil society organizations in order to move forward in achieving the Millennium Development Goals through a global MDG Breakthrough Plan.

### **I. Addressing hunger, nutrition and food security (Related to MDGs 1 & 8)**

*In 2010 the hunger target is far from being met. Reductions in hunger achieved in the early 1990s are being reversed. Since 1995, the number of hungry people worldwide has been on the rise again. The recent food and economic crises have exacerbated this trend. Since 2008 a further 105 million people are going hungry bringing the total to more than one billion people today. Out of the one billion hungry, there are about 129 million underweight children in the world. [CONCORD/Bond]*

Many proposals to reinvest in small-holder agriculture, protect food security and livelihoods of small farmers, including in trade policies were described in Part II, Section 3 on “New Development Paths.” Below are some additional analyses and proposals to address hunger, nutrition and food security.

#### **Food crises are predictable and preventable**

*The dominant policy response of the international community and governments over the past 20 years has been to treat food and hunger crises as a series of unexpected disasters which can be addressed by the provision of humanitarian relief. In addition, emergency aid is focused on saving lives, and often it comes too late to prevent people from losing assets, their livelihoods being destroyed and consequently being vulnerable to the next disaster. This is despite the fact that food crises are largely predictable and preventable. [Tearfund]*

The persistent high levels of hunger worldwide are not caused by the lack of food, one contribution argued: *Instead, they arise from a complex set of factors which affect the ability of different countries and regions to produce and access food. Amongst the main reasons for the lack of progress on hunger are failures in global food governance, underinvestment in agriculture and an almost exclusive focus on increasing food production instead of a more holistic response based on addressing the structural causes of food insecurity. An effective global partnership on food security, agriculture and nutrition is urgently needed to address these issues and to put the world back on track towards realizing MDG 1. [Trocaire (Northern Ireland)]*

Many highlighted the interlinkages between hunger, its causes and the barriers this has created in reaching the MDGs, particularly in terms of on-going conflict and poor governance as well as a failure to engage effectively with social and cultural factors that perpetuate poverty. [Tearfund, Earth Rights Institute, CIDSE]

*Global hunger is caused by bad distribution of food, poverty, instability, poor governance, lack of access to food, resources, markets, knowledge and political voice. Agriculture has failed due to a lack of access to productive resources, overdependence on single crops and lack of rain, effects of climate change, reduced productivity of households due to HIV/AIDS or conflict, and lack of employment opportunities. [CIDSE]*

#### **Investing in agriculture: The L’Aquila Initiative and beyond**

Many of the civil society contributions identified low investment in agriculture and rural development as a cause of high levels of hunger and undernutrition. In addition to a domestically-driven change of course in reinvesting in sustainable small-holder agriculture, discussed in the section on New Development Paths, the donor community was urged to change course as well and honour its existing commitments.

*The percentage of official aid to agriculture has dropped from 17% of all ODA in 1982 to 3.6% in 2006. Despite recent increases, and the fact that agriculture is back on the agenda, aid spent on food, agriculture and rural development remains much lower than what is needed. [CONCORD/Bond]*

In particular, many groups insisted that the donor community live up to commitments under the L’Aquila Initiative of US\$20 billion per annum over the next three years, dedicated in particular “to increase food production, improve access to food and empower smallholder farmers to gain access to enhanced inputs, technologies, credit and markets.” In its recommendations to the

European Union, [CONCORD/Bond] insisted that living up to the L'Aquila Initiative should include *clear follow-up mechanisms for its delivery through robust country-led and locally validated plans and systems (such as the Comprehensive African Agriculture Development Programme), in line with Paris and Accra commitments.* In the long term, much more is needed: *multi-year, predictable and guaranteed flows, without attaching conditionalities (other than those necessary to meet fiduciary responsibility) to tackle hunger – at least four times as much as what was announced at L'Aquila is needed annually.* [CONCORD/Bond]

In addition,

*African nations have committed themselves in 2003 in Maputo to set aside 10% of their annual budgets for this purpose; CIDSE is calling on donors to reach at least an equivalent percentage of their ODA to agriculture and rural development within the next five years.* [CIDSE]

### **Stop/restrict the financialization of food and “land-grabbing”**

As discussed in Part II, Section 1 of the report on “Global Economic and Development Cooperation reform,” for a number of contributors, financialization of food via commodity speculation, and increasing cross-border land deals, were seen as drivers of major risks, instability and vulnerability in developing countries. [UNCTAD Public Symposium, CIDSE]

*Steps must be taken to make markets less volatile, including supporting the creation of stocks, and the elimination of speculative finance (including hedge funds) in food stock exchange and futures markets for food and agriculture.* [CIDSE]

The need to confront the problem of “land grab” – a phenomenon too often associated with investment in agriculture – was also identified at the UNCTAD Public Symposium.

*Important to note in the recent context is the threat to land tenure by smallholder farmers as a result of large-scale land acquisitions driven, amongst others by foreign agricultural investments, without prior and informed consent by the local communities and without adequate benefit sharing. In the absence or stagnation of redistributive land policies at the national level, national and international regulation on land acquisition is urgently required.* [CIDSE]

One network of NGOs emphasized the need to ensure that productive land is not confiscated for the expansion of agrofuels production in developing countries at the expense of food production for local markets, and that projects resulting in land-grabbing respect the FAO's Voluntary Guidelines on the Right to Food. [CONCORD/Bond]

In addition,

*The North's energy needs are fuelling hunger in the South. Foreign food and agrofuel importers have acquired an area the size of France, 20 million hectares of farming land, in developing countries, since 2006. This land should be used to grow food for local consumption. The shift of land use from food to agrofuel production is likely to expand further with the advent of the EU Directive for renewable energy. Approved in 2009, it foresees that by 2020, 10% of energy for transport will come from renewable sources, a target likely only to be met through the use of agrofuels.* [CONCORD/Bond]

### **Better coordination and accountability: A human rights-based approach**

Many suggestions were made concerning policy approaches that would be needed to ensure food security in food insecure countries and regions, which would also address the systemic causes of hunger in order to eradicate food crises sustainably and to employ a more holistic and coherent approach based on addressing the structural causes of food insecurity [CIDSE] and generate long-term political commitment and leadership [Tearfund].

*Improved coordination and policy coherence are needed if any progress is to be made on food security for the world's poorest communities.... The UN High Level Task Force (HLTF) on the Global Food Crisis should continue to coordinate moving forward with country level partnerships (in 35 countries where they are intensifying coordination), and should ensure that there is a robust mechanism for monitoring progress in each country so that civil society can hold governments and UN agencies accountable as they develop and implement national strategies (e.g. through indicators and an annual report).* [Tearfund]

A recurring theme amongst the contributions was the need for a rights-based approach to food security [CONCORD/Bond, Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers/Maryknoll Sisters of St. Dominic, American Association for Health Education, CIDSE, CRY, Action Against Hunger UK]. One contribution called for States to use the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) voluntary

guidelines on the right to food to ensure that the right to food, nutrition policy and protection of local food production drives agriculture and food security policy [CONCORD/Bond].

### **Hunger and nutrition-specific initiatives**

*The fight against hunger has been dominated by food security assistance (agricultural investments, cash transfers, and interventions to improve livelihoods). While these interventions are critical, and should be expanded to reach all in need, they will not succeed in eliminating malnutrition, particularly severe wasting, on their own. A variety of nutrition and nutrition-supportive interventions, implemented at scale, are needed. Interventions that directly diagnose and treat child and maternal malnutrition must therefore be at the forefront of the fight against hunger. [Action Against Hunger UK]*

A number of common elements emerged from the civil society contributions, including the need to identify nutrition as a cross-cutting issue linked to the MDGs, which requires multi-sectoral responses and strengthened local, national and international partnerships.

*Nutrition is the foundation for human development, a pre-condition for achieving the MDGs.... The World Bank estimates that malnutrition costs 2-3% of the GDP in most affected countries. All the MDGs and their targets are interrelated, thus requiring a comprehensive approach to tackle the massive issues of poverty, hunger, health, education, gender, and sustainable development. [Action Against Hunger UK]*

A number of recommendations were made, specifically for multi-sectoral strategies that include integrating food/nutrition security into poverty reduction approaches and implementing integrated programmes that address food insecurity, water and sanitation, care practices, and health and nutrition services through: social protection, human rights-based programming, and practical applied research [Action Against Hunger UK].

In order to improve coordination and partnership, some contributions called for enhancing local partnerships and community participation. It was also necessary to establish national nutrition coordination mechanisms that would undertake a variety of tasks and implement emergency food assistance for the most vulnerable [Action Against Hunger UK].

## **II. MDG 2: Improving education – build capacity & human resources**

Many contributions pointed out that education is one of the most important features for development. However, despite progress in the level of primary school access, serious problems remain, including the lack of quality education, school-level barriers such as school fees and gender inequality, particularly in Southern Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa.

*Education is a key factor for development. Education is also a fundamental human right; a right that is denied to over 72 million children. Of the 72 million children that are left out of school, one-third are children with disabilities. [The Atlas Alliance] Education, especially for girls, has social and economic benefits for society as a whole. Achieving this goal will require dramatically scaled-up efforts in Sub-Saharan Africa, Southern Asia and Oceania. [CRY] Though enrolment of girls in primary education has increased, there are concerns about the quality of education, retention of girls, gender gaps in tertiary education, limited use of role modelling and mentorship programmes, under-representation of girls in science and technology fields, and the relevance of the education curriculum to the job market. [African Women's Development and Communication Network (FEMNET)]*

*The challenges in delivering education in conflict-affected fragile States (CAFS) and in the aftermath of emergencies are the greatest obstacles to achieving the education MDG. [Save the Children]*

*Education is a human right, that it is a public good, not a commodity. We make strong and passionate pleas for investments in our public school systems on moral grounds. [Kurdistan Organization for Rehabilitation of the Disabled]*

In order to achieve MDG 2, many civil society contributions proposed:

### **Increased funding for education**

*Success increasingly depends on knowledge and skills, on a well educated population. [E]ducation is to be placed at the center of government policy. Well known economists have calculated that every dollar invested in education will return between 8 and 12% in revenue! Schools and other educational institutions exist in communities across every nation. Maintaining*

*and even increasing employment in them will benefit each community in this time of crisis. The inclusion of resources for education staffing in national economic recovery plans will have an immediate and positive fiscal impact. Thus, nations that want to build a sustainable recovery must invest in primary and secondary education for the future generations. [Kurdistan Organization for Rehabilitation of the Disabled]*

*Quality education for all children and young people, is really one of the keys to recovery in all nations. This is the message we need to get across to political leaders everywhere. We need to make them understand that this is not the time to cut back on education, but, on the contrary, to maximize investments. [Kurdistan Organization for Rehabilitation of the Disabled]*

*Increase funding for education – and particularly basic education – in order to close the financing gap. Countries seeking to eliminate school fees should be supported through financial and technical assistance. Countries with the greatest need should be prioritized, including CAFs. [CONCORD/Bond]*

### **Prioritizing education investments towards conflict-affected fragile States (CAFS)**

*Prioritize education in CAFs, ensuring that at least 10% of ODA in CAFs is allocated to education; allocate a minimum of 4.2% of humanitarian aid to education to meet education funding requirements in emergency situations; ensure equitable funding based on needs, with at least 50% of new basic education aid commitments going to CAFs; increase predictability of aid through longer-term multi-year commitments; provide quality of education in all humanitarian responses through the use of the Minimum Standards published by the Inter-Agency Network for Education in Emergencies; increase educational opportunities for the poorest, most disadvantaged children in CAFs, including by providing flexible, alternative education opportunities for children. [Save the Children]*

*Support education as part of every humanitarian response, through the education cluster, and allocate adequate funding to preparedness, coordination and response at country and global levels. [CONCORD/Bond]*

### **Reform of the Education for All - Fast Track Initiative**

*The so-called Fast-Track Initiative (FTI) for Education for All (EFA) has not done its job. EI favours a major overhaul of this FTI, and its eventual transformation into a Global Fund for Education, based on strong political commitments and leadership, active and effective engagement of stakeholders, including the people who work in education, adequate financial resources and transparent accountability. [Education International (EI)]*

*Endorse and promote the recommendations from the FTI evaluation to radically reform the FTI. In particular, address the governance and trustee arrangements, the inclusion of civil society, and the financing of CAFs. The FTI should further address the need for capacity-building to focus on issues of inclusion. [CONCORD/Bond]*

### **Improving the quality of education**

*Creating of a global programme for the education and professional development of teachers, to support them in confronting the challenges of the 21st century. Quality Education for All requires qualified teachers and support personnel. [Education International] Addressing the dire shortage of teachers and provide “child friendly” teacher training, professional development, and regular remuneration and incentives to improve teaching quality.... Providing proper facilities, equipment, and learning materials in schools. [Save the Children] Continue to emphasize quality of education, measuring not only the number of children enrolled in school but their achievement of key learning outcomes such as literacy, numeracy, rights and life skills. Encourage countries receiving development assistance to put in place data collection systems that take into account factors such as gender, ethnicity, and language and to use that data when conceiving national education policies and curricula. [CONCORD/Bond]*

### **Reducing levels of inequality and exclusion in access to education**

*Ensure that further efforts are made to make education more inclusive and equitable which increase access for children without parental care, and girls and boys who have faced violence, abuse, neglect or exploitation.... Education for all will not be achieved unless the current widespread exclusion of young married girls and children in extended family care, prison or work is addressed. Education planners have not done enough to address violence in schools or ensure that inclusive education extends to children without proper care and protection. [EveryChild]*

*Ensure focus remains on improving access to education and reducing drop-out rates, especially for the more vulnerable and marginalized groups, even in countries where progress is made overall. [CONCORD/Bond]*

### **III. Making progress on MDG 3? Gender equality and empowerment of women**

*Gender equality and the empowerment of women, the focus of Millennium Development Goal 3, are critical to the achievement of the other seven MDGs. However, the Secretary-General's report "Keeping the Promise" recognizes that there has not been enough progress to date on gender equality. Although women are 50% of the world's population, women and girls still comprise 70% of the world's poor. Little progress has been made on women's education, employment, leadership and safety. [Women's Environment and Development Organization (WEDO)]*

#### **Obstacles in reaching MDG 3**

Many contributions highlighted some of the main obstacles in the achievement of MDG 3 on gender equality and women's economic empowerment, including gender-based violence (commercial sexual exploitation of women and girls); harmful societal attitudes; lack of access to education and to job security. Several also pointed to an inappropriate approach to gender equality and to gaps in implementation and policy making. These elements were often seen as interlinked, resulting in cumulative disadvantages that intensified gender inequality and created ongoing vulnerability, for both women and girls.

#### **Gender-based violence**

The commercial sexual exploitation of women and girls was identified as one of the key obstacles to achieving MDG 3. Contributors linked it to women's inequality, perpetuating racism and poverty, as well as to the spread of HIV/AIDS. Some of the contributions criticized lax governmental policies which regularize, or even legalize, sexual violence and exploitation.

*One of the most severe, devastating, and escalating practices of gender-based violence is the commercial sexual exploitation of women and girls. The sex industry is built upon women's inequality, racism, poverty and the reduction of women's bodies to sexual commodities. The legitimization and normalization of the sex industry have a profound, negative impact on the human rights and dignity of all women....*

*Over the past decade, misguided economic policies often have led to prioritizing revenue at the expense of human rights and gender equality. Rather than investing in women's skills, governments have adopted development policies that normalize and, in some places, legalize sexual violence and exploitation such as prostitution and pornography, giving men moral and social permission to practice the prostitution of women and girls, which increases the demand that fuels sex trafficking. [Coalition against Trafficking in Women]*

#### **Harmful societal attitudes**

Many contributions argued that some social structures and mentalities hinder progress on gender equality.

*The root causes of gender disadvantage and oppression lie in societal attitudes and norms and power structures, as identified in the Beijing Platform for Action. [International Federation of Translators]*

*Gender equality is about fostering the integral human development of both men and women, boys and girls, without artificial restrictions imposed by primitive thinking, some of which persist as "sacred traditions" in many religious institutions. It is hoped that the "MDG summit" will be unequivocal in calling for gender equality in all nations and human institutions, both secular and religious; anything else would be a disservice to humanity and a sabotage of the MDGs. [Pelican Web]*

*Female Genital Mutilation/cutting continues to be a growing concern in many countries of Africa and the Middle East (UNICEF). [International Presentation Association]*

#### **Lack of access to education**

Many contributions identified the main factors impeding progress on girls' education.

*Progress on girls' education has been further hampered by insufficient attention to school attendance and completion rates, and quality of learning, as well as a reluctance to tackle the causes of high drop out rates among girls, such as heavy domestic workloads, violence against girls in school, early marriage, lack of or poor quality sanitary facilities, and poor infrastructure and transport. Girls from minority ethnic and indigenous groups often face particularly severe obstacles, including ethnic discrimination on the part of teachers, lack of access to mother tongue education, and lack of investment in areas where minorities and indigenous communities live. Girls with disabilities may also face "double discrimination," which has been well documented in development policies. [CONCORD/Bond]*

*Access to education is further affected by pregnancy, lack of school fees, burdensome domestic duties, poor sanitation, or due to the affects of HIV/AIDS of family members. Capacity for employment and contributing to society are thus diminished. [International Presentation Association]*

### **Inappropriate gender equality approach**

Some of the contributions pointed to weaknesses in the international community's approach to gender equality as a major obstacle. According to most of them, the current approach is not appropriate because it ignores the cross-cutting nature of gender issues and its implications on achieving the other MDGs.

*[We] believe that the gendered barriers to achieving the MDGs have been looked at in an isolated manner. When the international community talks about gender and the MDGs, all too often it is only in reference to the MDGs which specifically relate to women or girls (i.e. MDG 3 and MDG 5). Yet the kind of empowerment for which [we] advocate must be part of the strategy to achieving every single one of the MDGs. Poverty, education, child mortality, HIV/AIDS/malaria/other communicable diseases, and environmental sustainability cannot be achieved without empowering women and girls with skills and confidence.*

*The international community's approach of gender equality is usually tacked onto the end, mentioned as a guiding principle, but rarely meaningfully operationalized or integrated as a core component. We believe that this phenomenon, something akin to "superficial mainstreaming," has become a primary barrier to the achievement of the MDGs. [Soroptimist International]*

### **Implementation and policy making gaps**

Many contributions lamented the non-integration of gender equality in the formulation of developed countries' cooperation policies or the non-implementation of international women protecting legislations such as the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and the Beijing Plan of Action.

*[G]ender mainstreaming has not been systematically implemented and has remained a low priority in EU development cooperation, hampered in particular by inadequate resources and lack of political will. The advancement of gender equality in development has been further stalled by the lack of policy coherence with other EU policies in the area of external relations, such as the non-integration of gender equality obligations in the ongoing bilateral and multilateral free trade agreement negotiations, as well as with the EU's international women's rights commitments. [CONCORD/Bond]*

Concerning implementation and policy making gaps between UN Member States, the UN and the international community, one contributor made reference to CEDAW Article 14 on Rural Women, as well as the Beijing Plan of Action, in the context of tackling feminized hunger and poverty: *In all the key actions to be taken necessary to combat hunger and poverty cannot be addressed when Member States fail to reach agreement on how to implement their various Plans of Actions. [International Alliance of Women]*

*Not enough has been done to implement CEDAW Article 5 (Challenging negative stereotypes) – which is fundamental to achieving gender equality. [Tearfund]*

### **Gender-specific initiatives**

In order to accelerate progress on MDG 3, civil society contributions proposed a wide range of recommendations, including a change in the international gender equality approach to accelerating the launch of the new UN gender equality entity. Many contributions suggested the need to include or strengthen the gender dimension in governmental policies; increasing women participation in development planning implementation; creating employment for women;

increasing financial resources for gender equality programmes and investing in education and training for women and girls.

### **Changing the international gender equality approach: Empowering women**

Several contributions called for incorporating gender into all aspects of the MDGs and empowering women and girls as the base of a new approach to gender equality.

*Empowerment is much more than simply describing activities such as ensuring girls attend school, electing female politicians, or offering employment opportunities to women – those are outcomes of creating an enabling community environment. Empowerment should refer to the process which occurs long before those outcomes whereby women and girls are provided with the tools to take ownership of their own future.... We need to empower women and girls with skills and confidence and we need to enable communities to allow women and girls to meaningfully participate. To date, much of the meaningful and active focus of the MDGs has been on the enabling framework (by providing opportunities for girls to attend school or women to have access to skilled birth attendants, etc.), and not necessarily on the empowerment framework. [Soroptimist International]*

### **Strengthening gender dimension in governmental policies**

Many suggestions were made concerning policy approaches that would be needed to ensure the attainment of MDG 3:

*Improving the processes of policy making and delivery to allow women's voices to be more clearly heard and to ensure that the indicators used to diagnose problems and measure progress allow policy makers to see the gender dimensions of poverty and policy solutions. [ODI]*

*Design alternative macroeconomic policies and structures that are gender sensitive and pro-poor, and develop appropriate programs in order to guide economic growth and equitable allocation of resources and benefits.... Develop and implement social protection for women in the informal sector.... Take appropriate actions to eliminate all discriminatory laws, practices and traditions, and secure through legislation women's right to equality with men particularly in marriage, divorce and separation, inheritance matters and property ownership.*

*Strengthen programmes and activities of government, regional and international bodies and national and local women's NGOs that coordinate and provide support to women in leadership and politics at all levels, so as to ensure empowerment indicators are duly monitored and broad coverage up to local levels is achieved.*

*Ensure that universal ratification of the African Women's Rights Protocol, CEDAW and its Optional Protocol are prioritized to be achieved in the first 3 years of the African Women's Decade (2010-2020).... Put in place mechanisms that support the growth and expansion of the African women's movement at all levels so as to create a strong pressure group for promoting gender equality, equity, women's emancipation and social transformation. [African Women's Development and Communication Network (FEMNET)]*

### **Increasing women participation in development planning implementation**

*Women should be equally involved in all development planning, implementation and review.... All development management bodies should develop strategies to ensure near equal representation of women and men. By 2012 all international and national level development management bodies should have near equal gender composition. [World Vision International]*

### **Creating employment for women**

For a number of contributors, the creation of employment either in urban and rural areas is a key factor to reduce poverty and marginalization of the female population.

*The feminization of poverty must be urgently addressed through policies that emphasize full employment, decent work and a guarantee of basic rights in the workplace, especially in the informal sector. [Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers/Maryknoll Sisters]*

*Give priority to employment creation for women through targeted entrepreneurship, skills and business development, paying particular attention to the needs of rural women.... Build the capacity of rural women in agriculture and strengthen women's land rights. [FEMNET]*

## **Increasing funding for women's programmes and mechanisms**

Financial constraints were recognized such one of the main factors impeding the conception and implementation of gender equality programmes. Consequently, several contributions call for increasing financial resources and ensuring that gender equality is integrated in all planning and budgeting processes.

*Explore alternative sources of funding for women's institutional mechanisms other than the traditional sources, with emphasis on setting up solidarity funds for gender equality programmes at national, sub-regional and regional levels, and ensuring increased partnerships with the private sector.*

*Ensure that structures established to lead the gender equality and women's empowerment agenda have adequate resources as an indication of political commitment to women's advancement.* [FEMNET]

*Ensure that gender equality is incorporated in all planning and budgeting processes at different levels, and the deliberate development of sex disaggregated data and gender sensitive indicators as one of the ways to guarantee effective implementation of the Beijing and MDG commitments.* [FEMNET]

## **Investing in education for girls and training for women**

A number of ideas were put forth on promoting post-primary education for girls and training for women as a way to improve women's empowerment and to enhance their capabilities.

*Work with governments to re-galvanize efforts to reach gender parity in education by strengthening opportunities for post-primary education for girls, because of compelling evidence that post-primary education has far greater impact on women's empowerment and well-being, and that of their families and communities, tracking completion and attendance rates alongside enrolment rates, and tackling the barriers – such as violence in schools – that inhibit girls' from completing their education or achieving positive outcomes.* [CONCORD/Bond]

*Support training and education programmes for women politicians aspiring for elective positions as a means of enhancing their capacities to effectively participate in and influence decision making processes.... Well targeted education and awareness programmes could influence change in attitudes and behaviour which perpetuate the marginalization of women in politics and society as a whole.* [FEMNET]

## **Gender Equality Architecture Reform**

Several NGO groups highlighted the necessity to accelerate the creation of the new UN gender equality entity.

*Until the UN Gender Equality Architecture Reform (GEAR), which consolidates the four UN gender entities to one new Women's Rights entity to be led by a new Under Secretary-General who reports to the Secretary-General is implemented, progress will not be made.* [Communications Coordination Committee for the United Nations]

*This year presents an opportunity to begin to accelerate the progress of gender equality and women's empowerment through the launch of the new UN gender equality entity....* [WEDO]

*In particular, we ask for continued leadership to ensure the agency has the authority, funding and mandate to be able to hold governments and UN agencies to account for meeting international commitments and targets on gender equality, and to be able to design, finance and deliver programmes that will make a real difference to women's lives. The UN Women's Agency must be ambitiously funded by at least US\$1 billion initially.* [CONCORD/Bond]

Finally, several contributions highlighted the urgent need for the new gender equality entity to help strengthen and foster gender equality commitments made by the UN and Member States.

*The gender equality entity at the UN can strengthen the various UN and Member State commitments to advancing gender equality and women's empowerment, such as the Beijing Platform for Action, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, Security Council Resolutions 1325 and 1820 on Women Peace and Security, the Millennium Development Declaration and Goals, and various other human rights and women's rights documents.* [WEDO]

#### IV. A holistic approach to health-related MDGs 4, 5 & 6 and beyond

Among the MDGs, three are directly related to health issues: MDG 4 addresses child mortality, MDG 5 focuses on maternal health and MDG 6 includes diseases, such as HIV/AIDS and malaria. As has also been shown throughout the report, the Goals are very much interlinked – this is especially the case for the health-related MDGs. One contributor noted: *Universal access to reproductive health is closely linked to gender equality (MDG 3), child health (MDG 4), HIV and other infectious diseases (MDG 6) and fundamentally to poverty and hunger.* [Nigeria, Youth Dignity International] This section will focus on improving the health sector in general and more specific MDG-related issues will also be addressed.

##### Health sector constraints

Various civil society organizations noted that the health sector, including all the health-related MDGs, is faced by multiple constraints, including shortages in funding, a lack of accountability, and an insufficient focus. Other major impediments include a lack of equal access to health services as well as an absence of a continuum system of care.

*Developing countries have committed to dedicate 15% of their national budget to health but despite this, owing to a lack of domestic resources, it is clear that a large part of the necessary **funding** will need to come from donors. For their part, donors have committed to provide 0.7% of their gross national income (GNI) to official development assistance (ODA). However, owing to the financial crisis, the amount of funding provided risks being considerably lower than foreseen (and necessary).* [CONCORD/Bond]

*Only 6 African Union countries were allocating 15% of the budgets to health in 2006 - despite all 53 members promising to do so in 2001.* [Save the Children] This might also be the result of policies – whether spearheaded by finance ministries or promoted by international financial institutions including the International Monetary Fund – that limit the level of public social expenditures, including on health (and on wages). These policies may limit the degree to which developing countries use foreign assistance to increase overall health spending, contributing to countries using health-related donor assistance to replace rather than add to domestic health spending. [The Physicians for Human Rights/Health Workforce Advocacy Initiative]

*There is a major **accountability gap** [for example] on MDGs 4 and 5, with government and donor failures to honour pledges often passing unremarked within the UN system and at the national level. Where there's popular demand for action, and strong political leadership, as in Bangladesh, Liberia, Malawi and Tanzania, even the poorest countries can make dramatic strides. However, this is currently the exception, rather than the rule. At the global level, the absence of an effective champion for MDGs 4 and 5 within the UN system has stymied effective global action.* [Save the Children]

*Tracking health-related funding is made harder by inadequate public expenditure management systems in country where public agencies' capacity is stretched very thin and by donor accounting structures that are not designed to respond in a timely way to policy questions.* [Eastern African Sub-regional Support Initiative for the Advancement of Women]

*Health spending is often **disease-focused and skewed** towards high cost, curative care for better off sections of the population. Donor aid is more **fragmented** in health than in other sectors, with vertical initiatives and projects often diverting resources from the development of comprehensive health systems. The wider determinants of maternal, newborn and child survival, especially nutrition and clean water and sanitation, [for example] are especially neglected as they tend to fall between different sectoral remits.* [Save the Children]

In many poor countries and communities, **systems of continuum of care are simply non-existent**. The causes identified by civil society are multiple:

***Shortage of health workers, including skilled attendants at birth.** [CONCORD/Bond] In many countries, one of the greatest obstacles to achieving the health MDGs – in particular MDGs 4 (child survival), 5 (maternal health), and 6 (combat major diseases), as well as 1c (reduce hunger), is the deep and persistent shortage of health workers. [Physicians for Human Rights/Health Workforce Advocacy Initiative] There is a critical global shortage of nearly 2.4 million nurses, doctors, and midwives, and nearly 4.3 million health workers overall. [Physicians for Human Rights/Health Workforce Advocacy Initiative]*

**Shortage, or unavailability, of medicines, or vaccines**, especially preventative and curative treatment for pneumonia, diarrhea and malaria. [CONCORD/Bond] [T]here are widespread issues with drug shortages and barriers to accessing free medication and family planning services and information. [FEMNET]

**User fees or informal payments** – a number of studies have shown that when user fees are introduced, poor people's demand for primary health services falls, and when they are abolished, it increases dramatically. [ODI] Cost is often a barrier to access, including the cost of travel as well as user fees, whether official or informal, imposed at health clinics. [Health Poverty Action]

**Distance to health care facilities** – scarce health facilities means that individuals cannot access the care they need in a timely basis, and travel costs are prohibitive. [Save the Children]

**Discrimination** on the grounds of gender, caste, ethnicity, religion or disability. [CONCORD/Bond] Income, social and gender disparities exclude certain groups from accessing health care. Disempowerment and lack of education for women and girls prevents them from accessing services without male consent. [Save the Children] Many women from indigenous communities are discouraged from using the health services that are available because staff do not understand their cultural practices or display prejudice. [Health Poverty Action]

### **Missing health elements within the MDG framework**

Besides the above mentioned constraints, various civil society contributions drew attention to the fact that the MDGs – or the Secretary-General's report – do not include the issue of non-communicable diseases (NCDs), **such as cardiovascular diseases, cancer, chronic respiratory diseases and diabetes**. However, today, NCDs account for 60% of all global annual deaths and are projected to increase by 47% by 2030. The rates of death from NCDs are already 40-50% higher in most low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) than in high-income countries. [Framework Convention Alliance]

[...] 80% of NCD deaths (27.5 million/year) occur in LMICs where access to high quality health care is limited and health promotion programmes are rare. Many LMICs are dealing with a "dual burden" of disease, dealing with the communicable disease burden as well as the growing non-communicable disease burden. Cancer alone claims more than 5.3 million deaths annually in LMICs, which is greater than 70% of all cancer deaths worldwide (WHO, 2009). [American Cancer Society]

[...] yet the current level of NCD funding remains disproportionately low. According to a 2009 Survey by Centre for Global Development in Washington, while NCDs form 60% of the burden of disease in low- and middle-income countries, only 0.9% of the US\$22 billion spent on health by international aid agencies in LMICs is spent on preventing or controlling NCDs. [Framework Convention Alliance]

Many contributions identified that these diseases severely limit the resources of health systems, and as such have an impact on the implementation of MDGs 4, 5 and 6, as well as on poverty in general (MDG 1). [i.e. Centro de Investigación de la Epidemia de Tabaquismo, One Voice Against Cancer, Associação Brasileira de Portadores de Câncer (AMUCC), Corporación Nacional del Cáncer (CONAC), Movicancer – Nicaragua] Besides, they are *a major cause of poverty and a barrier to economic development*. [Young Professional Chronic Disease Working Group] Therefore, many civil society groups are advocating for NCD recognition from the global community. [One Voice Against Cancer, Diabetes association – Norway; World Heart Federation]

*If the mission of the MDGs is to reduce rather than sustain poverty in low- and middle-income countries, programmes designed to achieve health MDG goals must address all the major diseases that can trap households in vicious cycles of illness and destitution, not just HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis, but also NCDs such as cancer, coronary heart diseases, diabetes or respiratory diseases.* [International Network for Cancer Treatment and Research (INCTR)]

*Their prevalence is increasing as a result of rapid urbanization and the increasing globalization of the food, tobacco and alcohol industries. NCDs result not only in poor health but also loss of income, lost opportunities for investment, and overall lower levels of economic development.* [INCTR]

Besides, NCDs are victims of deteriorating fiscal positions, as governments focus on the remit of the time-bound, outcome-based targets of the MDGs when funds are limited. [For example,]

*much-needed funding for diabetes and NCDs is denied to LMICs because they are not explicitly mentioned in these goals. [International Diabetes Federation (IDF)]*

Another issue not addressed in the Secretary-General's report, or in the MDG framework, is the issue of **mental health care**.

*All over the world, many psychiatric patients are still suffering from severe discrimination and are marginalized by society.... they are true victims of a lack of respect for these human rights. Even 60 years after the declaration of human rights, they still fall victim to severe violation of these rights. The fact that, at the occasion of the commemoration of the declaration, the topic of mental health care was put on the agenda, is a sign of hope.... [NGO Global Action Against Poverty (The Brothers of Charity)]*

### **Proposed solutions to strengthen the health care sector**

To address many of the constraints mentioned above, civil society put forth a number of proposals:

#### **Adopting an integrated approach**

*The MDGs are overlapping and should not be played off against each other. Progress with one Goal can also impact another. [German Foundation for World Population (DSW)]*

*Health needs to be reflected throughout all policies. For example, policy initiatives in areas such as transport systems, urban planning, food systems, work environments and education will fundamentally determine future patterns of health and disease. A shared health, environmental and development agenda could address the large share of the burden of disease that is environmentally related. [International Diabetes Federation]*

#### **Funding the health sector**

*To overcome barriers within health funding, civil society drew attention to the need to advance political commitments, methodological advances and information technology, as well as to improve the management of public-sector expenditures in developing countries; to strengthen and institutionalize national health accounts work; and to improve the timeliness and comprehensiveness of reporting of external support from bilateral, multilateral, and private sources. [Eastern African Sub-regional Support Initiative for the Advancement of Women] They also called for upscaling ODA commitments and the development of alternative sources of funding, such as the implementation of a health transaction tax. [CONCORD/Bond, Save the Children]*

*EU Member States need to ensure they realize their 0.7% ODA contribution with 0.1% earmarked for health and initiate policy discussions with partner countries to motivate increased budget allocations for health (15% of national budgets according to the Abuja Declaration). [CONCORD/Bond]*

*Innovative financing mechanisms to increase funding for maternal, newborn and child health and other health priorities such as HIV and AIDS should be supported. This funding must be additional to ODA. [Women and Children First]*

*Implement a currency transaction levy and other financial transaction taxes for improving global health, fighting poverty, and addressing climate change. This should supplement increased domestic health investments and official development assistance (ODA).... [Physicians for Human Rights/Health Workforce Advocacy Initiative]*

*To ensure that additional funds can be invested in health and related areas, commit to more flexible, expansionary fiscal and monetary policies, developed through inclusive, participatory processes, enabling greater public social expenditures. International financial institutions should promote this flexible, inclusive approach. [Physicians for Human Rights/Health Workforce Advocacy Initiative]*

#### **Coordinate and harmonize aid so as to increase aid effectiveness**

*The EU should push for greater aid effectiveness by closely coordinating and harmonizing its aid with other donors at the country level, including through the International Health Partnership and related initiatives. [CONCORD/Bond] This point, which focused specifically on the EU, could be generalized for the larger international community.*

## **Scaling-up and the equitable distribution of the workforce**

*Recruit, train, equip, and deploy additional health workers to meet the needs of the poorest and most marginalized communities. [Save the Children] The equivalent of 100,000 additional health professionals are required to scale up child health care activities – and far more health professionals under health service delivery models that use fewer community health workers. [Physicians for Human Rights/Health Workforce Advocacy Initiative]*

*Significantly expand pre-service training capacity and increase investments to retain, equitably distribute, and improve effectiveness of health workers, including through immediate scale up of the community and primary level health workforce. [Physicians for Human Rights/Health Workforce Advocacy Initiative]*

*Strengthen health sector leadership and management by developing a comprehensive strategy to develop management and leadership skills and systems throughout the health system. Special priority may be given to planning, management, and leadership skills among district health management teams.... Other dimensions must be addressed as well, such as the equitable distribution of health workers – so that their distribution reflects that of the population – their skills and motivation, their supervision and other support, their productivity and management, and the strength of the health systems in which they work. [Physicians for Human Rights/Health Workforce Advocacy Initiative]*

## **Developing health accountability systems**

Various civil society organizations called on Member States to develop monitoring and accountability mechanisms that would include publicly reporting on, and releasing detailed data about, government and donor aid for health and related performance indicators [International Alliance for Women, German Foundation for World Population, Family Care International, Nigeria, Youth Dignity International]. The Eastern African Sub-regional Support Initiative for the Advancement of Women advocated that there should be “zero tolerance to corruption in the health sector.” These health accountability mechanisms should be developed at all levels of development, including the community level.

*Develop, in all communities, health accountability mechanisms, including to monitor health services, promote the presence of health workers at their posts, and strengthen the relationship between health workers and communities. Mechanisms must include participation of women, poor people, and members of marginalized populations. Types of mechanisms include village health committees, health facility management boards that include community members and health workers, and formal arrangements for community monitoring and feedback into health service operations and government processes. [Physicians for Human Rights/Health Workforce Advocacy Initiative]*

Contributions also identified the need to increase the capacity of civil society to hold governments and other stakeholders in the health sector accountable [CONCORD/Bond; Youth Dignity International, Nigeria]. *Greatly increase funding and technical support to civil society organizations in developing countries that promote human rights, women’s empowerment, health, education, the environment, poverty reduction, democracy, and government accountability.... Building their organizational capacity and enabling them to significantly expand their programmes, including in holding donor and national governments accountable to their health and human rights commitments, should become a far higher priority of development assistance. [Physicians for Human Rights/Health Workforce Advocacy Initiative]*

*Structures and processes should be established to enable communities, particularly women and marginalized groups, to monitor and evaluate their local health services, and to hold service providers accountable, enabling the community monitoring of health systems and the holding of service providers to account. [Women and Children First]*

## **Establishing universal coverage**

*The health MDGs can only be achieved if both health systems strengthening and disease-specific responses are equally addressed. The EU as a whole needs to adopt and implement a strong and coherent joint approach to support countries achieving universal access to a basic health care package, which includes universal access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support, universal access to sexual and reproductive health services, and malaria universal coverage. [CONCORD/Bond]*

## **Removing barriers to access, especially for marginalized groups**

*Remove user fees for health services, replacing them with public basic health care services (including access to medicines, supplies, vaccines [CONCORD/Bond]). Address other barriers to access, including language barriers, stigma, discrimination, informal fees, inadequate and unaffordable transportation, poor communications, and distance from health facilities. Promote health seeking behaviors. [Physicians for Human Rights/Health Workforce Advocacy Initiative]*

*The EU should strongly promote gender equality and the development of social protection mechanisms at the country level so as to ensure access for the poorest and most marginalized, including people living in rural areas. Effective community based solutions must be re-emphasized, fully implementing the Alma Alta accords [the Alma Alta accords were adopted in 1978 during the International Conference on Primary Health Care]. [CONCORD/Bond]*

*Build stronger systems to thwart structural disadvantages for accessing health care by rural communities, the poorest of the poor, and those experiencing discrimination. [Save the Children]*

Health Poverty Action advocated for culturally appropriate health services that are in accordance with health and well-being traditions, are provided in local languages (with interpreters and translators where needed) and in a culturally appropriate setting. They put special emphasis on tackling prejudices towards indigenous peoples.

## **Improved access to affordable medicines**

*Measures must be taken to remove barriers, including patents in trade-related intellectual property agreements that prevent developing countries from accessing life-saving generic medicines. For example, wealthy governments should support the set up of “patent pools” as a way to give developing countries access to more affordable drugs and pharmaceutical companies a fair return on investment. Moreover wealthy and powerful countries such as the US and EU States must make clear they will support the right of developing countries to use the flexibilities within the TRIPS [trade-related aspects of intellectual property rights] agreement to source affordable drugs for health emergencies. [Health Poverty Action]*

## **Further promote access to health care as a human right**

*Educate people on their right to health and other human rights. Government and civil society education should ensure that people understand their government’s right to health obligations. The education should also address specific health-related commitments and obligations (e.g., what health workers are supposed to be available when, any user fees) and their right to non-discriminatory, respectful, confidential care. People should also be informed of processes by which they can hold their governments accountable to these rights.*

*Strengthen the linkages between the health workforce and human rights by incorporating right to health considerations into workforce plans and policies. [Physicians for Human Rights/Health Workforce Advocacy Initiative]*

## **Advancing the health-based MDGs**

*Civil society contributions also addressed and provided more specific recommendations for advancing the three health-related MDGs.*

### **Child mortality (MDG 4)**

*Although there has been progress in reducing child mortality, improvements in the health of newborns have been almost non-existent. [Women and Children First] Nonetheless, even when a country is on-track, deep inequalities still persist, with the poorest communities continuing to experience far less progress than the richest. Mortality rates for disabled children under five can be as high as 80%, even in countries where overall under-five mortality is below 20%. New-born deaths account for 40% of deaths in children under the age of five each year. Progress in decreasing infant mortality has been poor. [CONCORD/Bond]*

Civil society identified a number of major obstacles in reducing child mortality including: a lack of political will and investment in child care reform and child protection structures, inequitable access to health care systems, poor sanitation and nutrition conditions in some developing countries, incoherencies in donors’ financial policies, and traditional practices, mainly in Africa and Asia [EveryChild, Save the Children, CONCORD/Bond, Women and Children First]. In response, civil society proposed targeted funding and investments; more coherent policies, actions and national plans; preventive interventions; a continuum of care approach, including the removal

of health barriers; the development of social protection schemes targeting children; investments in women's and children's education as well as in water and sanitation services; strengthening community-based services; better auditing of underlying mortality causes and better monitoring. [Save the Children, EveryChild, CONCORD/Bond, Women and Children First]

*We recommend **full funding of commitments** to address the main causes of child mortality, ensuring that the specific EU policy commitments on MDG 4 are reflected in EU funding for developing countries, focussing on those countries most off-track. [CONCORD/Bond]*

*Increase **investment** in child protection, and the development of integrated child protection strategies, which co-ordinate efforts in relation to child care reform, social protection, education, health and justice systems. [EveryChild] Invest [for example] in nutrition of mothers and young children, through initiatives promoting breastfeeding, complementary feeding, micronutrient supplements, [and] social protection mechanisms [CONCORD/Bond, Save the Children]. **Ensure policy and action match the underlying causes of child mortality** by basing investments and programmes on evidence-based data. [Save the Children] Policy makers, programme managers, and donors will have to make judgments regarding which interventions have the most promise for mortality reduction given the epidemiological, health system, and socio-cultural factors in a given setting. [American Public Health Association Working Group on Community-based Primary Health Care]*

***Develop, strengthen, and implement credible national plans** focused on achieving universal coverage of effective interventions for reducing mortality, alongside action to strengthen systems and delivery mechanisms. Plans should be nationally owned and based on inclusive stakeholders' consultation. [Save the Children]*

*We also know that women's **education** is a powerful predictor of both maternal and child health, as is access to clean **water and sanitation**. [Save the Children] Education, especially for girls and mothers, saves children's lives. [CRY]*

*Explicitly design **social protection schemes** to ensure that they seek to reduce poverty in the most vulnerable households and improve children's care and protection. Complete further research on the links between social and child protection so that social protection schemes can be more effectively designed to improve children's care and protection. [EveryChild] It was also noted that these social protection schemes should include *marginalized and vulnerable groups (such as exploited or abused children, those with disabilities, who suffer social exclusion, orphans, children affected by HIV/AIDS)*. [CONCORD/Bond] The American Public Health Association Working Group on Community-based Primary Health Care refers to micro-credit programmes for women and conditional cash transfers (poor women receive cash transfers with the condition that they obtain certain health services).*

***Ensuring safe pregnancies and promoting a continuum of care** approach which extends from before pregnancy, through childbirth and on to childhood is key to sustaining progress. [Women and Children First] To ensure this continuum of care, health barriers need to be overcome: **Remove financial and non-financial barriers** to tackle underlying causes of high mortality, such as inequality, discrimination, and violations of human rights.... Ensure maternal and child healthcare are free at the point of use. [Save the Children]*

*There needs to be a stronger commitment among donors, international organizations, national political leaders, and government policy makers that proven interventions for reducing child mortality need to be universally available and that sustainable **community-based delivery strategies** need to be developed. There has been too much emphasis on strengthening facility-based care and not enough on strengthening community-based services outside of facilities – especially in communities without any facilities. [American Public Health Association Working Group on Community-based Primary Health Care]*

*The EU should adopt a child-friendly approach to health system strengthening that includes support to community based service delivery, child-friendly sexual and reproductive health services, training of health workers on child health. [CONCORD/Bond]*

***Audit every maternal, newborn, and child death** to identify structural factors that must be addressed.... They should identify medical and social, economic, and cultural factors that contribute to the deaths, and provide recommendations on how to avoid deaths in the future. Audits should include assessments on the uptake of their recommendations and strategies to enhance this uptake. Health workers and community members should be engaged in the auditing process. [Physicians for Human Rights/Health Workforce Advocacy Initiative]*

*The widespread application of the findings of **mortality impact assessments** at scale in high mortality, resource-poor settings coupled with careful ongoing **monitoring of the quality, coverage and mortality impact of services** with adjustments in programming based on this monitoring has the potential to spark a second revolution in maternal, neonatal and child health. The widespread application of this knowledge should accelerate progress in reaching Millennium Development Goal 4 of reducing under-5 mortality by two-thirds. [American Public Health Association Working Group on Community-based Primary Health Care]*

*Promote the application of the **UN Guidelines on the Alternative Care of Children**; ensure that the **development of equity indicators** to assess whether or not the MDGs are benefiting all sections of society includes indicators on impacts on children outside of parental care and/or facing situations of abuse or exploitation. [EveryChild]*

*Finally, various civil society organizations made reference to **the importance of breastfeeding** as a health indicator to monitor progress. [EveryChild, CONCORD/Bond] Breastfeeding needs now to be taken up by the governments and civil society at the United Nations MDG + 10 summit to ensure that rates of exclusive breastfeeding are used to monitor progress or lack of it toward MDGs 4 and 5, with clearly underlying impact on MDG 1. [International Baby Food Action Network]*

### **Reproductive and Maternal Health (MDG 5)**

*Progress on MDG 5 has been the slowest of all the goals. [Women's Global Network for Reproductive Rights] According to various civil society contributions, this is the result of negligence of donors and recipient governments to take women's health rights sufficiently into account, as well as of a lack of funding [CONCORD/Bond, Family Care International]; shifts in funding orientation [Women's Global Network for Reproductive Rights]; poor and misleading data [Women's Global Network for Reproductive Rights, CONCORD/Bond]; a disease orientation with lower priority on broader health and well-being, including reproductive rights [Women's Global Network for Reproductive Rights]; and the lack of a human rights approach to address underlying human rights abuses [Amnesty International, CONCORD/Bond], *such as early or forced marriage; violence against women and girls; women's unequal status in law and practice; female genital mutilation; or the prevention of women from taking decisions about their own health and lives.* [Amnesty International]*

*Both donors and recipient governments neglect women's health and rights as well as Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights [SRHR] in their policies and budgets. [German Foundation for World Population, CONCORD/Bond] Gender is being insignificantly addressed and SRH services (including maternal health) are simply not being prioritized. [German Foundation for World Population] This might be the result of the fact that access to reproductive health and services, was a late addition and has only been part of the formal monitoring framework since 2007. It is an often overlooked and neglected area. [Women's Global Network for Reproductive Rights]*

*The challenges are compounded for women living in poverty, and there has not been enough of a holistic approach, for example tackling the importance of nutrition, water and sanitation to maternal and child health. [Health Poverty Action] Women's low status in society, lack of access to and control over resources, limited educational opportunities, poor nutrition, and lack of decision-making power contribute significantly to adverse pregnancy outcomes.... Social, cultural, religious, and personal reasons support the persistence of some traditional practices that can negatively affect women's health outcomes, such as female genital mutilation/cutting (FGM/C) and early marriage. [Eastern African Sub-regional Support Initiative for the Advancement of Women] Moreover a series of cross-cutting issues have a major impact on maternal and child health. These include climate change, which has a strong impact on nutrition, water and sanitation, and gender inequality. [Health Poverty Action] Economic class clearly affects reproductive and sexual health: higher-income women more consistently use contraception, are better able to negotiate circumstances of sex, and have better access than poor women to health services, including safe abortion, regardless of its legal status. When women are able to make safe reproductive choices, they can take better advantage of opportunities for education and employment. [Ipas]*

*A major bottleneck is weak health systems with unavailable, inaccessible, unaffordable, or poor quality delivery services. [German Foundation for World Population] Also linkages between related services such as HIV and AIDS, newborn, malaria and TB, insufficient trained health workers and access to reproductive supplies and equipment are often not made. [CONCORD/Bond] Emergency obstetric care may not be available. Emergency care is particularly important in reducing maternal mortality. [Health Poverty Action] The lack of available safe, voluntary and effective family planning and contraception also contribute to high levels of unsafe abortions that result in maternal deaths and morbidity. [Amnesty International,*

Youth Dignity International, Nigeria] *Access to safe abortion continues to be a serious problem as a result of religious and legislative restrictions.* [Movimiento Manuela Ramos, Peru]

The abovementioned civil society concerns have led to the following proposals to advance MDG 5:

*The international community has to make sure that specifically SRH and family planning on the basis of a **rights-based approach** are part of the forthcoming decisions as we get closer to the MDG summit. The G8 countries must now **fulfill the commitments made** at the past G8 summits and even agree to increase their payments at the forthcoming G8 summit in Canada in June.... Not only lip service, but **real political commitment is needed. This means an increase of financing for SRHR and building partnerships with actors at all levels.*** [German Foundation for World Population] Some contributions highlighted that an additional US\$5 billion per year at minimum is needed to accelerate progress and achieve MDGs 4 and 5. [Family Care International; Communications Coordination Committee for the United Nations] *Countries should **encourage international health initiatives** (GAVI [Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization], UNITAID, IHP [International Health Programmes]) to expand funding for SRH as well as reproductive health supplied in their activities.* [German Foundation for World Population] *Adequate finances are also needed for implementation of the **Maputo Plan of Action for Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights** and the corresponding national policies to ensure their effective implementation and reduction of maternal mortality.* [Eastern African Sub-regional Support Initiative for the Advancement of Women] With regard to building partnerships, civil society noted that *governments, civil society organizations and donors must promote multi-sectoral, South-South and South-North collaboration in the field of sexual and reproductive health and rights to ensure that global and local tools, experiences and budgetary allocations benefit women in all parts of the world.* [Ipas]

Civil society also called for the *realization of commitments contained in the ICPD [International Conference on Population and Development] Programme of Action and the Beijing Platform for Action*, among developing country governments, donors and the international community. *Encourage developing country governments, donors and the international community to protect, respect and fulfil women's rights and sexual, reproductive health and rights – including the rights of adolescents – in line with international commitments.* [Women and Children First]

One contribution further noted that ***Strengthening health systems and universal education** are the basis for improving the health conditions of all women. Improving maternal health then also means **improving women's role in society.*** [German Foundation for World Population] CONCORD/Bond highlighted that *gender-sensitive approaches also meaningfully include boys and men.*

*An **integrated approach** in all areas of women's health is essential, including both physical and mental health.* [Communications Coordination Committee for the United Nations] Civil society therefore calls for *the strengthening of the linkages between SRHR and related services such as prevention, treatment and care of STIs [sexually transmitted infections] (including HIV), child health, malaria and tuberculosis.* [CONCORD/Bond] ***Expanding the mandate of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria to include MDGs 4 and 5** is a feasible option that would encourage a more integrated, comprehensive approach to addressing the health MDGs.* [Family Care International]

*National progress reports towards the implementation of MDG 5b [on reproductive health] need to **go beyond national aggregate statistics**, to include analyses about different realities depending on geographic, socio-economic and demographic factors.* [Youth Dignity International, Nigeria]

*Preventing maternal mortality and morbidity is not simply about improving technical and affordable interventions. It requires **addressing laws, policies and practices which have institutionalized gender inequalities.*** [International Alliance for Women] Civil society therefore calls for *improvement and enforcement of gender and SRHR laws and policies with a specific focus to legislating against traditional harmful practices (early marriage, female genital mutilation (FGM)) and gender based violence as well as eliminating discriminations against women in the field of access to health care.* [CONCORD/Bond] In addition, they called for *laws that criminalize abortion – a procedure sought by tens of millions of female adolescents and women each year....* [Ipas] *Legalizing abortion can decrease financial barriers to health care, including by reducing the prevalence of black-market services, which are often exorbitantly priced. Making safe elective abortion widely available can also dramatically reduce costs associated with managing complications of unsafe abortion.* [German Foundation for World Population]

*Universal access to reproductive health care, including family planning, is the starting point for maternal health. [CRY] The EU must commit to further contribute to the 2010 Milestones of the EU Agenda for Action on the MDGs which call for: urgent support for attainment of universal access to RH. [CONCORD/Bond]*

*Health services and family planning advice need to be local, and culturally appropriate, so indigenous and other marginalized or remote groups of women can, and want to, get help when they need it for themselves and their children. [Health Poverty Action] Ensuring safe motherhood requires raising awareness of complications associated with pregnancy and childbirth, providing access to high quality health services (antenatal, delivery, postpartum, family planning, etc.), and eliminating harmful practices. [Eastern African Sub-regional Support Initiative for the Advancement of Women] The provision of comprehensive sexuality education and services for women, men and young people is therefore crucial for improving knowledge, dispelling myths surrounding family planning and maternal health and reducing sexual risk behaviours. [CONCORD/Bond] To this end, some civil society organizations highlighted the need to develop comprehensive education in school curricula about SRHR. Practical implementation of school lessons should be gender-sensitive, empowering, and non-discriminatory. [Youth Dignity International, Nigeria]. Prenatal education was also advocated. [World Organization of Prenatal Education Associations] [The above mentioned] efforts should also address disparities in coverage among marginalized groups, and take into account prevailing gender inequalities and discrimination which prevent women and girls from accessing available health services. [Family Care International]*

### **HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases (MDG 6)**

*There is an urgent need for stronger and sustained investment to address HIV and ensure lifelong treatment for those in need. It is also vital to target the underlying causes of HIV such as gender inequality and violence against women as well as mitigating the impact of the disease on the lives of people living with HIV, their families and communities. [Trocaire]*

*Mismanagement and poor administration, absence of good governance, loopholes in the methodology of execution with absence of sincerity and undefiled love for the people are responsible for the current pandemic. [OSDUY]*

*Although there have been increased financial resources, there still remains a large funding gap for universal access to a comprehensive strategy of prevention, treatment and care. The “funding gap” has further been complicated with the “implementation gap.” [For example] the distribution of ARVs [antiretroviral drugs] has not been seen as part of an effective prevention strategy. Many people who need ARVs have been left out of the equation, including women. [Tearfund]*

*Challenges have been experienced in the HIV/AIDS pandemic response that have led to serious gender discrimination and violations of women’s rights, particularly inheritance rights. [FEMNET] Women often do not have a choice over engaging in sexual relationships, or power to protect themselves from HIV. This is linked to gender-based violence, women’s economic dependence on men, lack of access to education and society’s expectations of the roles and responsibilities for men and women. [Tearfund] Cultural practices like female genital mutilation (FGM) continue to be widespread despite the existence of legal provisions outlawing it as a human rights violation. [FEMNET] But also current care strategies for HIV/AIDS have failed to address or reduce the double burden of care that is shouldered by women caring for sick relatives while finding means to increase their contribution to the household income. The slow process of integrating family planning with HIV services in most countries continue to lead to preventable deaths of many women, and loss of millions of dollars that could be saved if there was political will to address this gap. [FEMNET]*

*Strategies that accept rather than diminish the sex industry severely hinder the goal of combating the spread of HIV/AIDS. Despite compelling evidence that vulnerability to HIV/AIDS is significantly reduced by eliminating gender-based violence, including commercial sexual exploitation and trafficking, numerous governments, inter-governmental agencies and civil society fail to appropriately address the significant role of the global sex industry in increasing HIV/AIDS infection, particularly among women and girls. [Coalition against Trafficking in Women]*

*Emerging challenges include the challenges of funding universal access to treatment of HIV, particularly as this involves a long-term commitment and a need to provide a range of drugs, including second and third line drugs, which tend to be more expensive. [Tearfund]*

*Recommendations made by civil society in order to improve MDG 6 include the effective mainstreaming of HIV/AIDS, TB and malaria across all poverty development priorities and programmes, as well as health system strengthening [CONCORD/Bond]; the training of health workers, e.g. to initiate antiretroviral therapy [Physicians for Human Rights/Health Workforce Advocacy Initiative]; increased multistakeholder and multi-sector cooperation, including civil society and faith-based organizations at all levels of development [Tearfund, CONCORD/Bond, Movicancer].*

*They further suggested the need to involve the people living with, most at risk for, and affected by the three diseases – including those providing home and community based care – in the design, implementation and monitoring of programmes and services in order to ensure that these are evidence based and lead to concrete outcomes. [CONCORD/Bond]*

*Furthermore, to make progress toward MDG 6, continued investment in AIDS prevention and treatment; trade rules that enable access to essential medicines; and attention to a complex of comprehensive health-related factors are essential. [Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers/Maryknoll Sisters of St. Dominic]*

*In particular, the shortfall of at least US\$3 billion in the **Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria**, must be fully met. [Tearfund] Ensuring a targeted response to the three diseases to achieve universal access to services, including by fully funding the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Malaria and TB through increased contributions by the European Commission and EU Member States. [CONCORD/Bond]*

*Strengthening political and financial support for **research and development for new preventive technologies**, such as vaccines and microbicides for HIV and malaria prevention, and ensuring that they are **accessible and affordable for all**. [CONCORD/Bond]*

*More targeted recommendations to address HIV/AIDS include:*

*Support the achievement of the nine priority areas in UNAIDS “**Outcome Framework**,” in strong collaboration with UNAIDS and the international community. [CONCORD/Bond]*

*Governments should support the **setting up of UNITAID Patent Pool for antiretroviral drugs** which will revolutionize the way HIV drugs are purchased and distributed for the benefit of the poorest. This Patent Pool is currently supposed to be a voluntary patent pool. However pharmaceutical companies must be strongly encouraged to contribute their patents to the pool. The pool aims to make newer medicines available in patent-adapted form, at lower prices, for low- and middle-income countries. [Tearfund]*

*CONCORD/Bond noted that the EU should play an important role as a global advocate to **address sensitive priority interventions** such as combating stigma and criminalization, addressing the needs of sexual minorities, harm reduction, condom programming and integration of HIV and sexual and reproductive health and rights programmes. It can be argued that this message could be extended to the whole international community. Issues related to gender equity, stigma and discrimination and meaningful involvement of people living with HIV need to be addressed at multiple levels, through a wide range of interventions ranging from participatory education to national and regional legal reforms. [Tearfund]*

*Trade unions lend their full support to the ILO normative framework which emphasizes the need to incorporate **workplace approaches** into national policies and programmes to combat the pandemic. Given the importance of the workplace as a locus for access to treatment and to prevention measures including education and awareness programmes, testing and counselling, as well as measures to combat discrimination and stigmatization, use of the relevant ILO instruments should be prioritized. [ITUC] The informal sector should also be addressed.*

*To prevent the spread of HIV, it is essential to address the root causes that make people vulnerable, such as the underlying gender inequalities in society. This means challenging and transforming damaging aspects of cultural expectations, gender roles and traditional practices which can increase people’s vulnerability to infection. It also means building on positive cultural values and practices which reduce people’s vulnerability. [Tearfund]*

*Pursuant to article 9.5 of the Palermo Protocol, the demand side of prostitution should be discouraged through the criminalization and prosecution of traffickers, pimps and buyers. Governments must adopt policies to combat the demand by educating young people, prosecute perpetrators who buy and sell women, and address the media's sexualization of women and girls.* [Coalition against Trafficking in Women]

### **A more targeted approach for malaria prevention**

For malaria prevention, civil society proposed **an expanded malaria response**, which includes *expanding the community health workforce to educate community members on malaria, distribute insecticide-treated bed nets, diagnose malaria, and treat uncomplicated cases of malaria. It will also require improving staffing levels at primary care facilities and, as in all health areas, ensuring that health workers are properly trained.* [Physicians for Human Rights/Health Workforce Advocacy Initiative]

### **Include non-communicable diseases (NCDs) in the MDGs**

Civil society strongly argued that non-communicable diseases should no longer be excluded from the MDG process. *It is crucial that NCDs be discussed in the MDG summit review, 2 NCD indicators (tobacco use prevalence and rates of cervical cancer vaccine use) be added to the existing MDGS and that NCDs be added to the successor MDGs in 2015. Placing NCDs on the global agenda should also be accompanied by an increase in the funding available for the implementation of evidence based cost effective interventions in LMICs.* [American Cancer Society]

*Also, as non communicable diseases are largely preventable, high priority to their prevention and control is needed. These causal risk factors are deeply entrenched in the social and cultural framework of society. Approaches must be comprehensive and integrated which means investing in and combining measures that reduce the risks associated with poverty and implementing strategies that take a holistic and preventative approach.* [World Heart Federation] *Also, as climate change continues to increase, with the related increase in air pollution, malnutrition and extreme weather events, NCD risks are likely to increase.... Tackling climate change and NCDs requires an inter- and multi-sector approach at all levels of government and civil society.* [International Diabetes Federation]

*Vertical programs addressing specific diseases are doing vital work, but for the health system to deliver those interventions over long periods of time, the financing, human resources, and information base of a health system must be addressed. Diabetes and the other NCDs need to be integrated into existing health systems, particularly at the primary care level.* [International Diabetes Federation]

Furthermore, various contributions are calling for **an urgent realignment of resources** and for **appropriate development assistance** including technical expertise and aid, so that low- and middle-income countries can better integrate prevention and control measures for NCDs into existing policies and plans [Framework Convention Alliance, Young Professional Chronic Disease Working Group, World Heart Federation, One Voice Against Cancer, Associação Brasileira de Portadores de Câncer, Centro de Investigación de la Epidemia de Tabaquismo, Movicancer – Nicaragua; Corporación Nacional del Cáncer, Liga Argentina de Lucha Contra el Cáncer]

Civil Society also suggested using existing texts as references for action. For example, *the WHO NCD Action Plan 2008-2013 sets out the roadmap to work in partnership to prevent and control NCDs.* [American Cancer Society, Movicancer – Nicaragua, Corporación Nacional del Cáncer, One Voice Against Cancer, Liga Argentina de Lucha Contra el Cáncer, Centro de Investigación de la Epidemia de Tabaquismo, Associação Brasileira de Portadores de Câncer]

*In addition, greater attention should be paid to respecting the Paris Declaration on the Effectiveness of Aid/Accra Agenda for Action and notably responding to recipient countries own strategies for poverty reduction, which increasingly call for action to address the rising burden of NCDs.* [World Heart Federation]

*Gender inequities represent a major dimension and challenge of NCDs and the consequences of their risk factors. The rapid rise in NCDs affects women's health directly and impacts their socio-cultural and economic roles. This burden is an underappreciated cause of poverty and hinders the economic development of many countries. Promoting gender equality in NCDs is key. Women's health needs to be expanded to reflect the underlying causes and complexities of NCDs.* [World Heart Federation]

*Indicators designed to monitor success in addressing feasible reductions in NCDs are urgently needed in order to protect the gains that have already been achieved under the MDGs programme and the futures of the populations in low and middle income countries.* [International Network for Cancer Treatment and Research]

Finally, many contributors referred to the detrimental effects of tobacco products and the tobacco industry on people's health and capital, particularly in developing countries, and called for reducing tobacco use and limiting the tobacco industry. *Many poor households spend more on tobacco products than on health care or education. Reducing tobacco use provides families with more money to spend on essential goods such as food and education.* [Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids] For example, *in Bangladesh, over 10.5 million malnourished people could have an adequate diet if money spent on tobacco was spent on food instead, saving the lives of 350 children under age five each day.* [Framework Convention Alliance] *Tobacco ... causes 5.4 million deaths per year – more than HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria combined.* [Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids]

*The MDGs do not include an explicit target for reducing tobacco use, but tobacco control measures can contribute significantly to their achievement.* [Framework Convention Alliance] Therefore, many civil society organizations proposed to:

- *Add a new MDG goal to significantly reduce tobacco use and its related death and disease;* [Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids]
- *Ratify the World Health Organization (WHO) Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC) for those Member States that have not yet done so* [Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids] *and design more similar global policies [i.e. World Heart Federation, Liga Argentina de Lucha Contra el Cáncer, Centro de Investigación de la Epidemia de Tabaquismo, Associação Brasileira de Portadores de Câncer, Framework Convention Alliance, Movicancer - Nicaragua];*
- *Support for in-country efforts to implement the FCTC must become an integral part of efforts to achieve the MDGs;* [Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids]
- *Raise tobacco taxes – this will both bring in government revenue and save lives.... Raising the price of tobacco is the most effective way to reduce tobacco use and tobacco-related death and disease;* [Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids]
- *Increase global government funding to prevent tobacco use and its related death and disease in low- and middle-income countries; additional funding is urgently needed.* [Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids, but similar points were made by the Framework Convention Alliance, American Cancer Society, etc.]
- *Phase-out multinational tobacco industries from the world to save one billion people from tobacco epidemic death and diseases by 21st century....] Hence the billions of funds should be required for the establishment of a tobacco-free world and environmental tobacco smoke-free societies in least developed nations in Asia and Africa in particular.* [Non-Smokers' Rights Association of Nepal]

### **Mental health care**

*...Taking into account the great discrimination and stigma that surrounds psychiatric patients, and especially chronic psychiatric patients who are without care and therapy disturbing society, it is preferable to start with an action towards this most abandoned group.* [NGO Global Action Against Poverty (The Brothers of Charity)]

Therefore civil society called upon governments to develop a service for mental health care on the level of the Ministry of Health with a coordinator for mental health as this would support changing the population's mentality towards psychiatric patients. The contributor also proposed training programmes for health care staff to better deal with psychiatric patients; as well as for new initiatives such as activity centres, sheltered living, adapted therapy and specialization for specific groups. [NGO Global Action Against Poverty (The Brothers of Charity)]

### **V. Human Settlements: slums, urban development, water and sanitation – reaching MDG 7, targets C & D**

*It is still necessary to read the MDGs in their integrity with the Millennium Declaration and roadmap, in order to envision how improved sanitation or secure housing and land tenure would affect the more ambitious outcome of a more peaceful, prosperous and just world.* [Habitat International Coalition/Housing and Land Rights Network]

## **Slums**

One joint contribution defined the notion of a slum as *a contiguous human settlement, usually not recognized officially, having any of five adverse conditions: (1) insecure residential status, (2) inadequate access to safe water, (3) inadequate access to sanitation and other infrastructure, (4) poor structural quality of housing and/or (5) overcrowding (over three persons per room).* [Habitat International Coalition/Housing and Land Rights Network]

### **Relation between slums and poverty**

Several contributions focused on the precarious nature of living conditions in slums, which also fostered ongoing cycles of poverty, inequality and insecurity.

*The majority of people living in slums are considered “illegal” by governments, have limited or no security of tenure and are extremely vulnerable to human rights violations which MDG policies and programmes largely fail to address. In 2005, Operation Murambatsvina in Zimbabwe, a programme of mass forced evictions and demolitions of homes and informal businesses, destroyed 32,538 small and micro-businesses, devastating the livelihoods of 97,614 people (mostly women) who were targeted indiscriminately.*

*The right of people to participate in developing and implementing slum upgrading programmes has frequently been disregarded in MDG initiatives. In favelas or inner-city neighbourhoods in Brazil and Jamaica, the failure to ensure protection to communities in many slums or informal settlements, has allowed criminal gangs to dominate almost every aspect of life and affects residents’ access to police services.*

*Women have described difficulties reporting violence to the police, due to negative perceptions of people living in slums or the absence of police stations in slum areas.* [Amnesty International]

### **Factors impeding progress towards MDG 7, target 7D**

According to many contributions, the main obstacles impeding substantial progress on MDG 7 in terms of human settlements and access to water and sanitation are: the inappropriate formulation of targets and indicators, particularly target 7D, the lack of adequate policies ensuring the tenure of the land, and improper policies either in land management or rural and urban land investments.

### **Inadequate targets and indicators**

*An estimated 1.4 billion people will be living in slums by 2020. The target 7D to achieve “significant improvement in lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers by 2020” is wholly inadequate given States obligations under international human rights law to prioritize the realization of minimum essential levels of shelter and housing for all. The indicator for progress is the proportion of the urban population living in slums, making it possible for States to demonstrate progress even if the total number of people living in slums has increased over the monitoring period. What constitutes a “significant improvement” is also not identified.* [Amnesty International]

*Applying these criteria, the exceptionally extended period of achieving target 7D by 2020 (five years beyond the other MDG deadlines), will not constitute a step forward in the improvement of human living conditions. In fact, according to UN-HABITAT estimates, in the same period, the world’s slum population will increase by 500,000, amounting to actual retrogression in the living conditions targeted for improvement. At this important midpoint in the process, the States and other agents in the Millennium project have fallen behind in their pursuit of this minimum development goal.... Moreover, approaching development from a rights perspective also imbues the process with the humanizing assumption that the beneficiaries are worthy of a better life, as well as providing the specificity of legal tools to accomplish that.* [Habitat International Coalition/Housing and Land Rights Network]

*Goal 7 also includes the target to improve the lives of 100 million slum-dwellers; it included, until recently, an indicator measuring the extension of security of tenure to those 100 million. This already inadequate measure – as more than 1 billion people live in slums and all deserve security of tenure – was removed in 2007 due to the difficulties in collecting data.* [Amnesty International]

### **Insecurity of land tenure**

*The provision of secure tenure rights is an essential step to prevent forced and arbitrary evictions – which are an abuse of rights and the threat or reality of which create insecurity for tens of*

millions of slum-dwellers. If States fail to recognize the role of security of tenure, they are more apt to address the issues of slums through slum clearance programmes that make no provisions for ensuring that people living in these slums are relocated to a better situation. [Amnesty International]

### **Lack of adequate land policies**

Referring to the UN-HABITAT Action Agenda, one contributor noted that the failure to adopt at all levels appropriate rural and urban land policies and land management practices remains a primary cause of inequity and poverty, which can lead to increased living costs, the occupation of hazard-prone land, environmental degradation and increased vulnerability of urban and rural habitats, especially disadvantaged and vulnerable groups, such as those living in poverty and low-income people. [Earth Right Institute]

The solution they put forth was land value taxation and capture or the practice of creating local and/or State revenue by charging each title holder to land a portion (%) of the value of the site but not for buildings. Land value increases when governments bring in public order, safe water, sanitation, parks, schools, roads, mass transit or health facilities:

*These increased land values – which often exceed the related public costs – are the natural earnings of the community, region or nation, yet few governments recover more than a fraction of the land value they create. Jurisdictions using land value capture possess a vital key to distributive justice: the benefits given by society are reflected in land value which is returned back to society in order to fund the public benefits.*

*Recovered land value can be used to 1) operate, maintain and extend existing services and infrastructure; 2) fund revolving loans for low-cost housing and micro enterprises; 3) repay bonds; 4) issue citizen dividends/basic income grants.* [Earth Rights Institute]

### **How to advance toward MDG 7, target 7D attainment?**

In order to make progress in meeting MGD 7, target 7D, many contributions proposed to address the issue from both a participatory and human rights based approach.

#### **Participatory approach: including the urban poor in decisions that impact their lives**

*Without the engagement of urban poor in the process of slum upgrading, redevelopment and resettlement, real progress will be limited and unsustainable. Reluctance on the part of governments to legalise informal settlements of the urban poor has ensured that these settlements are left out of planning and budgetary processes thus hampering slum-upgrading initiatives. The practice of forced evictions, often development-induced, not only further entrenches patterns of poverty and exclusion but is also one of the most common barriers to slum upgrading.* [CONCORD/Bond]

Other suggestions put forth sought to promote inclusive and sustainable urban development through a “Local Consultation” approach by: educating and mobilizing all relevant stakeholders at city level, including managers, policy makers, elected officials, civil society, and development partners in order to develop a common understanding of the MDGs, their location and their implementation; strengthening local capacity in the treatment of the Goals and developing appropriate partnerships at local and national levels; developing an action plan in both the short and long term to achieve the MDGs; accumulating experience and disseminating the results and knowledge through associations of mayors and cities as the national and regional level [Sustainable développement].

#### **Human rights approach: the right to adequate housing**

Some civil society contributions recommended the adoption of a human rights-based approach in order to move forward. Such an approach recognizes and puts into practice “the right to adequate housing” – which is essential for the formulation, implementation and evaluation of fair housing policies.

Through a human rights lens, governmental housing policies should then be created in accordance with human rights objectives, including security of tenure and freedom from dispossession, affordability, accessibility, habitability, location, participation and self-expression, *non-refoulement* and reparation, resettlement, compensation, etc. *On the other hand, States are expected “to respect the right of adequate housing (i.e., the State and its agents must refrain from violating the right), to protect the right, ensuring that other third parties do not violate a person’s*

*right to adequate housing and to fulfil the right by taking steps and making effort to improve living conditions.” [Habitat International Coalition/Housing and Land Rights Network]*

In order to evaluate governmental housing policies some contributions called for indicators to measure progress on issues such as secure tenure as well as affordability, accessibility and the habitability of housing. [Habitat International Coalition/Housing and Land Rights Network]

Other recommendations included: reinforcing the Habitat Agenda; taking a multi-sectoral approach to ensure effective coordination between development finance, governance, infrastructure, services and climate change investments; preventing forced evictions by ensuring that development funding does not result in the forced eviction of communities; supporting community-based interventions; and exploring options to leverage and blend finance from public and private sources. [CONCORD/Bond]

### **MDG 7, target 7C Water and Sanitation: Key elements to address poverty and promote human development**

Several contributions dwelt on issues surrounding water and sanitation (MDG 7 Target 7C to halve, by 2015, the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation), calling for them to be recognized *as central factors driving human, social and economic development and fully prioritized and integrated in all initiatives promoting health, education, nutrition and other factors.... Development efforts should take place in a manner that respects the inter-connectedness of MDG targets.* [End Water Poverty]

*Development of water and sanitation systems in rural and urban areas, would alleviate poverty; contribute to overall food security; assure health benefits for the general population (eradication of diarrhoeal diseases); free the girl child for attendance in school, and women for more sustainable activity (education, jobs, community involvement toward protection and management of the water/sanitation system, etc.); and would assist in achieving environmental sustainability.* [Sisters of Charity Federation]

*Access to water and sanitation is also of key concern for slum dwellers. Around 1.1 billion people are currently living in slums and this will increase to 1.4 billion by 2020 unless urgent action is taken. Inadequate housing, insecure tenure and a lack of essential services cause and reinforce many other aspects of poverty and vulnerability and negatively impact upon health, safety, security, psychological wellbeing, education, economic opportunities and social cohesion and increases people’s vulnerability to disasters.* [CONCORD/Bond]

### **Why is progress lacking in meeting water and sanitation targets?**

Problems identified as preventing progress in meeting the sanitation and water target included low levels of investment and a lack of political will.

#### **Financial constraints**

*Lack of aid for water and sanitation is an obstacle to progress for many countries and has implications for meeting other MDGs.... Amongst the 25 most off-track countries for the drinking water MDG target, 19 have an annual water and sanitation aid flow of under US\$10 per capita and all feature on various fragile States indices and 15 of the countries are within sub-Saharan Africa. Aid to water and sanitation has been declining as a proportion of overall aid since 2002 and is not well targeted: According to the 2010 Global Annual Assessment on Water and Sanitation (the GLAAS report), only 42% of aid for water and sanitation goes to low-income countries.* [Tearfund]

Another contribution suggested that: *Social development should be considered in a broad fashion. Results in sanitation are created by viewing the benefits that take place in other sectors. The fact that results show up in other sectors budgets is one of the great disadvantages of the sanitation sector – the results are being felt on the health budget, school attendance rates, lower family spending on medications, reduction of lost working days, less pollution of ground water supplies and many more. We need to find ways for these savings and results to be translated into funding so private entrepreneurs in the sanitation sector stays committed to develop sustainable solutions for wide distribution.* [Sustainable Sanitation Design]

#### **Lack of political will**

*Sanitation is generally invisible being seen as a household issue and not a national concern even though the impacts of lack of sanitation are at national or regional scale. This lack of political will is reflected in budget allocation where defence and even water will get a bigger share of*

*national treasury as opposed to sanitation. The second issue is poor sanitation governance and lack of accountability. While there is talk of water integrity no one talks of sanitation integrity or governance. Sanitation is shrouded in myths and taboos and therefore a subject that is generally not talked about.... The fact that there is no perceived visible financial benefit or even political benefit means that sanitation is not high in both the political or business agenda. Other factors impeding progress are related to lack of institutional home for sanitation or even lack of resources for research into low cost appropriate technologies.... While there are a number of research initiatives in water there are limited research activities for sanitation. [Institute of Water and Sanitation Development]*

*Lack of political prioritization is also evident, reflected in the low allocation of aid as outlined above, as well as at low budgetary allocation at a national level. Inadequate policy and planning on WASH at a national level is another obstacle to progress, as many countries do not have effective planning frameworks in place that have sufficient budget allocation. At both national and global levels, poor sector governance and uncoordinated approaches compound this situation. [Tearfund]*

### **How to accelerate progress toward water and sanitation target?**

Measures that could lead to progress included: giving greater priority to investing in sanitation; improving the targeting of aid, including extra attention being provided to the needs of women and the urban poor; and good governance which would combine pro-poor practices, ethics and transparency, high regard for the protection and use of natural resources, and a fully integrated approach to water and sanitation management. [CONCORD/Bond, Water Aid, End Water Poverty, Sisters of Charity Federation, Jupiter Knowledge Management and Innovative Concepts Pvt. Ltd., Institute of Water and Sanitation Development, Tearfund]

### **New approaches to sanitation investment**

One contributor put forth the need to look at investment mechanisms in terms of delivered results: *The investment mechanisms must be looked at.... The WHO figures tell us that for every US\$1 invested in sanitation US\$8 is created in savings and measurable results from different sectors. Why not find a system for sanitation similar to the Cash on Delivery programmes that have been discussed for education programmes.*

*The key features of this proposal are: (1) the donor pays only for outcomes, not for inputs, (2) the recipient (In the sanitation context this should be local government, city structures, NGOs, businesses cooperating and/or competing in delivering the results to the communities.) has full responsibility for and discretion in using funds, (3) the outcome measure is verified by an independent agent, (4) the contract, outcomes and other information must be disseminated publicly to assure transparency, and (5) this approach is complementary to other aid/government programmes to increase or maintain sanitation services.*

*Revitalize public investments that are not forthcoming today – this public investment should take place based on the ability of systems to deliver benefits measurable in the public finances. By creating results through incentives it is easier to maintain the policy of transferring the responsibility to the citizens. Today when governments pull out of sanitation it is often perceived as turning its back on the challenges faced by ordinary people. Sanitation needs government support in terms of conducive environment and assuring long term funding based on delivered results. [Sustainable Sanitation Design]*

Others recommendations regarding sanitation investments included: doing more to implement the principles of aid effectiveness in the sanitation sector and giving greater attention to the harmonization and alignment of aid at the national level at the international level. Aid also needs to be targeted at those countries that are most off-track and to those regions which are poorest to benefit the most disadvantaged and the unserved. [Water Aid, End Water Poverty, Institute of Water and Sanitation Development, Water for Every One]

*All countries should develop and implement national sanitation and water plans and “no credible national plan should fail through lack of finance.” Donor countries should improve the targeting of investment towards low-income countries (70% of aid should go to LICs) and marginalized communities and increase their investment in the WASH [Global Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene] sector. Developing countries in turn should invest more domestic resources in line with existing commitments (i.e. 0.5% GNI to sanitation). [Tearfund]*

Finally, many contributions recommended implementing new mechanisms for financing water and sanitation systems such as a Financial Transactions Tax or low-cost access to drinking water and sanitation.

*Funding for water/sanitation/management system projects could be garnered from anyone of several financing for development monetary sources. However, at this time we are recommending that governments consider initiating new funding sources for international development revenues, such as the Financial Transactions Tax. [Sisters of Charity Federation]*

*Low-cost access to safe water and sanitation should be urgently scaled up and made universal to accelerate progress on the health Millennium Development Goals. Start reviewing how the health sector can participate in the financing of the prevention of diseases in an active way supporting water and sanitation provision. [Sustainable Sanitation Design]*

### **Improving political governance in the water and sanitation sector**

*Water governance has to be based on the ethical principles of the societies in which it functions, for example, by respecting traditional water rights.*

*Improving governance in the water and sanitation sector cannot be accomplished in a vacuum. This calls for willingness to change on the part of the policymakers, the sector managers as also the individual consumer. Such willingness to change comes from information (knowledge and skills, e.g. about good practices that are working elsewhere), awareness (e.g. the possible results of inaction on the part of the policymaker and at the same time awareness of the responsibility on the part of the consumer) and a change in attitude which education can bring about.*

*In order to accomplish the task of reaching the MDG targets of providing safe water and sanitation, essentially a four-fold strategy is required in which human values and ethics have a combined role to play in each of these areas:*

- *Capital – innovative economic policies, reforms, and financing modalities;*
- *Capacity-Building – innovative means to provide the technological, human resource, and governance know-how and skills;*
- *Compliance – innovative legal covenants and mechanisms for respecting, protecting, and fulfilling the human right to water; and*
- *Commitment – innovative approaches to evoking personal, social, and political will, and involving all stakeholders. [Jupiter Knowledge Management and Innovative Concepts Pvt. Ltd.]*

Other recommendations for improving political governance included: strengthened national systems that are able to plan, coordinate, finance and monitor the delivery of services and the scaling up of good approaches, such as locally designed, accessible and gender-sensitive interventions, led by communities and supported by local government. [Water Aid, End Water Poverty, Institute of Water and Sanitation Development, Water for Every One]

*Others focused on water and sanitation through a gender lens: It has been well established that women are vital links in the sustainability chain. Additionally, it has been proven time and time again that any activity at the local level that does not involve and empower women is a non-starter and bound to fail. No issue in sustainable development is more relevant to women than water and sanitation. Women need to be partners in the water-sanitation projects from the very beginning. These projects must be adapted to local situations and must include a total water and sanitation management system. Beneficiaries need to be involved at all levels, beginning with construction. Tools to learn how to use, maintain, repair, and keep the system safe must be provided. Education, especially hygiene education and behaviour modification will be essential to assure the effectiveness and success of the system. Such systems will accommodate the needs of the community, as well as, individual families. [Sisters of Charity Federation]*

### **Climate change and water policy planning**

Some contributions focused on various facets of climate change, including the need to make the water sector a priority for climate change adaptation support and funding: *Around 700 million people face water scarcity and many more live in countries that are water-stressed and suffer frequent droughts and floods. With sea-level rise, salt-water intrusion and rainfall uncertainty, water resources are highly vulnerable to climate change. Indeed, for most people, climate change impacts will be felt first and foremost through water.... Donors and national governments should support climate risk-based approaches to development, which address climate variability and climate change. Communities that are particularly vulnerable should be targeted, and solutions need to reflect their needs and interests. Governments should strengthen adaptive capacity at the local level by supporting local coping mechanisms and recognising that these can play a key role in national water policy planning. Governments should also ensure that climate risk information is made widely accessible and is used to inform water planning strategies. [Tearfund]*

*At the global level there seems to be some political commitment as demonstrated by the declaration of the International Year of Sanitation.... Given the climate change it is obvious that the crisis will continue if not worsen and the international fora should keep the sanitation agenda in the global forefront. [Institute of Water and Sanitation Development]*

### **Towards an accountability framework**

Many contributions supported “Sanitation and Water for All – A Global Framework for Action” as an international platform that could provide leadership, coordination and accountability. [CONCORD/Bond, Water Aid, End Water Poverty, Sisters of Charity Federation, Jupiter Knowledge Management and Innovative Concepts Pvt. Ltd., Institute of Water and Sanitation Development, Tearfund]

A number of contributors called on the MDG summit to recognize the critical importance of sanitation and its current status as one of the most neglected and off-track MDG targets [Water Aid]

*The outcome document of the summit should specifically cite sanitation – and other lagging targets like nutrition and maternal health – as a critical and cross-cutting intervention that is being neglected and needs to prioritize. [End Water Poverty (coalition of 175 CSOs)]*

## **VI. Environmental sustainability: Combating climate change and biodiversity loss**

*Ensuring environmental sustainability is the overall goal of MDG 7. It encapsulates a broad array of environmental issues including biodiversity loss, air pollution, forests, climate change, fish stocks, clean drinking water, sanitation and improvement of slums.*

*Environmental sustainability is essential for long-term poverty reduction, without environmental sustainability any gains in the MDGs will be transitory, inequitable, vulnerable and easily erodable.*

*“Keeping the Promise,” the UN Secretary-General’s report, emphasizes “Limited progress on environmental sustainability.” As well as concerns over water, sanitation and green house gas emissions, it highlights that the target to reduce the rate of biodiversity loss by 2010 has not been met. Climate change is further highlighted as the first of a number of key emerging issues and challenges that have the potential to roll-back gains and create obstacles to achieving development goals. [WWF]*

This last point was also made by many other contributors [Young People We Care (YPWC), Tearfund, WEDO, WWF]. However, civil society warned that the Secretary-General’s report does not refer to the political conditions that are currently impeding an international agreement for effective climate action.

*The Secretary-General’s report emphasizes the cross-cutting challenge of climate change to the achievement of the MDGs, and highlights the fact that it is the most vulnerable who have least caused the problem that are suffering most. It rightly indicates that a failure to honour longstanding commitments of international financial, technological and institutional support is the single biggest obstacle to meeting the climate change challenge. Notable, however, is a lack of reference to the crucial other side of the political coin to achieving agreement on effective global action to address climate change; the will of developed countries, those with historical responsibility for current climate change, to reduce their emissions at the level and pace indicated as necessary by the science. [CIDSE]*

*The necessary sense of urgency surrounding the need to act on climate change has been lost due to the constant debate over smaller aspects of the wider problem. The issue is suspended in a political wasteland and subject to endless disagreement on the very existence of a problem, who is to blame, who is best equipped to find the solution and who should pay for the costs of implementing a sustainable economy and lifestyle.*

*The failure of States to come to agreement at the Copenhagen Summit of 2009 ... and resulting inaction has created an atmosphere of paralysis in relation to climate change.*

*The fact remains that with each country stalling, watching each other, and refusing to step out with courage on the issue, the planet will continue to suffer from misuse. This will result in those already afflicted and living in poverty being further challenged in their everyday struggle to maintain food, water and protection from elements. [Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd]*

Consequently, civil society underscored that *urgent action must be taken to agree a fair, ambitious and binding deal on climate change*. [Tearfund] A deal that should be based on the principle of climate justice. Many civil society organizations pointed towards the moral and historical responsibility of developed countries to cut emissions within their own countries and to provide the necessary funding, technology and know-how in order to support developing countries with the emerging climate change and human development challenges. Developing countries themselves often lack the means to affectively do so.

*[...] the governments of developing countries ... are not committed to ensuring the ban (or heavy taxation) of machines that produce cfcs and there is no priority in the use of renewable energy resources. This problem is stemming from the fact that most developing countries lack the financial resources, technological know-how and institutional capacity to go into low greenhouse gas emissions and high-growth pathways to meet development.* [YPWC]

*Provision will have to be made to ensure that technology advancements and new markets also provide benefits for least developed countries and communities, both as active participants and recipients. Adequate public financing will be necessary to ensure that investments are made, and private financing leveraged, where it is needed, not only where it is profitable.* [CIDSE]

*It is a matter of justice that responsibility be weighted towards nations who historically have participated and benefited most from the exploitation of nature's gifts and the burning of fossil fuels. These actions have and continue to pollute a disproportionate amount of the world's land, atmosphere and oceans.* [Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd]

*The apparent conflict between the need to drastically reduce carbon emissions and the right of all people to meet their basic needs and achieve a decent quality of life must be rejected. In addition to paying its ecological debt to the global south through funding for adaptation and mitigation, the "overdeveloped" northern hemisphere has a moral responsibility to bring its standard of living into line with Earth's limits and obligations of justice and solidarity in a global community. Without significant steps in this direction, many of the MDGs will not be realized.* [Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers/Maryknoll Sisters of St. Dominic]

*But it is not only the lack of progress in the negotiations that has raised concern among civil society organizations. Also, the pledges and commitments made by UN Member States until today are seen as largely insufficient.*

*The fact that the UNFCCC (COP15) Copenhagen Summit on climate change failed to secure a fair and ambitious legal binding agreement, with countries' pledges so far inadequate to the agreed goal of keeping the world below 2°C average warming means that the economic, social and environmental costs of preventing a long term global disaster are mounting fast.* [CONCORD/Bond]

*In Copenhagen, over 100 nations agreed to mobilize US\$30 billion dollars by 2012 and US\$100 billion by 2020 for climate finance and clearly indicated that those funds would be new and additional. While this is an important commitment, it still falls short of the necessary scale.* [World We Want open letter to the UN Secretary-General]

*During the 2nd UNCTAD Public Symposium, several participants commented that the world was not behaving as though climate change were its greatest challenge, and would pay the price. Resource commitments on climate-change mitigation fell far short of what developing countries needed. It was stated that those sums – about US\$30 million by 2020 – were minuscule compared to the US\$8 trillion used by the same countries in 16 months to rescue their banks and as military spending. The United Nations should become the sole forum to guide the process, rather than the international financial institutions.* [UNCTAD Public Symposium report (TD/B/57/5)]

Therefore, civil society called upon the international community to take action on existing commitments and pledges and to go beyond them by using innovative financing mechanisms:

*World leaders must act boldly and take the necessary steps that are required to reduce CO2 emissions in line with the scientific consensus. Immediate action is required on finance, both on fast-start finance on establishing a long-term mechanism for raising finance for adaptation and mitigation. This must come under the authority of the UNFCCC and provide funding in addition to the 0.7% of GNI already committed by the international community in overseas development assistance (ODA).* [Tearfund]

*Countries should continue to make aid more effective by fully implementing the principles agreed under the Paris Declaration and the Accra Agenda for action. This includes commitments to*

*make real progress on joint approaches to environmental assessments, capacity for environmental analysis and addressing the global implications of climate change, desertification and biodiversity loss. [WWF]*

*Innovative financing mechanisms, as promoted in the report, can and should play an important role in generating public financing for climate action in developing countries that is new and additional to existing ODA commitments. For generating climate action resources, attention should be paid to those mechanisms which embody the “polluter pays” principle, thereby encouraging emission reductions, and mechanisms which can be scaled up over time, particularly important given the range of estimates for levels of financing needed and the fact that needs are likely to increase significantly. [CIDSE]*

Furthermore, civil society is calling for an increased accountability framework:

*As shareholders in international financial institutions, donor and recipient countries should ensure adherence to the strongest environmental criteria and social safeguards, regularly and independently reviewed. Development activities should also be screened to ensure they are not exacerbating climate change and will also be resilient to climate impacts. [WWF]*

*Countries should also fully integrate the role of civil society, at international, regional and national level to strengthen accountability systems and ensure access to important negotiations... and pursue reforms on International Environmental Governance to ensure guidelines, treaty agreements and principles are joined up to resourced implementation at national and international level. [WWF]*

### ***Climate change and gender***

As highlighted by the UN Commission on the Status of Women in 2008, women are disproportionately impacted by climate change due to, inter-alia, constraints on their access to resources and to decision making, but are also key agents of change with crucial knowledge and skills to bring to adaptation and mitigation strategies. Specific reference should be made to the key role of women in strategies to address the climate challenge. [CIDSE]

*Although women, as 70% of the world’s poor, are disproportionately affected by climate change, it was only until the development of the Bali Action Plan (BAP) that the relation between gender and climate change was recognized [WEDO].*

*The BAP has afforded the international community the opportunity to confront climate change as a cross-cutting issue and to tackle it more effectively by responding to existing gender roles, among other social imbalances. Since the BAP’s inception WEDO has observed more opportunities for women’s civil society organizations to be involved in the UNFCCC process, a greater focus by governments on gender equity, increased women’s leadership at the UN climate change conferences and COPs and concerted efforts by governments to include gender language in the negotiating texts for the post-2012 climate change agreement. [WEDO]*

However, women and gender-specific language are still not included in finance and technology discussions, but they are two critical components of implementing actions on climate change mitigation and adaptation. Although women’s leadership has increased in climate change decision-making, the numbers are still quite small. Greater recognition of women as change agents and leaders at all levels, as well as specific collection and use of sex-disaggregated data, must be incorporated into any solutions. [WEDO]

### **Biodiversity loss**

*Climate change, reliance on coal power as well as unethical and poor practices in the chemical, transport and extractive industries continue to affect the biodiversity and health and safety of the earth and its peoples. Destruction of rainforests, the pollution of air, land and water has resulted in widespread damage to the environment, agriculture and sustainable development. [International Presentation Association]*

*One of the underlying reasons for environmental degradation, according to several civil society organizations, is the failure to recognize and to value sufficiently the services that ecosystems provide to human populations. [WWF]*

*Biodiversity is an essential ingredient for food and water supply, energy, industry, and therefore underpins an economy’s development and security through production and services. Biodiversity is also essential for disaster mitigation, for example, even if these benefits are rarely accounted*

*for in conventional economic indicators. The negative economic externalities of biodiversity loss are also frequently neglected, which leads to price distortions when evaluating of products or service's true cost.*

*Overall, the economic benefits of biodiversity have been valued at US\$ 33 trillion per year (Costanza et al., 1997). [WWF] The ongoing TEEB2 (The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity) study has estimated the cost of inaction in biodiversity and ecosystem conservation in the first years of the period 2000 to 2050. According to the study each year we are losing ecosystem services with a value equivalent to around EUR 50 billion from land-based ecosystems alone. [CEEweb for Biodiversity]*

*Civil society is therefore calling upon the international community to appropriately recognize and value ecosystems and biodiversity as they are indispensable for human and economic development.*

*It is vital that the importance of biodiversity and healthy ecosystems are recognized, effectively valued, and incorporated into development. [WWF] Ecosystems are the fundamental building blocks on which we all depend for our existence and development. [CONCORD/Bond]*

*However, we are now consuming natural resources faster than they renew, "living beyond our means" environmentally. Consequently we are heading into an 'ecological credit crunch' and are now beginning to see the implications of failing to safeguard our natural resource base. Climate change is the starkest example of this, but freshwater and marine resources are also increasingly stressed and polluted; once-prolific fisheries are growing barren. Demands on rivers and groundwater resources for agriculture and industry already use about 90% of the world's freshwater. Soils are degraded, depleted of nutrients and increasingly lost to erosion. [WWF]*

Valuing ecosystems in economic terms, using a market approach, however is not necessarily a sustainable solution. Linking the recent collapse of the economic and financial system with the potential collapse of ecosystems, CEEweb for Biodiversity notes: *The cause of the collapses of these two types of systems are the same: using capital (financial or natural capital), which doesn't exist in the real term, but only exists virtually (in the financial system) or in the future (when using the natural capital of future generations).* And warns: *while the financial crisis can be tackled by economic means, the natural system collapse is irreversible.* [CEEweb for Biodiversity]

Furthermore, *economic policies and decisions must respect the physical limits of Earth. Awareness is growing of limits to life's essential natural resources (potable water, fertile soil, clean air) and of limits to natural resources, such as oil and industrial metals, that are widely used by industrialized and so-called "developed" societies. A growing number of highly respected ecological economists emphasize the need to maintain the size of the global economy within the limits of Earth.* [Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers/Maryknoll Sisters of St. Dominic]

### ***Environmental sustainability, climate change and biodiversity: proposed solutions***

As mentioned earlier in this section, it has become clear that civil society demands climate justice; the protection of ecosystems and biodiversity; as well as the availability of sufficient resources to reach environmental sustainability. Civil society organizations have also expressed concern about countries' current commitments and pledges; they also emphasized that countries should not let the slow negotiation process stop them from acting.

More specific civil society proposals to move forward on this follow below:

#### **Regulate energy and natural resource use**

*Since the world is likely to face resource scarcity in the future, and also because according to IPCC, 80% of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions is needed to be cut by 2050 in order to avoid disastrous climate change, the developed world should start preparing for a future without fossil fuel use. This could be achieved in the long term by cutting fossil fuel use step by step (e.g. by 3% per year)*

*Since the current rate of growing energy demand can not be satisfied with only renewable energy resources without seriously degrading the world's natural heritage; an absolute limit to energy use should be set (e.g. by 2% per year). This means that the system should be regulated already on the input side (energy use) on contrary to the current output side regulation (emissions). Through this initiative independency from fossil fuel can also be achieved. [CEEweb for Biodiversity]*

*Also a limit on natural resource use is proposed, e.g. by 2% per year until it reaches the carrying capacity (or footprint) of the Earth. Since the developed world's demand for natural resources exceeds the carrying capacity of their footprint by 30%, which is far from sustainable, their use of natural resources globally should also be capped. [CEEweb for Biodiversity]*

### **Improving energy and resource efficiency**

*During the second UNCTAD Public Symposium some speakers emphasized the need for increased focus on clean growth poles, arguing that they served the dual purpose of supporting industrialization and addressing the challenges associated with climate change. It was stated that UNCTAD's Trade and Environment Review 2009/2010 had recommended that developing countries should focus on three promising poles: (a) energy efficiency; (b) sustainable agriculture, including organic agriculture; and (c) renewable energy technologies. These poles could generate positive spillover effects, but in order to be implemented, they would require economic incentives and the removal of perverse incentives, as well as leadership and political commitment, and human, business and technological capacities. [UNCTAD Public Symposium report (TD/B/57/5)]*

*However, CEEweb for Biodiversity, in their contribution, warned: The main instrument, for reaching global competitiveness, but at the same time operating sustainably, is **improving energy and resource efficiency**. While this could have important merits for the environment, the advantages are more relevant from a purely economic point of view, as for instance through bringing significant benefits in the global competition for resources and energy through the development of new technologies and innovation. Besides, energy and resource efficiency improvements alone cannot help to stop the overexploitation of resources. [CEEweb for Biodiversity]*

*At UNCTAD's Public Symposium, it was also noted that access to electricity could be said to be one of the missing MDGs, since 1.6 billion people worldwide had no access to electricity. [UNCTAD Public Symposium report (TD/B/57/5)]*

### **Innovative sources of financing: Ecotaxes and land value capture**

*The economic systems of the world will signal green lights for a green economy when pollution and non-renewable resource extraction is heavily taxed, subsidies to environmentally damaging activities are removed, and taxes on labour and environmentally sensitive production are eliminated. In this regard, governments should directly levy carbon and other pollution charges and use these funds to develop renewable energy systems and to launch campaigns to "buy and invest in clean and green" technologies and products; ... untax wages as purchasing capacity will increase when workers' wages are fully privatized; ... curb profiteering and speculation in land and natural resources and encourage more labour intensive, organic agriculture, rather than oil intensive agribusiness through land value capture. [Earth Rights Institute]*

*Land value capture – the public finance policy that collects land and resource rent for the benefit of all – is a vital key to effectively securing earth rights for each and every one. [Earth Rights Institute] Ecological economics research and data indicate that true cost pricing of natural resource use and capturing that cost via ecotaxes and resource rental charges would be sufficient to eliminate taxes on labour and productive, sustainable capital. Thus full incentives are harnessed to address climate change (tax "bads") and encourage green technology (untax "goods"). [Earth Rights Institute]*

*Land value capture strengthens the economic status and security of women and reduces gender-based inequities stemming from inequitable land tenure systems. Access to land enables women to secure sites for housing, food production or small businesses. Women's job opportunities and purchasing power increase as taxes are lifted from family earnings and placed on land values. Women and men are both better off, enhancing social stability. Inclusion of women in decision-making and training for implementation of land value capture is essential. Also transparency is of considerable importance when implementing land value capture. [Earth Rights Institute]*

### **New green initiatives**

*Governments' climate change targets should consider introducing new initiatives such as supporting green alternatives to driving, for instance, constructing bike lanes, promoting energy efficiency, and improving urban planning. Enforcing regulations of industry (such as power plants and large factories) is also an important step in saving our climate of any further damage. [YPWC]*

## **A global dialogue**

The NGO “Conservation works” has been advocating for initiating a bottom-up global dialogue, to be voluntary administered by an international conservation network, which would mobilize people to conserve the world’s biodiversity [Conservation works].

## **Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)**

*To move forward, the major world funding bodies should be encouraging the business sector to help deal with recyclable waste, energy requirements and clean water issues. There should be a global requirement of businesses over a certain size or revenue to incorporate CSR into working practices as standard. In fact every business, regardless size or function can incorporate CSR, but the multi-national companies that can invest in local projects such as recycling, clean water delivery, renewable and sustainable energy sources for the community should be made to give a certain percentage of revenue back to the community. [Emirates Environmental Group]*

## **More prominent role for “environment” at the national level**

*By MDGs+10 summit, countries should commit to integrate poverty-environment-climate mainstreaming into national development frameworks, including through public sector management reforms and capacity development.*

*At a national level the focus is on shifting environment from a ministerial portfolio generally considered weak, to one which takes a more prominent role in cabinet with recognition of the environments intrinsic worth and its wider value to economic, health, employment, food security and water security. [WWF]*

Consequently, WWF proposes a range of cross-sectoral measures to integrate biodiversity into relevant sectors of government in order to promote and achieve sustainable development:

- *Apply natural capital accounting by evaluating and integrating the economic value of biodiversity and ecosystem services into national accounts including GDP.*
- *Establish cross-sectoral cabinet committees to ensure policy coherence across government portfolios.*

## **Biodiversity protection**

More specifically in light of biodiversity protection, civil society proposed that countries should identify, protect and restore areas of high biodiversity that provide key ecosystem services to society and acknowledge that environmental sustainability and biodiversity protection are essential to achieving all MDGs. Countries should further identify, implement and report on cross-sectoral measures to integrate environmental sustainability and biodiversity protection into relevant sectors of government to leverage achievement of all MDGs; and integrate ecosystem based approaches into national strategies and action plans such as Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Action Plans, National Action Plans for Adaptation and National Development Plans. [WWF]

*By CBD CoP10 a new and ambitious biodiversity strategy and targets addressing the underlying drivers of biodiversity loss must be developed to help meet the MDG 7 target and underpin other MDGs. [WWF]*

This strategy could include:

### **Coherent ecological networks**

*Improve the coherence and connectivity of natural ecosystems that provide vital services for securing human well-being (e.g. in face of climate change). At present developed UN Member States have a well connected transport system, which at the same time fragments ecosystems. Therefore we support the development of coherent ecological networks that will both reconnect wildlife and its habitats and deliver important ecosystem services. Coherent ecological networks should be developed, while transport infrastructure should be designed in an environmental cautious way. [CEEweb for Biodiversity]*

### **Limits on the demand for space**

*Set limit to developed UN Member States’ demand for space and at the same time start gradually “giving back land to nature.” Set strict limits and scientific sound criteria for any new green-field investments. Rehabilitate natural surface cover on significant part of man-dominated land with a gradual timing. Develop new regulation and sound criteria for cultivated field size, set-aside fields and abandoned land, ensuring that there is enough space for natural processes. [CEEweb for Biodiversity]*

### **Biodiversity risk assessments**

*Carry out site based biodiversity risk assessments related to any future land use change in the planning phase, so that the conversion of natural land can be avoided. This could help to avoid environmental pressures saved in terms of emissions shifting to biodiversity (e.g. as it happened in the case of biofuels). [CEEweb for Biodiversity]*

### **A legal and economic regulatory framework**

Furthermore, civil society argued that the UN should change the legal and economic regulatory framework corresponding to the achievement of the above targets. It should:

- *Develop economic and regulatory instruments to address the drivers behind social and environmental problems (such as poverty and hunger; climate change and biodiversity loss). Practically this means changing the boundary conditions of economy.*
- *Develop indirect tools (economic incentives like quotas, taxes and subsidies; absolute ceilings on resource use) and direct tools (e.g. spatial planning, polluters pay regulations) to tackle the only seemingly sectoral, but in fact deeply interconnected problems.*
- *Eliminate perverse subsidies and promote incentives, which reveal the value of nature to the owners of land according to their biodiversity richness or the ecosystem services they provide. [CEEweb for Biodiversity]*

It should also establish an “Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services” (IPBES). *The establishment of an Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services” (IPBES) is agreed at the CBD COP16 as a mechanism to further strengthen the science-policy interface on biodiversity and ecosystem services and helps ensure that decisions are made on the basis of the best available scientific information on conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and ecosystem services. [WWF]*

## **VII. Armed violence & conflict: Towards an “Arms Trade Treaty”**

Many of the contributions agreed that armed violence is a serious threat to human security and to the achievement of the MDGs and highlighted the interlinkages between those elements. Peace and security were highlighted as essential elements for successful development projects. Some contributions also drew attention to the scale of violence against women during conflicts and post-conflict situations [Tearfund].

*Robust evidence shows that armed violence exacerbates both household poverty and food insecurity, and unemployment in turn exacerbates armed violence. Conflict is cited as obstructing access to education, especially amongst the most excluded communities. Community exclusion is also associated with increased risk of violence.*

*In addition armed violence impacts on child and maternal health because it kills and injures children and their mothers, and displaces families. Armed violence destroys and closes down vital maternal and child survival health services.... Armed violence can destroy water and sanitation systems and health infrastructure, increasing vulnerability to disease.... It can also produce population shifts – such as rural-urban migration, with agricultural desertion and urban overcrowding – that make sustainable development much more difficult. [Action on Armed Violence (former Landmine Action), Norwegian Forum for Environment and Development (ForUM)]*

Several civil society organizations complained about the absence of strategies and targets within the MDG framework that focus on reducing and preventing armed violence. Following the Geneva Declaration on Armed Violence and Development, the Secretary-General’s report “Promoting development through the reduction and prevention of armed violence” (A/64/228), and the High-Level Conference on Armed Violence and the MDGs (Oslo, April 2010), they argued that the interrelation between armed violence and the MDGs is a key cross-cutting issue which must be taken into account in order to achieve international development engagements.

*While not formally recognized to date as an element in the achievement of the MDGs, the negative impact of armed violence on human security and sustainable development is real and increasingly understood. [CONCORD/Bond]*

*In the Secretary-General’s report (“Keeping the Promise”), one of the three key strategies identified for MDG improvement is: “improved conditions for peace, security and good governance.” Yet neither Goal-specific strategies for MDG 1, nor strategies for MDG 3, 4, 5, 7*

and 8 include armed violence reduction or prevention. [Action on Armed Violence (former Landmine Action)]

A number of contributions emphasized that military expenditures around the world – both in developed and developing countries – are also a major obstacles to the attainment of the MDGs. In fact, military expenditures and arms trade reduce not only the financial capital which could have been invested in social and development projects, but also fuels armed conflicts and serious human rights violations.

*The impact of the armed conflicts on the natural resources illegal exploitation especially in the Great Lakes Region and in Eastern Congo have substantially contributed to the destroying of local economy, infrastructures and access to primary education for young people, access to basic health care services for women and Gender based violence from both armed groups and national army. [Droits Humains Sans Frontières] Armed violence can undermine efforts at sustainable uses of natural resources including those whose loss or degradation is associated with contributing to climate change. [Norwegian Forum for Environment and Development (ForUM)]*

*Military and defense spending is not only linked to the mere acquisition and use of weapons, but it represents unnecessary diversion of funds, risk of irresponsible or involuntary transfer of weapons, perpetration of armed conflicts, human rights violations, corruption and lack of transparency and the fuelling of regional and/or international arms races, among many others.... Adding to the financial cost of the purchase and transfer of weapons, and the human cost of the lives they truncate, there is also a large amount of resources directed towards “developing, building, maintaining and even dismantling and disposing of these weapons,” thus causing further burden to the capacities of States to put all those resources to better use. [Fundación Arias para la Paz y Progreso Humano]*

*Irresponsible arms transfers and excessive military spending undermine all MDGs both by fuelling conflict and crime, and by diverting funds from social spending such as education and health care. Resources are wasted by military spending that goes beyond legitimate security needs. Such spending can also contribute to unsustainable debt service payments, which reduce resources for social spending – and it can fuel corruption. Armed violence also impacts directly on each of the MDGs. [Norwegian Church Aid]*

Many of the contributions pointed out that addressing armed violence is a precondition to achieving the MDGs and demanded that the reduction and prevention of armed violence be included in the formulation of future MDG policies and strategies, amongst others as an indicator [Action on Armed Violence (former Landmine Action)].

*Measurement of armed violence is a significant indicator of State accountability, and provides a mechanism for strengthening policies and practices needed to ensure the preconditions for effective development [Norwegian Forum for Environment and Development (ForUM), Action on Armed Violence (former Landmine Action)]*

### **Disarmament: Adoption of an “Arms Trade Treaty”**

Civil society also proposed that the disarmament process should be advanced by continuing international negotiations on the elimination of nuclear weapons, reducing military expenses and controlling the proliferation and use of conventional arms. Furthermore, the “Arms Trade Treaty (ATT)” – a legally-binding international agreement to regulate the trade in arms – should be adopted.

*The adoption of an international instrument to control the international commerce of arms known as the Arms Trade Treaty is the way forward.... Responsible trading practices from exporters will allow developing States to channel those funds towards advancing the MDGs and achieving the welfare of their peoples, not only for the 2015 deadline, but for many generations to come. [Fundación Arias para la Paz y Progreso Humano]*

*Developed and developing States alike need to work together in reducing military expenditures worldwide and commit to signing and ratifying the ATT in its negotiating conference in 2012. [Fundación Arias para la Paz y Progreso Humano]*

In addition, civil society called for modifying the international security structure by decentralizing the Security Council.

*We ... propose to decentralize the Security Council and – step by step – to turn it into four continental branches, each with a mandate to maintain peace within its jurisdiction. There shall be no veto power, no distinction between permanent and non-permanent membership.... The*

*continental Security Council branches shall have the mandate: to stop war and violence, to bring about and coordinate disarmament, to maintain peace. They will depend on the mandatory assistance to peace missions of the respective Member States in order to provide each State with enhanced security (strike force multiplied by all Member States) at far less cost.... This requires the United Nations to be an empowered, representative and democratic organization in all its parts. [A Centre for the World Religions]*

Other recommendations identified for reducing armed violence and advancing the achievement of the MDGs were: strengthening of political institutions and early warning systems, particularly in “fragile” States; building assistance for victims of armed violence; implementing the UN Charter Article 26 concerning the regulation of armaments and the Programme of Action (PoA) on Small Arms; and advancing the ratification of the Convention on Cluster Munitions. [Norwegian Forum for Environment and Development (ForUM), The Atlas Alliance, International Federation of Translators]

## **Annex I: List of contributing organizations**

A Centre for the World Religions  
Action Against Hunger UK  
Action on Armed Violence (former Landmine Action)  
African Women's Development and Communication Network (FEMNET)  
Africa Youth Coalition Against Hunger Sierra Leone (AYCAH-SL)  
AIDS Prevention Society  
Al Anjuman Foundation  
Alliance2015  
Alliance Sud  
American Association for Health Education  
American Cancer Society  
American Public Health Association Working Group on Community-based Primary Health Care  
Amnesty International  
Associação Brasileira de Portadores de Câncer (AMUCC)  
Aube Nouvelle pour la Femme et le Développement (ANFD)  
Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids  
CEEweb for Biodiversity  
Centre d'Accompagnement des Alternatives Locales de Développement (CAALD)  
Centre de Développement Agro-pastoral de Djolu  
Centre for Socio-Eco-Nomic Development (CSEND)  
Centro de Investigación de la Epidemia de Tabaquismo  
Centro Educativo y Desarrollo Integral del Antiplano  
Childcare consortium  
Child Rights and You (CRY)  
CIDSE  
Civil society organizations network for development  
Coalition against Trafficking in Women  
Collectif Inter-Associatif pour la Réalisation des Activités Scientifiques et Techniques jeunes au Cameroun  
Comisión Pro Fomento Vecinal Cuauhtémoc  
Communications Coordination Committee for the United Nations  
Company of the Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul  
Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd  
Consejo de Desarrollo Socioeconómico  
Conservation Works  
Coordination des Orphelines des Militaires Congolais  
Corporación Nacional del Cáncer (CONAC)  
Development Fund  
Diabetes Association - Norway  
Droits Humains Sans Frontières  
Droit Société Femme  
Earth Rights Institute  
Eastern African Sub-regional Support Initiative for the Advancement of Women  
Education International  
Emirates Environmental Group  
End Water Poverty (coalition of 175 CSOs)  
Erlassjahr  
Espace Associatif  
European NGO Confederation for Relief and Development (CONCORD) / Bond  
EveryChild  
Family Care International  
Fondation Orphelinat au Congo (FOC)  
Foro Ciudadano de participación por la Justicia y los Derechos Humanos (FOCO)  
Forum for Rural Education & Empowerment on Development (FREEDOM)  
Framework Convention Alliance  
Fundación Arias para la Paz y Progreso Humano  
Fundación Promoción Social de la Cuitua  
German Foundation for World Population (DSW)  
Global Call to Action Against Poverty (GCAP) – Peru  
Global Call to Action Against Poverty (GCAP) – South Africa  
Global Task Force for Humanitarian Work Psychology  
Gram Bharti Samiti (GBS)  
Habitat International Coalition/Housing and Land Rights Network  
Health Poverty Action  
HelpAge International

Herofat enterprises  
 Homeplanet Alliance  
 Human Security Alliance  
 IBON Foundation  
 International Alliance of Women  
 International Association of Charities  
 International Baby Food Action Network  
 International Civil Society Support  
 International Diabetes Federation  
 International Federation of Translators  
 International Institute for Development of the Citizenship - IIDAC  
 International Movement ATD Fourth World  
 International Network for Cancer Treatment and Research (INCTR)  
 International Photographic Council  
 International Presentation Association  
 International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC)  
 Institute of Water and Sanitation Development  
 Ipas  
 Iraqi Mass Organization for Development & Promoting  
 Jupiter Knowledge Management and Innovative Concepts Pvt. Ltd.  
 Justitia et Pax Netherlands  
 Kanuri Development Association  
 Khuwambile Atwela Youth Association  
 Kurdistan Organization for Rehabilitation of the Disabled  
 LDC Watch  
 Liga Argentina de Lucha Contra el Cáncer - LALCEC  
 Light for the World  
 Ligue Camerounaise des Droits Humains  
 LIPILDRO & CEPEPHA  
 Lutheran World Federation  
 Marangopoulos Foundation for Human Rights  
 Marianists International  
 Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers/Maryknoll Sisters  
 Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers/Maryknoll Sisters of St. Dominic  
 Middle East Technical University – Ankara  
 Movicancer - Nicaragua  
 Mozambican Force for Crime Investigation and Social Reinsertion (FOMICRES)  
 National Campaign Committee for Rural Workers  
 Nation Builders Foundation  
 Nepal Forum of Environmental Journalists  
 Network of Marahastra by PLHIV (NMP+)  
 NGO's Computer Literacy Shelter Welfare Rawalpindi Pakistan (NCLSW)  
 NGO Global Action Against Poverty (The Brothers of Charity)  
 Non-Smokers' Rights Association of Nepal  
 Norwegian Church Aid  
 Norwegian Forum for Environment and development  
 One Voice Against Cancer  
 Organization for Social Development of Unemployed Youth (OSDUY)  
 Organisation Nationale pour l'Enfant, la Femme et la Famille (ONEF)  
 Overseas Development Institute (ODI)  
 Oxfam International  
 Pelican Web  
 Philippine Rural Reconstruction Movement (PRRM)  
 Physicians for Human Rights/Health Workforce Advocacy Initiative  
 Recovering Nepal  
 Richbone Initiative Foundation  
 Save the Children  
 Sisters of Charity Foundation  
 SKYIANS (a non-profit NGO)  
 Social Development Network  
 Social Watch  
 Social Watch Bénin  
 Society of the Sacred Heart  
 Soroptimist International  
 Southern African Youth Movement  
 Sustainable Sanitation Design  
 Sustainable développement  
 Swami Hardas Foundation and Dr. Swami Hardas Glorious Globe and Brotherhood Organisation

Tarumitra  
Tax Justice Network  
Tearfund  
Teresian Association  
The Atlas Alliance  
The Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation  
Trocaire (Northern Ireland)  
Year of Relief 2000/Erlassjahr  
Yemen Women Union/ Civil Society Organizations Network  
Young People We Care (YPWC)  
Young Professional Chronic Disease Working Group  
WaterAid  
Water for Every One (WFEO)  
Widows for Peace and Democracy  
Women and AIDS Support Network (WASN)  
Women and Children First  
Women's Environment and Development Organization (WEDO)  
Women's Global Network for Reproductive Rights  
World Forum of Civil Society Networks (UBUNTU)  
World Heart Federation  
World Organization of Prenatal Education Associations (OMAEP)  
World Vision International  
World Wide Fund For Nature (WWF)

In addition, there were four individual contributions.

## Annex II: Acronyms

AIDS	acquired immunodeficiency syndrome
ARVs	antiretroviral drugs
ATT	Arms Trade Treaty
BAP	Bali Action Plan
BPA	Beijing Platform for Action
ATAF	African Tax Administration Forum
BCI	Basic Capabilities Index
BIG	Basic Income Grant
BWIs	Bretton Woods institutions
CAFS	conflict-affected fragile states
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
CIAT	Inter-American Center for Tax Administration
COP	Conference of Parties
CSO	civil society organization
CSR	corporate social responsibility
CTT	Currency Transactions Tax
DAC	Development Assistance Committee
DCF	Development Cooperation Forum
DESA	UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs
ECOSOC	Economic and Social Council of the United Nations
EFA	Education for All
EITI	Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative
ELCRN	Evangelical Lutheran Church in the Republic of Namibia
EU	European Union
FCTC	Framework Convention on Tobacco Control FCTC
FGM	female genital mutilation
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
FTAs	Free Trade Agreements
FTI	Fast Track Initiative
FTT	Financial Transactions Tax
G20	Group of 20
GAVI	Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization
GDP	gross domestic product
GEAR	Gender Equality Architecture Reform
GNI	gross national income
GNP	gross national product
HIPCs	Heavily Indebted Poor Countries
HIV	human immunodeficiency virus
HLF-4	Fourth High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness
HLTF	High Level Task Force
IATI	International Aid Transparency Initiative
IAASTD	International Assessment of Agricultural Knowledge, Science and Technology for Development
ICPD	International Conference on Population and Development
IFIs	international financial institutions
ILO	International Labour Organization
IMF	International Monetary Fund
IHP	International Health Programmes
IPBES	Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services
ITUC	International Trade Union Confederation
LDCs	Least Developed Countries
LICs	Low Income Countries
LMICs	Low- and Middle-Income Countries
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
MNCs	multi-national corporations
NCDs	Non-communicable diseases
NGO	non-governmental organization
ODA	official development assistance
ODI	Overseas Development Institute
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
PIMC	Programme Implementation and Monitoring Committees
PCD	Policy Coherence for Development
PRRM	Philippine Rural Reconstruction Movement
PWYP	Publish What You Pay

SDRM	Sovereign Debt Restructuring Mechanism
SRHR	Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights
SDRs	Special Drawing Rights
SG	Secretary General
STIs	sexually transmitted infections
TB	Tuberculosis
TRIPS	trade-related aspects of intellectual property rights
UN	United Nations
UNAIDS	Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UN-HABITAT	United Nations Human Settlements Programme
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNIFEM	United Nations Development Fund for Women
UN-NGLS	United Nations Non-Governmental Liaison Service
UPR	Universal Periodic Review
WASH	Global Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene
WHO	World Health Organization
WTO	World Trade Organization