

Mobilising for Gender Justice Beyond the MDGs!

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WIDE Campaign Bulletin N.1



WIDE Network Opens “Gender Equality and Social Justice beyond the MDGs” Campaign



Ten years after the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) Declaration was signed by 189 countries, the United Nations will celebrate again a **MDGs Summit on 20-22 September 2010**, in New York. As primary objective of the Summit UN declares “to accelerate progress towards all the MDGs by 2015”.

WIDE keeps a critical view on the MDGs framework as a narrow and minimalist focus for measuring development as well as the advancement of gender equality and women’s rights. WIDE considers that the

MDGs leave aside the structural nature of poverty as well as the structural nature of gender inequality. Indeed, the lack of ‘mainstreaming’ of gender equality within the MDGs poignantly highlights the difficulties of mainstreaming as a strategy. WIDE is also concerned that the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)’s process is undermining the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action. We consider crucial that the EU ensures that the MDGs draw on the Beijing PfA as integral to all MDG goals.

WIDE wants to take the opportunity of MDG Review Summit in September -when discussion and debate on Development will have a place in the civil society organisations and wide public opinion- **to contribute with its critical voice to the advancement of gender and social justice for all.**

For this reason, we are happy to invite you to take part in the **WIDE “Gender Equality and Social Justice Beyond the MDGs” campaign to the MDG Summit.** By this campaign, WIDE foresees to share and communicate the analysis, opinions, activities and proposals of its members and partners, news, processes, expectations and outcomes of the summit internally in the network and externally to the media and other civil society actors.

WIDE UN Watch – Get informed and follow us at the UN MDG Review Summit at www.csw54.wordpress.com

News from the Global Call to Action against Poverty

**Standing Up for the World We Want:
September 17th-19th, 2010**

Taking place just days before the Millennium Development Goal Review (MDG) Summit in the UN in New York, Stand Up 2010 represents a unique moment to mobilise millions and send a strong and clear message to leaders as they go into the summit "It's not business as usual – WE WANT ACTION!!!"



Over the three days of September 17th through the 19th, groups, organizations, constituencies and individuals will be organizing and participating in a wide range of events and actions to put a final push on leaders and demand concrete outcomes from the summit.

There will be a large scale Stand Up event in New York on September 19th, on the eve of the MDG summit organised by GCAP and a range of organizations from University Student Groups, Youth Groups, Save the Children, OXFAM, Action Aid, The Hunger Project, World Council of Churches, World Vision and CIVICUS. The event will include an MDG display with information on the MDGs, progress on each one, what needs to happen for it to be

achieved, how citizens can get involved. There will also be an exhibition space, which will include The World We Want 2015 Charters developed by GCAP National Coalitions in Africa and Asia and other groups. A range of high profile speakers and performers will take part and a stunt, using the Make A Noise theme will take place.

[Read more](#)

Civil Society Forum during MDG+10 Review, 22 September 2010

One of the key actions that GCAP will facilitate during the MDG+10 Review is the coordination of a Civil Society Forum that will bring together a broad spectrum of civil society networks as well as representatives of the UN, governments and the media to discuss the outcomes of the MDG Review and point towards the directions for citizen engagement and governance accountability in the next five years.

The key message of the event will be that the MDG Review Summit, is not an end point, but is the starting point for the next five years to 2015.

The event will open with a panel discussion, analysing developments in the MDG Review summit so far and framing the agenda for the day. The forum will then break up into seven working groups focusing on issues which are key to achieving the MDGS and which will form the focus for the development of a Road to 2015 Strategy.

For further information, please contact GCAP Mobilisation Coordinator Fionuala Cregan fionuala.cregan@whiteband.org

Special Report

MDG 3 Where are we at and what needs to be done: the role of the EU



Carolina Gottardo, Head of Policy and Advocacy at One World Action talks about the progress, potentials and gaps in the MDG agenda. Her presentation is focused on MDG 3, however goes beyond this particular goal and gives recommendations on how to reach the Millennium Development Goals by 2015.

According to Gottardo, Success in reducing poverty and achieving gender equality will depend on ensuring that all MDGs are addressed in a way that empowers women. None of the Millennium Development Goals will be achieved without serious attention to tackling gender equality and achieving women's rights.

Download Carolina Gottardo's presentation [here](#).

NEWS FROM THE UN

Participation in the High-level Plenary Meeting of the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly, 20-22 September 2010



As has been the case in previous high-level meetings of the General Assembly, due to increased security measures necessary to accommodate the meetings, access to the UN premises will be severely restricted for representatives of ECOSOC-accredited NGOs.

Overview of the UN Informal Interactive Hearings with the NGOs



The informal interactive hearings of the

General Assembly with representatives of NOGs, civil society organizations and the private sector were held on 14-15 June 2010 in New York.

UN Secretary-General Establishes MDG Advocacy Group



On 23 June, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon announced the establishment of an advocacy group of eminent persons to try to galvanize support worldwide towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by their target date of 2015.

The MDG Advocacy Group will be co-chaired by Rwandan President Paul Kagame and Spanish Prime Minister José Luis Rodríguez Zapatero.

WIDE Network and the Millennium Development Goals

Gender equality at the 2010 UN MDG review summit: statement to the UK Government

UK GENDER & DEVELOPMENT NETWORK

Women and girls make up 70 percent of the world's poorest people – a result of systemic inequality. This discrimination is not only unjust; it is also steadily undermining progress on all of the Millennium Development Goals. Unless the barriers that prevent women and girls from escaping poverty are explicitly addressed, development gains will remain beyond reach for the poorest and most vulnerable people.

The UK Gender and Development Network therefore recommends placing gender equality at the heart of the UK's strategy to accelerate progress to 2015, as part of the Government's broader commitment to fairness. In particular we urge the UK Government to focus on three priority areas in setting its position for the 2010 UN summit.

[Read more](#)

Policy Coherence with Gender Equality, Equity and Rights in Development Cooperation

Financing for Development

Women's Working Group of Financing for Development (WWG) Statement at the 2010 ECOSOC High Level Segment, 28 June – 02 July 2010

The WWG welcomes the 2010 High-Level Segment that includes sessions on the Annual Ministerial Review (AMR) with the theme "Implementing the Internationally Agreed Goals and Commitments in regard to Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women" and the Development Cooperation Forum (DCF) which focuses on "Development Cooperation in Times of Crises: New Commitments to Reach the MDGs." We reaffirm HUMAN RIGHTS and EQUALITY as fundamental values upon which international relations and development must stand. The United Nations (UN) Millennium Summit Declaration states that "no individual and no nation must be denied the opportunity to benefit from development. The equal rights and opportunities of women and men must be assured."

[Read more](#)

Encuentro Objetivos del Milenio y Coherencia de Políticas. Exigencias hacia 2015



Durante los días 5, 6 y 7 de mayo de 2010 se celebró en Madrid el *Encuentro Objetivos del Milenio y Coherencia de Políticas. Exigencias hacia 2015*, un encuentro que reunió más de doscientos representantes de la sociedad civil de África, América Latina, Asia y Europa para analizar el cumplimiento de los compromisos internacionales por parte de los países de la Unión Europea (UE), y el impacto de sus políticas en el avance de los Objetivos de Desarrollo del Milenio (ODM), impulsando la reflexión conjunta y el intercambio de visiones y propuestas entre organizaciones y redes de la sociedad civil de todo el mundo.

[More](#)

Opinion

Civil Society Pushes for Action Ahead of MDG Review



As a major high-level meeting on the Millennium Development Goals approaches at UN headquarters in September, anti-poverty and human rights activists are stepping up efforts to have their voices heard.

The MDGs, drawn from the Millennium Declaration adopted by all U.N. member states in 2000, are a global initiative to address poverty.

They are specific and measurable goals to be achieved by 2015, focused on eliminating poverty and reducing child mortality, promoting primary education and gender equality, improving maternal health, combating disease, and ensuring environmental sustainability and global cooperation.

[Read more](#)

The UN's poverty-fighting programme lacks teeth

In this opinion piece, Mary Robinson reflects on the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) framework. She identifies ongoing discrimination, social exclusion, and a lack of



accountability and of participation as structural weaknesses of this framework. She therefore advocates for a human rights approach to

poverty: "By accepting that poverty is a violation of human rights and by ensuring that the voices of the poor are heard, we may finally see the kind of progress that holds governments accountable for implementing their human rights obligations and enables poor people to help themselves."

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Official Reports

EC and EP: Reports on the State of MDGs

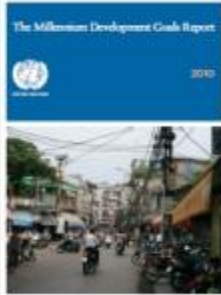


The European Council, as well as the European Parliament have already published the mid-term review reports of the state of MDGs.

"Council conclusions on the Millennium Development Goals for the United Nations High-Level Plenary meeting in New York and beyond" – elaborated during the 3023rd FOREIGN AFFAIRS Council meeting, Luxembourg, 14 June 2010.

The European Parliament Report on **“Progress towards the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals: mid-term review in preparation of the UN high-level meeting in September 2010”**. Committee on Development, rapporteur: Michael Cashman.

Are the MDGs within Reach?



Two recently released reports, the **Millennium Development Goals Report 2010** and the **Millennium Development Goals Report Card** show that the MDGs can be reached, but only with the necessary political will. The MDG Report 2010 notes, for example, that the economic crisis took a heavy toll on jobs and incomes around the world, but its impact does not threaten achievement of the MDG target of cutting the rate of extreme poverty in half by 2015. The MDG Report Card demonstrates that many of the world’s poorest countries have been making the most overall progress towards achieving the MDGs.

Civil Society Statements and Position Papers



European MDG Rescue Package: Oxfam International



Deadline 2015: CIDSE Recommendations to the UN MDG Review Summit 2010



The European Union Can Make MDGs Possible: Caritas Europe



Position Paper on the MDGs: European Youth Forum



How the EU must contribute to the achievement of the MDGs to keep its promises



Towards the UN MDG Review Summit 2010: CONCORD’s recommendations to the EU



A Breakthrough Plan to Accelerate Progress in Achieving MDGs by 2015: ITUC Statement

About the WIDE Gender Justice Beyond the MDGs Campaign Bulletin

This bulletin has been produced in the framework of the WIDE Gender Justice Beyond the MDGs Campaign. The campaign aims to take the opportunity of MDG Review Summit in September 2010 to contribute with its critical voice to the advancement of gender and social justice for all. More information about the campaign available at: www.csw54.wordpress.com
For more information, do not hesitate to contact Natalie Giorgadze: [natalie\[at\]wide-network.org](mailto:natalie[at]wide-network.org)