

**CHAIR'S SUMMARY - DFID MDG CONFERENCE
LONDON, 11 MARCH 2010**

SUMMARY

The conference met in a spirit of optimism: progress is being made and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) can be reached. But political momentum and moving beyond business as usual is needed. Accountability is central if acceleration of progress is to happen. Donors must be more transparent and governments must be more accountable to their citizens. A focus on implementation and building, not undermining local institutions is needed. The empowerment of women must be prioritised and benefits of growth must be more fairly distributed. To accelerate progress, where we know what works, we must scale up, and where we face challenges, we must innovate. And we need to stay for the long term. Working across different sectors simultaneously will enable us to reach our goals more quickly. Global leadership, policies that foster resilient growth, security and effective aid are critical, but it is national leadership and the direct engagement of communities that will have the biggest impact. The conference produced recommendations on the international policies needed to achieve the MDGs overall and specifically MDGs related to hunger and nutrition, maternal and child health, and education.

INTRODUCTION

1. **In September the international community will come together in New York at the UN MDG Summit.** We hope this summit will agree a Global Development Action Plan to reach the MDGs by 2015. The DFID MDG conference gathered one hundred development experts and policy-makers to consider the priority actions needed to accelerate progress on the MDGs of hunger and nutrition, maternal and child health and education and consider a range of important cross cutting issues. We hope they will be discussed, debated and refined in the forums leading up to the summit.
2. **We met in a spirit of optimism.** Despite formidable challenges, there are successes. For each MDG, even those that are off-track globally, there are success stories and areas of progress.
3. **The conference recognises that, in an interdependent world, development is in all our interests:** prosperity, security, and justice are indivisible; none of us can fully enjoy them unless we all do. Progress towards the MDGs will only be

sustained if the challenges of economic recovery, environmental sustainability and climate change, the empowerment of girls and women and states affected by conflict or fragility are tackled.

FOUR ACTION PRINCIPLES

4. **This conference firmly holds that ‘business as usual’ will not allow us to meet the MDGs. Four principles should guide our work:**

- **Accountability** - international partners must be accountable for their promises and commitments made, and for use of aid resources; developing countries should be more accountable to their citizens for the use of national budgets.
- **Fairness** – Including everyone matters for reaching the MDGs, the impact of growth on poverty must be increased and higher priority given to interventions that reach the poorest. Gender equality must be at the heart of our strategy to accelerate progress to 2015.
- **Innovation** - new partnerships with the private sector, foundations, philanthropists, civil society and faith groups need to be developed. We need to innovate through government, for example through the use of results-based budgeting. New technologies and new financial instruments, including instruments to catalyse private sector investments, must be developed and applied. New partnerships with emerging powers and to seek global solutions to global problems are needed.
- **Resilience** - actions over the next five years and beyond need to focus on reducing vulnerability and managing shocks: this will involve macroeconomic stability, low-carbon climate-resilient growth, and protection of the poorest and most vulnerable. It will require long term investments in building effective institutions.

Priority Global Development Actions

5. **Leadership and accountability is central to achievement of the MDGs.** Going forward this means:

- **Focussing on building coalitions of leaders to mobilise change.** Between now and the summit, we need to bring together leaders to agree actions to build leadership and greater accountability for our MDG commitments at global, national and local levels.

- Encouraging the UN Secretary General to take forward his plan of convening **three MDG Advocacy Groups** – a group of eminent persons from all walks of life; celebrity MDG champions; and MDG leaders from the business community.
- Supporting governments to develop **national systems of accountability**, making the budget the central institution of policy, for example through results based financing that is independently verified, and finding and expanding ways for local services to reflect citizen's preferences
- International agencies supporting **every developing country to develop a plan to 2015** on how they will make progress on the MDGs.
- Keeping our promises to deliver **more and better quality development assistance**. Countries should set out plans to deliver existing targets. Where aid commitments expire in 2010, new commitments are needed to 2015.
- **Being accountable for targets, quantity, allocation** between countries and across sectors, and at the national level support accountability between citizens and parliaments.
- Ensuring that all development agencies are signatories to the **International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI)**, increasing the number of donor signatories from 18 to 25 by the end of 2010.

BALANCED AND EQUITABLE GROWTH

6. **The global environment is much more challenging than when the MDGs were devised. Strong effective institutions are needed to deliver the MDGs. Resilient growth requires a policy framework that works in good times, provides flexibility in bad times and allows all people to engage in productive economic activities. The international community must:**
 - commit to complete the Doha Development Agenda by 2010;
 - drive through commitments affirmed in the 2005 WTO Hong Kong Ministerial Declaration on Duty Free, Quota Free access for Least Developed Countries and ensure better rules of origin;

- seek agreement by the G20 to a set of policy commitments which are of benefit to the very poor and establish a development agenda that contributes to reaching the MDGs;
 - secure international agreement on an ambitious target for Aid to Trade to be reached by 2015;
 - reaffirm G20 agreement to support ambitious replenishments of IDA and African Development Fund;
 - ensure development partners provide, as requested, support and analysis for LICs to develop growth strategies. These strategies should be country-specific and seek to develop environments which promote accelerated, resilient, equitable and where possible low carbon growth paths; and
 - ensure that the IMF has the resources and policy approach to continue to support the poorest countries in developing the monetary and fiscal policies necessary to drive growth and reach MDGs.
7. **To protect and promote the poorest, the MDG summit must recognise that getting resources to the poor directly is as essential as good macroeconomic management to accelerate progress towards the MDGs.**
- Every country needs supportive policies and programmes that ensure that poor people's hard-won gains cannot be swept away.
 - Building on the commitments of the G20, the international community must provide the support needed to enable all developing countries protect the poorest by building social protection systems into their national development strategies.

ADDRESS CONFLICT AND FRAGILITY

8. **Peace-building and state-building objectives must be put at the heart of our work in fragile and conflict affected states.**
- The international community should increase the levels of global aid to fragile countries from the current 30 per cent to 50 per cent by 2015. This aid should be shared out more evenly and made more predictable and longer term.
 - Aid agencies must be accountable for resources spent and innovate with instruments that can both accelerate MDG progress and build state capability.

- A peace-building fund that is doubled in size in return for improved performance and a step change in the effectiveness of the Peace-Building Commission in supporting countries to build peace is needed.
- All fragile countries need to have internationally backed growth and job strategies.
- Well-qualified women leaders need support who can play an equal part in peace-building and state-building. Protection of women in these countries should be a top priority.
- An international partnership to improve capability to deliver security and justice as a basic service, for example through building capacity (especially in the South) to provide consistent and locally-sensitive specialist advice.

CLIMATE CHANGE

9. **Climate change magnifies existing threats and stresses, and threatens to push ever greater numbers of people into poverty.** To avoid the catastrophic consequences of climate change and seize associated opportunities, the world must limit the rise in temperature to two degrees Celsius over pre-industrial levels and embark on a low-carbon growth path. To achieve this, developed countries must reduce their emissions. They must support developing countries to grow in low-carbon climate-resilient ways, including through access to new technologies and investments in natural resource management. They must protect their citizens from the impact of climate change that is already unavoidable. Developed countries must commit to ensuring that the necessary financial resources are provided for this. At the MDG summit, leaders must agree that:
 - there must be public climate finance that is genuinely new and additional, and complementary to ODA, and is not provided at the unacceptable price of diverting funds away from meeting the MDGs;
 - new and innovative ways are found of raising climate finance, including through new sources of finance;
 - policies and incentives be developed to leverage private sector investments;
 - the impacts of climate change should be factored in across all national development plans;
 - finance for adaptation should prioritise the needs of the poorest and most vulnerable countries and communities; and

- country programmes and policies should help tackle the challenges of climate change by integrating environmental sustainability, particularly through support for improved management of natural resources including water, land and forests.

INVEST IN GIRLS AND WOMEN

- 10. Investing in girls and women and giving them economic opportunities will speed up progress on all the MDGs.** But to empower women and girls a shift of attitudes and approaches on a global scale is needed.
- 11. The September summit needs to agree a new global compact for the economic empowerment of women.** This will require a renewed effort by international institutions, national governments and the private sector, including:
 - the renewed focus on growth and jobs puts women as central beneficiaries, including poor, rural women;
 - national governments to re-double their efforts to ensure gender equality and have the empowerment of women and girls feature in all national development plans and strategies;
 - the World Bank follows through on commitments to make gender equality a priority in IDA 16 and injects new impetus behind its Gender Action Plan and the IFC delivers on its commitments to work with business to give economic opportunities to women; and
 - all IFIs to deliver, in partnership with national governments and stakeholders, high quality training for non traditional market-led skills training targeted to women and girls.
- 12. We call on the UN's Secretary General to re-ignite his UNiTE campaign to end Violence Against Women** and deliver protective laws, national action plans and better data. We urge the Secretary General to extend **UNiTE's leadership** group with a strong network of international women and men leaders, working with women's movements on the ground, and strengthening accountability for delivering tangible results for women.
- 13. Now is the time for a new international gender powerhouse.** We ask for the commitment to agree arrangements to make operational the new UN gender entity at the 64th UNGA in September 2010 and empower it to deliver a step change for girls and women, and hold us all to account for delivery.

HUNGER AND NUTRITION

- 14. Every six seconds a child dies of causes directly related to malnutrition. One in six people go hungry every day.** New evidence shows that unless chronic malnutrition is tackled very early, during pregnancy and the first two years of life, its consequences are permanent. The MDG hunger and nutrition targets of are so off-track that attention must focus now on delivering these. A new deal is required to increase agricultural productivity, ensure access to food and improve nutrition.
- 15. Partners must deliver on their L'Aquila Food Security Initiative commitments to provide \$20bn** to boost sustainable agricultural development, double agricultural productivity and free 100 million from hunger. Support must be channelled to national food security plans.
- In Africa, increasing the number of plans developed and financed within the CAADP framework from twelve this year to thirty next year.
 - Support a framework for South Asia, particularly for the highest burden countries, including through the World Bank-led South Asia Food Security and Nutrition Initiative.
- 16. Social protection policies must ensure that the poorest and most vulnerable always have year round access to food** (see par 8).
- 17. A Nutrition Action Plan must be delivered at the September summit** which galvanises new commitments to tackling this neglected problem in high burden countries as well as by their development partners. We need a plan that:
- Is based on the policy consensus described in the Global Framework for Action on Nutrition
 - ensures a commitment to increase ODA for nutrition overall to \$10bn by 2012 (up from \$4.9 bn in 2007);
 - delivers an effective UN coordination mechanism for nutrition, under the leadership of the UN Secretary General, and nurtures leadership more broadly, and creates a global nutrition leaders forum and council;
 - commits to prevent stunting in 30 million children by agreeing coverage targets for high impact services (such as breastfeeding support and micronutrient supplementation), as well as the coverage and impacts to be achieved through investments in the non-health sectors (food security, agriculture, social protection and water and sanitation); and

- introduces innovative methods for real-time monitoring of the impact of local and national shocks on nutrition for example hot-spot surveillance.

MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH

- 18. Every minute a woman dies of complications during pregnancy and childbirth** and 15 children under five years die - mostly from preventable diseases. The health MDGs are achievable but more health outcomes are needed for the money spent and other social issues that lead to poor health of women and children, such as gender inequality and other forms of discrimination, need to be tackled.
- 19. All partners must implement the Global Consensus for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health** calling for political leadership, services for women and children free at the point of use, and effective health systems that implement an agreed combination of proven interventions that will save the lives of up to 10 million women and children by 2015. Accountability for results is required at all levels
- 20. The international community must improve the volume, allocation and efficiency of health financing, specifically:**
 - make available increased, long-term, support to health plans in the framework of the International Health Partnership and the WB/ GAVI/ GFATM joint platform;
 - allocate more aid to high burden countries and fragile states;
 - ensure more funding available for the neglected areas of family planning and safe abortion, nutrition, water and sanitation;
 - exploit innovative sources and channels for funding; and
 - double annual aid to maternal, newborn and child health from \$4bn to \$8bn.
- 21. On 9 March 2010, at the DFID-hosted High Level Meeting on achieving universal access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support**, it was recognised that we know a comprehensive package of prevention and treatment, delivered through effective and integrated health systems, works. We need to:
 - scale-up, through the Global Fund and other mechanisms;
 - show and nurture leadership - political and at all levels of society; and

- focus on gender and on the rights of marginalised groups.

EDUCATION

22. Despite considerable progress, there are still 72 million children of primary school age out of school - most of them in fragile and conflict-affected states. Even for those children in school, many of them are not mastering basic literacy and numeracy. According to UNESCO up to \$10 billion is needed every year to achieve universal primary education by 2015. The Education summit to be hosted by South Africa at the time of the 2010 World Cup is an opportunity for governments to make good on their promises.

23. It is vital to broaden the debate on education, capturing the energy and expertise of young people themselves, and the experience of communities. Quality must be brought centre stage; underpinning this we must measure and improve learning outcomes throughout the basic education cycle, particularly within the first two years of schooling. We need to pay particular attention to girls' education and address the social issues that stop parents sending their children to school; gender inequality, child labour and attitudes to disability, for example.

- International partners need to agree a trajectory to quickly increase the amount of aid provided to meet the aid shortfall, starting with at least doubling aid to basic education in low income countries from \$3 billion to \$6 billion per annum, including through an expanded and reformed Education Fast Track Initiative.
- Partners should jointly ensure resources and political energies are focused on countries furthest from achieving education goals, including conflict affected and fragile states.
- Developing country governments should enact properly resourced education sector plans, allocating around 20 per cent of their budget to education (half to primary), and recruiting 10 million more teachers by 2015 and focusing on improving learning outcomes throughout the basic education cycle, particularly literacy and numeracy within the first two years of schooling.
- Developing country governments, supported by international partners, should urgently develop equity based reporting for education targets, in order to identify and better support marginalised children.

LOOKING FORWARD

24. **We need to rediscover the spirit of MDG 8 and reinvigorate development partnerships for this new decade.** This means applying our original action principles of accountability - both on delivering promises and in being more transparent about how resources are used; innovation - going beyond well established partners to reach out to new players in the G20, the private sector, and philanthropic organisations; and resilience - ensuring longevity in our approach, to work together through to and beyond 2015. But these partnerships need also to be underpinned by a stronger principle of fairness and equity, in order to level the playing field and ensure resources go to where they are most needed.
25. **The success or failure of the MDGs will have immense consequences, not only for the world's poor, but for communities and stakeholders across the world.** That is why it is essential that the UN Summit in September results in an internationally agreed Global Development Action Plan to deliver the MDGs by 2015. We believe that this Conference will significantly contribute to this process.