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Committee

The 2010 Millennium Development Goals Review Summit

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Additional Written Evidence

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International Development Committee

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Written evidence submitted by Action for Global Health

BACKGROUND

1. Action for Global Health was established in October 2006, bringing together 15 non-governmental organisations (NGOs) based in five European countries—France, Germany, Italy, Spain and the United Kingdom—with a coordinating office in Brussels. It aims to monitor how the actions and policies of European governments affect health in developing countries, and to influence decision-makers to improve their practice, and support developing countries to achieve the health Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

2. In the UK, Action for Global Health is represented by the International HIV/AIDS Alliance, Interact Worldwide and TB Alert, and since 2007 these organisations have been working with other UK-based development and health NGOs to share information and undertake joint advocacy under the auspices of Action for Global Health.

3. We welcome the opportunity to contribute to this International Development Committee (IDC) inquiry on the outcomes of the UN High-level MDG Review Summit which took place in New York in September 2010. This submission has been coordinated by the three core members of Action for Global Health—Interact Worldwide, the International HIV/AIDS Alliance, and TB Alert—with contributions from other members of the AfGH UK network. This submission represents the shared views of the health development organisations listed at the end.

Chapter 1: *Key outcomes from the Summit*

4. There were two key outcomes from the 2010 High-Level Review Summit on the MDGs. The first is the official outcome document while the second is the UN Secretary General's Global Strategy for Women's and Children's Health¹ (the Strategy). The latter is a plan to fast-track progress on MDGs 4 and 5 (child and maternal health). Although new reports by the World Health Organisation (WHO) show maternal mortality rates declining by a third since 1990, this target still remain amongst the most off-track. And MDG 5 also includes an indicator on universal access to reproductive health, which has also not been adequately addressed.

5. We welcome the renewed focus on maternal and child health with the caveat that it's important that the implementation of the Strategy recognises the integration of health issues—as captured in the text—in order to make sure that it supports progress across the three health MDGs, including MDG 6 (HIV, TB, malaria and neglected tropical diseases). Additionally, as all of the MDGs are interconnected those specifically related to health will not be achieved without progress on, amongst others, promoting gender equality and improving water and sanitation.

6. It's especially important that financial resources committed to support the Strategy are “new funding”. The US\$40 billion committed by developing and developed countries and other global actors, cannot simply be a shift of resources from financing already committed to other health issues, thus undermining progress already made across the health MDGs.

7. As already stated, the Strategy lays out an integrated approach to women and children's health. It is a welcome starting point for placing the health Millennium Development Goals back on track. The plan correctly acknowledges that strong health systems with well-trained and fully staffed workforces are essential to better and longer lives for women and children in developing countries. It also acknowledges how health cannot be separated from improvements to water and sanitation.

8. The Strategy also recognises the importance of human rights in achieving the MDGs. In regards to the right to health specifically, women have to be empowered to be healthy but they also have to be healthy to be empowered. While a focus on health systems is welcome, due attention needs to be paid to women's empowerment in order to support them in knowing and demanding their rights within this system. Moreover, the Strategy makes little mention of the sexual and reproductive health of adolescents and young people meaning that it fails to address a key group that account for a large proportion of maternal deaths.

9. Very importantly, the Strategy places an emphasis on putting women and children at the centre of strong national health plans developed by the government. This element is critical to aligning the Strategy with aid effectiveness principles, particularly country ownership.

10. Although the Strategy recognises the importance of removing financial barriers to accessing healthcare, this issue should have been given much more importance. The removal of public sector healthcare user fees, particularly for vulnerable populations, is essential. The UK government has been a leading voice on this issue, recognising the disproportionate impact of user fees on the poorest and most marginalised, and should continue to keep this issue at the centre of its efforts for women and children.

¹ <http://www.un.org/en/mdg/summit2010/pdf/mdg%20outcome%20document.pdf>.

11. What is missing from the Strategy in its current form is a focus on turning the commitments made against it into an action plan for progress on the health MDGs. The Strategy calls for an accountability framework to be developed and for the World Health Organisation to lead on this process. Moving forward swiftly on this framework will mean the difference between success or failure of this Strategy. Likewise the development of the accountability mechanism needs to include a range of actors, including civil society from developing and developed countries. Civil society in developing countries is often essential for delivering key health services when governments cannot or will not.

12. A system must be put in place that tracks progress against the Strategy on the ground. Donor countries must also make good on the Strategy's pledge (which they have backed) to cede control of national health plans to the governments of developing countries. Additionally, if there is a viable and fully-costed national health plan, donors should be working to make sure that it does not go unfunded.

13. In terms of other outcomes from the Summit, the UK missed an opportunity to be a champion on a financial transaction tax for development, which would provide long-term, sustainable funding for all of the MDGs. Both Spain and France came forward in support of a financial transaction tax and we are disappointed that the UK did not show the leadership to do the same.

Chapter 2: *DFID's role in delivering agreed strategies*

14. Within the context of the Summit and the launch of the UNSG's Global Strategy for Women's and Children's Health, the UK committed to increase efforts up to 2015 to double the number of maternal, newborn and children's lives saved. Through the UK's new Business Plan for Reproductive, Maternal and Newborn Health it is anticipated that UK aid will save the lives of at least 50,000 women in pregnancy and childbirth, a quarter of a million newborn babies and enable 10 million couples to access modern methods of family planning over the next five years.

15. In order to achieve this, the UK has committed to double its annual support for maternal, newborn and child health by 2012, sustaining this level to 2015. This means providing an average of £740 million for maternal, newborn and child health from 2010 to 2015. These figures mean that the UK will spend an additional £2.1 billion on maternal, newborn and child health. Part of this growth in the budget will come from the UK continuing to increase their spending on official development assistance (ODA) to reach the target of 0.7% of GNI by 2013.

16. DFID also made a large financial commitment on malaria at the MDG Summit, which is in line with their stated priorities. Recognising the interconnectedness of all the health MDGs, but in particular malaria and children's health, we are interested in hearing how this commitment fits with that made to the UNSG's Global Strategy on Women's and Children's Health.

17. The financial commitments to malaria and women's and children's health were made at the Summit before the completion of DFID's respective business plans on these areas of work. We would encourage the IDC to ask DFID how the "learning" from civil society input to forthcoming business plans and the completion of the multilateral aid review will impact the commitments made at the Summit? Additionally, after the multi-lateral aid review is complete, how will DFID ensure that its commitments to malaria and maternal health contribute to the replenishments of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria and GAVI to which the UK have a responsibility to pay their "fair share"?

18. As a civil society network dedicated to health we welcome the show of commitment to health by the Government. However, it is important that this additional funding to maternal, newborn and child health is not simply a shift of resources from other health priorities. It is important that the Government recognises the inherent interconnectedness of all the MDGs, including those related to health, in order to channel funding in such a way as to support attainment of the right to health for all and the achievement of the three health MDGs.

19. Additionally, with the focus rightly on comprehensive national health plans in the Strategy, DFID should be working with the governments of developing countries as they decide their health priorities and support fully-costed and integrated national health plans.

20. Beyond just the financial figures, DFID should be a global leader on pushing for the development of the accountability framework on the Strategy in order to ensure that progress can be tracked.

21. Additionally, around issues of the health workforce specifically, recognising the critical shortage of health workers in developing countries, the UK needs to place a stronger focus on policy coherence with increased recognition of the impact of recruitment of health workers from developing countries. The UK should develop a clear action plan for the UK's commitment to the implementation of the Code of Practice on the international recruitment of health personnel and demonstrate how the Code can be used to improve practice at home as well as supporting countries where the crisis is most acute. Without a greater investment in the health workforce in developing countries the shortage of health workers in developing countries will continue to undermine progress on the health MDGs.

Chapter 3: *The role of the UN, the World Bank, the European Commission and NGOs in securing and delivering Summit outcomes, and how these organisations will be held accountable for achieving them AND The role of developing countries in securing and delivering Summit outcomes*

22. All types of actors, including governments of developing and developed countries, key health funders like the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and NGOs have made pledges towards the UNSG's Global Strategy for Women's and Children's Health. It is essential that they're all held to account on these commitments through the development of an accountability framework as already stated.

23. An important element of developing the accountability framework, which should be a key issue for the UK Government, is recognising the important role played by civil society, in both developing and developed countries, in monitoring progress and holding their governments to account. It should be highlighted here that there was very limited opportunity for civil society to meaningfully engage in the MDG Summit itself. We welcomed the opportunity afforded by the Secretary of State's and Deputy Prime Minister's civil society briefings in New York, however, the UK should have led in efforts to improve the involvement of civil society in the proceedings themselves. Additionally, the lack of a single civil society representative on the UK delegation further sidelined civil society from a critical place at the table.

Chapter 4: *Looking ahead*

We recommend the following:

24. The government needs to ensure that the global strategy for women's and children's health supports progress against the three health-related MDGs, not priorities one at the expense of another. The health MDGs are inter-related and must all be supported to achieve the desired outcomes.

25. The UK needs to play a strong role in developing the accountability framework on the UNSG's Global Strategy for Women's and Children's Health, including serving as a champion for the strong involvement of civil society in this process.

26. The UK should be a global leader on calling for women and children, particularly those most vulnerable, to be at the centre of the implementation of the UNSG's Global Strategy for Women's and Children's Health.

27. The Government should provide a clear accounting of the commitments made to women's and children's health and malaria and what will be counted as part of these commitments.

28. The UK government should champion health workforce issues in its maternal and malaria priorities to ensure that efforts to scale up human resources for health in countries most of track/fragile states are central to its efforts to meet the health MDG related goals.

29. DFID needs to demonstrate its commitment to civil society engagement through leading by example and ensuring that civil society representatives are included in all future delegations at which global, regional and national policies are being discussed. Moreover, this commitment should translate to a demand for civil society to be at the decision-making table in developing countries.

Written evidence submitted by ActionAid

KEY OUTCOMES FROM THE SUMMIT:

MDG 1—*“halve between 1990 and 2015 the proportion of people who suffer from hunger”*

1. The MDG 1 goal to halve the proportion of hungry people in developing countries—from 20% to 10% between 1990 and 2015—is badly off track and has been going backwards. This failure has significant economic, as well as human, costs. ActionAid estimates that 925 million people go hungry worldwide and that hunger could be costing poor countries \$450 billion a year in lost output and social costs—10 times the amount needed to halve hunger by 2015.²

2. ActionAid recently assessed countries for their efforts in tackling hunger, and found 20 out of 28 poor countries are currently off track in halving hunger by 2015, and 12 of these are going backwards.³

3. This lack of progress is particularly disappointing because we have the tools we need to achieve MDG1. There is enough food available in the world to feed everyone. There are excellent examples of countries that are winning the fight against hunger. Brazil, for example, recently cut child hunger by 73% in six years by making it a priority, adopting a right to food framework, extending social protection, and supporting women and smallholder farmers.

4. It is against this backdrop that it is clear that we need a fully funded action plan to achieve MDG1. The summit's final outcome document falls far short of this. However, the document does have several excellent elements. It reaffirms the right to food, reiterates the Five Rome Principles for Sustainable Global Food and calls on donors to meet their L'Aquila funding commitments. The document also highlights support to three

² See, *Who's Really Fighting Hunger* (2010): <http://www.actionaid.org/assets/pdf/ActionAid-scorecard-report-2010.pdf>

³ See, *Who's Really Fighting Hunger* (2010): <http://www.actionaid.org/assets/pdf/ActionAid-scorecard-report-2010.pdf>

important elements of tackling hunger: rural women, small-scale producers and sustainable agriculture. DFID played a constructive role in negotiating this document and deserves credit for some of the positive language that the document includes.

5. DFID is also making some important contributions to the fight against hunger. For example, the UK's G8 L'Aquila pledge of £1.1 billion in aid to agriculture over three years is very welcome.

6. DFID publicly supports the new "Scale Up Nutrition" (SUN) roadmap. SUN strives to intensify and scale-up efforts to tackle malnutrition amongst mothers and infants in the crucial first 1,000 days of an infant's life. The Secretary of State announced support for a new research programme related to this work, but to date there has been no information about what this research will entail.

7. This detail is vitally important because a focus on simple nutrition interventions alone is not enough to tackle hunger and food insecurity. For example, vitamin supplementation is a cheap and effective way to improve people's health, but it does not solve the underlying problem of access to nutritious food. It is essential that DFID continues the more holistic approach to nutrition that was outlined in their recent nutrition policy paper.

Support for small holder farmers, particularly women, has a key role to play in fighting hunger and malnutrition and we hope the new research programme will help move this agenda forward.

8. Overall however the UK could and should have placed a greater priority on hunger before attending, and during, the MDG Summit. For example, the UK's flagship speech was an opportunity to highlight the importance DFID puts on hunger. Although the Deputy Prime Minister very briefly mentioned hunger, his speech did not provide the same attention or level of detail on hunger as it did on other issues. The UK did not find an opportunity to highlight the importance of supporting smallholder-based agriculture as a key route to tackling poverty, hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition.

RECOMMENDATIONS ON MDG1 AND TACKLING HUNGER

9. A much clearer and more detailed road map for how to achieve MDG1 is essential and we would urge DFID to play a much stronger role in this and further outline the steps it will take to address hunger.

10. DFID must commit to addressing the three important elements involved in tackling hunger as outlined in the MDG outcome document and urgently invest in poor women, smallholder farmers and sustainable development.

11. Developing countries and donors like the UK must agree to national MDG 1 "rescue plans" backed by costed, time-bound actions and firm financing commitments by both government and donors.

12. Donors, including the UK should announce a timetable for the disbursement of the full \$7 billion per year announced at the 2009 G8 for food security. It should also scale up this investment to finance its fair share of the US\$40 billion per year needed in additional resources is needed to achieve MDG1, as estimated by the UN. This would be \$20 billion annually, requiring donor countries like the UK increasing their contribution to tackling food security by a third.

13. Developing countries and donors should focus on meeting the needs of women farmers, and improving women's control over land; Women produce 60–80% of the food in developing countries, but they have little access to or control over agricultural resources. Women, for example, currently own only 1% of titled land in Africa and receive only 7% of extension services and 1% of all agricultural credit.⁴

14. Donors should also support developing country government to reverse the decline in extension services, which are vital for supporting small-holder farmers; provide affordable credit to small farmers and expand agricultural support for sustainable climate-resistant agricultural inputs such as soil conservation, organic fertiliser and land reform.

WOMEN AND THE MDGs

15. Women and girls make up 70% of the world's poorest people—a result of systemic discrimination against women which is steadily undermining progress on all of the Millennium Development Goals including MDG 1. Gender equality must be mainstreamed into every MDG and unless gender inequality is addressed, no MDG will be achieved. Violence against Women is a particularly stark problem and is currently stunting the achievement of all the goals.

16. We welcome the UK leadership in putting MDG 5 firmly on the agenda at the recent MDG summit and in particular the commitment to double the number of maternal, newborn and children's lives saved by 2015. However to succeed, this work must not only be fully funded but must also address the underlying causes of maternal ill-health and maternal mortality, social exclusion, gender inequality and violence against women. MDG 5 is therefore dependent on sufficient progress on MDG 3.

⁴ See ActionAid report *Fertile Ground* See, *Who's Really Fighting Hunger* (2010): <http://www.actionaid.org/assets/pdf/ActionAid-scorecard-report-2010.pdf>

17. Women's rights are not just about women as mothers, but also about women as agents of change and as people who are entitled to rights, in their own right. For example, we were concerned that Andrew Mitchell did not mention women in his recent speech on conflict, despite Deputy Prime Minister Nick Clegg's recognition at the MDG Summit that the 22 states emerging from violent conflict are the furthest behind in achieving the MDGs.

18. We were disappointed that the Summit did not formally recognize violence against women as central to the achievement of the MDGs through the adoption of a dedicated global target and specific indicators for country and regional reporting on ending violence against women and girls as part of the core MDG framework. Violence against women and girls continues to undermine all global development efforts.

19. Finally it is important to note that despite being a valuable tool, the MDGs have masked the particular experiences of some of the world's most marginalized groups, including women, who have not been able to share the benefits of development in part because the targets and indicators do not reflect the full challenges and consequences of gender inequality.

RECOMMENDATIONS

20. The UK Government must also push for gender equality across all mainstream development areas within its own work and in encouraging other donors and developing countries to recognise the importance of focussing on women in meeting all MDGs.

21. Positive steps to address this agenda from the UK government, with concrete resources directed to tackling violence against women and girls in conflict and post-conflict contexts as well as Ministerial responsibility for work on violence against women and girls overseas, is critical.

FINANCING THE MDGS

22. The availability of adequate finance is clearly a necessary (although not sufficient) condition for achievement of the MDGs. The financial crisis has led to dramatically reduced revenues in some countries, making attention to finance even more important if the MDGs are to be met. In this regard, ActionAid strongly supports the continued cross party consensus to meet the 0.7% aid target by 2013, demonstrating the UK's long-standing and continued international leadership role on international development.

23. The quality of aid is clearly as important as its quantity and we also welcome the cross party focus on aid effectiveness in recent years, the commitment to the international Paris process on aid effectiveness, and the new government's focus on transparency which will help to ensure that aid spending is accountable to citizens in recipient countries, as well as taxpayers in donor countries.

24. The UK is a world leader in aid quality but there are always further improvements to be made to ensure aid is poverty focussed, predictable, minimises transaction costs, and allows developing countries to focus on their own priorities, within the MDG framework. In particular, we therefore favour budget support as an aid modality, where countries have a commitment to poverty reduction and to transparent financial management.

25. However, aid alone will not be enough to meet the MDG financing gap. There is a financing shortfall in the order to tens of billions of pounds annually, and the gap is unlikely to be met directly by donors in the current fiscal climate. ActionAid suggests two other finance sources which could make a great contribution.

26. First, a very small tax on financial transactions could raise in the region of \$400 billion dollars a year. This would provide ample funding to fill the MDG financing gap, and have funds left over which could contribute both to financing climate adaptation and mitigation, and to domestic priorities.

27. Second, developing countries could raise more domestic revenue. Indeed, in the long term this is the only way both to reduce dependence on aid, and to improve governance through developing stronger social contracts between citizen and government.

28. A globally accepted minimum acceptable tax to GDP ratio is 15% of GDP (as a comparator, the UK raises around 36% of GDP in tax). ActionAid estimates that, if all countries that don't yet do so were able to reach the 15% figure, an extra \$200 billion would be available in domestic revenue.

29. Many policy changes would contribute to this goal. Two of these, to which the UK can contribute, are as follows:

30. Tax administration in developing countries needs to improve. Aid can support this goal. The UK invested £20 million in support of reform of the Rwandan Revenue Authority. Annual revenue increased fourfold between 1998 and 2006, from £60 million to £240 million.

31. Increased financial transparency would help prevent tax avoidance. The OECD estimates developing countries lose more money each year from tax dodging, than they receive in aid. Multinational companies should report country by country, which would shine a light on some of this tax avoidance activity. The International Accounting Standards Board could require this—indeed it is currently considering such a standard in the extractive sector.

32. On this last issue, ActionAid very much welcomes the renewed political focus on tax avoidance in recent weeks. We are keen to ensure that the benefits for developing countries, as well as domestically, are part of this picture.

Written evidence submitted by Amnesty International UK

SUMMARY

Amnesty International believes that human rights must be put at the heart of the MDGs. The Millennium Declaration promised to strive for the protection and promotion of civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights for all. However, the MDGs are largely silent on human rights and the targets they set are in some cases less than what states are already obligated to do under international law.

The UN MDGs Review Summit has in many ways failed to remedy this omission. Negotiations on the Outcome Document demonstrated that governments still view their development commitments as disconnected from their obligations under international human rights law. They have in doing so, failed to uphold human rights.

Amnesty International contends that the Review Summit failed to address the issue of human rights in a number of particular ways: through failing to make the MDGs consistent with human rights and through failing on discrimination, national targets, participation and accountability. Key steps must be taken by governments and by bilateral and multilateral donors in these areas if efforts to achieve the MDGs are to reach the poorest and most disadvantaged.

Welcome emphasis has been placed on women's rights. Gender equality and the empowerment of women is recognised as important for the achievement of the MDGs.

The UN Secretary-General's "Global Strategy for Women's and Children's Health" is a concrete outcome of the Review Summit. While welcoming this Strategy, Amnesty International highlights the lack of systematic integration of human rights of women and children within it. Developing countries and donors should address gender discrimination in law, policy and practice, including in relation to women's sexual and reproductive rights.

A new or revised global framework post 2015 must give attention to the need to reflect states' existing obligations under human rights law. Any such framework must be based on, and consistent with, human rights standards. People living in poverty must be enabled to participate meaningfully in MDGs planning, implementation and monitoring at all levels; and equal participation by women in these processes must be ensured.

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

1. Amnesty International is a worldwide movement of people who campaign for internationally recognised human rights to be respected and protected. Our vision is of a world in which every person enjoys all of the human rights enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international human rights standards. In pursuit of this vision, Amnesty International's mission is to undertake research and action focused on preventing and ending abuses of these rights.

INTRODUCTION

2. On 20–22 September 2010, world leaders gathered at the United Nations in New York for a Review Summit of progress towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Drawn from the Millennium Declaration adopted 10 years ago by all UN members states, the MDGs represent commitment, at the highest political level, to translate the high hopes and ambitions of the Millennium Declaration into real improvements in the lives of people living in poverty.

3. The MDGs have played a pivotal role in helping to concentrate international attention on issues of development and poverty reduction. They have also provided a focal point for civil society which has mobilised nationally and internationally around the MDGs to challenge poverty and exclusion. However, the extent to which they reflect and help advance the promise of the Millennium Declaration remains uncertain. Progress has been uneven and the UN issued a clear warning prior to the Review Summit that many of the global targets will not be met by 2015 unless efforts to achieve them are radically stepped up.

4. Amnesty International believes that human rights standards—and the duty of governments to fulfil them—must be put at the heart of efforts to achieve the MDGs. The Millennium Declaration promised to strive for the protection and promotion of civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights for all. States' obligations under international human rights law are however, not adequately reflected in the MDGs; indeed the MDGs are largely silent on human rights—including economic, social and cultural rights—and the targets they set are in some cases less than what states are already obligated to do under international law.

5. In this short submission Amnesty International UK aims to highlight how MDG efforts following the UN Review Summit in September 2010 and the implementation of the action agenda for achieving the MDGs by 2015, agreed in the outcome document, must be consistent with states' obligations to respect and promote human rights—including economic, social and cultural rights.

OUTCOMES FROM THE UN REVIEW SUMMIT IN SEPTEMBER 2010

6. The Outcome document acknowledged the link between human rights and development, including the need for more efforts to reduce inequality and tackle exclusion and discrimination, the promotion of universal access to public and social services and references to the importance of the rights to education, health and food. However, the Summit's Action Agenda did not make a necessary and explicit commitment to ensuring that all MDG efforts are consistent with human rights obligations. It did not identify the concrete steps that governments are to take to address discrimination, exclusion, and the specific barriers many groups face in accessing basic services, despite evidence that this is why the poorest people in the world are being left out of progress on the MDGs. It also did not commit to identifying effective national and international accountability mechanisms to ensure that all MDG efforts are consistent with human rights standards. In doing so, the Review failed to make concrete commitments in terms of policies, programmes and actions to address some of the root causes of lack of progress and to ensure that their efforts across all the MDGs do not leave out the poorest and most marginalised.

Non-discrimination

7. International human rights law requires all states to guarantee equality and non-discrimination. Grounds include gender, race, caste, ethnicity, disability and Indigenous status. The MDGs contain no explicit requirement for states to comprehensively identify and redress exclusion and discrimination however, despite the fact that discrimination is closely linked to poverty. This failure to address discrimination is reflected not only in the actual goals and targets, but also in the MDG planning, monitoring and reporting framework.

8. The Review Summit failed to remedy this shortcoming. While the Outcome document recognised the need for more efforts to reduce inequality and tackle exclusion and discrimination, it does not identify concrete steps that governments will take to address discrimination, exclusion and the specific barriers many groups face in accessing basic services. The Outcome document contains some welcome but limited measures to reduce inequality, such as use of reliable and disaggregated data. However, there are no commitments to specific actions needed to address the forms of discrimination faced by, among others, Indigenous Peoples which often prevent them from having access to public programmes and services. Measures to address this would include the adoption of specific national targets for groups facing discrimination and developing appropriate indicators to monitor progress towards these objectives.

National targets

9. International human rights law requires that minimum essential levels of economic, social and cultural rights for all people in all countries must be provided for. Yet whilst the MDGs establish global targets, these were not developed based on an assessment of countries' levels of progress or the resources available to them and may set the bar too low for some countries and lower than that required by international human rights law.

10. The Review Summit failed to remedy this shortcoming. The Action Agenda of the Outcome document makes reference to the importance of the rights to education, health and food, but does not commit governments to set and implement time-bound national targets to realise the rights to food, education, health, housing, water, work and sanitation, taking into account existing levels of progress and resources available.

11. As a result, the global targets set can be considered arbitrary benchmarks in many contexts. In some cases, countries have adopted national targets above the MDG level; Latin American countries, for example, have decided to expand their MDG commitments on education to include secondary education. On the whole however, the setting of global targets serves to give a distorted picture of progress. For example, the MDGs aim to halve the proportion of people living on less than \$1 a day between 1990 and 2015; this target will probably be achieved on the basis of progress in only two countries, China and India, as a result of policies that predate the MDGs.

Participation

12. The UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights has stressed that the right to participation must be an integral part of government policies, programming and strategies. In order for participation to be meaningful, states must also fulfil a number of other rights and duties, including the rights to freedom of expression and association and the duty to ensure the conditions in which human rights defenders can carry out their work. The current MDG framework does not explicitly recognise the right to participate actively and meaningfully. As a result, people living in poverty are rarely involved in developing, implementing or monitoring efforts to meet the MDGs.

13. The Outcome document of the Review Summit recognises that full participation of all segments of society, including the poor and disadvantaged, can help achieve the MDGs. However, the Action Agenda does not address the need to ensure freedom of expression, association and assembly and there is no reference to the right to information and to the need to promote and protect the rights of human rights defenders.

14. Indigenous Peoples, for example, are amongst those commonly excluded from decision-making around development processes. Indigenous Peoples' input is commonly not included in national MDG monitoring and reporting. Mechanisms are also commonly lacking through which to ensure the input and participation of Indigenous Peoples in the design, implementation and monitoring of policies designed to achieve the MDGs. Though the Review Summit did recognise the need to respect the rights of Indigenous Peoples, it did not identify the actions governments would take to do so. This is despite evidence that Indigenous Peoples are disproportionately represented amongst people living in poverty, their levels of access to health and education are well below national averages and they are especially vulnerable to the consequences of environmental degradation.

Accountability

15. International human rights law provides for national and international accountability mechanisms. These apply human rights standards which can strengthen MDG efforts by giving people living in poverty, and civil society acting on their behalf, greater opportunities to hold governments to account. With the exception of women's rights, there is no reference to specific accountability mechanisms to ensure enforcement of human rights in national and international MDG efforts.

16. The two accountability mechanisms which the Outcome document instructs to monitor progress on the MDGs are themselves inadequate; the ECOSOC Development Cooperation Forum and the Annual Ministerial Review have been identified as bodies which will monitor progress on the MDGs. They are ill-equipped to monitor compliance with states' human rights obligations and are voluntary, rather than mandatory processes. Similarly, an annual review process provided by the General Assembly is unlikely to incorporate a human rights focus.

17. Amnesty International's research in Burkina Faso highlights the importance of accountability. The government's policy to provide subsidised health care for pregnant women has been undermined by illegal charges demanded by hospitals. Women faced with such charges did not have anywhere to lodge their complaints. There is a lack of mechanisms—either within the hospital, via a medical regulatory body or through the courts—to ensure accountability. Such mechanisms would help enhance the delivery of the government's policies and programmes and empower women and their families to claim what they are entitled to under such policies.

GENDER AND WOMEN'S RIGHTS

18. The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) condemns discrimination against women and dictates that signatories pursue a policy of eliminating discrimination. Action in all spheres—political, social, economic and cultural—is called for in order to ensure the full development and advancement of women and to ensure their exercise and enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms on the basis of equality with men. Unfortunately, the MDGs do not reflect this commitment to realise the full range of women's human rights. Gender equality and women's empowerment feature very poorly in the MDGs as a whole, and gender sensitive targets and indicators are both limited and inadequate.

19. The Outcome document and Agenda for Action placed emphasis on gender equality and women's human rights, and reference existing commitments to women's rights. This emphasis is apparent in the Outcome document which recognises that gender equality and empowerment of women are important for the achievement of the MDGs and welcomes the establishment of UN Women. It commits to addressing gender discrimination and to taking action to improve women's participation in political and economic decision-making processes; also to strengthening national laws and enhancing accountability to address all forms of violence against women and girls. In addition, it includes welcome references to improving national capacity to monitor and report on progress through use of sex—and age-disaggregated data; and to enhancing the impact of development assistance in advancing gender equality and empowerment of women and girls through capacity-building and gender mainstreaming.

20. However, the Action Agenda did not set out concrete actions that governments must take to address gender inequality and discrimination—in law, policy and practice—across *all* the MDGs.

21. Particular attention has been paid amongst others, to MDG 5, the MDG target on improving maternal health. This remains the most off-track, despite the fact that most deaths in pregnancy and childbirth are preventable. The number of women dying due to complications during pregnancy and childbirth is 358,000 a year; a drop of less than half of that needed to achieve the MDG target of reducing maternal mortality by 75% between 1990 and 2015. Governments are not addressing many of the root causes of why women are dying or being injured during childbirth and pregnancy. These include early marriage, denial of sexual and reproductive rights and services to women, and discrimination. As estimated 68,000 women die each year from unsafe abortion but some governments are criminalising all forms of abortions.

22. The UN Secretary-General's "Global Strategy for Women's and Children's Health", with pledges and commitments of over \$40 billion dollars in funding over the next five years, was one of the concrete outcomes of the Review Summit. This reflects the consensus on the need for a coordinated and joint effort by the international community to deliver vital healthcare services for women and children, who continue to face the greatest barriers in realising their right to health. While welcoming this Strategy, Amnesty International highlights the lack of systematic integration of the human rights of women and children within it. Many women, particularly women living in poverty, continue to face a range of barriers (financial, legal, social and other) to accessing the healthcare services they need. Difficulties in accessing services are closely linked to state failure to guarantee non-discrimination, equal access to care, and other dimensions of the human rights to life and health. The global strategy does not adequately reflect this reality.

23. Amnesty International also highlights the need to specifically address key human rights issues that contribute to women dying in pregnancy and childbirth—such as the denial of sexual and reproductive rights, gender discrimination and inequality, gender-based violence (including sexual violence); all of which must be addressed in the context of efforts to prevent maternal deaths.

24. For example, the issue of unsafe abortion is left largely unaddressed, despite it being a leading cause of maternal deaths, especially among young women. The criminalisation of abortion and the devastating consequences for women and girls is also not addressed in the Global Strategy.

25. Additional initiatives have also been launched including an alliance to support reproductive, maternal and newborn health of USAID, DFID, AusAid and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation; and by the UK Government directly, with a pledge to saving the lives of at least 50,000 women in pregnancy and childbirth by 2015. More details are awaited on both of these.

THE ROLE OF DFID, DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, MULTILATERAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCIES AND INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

26. Amnesty International believes that there are key steps that must be taken by governments and by bilateral and multilateral donors, to ensure equitable progress on the MDGs and to ensure that MDG efforts reach the poorest and most disadvantaged people. DFID, other donors, developing countries, multilateral agencies and international financial institutions should ensure that their national and international policies, strategies and programmes aimed at reaching and surpassing the MDG targets are consistent with universally recognised human rights standards—including those on economic, social and cultural rights.

27. Human rights standards provide a legal and policy framework that should underpin the analysis of the problem, the process for addressing the problem and the intended outcomes of development policy and practice.

28. In the next five years leading up to 2015, DFID and its partner countries in the developing world, as well as multilateral institutions—including the European Commission, the World Bank and UN agencies—should take the following steps going forward:

Ensure that their MDG efforts are consistent with human rights standards

29. Consistency with human rights standards requires at the state level a review of national policies and strategies for achieving the MDGs to reflect human rights obligations—including in relation to economic, social and cultural rights. It also requires states to identify and abolish discriminatory laws and practices and ensuring that governments do not violate human rights, including economic, social and cultural rights. For example, Amnesty International and other NGOs have documented the mass forced evictions of people living in slums and informal settlements, where governments destroy homes and livelihoods, often with little or no notice and due process, and without offering alternatives, with devastating consequences for the affected communities, most of which were already living in poverty.

30. For bilateral and multilateral donors and institutions, this requires their policies and strategies to be consistent with, and guided by, human rights standards, in line with the commitment in the Accra Agenda for Action that: "Developing countries and donors will ensure that their respective development policies and programmes are designed and implemented in ways consistent with their agreed international commitments on gender equality, human rights, disability and environmental sustainability."⁵ This requires them to explicitly recognise and integrate human rights standards in development assistance policies and programmes to ensure that assistance does not result in or contribute to a negative human rights impact, and that there are adequate safeguards, monitoring and accountability mechanisms to ensure that development assistance complies with human rights standards.

⁵ Third High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness, 2–4 September 2008, para. 13 (c), Accra Agenda for Action, Accra, Ghana, available at www.undp.org/mdtf/docs/Accra-Agenda-for-Action.pdf, last accessed 24 May 2010.

Fight exclusion and discrimination

31. While the MDG framework does not include an explicit requirement for states to comprehensively identify and address exclusion and discrimination, tackling these is key to achieving progress on the MDGs. Human rights standards require all states, in national and international efforts, to take necessary measures to end discrimination, to guarantee gender equality and to prioritize the most marginalised groups in policies and strategies to tackle poverty and exclusion. Tackling gender inequality and discrimination—in law, policy and practice—should be included in efforts across *all* the MDGs and not restricted to MDG 3.

32. Likewise, DFID and its development partners should work together to ensure that their efforts towards all the MDGs address all forms of discrimination—including gender discrimination—and give adequate priority to particularly marginalised groups.

Set and implement national targets for progress

33. The MDG targets were intended to be adapted to national contexts, and some countries have added to, or amended, the global targets, to reflect specific national concerns. Developing countries should set and work towards time-bound national targets that reflect their obligation to prioritise the meeting of at least minimum essential levels of economic, social and cultural rights (water, housing, healthcare, education, food and sanitation) for all, within the shortest possible time, going beyond the MDG targets as necessary. Developing countries must take into account the resources available to them nationally and through international cooperation and assistance. Their targets should be reflected in national plans of action, laws and policies, budgets, and frameworks which identify appropriate monitoring mechanisms, institutional responsibilities, time-frames, benchmarks and indicators for progress.

34. For DFID and other donors—bilateral and multilateral—this means aligning international cooperation with partner countries' human rights obligations to ensure the realisation of at least minimum essential levels of economic, social and cultural rights for *all*, as a step towards the full realisation of these rights, giving adequate priority to the most marginalised and ensuring non-discrimination.

Guarantee full and informed participation

35. Developing countries should ensure free, meaningful and informed participation of people living in poverty in the planning, implementation and monitoring of MDG efforts at all levels, in order to help guarantee that these efforts benefit people—including the poorest and most marginalised. States must also ensure freedom of expression, association and assembly, and the promotion and protection of the rights of human rights defenders.

36. DFID, multilateral development agencies and international financial institutions can support the effective participation of local communities (including the most marginalised and vulnerable), civil society organisations, parliaments and national human rights bodies in national plans and strategies. This should include support to ensuring participation in developing local and national priorities and monitoring the use of development assistance at the local and national levels, and holding states to account for their use of development assistance resources.

Strengthen national and international mechanisms for accountability

37. There must be effective accountability mechanisms—at the local, national and international levels—to hold governments accountable for ensuring that their efforts towards the MDGs are consistent with human rights standards. At the national level, mechanisms such as courts, national human rights institutions and regulatory bodies should play an important role in this regard and can provide effective remedies for human rights violations. At the international level, all states should report on their national and international implementation of the MDGs in their reports to the Universal Periodic review of the Human Rights Council and international human rights mechanisms; any new MDG monitoring processes and accountability mechanisms should incorporate a human rights focus.

38. DFID and other donors (bilateral and multilateral) should promote mutual accountability in development assistance by working with partner countries to ensure that development assistance is guided by human rights principles and standards—including adequate focus on the most marginalised and non-discrimination—and that human rights standards are used to inform and guide policy dialogue and choices, poverty reduction strategies and the identification of priorities. Ensuring transparency and access to information on the provision and use of development assistance is also critical to promoting accountability.

Ensure that women's rights are put at the centre of all efforts to achieve and surpass the MDGs

39. Developing countries and DFID and other donors should identify and address gender discrimination in law, policy and practice, including in relation to women's sexual and reproductive rights. Women's rights to participate equally and fully in all levels of decision-making and in education, economic and public life should be respected and promoted. Human rights issues such as early and forced marriage, female genital mutilation, unsafe abortion and violence against women must receive particular attention.

 LOOKING AHEAD TO POST-2015

40. Any discussions and considerations regarding a possible new or revised global framework post-2015 must give attention to the need to reflect states' existing obligations under human rights law. Any such framework after 2015 must be based on, and consistent with, human rights standards. It must address discrimination comprehensively and establish global and national targets and timelines to fulfil minimum essential levels of economic, social and cultural rights for all, and ensure that there are effective national and international accountability mechanisms to monitor the realisation of goals aimed at addressing poverty and exclusion and their consistency with human rights obligations. People living in poverty must be enabled to participate meaningfully in MDG planning, implementation and monitoring at all levels; and equal participation by women must be ensured. The work of human rights defenders must be guaranteed through allowing for people's rights to information, freedom of expression and association.

October 2010

Written evidence submitted by ARTICLE 19

1. ARTICLE 19 is an independent human rights organisation that works around the world to protect and promote the right to freedom of expression. It takes its name from Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which guarantees freedom of expression and freedom of information.

2. ARTICLE 19 is working on numerous development-related human rights projects around the world, managed through our offices in London, Mexico, Brazil, Senegal, Kenya, Bangladesh and Ukraine. In 2010, ARTICLE 19 brought together civil society groups, government officials and experts to develop the *London Declaration for Transparency, Free Flow of Information and Development*, which sets a clear agenda for transparency in the promotion of development.

3. It is widely recognised that the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) are off track due to unmet political and financing commitments and poor decision-making. Development efforts are hampered by corruption, mismanagement, inefficiency and ineffectiveness, and a worldwide reduction in civil society space. The 2000 Millennium Declaration predicted as such: "*Success in meeting [the MDGs] depends, inter alia, on good governance within each country. It also depends on good governance at the international level and on transparency in the financial, monetary and trading systems*". The UNDP reflects this in its 2010 report *The path to achieving the Millennium Development Goals*:

In many countries, the mechanisms to hold institutions accountable for their own responsiveness and effectiveness are missing, particularly in relation to transparency. Policies and goals that are understood and known outside the institution, as well as the means to evaluate clearly an institution's progress toward those goals, are strong tools for achieving results.

The solution to bringing the MDGs back on track is to create real accountability by delivering a free flow of information and transparency, and empowering civil society to take part in decision-making. This Submission will concentrate on how to achieve these.

Key outcomes from the Summit

4. For the MDGs to be achieved in the next five years, the world urgently needed an ambitious political and economic commitment from the September Summit in New York. Unfortunately, although global action was somewhat revived and renewed by the event, the Outcome Document, *Keeping the promise: united to achieve the Millennium Development Goals*, primarily repeats old assurances rather than breaking new ground in tackling the root causes for the failures.

5. Despite almost universal recognition that for the MDGs to succeed, accountability and transparency must be central, the Outcome Document fails to deliver real commitment for accountability. The Document repeats the Millennium Declaration in specifically recognising the importance of "*transparent and accountable systems of governance at the national and international level*", as well as aid transparency, for both donors and developing countries, and transparency in UN institutions. However, it failed to make any real commitments to ensuring that governments and other development actors are held to such resolve.

6. Throughout the development of the Outcome Document, ARTICLE 19, joining with other international organisations, repeatedly called on the co-facilitators and other delegates, including the UK, to significantly strengthen the draft Document's references and commitment to accountability, in particular, by making clear recommendations on commitments to transparency, free flow of information, and civil society involvement in decision-making. Unfortunately, this was not done.

7. The failure to properly commit to accountability appears to be due to two reasons. Firstly, while the Europe/CANZ (Canada, Australia, New Zealand) blocs highlighted the need for better accountability, the G77, led by Yemen, saw the proposals around accountability as "interference" in governance, rather than creating more efficient and inclusive methods to achieve the MDGs, and instead demanded more development assistance without new mechanisms to ensure that it will be used properly.

8. Secondly, the process of creating the Document largely negated and neglected any non-governmental input. Sparse opportunities to engage with the process, such as the June 2010 civil society meeting in New York, civil society attendance at the Summit, and civil society representatives in the Summit's roundtable discussions, were expensive, exclusive and tightly controlled, resulting in stilted engagement from only a few, mostly large US-based, organisations.

DFID's role in delivering agreed strategies

9. The Department for International Development (DFID) only partially fulfilled its role in delivering a more accountable and transparent framework for the MDG process and Outcome Document. The Secretary of State did meet with UK civil society prior to and during the MDG Summit, including ARTICLE 19. However, DFID, unlike the Foreign Office, was generally slow to respond to and engage with the accountability community, and failed to properly represent the UK government in discussions with transparency and human rights organisations in the run up to the Summit. DFID also missed an opportunity to demonstrate to the rest of the world the importance of accountability, transparency and civil society engagement within governments for the benefit of stronger outcomes. The UK delegation to the Summit failed to contain civil society representatives, despite many other European countries and a number of African states doing so.

10. Looking forward, DFID's role in delivering the Outcome Document's agreed strategies must focus on implementing what the international community could not: accountability. The UKaid Transparency Guarantee is an excellent first step, but the test is in the implementation. DFID must prioritise the free flow of information, transparency and civic engagement as fundamental to the achievement of the MDGs, and the global fight against poverty. Such mechanisms for creating real accountability must be at all levels, from global, to donor governments, to development partner countries. They must also include civil society at every stage, with particular emphasis placed on the role of a free media as a mechanism to check and monitor accountability. DFID also has a responsibility to better inform the UK public what strategies and projects the department is taking.

The role of the UN, the World Bank, the European Commission and NGOs in securing and delivering Summit outcomes, and how these organisations will be held accountable for achieving them

11. During and prior to the Summit, United Nations bodies, specifically the United Nations Non-governmental Liaison Service (NGLS) and the Millennium Campaign, did, to a limited extent, include civil society in the MDG process. However, inclusion of civil society was extremely limited and multiple and onerous procedural demands were created which effectively blocked civil society from the global south from taking a bigger part in the debate.

12. Without any real or substantial commitments to accountability within the Outcome Document, there is now no mechanism in the MDGs for holding intergovernmental organisations and other development actors either accountable for delivering Summit outcomes, or able to hold governments accountable for their MDG strategies and work. Therefore, it is vitally important that the UK, through diplomatic channels and through DFID, ensure that accountability is instilled in all future funding and projects.

13. In particular, the UK government and DFID should take a multi-sectoral approach in ensuring that its partners are active in adopting transparency measures. Specifically, it should ensure that intergovernmental organisations, such as the UN, EU, World Bank and IMF, adopt and effectively implement comprehensive access to information policies based on the principles of voluntary, maximum and proactive disclosure, such as those developed for International Financial Institutions (IFI) by the Global Transparency Initiative. The UK government should also encourage private sector bodies adopt corporate social responsibility standards which recognise the importance of transparency and the free flow of information. DFID should continue to support multi-stakeholder initiatives, such as the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI), the Construction Sector Transparency Initiative (CoST) and the Medicines Transparency Alliance (MeTA) to encourage private companies and governments to publish all information on contracts with and payments to governments, particularly in relation to the extractive industries and other natural resources. The UK government should commit to adopt a law to require that all publicly-traded companies in natural resources and other relevant sectors publish all information on contracts with and payments to governments such as was recently adopted in the United States. DFID should also ensure that throughout their funding strategies and projects, mechanisms at the national, regional and international levels for guaranteeing access to information, transparency and civil society engagement in decision-making are encouraged in order to build accountability.

The role of developing countries in securing and delivering Summit outcomes

14. Without any real or substantial commitments to accountability within the Outcome Document, there is little mechanism in the MDGs for holding governments accountable for delivering Summit outcomes, including both developing and developed governments. DFID can play an important role in encouraging and supporting efforts in partner countries to take measures to resolve this.

15. A key area is to ensure that freedom of expression and access to information is respected in these countries. The UK government and DFID must encourage and support partner countries and other actors receiving development assistance to fully respect, protect and fulfil the right to freedom of expression, including the right to information, and freedom of association, in accordance with international human rights law, as key to achieving the MDGs and tackling poverty. This includes promoting the adoption and effective implementation of national laws, regulations and policies on access to information, and proactive disclosure of, information related to development and the MDGs. DFID should also support the establishment of an enabling legal and regulatory environment for civil society organisation which recognises their independence and right to carry out their peaceful work without fear of harassment, reprisal, intimidation and discrimination. DFID should also ensure that national, sub-national and local bodies make available and accessible all development-related information, including information on development assistance received and expended, strategies for development, MDG targets and indicators.

16. DFID should publish and ensure partner countries also publish comprehensive, timely and comparable information on aid policies, performance, and financial flows, and implement the International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI). They should also publish accessible and comprehensive information on budgets, expenditures and revenues in relation to development and the MDGs, such as on development assistance, social, economic and financial activities, and natural resources, including the extractive industries, forestry, fisheries and land.

17. DFID should also support developing countries' transparency measures in planning, licensing and contracting for natural resource management and establish benchmarks for all development assistance programming in resource-rich countries.

Looking ahead to after the MDG deadline of 2015

18. Under current trends and as a result of the weak Outcome Document, it is highly probable that a second generation of MDGs will be required from the international community. Realising that the second generation of goals will never be achieved if they continue at their current pace, the international community, led by the UK government, must recall the Millennium Declaration's focus on the importance of civil and political rights in development, and secure a new generation of goals that utilise a rights-based approach to development, including accountability. Such an approach places human rights at the core of development policy, defined in the *UN Common Understanding on a Human Rights-Based Approach* as ensuring "duty-bearers" meet their obligations and "rights-holders" claim their rights. According to UN Development Group, the importance of the rights-based approach to development is that human rights carry normative value as a set of universally agreed values, standards and principles endorsed by every UN member state. The approach is people-centred, based on the international moral consensus, and legally enforceable.

8 October 2010

Written evidence submitted by Bond

INTRODUCTION

1. Bond is the membership body for UK NGOs working in international development. Over 70 Bond members have been actively advocating on the MDGs over the last year, and collectively have worked together on a number of projects, including:

- (a) A position paper for the EU entitled "Towards the UN MDG Summit: Recommendations to the EU".⁶
- (b) A joint statement on the MDGs for the UK Government, entitled "A last chance to keep our promises".⁷ This statement was signed by over 50 Bond members.
- (c) A parliamentary reception on the MDGs, attended by over 40 members of the House of Commons and the House of Lords.
- (d) A joint letter to the Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister and Secretary of State for International Development on the MDGs, signed by over 45 members.
- (e) A public event on the MDGs for over 400 people, involving the Deputy Prime Minister and the Secretary of State for International Development.

2. Representatives of Bond and over a dozen member organisations attended the UN MDG Review Summit on 20–22 September in New York. Members organised and attended various side events. Bond coordinated two meetings with the UK delegation—one with the Secretary of State (20 September) and one with both the Deputy Prime Minister and the Secretary of State (22 September).

⁶ http://www.bond.org.uk/data/files/MDG_2010/bond_mdgs_full.pdf

⁷ http://www.bond.org.uk/data/files/mdg_statement_final_for_june_10.pdf

3. This response is sent on behalf of the Bond membership, and specifically those members which attended the Summit. These members include: Amnesty International, Action Aid, Christian Aid, End Water Poverty, Interact Worldwide, ONE Campaign UK, Oxfam, Pants to Poverty, Save the Children, Sightsavers, Stamp Out Poverty, UNICEF UK, Tearfund, Trocaire, WaterAid and WWF UK. Members such as WOMANKIND Worldwide and CAFOD also contributed to this submission.

KEY OUTCOMES FROM THE SUMMIT

4. There are a number of key outcomes from the MDG Summit, including the following:

THE OUTCOME DOCUMENT

5. The most tangible outcome is the Outcome Document which was adopted by the General Assembly. The overall message of the Outcome Document is positive and forward looking: the MDGs are achievable and they must guide development and investment for the next five years. That said, language used 10 years ago was much more urgent. The Millennium Declaration stated that, “we will spare no effort to free our fellow men... from the abject and dehumanizing conditions of extreme poverty”, whereas the Outcome Document only expresses the “deep concern” of world leaders for the same issue. This reflects a weaker commitment to tackling global poverty.

6. The Outcome Document highlights a renewed commitment to the target of 0.7% of GNI for Official Development Assistance (para 78f), partly due to the tough stance of DFID on this issue. DFID has certainly shown leadership, and needs to continue pushing other developed countries, especially in the EU, to honour the 0.7% commitment.

7. The Outcome Document does little more than reiterate previous promises. It does not seriously address the lack of progress towards the MDGs and does not agree any new policies, resources or improvements in the international economic environment.

8. The Outcome Document is weak on clear actions for implementation. It is not the ambitious MDGs Rescue Plan with clear financial and political commitments which is needed to ensure that the MDGs are met by 2015.

9. The document does not make a necessary and explicit commitment to ensuring that all MDG efforts are consistent with human rights. Exclusion and discrimination must be addressed, national targets set and implemented for progress; full and informed participation guaranteed; and national and international mechanisms of accountability strengthened. Women’s rights must be central to efforts to achieve the MDGs.

10. The Outcome Document does not effectively tackle environmental degradation; it does not set specific targets on climate change and it does not mention the popular Financial Transaction Tax. Calls by Presidents Sarkozy and Zapatero for a tax on the financial sectors to raise money for development provided a ray of hope at the Summit—the UK now needs to support this initiative.

11. The Outcome Document is particularly weak on MDG 8—a global partnership for development. It thus fails to address the need to integrate greater policy space for developing countries into existing global rules; inappropriate external conditionalities imposed by donors and International Financial Institutions; and the lack of policy space resulting from dictates of international market forces on national policy choices. Secretary General’s Global Strategy for Women and Children’s Health.

12. This plan is meant to fast-track progress on MDGs 4 and 5 (child and maternal health) as these goals are off-track and will currently not be met by the 2015 deadline.

13. Although the Strategy recognises the importance of removing financial barriers to accessing healthcare, this issue should have been given much more importance. The removal of healthcare user fees, particularly for vulnerable populations, is essential. The UK Government has been a leading voice on this issue, recognising the disproportionate impact of user fees on the poorest and most marginalised, and should continue to keep this issue at the centre of its efforts for women and children.

14. In its current form, the Strategy lacks a focus on turning the commitments made against it into an action plan for progress on the health MDGs. The Strategy calls for an accountability framework to be developed and for the World Health Organisation to lead on this process. Such an accountability mechanism needs to include a range of actors, including civil society from developing and developed countries.

15. A system must be put in place that tracks progress against the Strategy on the ground. Donor countries must also make good on the strategy’s pledge (which they have backed) to cede control of national health plans to the governments of developing countries. Additionally, if there is a viable and fully-costed national health plan, donors should be working to make sure that it does not go unfunded.

16. It is especially important that the financial resources committed to support this Strategy, US\$40 billion by developing and developed countries and other global actors, are not a shift of resources from financing already committed to other health issues, thus undermining progress already made across the health MDGs.

17. The Strategy attracted a reported \$40 billion of commitments. However, only approximately \$20 billion is new money, and over half of that has been committed by non state actors. Approximately \$8 billion was committed in new money from governments. The UK reportedly committed £5.5 billion between

2010–15, but in fact this represents only an additional £2.1 billion over five years, in addition to commitments made for 2010 and 2011 at the Muskoka Summit. Furthermore, it seems that this Strategy is not anchored in a UN body, and the list of commitments is simply money which will be spent by various bodies on child and maternal health.

18. Human rights need to be systematically integrated into this strategy as many people, particularly women living in poverty, continue to face a range of barriers in accessing the healthcare services they need. Key human rights issues, such as the denial of sexual and reproductive rights, must be addressed.

19. The Strategy requires firm action and commitment to addressing MDG 3—promoting gender equality and empowering women. Without tackling gender inequality and bringing about improvements in women’s social, political and economic status, well intentioned efforts to improve maternal health are destined to fail.

FINANCIAL TRANSACTION TAX

20. The UK missed an opportunity to be a champion on a Financial Transaction Tax (FTT) for development, which would provide long-term, sustainable funding for all of the MDGs. Both Spain and France came forward in support of a financial transaction tax and we are disappointed that the UK did not show the leadership to do the same. We call on the UK Government to support the FTT, especially in forthcoming meetings of the G8 and G20, at which President Sarkozy will promote the FTT.

DFID’S ROLE IN DELIVERING AGREED STRATEGIES

21. Bond and our members welcomed DFID’s engagement with civil society in the run up to the MDG Summit, during the Summit and indeed after the Summit. While we welcome the opportunity afforded by the Secretary of State’s and Deputy Prime Minister’s civil society briefings in New York, we are very disappointed that the UK Government did not agree to include a representative from civil society on their delegation—whereas Ireland included four people on its delegation, and Denmark seven. This would have sent a clear and positive sign to other countries about engagement with civil society, and would no doubt have encouraged other governments to agree to such an engagement. We recommend that DFID undertakes to include a civil society representative for future Summits and actively encourages other governments to do the same, aiming to enable sufficient space for civil society at national and international levels to monitor their governments’ contribution to achieving the MDGs.

22. More transparency from DFID as to their input on the Outcome Document (via the EU), the Roundtable on “emerging issues” would have been useful. Bond and our members would have found it useful to see interventions and positions from the UK.

23. We welcome DFID’s commitment on accountability, specifically their push for an annual review of the MDGs and a clear list of the commitments different countries took at the Summit. As the current list of commitments is somewhat unclear, we would strongly encourage DFID to keep pushing DESA for a clear list of financial and political commitments taken at the Summit so that governments can be held accountable.

24. At the national level, DFID should work with governments in the South to ensure that evidence informs national policies and plans are supported, and that these react to a nation’s needs rather than prevailing political priorities.

25. Beyond just the financial figures, DFID should be a global leader on pushing for the development of the accountability framework on the Strategy in order to ensure that progress can be tracked.

26. DFID should ensure policy coherence across the UK Government, particularly in regard to trade, climate change, human rights, gender equality, agriculture, the environment and conflict and security.

27. DFID should support innovative financing schemes to provide long-term, sustainable financing for international development and climate change adaptation and mitigation.

28. DFID should lead on making global structures and decisions making processes more democratic, inclusive and transparent. This includes International Financial Institutions and the G8 and the G20.

THE ROLE OF THE UN

29. We welcome the role that UN NGLS and UN Millennium Campaign played in organising the civil society hearings in June. However, we were disappointed that so few member states were present at these hearings.

30. In general, the UN procedures for civil society to engage with the Summit were difficult to navigate.

31. We welcome the fact that the UN agreed to have civil society representatives at the six round tables. However, it is unfortunate that many of these representatives were not asked to speak until very late in the meetings, when many people had already left the room. Round Tables did not work for civil society engagement, and it felt very much like a box ticking exercise. The space the UN provides for civil society seems to be shrinking. We strongly urge the UN to ensure that the voice of civil society, specifically Southern civil society, is heard by world leaders in future Summits, specifically the next MDG Summit in 2013.

32. We welcome the creation of the MDG Task Force and the MDG Ambassador Group. We hope that both groups continue and intensify their work in the struggle to achieve the MDGs by 2015.

33. The UN should play a leading role in developing a mechanism to hold governments to account for their commitments made on the MDGs. An annual review of MDG targets, commitments made and actions undertaken would be useful.

34. The UN is compiling a list of commitments made at the Summit—see http://www.un.org/en/mdg/summit2010/pdf/HLPM_Side%20events_CRP.pdf. This list is currently far from exhaustive and does not contain financial commitments from member states.

35. We welcome the mandate of the General Assembly to review progress of MDG implementation through ECOSOC. We stress the importance of a clear and effective accountability mechanism, which does not yet seem to be in place.

36. We welcome the suggestion of an annual report from the Secretary General, another Summit in 2013 and recommendations for a post 2015 framework (see below).

37. The UN should take a lead in addressing systemic deficiencies and unfair rules in the global economic system to increase the policy space for countries to meet their domestic obligations.

THE ROLE OF NGOS

38. The role of NGOs in the Summit was limited, given the difficulty of accessing the UN building and the nature of the closed meetings. The Round Tables were not interactive, and it is not clear what happened to the recommendations which were made. NGOs currently have some level of access, but limited opportunity to influence. This will be a key point for NGOs in the coming months.

39. One of the roles of NGOs is to hold governments to account for the commitments they have made on the MDGs. However, it is incumbent on the UN to facilitate this task. For NGOs to be able to hold their governments to account, there has to be a central document which sets out those commitments made.

40. Some NGOs have also made substantial financial commitments at the Summit. They should also be accountable for these commitments.

41. As commitments made at such Summits are not legally binding on member states, NGOs will need to back up the global dialogue with action on a national level. NGOs must hold governments to account through the relevant courts and regulatory bodies.

THE ROLE OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES IN SECURING AND DELIVERING SUMMIT OUTCOMES

42. Developing countries need to have strong delivery mechanisms in place to ensure delivery of commitments.

43. The Outcome Document focuses on National Plans for achieving the MDGs. It is clearly important that developing countries need to have strong plans in place, setting clearly defined national targets to realize economic, social and cultural rights. They must also end discrimination and ensure that people living in poverty can participate in the MDG efforts. National accountability mechanisms must be put in place to enable civil society to hold developing country governments to account for their commitments. Freedom of association, expression and information must be allowed in order to ensure that such account-holding can take place.

THE ROLE OF THE EU

44. We welcome the EU's engagement in the MDG process, especially the conclusions adopted at the EU Heads of State Summit in June, which form the EU's policy position for the UN MDG Summit. However, we are concerned that the conclusions favour an action oriented approach without proposing an action or breakthrough plan on the EU side; and that it includes no clear mechanisms for monitoring any of the MDGs. An analysis of the conclusions of the June meeting can be found here:

http://www.concordeurope.org/Files/media/0_internetdocumentsENG/4_Publications/3_CONCORDs_positions_and_studies/Positions2010/Concord-Analysis-of-FAC-conclusions-14-06-10.doc

45. The EU should respect its commitment to hold its member states to account for commitments made to the MDGs, including providing 0.7% of GNI for development.

46. We would encourage the EU to show global leadership on innovative sources of financing. The EU should introduce such sources, including the Financial Transaction Tax (in addition to traditional ODA). President Sarkozy has already said that France will use its presidency of the G8 and the G20 to push for a global financial transaction tax. The EU must advocate for this agenda internationally and also act swiftly to put in place such measures within the eurozone in the short term.

47. We urge the EU (and specifically member states) to deliver at least 0.7% of GNI in ODA by 2015 at the latest (and 0.56% by 2010) and to put in place binding timetables at a national level, leading to the attainment of these targets.

48. We also urge the EU to phase out harmful economic or trade policy conditionality attached to development aid as well as conditionality on migration control measures.

LOOKING AHEAD TO AFTER THE MDG DEADLINE OF 2015

49. Bond and a number of Bond members have been very active in looking at the question of a framework for international development post 2015.

50. There needs to be a robust and ambitious framework in place for eliminating poverty which comes into place in 2015.

51. It is important not to lose track of the current MDGs framework, and the world should not focus on the post 2015 framework at the expense of achieving the MDGs by 2015.

52. Research has shown that the majority of Southern civil society partners would like an overarching, internationally agreed framework for development after 2015.

53. Specific recommendations for looking ahead to the post 2015 agenda include:

- (a) The international community should kick-start a global process of deliberation to construct a new overarching framework for global development after 2015.
- (b) Any new framework must take better account of country-contexts than the original MDGs.
- (c) The North and South should work in partnership to develop this new framework.
- (d) The process of deciding a new framework must be open and participative, including poor citizens in developing countries.
- (e) As well as the core development concerns and issues neglected by the MDGs, a new framework must make the environment and climate change a priority.
- (f) A post 2015 framework needs to address the root causes of poverty (rather than the symptoms), such as unfair global trading systems, inequalities between countries, corruption, transparency, conflict, inequality, discrimination and climate change.
- (g) Any future framework should include clear and potentially legally binding accountability mechanisms to ensure that countries honour commitments made.
- (h) A future framework needs to address cross cutting issues such as human rights, gender equality, conflict and environmental sustainability.

Written evidence submitted by Christian Aid

1. INTRODUCTION AND SUMMARY

1.1 Christian Aid welcomes the opportunity to submit a response to the International Development Committee's Inquiry into the 2010 Millennium Development Goals Review Summit. Christian Aid works globally in over 40 countries for profound change that eradicates the causes of poverty, striving to achieve equality, dignity and freedom for all, regardless of faith or nationality. We are part of a wider movement for social justice. We provide urgent, practical and effective assistance where need is great, tackling the effects of poverty as well as its root causes.

1.2 The Millennium Development Goals have driven significant and very welcome development progress, and raised the profile globally of the international commitment to eradicate poverty. As of the most recent data available (see Figure 1), progress has been notably strong in regard to extreme income poverty; to gender parity in primary, secondary and tertiary education enrolment; and to access to safe drinking water. Considerable achievements have been made in each area, with truly significant implications for hundreds of millions of people.

1.3 Progress has lagged in other areas, including the commitment to achieve "full and productive employment and decent work for all", and the targets relating to maternal mortality (on which less than 30% of the intended 1990–2015 advance has been achieved), access to sanitation, primary school enrolment, and in reducing extreme hunger (40% or below) and in reducing child mortality, providing antenatal care, and expanding access to HIV treatment (below 50%).

1.4 We believe the patchy progress reflects serious flaws in the way in which the ambition of the Millennium Declaration was translated into the MDG approach. In particular, Christian Aid shares with the Declaration an understanding of poverty as broad and complex, and fundamentally a lack of power—requiring political solutions that challenge the causes. The MDG approach, however, is focused on a narrower set of basic needs. There have been successes in some areas, but failures in others where the causality is more complex, and the role of inequality, including gender inequality, more powerful—most notably in regard to maternal and child mortality,

1.5 The outcome document of the 2010 Review summit gives welcome attention to inequality, sustainability and climate change, and democratic and participatory governance—each of which we identified as areas of weakness in the MDG approach. In addition, the summit broke new ground by highlighting the importance of effective taxation for development, and of international action to tackle the obstacles posed by the financial secrecy that supports huge illicit financial flows.

1.6 Changes made now, especially with regard to the emphasis on gender equality, can yield benefits by 2015. The major benefit, however, will lie in ensuring that the post-2015 successor to the MDGs is the product of learning from the weaknesses of the current approach. In particular, this requires a much more participative approach, resting on a comprehensive baseline dataset that captures the breadth and complexity of poverty and can form the basis for prioritisation.

2. ACHIEVEMENTS TO 2010

2.1 The Millennium Development Goals have driven significant and very welcome development progress, and raised the profile globally of the international commitment to eradicate poverty. Addressing the UN General Assembly at the Millennium Summit in September 2000, then UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan said: “I am struck by the remarkable convergence of views on the challenge that faces us. And by the urgency of your call to action. You have said that your first priority is the eradication of extreme poverty. You have set specific targets related to that goal, and you have prescribed measures for achieving them. If the measures are really taken, we all know the targets can be reached.”⁸

2.2 Heads of state met in New York in September for the 2010 Millennium Development Goal Review Summit, to assess progress since the Millennium Declaration. Compared to the 2005 review summit, there was sufficient data to see clearly the extent of progress made, or otherwise. The summit therefore represented the final global-level opportunity to influence the 2015 outcomes, not only by reinvigorating efforts but also by addressing failings in the approach.

2.3 Christian Aid believes that the commendable ambition of the Millennium Declaration was lost in translation into the Millennium Development Goal (MDG) approach, and that the resulting weaknesses are the main cause of patchy progress, as our analysis of progress (see *Poverty Over: We're all in this together*, September 2010, <http://bit.ly/pOVERty>) shows. To assess the 2010 summit outcomes, and to consider the best way forward from 2015, it is important to understand these weaknesses, as well as the achievements to date.

2.4 The Millennium Declaration reflects a broad and complex view of poverty—and one which is fundamentally political. This view is close to that of Christian Aid, which sees poverty as a lack of power in four dimensions: personal power (including health, education, mental wellbeing, decent work and leisure conditions, and household relations); economic power (income, freedom from extreme inequality, economic security and access to or control over resources); social power (community wellbeing, social relations and social inclusion, environmental conditions); and political power (political freedom, political security and active citizenship).⁹ We believe individuals and communities have a right to exercise power in these dimensions over their own lives, and so as poverty is political, so our response must also be political.

2.5 In contrast, the MDG approach is based on a relatively narrow concept of poverty as unfulfilled basic needs. It has been argued that this is simply a question of timing and prioritisation, and that the MDG framework is the first stage, before it is sensible to move on to broader aspects of poverty. The evidence, and our experience, do not support this view. Instead, there is a growing consensus that sustainable impacts on poverty are only achieved by addressing the causes as well as the symptoms. Without addressing the broader aspects of poverty, even progress on the narrow needs will be held back. As the Secretary of State Andrew Mitchell MP noted: “It is a fact that money spent... dealing with the causes rather than the symptoms, is very well-spent money.”¹⁰

2.6 Figure 1 shows a summary of global progress to date, for each measureable and measured target within the MDG framework. Data lags mean that this largely shows, in effect, the extent of progress before the financial crisis. Of the 14 objectives shown, five are on-track (or better) to be achieved by 2015: on extreme income poverty; on gender parity in primary, secondary and tertiary education enrolment; and on access to safe drinking water. This data implies considerable achievements have been made in each area, with truly significant implications for hundreds of millions of people. The main driver for the first goal—ending extreme income poverty—would be expected to be economic growth, with additional spending on education, health, and other services underpinning progress on the other objectives.

2.7 Of the remaining nine objectives, progress is most badly lagging on the commitment to achieve “full and productive employment and decent work for all”. Data for the simplest measure, the employment-to-population ratio, shows that this has actually fallen back since 1990, in part due to the financial crisis. Of the other objectives, progress on the use of contraception and reducing the rate of maternal mortality is weakest (less than 30% of the intended 1990–2015 advance has been achieved). Progress is 40% or below for

⁸ Then UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan addressing closing summit of UN Millennium Summit, 11 September 2000, <http://www.unis.unvienna.org/unis/pressrels/2000/sg2658.html>.

⁹ *Doing Justice to Poverty*, 2009, Christian Aid. <http://bit.ly/jus2pov>.

¹⁰ “Conservatives defend aid spending from rightwing onslaught”, *The Guardian*, 2 July 2010, <http://www.guardian.co.uk/politics/2010/jul/02/conservatives-defend-aidspending-rightwing-onslaught>.

access to sanitation, primary school enrolment, and in reducing extreme hunger. Progress is below 50% in reducing child mortality and providing antenatal care, and—despite the G8’s 2005 commitment to universal treatment—in expanding access to HIV treatment. The divergent performance on access to safe drinking water and access to sanitation is a concern, given the extent of similarities in approach required, and may reflect a simple problem of sanitation being seen as less “attractive” by donors and therefore less well funded.

2.8 A deeper issue may lie behind the weak progress on child and maternal mortality rates. Mortality rates are less straightforward to influence, insofar as they do not necessarily decline in a straightforward fashion with eg economic growth or greater health spending. Mortality and life expectancy rates appear to be associated with income inequality, and this points to the key weakness of the MDG approach. The approach has been most successful where targets relate to outcomes that are more directly influenced by additional funding; but by largely ignoring the breadth and causality of poverty that the Millennium Declaration reflects, the MDG approach has undermined the potential for progress *even on the areas of need that it targets*.

2.9 Christian Aid believes there are three key areas in which the loss of ambition in translation from the Millennium Declaration to the MDG approach is most problematic: inequality, sustainability and democratic and participatory governance.

2.10 In the case of inequality, the Declaration’s considerable emphasis on questions of distributive justice—defining the uneven impact of globalisation as the “central challenge” facing the world, and stressing repeatedly the need for equality, the need to respect diversity, and the need to promote tolerance—is sadly missing from the MDGs in operation. Indeed, the approach is largely “neutral” to most inequalities, despite their importance, and that “neutrality” in practice condones continuing inequalities in multiple areas. If there has been no attempt to address, for example, the fact that women outnumber men by two to one among those living in extreme income poverty on less than a dollar a day, there can be no surprise that the ratio is unchanged. There should, however, be shame. The importance to the development process of income inequality, of gender inequality and of inequality between groups (eg those based on ethnicity, caste, HIV status or faith) means that neglect of this crucial area has undermined the achievement of the MDGs on their own terms, as well as the broader aspiration of poverty eradication.

2.11 In the case of sustainability, the Declaration is forthright: “Prudence must be shown in the management of all living species and natural resources, in accordance with the precepts of sustainable development. Only in this way can the immeasurable riches passed to us by nature be preserved and passed on to our descendants. The current unsustainable patterns of production and consumption must be changed in the interest of our future welfare and that of our descendants.” From this ambition however, little is translated into the targets and indicators in MDG7, which operates almost counter to today’s clear international understanding of the responsibility of rich countries for the problem of climate change. Since the MDGs do not apply to rich countries, MDG 7 creates, in effect, mechanisms that will make poorer countries account for their use of natural resources. Sustainability consists in far more; and the fundamental question of how human civilisation can substantially raise the standard of living for its billions of poorer citizens, without exhausting or irreversibly undermining the planet’s ability to support human life, cannot be separated from the broader thrust of poverty eradication.

2.12 Finally, the Declaration stresses that “Democratic and participatory governance best assures [the rights of men and women to] live their lives and raise their children in dignity, free from hunger and from the fear of violence, oppression or injustice.” The MDG approach, on the other hand, consistently fails to recognise the role of women and men as participants in the development process, indeed as agents in their own movement out of poverty. This risks, of course, reinforcing the disempowerment which is poverty. DFID’s own research finds clearly that “the political settlement is central to all development. When citizens actively participate in society through local associations and movements outside the state, there are benefits to both state and society”;¹¹ or as the UN Research Institute for Social Development puts it, “Politics matters for poverty reduction. The protection of civic rights, active and organized citizens, well-organized and representative political parties, and effective states with redistributive agendas are all important for sustained progress towards poverty reduction.”¹²

2.13 To obtain the benefits of active citizen engagement across the whole MDG framework, both for people themselves and through more effective policy making, there are some key accountability building blocks that must be put in place. These include freedom of information, transparent budgets, participatory policy making and the political “space” to allow civil society organisations to operate without draconian restrictions. These measures can ensure that women and men in poverty—whose views are too often overlooked—are able to direct anti-poverty plans in poor countries.

¹¹ Department for International Development (DFID), *The Politics of Poverty: Elites, Citizens and States, Findings from 10 Years of DFID-funded Research on Governance and Fragile States 2001–2010*, 2010, <http://www.dfid.gov.uk/Documents/publications/evaluation/plcy-pltes-dfid-rsch-synth-ppr.pdf>. In particular, see the work of the Centre for Research on Inequality, Human Security and Ethnicity (CRISE, <http://www.crise.ox.ac.uk>).

¹² *Combating Poverty and Inequality*, Research and Policy Brief 10, 2010, United Nations Research Institute for Social Development, [http://www.unrisd.org/unrisd/website/document.nsf/\(httpPublications\)/82BBE4A03F504AD9C1257734002E9735?OpenDocument](http://www.unrisd.org/unrisd/website/document.nsf/(httpPublications)/82BBE4A03F504AD9C1257734002E9735?OpenDocument).

2.14 A weak, or at least partial approach to accountability also led to a top-down, imposed approach that, while delivering laudable progress in some areas, failed to recognise the context of poverty in different countries and different communities, and in so doing failed to empower the citizens of those countries and communities. Accountability rests primarily with developing country governments for meeting MDGs 1–7, while there are no verifiable targets for MDG 8, the global partnership for development where rich countries could in theory be held accountable for their contribution to shaping global structures and systems to support development. Recognising poverty as a lack of power, this failure of the translation of the Millennium Declaration’s ambition into the MDG approach is especially regrettable.

2.15 On the basis of the analysis summarised above, Christian Aid’s position on the MDG Review Summit was that the key areas to be addressed included the failure seriously to address inequality, sustainability and democratic and participatory governance with the MDG approach; the failure to ensure sufficient data even to track progress in each MDG; and the failure to address key international obstacles to development, including importantly the illicit financial flows and resulting tax revenue losses that are widely held to exceed aid inflows by some distance.

3. KEY OUTCOMES OF THE SUMMIT

3.1 The summit outcome document responds to each of the concerns highlighted in our analysis. Annex I contains an extract of key sections of the outcome document. In particular, it stresses the importance of challenging the “large and increasing” social and economic inequalities that underpin poverty. It recognises the threat of climate change, and the need to address it if the MDGs are to be met. It emphasises the need for “full participation of all segments of society, including the poor and disadvantaged, in decision-making processes”, along with the importance of transparency and accountability on all sides, including rich countries.

3.2 We believe these statements reflect real and important progress for three reasons. First, there clearly is a possibility of increasing the level of achievement on certain targets by 2015. A key area, and one which would have multiplier effects across other areas both in the period to 2015 and beyond, is that of gender equality. Christian Aid has urged the UK government to commit to being one of the top four funders of the new UN Women agency, as part of a push to accelerate progress by 2015. DFID should be held accountable for this, and for helping to provide the political support necessary to ensure that UN Women is able to leverage real change through the UN system.

3.3 The second reason for the importance of the statements is that they provide a valuable indicator of a changing understanding of development in the international community. In particular, Christian Aid welcomes the step change in understanding of climate change compared to the original MDG framework, above all in the recognition of rich country responsibilities. This responsibility means rich countries both through carbon emissions reductions and through supporting through finance and technology transfer climate actions in developing countries, including adaptation, disaster resilience and low-carbon development.

3.4 In addition, the language calling for national and international measures to address the “crucial” issue of financial opacity and illicit financial flows, and recognising the central importance of effective taxation to development, is extremely valuable and would have been unthinkable in such a document ten or even five years previously—for example, neither the word “tax” nor the word “illicit”, in relation to finance, appear in the outcome document of the 2005 review summit. Working with civil society and governments from developing countries and donor countries, Christian Aid, our partners at the Tax Justice Network and our fellow members of the global Task Force on Financial Integrity and Economic Development have been at the forefront of the move to put these issues on the international agenda. The crucial changes to provide the greater transparency that will curtail the massive abuses of tax systems in developing countries, and the other forms of corruption that financial opacity facilitates, are still to be achieved; but the international prominence of this agenda is secure, and change is now at the very least possible.

3.5 The third reason for the importance of the statements in the outcome document is the possibility that they raise for the post-2015 successor to the MDG framework, and perhaps nowhere more so than with regard to the statistical capacity to more accurately understand and confront poverty and marginalisation. The summit statement puts great emphasis on “strengthening statistical capacity to produce reliable disaggregated data for better programmes and policy evaluation and formulation”. We set out our aspiration for a successor framework to the MDGs in the following section, and a new level of statistical capacity is central to this.

3.6 DFID under the new coalition government has repeatedly highlighted “value for money” in development. As all those who work towards poverty eradication can confirm, measurement of appropriate indicators is crucial to understanding the nature of poverty in a given context, to creating appropriate responses, to measuring effectiveness and to improving responses on that basis. All too often, however, the underlying statistical capacity is absent, and so key evidence to deliver better results is missing too. There is a clear need for champions in this area.

4. THE SEARCH FOR A POST-2015 SUCCESSOR TO THE MDGs

4.1 While statements in the summit outcome document are laudable, they are not in general likely to have a great impact on the progress made by 2015. This is for two main reasons: first, because the effect of any changes will not necessarily be seen so quickly; and second, because the MDG approach will retain the broad flaws outlined in the previous section. It is therefore of great importance that the process of establishing a successor framework to the MDGs be put in place, bringing together learning from the past ten years and beyond, in order to create an approach that tackles head-on the causes as well as the symptoms of poverty.

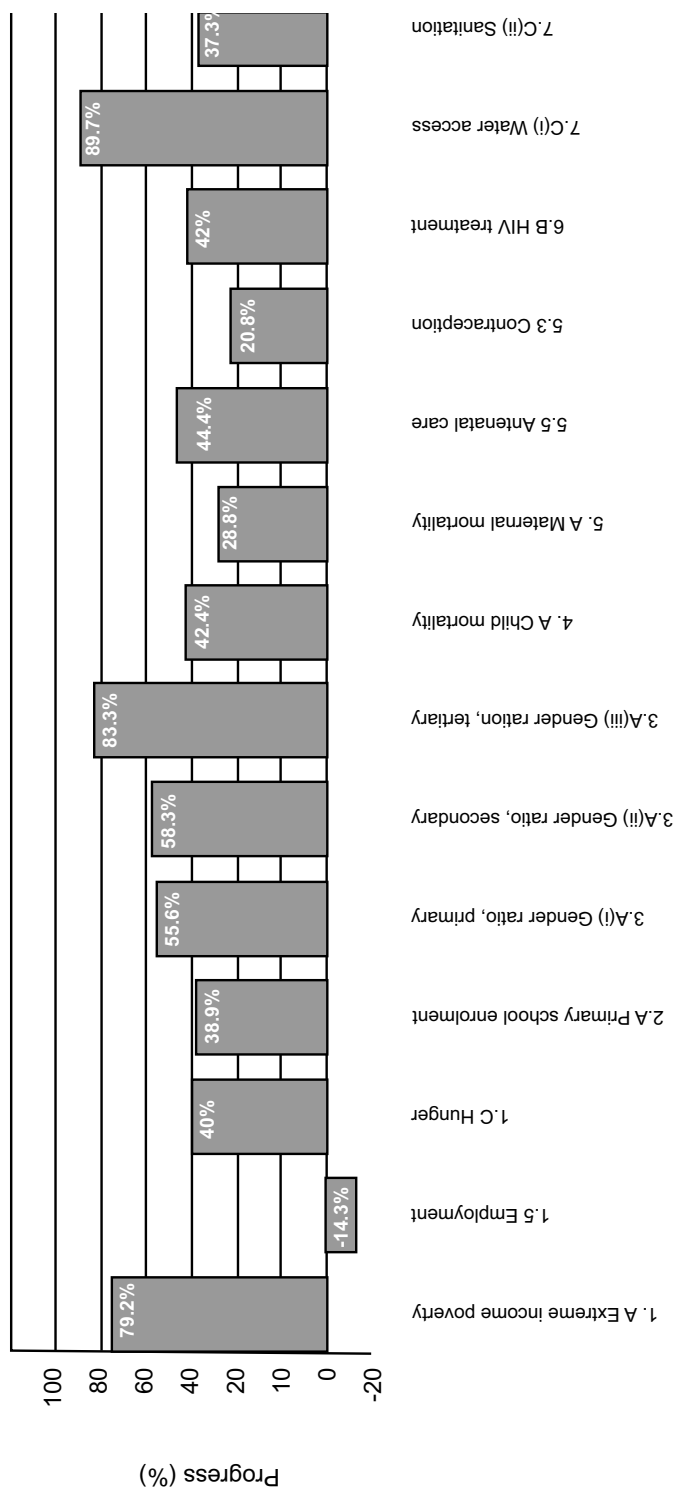
4.2 While that approach must emerge from detailed analysis, Christian Aid believes that three key elements can be clearly identified now. First, the top-down imposition of priorities must be replaced by an open framework, within which national and local decision-making processes take the lead.

4.3 Second, and necessarily for this to function, the international community must invest in the statistical capacity to create a comprehensive baseline dataset of indicators which capture the breadth and complexity of poverty in each community. The Multidimensional Poverty Index, created by University of Oxford researchers in collaboration with the UN Human Development Report Office, points the way to the type of fine-grained analysis that is possible.¹³

4.4 Third, and finally, the successor to the MDGs must contain a clear framework of accountability that reflects the potential contribution of each actor—not only from aid recipient governments, but also traditional donor governments and emerging powers, as well as national and international NGOs and major private-sector players, including multinational corporations. With these key elements in place, there would be the possibility of a successor to the MDGs that makes poverty eradication a reality. This is Christian Aid's driving vision.

¹³ See the forthcoming *Human Development Report 2010*, and the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative: <http://www.ophi.org.uk/policy/multidimensional-poverty-index/>.

Figure 1
 SPORADIC PROGRESS ON THE MDGS (% OF TARGET ACHIEVED, TO MOST RECENT DATA AVAILABLE)



Notes: For each target and indicator in the MDG framework with a specified target value and available data, progress is shown as a percentage of the total required by 2015. Data for 1990 is earliest available baseline data from 1990-1999; data for current progress is most recent available, 2005–09. Data is from *The Millennium Development Goals Report 2010*, <http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/pdf/MDG%20Report%202010%20En%20r15%20-low%20res%2020100615%20-.pdf> with the exception of maternal mortality data, which is drawn from M Hogan et al, “Maternal mortality for 181 countries, 1980–2008: a systematic analysis of progress towards Millennium Development Goal 5”, *The Lancet*, 375 (9726), 2010, pp1,609-1,623.

EXTRACT FROM THE 2010 MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS REVIEW SUMMIT
OUTCOME DOCUMENT

23. We take note of the lessons learned and successful policies and approaches in the implementation and achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and recognize that with increased political commitment these could be replicated and scaled up for accelerating progress, including by:

- (a) Strengthening national ownership and leadership of development strategies;
- (b) Adopting forward-looking, macroeconomic policies that promote sustainable development and lead to sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth, increase productive employment opportunities and promote agricultural and industrial development;
- (c) Promoting national food security strategies that strengthen support for smallholder farmers and contribute to poverty eradication;
- (d) Adopting policies and measures oriented towards benefiting the poor and addressing social and economic inequalities;
- (e) Supporting participatory, community-led strategies aligned with national development priorities and strategies;
- (f) Promoting universal access to public and social services and providing social protection floors;
- (g) Improving capacity to deliver quality services equitably;
- (h) Implementing social policies and programmes, including appropriate conditional cash-transfer programmes, and investing in basic services for health, education, water and sanitation;
- (i) Ensuring the full participation of all segments of society, including the poor and disadvantaged, in decision-making processes;
- (j) Respecting, promoting and protecting all human rights, including the right to development;
- (k) Increasing efforts to reduce inequality and eliminate social exclusion and discrimination;
- (l) Enhancing opportunities for women and girls and advancing the economic, legal and political empowerment of women;
- (m) Investing in the health of women and children to drastically reduce the number of women and children who die from preventable causes;
- (n) Working towards transparent and accountable systems of governance at the national and international levels;
- (o) Working towards greater transparency and accountability in international development cooperation, in both donor and developing countries, focusing on adequate and predictable financial resources as well as their improved quality and targeting;
- (p) Promoting South-South and triangular cooperation, which complement North-South cooperation;
- (q) Promoting effective public-private partnerships;
- (r) Expanding access to financial services for the poor, especially poor women, including through adequately funded microfinance plans, programmes and initiatives supported by development partners;
- (s) Strengthening statistical capacity to produce reliable disaggregated data for better programmes and policy evaluation and formulation.

24. We recognize that the scaling-up of the successful policies and approaches outlined above will need to be complemented by a strengthened global partnership for development...

26. We recognize that climate change poses serious risks and challenges to all countries, especially developing countries. We commit to addressing climate change in accordance with the principles and provisions of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, including the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities. We maintain the Framework Convention as the primary international, intergovernmental forum for negotiating the global response to climate change. Addressing climate change will be of key importance in safeguarding and advancing progress towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

27. We recognize that attention must be focused on the particular needs of developing countries and on the large and increasing economic and social inequalities. Disparities between developed and developing countries and inequalities between the rich and the poor, and between rural and urban populations, inter alia, remain persistent and significant and need to be addressed.

[...]

68. We recognize that all countries require adequate, timely, reliable and disaggregated data, including demographic data, in order to design better programmes and policies for sustainable development. We commit to strengthening our national statistical systems, including for effectively monitoring progress towards the Millennium Development Goals. We also reiterate the need to increase efforts in support of statistical capacity-building in developing countries.

[...]

78. We commit ourselves to accelerating progress in order to achieve Millennium Development Goal 8, including through:

- (a) Accelerating efforts to deliver and fully implement existing Millennium Development Goal 8 commitments by enhancing the global partnership for development to ensure the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals by 2015;

[...]

- (c) Recognizing that the commitments made by developed and developing countries in relation to the Millennium Development Goals require mutual accountability;

[...]

- (i) Enhancing and strengthening domestic resource mobilization and fiscal space, including, where appropriate, through modernized tax systems, more efficient tax collection, broadening the tax base and effectively combating tax evasion and capital flight. While each country is responsible for its tax system, it is important to support national efforts in these areas by strengthening technical assistance and enhancing international cooperation and participation in addressing international tax matters. We look forward to the upcoming report by the Secretary-General examining the strengthening of institutional arrangements to promote international cooperation in tax matters;

- (j) Implementing measures to curtail illicit financial flows at all levels, enhancing disclosure practices and promoting transparency in financial information. In this regard, strengthening national and multinational efforts to address this issue is crucial, including support to developing countries and technical assistance to enhance their capacities. Additional measures should be implemented to prevent the transfer abroad of stolen assets and to assist in the recovery and return of such assets, in particular to their countries of origin, consistent with the United Nations Convention against Corruption...

Written evidence submitted by the Department for International Development

INTRODUCTION

1. The memorandum focuses on:

- (i) Key outcomes from the Summit, including:
 - DFID's role in delivering agreed strategies;
 - the role of the UN, World Bank, European Commission and NGOs in securing and delivering Summit outcomes, and how these organisations will be held accountable for achieving them; and
 - the role of developing countries in securing and delivering Summit outcomes.
- (ii) Looking ahead to after the MDG deadline of 2015.

KEY OUTCOMES FROM THE SUMMIT

2. The UN Millennium Development Goals Summit was held in New York 20–22 September, co-chaired by the former and current Presidents of the General Assembly. The International Development Secretary led the UK Delegation on 20–21 September, gave more than a dozen speeches and co-chaired a major event on malaria. The Deputy Prime Minister led the UK Delegation on 22 September and addressed the plenary.

3. Prominent participants included President Obama (USA), Premier Wen (China), Prime Minister Zapatero (Spain), President Sarkozy (France), Chancellor Merkel (Germany), Prime Minister Meles (Ethiopia), President Johnson-Sirleaf (Liberia), Queen Rania (Jordan), President Kagame (Rwanda), the heads of the World Bank, IMF and major UN agencies, and leading philanthropists such as George Soros, and Bill and Melinda Gates. UK MDG Advocate Bob Geldof played a prominent role throughout. The outcome document, negotiated in advance, was adopted at the closing plenary:

(<http://www.un.org/en/mdg/summit2010/pdf/Draft%20outcome%20document.pdf>).

4. The Summit reinforced the UK's reputation as a serious and committed leader on development. The Deputy Prime Minister reiterated the UK's commitment to reaching 0.7% of GNI in aid from 2013 and challenged others to live up to their promises. Ban Ki Moon praised the UK's decision to spend 0.7% GNI on aid from 2013 and urged others to meet their commitments, arguing that "we must not balance the books on the backs of the poor".

5. The Summit resulted in real gains in the reallocation of existing budgets to the most off-track MDGs, especially maternal health—on which Ban Ki-moon had focused most of his effort with the launch of his Global Strategy for Women’s and Children’s Health, aimed at saving the lives of more than 16 million women and children.

6. Various ministerial participants remarked on the quality and seriousness of the policy debate between developed and developing countries, especially on health, education and nutrition. Also notable was the degree to which a growing number of developing country ministers were well-informed by economic analysis and independent evaluation of what works and what doesn’t. Developing country commitments were also striking. Afghanistan and Yemen pledged to increase access to family planning and safe births and Nigeria committed to spend a share of oil revenues on healthcare. Significant new commitments also came from the private sector, charities and NGOs and international organisations.

7. UK pressed and secured an annual review mechanism through ECOSOC as part of the Summit’s Outcome Document. Work is underway to record all of the policy and financial commitments, not just from governments, made at the Summit and there was a clear commitment from the Ban Ki-moon to ensure that all sides will be held accountable.

Role of the UK in delivering Summit outcomes

8. UK took up a leadership position throughout preparations for and during the Summit itself. Specific top UK objectives were:

- (i) To galvanise international partners (civil society, foundations, private sector and other governments) by championing the cause of international development, urging donor countries to deliver on their commitments and recipients to be accountable to their citizens for both the aid they receive and for the use of their own resources.
- (ii) To play a direct leadership role on the most off-track MDGs, announcing new outcome commitments on maternal and child health, malaria, and nutrition.
- (iii) To make the case for aid and development to the UK taxpayer, highlighting both the moral case and the argument that the UK’s long term national interests will be best served in a prosperous and stable world.

9. The Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister and Secretary of State for International Development engaged in extensive lobbying with other governments, both donors and developing countries, as well as the private sector and foundations, in the months leading up to the Summit. The purpose of this was to galvanise momentum amongst partners, encourage world leaders to attend the Summit and secure specific commitments on UK priority areas.

10. UK emphasis on the need to demonstrate the results of aid was well received, by both developed and developing countries. There were a number of significant UK announcements, expressed in terms of the results we will help to achieve. Key messages included:

- (i) Doubling of the number of maternal, newborn and children’s lives saved through UK aid. Over the next five years, this will save the lives of at least 50,000 more women in pregnancy and childbirth, and 250,000 more newborn babies, and enable 10 million more couples to access to family planning.
- (ii) UK will help halve the number of deaths caused by malaria in at least 10 African countries, through an increased focus on boosting prevention and treatment, backed by an increase in funding to as much as £500 million per year by 2014.
- (iii) UK support for the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) “1,000 days” campaign launched at a side event co-hosted by Hilary Clinton.

11. The media coverage both in the UK and internationally was extensive and positive. The UK Governments key message on the MDGs and development more broadly were carried extensively in the tabloid and broadsheet press, and all major broadcast outlets. Social media such as facebook, twitter and mumsnet were also used to convey HMG messages to build support for development in the UK.

Role of the UN

12. UK encouraged the Secretary General, President of the General Assembly and other parts of the UN system to provide leadership and galvanise political momentum in the run-up to the Summit. The UK also seconded a development expert to the UN Secretary Generals office to support efforts on the Global Strategy for Women and Children’s health.

13. The UN Secretary General made two main contributions to galvanising momentum: the first and most significant was his leadership on the Global Strategy for Maternal and Child Health, which secured over US\$ 40 billion worth of commitments from partner countries, including the UK. The second was his establishment of the MDG Advocates Group, which the UK supported. The Advocates engaged in mobilizing global action to make the MDG Summit a turning point in our collective effort to achieve the Goals by the 2015 target date.

14. In the run up to the Summit and to help build the evidence base, UNDP produced the International Assessment of what is needed to meet the MDGs, an assessment carried out on evidence from over 50 country studies drawing out 8 principles for MDG achievement, which the UK and Canada supported and which significantly influenced the shape of the Summit's Outcome Document.

15. The President of the General Assembly and the co-facilitators Denmark and Senegal played a critical role in building consensus amongst donor countries and the G77 in order to reach timely agreement on the Summit's Outcome Document. The Outcome Document was formally adopted at the end of the Summit.

16. Our priority going forward will be to ensure the UN follows up on the commitments made both in the outcome document and at side events. Work is underway to record all of the policy and financial commitments, not just from governments, made at the Summit and there was a clear commitment from the Ban Ki-moon to ensure that all sides will be held accountable through ECOSOC.

17. The UK pressed and secured an annual review mechanism as part of the Summit's Outcome Document and will continue to make sure that the international community lives up its promises—as the UK will do.

Role of the European Commission

18. The EU agreed a joint position for the MDG Summit in June, advocating for an action agenda to be adopted at the Summit. The EU Commission subsequently led the coordination of the EU position in the negotiations on the Summit's outcome document in New York, during the Belgium Presidency.

19. During the Summit, Jose Manuel Barroso announced an MDG-Initiative—€1 billion of EDF unallocated funds to make progress on those goals we are furthest from achieving.

Role of the World Bank

20. At the GCE education event the World Bank announced an additional \$750 million over the next five years, which represents a 40% increase in basic education lending directed at the 79 poorest countries which are off track. In sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia, this will support innovative interventions such as girls' scholarships, conditional cash transfers, grants to schools.

Role of NGOs and civil society

21. UK civil society played a critical role in building political momentum behind and public support for the NGOs in the run-up to and during the Summit itself.

22. "Stand Up Against Poverty", an annual public rally organised by the Global Campaign Against Poverty, took place the week before the Summit in various locations around the world to raise public awareness of the MDGs and galvanise action at the political level.

23. The Deputy Prime Minister and the International Development Secretary attended an NGO event hosted by BOND and a British Youth Council event the week before the Summit to set out what they hoped to achieve and engage the views of key partners on what "success" would look like to them.

24. Both the Deputy Prime Minister and the International Development Secretary hosted meetings with NGOs during the Summit so that they could report back on progress and assess what else could be done to secure ambitious outcomes.

25. Save the Children have funded a series of art installations throughout the world to raise awareness of MDGs 4&5. This project is ongoing and included an event at Grand Central Station, in New York on 20 September which the Secretary of State lent his support to.

26. At the Summit significant new commitments came from the private sector (Johnson & Johnson committed \$200 million—one of many private sector contributions), foundations (Gates and others), civil society and international organisations.

27. Together with BRAC, Care, Save The Children and many other national and international NGOs, World Vision has made a combined commitment of more than five billion dollars between now and 2015.

Role of developing countries

28. Unlike previous summits, there were significant new commitments by developing countries, including, for example: Tanzania's commitment to spend 15% of the national budget on health, and Liberia's promise to implement universal coverage of bed nets to combat malaria by the end of this year. Afghanistan and Yemen pledged to increase access to family planning and safe births and Nigeria committed to spend a share of oil revenues on healthcare.

LOOKING AHEAD TO AFTER THE MDG DEADLINE OF 2015

29. DFID has been clear that the focus should remain on accelerating progress against the current framework over the next five years. This was clearly our primary objective in New York. However, we recognise that the current MDGs were the product of a long and complex process of lesson learning, consensus building and negotiation. It is therefore important that we start to look now at what will come after the MDGs in 2015.

30. At the close of the Summit the UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon announced his intention to initiate a consultation process on what would come after the MDGs post 2015. The UK will play a full part in these discussions.

Department for International Development

October 2010

Written evidence submitted by EveryChild

SUMMARY

EveryChild is an international NGO with a focus on children without parental care, currently operational in 15 countries. EveryChild is concerned that there is insufficient attention paid to children's rights to grow up in a family and to be free from violence, abuse, exploitation and neglect, both in the MDG summit outcome and in the Government's response to it. EveryChild believes that without a focus on children's rights to protection and care, efforts to achieve the MDGs will be hindered. We believe that in order for this trend to be reversed, it is essential that:

The international community (including the UK government) makes child protection and care a political priority, mainstreamed into goals on nutrition, health, education, justice and social protection, aimed at achieving the MDGs. Investment should be directed towards schemes which promote this goal and child rights indicators should be put in place to monitor their progress. Particular emphasis should be put on interventions which focus on reducing the number of children outside of parental care.

The UK Government demonstrates political commitment to child protection and care by appointing child rights champions within DFID at head office level, including individuals with a specific remit to promote children's protection and care. UK aid money should show political leadership on promoting child well being by focusing on interventions which mainstream child protection, such as cash transfer programmes.

The post MDG environment brings the rights of the most vulnerable children to the centre of the political agenda by promoting the inclusion of specific goals and targets on child protection and care in the post MDG framework.

INTRODUCTION

1. As an international NGO with many years experience working with children without parental care, EveryChild is acutely aware of the devastating impact that being separated from parents, and facing situations of abuse, exploitation or neglect can have on children. These abuses of children's rights to care and protection can increase child poverty and hunger, stop children from attending school, increase exposure to HIV and risky early pregnancy and exacerbate gender inequity. The achievement of these rights is therefore central to reaching many of the MDG targets.

2. Despite the devastating impact of growing and widespread abuse of children's rights to care and protection, these rights are widely ignored by those working to the achieve the MDGs. To challenge this trend, EveryChild worked in collaboration with eight other UK based INGOs to publish "Protect for the Future. Placing Children's Care and Protection at the Heart of the MDGs" in July 2010.¹⁴ This submission is based on evidence from this report (attached), along with more recent outcomes from the summit and evidence on DFID responses to children's rights.

LIMITED REFERENCE TO CHILD RIGHTS, PARTICULARLY RIGHTS TO PROTECTION AND CARE, THREATENS EFFECTIVE SUMMIT OUTCOMES

3. The outcome document from the MDG summit contains many valuable recommendations to achieve child-related MDG goals, thereby securing better health, education and survival outcomes for children around the world. Of particular value are renewed commitments to addressing infant mortality, and recognition of the central importance of addressing discrimination against women and girls. However, the outcome document's references to child rights are limited, with insufficient attention paid to issues such as children's participation and ensuring equality between and within generations. Of particular concern to EveryChild is the lack of reference to children's rights not to be separated from parents unless it is in their best interest, and to grow-up free from violence, abuse, exploitation and neglect.

4. This omission is serious as the achievement of such rights is essential for ensuring that many of the MDGs are reached. For example:

- (a) MDG 1: Children who have been neglected by their parents, or who are outside of parental care are highly vulnerable to poverty and hunger. Extended families may struggle to provide for extra mouths, or may discriminate against extra children in the household. Children on the streets often

¹⁴ http://www.everychild.org.uk/docs/protect_for_the_future.pdf

have to scavenge for food, and those in detention are commonly denied food as a form of punishment. Some groups of children, such as girls in some cultures; children with disabilities; or children cared for by step parents, may be routinely given less food than others in the household. These issues do not just face a small minority of children—in some parts of the world, up to 30% of child populations are without parental care, and although there is limited information about child neglect in developing countries, it is believed to be responsible for higher rates of girl child mortality in countries such as India.

- (b) MDG 2: A loss of parental care and abuse, violence and exploitation affect children's ability to attend school, particularly for girl children. For example, children who have lost both parents are 12% less likely to be in school than other children. Early marriage or child labour can both stop children from going to school, and violence in the classroom at the hands of teachers or other pupils is a major disincentive. Again, these issues do not just affect a small proportion of children. Around 30–40% of girls in many Asian and African countries are married before they reach 18, and 13.6% of children are engaged in harmful child labour.

5. There are some places in the outcome document where rights to care and protection are referred to. For example in relation to the importance of addressing violence in schools or homes for achieving gender equity, and the elimination of child labour for achieving poverty alleviation. However, there are many more points in the report where opportunities to promote care and protection have been missed, and where an additional reference to these rights would have added greatly to proposed strategies. For example:

- (a) References to accessing basic services should include acknowledgement of the exclusion of many vulnerable children, including those outside of parental care and facing abuse and exploitation.
- (b) References to reducing inequality and social exclusion should recognise that children outside of parental care are amongst the most excluded and discriminated against.
- (c) Discussions around social protection in the achievement of MDG 1 should recognise the importance of linking social and child protection services, in addition to stated recognition of links between social protection and other services such as health.

THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT HAS NOT MADE A STRONG ENOUGH COMMITMENT TO PROMOTE RIGHTS TO PROTECTION AND CARE IN EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE THE MDGs

6. The British government made valuable contributions to the outcome of the summit. Its continued commitment to development aid in challenging economic circumstances; efforts to reduce infant mortality and recognition of the importance of gender issues are particularly to be praised. However, much more could have been done to effectively promote children's rights, particularly rights to protection and care, during the summit and in strategies aimed at achieving the MDGs.

7. The Government's efforts to promote child rights in the MDGs are severely hindered by the lack of senior child rights champions in DFID, and limited broader staff capacity to promote children's rights, with no individual staff members with an explicit remit on protection and care issues. For example, the one member of the Equity and Rights team working on child rights has only 30% of her time allocated to child rights as a whole, with only a small proportion of this time presumably spent on child protection and care.

8. The limited commitment to promoting child rights and children's protection and care in the MDGs and more broadly is further reflected in the lack of attention paid to these issues in key strategy documents, including the white paper and the development sections of the coalition agreement. DFID also do not currently clarify how much they spend on children, let alone on child protection, have not invested in research or strategy development on child protection and care issues, and do not have a child protection policy to ensure that their own interventions do not harm children.

9. In relation to the summit in particular, DFID appears to have done little to promote children's rights to protection and care. Recommendations made by EveryChild, in collaboration with several international NGOs, on changes to the summit outcome document to ensure that protection and care issues are more widely included, appear not to have been acted on.

SUMMARY OF MDG SUMMIT CONCLUSIONS

10. Government strategies to achieve the MDGs currently ignore child rights or perceive them narrowly in terms of rights to survival, health and education. Whilst these rights are of course important, as argued above, they cannot be achieved if children continue to be left vulnerable outside of parental care, or abused, neglected and exploited in homes, schools and the community.

11. This neglect of children's protection and care will have a serious impact on DFID's ability to contribute towards strategies agreed at the MDG summit. This can be illustrated by focusing in particular on DFID's stated commitment to working in fragile conflict affected states, to improving the lives of women and girls, and to reducing infant mortality:

- (a) *Conflict and responding to climate change*: conflict and increasing natural disasters as a result of climate change, dramatically increase the likelihood of parental separation, either in the chaos surrounding the immediate aftermath of an emergency, or as result of longer term coping strategies.

If DFID are serious about helping fragile and conflict affected states as part of achieving the MDGs, they need to factor in the impacts of parental separation, abuse and exploitation on children's health, education, and survival.

- (b) *Improving the lives of women and girls*: Gender inequity is both a cause and consequence of abuses of children's protective rights. Within families, girls are more likely to face neglect and sexual abuse than boys. Girls can be pushed away from their families through early exposure to forced marriage or trafficking, and the low value given to girls in some cultures can make them more vulnerable to child abandonment. Once living away from families and communities, girls living on the streets, with husbands or with employers are commonly exposed to gender based violence. If the Government want to address gender inequality, they must ensure that in addition to access to jobs or schools, protection against gender based violence starts at an early age, and this means investing in proper systems for children's protection and care.
- (c) *Infant and maternal mortality*: The widespread and growing use of residential care continues to make millions of young children more vulnerable to an early death. Stopping sexual abuse and preventing early marriage is essential for reducing risky early motherhood, when rates of maternal and infant mortality are high. Girls aged under 15 are five times more likely to die than those aged over 20, and babies born to mothers aged under 18 are 60% more likely to die in the first year than those born to older mothers. Again, if the Government really want to reduce infant and maternal mortality, they must make greater efforts to keep children safe and protected in family-based care.

THE OPPORTUNITY FOR A RENEWED FOCUS ON CHILD RIGHTS IN THE POST 2015 FRAMEWORK

12. As noted in the recommendations listed below, there is much that the Government and international community can do in the next five years to ensure more effective and equitable progress against the MDGs. However, it is also important to look beyond 2015 to the post MDG framework. EveryChild believes that the Government must play a pivotal role in ensuring that the current lack of attention to protection and care is included in this framework.

13. Currently there are no indicators in the MDGs in areas such as the number of children without parental care, child abuse, child labour or numbers of children in harmful residential care. The absence of such indicators helps to perpetuate their general neglect in global and national level policies and resource allocations. Currently, minute proportions of budget are allocated to children's protection (eg 0.035% in India) and as noted above, these issues are not mainstreamed into the policies of donors such as DFID.

14. The impact of such neglect is seen in the rising numbers of children outside of parental care, many of whom live on the streets without any protection, or in harmful residential care.

15. The MDGs have been noted to have other problems, including being "equity blind" paying no attention to who is benefitting from gains in health, education or poverty alleviation. Children outside of parental care and facing abuse, neglect or exploitation are amongst the most vulnerable and hard-to-reach, and focusing attention on these groups would go some way to ensuring that a post MDG framework benefitted those most in need.

16. With its leading and respected role in the international development arena, and its stated commitment to reaching the most vulnerable and discriminated against, the Government is well-placed to ensure that the post-MDG agenda addresses the current gaps and shortfalls of the current MDGs by promoting greater attention equity and rights, and in particular to children's rights to protection and care.

Written evidence submitted by the International AIDS Vaccine Initiative (IAVI)

IAVI would like to thank the International Development Select Committee for the opportunity to submit written evidence and hopes this document acts as an informative contribution to their inquiry.

KEY OUTCOMES FROM THE SUMMIT

1. Two keys outcomes were adopted at the 2010 UN Summit on the Millennium Development Goals (MDG), namely the "outcome document"¹⁵—which includes an action agenda for achieving the Goals by 2015—and the UN Secretary General's Global Strategy for Women's and Children's Health¹⁶ which aims to save the lives of more than 16 million women and children by intensifying efforts toward attaining MDGs 4 and 5 (to reduce child mortality and improve maternal health).

2. IAVI is encouraged by the commitments made and welcomes the renewed focus expressed in both documents on the health of women and children as a central element to the achievement of all the development goals. Progress in maternal and child health is closely interconnected with the goal of combating HIV and AIDS (MDG 6). Globally AIDS is the leading cause of death among women of

¹⁵ UN General Assembly, 65th session. "Draft resolution referred to the High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly at its sixty-fourth session". *Keeping the promise: united to achieve the Millennium Development Goals*. 17 September 2010.

¹⁶ UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon. 2010. *Global Strategy for Women's and Children's Health*.

reproductive age with more than 800,000 maternal deaths linked to HIV. In several African countries AIDS is the leading cause of death among infants and young children—each year nearly 400,000 children in Africa are born with HIV^{17, 18}

3. The links between women's health and HIV and their disproportionate vulnerability to infection are impossible to overlook. Interestingly, research findings recently published in the *AIDS* journal, suggest that malaria, and other common African infections, may make women more susceptible to HIV and AIDS than they are in the developed world. The study found immune cells in the genital tract are more activated in African women. Researchers believe these findings may shed new light on why HIV infection rates are so high in Africa.¹⁹

4. At a high-level side event held during the Summit and hosted by UNAIDS, world leaders agreed that sustainable progress towards global goals to end poverty and ensuring healthy societies will not be achieved without synergy between AIDS and other health and development initiatives. A new publication from the United Nations Development Programme which was launched at this event, advocates this "AIDS plus MDGs" approach. The publication highlights the need to rethink the relationship between HIV and the MDGs, and outlines three important elements: understanding how HIV and the other MDGs impact one another; exchanging programmatic lessons across HIV and the other MDGs; and, creating synergy and increasing cost-effectiveness through strategies that simultaneously address HIV and other MDGs.²⁰ These developments have important implications for maternal and child health, and highlight the need to take a comprehensive approach in tackling the challenges ahead.

5. A recent publication from the World Health Organisation (WHO), UNAIDS, and UNICEF entitled *Towards Universal Access* highlights implications for public policy in relation to sustaining commitments to the fight against HIV and AIDS and the necessity of these in securing future progress toward the MDGs. The report states that "while the response to other global health priorities must be further strengthened, this must happen in addition to, not instead of, a continued and increasing commitment to HIV." It goes on to say "that despite encouraging progress made in expanding access to HIV testing, prevention, treatment and care in low—and middle-income countries—global targets for HIV prevention, treatment, care and support are unlikely to be achieved in 2010. This has important implications for a range of MDGs beyond those specifically related to HIV, such as MDGs 4 and 5, with targets related to child and maternal health".²¹

6. IAVI would like to take this opportunity to emphasise how the increasing impact of HIV on women and children reflects the real need to support the development of an AIDS vaccine in order to save the lives of mothers and newborns. This is echoed in the Summit's outcome document which commits to accelerating progress in MDG 6 through "significantly intensifying prevention efforts" and "the empowerment of women and adolescent girls so as to increase their capacity to protect themselves from the risk of HIV infection".

7. The document also highlights the need for new prevention technologies in several instances: it stipulates that HIV prevention programmes "should promote policies that ensure effective prevention and accelerate research and development into new tools for prevention, including microbicides and vaccines" and also states a commitment to accelerating progress in promoting global public health for all through "enhancing public-private partnerships for health-care service delivery, encouraging the development of new and affordable technologies and their innovative application and developing new and affordable vaccines and medicines needed, in particular, in developing countries".

8. IAVI is pleased to see well deserved attention being given to new prevention technologies such as the development of an AIDS vaccine in not only the outcome document but the Strategy as well. IAVI agrees and fully advocates the messages captured in the Strategy document that technological innovations can also play a critical role in relation to achieving the MDGs. The Global Strategy quite rightly places emphasis on the value and importance of coordinated research and innovation, and the role of public-private partnerships in accelerating the development of new vaccines, drugs and technologies.

9. Research and development for new, innovative health tools are essential to achieve the MDGs and enable more equitable and sustainable improvements across health services and health outcomes. Previous investments in research to develop new vaccines, drugs, diagnostics, and other tools have led to some of the greatest advances in global health to date, saving countless lives and resulting in billions of dollars in cost savings.

10. While the ultimate goal of AIDS Vaccine Research & Development is the widespread distribution of effective, preventive vaccines, it still produces several secondary benefits especially in developing countries. The development of new health prevention technologies will accelerate progress towards the MDGs, notably to combat diseases such as AIDS, reduce poverty and child mortality, and improve maternal health. Most importantly, it contributes to building capacity for science, technology and innovation (ST&I) in developing countries which can also help accelerate economic growth and development.

¹⁷ Wakabi, W. 2010. Africa faces an uphill struggle to reach the MDGs. *The Lancet*, 376 (9745), p.944.

¹⁸ McEnery, R. 2010. Spotlight: An Interview with Michel Sidibé. *IAVI Report: VAX* 8 (4)

¹⁹ Cohen, C R. 2010. Increased levels of immune activation in the genital tract of healthy young women from sub-Saharan Africa. *AIDS*, 24 (13), p.2069–2074.

²⁰ UNDP. 2010. *The "AIDS and MDGs" Approach: What it is, why does it matter, and how do we take it forward?*

²¹ WHO, UNAIDS, and UNICEF. 2010. *Towards Universal Access: Scaling up priority HIV/AIDS Intervention in the health sector*, Progress Report 2010.

11. It's worth noting that a lot of the key points highlighted above are conveyed in the text of the Summit's outcome document. Despite this, it's important to stress that when it comes to putting the words into action and implementing the strategy it is imperative that Member States uphold their commitments and recognise the impact HIV has on maternal and child health. IAVI strongly advocates the gains that can be made across the health-related MDGs from scaling-up and strengthening a range of HIV prevention approaches that must be available to meet women's and girls' varied needs and preferences.

DFID'S ROLE IN DELIVERING AGREED STRATEGIES

12. The UK announced at the Summit that it is committed to doubling the number of maternal, newborn and children's lives saved and the Department for International Development (DFID) will set out how it aims to increase efforts up to 2015 in a new Business Plan for Reproductive Maternal and Newborn Health. The UK pledged to provide an annual average of £740 million (US\$1.1 billion) for maternal, newborn and child health from 2010 to 2015—an additional spending of £2.1 billion over this period. IAVI commends the UK Government for its commitment and leadership to improving the health of women and children.

13. As expressed in the Summit's outcome document, the fulfillment of ODA pledges are crucial. Therefore, IAVI is delighted that the UK government aims to honour their commitments and urges DFID to ensure their efforts to address maternal and child health in their new Business Plan takes a comprehensive and integrated approach—one that prioritises strengthening the response to HIV and AIDS and acknowledges that stopping the spread of HIV is a prerequisite to reaching most of the other MDGs. IAVI recommends that this approach encompasses vaccine development, and the scaling-up and strengthening of a range of HIV prevention approaches including prevention of mother-to-child transmission (PMTCT) services.

14. We are witnessing much success in tackling HIV infections rates²²—which have reportedly dropped by 25% in some of the worst-hit countries in the region—and tremendous progress is being made in HIV Vaccine Research with a so-called “renaissance in HIV Vaccine Development”^{23, 24} However, it would be regrettable if, for these reasons, AIDS funding was to be seen to be dropped from the agenda. Unless political and financial commitments are sustained, the recent gains made will be reversed.²⁵ The report “Towards Universal Access” from the WHO, UNICEF and UNAIDS states that “reduced funding for HIV services not only risks undoing the gains of the past years, but also greatly jeopardizes the achievement of other Millennium Development Goals, especially those related to maternal and child health”.²⁶

15. There is a need for long-term sustainable funding in HIV Vaccine Research and Development (R&D), and the UK government has a key role to play in supporting this agenda. It's important that DFID integrates research into their strategic business plans and acknowledges the importance of fostering more innovation, especially at the early stages of AIDS vaccine R&D, in forging a comprehensive approach to global health challenges and specifically in achieving their goal to improve maternal and newborn health.

16. IAVI would be pleased to receive an assurance of long-term political commitment from the UK Government in supporting the search for new and better prevention options, and ultimately developing a preventive AIDS Vaccine which is effective, safe and accessible to women and girls. This will positively contribute towards the MDGs responsible for improving women's and children's health.

Written evidence submitted by International Alert

REPLACING THE MDGS WITH A BETTER FRAMEWORK

SUMMARY

In this submission, we focus on looking ahead to after the MDG deadline of 2015, and:

- Explain why the MDGs provide an inadequate framework for setting goals and measuring progress, and for accountability.
- Welcome the recent MDG Review Summit's decision to create a new development framework for use after 2015, and encourage the UK to play a major role.
- Suggest an approach for creating the new framework, emphasising diverse participation and objectivity, and ensuring a greater degree of analytical rigour.
- Provide an example of what such a framework would look like and how it would be used.

²² Beaumont, P. 2010. Millennium Development Goals: Fight against Aids hit by \$10 billion shortfall. *The Observer*. 19 September 2010.

²³ IRIN. 2010. An HIV vaccine is within sight but the field is threatened by funding cuts: Progress has been made but AIDS prevention hinges on collaboration. *The Guardian*. 27 September 2010.

²⁴ Koff, W C and Berkley, S F. 2010. The Renaissance of HIV Vaccine Development—Future Directions. *The New England Journal of Medicine*.

²⁵ Lancet and London International Development Centre Commission. 2010. The Millennium Development Goals: a cross-sectoral analysis and principles for goal setting after 2015. *The Lancet*, p.9

²⁶ WHO, UNAIDS, and UNICEF. 2010. Towards Universal Access: Scaling up priority HIV/AIDS Intervention in the health sector, Progress Report 2010.

- Set out criteria against which to judge the fitness for purpose of other frameworks likely to be developed or proposed.

BACKGROUND

1. An important outcome of the MDG Review Summit in September 2010 was the decision to define a new framework within which the international community can plan and measure development progress, post-2015. The UK is a leader in the development sector, and is widely listened to on development issues. Indeed, its leadership role in international development has become one of the factors which define the UK's role and status in a changing world. It is therefore important for HMG and the British development sector more broadly to be in the forefront of thinking about the right framework to replace the MDGs after 2015.

2. International Alert is a British NGO, building peace in over 20 countries since 1985, and conducting policy advocacy with governments, intergovernmental organisations and businesses, based on lessons we have learned through our work in the field. In the past we have successfully argued for peacebuilding to be adopted as an integral element of overseas development assistance (ODA) policy and strategies. Much of our advocacy is now focused on helping ODA institutions to implement peacebuilding effectively. This is a short submission, responding to the Committee's expressed interest in looking ahead to after the MDG deadline of 2015, and we would welcome the chance to provide more detail in oral testimony to the Committee.

3. In the run-up to the MDG Summit we published a report (*Working with the Grain to Change the Grain: Moving Beyond the MDGs*),²⁷ outlining the inadequacy of the MDGs as a mechanism for setting and measuring targets for ODA, and proposing an improved model. The problem with the MDGs is that they are:

- Too narrow, missing many of the critical elements of development, such as governance, human rights and security.
- Too technical, missing the political and societal change which is at the heart of human progress, and failing to provide a theory of change which withstands rigorous scrutiny.
- Top-down, setting global goals and targets, when development happens locally.

4. As such, the MDGs have been acting as perverse incentives, limiting and at times preventing a holistic, societal, political and locally-owned approach to ODA. This is particularly important in conflict-affected or fragile contexts, where even the most well-meaning ODA programmes can do as much harm as good, especially if they are not tailored to the local political context. It is widely accepted that it is in such contexts that development assistance is most needed, and has had the least impact so far, indicating that a new approach is needed.

5. Ironically, given the apolitical nature of the MDGs, one of the reasons for their inherent weakness is in fact political. While the MDGs are often treated as though they represent an intellectual foundation for development policy and practice, they are in fact the flawed product of a political compromise, in which the UN sought to identify a set of development indicators to which over 150 diverse governments could sign up. Inevitably, this resulted in a set of depoliticised goals and a weakened framework which guided policy makers and practitioners in the direction of politically palatable themes and targets, and away from an objective and forensic analytical search for the best ways to achieve sustainable impact. Curiously, the Millennium Declaration, agreed to in 2000 at the UN, was much more far-reaching, and set out a much broader vision which is largely ignored and ill-served by the MDGs. For example in addition to poverty reduction it embraced governance, peace, security, and human rights.

6. The MDGs are a symptom of problems which undermine the ODA sector and its institutions more generally. The search for international agreement between widely differing political perspectives, while important, has begun to stand in the way of clear and critical thinking about how people make progress—ie how development happens. The development discourse has been bowdlerised; lacking in any ideological component, for fear of provoking disagreement. This leads to ill-thought through development policies and practices, which therefore fail the people they are designed to help.

7. As an illustration of ways in which the MDG framework pulls agencies in the wrong direction, the OECD-DAC's peer review of UK ODA earlier this year chided DFID for drifting too far from the MDGs.

A PROCESS TO REPLACE THE MDGs, POST-2015

8. Discussions about the post-2015 framework should start from a basis of clear and logical thinking, rather than taking the already compromised MDGs as their starting point. We need to go back to basics and ask what we really mean by development, and look at how development has happened in the past, to learn how it might happen in the future and therefore what the institutions of ODA, including DFID and other UK agencies, and the multilaterals the UK supports, should be aiming to achieve, and how.

9. This means that the discussion process should include a diverse set of perspectives, including not only development sector specialists from rich and poor countries, and members of civil society from diverse developing country environments, economists and technical specialists, but also politicians, the media,

²⁷ <http://www.international-alert.org/pdf/MDG.pdf>.

historians, anthropologists, and others. While this is clearly a global discussion, it makes sense for the UK to hold its own discussion at an early stage in the process, using the political and civil society mechanisms at our disposal, to determine if there is a “UK position” which we can contribute to the broader global debate. While a UK position as such may be unobtainable or even ultimately unnecessary, we believe this process would highlight the liberal and democratic values inherent in the UK, and that these values are critical to the global debate and to the framework itself. Many of the ideas contained in DFID’s 2009 White Paper, in subsequent DFID policy papers on Statebuilding and Peacebuilding and in the International Development Secretary’s recent speech to the Royal College of Defence Studies have a major contribution to make, especially concerning the need to engage more politically to support development in fragile contexts. As parliamentarians the Select Committee has an important role to play.

10. The task is no less than to reframe the development discourse and within this to establish a redefined development narrative and a new global framework to replace the MDGs when they expire in 2015. This will tell the story of how human societies have developed, are developing and can develop further in the future. To avoid repeating the problems associated with the MDGs, it is important that this narrative achieves a better balance between political expediency and analytical rigour than was the case with the MDGs. The first step must be to create an analytically rigorous model. Once this is established, it can be used as the basis for a more political framework, but there should be no confusion between the two. This new framework can then be used by governments, NGOs, intergovernmental bodies and others, in line with the OECD’s exhortation to take the context as the starting point, to inspire local, national, regional and where appropriate, global goals and measures of progress.

A NEW FRAMEWORK FOR DEVELOPMENT

11. In our recent report cited above, we suggested a model or framework for this new narrative, based on a vision of a world in which people can resolve their differences without violence, while continuing to make equitable social and economic progress, and without lessening the opportunities for their neighbours or future generations to do the same. This vision would be both enabled and recognisable by five core factors (as shown in the right-hand column in the figure below), underpinned by a self-reinforcing set of values and institutions; and we suggest how societies have in the past made the transition towards this vision, giving clues as to how others may do so, and how such processes can be catalysed and helped (shown in the left-hand column of the diagram below). It is notable that, while the MDGs do fit within this model, they make up a very small part of it. This is not surprising: if one were asked to write a history of the development of the UK for example, it is not likely that one would choose to write it solely in terms of the MDGs.



The path of progress towards a vision in which people are able to resolve their differences without violence, while continuing to make equitable social and economic progress, and without lessening the opportunities for their neighbours or future generations to do the same. Key processes which contribute to and build on the institutions and values which enable development are shown on the left of this model; these lead eventually towards the vision of progress represented by the factors on the right of the diagram. While the vision provides a guide, it is elements such as those on the left that need to be led, catalysed or supported by those seeking to promote human progress.

12. We make no claim that our model is perfectly fit for purpose. Indeed, it is important not to make too strong a claim for a single all-encompassing development model, lest the problems of the MDGs repeat themselves. More, honest debate is what is needed and there must be room for diverse, even contradictory perspectives. But it is important to create a common framework within which different perspectives can be compared, and which can be used to inspire progress and hold development actors accountable for their actions and progress. Learning from the errors of the MDGs, we recommend that this common framework should have certain minimum characteristics, ie that it should:

- Be vision-based, ie contain a comprehensive idea of what developed societies look like, so that ODA programmes and policies can be judged on their contribution towards this vision.

- Describe how societies have transformed and can transform—ie, make progress towards the vision.
- Explain the role of values and institutions in the process of change and in the vision itself.
- Be analytically sound.
- Have room for ideology—ideas about how and why changes happen—to help judge whether the process and outcomes of change are good ones or not.
- Be true to the idea of enabling change as contained in the Millennium Declaration: ie, “promote and create global and national environments conducive to development and to the eradication of poverty, and make sufficient resources available”. This is in recognition that development is a mainly endogenous process of change happening at multiple inter-related levels within society, requiring leadership and effective relationships and negotiation; and one that can be influenced, but not wrought, by external forces and an external enabling environment.
- Acknowledge the fundamental importance of subsidiarity, ie that decisions and actions are taken at the lowest appropriate level, within a framework which is set at the highest appropriate level; ie be expected to take context as the starting point, as recommended by the OECD-DAC.
- Make clear the difference between the vision, and the means or strategies needed to get there. This means, for example, disentangling humanitarian from development outcomes and processes—ie make clear the difference between humanitarian outcomes such as providing basic services to people in fragile contexts, and true development milestones that are the markers of progress towards the vision.
- Recognise the complexities and nuanced nature of development, and find ways to communicate these publicly as simply as possible.

13. This new framework needs to be substantially completed by 2014, in time for the establishment of a new guiding framework to replace the MDGs.

7 October 2010

Written Evidence submitted by the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF)

1. The International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF) welcomes the opportunity to submit written evidence to the International Development Committee Inquiry into the 2010 Millennium Development Goal Review Summit. IPPF is a global service provider and a leading advocate for sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR). Through national organizations, we work in over 170 countries. The evidence in this submission will focus in particular on issues related to SRHR within the context of all the MDGs.

2. IPPF was an active participant at the MDG Summit (and one of very few civil society participants). IPPF’s Director-General participated in Roundtable 2 on Health and Education

KEY OUTCOMES FROM THE SUMMIT

3. The two key outcomes of the 2010 High-Level Review Summit on the MDGs were the High Level Plenary Meeting Outcome Document and the Secretary-General’s Global Strategy on Women’s and Children’s Health. IPPF welcomes the fact that the MDG Summit Outcome Document recognizes the importance of MDG 5, the most off-track of all MDGs, for achieving the MDGs. MDG5b—universal access to reproductive health—agreed to at the 2005 Review Summit is also critical to the attainment of the MDGs overall. IPPF welcomes the 2010 Outcome Document as more progressive than that agreed in 2005, largely due to the strong political consensus that prevailed on issues such as reproductive health at this year’s Summit.

4. MDG 5b recognizes that the health and well-being of women and their children is influenced significantly by the health, knowledge and choices available to women and men while they are adolescents and during times that they may be in a sexual relationship, but are not and do not wish to become pregnant. We welcome the link recognised between MDG5b and other development goals especially including reducing maternal mortality and morbidity.

5. From a civil society perspective, IPPF is disappointed that civil society did not have a more significant role—access or voice—in the MDG Summit itself, or in the negotiations of the Outcome Document.

6. Overall IPPF is disappointed with the content of the Outcome Document in providing a bold and progressive agenda for change. We believe that this will hinder, not help, Member States achieve the MDGs. The Outcome Document fails to recognise the significance of unsafe abortion and lack of access to safe legal abortion services as key causes in the deaths of over 70,000 women annually. Almost 20 million unsafe abortions take place every year and worldwide eight million women experience complications from abortion, but only five million receive the necessary care.²⁸

²⁸ “Unsafe abortions: eight maternal deaths every hour”, IPPF, 19 October 2009 at <http://www.ippf.org/en/News/Intl+news/Unsafe+abortions+eight+maternal+deaths+every+hour.htm>

7. The Outcome Document fails to give sufficient weight to the human rights of women and girls and specifically their sexual and reproductive rights. This is especially disappointing in light of existing commitments made by Member States at the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) and elsewhere. It is important that the UK/EC take a lead role in championing rights in the future.

8. The Outcome Document gives minimal recognition to young people and girls. This reflects the lack of visibility in the MDGs of young people, who we all recognise as essential for sustainable development. There are at present 1.8 billion young people representing the largest generation of young people ever. If their needs and priorities are neglected then it will be impossible to make meaningful and lasting progress towards the attainment of the MDGs. One-third of the total disease burden in adults can be attributed to behaviours or events from adolescence, including smoking, exposure to violence, mental illness and unsafe sex²⁹. Adolescent girls account for just over one-tenth of births worldwide and they experience a disproportionate burden of disease due to pregnancy related conditions (23%). In addition close to 40% of all new HIV infections are among young people. Complications from pregnancy and childbirth are the leading cause of death in young women aged 15 to 19 in developing countries. The Outcome Document on MDG 5 takes a very narrow focus on methods of family planning without recognizing that a considerable proportion of maternal mortalities occur in adolescent girls. This is compounded by a lack of reference and understanding in the Outcome Document to the impact of violence against women and the lack of gender equity.

9. The Outcome Document falls short in regard to previously agreed UN consensus adopted in Cairo (International Conference on Population and Development 1994) and reinforced at the UN's Commission for Population and Development in 2009 in recognising the importance of safe abortion, comprehensive sexuality education and the protection of human rights. The MDG Outcome Document may inadvertently serve to undermine its own vision and goals.

10. The second key outcome from the Summit was the Secretary-General's Global Strategy on Women's and Children's Health. This is a plan to fast track progress on MDGs 4 and 5. IPPF welcomes the Global Strategy on Women's and Children's Health as a bold attempt to address the off track targets for MDGs 4 and 5, and in supporting SRHR. The Global Strategy on Women's and Children's Health has successfully mobilized donors, national governments, the private sector and civil society to make a range of commitments which will accelerate progress towards improving women and children's health. IPPF welcomes this as a strategy to ensure that MDG5 is adequately financed. It is vital that these are monitored and those making major commitments are held to account by a strong and independent mechanism.

11. IPPF is delighted by the positive commitments to funding maternal health in this Global Strategy. However, it is unclear how much of this funding is actually new.

12. Given the role of civil society in contributing to and providing health services in many countries, it is important that civil society is involved in the implementation of the GSWACH. Plans for implementation need to recognise the plurality of service provision and the service delivery and advocacy role of civil society groups.

13. IPPF supports the Global Strategy and has pledged, amongst other commitments offered, to contribute to meeting the needs of the 215 million women with unmet need for contraception by increasing the number of new users of IPPF contraceptive services by at least 50% by 2015, and at least doubling the number of unintended pregnancies averted. Full details of IPPF's pledges to help reach the goal of the Global Strategy can be forwarded on request.

DFID'S ROLE IN DELIVERING AGREED STRATEGIES

14. The UK, through DFID, has set out a bold pledge to double the number of women and children's lives saved. To achieve this, the UK will provide an annual average of UK£740 million (US\$1.1 billion) for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health from 2010 to 2015. This means that the UK will spend an additional UK£2.1 billion on Maternal, Newborn and Child Health during this period. IPPF strongly welcomes this commitment which adds an additional UK£1.6 billion to the commitment of UK£490 million made by the UK for 2010 and 2011 at the Muskoka Summit held in Canada earlier this year.

15. IPPF warmly welcomes DFID's new commitment to maternal, newborn and child health but would emphasise the importance of making clear the mechanisms by which the UK additional funding pledge will be delivered, and whether it will form part of amounts directed to the Global Fund on AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria.

16. IPPF applauds the UK government for stating at the Summit that it is "proud to be boosting our contribution to the international drive on maternal and infant health. Our new commitments will save the lives of 50,000 mothers and quarter of a million babies by 2015."

²⁹ WHO (2008) 10 facts on adolescent health. Available at: http://www.who.int/features/factfiles/adolescent_health/en/index.html. Accessed 13 May 2009.

17. IPPF looks forward to DFID maintaining a leadership role as a global champion on SRHR at all levels to ensure the agreed strategies for prioritising MDGs 4 and 5 are implemented. DFID is well placed to help ensure other governments prioritise and meet their commitments to health.

18. As Rt. Hon Andrew Mitchell MP, Secretary of State for International Development, stated at the Annual Ministerial Review of the ECOSOC in July 2010, the place of women and girls in development is impossible to overstate. He stated that the MDGs can only be achieved if there is a renewed focus on gender equality and women's empowerment and that there was a need to shine a spotlight on women's health and equality. He added that "improving reproductive health is the lynch pin of poverty eradication". IPPF strongly concurs with and supports this view.

19. IPPF looks to the UK to ensure continuing progression of global policy norms that have relevance to public health outcomes and women's rights. An early opportunity will be the 2011 UN Commission on Population and Development, which has as its priority theme "Fertility, reproductive health and development". DFID must also play a key role in any post-Summit accountability framework to ensure that commitments and pledges to deliver Summit outcomes by member states, UN agencies, civil society organizations and the private sector are implemented and monitored rigorously. One such arena for this could be the Annual Ministerial Review of the ECOSOC which in recent years has reviewed progress on the health MDGs (2009) and gender equality and the empowerment of women (2010).

THE ROLE OF THE UN, THE WORLD BANK, THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION AND NGOS IN SECURING AND DELIVERING SUMMIT OUTCOMES, AND HOW THESE ORGANISATIONS WILL BE HELD ACCOUNTABLE FOR ACHIEVING THEM

20. Civil society was not allowed to contribute to the outcomes of the MDGs in any meaningful or effective way. An event entitled the "Informal Interactive Hearings of the General Assembly with Non-governmental organizations, Civil Society Organizations and the Private Sector" was held at the UN in June 2010. This gave a voice to civil society, though mainly to those from the North as the prohibitive costs of travelling to the UN in New York is often beyond that of southern based NGOs. Unfortunately, the lack of importance attached to the voice of civil society by member states was reflected in the small number of senior government delegates present at the hearings. The Outcome Document of these hearings was an official General Assembly document and was distributed to member states by the President of the General Assembly who asked that member states take its findings into consideration throughout the negotiation process. However, it is clear that it had very little weight or influence on the negotiation process—despite the recognition that civil society has a key role in delivering the programmes and services required to achieve the MDGs. In addition, it should be noted that the Outcome Document was drafted by UN entities without any consultation from the constituencies represented at the CSO Hearings.

21. It should be noted that one of the key roles of civil society is to hold governments to account. However this is difficult if civil society is unable to participate meaningfully in the relevant forums. There was very little space for civil society to participate at the MDG Summit. Only 25 Observer passes were made available to ECOSOC accredited NGOs (of which there are in excess of 3,000) and civil society only had four spaces on each of the six roundtables, each of which included 50 member state representatives. The importance of civil society seemed to be further relegated at the Roundtables as often CSOs were called at the end of these sessions and the time given to address participants was reduced from three minutes to one due to lack of time. To compound this lack of civil society representation further, the UK unlike a number of countries, offered no space for civil society to participate on its official delegation to the Summit. However, the NGO coordinating body BOND did facilitate two meetings between the Secretary of State and NGOs, and the Deputy Prime Minister, the Secretary of State and BOND Members. We were very grateful that these opportunities were made available by the government, and also appreciate the meeting with DFID to discuss the role of the UK at the Summit prior to the UN meeting itself.

22. DFID has stated that it will compile a list of all commitments made at the Summit by member states, foundations, civil society and the private sector. This list will help DFID hold governments and other bodies to account for the commitments they have made. We welcome this. There is a current lack of data on the mechanisms used by member states to report on their achievements for attaining the MDGs. This process needs clarifying.

23. The UN in conjunction with developing countries must provide the policy advice and data required to ensure the MDGs are met. Data, and especially appropriately disaggregated data is essential if policies and plans of action can focus using evidence on reaching the targets and goals in the MDGs. The World Bank too must ensure that its policy advice and funding is focused on prioritising the achievement of the MDGs, along with European Commission, the largest global development donor of all.

THE ROLE OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES IN SECURING AND DELIVERING SUMMIT OUTCOMES

24. Developing countries must be encouraged to work within the MDG framework and ensure that national health and poverty reduction strategies reflect the need to make progress towards achieving the goals by the 2015 deadline. While recognizing that donors cannot impose conditionalities and ensure that aid is untied, is harmonized and predictable and in line with the Paris declaration, they may need to remind

partner governments of the many promises that have already been made—for example, at the UNGASS, Beijing, Cairo and the Millennium Summit. And partner governments need to ensure expenditure on areas such as reproductive health is available when the funding is provided expressly for this.

25. As such, the MDG framework should be a major development priority for developing countries which must administer development assistance in a way that is accountable and transparent and ensure that national budgets on health, infrastructure, education and basic services are prioritized. Donor and recipient priorities should be jointly focused on achieving the MDGs. While Health Systems strengthening will improve many important areas, many of the fundamental barriers to health and to broader development are linked to a continuing paradigm of gender inequity.

LOOKING AHEAD TO AFTER THE MDG DEADLINE OF 2015

26. United Nations agencies with full member state support, must review the MDGs, both individually and collectively at periodic intervals to ensure satisfactory progress is made against each of the MDGs, with particular emphasis on the most off-track goals. A joint and concerted effort is required to identify what does and does not work and to find as many innovative models, especially in light of the decline in resources available. There needs to be a collective focus on meeting the goals, even if we know not all of them will be met. Data is needed on best practices and efficiencies, especially in order to best formulate the next development agenda after 2015. Civil Society should be involved in meaningful discussions about this. We in IPPF have placed on record at the CPD that any new framework should pay greater attention to rights, youth, reproductive health and civil society engagement.

Written evidence submitted by the Local Government Association for England and Wales

1. LOCAL GOVERNMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

1.1 The LGA recognises the significant needs of local government and their communities in the developing world, as well as the two-way benefits of international engagement. We offer to support the UK Department for International Development (DFID) in responding to the MDGs and in addressing a new global development framework beyond 2015. In particular, to support:

- The reform of aid—to ensure aid programmes take greater account of their localised impact and are more locally specific in their design. Greater inclusion of local government and their communities in aid development and delivery will improve relevance, ownership and sustained results.
- The delivery of aid—through decentralised cooperation with local government partners internationally, we will work at regional, national and local levels to help deliver the different MDGs locally.

1.2 In the further scrutiny of the effectiveness of DFID and that of its associate agencies, we invite the Select Committee to take greater account of:

- the inclusion of local government actors, local context and priorities in the development and implementation of policy and in-country programmes.
- the localised impact of DFID bilateral and multi-lateral development assistance programmes in assessment of aid effectiveness.

The following paper outlines our response more specifically in relation to each of the Select Committee's questions.

2. DFID'S ROLE IN DELIVERING AGREED STRATEGIES

2.1 We welcome the lead role that the UK Department for International Development (DFID) played in the Summit to seek to ensure that sufficient levels Official Development Assistance (ODA) from donor agencies to help deliver and incentivise the enhanced achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

2.2 We further welcome the emphasis that DFID has placed on addressing those MDG targets that are not progressing, particularly in relation to food security, gender equality, access to maternal and child health care, and education.

2.3 We also welcome that DFID has recognised local government as a key delivery partner, and would like to encourage the department to take a more practical and strategic approach to how it engages with the sector to support this view.

"We agree that local government can play a crucial role in accelerating progress on the MDGs,"
DFID response to LGA letter regarding the Summit, 30 Sept 2010.

2.4 The LGA has long emphasised the critical role that should be played by the local government sector in poverty reduction and basic service delivery, noting that local government is at the front line of delivery of basic services and community engagement. We have also called for reform in aid programmes to better fit local priorities and capacities. In many developing countries this has not been possible, however, not necessarily due to a lack of powers or responsibility but rather due to a paucity of financial powers and resources, weak institutional frameworks and technical capacity.

2.5 Examination of the final draft resolution to the MDG Summit in September 2010 highlights a number of areas where local government will have a role to play in responding to the next phase of initiatives focusing on delivering the MDGs. The introductory elements of the agreement highlight broad themes relating to the local government role and capacity needs, in terms of:

- Local government inclusion in “national development efforts” (para 17)—through their “broad consultation and participation” (para 36), seeking to achieve the MDGs and support “sustainable prosperity” (para 5) by 2015.
- Promoting universal access to basic services (23.f)—including better implementation and investment, through mobilizing domestic resources, as well as public-private partnerships (23.q and 39).
- Improving capacity to deliver quality services equitably and reduce exclusion and discrimination (23.g and 23.k)—especially to enhance opportunities for women and girls (23.l), to support community-led strategies’ and ensure “full” participation in decision-making (23.e and 23.i), to implement social policies and programmes, as well as build statistical capacity (23.s), including to support enhanced data for rapid impact and vulnerability analyses (para 69).

2.6 There are numerous references in the Summit agreement that will require local government involvement their delivery in relation to each of the MDGs (See Annex 1. of this paper for the full references):

<i>Resolution section</i>	<i>Issue</i>
MDG 1—Poverty	Mitigate social and economic impacts of poverty and hunger Stimulating opportunities for young people Agricultural sustainability
MDG 2—Primary education	Providing education and learning for all children
MDG 3—Gender equality	Women’s empowerment through social and economic policies Women in decision-making Gender responsive public management
Global public health	Health-care service delivery
MDG 5—Maternal health	Addressing the root causes of maternal mortality
MDG 6—HIV/AIDS, malaria etc	Delivery of prevention programmes
MDG 7—Environmental sustainability	Desertification Forest management Biodiversity conservation Energy Climate change Waste management Sustainable production and consumption Drinking water and sanitation Cities without slums National—local coordination
MDG 8—Global partnership	Transparency in financial information

2.7 DFID, along with other donors, has continued to fail to target local government strengthening, resulting in a lack of sustainable local architecture to deliver services on the ground. Localising the MDGs will be critical to address, not only the Slum target under MDG 7, but for achievement of all the MDGs. Establishing a democratically accountable local government is vital, one that is equipped to work in partnership with local actors to deliver core services to all its local citizens, especially the poorest.

2.8 To help achieve of the Summit commitments, the LGA asks that the Select Committee encourage DFID to better support local government in developing countries, through its bilateral and multi-lateral aid programmes. Aiming to ensure that local government can become a more effective partner in achieving self-sufficiency and less aid dependency, in partnership with and accountable to its communities.

2.9 We also ask that DFID be encouraged to directly support those activities involving international local government actors, including the LGA, that aim to help strengthen local government in developing countries in their capacity to fight poverty.

3. THE ROLE OF THE UN, THE WORLD BANK, THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION AND NGOs IN SECURING AND DELIVERING SUMMIT OUTCOMES, AND HOW THESE ORGANISATIONS WILL BE HELD ACCOUNTABLE FOR ACHIEVING THEM

3.1 It is important that Local Government is identified as a central delivery partner within each of these international agencies.

“there is now general agreement that a key part of any strategy for poverty reduction and for achievement of the Millennium Development Goals lies in improved delivery of basic public infrastructure and related services. This point has been forcefully made in ‘Investing in Development’, which calls for a major increase in funding for public investments, for poor people and in poor areas—and also calls for the rapid deployment of locally appropriate and replicable delivery systems to ensure effective absorption of funds for delivery of this infrastructure on the scale required. The Millennium Project report also endorses the now widely-held view that much of this basic infrastructure is most appropriately delivered locally, through decentralized financing, planning and delivery systems, and that local government bodies should play a key role in this.” Source: UN Capital Development Fund

3.2 The UN Development Programme has given four arguments relating to the localisation of the MDGs:

- (i) *Subsidiarity*—there are legitimate differences in spheres (levels) of government, and that issues should be dealt with by the level of government most appropriate to the nature of each issue. Specifically, subsidiarity suggests that implementation is likely to be more efficient locally because of local knowledge, sensitivity to specific local conditions, local ownership, engagement and participation.
- (ii) *Inequality*—this points to the fact that national averages tend to mask significant local variations in types and level of poverty. With, in the most extreme cases, the national averages being misleading or even meaningless. Tackling the MDGs more locally reduces this danger and the engagement of local partners allows a more equitable response to MDG challenges, focusing in on the issues and priorities specific to a particular local area.
- (iii) *Complementarity*—this case rejects the dichotomy and confrontation of national versus local, and recognises the essential linkages between national and local priorities (and, indeed, global-national-local, and vice versa). Like the subsidiarity argument, there are advantages and disadvantages attached to each level and thus greater vertical or two-way coordination is important.
- (iv) *Thematic integration*—local government has to take a holistic approach in working at the local level and delivery of MDG—related programmes. A national perspective—often linked to the structure of national government administration—may encourage the separate “silo” treatment of MDGs into gender, education, maternal health, environment etc, ignoring the fact that in practice, poor people suffer multiple aspects of deprivation. A local—and specifically a local government—perspective can better highlight the interrelatedness of different sources of disadvantage and encourages a holistic and integrated response.

Source: UNDP (2005) http://content.undp.org/go/cms-service/download/asset/?asset_id=1634559

3.3 According to UNDP Art Gold programme, most parts of the UN system work with local government in the delivery of the various agency programmes, however it is unclear where group learning/coordination of such work occurs. We hope that the “One UN” model, adopted in some countries, can be further elaborated to ensure better coherence of UN programmes that involve local government. Agencies need to be better coordinated in their responses to local government and community priorities rather than impose development priorities from the outside.

3.4 The LGA, with other European partners (Platforma—European Local and Regional authorities for development), are currently in dialogue with the European Commission DG Development and European External Action Service about improving the way that European Commission in-country delegations work with in-country actors, including local government. We are keen to ensure they consult with and include local government—national associations and member authorities—in the development, implementation and review of the Commission’s country strategy papers.

3.4 Equally, the World Bank needs to review the extent to which they adequately take account of and report on the local context, within all of their Poverty Reduction Strategies and Country Assistance Strategies. There has been progress in the inclusion of local government in some programmes, notably its Urban strategy, and specific initiatives such as the Cities Alliance. The World Bank Institute has also supported some research into this area. For example, “*Moving out of poverty: Success from the Bottom up*” by Deepa Narayan (2009, World Bank) presented the views of people living in poverty from 15 developing countries. Narayan asks the “development community” to reassess their basic assumptions, notably that “*Responsive local democracies can help reduce poverty*”. The book refers to cases of local corruption and how

democracies have been “captured by local elites”, who prevent representative responses to the real needs of local people. But it also points to communities where local governments have changed positively over time, where good leaders, free and fair elections, access to information about local government activities, and people’s participation are emerging. It is vital that learning from such activities is used to inform and impact policies, programmes and research throughout the World Bank group.

“We need global reach, with local sensitivity...Above all, we must look beyond an ‘elite retail’ model of research...We need more core data across countries and time periods on health, education, infrastructure, and gender. We need more and better data on public finance, especially at sub-national levels, which is critical for better governance.” Democratizing Development Economics, Robert B Zoellick, President, World Bank Group, 29 Sept 2010.

3.5 The LGA is seeking to work in partnership with various local government partners, as well as NGO and private sector actors who are already active in development programmes cooperation programmes to try and address this gap. We see this is a critical way forward in ensuring the “democratisation of development” programmes and in bringing more sustained results in the long-term.

3.6 We invite the Select Committee to recommend more consistent inclusion of local government actors in UN, WB and European development programmes, not only in their formulation and implementation, but also to the review impacts and effectiveness of programmes in the local sphere.

4. THE ROLE OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES IN SECURING AND DELIVERING SUMMIT OUTCOMES

4.1 There is a clear principle of partnership running throughout the Summit resolution, highlighting the need for.

“Fostering a greater level of coordination among national and local institutions responsible for economic and social development and environmental protection, including with respect to the promotion of investments relevant for sustainable development” Para 77 (o) of the MDG Summit resolution

4.2 This partnership relates to the formulation, delivery and review of national plans, as well as local development plans, and is in accordance with the Accra Agenda for Action on Aid Effectiveness (Sept 2008):

“We will engage in open and inclusive dialogue on development policies...To further this objective we will take the following actions:

- (a) *Developing country governments will work more closely with parliaments and local authorities in preparing, implementing and monitoring national development policies and plans. They will also engage with civil society organisations (CSOs).*
- (b) *Donors will support efforts to increase the capacity of all development actors—parliaments, central and local governments, CSOs, research institutes, media and the private sector—to take an active role”*

4.3 It is clear that better dialogue between central government and local government actors is needed. This should include national and regional associations of local government where they exist. These associations need to be better equipped to establish and communicate the role, capacity and needs of the LG sector and their communities, so that they can more effectively contribute to the elaboration and delivery of national development plans.

4.4 The LGA invites the Select Committee to encourage DFID in its role as advocate, promoting to developing country governments the value and mechanisms for *central-local dialogue and coordination* toward the further achievement of the MDGs.

5. BEYOND 2015

5.1 Maintaining political momentum—The UN MDG report (June 2010) indicates that poverty statistics may go backwards due to the economic downturn, food and climate crises—right up to 2020. It is therefore critical that the momentum on tackling poverty across the globe is not lost. The United Cities and Local Government (UCLG) world association has built up some strong political momentum throughout its global membership to promote the delivery of MDGs in the sector. At the UCLG World Congress in November 2010 it will look at how we can support further achievement of the MDGs in a climate of economic downturn. As such, beyond 2015, it will play a critical role in promoting Local Government engagement in poverty reduction initiatives around the globe—providing a forum for political debate, policy development and shared learning.

5.2 The Commonwealth Local Government Forum (CLGF), of which LG is also a member, is distinct in that it brings together ministries and national associations of local government, as well as individual member councils. In Cardiff, March 2011, CLGF will host Summit on “Energising local economies—partnerships for prosperous communities” providing an opportunity to further develop local-central partnerships in achieving and going beyond the MDGs.

5.3 Joint delivery—At a practical level, UCLG hosts the “Capacity and Institution Building (CIB) working group” of local government associations from various industrialised countries, including the UK, that works to support developing country partners. CIB is trailing coordinated Local Government

decentralised cooperation programmes in five developing countries: Mali, Nicaragua, Ghana, Burkina Faso and Zimbabwe. If successful, this work could be significantly expanded so that UCLG could take a clearer role in steering international Local Government engagement to bring about delivery of joint programmes in a number of developing countries. This would draw on the best competencies of local government actors from a range of countries to bring more coordinated programmes that directly support poverty reduction aims. As a member of UCLG the LGA will seek to expand their work with local government partners, and support the work of CLGF across the Commonwealth.

5.4 Urbanisation trend—The June MDG report found that “*in absolute terms, the number of slum dwellers in the developing world is actually growing, and will continue to rise in the near future*”. UN Habitat suggests that rural—urban migration is a continuing trend. Progress made on urban slums has not been sufficient to offset growth in informal settlements in the developing world. At present 50.6% of the world’s population—or 3.49 billion people—are living in urban areas. And of those, an estimated 828 million live in slum conditions, compared to 657 million in 1990. This trend is particularly the case in the more medium-sized cities in African countries.

“*Projections show that by 2030 there will be 759.4 million African urban dwellers, more than today’s total number of city dwellers in entire Western hemisphere.*” State of African Cities, UN Habitat 2008

5.5 Urban poverty programmes—The UN report called for a revised target for slum improvement to spur country-level action and final Summit resolution also called governments to go “beyond current targets”. It is clear that donors—including DFID—need to face up to this growing challenge. Donors and national governments will need to continue to address rural poverty but they must also develop targeted strategies as to how they will support urban authorities in delivering better planned, more sustainable and inclusive cities in the future.

5.6 The LGA welcomes the outcomes of the recent Select Committees inquiry into urbanisation and poverty and asks them to continue to press DFID to respond more proactively to this emerging development trend, particularly in relation to African nations.

Annex

PRINCIPAL REFERENCES TO LOCAL CONTEXT/LOCAL GOVERNMENT/PUBLIC SECTOR IN THE FINAL HIGH LEVEL RESOLUTION:

“KEEPING THE PROMISE: UNITED TO ACHIEVE THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS”

<i>Section</i>	<i>Issue</i>	<i>Reference/s</i>
Keeping the promise	Sustainable prosperity	5... We believe that eradication of poverty and hunger, as well as combating inequality at <i>all levels</i> , is essential to create a more prosperous and sustainable future for all
	Stakeholder role and contribution to MDGs	17. We call on civil society, including non-governmental organizations, voluntary associations and foundations, the private sector and <i>other relevant stakeholders at the local</i> , national, regional and global levels, to enhance their role in national development efforts as well as their contribution to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals by 2015, and <i>commit as national Governments to the inclusion of these stakeholders</i>
A mixed story	Uneven progress	20. We acknowledge that much more needs to be done in achieving the Millennium Development Goals as progress has been uneven among regions and between and <i>within countries</i> .
	Community-led development strategies	23. (e) Supporting participatory, <i>community-led strategies</i> aligned with national development priorities and strategies
	Universal access to services	23. (f) Promoting universal access to <i>public and social services</i> and providing social protection floors
	Capacity to deliver	23. (g) Improving capacity to deliver quality services equitably
	Implementing and investing in basic services	23. (h) Implementing social policies and programmes, including appropriate conditional cash-transfer programmes, and investing in <i>basic services</i> for health, education, water and sanitation
Participation in decision-making	23. (i) Ensuring the full participation of all segments of society, including the poor and disadvantaged, in decision-making processes	

<i>Section</i>	<i>Issue</i>	<i>Reference/s</i>
	Inequality and discrimination	23 (k) Increasing efforts to reduce inequality and eliminate social exclusion and discrimination
	Women's empowerment	23. (l) Enhancing opportunities for women and girls and advancing the economic, legal and political empowerment of women
	Public-private partnerships	23. q) Promoting effective <i>public-private</i> partnerships
	Statistical capacity	23. (s) Strengthening statistical capacity to produce reliable <i>disaggregated data</i> for better programmes and policy evaluation and formulation
	Equitable access to opportunities and services	28. ... there is a particular need to provide more equitable access to <i>economic opportunities</i> and <i>social services</i>
	Consultation and participation in national development strategies	36. ... We encourage all countries to continue to design, implement and monitor development strategies tailored to their specific situations, including through broad consultations and participation of <i>all relevant stakeholders</i> , as appropriate for each national context.
The Way forward	Domestic resources	39. ... a critical challenge is to ensure the necessary internal conditions for mobilizing domestic resources, <i>both public and private</i> , sustaining adequate levels of productive investment and increasing human capacity.
	Policy coherence	41. We call for increased efforts <i>at all levels</i> to enhance policy coherence for development. We affirm that achievement of the Millennium Development Goals requires mutually supportive and integrated policies across a wide range of economic, social and environmental issues for sustainable development.
	Universal access to services and social protection	51. We consider that promoting universal access to <i>social services</i> and providing social protection floors can make an important contribution to consolidating and achieving further development gains. Social protection systems that address and reduce inequality and social exclusion are essential for protecting the gains towards the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.
	Fighting corruption	52. We are determined to take urgent and decisive steps to continue to combat corruption in all of its manifestations, which requires strong institutions <i>at all levels</i> , and urge all States that have not yet done so to consider ratifying or acceding to the United Nations Convention against Corruption and begin its implementation.
	Gender equality	54. We call for action to ensure the equal access of women and girls to education, basic services, health care, economic opportunities and decision-making <i>at all levels</i> .
	Public-private partnerships	56.... Foreign direct investment and trade, as well as <i>public-private partnerships</i> , are important for the scaling-up of initiatives.
	Promoting sport	67. We recognize that sport, as a tool for education, development and peace, can promote cooperation, solidarity, tolerance, understanding, social inclusion and health at the <i>local</i> , national and international levels.
	Rapid impact and vulnerability analysis	69. We take note of the Global Pulse Initiative to develop more up-to-date and actionable data as a joint effort among <i>all relevant stakeholders</i> for rapid impact and vulnerability analysis.
MDG 1 Poverty	Mitigate social and economic impacts of poverty and hunger	70. (c) Increasing efforts <i>at all levels</i> to mitigate the social and economic impacts, particularly on poverty and hunger, of the multiple crises through global responses that are comprehensive, effective, inclusive and sustainable, taking into account the needs of developing countries

<i>Section</i>	<i>Issue</i>	<i>Reference/s</i>
	Opportunities for young people	70. (e) Improving opportunities for young people to gain access to productive employment and decent work through increased investment in youth employment, active labour-market support and <i>public-private partnerships</i>
	Agricultural sustainability	70. (o) Promoting at all levels a strong enabling environment for enhancing agricultural production, productivity and sustainability in developing countries, including through public and private investment, land-use planning, efficient water management, adequate rural infrastructure...
MDG 2 Universal primary education	Education and learning for all children	71. (c) Removing barriers, outside and within education systems, so as to provide equitable educational and learning opportunities for all children, since knowledge and education are key factors for sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth and for the achievement of all the Millennium Development Goals, through continued political emphasis on education and by promoting, with the support of the international community, civil society and the private sector, appropriate and targeted, evidence-based measures such as abolishing school fees, providing school meals, ensuring that schools have separate sanitation facilities for boys and girls and in other ways making primary education for all children available, accessible and affordable
MDG 3 Gender	Empowerment through social and economic policies	72. (c) Empowering women, in particular women living in poverty, through, inter alia, social and economic policies that guarantee them full and equal access to all levels of quality education and training and vocational training, including technical, managerial and entrepreneurial training, and to affordable and adequate <i>public and social services</i>
	Women in decision-making	72. (f) Taking action to improve the numbers and active participation of women <i>in all political and economic decision-making processes</i> , including by investing in women's leadership in <i>local decision-making structures</i> and processes, encouraging appropriate legislative action and creating an even playing field for men and women in <i>political and Government</i> institutions, and intensifying our efforts for the equal participation of women and men as key stakeholders <i>at all levels</i> in the prevention and resolution of conflicts and peacebuilding processes
	Gender responsive public management	(l) ...strengthening gender responsive <i>public management</i> in order to ensure gender equality in resource allocation, capacity development and benefit sharing in all sectors, including in central and <i>local level governments</i> .
Global public health	Health-care service delivery	73. (o) Enhancing <i>public-private partnerships</i> for health-care service delivery, encouraging the development of new and affordable technologies and their innovative application and developing new and affordable vaccines and medicines needed, in particular, in developing countries
MDG 5 Maternal health	Addressing the root causes of maternal mortality	75. (d) Taking action <i>at all levels</i> to address the interlinked root causes of maternal mortality and morbidity, such as poverty, malnutrition, harmful practices, lack of accessible and appropriate health-care services, information and education and gender inequality, and paying particular attention to eliminating all forms of violence against women and girls
MDG 6 HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases	Prevention programmes	76. (b) Significantly intensifying prevention efforts and increasing access to treatment by scaling up strategically aligned programmes aimed at reducing the vulnerability of persons more likely to be infected with HIV, combining biomedical, behavioural and <i>social</i> and structural interventions and through the empowerment of women and adolescent girls so as to increase their

<i>Section</i>	<i>Issue</i>	<i>Reference/s</i>
MDG 7 Environment	Desertification	capacity to protect themselves from the risk of HIV infection and the promotion and protection of all human rights. Prevention programmes should <i>take into account local circumstances</i> , ethics and cultural values, including information, education and communication in languages most understood by local communities and should be respectful of cultures, aimed at reducing risk taking behaviours and encouraging responsible sexual behaviour
	Forest management	77. (c) Supporting the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa...
	Biodiversity conservation	77. (d) Strengthening political commitment and action <i>at all levels</i> to effectively implement the global objectives on forest and the sustainable forest management in order to reduce the loss of forest cover and improve the livelihoods of those that depend on forests through the development of a comprehensive and more effective approach to financing activities, involvement of <i>local and indigenous communities</i> and other relevant stakeholders, promoting good governance at the national and international levels, and enhancing international cooperation to address the threats posed by illicit activities
	Energy	77. (e) ...significantly reducing the rate of loss of biodiversity, including through preserving and maintaining knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and <i>local communities</i> , and continuing ongoing efforts towards elaborating and negotiating an international regime on access and benefit sharing
	Climate change	77. (f) Supporting the implementation of national policies and strategies to combine, as appropriate, the increased use of new and renewable energy sources and low emission technologies, the more efficient use of energy, greater reliance on advanced energy technologies...
	Water	77. (g) calling upon States to take urgent global action to address climate change in accordance with the principles identified in the [UNFCCC] Convention, including the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities,
	Waste management	77. (h) Continuing to increase sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation through prioritizing integrated water and sanitation strategies...
	Sanitation	77. (i) Promoting integrated waste management systems, in partnership with <i>all relevant stakeholders</i> and with international financial and technological support, as appropriate
	Cities without slums	77. (j) Redoubling efforts to close the sanitation gap through scaled-up <i>ground-level action</i> , supported by strong political will and increased community participation, in accordance with national development strategies, promoting the mobilization and provision of adequate financial and technological resources, technical know-how and capacity-building for developing countries

<i>Section</i>	<i>Issue</i>	<i>Reference/s</i>
	National—local coordination	77. (o) Fostering a greater level of coordination among national <i>and local institutions</i> responsible for economic and social development and environmental protection, including with respect to the promotion of investments relevant for sustainable development
MDG 8 Global partnership	Transparency in financial information	78. (j) Implementing measures to curtail illicit financial flows <i>at all levels</i> , enhancing disclosure practices and promoting transparency in financial information. In this regard, strengthening national and multinational efforts to address this issue is crucial, including support to developing countries and technical assistance to enhance their capacities. Additional measures should be implemented to prevent the transfer abroad of stolen assets and to assist in the recovery and return of such assets, in particular to their countries of origin, consistent with the United Nations Convention against Corruption

October 2010

Written evidence submitted by Malaria No More UK

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. Malaria No More UK is pleased to submit evidence to the International Development Committee (IDC) inquiry into the outcomes of the UN MDG Review Summit 2010. We wish to highlight the commitments made by the UK Government to achieving the health related MDG goals at the recent MDG Review Summit in New York: particularly those relating to malaria. We welcome the Government's renewed commitment to increasing spending on malaria from £140 million to up to £500 million pa by 2014; and to using its resources to help halve the number of malaria deaths in at least ten high burden African countries, in line with efforts to achieve the 2015 goal of near zero preventable deaths from malaria. Increased and sustained funding is critical in the global fight to reach the UN goal of ending preventable deaths from malaria by 2015. Looking ahead, we expect DFID to utilise the expertise and insight it has gained through its consultations on the Malaria Business Plan, and both Bilateral and Multilateral Aid Reviews, to translate these pledges into concrete and effective action to help achieve our ultimate goal, to make malaria no more.

BACKGROUND

2. Malaria No More UK is an innovative charity committed to ending suffering and death caused by malaria. The charity, founded in 2008, is part of a global movement to end preventable deaths from malaria by 2015, in support of the UN's Millennium Development Goals. There are MNM affiliates in the US, Canada and the Netherlands. MNMUK works to support programmes on the ground in Africa and in the UK to strengthen UK political and financial support and increase the UK public's awareness of the impact of malaria in Africa.

3. In September 2008, Malaria No More (US) was one of the organisations that helped organise a malaria side meeting at the UN MDG High Level Event. This meeting, attended by leading supporters of the fight against malaria including the then UK Prime Minister (Gordon Brown M.P.), resulted in commitment by key stakeholders to the Global Malaria Action Plan (GMAP). This plan set out a series of actions required to help reach the UN goals on malaria.

4. Two years on, Malaria No More UK attended the UN 2010 MDG Summit meeting and was part of the organising group for the High Level Malaria Event co-hosted by the African Leaders Malaria Alliance (ALMA), UK Mission, United Nations Special Envoy for Malaria and the Government of Tanzania on 22 September 2010. The Malaria Event produced an outcomes document, which we summarise below along with our own analysis of the significance of the Event.

5. Rather than repeat our colleagues' analysis, we recommend the Committee also examine the Action for Global Health UK's "Submission to IDC Inquiry on MDG Summit Outcomes 2010" for further information on other key health outcomes of the Summit. In this document there is an important analysis of the historic UN Secretary General's "Global Strategy for Women's and Children's Health" launched at the Summit to fast-track progress on MDGs 4 and 5 (child and maternal health).³⁰

³⁰ http://www.un.org/sg/hf/Global_StrategyEN.pdf

 KEY MALARIA OUTCOMES FROM THE SUMMIT

6. The 2010 Malaria Event was an important opportunity to bring together key stakeholders involved in the fight against malaria. These included donor governments and agencies such as the World Bank and the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria, along with African governments at the forefront of the effort to end malaria deaths. Malaria No More UK was pleased to support the organisation of the event as an opportunity to motivate key players, gain international recognition of the success so far in the fight against malaria and encourage future commitments to help ensure the achievement of the UN MDG on malaria.

7. Speakers at the Event recognised the important role that combating malaria will have in achieving several of the Millennium Development Goals. In addition to being an integral part of MDG 6 on infectious diseases, effective malaria control is also vital to achieving MDG 4, reducing child mortality, and MDG 5, improving maternal health. Malaria also has a significant financial impact on both household and national economies: costing Africa more than 12 billion dollars each year in direct medical costs and countless billions more in indirect costs and lost productivity.³¹ Participants therefore recognised that improved malaria control will also accelerate economic development and help contribute towards MDG 1, the elimination of extreme poverty.

8. The Malaria Event celebrated recent global achievements in the fight against malaria, particularly towards achieving the 2010 target of “universal coverage” of malaria prevention measures and the 2015 target of near zero preventable deaths from malaria. These achievements include the delivery of more than 300 million Long Lasting Insecticide Treated Nets (LLINs) to communities in Africa since 2007. The Event also highlighted findings from the recent Roll Back Malaria (RBM) Partnership report estimating that, since 2000, coordinated international efforts to combat malaria have resulted in:

- Nearly three-quarters of a million children’s lives saved across 34 malaria-endemic African countries—85% of these since 2006 when international efforts were intensified.
- Child malaria mortality reduced by 18%; with 485 children saved from malaria related deaths every day in 2010.

The RBM report also predicted that, if universal prevention coverage is achieved and sustained, a further three million children’s lives could be saved by 2015.³²

9. Gains over the last few years in scaling interventions and reducing the impact of malaria are cause for celebration and hope that we can achieve the malaria MDG targets by 2015. However, the Event also recognised the scale of the challenge remaining, with malaria still causing the death of a child in Africa every 45 seconds. It’s estimated that between US\$ 5 billion and US\$ 6.2 billion per year is needed to achieve the 2015 goals, however, currently commitments up to 2011 account for just 25% of the estimated need to meet the Global Malaria Action Plan targets. Increased and sustained support is vital in continuing the momentum towards universal coverage and ending deaths from malaria.

10. The UN General Assembly MDG Summit outcomes document emphasised the importance of African leadership and the international community’s role in supporting and sustaining national efforts and programmes to combat malaria. It also reiterated the value of integrating malaria prevention, diagnosis and treatment interventions.³³ Strategies to address malaria will need to include: increasing coverage and use of long-lasting, safe insecticide-treated bed nets and indoor residual spraying to prevent malaria; availability and accessibility of affordable, quality and effective diagnostic tools—such as rapid diagnostic tests, and treatment—including Artemisinin Combination Therapy; as well as ongoing research into development of malaria vaccines.

DFID’S ROLE IN DELIVERING AGREED STRATEGIES

11. We welcome the leadership shown on malaria by the UK, especially the Deputy Prime Minister and the DFID Secretary of State, during the MDG Review Summit and particularly as a co-host of the Malaria Event. At the 22 September Malaria Event, the UK Government committed to using its resources to help halve the number of malaria deaths in at least ten high burden African countries, in line with efforts to achieve the 2015 near zero preventable deaths from malaria goal. The Government also re-iterated its pledge to increase funding for malaria from £150 million to up to £500 million per year by 2014, and to review how malaria interventions could be included across all DFID’s programmes. This additional funding will come from the UK continuing to increase its spending on official development assistance (ODA) in order to reach the Government target of 0.7% of GNI by 2013.

12. Two specific programme commitments were announced by Secretary of State Andrew Mitchell on behalf of the Malaria Event co-host, Deputy Prime Minister Nick Clegg. These represent the first phase of DFID’s increased support for scaling up malaria prevention and treatment:

- (a) “UK aid will save 5,500 children’s lives in Zambia by increasing access to malaria prevention, diagnostics and treatment.”

³¹ Gallup & Sachs. The economic burden of malaria. *American Journal of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene*. 2001.64(1,2) S.

³² *Saving Lives with Malaria Control: Counting Down to the Millennium Development Goals*—authored by Tulane University, Johns Hopkins University, WHO and PATH. Published 14 September 2010 by the Roll Back Malaria Partnership (RBM).

³³ “*Keeping the promise: united to achieve the Millennium Development Goals*”—UN General Assembly Summit Outcome Report Sept 2010: <http://www.un.org/en/mdg/summit2010/pdf/mdg%20outcome%20document.pdf>

- (a) “In Ghana the UK will supply 2.4 million new insecticide-treated bednets, enough to save 13,000 lives a year.”³⁴

13. Given Malaria No More UK’s work to support programmes in Africa, particularly in Ghana, we were delighted to hear these commitments confirmed and look forward to seeing the impact of these interventions in the coming months. Meanwhile the exact strategy, mechanism, funding and focus for the bulk of the UK’s increased commitment to the global fight against malaria has yet to be decided. This will be informed by the outcomes of DFID’s current reviews of multilateral and bilateral aid spending and the development of the malaria business plan. It will also be influenced by the DFID business plan on reproductive, maternal and newborn health, given that most (over 85%) malaria deaths tragically occur in children under five and pregnant women. The results of this work will not, we understand, be released before early next year. We look forward to the outcomes of these reviews, the business plans, and to a clear roadmap of how UK aid will support the push to meet the UN malaria goals by 2015.

14. *Recommendation:* We encourage DFID to incorporate and reflect the expert testimony it has gained through its consultations with a wide range of stakeholders in preparing these business plans. As the majority of the significant gains to date have been made in lower prevalence countries, we urge DFID to continue to support countries with a high malaria burden to scale up their capacity and ability to respond to malaria more effectively.

15. The Malaria Event at the MDG Summit highlighted the critical role that the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria (GFATM) and the World Bank’s International Development Association (IDA) play in supporting the international malaria response; jointly representing approximately three quarters of international malaria funding. The announcement of this week’s Global Fund replenishment shortfall (following the pledging conference on October 5) is a significant blow to international efforts to meet the MDGs on health. As illustrated in the Roll Back Malaria report, there is a direct correlation between malaria funding and lives saved.³⁵

16. *Recommendation:* We ask the IDC to recognise the importance of the UK making its “fair share” contributions to both the GFATM and IDA—assuming they will receive positive assessments of performance in the Multilateral Aid Review.

17. As a malaria focused organisation, we welcome the Government’s commitment and leadership in the global push to reduce the impact of this devastating disease. However, we recognise the critical interconnectedness of all the MDGs, particularly those relating to health.

18. *Recommendation:* We call on DFID to ensure increased malaria funding compliments rather than detracts from DFID’s efforts to support other health priorities, by supporting the strengthening of health systems as a compliment to improving access to vital malaria prevention, diagnosis and treatment tools. It is in this context we also look forward to publication of the DFID business plan on reproductive, maternal and newborn health.

THE ROLE OF THE UN, THE WORLD BANK, THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION AND NGOs IN SECURING AND DELIVERING SUMMIT OUTCOMES, AND HOW THESE ORGANISATIONS WILL BE HELD ACCOUNTABLE FOR ACHIEVING THEM AND THE ROLE OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES IN SECURING AND DELIVERING THE SUMMIT OUTCOMES

19. The UN plays a critical role in the fight against malaria and both the UN Secretary General and the UN Special Envoy for Malaria were central to efforts to organise the Malaria Event and to securing future commitments from key partners. We strongly support their efforts to help achieve the UN MDG on malaria and are very grateful for their leadership.

20. *Recommendation:* As a significant donor, we believe the European Commission could take further steps to help financially support efforts to reach the malaria goals. We encourage the UK government to press the Commission for a statement clarifying the Commission’s future commitments to this end.

21. *Recommendation:* As noted above, the World Bank’s International Development Association (IDA) is a significant source of funding for efforts to tackle malaria. We are pressing the UK government, as the largest funder of IDA, to use the upcoming replenishment to ensure the World Bank continues to prioritise malaria. At the Malaria Event, President Zoellick detailed some key ways in which the World Bank has already contributed significant resources in countries such as Nigeria. We are urging all IDA donors to press for such support to continue, particularly following the initially disappointing results of the GFATM pledging conference.

22. *Recommendation:* To sustain and increase African leadership in the fight against malaria we recommend DFID continue to support the work of the African Leaders Malaria Alliance (ALMA). The importance of ALMA’s leadership in helping to achieve the significant advances in coverage of long lasting insecticide treated nets and indoor residual spraying prevention measures in Africa was recognised at the Malaria Event. ALMA now has a critical role in ensuring that the remaining prevention gaps are closed in the push to achieve universal prevention coverage. They will also play an increasingly important role in

³⁴ <http://www.dfid.gov.uk/Media-Room/Press-releases/2010/Clegg-UK-to-lead-global-efforts-to-combat-malaria/>

³⁵ *Saving Lives with Malaria Control: Counting Down to the Millennium Development Goals*—authored by Tulane University, Johns Hopkins University, WHO and PATH. Published 14 September 2010 by the Roll Back Malaria Partnership (RBM).

coordinating and monitoring malaria testing and treatment coverage and surveillance reporting on progress. It was very inspiring to hear a number of African leaders announce significant progress towards achieving the UN 2010 and 2015 malaria goals at the Malaria Event, and outline their work to better regulate use of medicines to treat malaria.

23. Developing countries and civil society organisations have the opportunity to help achieve further progress on the UN malaria goals through their submissions to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria (GFATM). Thanks to the unique way the Global Fund is constituted the country coordinating mechanisms are able to determine their own funding and programme priorities.

24. *Recommendation:* We urge countries to use the GFATM effectively to continue to push towards their national malaria control or elimination goals and put an end to preventable malaria deaths.

LOOKING AHEAD TO AFTER THE MDG DEADLINE OF 2015

25. The critical importance of increasing and sustaining gains made to tackle malaria in order to reach and move beyond the 2015 goals cannot be underestimated. We are determined to help the international community to achieve the goal of near zero preventable deaths from malaria along with universal coverage of effective malaria interventions.

26. *Recommendation:* We encourage the UK Government to adopt the Roll Back Malaria campaign's post-2015 position of sustaining and continuing gains made in achieving the MDG malaria goals by supporting efforts to ensure:

- Global and national mortality stays near zero for all preventable deaths.
- Universal coverage (which translates to ~80% utilization) is maintained for all populations at risk until local field research suggests that coverage can gradually be targeted to high-risk areas and seasons only, without risk of a generalised resurgence.
- Countries currently in the pre-elimination stage achieve elimination.

27. In the long term, our hope is that malaria will ultimately be eliminated worldwide with the help of new technologies including an effective vaccine. In the meantime we urge the UK and global partners to continue to invest in researching new technologies and to maximise utilisation of the plethora of effective tools we currently have at our disposal to ensure malaria control and achievement of the 2015 UN malaria goals.

Written evidence submitted by The ONE Campaign

SUMMARY

1. Ahead of the UN Summit on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), ONE asked world leaders to agree to a comprehensive road map to meet the MDGs by 2015 with accountable, measurable commitments from all partners and a focus on improving governance, spurring economic growth and increasing investments in programmes that are delivering results. ONE welcomes the UK's leadership on this agenda and commitment to spend 0.7% of GNI on ODA by 2013. However, to maximise the UK's contribution to achieving the MDGs ONE asks that the following priorities be given urgent attention:

IMPROVED GOVERNANCE

2. President Obama's speech highlighted the extractive industry transparency law he recently signed; however other countries, including the UK, have thus far failed to indicate they will introduce counterpart legislation. This requires the urgent attention of the IDC and leadership from the UK in multi-lateralising this important initiative.

3. The Action Agenda includes positive statements about the role of governance and transparency in development, with some stronger language about combating corruption and curtailing illicit financial flows. Member states are urged to consider ratifying and begin implementing the UN Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC), but there is no mention of multilateral efforts such as the World Bank's Stolen Asset Recover Initiative (StAR) or the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI).

SMART INVESTMENTS TO MEET THE GOALS

4. The Global Fund for AIDS, TB and Malaria is highlighted as a key mechanism to meet the health-related MDGs. ONE urges the UK government at the conclusion of its ongoing Multilateral Aid Review to scale up funding to this highly effective programme. ONE calculates the UK's "fair share" as being an increase from the current pledge of £384 million over three years to £669 million over this period.

5. The Action Agenda recognises the "multiplier effect" of investing in women and girls and calls for gender mainstreaming in the creation and implementation of development—this must be integrated into future DFID planning.

ACCOUNTABILITY

6. Forthcoming DFID plans should clearly articulate how UK promises are transparent, accountable and build on the progress made by the G8's Muskoka Accountability Report.

7. The Action Agenda recognises the need for "mutual accountability" in meeting the MDGs and calls for the full implementation of outcomes and commitments at international summits. However, more detail is needed in terms of identifying existing commitments and endorsing principles to strengthen future promises.

WOMEN'S AND CHILDREN'S HEALTH

8. The UK delegation gave forceful support to the *Global Strategy for Women's and Children's Health*, which aims to save the lives of 16 million women and children by 2015. The IDC should help clarify that this funding will be additional and not result in shortfalls for other priorities.

9. The "Global Strategy for Women's and Children's Health" includes \$40 billion in resources and promotes country-led health plans with sustainable investment, integrated delivery of health services, health systems strengthening, innovative approaches to financing and improved monitoring and evaluation of programmes. However, it was unclear how much of this finance would be new and additional.

ECONOMIC GROWTH

10. The IDC should ensure that there is increased cross-Government prioritisation of greater coherence between UK development, trade, investment, migration and agriculture policies.

11. The Action Agenda recognises that sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth is essential to meeting the MDGs and calls for expanded access to financial services for the poor, trade capacity-building and regional integration.

GOAL BY GOAL ANALYSIS OF THE SUMMIT

12. Ahead of the annual General Assembly last week at the United Nations, world leaders met to assess progress towards the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and put forward a strategy to meet the targets by 2015. The official communiqué from the summit, which is called "Keeping the Promise—United to Achieve the Millennium Development Goals," outlines an Action Agenda for Achieving the MDGs by 2015.

13. The Action Agenda acknowledges that the MDGs are interconnected and mutually reinforcing, and calls for increased efforts at all levels to enhance policy coherence for development. Recognising that there is no "one size fits all" development strategy, member states resolve to strengthen and promote national ownership and leadership. All countries are encouraged to "design, implement and monitor development strategies tailored to their specific situations," and development partners are called to support the design and implementation of these strategies.

14. The Action Agenda reinforces the need for accountability by calling for the timely and full implementation of the commitments and outcomes of major summits. It also requests an annual review of progress towards the MDGs (including implementation of the outcome document) by the General Assembly and asks the Secretary-General to organise a "special event" in 2013 to follow-up on efforts, in addition to annual reporting on progress.

MDG 1: POVERTY AND HUNGER

15. The document highlights the importance of addressing the root causes of extreme poverty and hunger and notes that eradicating extreme poverty and hunger has a direct impact on the achievement of all other MDGs. Much in line with ONE's recommendations, the document stresses that global economic and national policies must work in cooperation with private investment and lead to sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth and sustainable development, resulting in agricultural development and increased employment opportunities. Further, the empowerment and participation of women as central actors for spurring agricultural and rural development and improving food security is underscored. The Rome principles agreed upon at the 2009 L'Aquila G8 Summit are reiterated, and donors are urged to follow through on their financial bilateral and multilateral commitments in order to achieve global food security.

16. The importance of investing in small-scale farmers, including women, and improving the nutritional status of vulnerable groups are identified, but mutual accountability towards achieving these objectives is absent. ONE believes that these goals can only be achieved through participation of donors and national governments, in such that agreed commitments, such as the Maputo target to allocate 10% of national budgets to agriculture, must be met by African governments. Likewise, donor support for African-led initiatives, such as the CAADP (Comprehensive African Agricultural Development Programme), should be emphasised but are omitted from the document.

17. Although the preamble highlights the importance of trade to economic growth and sustainable and equitable growth as drivers of poverty reduction, it does not adequately link the role that agricultural and rural growth play as drivers of broader economic growth and poverty reduction. As poverty is predicted to remain rural for the foreseeable future, and the majority of the poor rely on agriculture for their livelihoods,

ONE maintains that agricultural and rural development must be explicitly recognised as a catalyst in the process for broader economic growth, leading to greater participation in international trade and creating the enabling environment for private sector investment.

MDG 2: EDUCATION

18. The Action Agenda calls for progress on primary school enrolment to be sustained and built upon through targeted measures to reach marginalised children. It also recognises the need to ensure quality and progression through the school system (and the transition to secondary school and higher levels) by increasing the number of trained teachers, and improving school facilities and equipment, and says that greater focus is needed on improving the transition from primary school and access to secondary education and vocational training.

19. Although the Action Agenda recognises the need for predictable, sustainable funding for education from both donors and national governments it does not specifically call for increased resources or replenishment for the Education for All—Fast Track Initiative. ONE called for the continued reform and replenishment of FTI in its recommendations ahead of the summit.

MDG 3: GENDER EQUALITY

20. The Action Agenda commits to a broad range of activities to meet MDG 3, including action to improve girls' access to education, encourage participation of women in political, economic and decision-making processes, improve capacity to report on progress, and promote women's equal access to adequate housing, property and land through economic empowerment and access to productive resources.

21. The Action Agenda also calls for enhancing the impact of development assistance in advancing gender equality through targeted activities as well as through gender mainstreaming and enhanced dialogue between donors and partners to ensure adequate funding. In addition, the Action Agenda recognises that women's empowerment and equality are central to all of the MDGs and pledges full support for UN Women, the new UN entity for gender equality and women's empowerment.

MDGs 4, 5 AND 6: HEALTH

22. The Action Agenda reinforces general commitments to achieving the three health-related MDGs, paying increasing attention to the need to support broader health systems improvements and understand the connections between health, poverty, gender, and human rights. ONE applauds the overall emphasis on the following themes, which have not always been articulated at previous summits: country and local priorities in tackling health epidemics, integration among disease-specific efforts, public-private partnerships, and building country capacity to encourage long-term sustainability.

23. However, there are few measureable targets in terms of both outcomes and inputs such as financing. There is no reference to the Abuja commitment by African countries to dedicate 15% of their national budgets on health. And although the Action Agenda highlights the Global Fund as a central mechanism to reach the health-related MDGs and recognises its need for "adequate resources," it is disappointing that in this replenishment year member states did not commit to meeting the Global Fund's financing needs for 2011–13 (estimated to be \$17–20 billion). Similarly, although there are references to the importance of vaccines, the GAVI Alliance and other mechanisms, nor are their resource needs through 2015.

Global Strategy for Women's and Children's Health

24. On the margins of the Summit, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon was joined by 41 Heads of State and Government, as well as representatives from the private sector, foundations, international organisations, civil society and research organisations, to launch the *Global Strategy for Women's and Children's Health*. The strategy, which aims to save the lives of more than 16 million women and children, is a global, multi-sector collaboration that identifies the areas where action is needed to enhance financing, strengthen policy and improve service delivery to advance maternal and child health around the world.

25. The strategy includes commitments of over \$40 billion from donors, developing countries, the private sector and foundations. Details on this funding (including the methodology used to calculate spending on women's and children's health, as well as the baselines and timeline for delivery) have not yet been released.

26. In addition to financial commitments, the Global Strategy promotes country-led health plans with sustainable investment, integrated delivery of health services, health systems strengthening, innovative approaches to financing and improved monitoring and evaluation of programmes to ensure that maximum benefit will be derived from commitments made to women and children.

MDG 7: ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

27. The Action Agenda identifies climate change as an issue of key importance to the MDGs that was not forcefully recognised in the original drafting of the goals in 2000. The document looks to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) as the key institution to deliver progress and the Cancun summit in December as a moment to achieve change. There is no specific mention of climate finance commitments made at Copenhagen or the South African COP 17, set for November 2011.

28. The new panel on sustainability co-chaired by Finland's President Tarja Halonen and South African President Jacob Zuma is not explicitly mentioned, but there is a commitment to work towards a successful United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development in 2012.

MDG 8: GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP FOR DEVELOPMENT

29. ONE is encouraged by references to the use of other development tools, such as domestic resource mobilisation, the private sector, foreign direct investment, trade, and debt relief.

30. *Development Assistance*: ONE's recommendation called for donors with development assistance commitments beyond 2010 to reiterate their commitments and clarify how much is dedicated for sub-Saharan Africa. The Action Agenda maintains that the fulfilment of all ODA commitments is crucial and calls for donors to take "all necessary and appropriate measures" to raise the rate of aid disbursements to meet their existing commitments, including the commitments by many countries to commit assistance totalling 0.7% of GNI by 2015. Although it calls for donors to establish "rolling indicative timetables," no specific timeline is set. Although the importance of aid quality and improved data are mentioned in the Agenda's preamble, there is no mention of aid effectiveness commitments and little reference to mutual accountability among stakeholders to deliver on commitments. The document acknowledges progress in innovative financing mechanisms and suggests that they may be an additional source of finance for development.

31. *Domestic Resource Mobilisation*: There is a clear commitment to strengthening tax systems and harmonisation of international policy on tax, in order to mobilise additional domestic resources for development. This reflects ONE language calling for stronger targets for domestic resources to meet the MDGs. The document does not set specific targets for developing countries to mobilise domestic resources for development (such as African commitments in Maputo and Abuja to allocate 10 and 15% of national budgets to agriculture and health, respectively).

32. *Governance*: The Action Agenda confirms the role that governance plays in poverty reduction and the fact that democratic governance, improved transparency and accountability are critical to ensuring ensure that development assistance is used effectively. In terms of language on corruption, the document highlights the need for developed and a developing countries to work together on stolen assets and illicit flows, including through implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption. Unfortunately there is no specific mention of the World Bank's StAR Initiative, which ONE would like to see strengthened to assist in stolen asset recovery, and no mention of EITI.

33. *Trade*: There are positive statements on the importance of free and open trade, including support for Aid for Trade, and a call to implement pledges made in 2005 for Duty and Quota Free Market Access for developing countries and the elimination of all forms of agricultural export subsidies by the end of 2013. While the Action Agenda reference to "expeditiously" conclude a balanced, development-focused Doha Development Agenda, no timeframe or sense of urgency was noted.

Written evidence submitted by One World Action and the UK Gender and Development Network

INTRODUCTION

1. One World Action works with rural and urban women's and civil society organisations and networks across four regions—Africa, Asia, Latin America and Eastern Europe—to empower the world's poorest and most discriminated women, girls and other excluded groups to transform their own lives. Promoting and protecting women's human rights is central to all we do. We prioritise our support to the poorest and most excluded women who face acute and entrenched poverty due to multiple layers of discrimination—disabled women, Dalit women, women living with HIV/AIDS, informal women workers, and women living in acute rural and urban poverty.

2. Our focus is on strengthening women's voice and agency to influence the decisions that affect their lives by facilitating women's leadership, participation and political empowerment. In particular, we build the capacity of the most marginalised women to exercise their human rights and hold their local and national governments and state bodies to account for the resources and services which are theirs by right. We combine this with direct support for secure jobs and livelihoods, basic health, mobility and freedom from violence.

3. The UK Gender and Development Network (GADN) is a diverse membership network made up of leading UK-based practitioners, consultants and academics working on gender, development and women's rights issues. The Network enables its members to share information and expertise, effectively lobby government and international bodies on gender and development issues and provide expert advice and comment on policies and projects. Our members work in partnership with development and advocacy organisations throughout the world.

4. One World Action and the GADN have played a leading role ahead of the UN summit in pushing for gender equality and women's rights to be at the heart of the UK's strategy to accelerate poverty reduction and step up progress towards the MDGs. This engagement has included:

- (a) One World Action produced a position paper on the MDGs for the UK Government entitled: “Getting Back on Track—Putting Women at the Heart of the MDGs”;
- (b) One World Action wrote the chapter on MDG3 for the joint European civil society position paper on the MDGs entitled “Towards the UN MDG Summit: Recommendations to the EU”; One World Action has also been active at the European level, engaging with DFID and with the Directorate General for Development at the European Commission. This included being the main speakers on MDG 3 at the MDGs meeting held by the Spanish European Presidency and the Spanish Platform in Madrid in May 2010;
- (c) The GADN set up a working group on gender equality and the MDGs, coordinated by One World Action, which produced a joint GADN statement outlining the priority actions we would like to see the UK take forward to the UN MDG summit, and engaged with DFID’s Development Relations Department and Equity and Rights Team in taking these recommendations forward;
- (d) One World Action and the GADN, in collaboration with Amnesty International, instigated critical reflection on the post-2015 agenda by organising an event at the UN Commission on the Status of Women in New York in February 2010. The event focused on how to ensure that women’s organisations are meaningfully involved in shaping a post-MDGs vision of development.
- (e) One World Action played a pivotal role in the organisation of the Bond public event on MDGs in the UK with Nick Clegg and Andrew Mitchell just before the Summit.

KEY OUTCOMES FROM THE SUMMIT

(a) *The Outcome Document*

5. One World Action and the GADN welcome the explicit recognition in the Outcome Document adopted by the General Assembly that “gender equality, the empowerment of women, women’s full enjoyment of all human rights and the eradication of poverty are essential to economic and social development, including the achievement of all the Millennium Development Goals” (12, p3). We further endorse the reaffirmation of the need for the full and effective implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform.

6. In particular, we were pleased to note the clear recognition of the importance of ending impunity regarding violence against women, and strengthening the political participation of women, including by scaling up investment in women’s leadership and women’s involvement in peace-building processes.

7. However, despite these encouraging statements, we were disappointed at the subsequent narrow scope of the Outcome Document with regards to the empowerment of women and girls, which focused heavily on addressing maternal mortality to the neglect of also advancing women’s economic, social and political empowerment, and combating violence against women. We further regret the lack of attention to addressing the underlying *causes* of poverty—the systemic gender inequality, violence and discrimination which makes and keeps women poor. Development interventions must tackle these underlying causes, not only “mop up” the consequences—the failure to do this to date is a major factor in why poverty has proven so much more intractable than anticipated.

8. Our greatest concern is the absence of any political and financial commitments in the Outcome Document and the lack of a concrete action plan. Strong language around tackling gender inequality and eliminating social exclusion and discrimination is not followed through with tangible actions or commitments to new resources. The lack of actions, coupled with the absence of clear and binding accountability mechanisms to hold world leaders to account for full implementation of the goals, has resulted in an Outcome Document which fundamentally lacks teeth. We urge DFID to continue to push DESA for a clear list of financial and political commitments taken by governments at the Summit so that world leaders can be held accountable.

(b) *The Secretary General’s Global Strategy for Women and Children’s Health*

9. One World Action and the GADN welcome the launch at the Summit of the UN Secretary General’s Global Strategy for Women’s and Children’s Health, which aims to prevent 33 million unwanted pregnancies and 570,000 women dying of complications relating to pregnancy or childbirth, including unsafe abortion. We are especially pleased to see the explicit recognition in the strategy of the need to promote human rights, gender equality and poverty reduction as an integral aspect of work to reduce maternal mortality, as well as the particular emphasis placed on reaching those who are especially disadvantaged and marginalised.

10. It is a positive sign that over \$40 billion in resources have reportedly been pledged to implement the plan over the next five years by governments, as well as the private sector, foundations and civil society. However, only approximately \$20 billion is new money, and over half of this has been committed by NGOs, philanthropists and the business community. The UK reportedly committed £5.5 billion between 2010–15, but in fact this represents only an additional £2.1 billion over five years, in addition to commitments made for 2010 and 2011 at the Muskoka Summit.

(c) *Commitments by the UK Government*

11. One World Action and the GADN welcome the UK's promise at the Summit to shift its development focus to put women at the heart of its aid efforts. In particular we support the high priority the UK Government has placed on driving international action to improve women's reproductive and maternal health and increase access to modern family planning. This offers a crucial chance to reverse the scandalous lack of progress made to date on MDG 5, the most off-track of the MDGs. In particular, we welcome the explicit pledges by the UK Government to:

- double the number of mothers' and infants' lives saved by 2015, with a target of saving at least 50,000 women in pregnancy and childbirth, 250,000 newborn babies and enabling 10 million couples to access modern methods of family planning by 2015;
- double its financial support for maternal, newborn and child health by 2012, and sustain that level to 2015, providing an annual average of £740 million for maternal, newborn and child health from 2010 to 2015, on top of the £490 million committed by the UK for 2010 and 2011 at the Muskoka Summit; and
- partner with the US, Australia and the Gates Foundation to reduce unintended pregnancies, and maternal and neonatal mortality, specifically by supporting 100 million more women to access modern family planning.

12. However, we are concerned and disappointed by the lack of political and financial commitment by the UK Government at the summit to MDG 3—promoting gender equality and empowering women. An estimated 70% of the one billion people living in extreme poverty and hunger are women—a result of pervasive and systemic violence, discrimination and inequality. Evidence from One World Action's partners shows that those most severely affected are women and girls from discriminated groups—Dalits, women living with HIV, disabled women, minority and indigenous women, young and older women, refugee and migrant women. Improving maternal and reproductive health services will not be enough to lift these women out of chronic poverty. Instead, reducing poverty requires tackling head-on the gender inequality, discrimination and lack of power which put the gains of the MDGs beyond reach for so many.

13. In particular, we regret the lack of dedicated resources for strengthening women's participation, leadership and political empowerment. This absence is in spite of the explicit recognition in the Outcome Document of the need to "advance the economic, legal and political empowerment of women" as a necessary step to fulfil all of the MDGs (p.5). Investing in women's leadership has been proven to have a catalytic impact on reducing poverty and inequality, and accelerating development for future generations. Promoting women's leadership in local and national politics enables women to influence decisions on government priorities and spending, and gives women access to the political spaces and resources needed to advance gender equality on national agendas. It is also crucial for strengthening accountability to women and ensuring a more responsive and effective allocation of public financial resources. Yet too often the voices and solutions of women and girls are ignored in decision-making, including the shaping of national development plans. As a result, the decisions taken fail to reflect the needs, priorities and concerns of all citizens, undermining the potential of aid to deliver results for the poorest people. Truly realising this Government's commitment to putting women at the heart of development will require action from DFID to empower women in all spheres of their lives—social, economic and political.

14. Moreover, delivering on UK commitments to the MDGs cannot be achieved without vastly scaled up investment in MDG 3. Driving international action to tackle gender inequality and empower women and girls is one of the most effective ways of stepping up poverty reduction. Progress towards the MDG 1 commitment to halving the proportion of people who suffer from hunger, for example, could be dramatically accelerated by investing in women's empowerment and tackling the structural inequalities that prevent women—the world's greatest untapped resource—from maximising their agricultural output. Whilst women make up 80% of the agricultural workforce in sub-Saharan Africa, millions of people continue to go hungry because discrimination prevents women from owning land and other productive assets. It is estimated that agricultural production in Africa would increase by up to 20% if women's access to resources such as land, seed and fertilisers were equal to men's.

15. Of particular concern is the fact that *without* tackling gender inequality and bringing about improvements in women's social, political and economic status, well-intentioned efforts to improve maternal health are destined to fail. Poor maternal health is rooted in gender inequality and other forms of social exclusion, lack of economic opportunity, systemic violence, and conservative social norms and practices. These barriers inhibit women from exercising autonomy over their bodies, negotiating the use of contraception with partners, and accessing essential healthcare education, information and services. Instead, decisions about women's reproductive lives are often made on women's behalf by their husband, father, in-laws or health care staff. Increasing the availability of modern contraception will therefore only deliver real impact if promoted alongside interventions that are explicitly women-centred and women-controlled, such as female condoms, and which seek to challenge unequal gender relations and empower women in all aspects of their lives.

16. Lastly, in spite of the strong focus at the Summit on scaling up progress to MDG 5, we note with disappointment that the issue of unsafe abortion was side-stepped, despite being a leading cause of maternal deaths. We urge the UK Government to demonstrate bold leadership on this sensitive issue by promoting women's access to safe, legal, accessible and affordable abortion services as an integral dimension of its broader reproductive and maternal health agenda.

COMMITMENTS BY THE EU

17. One World Action and the GADN welcome the European Union's one billion euros MDG initiative for the most off-track MDGs, however we regret the lack of detail regarding how and where the money will be spent. We urge the UK Government to take a leadership role at the European level in promoting a substantial expenditure on MDG3 as part of the MDG initiative.

THE ROLE OF DFID

18. DFID should ensure maximum impact on women's lives from scaled up UK investment in MDG 5 by pursuing and championing an approach to reproductive and maternal health that has at its heart a commitment to bringing about long term improvements in women's social, political and economic status. DFID's agenda needs to be holistic and ambitious, going beyond increasing the provision of contraception, new technologies and training of midwives, to also explicitly challenging unequal power relations and structures. In particular, stronger programmes and more resources are needed to reduce the barriers that prevent women and girls from realising their full reproductive rights, including violence against women and girls, discrimination in accessing services and inequalities in sexual relationships.

19. Achieving this will require increased political and financial investments from DFID in strengthening women's leadership and participation in formal and informal political structures, and promoting economic empowerment, particularly for "grassroots" women. Making tackling violence against women internationally a development priority for this Government is a further prerequisite to seeing real advances in realising women's reproductive rights. Moreover, recognising the serious threat posed by unsafe abortion to reaching MDG 5, DFID must ensure that women's access to safe, legal, accessible and affordable abortion services is promoted as an integral component of its forthcoming Business Plan for Reproductive, Maternal and Newborn Health. We also hope DFID will use its position as an influential stakeholder in the Global Strategy for Women's and Children's Health to work with other governments to ensure the focus on safe abortion is not side-lined at the Strategy's implementation stage.

20. More broadly, DFID must deliver on the pledge made at the Summit to put women at the front and centre of aid by tracking performance on gender equality and monitoring the delivery of equitable development outcomes. Gender equality objectives and indicators must be established at all levels—organisational, in-country and project—and results must be systematically scrutinised, including through the use of gender responsive budgeting tools. In particular, innovative indicators should be set to motivate and monitor progress for the most discriminated-against groups of women. We further recommend that DFID champions and builds capacity for improved coverage, quality, frequency and use of disaggregated data and indicators in country statistical, monitoring and evaluation systems to help identify those who are falling behind in the achievement of the MDGs, allowing policies and resources to be designed and channelled accordingly.

21. Delivering on the promise to put women at the heart of UK aid will also require an increase in funding channelled to women's organisations, both directly as well as through women's funds and development organisations working with women's organisations. In particular, aid should be targeted so that it reaches the poorest and most discriminated groups of women, particularly Dalit women and disabled women who are almost entirely invisible in policy responses and interventions designed to achieve the MDGs.

22. Recognising that supporting gender equality and women's empowerment are powerful multipliers of development efforts and catalysts for the achievement of all the MDGs, DFID must seize the historic opportunity of the creation of UN Women to build an agency with the capacity and budget to deliver real impacts for women and girls. DFID should lobby internationally to scale up the annual budget to at least \$1 billion within the first few years of UN Women to ensure it has the resources to carry out its mandate effectively. In order to reflect the UK Government's high-priority commitment to gender equality and women's empowerment worldwide, DFID should commit significant financial support to UN Women—considerably increasing the contributions made to UNIFEM in the past. Funding to UN Women should be at least comparable to the amount the UK funds UNICEF.

23. Whilst we appreciate that DFID must have priority focuses, we also urge the department to exercise caution when considering future donor relationships with countries. In particular, we urge DFID to ensure that Middle Income Countries (MICs) and States not currently considered to be "fragile" do not fall off the development radar. The recent political unrest in Honduras reminds us that whilst many States are not officially classed as "fragile" or "low-income", they remain nonetheless on the very margins of stability. Recent research from IDS has also revealed that a startling three-quarters of the world's poorest women and men are in MICs. Moreover, some of the most widespread and gravest abuses of women's sexual and

reproductive rights occur in Latin American countries. For a government so clearly committed to saving women's lives, the Latin American region should not be overlooked, especially considering the high levels of inequality prevalent in this region.

THE ROLE OF THE UN

24. The UN must play a leading role in developing clear and binding accountability mechanisms to hold world leaders to account for implementation of commitments made on the MDGs. The first step must be to ensure greater transparency around commitments made at the Summit, including financial commitments, to enable civil society to effectively hold Governments to account. Progress against commitments made should be reviewed annually.

THE ROLE OF THE EU

25. The EU should ensure that allocation of the one billion euros MDG initiative for the most off-track MDGs provides ambitious funding for MDG 3, including strong financial support for the EU Action Plan on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment in External Affairs, which is currently un-resourced. We further urge the EU to immediately release details of how the money will be spent, and of the monitoring and accountability mechanisms in place to track spending.

LOOKING AHEAD TO POST 2015

26. With only five years left to keep the promises made to the world's poorest people, the focus on meeting the MDGs by 2015 must not be diluted. Stepping up progress towards the goals must remain the top priority for governments worldwide. Nonetheless, it is crucial that there is an ambitious, progressive framework in place post-2015, with clear global targets and indicators to eliminate poverty and inequality, as well as binding accountability mechanisms to ensure that promises made are promises kept.

27. Learning from the lessons of the past, however, the need for concrete targets and indicators must not come at the expense of a truly ambitious and political framework capable of catalysing action to tackle the most entrenched and systemic development challenges, including the structural causes of poverty and women's inequality. It is imperative that a post 2015 framework prioritises action to challenge the underlying causes of poverty—inequality, discrimination and lack of power—rather than addressing only the symptoms of poverty.

28. Challenging inequality and promoting human rights must be at the heart of a post 2015 framework. A priority is to set clear targets to spearhead action on fundamental development challenges neglected in the current MDGs framework; in particular, tackling pervasive and endemic women's human rights abuses such as violence against women, denial of property, land and inheritance rights, and unsafe abortion. Innovative indicators are also needed to motivate and monitor targeted actions and resourcing for specific discriminated-against groups of women to ensure the most vulnerable people are not left on the margins yet again.

29. Particular consideration must be given to ensure that the process which is set up to develop a new vision and framework for development is inclusive, genuinely participatory and transparent. UN consultative practices must enable and facilitate meaningful civil society involvement, including through the establishment of formal, truly-participatory mechanisms and spaces for involving civil society—especially women's organisations and those representing marginalised groups such as disabled people, people living with HIV, Dalit communities, refugee and migrant groups, and indigenous people—in developing and monitoring the new development framework. This is especially crucial in light of evidence systematically showing that the UN consistently fails to tear down the barriers to effective participation for grassroots stakeholders working on gender equality. Genuine participation from the widest possible range of stakeholders, both at the design and monitoring stages, is not only essential to creating an environment where accountability is possible, but to also shaping an agenda and framework which is truly responsive to the realities of the poorest and most marginalised people. The new UN Women's agency should be a critical player in facilitating this process, using its intellectual leadership and strategic relationship with women's organisations to support the women of the world to shape the future development agenda.

Written evidence submitted by Publish What You Pay

MAIN POINTS

Many countries in Africa and other developing regions will not achieve the MDGs by 2015, and this is in large part due to secrecy and corruption in the oil, gas and mining industries. Disclosure of revenue payments made by oil, gas and mining companies to resource-rich governments would increase accountability and foster better use of domestic natural resources for development in order to achieve the MDGs.

The United States adopted a law on 21 July 2010 to require all such companies regulated in the US to disclose such payments. Noting London's pivotal role in financial markets, the UK government should take similar steps and mandate similar disclosure requirements for UK-listed companies.

Taking such steps would help deliver on the MDG Summit outcomes which stress the need for measures to combat corruption and include specific commitments to enhancing disclosure practices and promoting transparency in financial information.

KEY OUTCOMES FROM THE SUMMIT

1. The MDG Summit outcome document adopted by the General Assembly by consensus on 22 September 2010 included the following "action agenda" and commitments related to fighting corruption and promoting financial transparency:

2. The MDG Summit outcome document stressed that "fighting corruption at both the national and international levels is a priority and that corruption is a serious barrier to effective resource mobilization and allocation and diverts resources away from activities that are vital for poverty eradication, the fight against hunger and sustainable development."³⁶

3. In 2008, exports of oil and minerals from Africa were worth roughly \$393 billion—nine times the value of international aid (\$44 billion). Ironically, countries rich in natural resources are more likely to suffer conflict and poverty than their resource-poor neighbours, as the revenues are fought over, mismanaged and misappropriated under a veil of secrecy. Information about extractive industry revenues is critical for curbing corruption and fostering the better use of these domestic resources for development.

4. Notwithstanding the UK government's laudable commitment to reaching 0.7% of GNI in aid by 2013 (reaffirmed at the MDG Summit), the fact is that the burden on the UK's aid budget could be reduced at a time of severe fiscal austerity if developing countries were able to achieve sustainable growth by mobilising revenues from the sale of their natural resources.

5. Mobilising revenues from domestic natural resources through disclosure of payments made by oil, gas and mining companies to governments is crucial to ensuring sustainable growth in developing countries as citizens are empowered, through financial transparency, to hold governments to account for the use of these revenues.

6. At the MDG Summit the UK government placed an emphasis on improving maternal and child health as well as tackling preventable diseases such as malaria. Aid plays an important role but since natural resource revenues dwarf development aid flows, it is these domestic resources which will ultimately underpin a country's economic development and ability to meet the MDGs including improving child and maternal health and tackling malaria.

7. Mobilising domestic resources for development would ensure that developing countries are able to secure and deliver the Summit outcomes for themselves. The MDG Summit outcome document reaffirms that national ownership and leadership are indispensable in the development process but that "development efforts at the national level need to be supported by an enabling national and international environment that complements national actions and strategies." A critical part of creating this enabling environment would be for the UK government to adopt legislation requiring UK-listed oil, gas and mining companies to disclose their payments the governments of resource-rich developing countries.

8. The MDG Summit outcome document specifically committed Heads of State and Government to accelerating progress on Developing a Global Partnership for Development (MDG 8) through:

- "Enhancing and strengthening domestic resource mobilization and fiscal space, including, where appropriate, through modernized tax systems, more efficient tax collection, broadening the tax base and effectively combating tax evasion and capital flight."
- "Implementing measures to curtail illicit financial flows at all levels, *enhancing disclosure practices and promoting transparency in financial information.*"³⁷

DFID'S ROLE IN DELIVERING AGREED STRATEGIES

9. The Publish What You Pay coalition urges the Secretary of State for International Development to champion extractive industry transparency regulations for UK-listed companies.

10. A new precedent in extractive industry transparency has recently been set by legislation in the United States. Provision 1504 (Disclosure of Payments by Resource Extraction Issuers) contained in the new Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act, passed in July 2010, requires oil, gas and mining companies registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) to publicly report how much they pay each government for access to their oil, gas and minerals.³⁸ The law requires the information to be presented annually on a country—and project-specific basis. It must be filed in an electronic format and the SEC must make this publicly available in a single on-line database.

³⁶ MDG Summit outcome document, paragraph 52.

³⁷ MDG Summit outcome document, paragraphs 78(i) and 78 (j).

³⁸ See http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/cpquery/?&dbname=cp111&sid=cp111G9Nkr&refer=&r_n=hr517.111&item=&&&sel=TOC_2843491&

11. President Obama raised this historic step in his speech to the UN MDG Summit on 22 September:

“...We are leading a global effort to combat corruption, which in many places is the single greatest barrier to prosperity, and which is a profound violation of human rights. That’s why we now require oil, gas and mining companies that raise capital in the United States to disclose all payments they make to foreign governments. And it’s why I urged the G20 to put corruption on its agenda and make it harder for corrupt officials to steal from their own people and stifle their nation’s development.”³⁹

12. The UK government could help accelerate progress on achieving the MDGs by introducing similar reporting requirements for UK-listed companies. This would mean that companies that are currently not listed with the SEC would be covered by the same reporting requirements, creating a more level and transparent playing field for business. The information from company financial reports, if disaggregated to the level of each country, will be a vital tool in building such accountability, giving citizens essential data with which to hold their governments accountable for the revenues mobilised and how they are used.

13. A reporting requirement for UK-listed companies would cover important energy and mineral suppliers that are not listed on the SEC including Russian oil and gas companies like Gazprom, Rosneft and Lukoil, as well as large mining companies like Anglo American and Xstrata. These companies pay large sums of money to resource-rich countries for the sale of oil, gas and minerals which could serve as a basis for economic growth and poverty reduction.

14. With the UK’s important role in global financial markets, adoption of country-specific reporting requirements like the US law would greatly contribute to making payment disclosure an international norm. The UK should also promote similar standards in the European Union and other jurisdictions around the world. The inclusion of country by country reporting in the International Financial Reporting Standard for mineral extraction which is currently being developed by the International Accounting Standards Board would ensure the most universal coverage.

15. Introducing regulation to improve transparency and fight corruption fits well with the Coalition Government’s domestic and international agenda of transparency, accountability and good governance.

October 2010

Written evidence submission from Rt Hon Gordon Brown MP, Co-Convenor, Global Campaign for Education High-Level Panel

1. Please find attached a speech I made to African leaders, in Kampala, 24 July 2010, at the African Union Summit.

2. This speech gives further background to the key points I believe the Committee should consider in relation to their inquiry into The 2010 Millennium Development Goals Review Summit.

3. Those points are, briefly, as follows:

4. There is no way forward in protectionism and narrow nationalism: instead we need to match the onward march of a fully global economy with the creation of a truly global society founded on shared values, agreed objectives and new and better global institutions.

5. Africa must be not simply the beneficiary of that global society, but actually one of its key authors.

6. Since the turn of the Millennium we have witnessed a decade of development, but have thought too narrowly of development as aid. In the coming decade we need to go well beyond an old paradigm of development based on relationships of donor and recipient, and adopt instead a new conception of development as a partnership for investment and growth. The future is no longer giving and receiving, but instead investing together in a future which is shared.

7. The world requires a new driver of consumer demand : the world needs Africa. Some time ago we moved beyond the idea of charity, and said that Africa’s development was not about charity but about justice. But the imperative is stronger still; it is both about justice and our shared prosperity.

8. Future growth in the world economy, and future jobs in the developing world, will depend on harnessing both the productive potential and the pent-up consumer demand of this continent and the developing world.

9. However, at precisely the moment we need to be creating the conditions for Africa sustaining its high growth levels for decades and therefore being part of the world’s economic recovery, some people are advocating world leaders take decisions which will lock in high unemployment levels in Europe and America, with growth at least 2% less than it could be and cutting aid and investment in Africa—support lost which will not only destroy jobs but destroy lives.

³⁹ <http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2010/09/22/remarks-president-millennium-development-goals-summit-new-york-new-york>

10. The only way out of this vicious spiral of less spending, slower growth and fewer jobs is for the G20 to agree a strategy for global growth which has as its goal increased world growth worth three trillion and 30 million jobs over the next three years, and has at its the idea that Africa is not the problem but a key part of the solution.

11. Africa can drive the global recovery, but not without Africans driving the global agenda.

SPEECH BY THE RIGHT HON GORDON BROWN MP TO AFRICAN LEADERS, KAMPALA, 24 JULY 2010

Friends, it is a great honour to have been invited here today and to speak with you at the invitation of Prime Minister Meles, whose work alongside you all has inspired much of what I want to talk about today.

And here in Kampala it is fitting to begin by remembering all the innocent lives which have been lost to terrorism.

And so friends let me say to you, and to the people of Uganda, that I grieve with you in this night of agony.

In Britain, the United States, Spain, Kenya, Bali, across the Middle East—we each and all know the suffering and the sorrow that terrorism brings, and must stand strong with one another in the darkness.

And so together let us say to the families of the victims—they will never be forgotten. And let us say to the people of Uganda—you will never walk alone.

And it is this sense—that our fates are shared, our destinies entangled—that I want to discuss with you today. My argument is three fold.

Firstly—there is no way forward in protectionism and narrow nationalism: instead we need to match the onward march of a fully global economy with the creation of a truly global society founded on shared values, agreed objectives and new and better global institutions.

Secondly—Africa must be not simply the beneficiary of that global society, but actually one of its key authors and indeed its soul.

And thirdly—since the turn of the Millennium we have witnessed a decade of development, but have thought too narrowly of development as aid. In the coming decade we need to go well beyond an old paradigm of development based on relationships of donor and recipient, and adopt instead a new conception of development as a partnership for investment and growth. The future is no longer giving and receiving, but instead investing together in a future which is shared.

It will take a lot from all sides to achieve the new partnership I am talking about. But I am confident that in this room we have the leadership which can accomplish all this and more.

Because just look what you have already achieved.

Your levels of growth inspire the world—with lower income countries forecast to grow at 5% this year, compared to 2% growth in high income countries.

And you have transformed the lives of your people these last 10 years. Now 8.5 million extra African children go to school compared to just 10 years ago, and in just one decade you have put three million extra Africans on ARV treatment for HIV.

And you have persuaded the richest countries—and I am proud that Britain helped—to cancel 100 billion dollars of debt and to commit to doubling their spending on international development.

In the 10 years since the start of this new century you have created a unique peer review mechanism in NEPAD, one which is now being attempted by the G20 in the peer review of the Framework for Strong Sustainable and Balanced Growth.

No injustice should endure forever and it is to your credit as leaders that you as a group have achieved more for social justice by working together in these last two decades than has been achieved in the previous 100 years.

But as Nelson Mandela has said—the struggle for justice never ceases, and once one mountain top has been scaled, you always see a new summit to climb towards.

And my argument today is that while Africa's achievements—your achievements—are enormous, the world asks yet more from you now.

Africans have always inspired progressives with the heroism of your struggle—against the wrongs of imperialism, against apartheid, against poverty. But it is time not merely to inspire us, but to lead us.

Africa must lead, because today, because of the interdependence of our economies, and because what happens in the richest city of richest country can directly affect the poorest citizen in the poorest country, we can no longer think of policies as only for the North or only for the South, or only for developed countries or only for developing countries: shared global problems require shared global solutions.

And this is one world in need of global leadership—one world in which I am clear too that Africa does not only stand to gain from a global society, but must be its inspiration and a leader.

Let me explain what I mean by a global society. I think you all know that President Obama spent some time as a community organiser before becoming a politician. I'm somebody who spent some time as a politician before becoming a community organiser...

I believe in people-powered movements, now more than ever, because I think that achieving the biggest changes that all of our countries need will require the mobilisation not simply of elected politicians but of citizens on an unprecedented scale.

All of our lives are connected: we can all impact for good or ill on the lives of people we have never met. And yet we don't currently share a common society or effective global institutions that allow us to treat strangers as neighbours or give life to our feelings of fellowship, solidarity, compassion and care.

But it doesn't have to be that way. I believe that it is possible for people, acting together, to build a global society, and design the institutions that would best serve its values. The social and democratic deficits which are at the heart of globalisation and which leave Africa so underrepresented are not inevitable—they can be overcome by we the people of this world.

I believe a global society with global institutions founded on shared values is possible—and that the need for it is nowhere more apparent than here in Africa. The continent to be hit first and worst by climate change. The continent whose integration into the global market is least advanced and whose vulnerability to commodity price shocks and financial instability is most pronounced. And, of course, the continent which carries such an intolerable burden in terms of disease, illiteracy, conflict, hunger and the unnecessary loss of life.

Africa has so much to gain from a global society, but also so much to offer. And so I wanted to come to this magnificent continent, full of more untapped potential and unrealised talent than any other, to talk about the future, and the global society that we can build together.

You know better than anybody that the great challenges Africa faces—climate change, poverty, terrorism, stunted growth, financial instability—are issues that no one country and no one continent can face on their own. They are challenges we will only meet and master working together across borders.

And the acceleration of globalisation and our interdependence is bringing with it something bigger than simply a shift in power around the world—more than a shift from West to East, North to South. It is bringing something more fundamental still. Twenty years ago nobody would have predicted that China and India would be the big drivers of growth and political superpowers they have become. And there is no reason to believe the countries of Africa cannot make similar leaps in the decades to come.

So I am here to speak not just of the ascent of Africa and Asia, but to say today just as people have spoken of an American century and an Asian century, I believe we can now speak of an African century.

People are no longer prepared to accept that some countries will always be rich and powerful, while others will always suffer poverty and powerlessness. I recall when I visited Mozambique I saw an election slogan that has always stuck with me and could be applied to all of Africa. It said "It is not our destiny to be poor".

And today we can say with certitude, not only as a moral cry from the heart but as a hard-headed market reality, that every country in the world shares an economic destiny. And that destiny cannot tolerate these seemingly unbridgeable gaps between rich and poor. Today no border is strong enough to insulate any of us from our shared reality; that we face insufficient world demand side by side with continuing risks of a new wave of financial instability, all taking place in a world where millions of people are still literally too poor to live. So what we need is more than a recalibration of power between the first and third worlds. The financial crisis has shown that the old Washington Consensus is dead, and with it must die policies of separate development, and a third world treated differently from the rest. This is more than the rise of the third world—it is the end of it.

Because the financial crisis which has cost you so much, started by the irresponsibility of Western bankers, revealed that there was also an underlying problem of long standing of global financial instability and global imbalances that cannot be dealt with other than by us working together. Global demand was fuelled by Western, mainly US consumers, who were supplied by Asian exports. Asia and some other emerging markets grew huge surpluses that became like a giant lending scheme for US consumers who grew large deficits. Finance became cheaper and cheaper and so began the "chase for yield" and "socially useless" financial instruments of fiendish complexity that increased yields and hid risks.

As we unravel this we know the situation going forward is unsustainable. The US consumer can no longer be the "buyer of last resort". And that is why the G20 has begun the Framework for Strong Sustainable Balanced Growth. But the fear is either we will have low growth affecting the whole world as we move from this unsustainable cycle of demand and finance or we will have better growth but a continuation of this cycle.

Some people will say these balances are inevitable, that the world is out of kilter and there's simply nothing you can do.

But I believe there is an alternative. An alternative to what is now called the new normalcy in the global economy of low growth, high unemployment and instability on the one hand, high levels of absolute poverty and the waste of human lives in Africa on the other.

There is an alternative to a decade of low global growth which would fail to meet both the development needs of Africa and the growth needs of Europe and America.

To me the answer is obvious: as we struggle to find new sources of growth we must turn here, to Africa, to this continent of huge potential and talent.

There is an alternative—it is an alternative where Africa grows, thrives, and contributes not only to her own development, but to world recovery.

That is the alternative—but it is a possibility rather than a probability. If we want that future, we will have to struggle for it, because it will happen through choice not chance. And if we want it, you as African leaders will have to lead the charge.

And so that brings me to the third and to my mind most important part of my argument today. It is not enough to believe that we need a global society. Not enough to believe that Africa can and must lead that global society's formation and drive its agenda.

I believe the key imperative for the world—not just for Africa—is delivering for this continent not just what we have seen these last 10 years—a decade of growth—but something much more than that. What I believe is possible is a continuous uninterrupted period of three decades of growth. This should not be a sprint for growth but a marathon of growth.

Economic history has shown us that 80% of poverty reduction is achieved by growth—but it has to be continuous and sustained—it takes decades of very high inclusive growth. If we can achieve this, then Africa will become a new source of dynamism in the global economy.

Because let us consider the facts.

While the Asian market continues its breathtaking expansion, China and India would have to increase their consumer spending by 50% overnight just to replace the growth lost by America in the last two years.

And so the world needs a new driver of consumer demand, a new market, and a new dynamo. In short; the world needs Africa. Some time ago we moved beyond the idea of charity, and said that Africa's development was not about charity but about justice. But the imperative is stronger still; it is both about justice and our shared prosperity.

Because, in the simplest terms, future growth in the world economy, and future jobs in the developing world, will depend on harnessing both the productive potential and the pent-up consumer demand of this continent and the developing world.

There is a shortage of global aggregate demand, so today every job not created in Africa is a job lost to our common global growth; every business that fails is a business lost to global growth; every entrepreneur whose idea can't be realised is a driver lost to global growth.

And so there is, quite simply, no sustainable route back to long term prosperity in Bonn and Boston and Bristol, without growth in Accra and Addis and Abuja.

But at precisely the moment we need to be creating the conditions for Africa sustaining its high growth levels for decades and therefore being part of the world's economic recovery, some people are advocating world leaders take decisions which will lock in high unemployment levels in Europe and America, with growth at least 2% less than it could be and cutting aid and investment in Africa—support lost which will not only destroy jobs but destroy lives.

The only way out of this vicious spiral of less spending, slower growth and fewer jobs is for the G20 to agree a strategy for global growth which has as its goal increased world growth worth three trillion and 30 million jobs over the next three years, and has at its the idea that Africa is not the problem but a key part of the solution.

And so I am very pleased that my successor to the Presidency of the G20 President Lee is putting development through growth at the heart of the agenda for the Seoul Summit.

Africa can drive the global recovery, but not without Africans driving the global agenda. And that is why I propose enhanced African representation at the IMF, increased African representation in the World Bank and a constituency system for the G20 where Africa can be permanently and fully represented along with other non-G20 countries of the world.

So I say no more begging to attend, no more there as the afterthought, no more having to plead just for consideration; everywhere growth is being debated, examined and planned there too must Africa's representatives be as of right.

And while it is not for me to tell Africa's leadership what your agenda at those negotiating tables should be, I would like to offer, with all humility, some reflections on the policies which I believe would best promote Africa's development, and therefore the world's recovery. Let me begin by saying what I do not believe.

I do not believe that the lesson of the financial crisis and the subsequent world recession is that globalisation is doomed to fail and should be abandoned in favour of economic nationalism or command economies. Even though Africa paid a high price for financial problems caused elsewhere, this is not the time to decouple Africa from the world economy, or to abandon market-based competition, but the time to set out a catalytic role for government in partnership with markets to invest in infrastructure, skills and regional economic integration.

No country has ever grown without trade and without a successful private sector. But that does not mean that we should simply let the market rip and leave Africa reliant either on aid, or on the episodic and unstable growth which volatile commodity prices have bequeathed us.

Instead, I believe the new African growth will come from five sources;

- a faster pace of economic integration in Africa’s internal market, and between your market and those of other continents, facilitated by investment in infrastructure;
- a broader based export-led growth, founded on new products and services;
- investment in the private sector from African and foreign sources in firms that create jobs and wealth;
- the up-skilling of the workforce, including through the acceleration of education provision, IT infrastructure and uptake and finally through; and
- more effective governance to ensure that effective states can discharge their task of creating growth and reducing poverty.

Each of these five priorities will be difficult to achieve. But we should remember the value of the prize. Because if we can agree a new model of post-crisis growth then Africa—already a 1.6 trillion economy—will continue to grow even faster than the rest of the world. This is not my assessment, but that of the world’s leading companies and analysts. For example a report just published by the McKinsey Global Institute claims that Africa’s consumer spending could reach 1.4 trillion dollars by 2020—a 60% increase on 2008. In other words in 10 years African consumer spending will be as big as the whole African economy is today.

It is those sorts of projections which mean people are now rightly talking not just of East Asian tigers, but of African lions.

But to make development work for the people of Africa we need a new philosophy of development—a reaffirmation that aid promised must be aid delivered, but that aid’s ultimate objective must be to make aid redundant. There are those who argue against aid and say it doesn’t matter if we break our promises to the poor. And there are those who say that aid is an end in itself—somehow a perfect proxy for how progressive and compassionate we are as donors. I believe neither of those things is true.

I believe aid should not be cut but continue to grow and that those countries which break their promises to the poor must be asked to explain themselves in the court of world opinion. But at the same time future aid must be an investment not in people’s dependency but in their dignity.

And what do I mean by that? Something very simple; that the job of aid is to kick start business-led growth and not to replace it. And so I believe we need to focus not just on poverty—but on growth. Not just on providing services for the poor, but on an investment climate for those who bring wealth. And not simply on how to support Africa’s public sector, but on how to unleash its private sector. Because for me, the purpose of aid ultimately must be to no longer need it.

Of course this new emphasis is not instead of the development initiatives you are already planning—growth is designed to reinforce these—and be reinforced by them.

Aid and a focus on both rights and poverty reduction still matter. For example, for an economy to thrive it needs all of its citizens to contribute and that’s why gender justice is so key to development, as well as a moral imperative on its own. So I salute the African Union’s focus on maternal mortality at this summit.

Likewise, education for all helps build a skilled workforce which sustains growth and a growing economy enables you to abolish fees and increase access. A healthy population means a more productive workforce; a more productive workforce increases tax receipts for funding a national health service.

So while some may try to paint an emphasis on growth against an emphasis on aid, I believe they are mutually reinforcing. Growth relies on good health and education services—but those services rely on growth in turn.

So we as donors need to broaden our focus to include all those investments which enable African entrepreneurs to succeed and the market to do its job.

The benefits of regional integration and an internal market for Africa are massive. Just think that 60% of ASEAN and NAFTA exports are sold to markets in those blocs, even more in Europe. But only 10% of Africa’s goods and services are sold in Africa. And while the trade barriers the North erects at the expense of the South are grotesque and cannot be allowed to stand, so too must we face up to the formal and informal barriers which Africa erects against itself.

So I believe donors or as I would call us partners need to be more open to the need for infrastructure investment which would enable Africa to build the roads, ports, electricity grids and digital infrastructure on which future trade expansions will rely. That means an estimated 93 billion dollars of new investment which we together should seek to mobilise with new public-private partnerships to frontload investment.

Of course the creation of wealth and an increase in trade will not, in and of themselves, equal development. Prosperity does not simply trickle down but must be actively distributed to ensure that the many and not just the few see the benefit. But there is no sustainable poverty reduction strategy which does not depend, in the end, on dynamic private and public sectors creating decent work. And so that must be our primary goal.

My second recommendation is diversification of the economy. We know that the best insurance against shocks in one sector is to have healthy growth across a number of sectors. And while Africa as a whole has already travelled some way along this road—with two thirds of GDP growth from 2000 to 2008 coming from sectors such as retail, transportation, telecommunications, and manufacturing, 80% of Africa's exports are still based in oil, minerals and agricultural goods.

So the issue today is how to create sustained growth free of the commodities cycle which is vulnerable to such wild fluctuations and which has done so much harm to Africa.

I believe that will only be possible if we accept my third point; that Africa's best hope for diversification is not just in improving agricultural productivity which is a priority, but also creating jobs in the high-value sectors with a massive acceleration in the use of IT. A third of people in Africa now have mobiles, but less than 1% has access to broadband. I am already working with some of you to bring together experts in this field for a major campaign and programme of work, because I truly believe that the rapid expansion of internet access in Africa could transform how Africa trades, learns and holds political power accountable.

And my fourth point is that African growth can only be sustained in tandem with a huge upswing in good governance. Companies simply will not invest without guarantees of minimum standards on corruption, stability of regulation, property rights and the rule of law. I know that this is at the heart of NEPAD's work, and I want to congratulate you on all the progress which has been made so far.

And I truly believe that if that progress continues, and the ideas I have discussed today are adopted, that we stand at the beginning of a decade of investment, and the dawn of a global society.

We are at the beginning of the second decade of a still-young century. How the 21st century unfolds is in large part in the hands of the people on this room, and the leaders who meet in the coming days.

My message to you is simple, and it is a message not simply from Britain, but from people all over the world. It is time to rise. Rise, because just as Africa needs the world, the world needs Africa.

Written evidence submitted by Sightsavers'

INTRODUCTION

1. Sightsavers is an international organisation working to promote health and ensure equality of opportunity for disabled people. Sightsavers work contributes to each of the MDGs and we have been actively working on MDG policy and advocacy for the last two years. This work includes:

- Unofficial attendance at the summit itself, including representation at several key side meetings, one of which was with the Secretary of State.
- Input on disability and social inclusion into the Global Campaign Against Poverty's positions and papers.
- Support to high-level lobbying activities on both the mainstreaming of disability throughout the goals and the inclusion of the Neglected Tropical Diseases within the health-related goals.
- The production of a policy brief entitled "The Millennium Development Goals Summit 2010" presenting our position on the changes we feel are necessary for the achievement of the MDGs.
- Ensuring BOND's joint statement on the MDGs for the UK Government, entitled "A last chance to keep our promises", included specific mention of disabled people.
- Contributed to and attended a parliamentary reception on the MDGs, attended by over 40 members of the House of Commons and the House of Lords.
- Contributed to a public event on the MDGs for over 400 people, involving the Deputy Prime Minister and the Secretary of State for International Development, at which three blind Kenyan students who's education had been supported by Sightsavers, were given the chance to ask a question of Andrew Mitchell and to present our policy brief to him.

KEY OUTCOMES FROM THE SUMMIT

2. The most tangible outcome from the Summit is the Outcome Document, which was formally adopted by the Heads of State and Government at the summit itself:

THE OUTCOME DOCUMENT

3. The Outcome Document begins by welcoming progress made since the last review and notes specific success in some countries in "combating extreme poverty, improving school enrolment and child health, reducing child deaths, expanding access to clean water... and controlling malaria, tuberculosis and neglected tropical diseases". The outcome document makes pledges for decisive progress on the most off-track MDG targets, and echoes calls to avoid a fragmented approach to the MDGs. However, the language is weak on the level of commitment to a renewed pledge to achieving the MDGs compared to that used previously in the Millennium Declaration, now expressing only the "deep concern" of world leaders.

4. The Outcome Document is weak on commitments on human rights and accountability despite the UN Secretary-General's insistence that the summit should focus heavily on setting up much stronger participatory mechanisms to hold governments to account on their commitments to the MDGs. Many groups feel that one of the missing elements in the implementation of the MDGs is the need to situate the MDGs in a human rights framework, for this to happen there needs to be more disaggregated reporting to ensure averages do not mask disparities between groups.

5. The Outcome Document makes several references to the right to development, and we welcome such language as "removing barriers to access and use of health-care services", "universal access", "inclusive education", and "inclusive and equitable economic growth". This language is not consistent through the document however, and more explicit measures and clearer actions are needed for implementation in order for *inclusive* development to be realised. Disability affects all eight MDGs and the World Bank estimates disabled people form 20% of the world's poorest populations. The exclusion of disabled people, or a lack of their specific inclusion, will seriously undermine efforts to achieve the MDGs.

6. The Outcome Document makes explicit reference to people with disabilities three times, the most notable of which: "We also recognise that policies and actions must focus on the poor and those living in the most vulnerable situations, including persons with disabilities, so that they benefit from progress towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals". We welcome this, but it does not go far enough. The UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) highlights the need for "international development programmes" to be "inclusive of and accessible to persons with disabilities". We would recommend that all actions taken as a result of the summit include specific plans on monitoring the inclusion or participation of people with disabilities.

7. The Outcome Document is strong in its commitments towards achieving MDG 2. We welcome explicit commitments to "inclusive education" and to "addressing the root causes ... of exclusion and discrimination affecting children, particularly out of school children", bearing in mind that a third of those out of school are disabled.

8. The Outcome Document is strong in its commitment to fast-track progress on MDGs 4 and 5 (child and maternal health) as these goals are off-track and will currently not be met by 2015. However, specific attention to women and children with disabilities is missing. Women with disabilities face particular challenges in accessing reproductive health education because they are not considered sexually active people, nor do they receive timely antenatal care should they chose to have children. In some developing countries, mortality rates for disabled children under five can be as high as 80%, even in countries where overall under-five mortality is below 20%.

9. The Outcome Document renews commitments to accelerate progress towards achieving MDG 6. In particular we welcome the specific mention of "efforts to prevent and treat neglected tropical diseases...". Public-private partnerships have increased country and international agency commitment to NTDs and effective intervention strategies can lead to dramatic declines in infection from these debilitating diseases. Programmes to treat, control or eliminate NTDs are recognised as some of the most cost-effective in public health. We would welcome agreement on specific additional resources towards these programmes, particularly the non-pharmaceutical aspects of sustainable control programmes.

10. The Outcome Document is not ambitious enough in its actions towards implementation, there are few of the clear financial or political commitments needed to ensure that the MDGs are met by 2015.

DFID'S ROLE IN DELIVERING AGREED STRATEGIES

11. The Outcome Document highlights a renewed commitment to the target of 0.7% of GNI for ODA, this renewed commitment was partly due to the tough position of DFID on this issue. We welcome the UK government's ongoing commitment to the 0.7% target. The UK also needs to continue pushing other developed countries, especially in the EU, to honour their 0.7% commitments.

12. We welcome DFID's commitment on accountability and transparency, specifically their push for an annual review of the MDGs. DFID need to keep pushing for a clearer list of financial and political commitments taken at the Summit, and should lead on making global structures and decisions making processes more democratic, inclusive and transparent.

13. At the national level, DFID should work with governments in the South to ensure that evidence informs national policies and plans are supported, and that these react to a nation's needs rather than prevailing political priorities.

14. DFID should be a global leader on pushing for inclusive development in order to ensure that progress towards the inclusion of disabled people and other marginalised groups in development programming can be tracked. A starting point would be the disaggregation of data not only by gender, but where relevant by group.

THE ROLE OF THE UN

15. The UN is compiling a list of commitments made at the Summit: http://www.un.org/en/mdg/summit2010/pdf/HLPM_Side%20events_CRP.pdf.

This list is currently far from exhaustive and this needs addressing with an open communication and dissemination process once complete.

16. Given the role that the UN played in ensuring that Civil Society were represented at roundtables, the UN has an important ongoing function in ensuring the voice of civil society is heard by world leaders in future Summits, specifically the next MDG Summit in 2013.

17. We welcome the creation of the MDG Task Force and the MDG Ambassador Group. Both groups must continue their work towards ensuring the MDGs are achieved.

18. The UN should play a leading role in developing a mechanism to hold governments to account for their commitments made on the MDGs.

19. The UN must ensure the ratification, domestication and implementation of the CRPD.

20. We welcome the suggestion of an annual report from the Secretary General, as well as another Summit in 2013 and recommendations for a post 2015 framework.

THE ROLE OF NGOS

21. The Outcome Document includes many references to civil society participation at all levels in the next phase of implementation of the MDGs: “We call on civil society, including non-governmental organisations... to enhance their role in national development efforts as well as their contribution to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals by 2015”.

22. NGOs have an important role to play in holding Governments to account for the commitments they have made on the MDGs, particularly in those countries which currently lag behind on their commitments.

LOOKING AHEAD TO AFTER THE MDG DEADLINE OF 2015

23. Specific recommendations for looking ahead to the post 2015 agenda include:

- The construction of a post 2015 framework for global development which is sensitive to country specific contexts and which addresses the root causes as well as the effects of poverty. These would include global financial and economic structures.
- A post 2015 framework for global development must be developed with specific input from people in developing countries, particularly those usually excluded from the development agenda, such as people with disabilities.
- Any future framework should include clear and potentially legally binding accountability mechanisms to ensure that countries honour commitments made.
- A future framework needs to specifically address disability and inclusive development.
- From a health perspective, any future framework needs to focus on a systems strengthening as opposed to disease-specific approach. Targets should be set on this basis and not on progress made on three or four specific diseases, given the pace of change in global health patterns.

Written evidence submitted by Tearfund

INTRODUCTION

1. Tearfund welcomes this opportunity to contribute to the Select Committee’s analysis of the 2010 Millennium Development Goals Summit. Tearfund is a Christian relief and development agency working in around 40 countries across the world. Primarily we work through grassroots local partners, including churches, but we also have staff working directly in response to humanitarian crises, in Pakistan, Afghanistan, Haiti, DRC and Sudan.

2. The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) are at the heart of our work and our partners have significant expertise delivering transformational change across all the goals including HIV, water & sanitation, environmental sustainability, education and food security. In our advocacy work, we have called for an approach which recognises the interconnectedness of the MDGs and in advance of the MDG summit, we called for a five-year action plan aimed at accelerating progress across all of the goals, especially those which are most off-track.

OVERALL

3. With five years to go until 2015, when the Millennium Development Goals are due to be met, the UN high-level meeting in September 2010 should have been the moment when world governments committed to decisive action to make sure all of the targets get back on track. Instead, a lot of existing commitments and positive principles were endorsed in an “Outcomes Document” but few actions were agreed to ensure delivery of the goals.

4. The key to delivering on the MDGs is an effective global partnership, with sustained financial investment in “what works” and a clear accountability mechanism. Donors seemed tempted to pick out specific areas for support but didn’t fully recognise the inter-connectedness of the MDGs.

5. Whilst there were some positive commitments from both donor and recipient governments to improve child and maternal health, little attention was paid to sanitation, a target which, at current rates of progress, won’t be met in sub-Saharan Africa until the 23rd Century. In many ways, the Summit was an opportunity missed. Tearfund wanted to see a comprehensive roadmap for the next five years but instead we ended up with a partial plan for tackling child and maternal mortality, supported by around 35 countries, as well as businesses and NGOs.

6. This partnership approach to delivering the MDGs is a strong model for accelerating progress on MDGs 4 and 5, but Tearfund would also like to have seen formal recognition of the role that faith groups, including churches, play in development. There was no acknowledgement of faith-based organisations in the Outcomes Document, despite the fact that in some countries, FBOs are delivering a significant proportion of health and education services.

THE UK’S ROLE

7. The UK went to the MDG Summit in a strong position, having committed, unlike some of our European counterparts, to the UN target of spending 0.7% of GNI on international aid. We very much welcome the investment in malaria and in maternal health, commitments that are in line with the promised increase in ODA spending.

8. Tearfund hopes that the UK Government will address all of the MDGs in its review of DFID spending and focus its energy on meeting all of the goals, rather than just a favoured few.

9. The Coalition also needs to ensure that development drives policy on cross-departmental issues such as trade and anti-corruption efforts, and supports innovative mechanisms for financing climate change, such as the Financial Transaction Tax (FTT), championed by the French and Spanish at the MDG Summit.

PARTICIPATION IN THE SUMMIT

10. Tearfund very much welcomed the opportunity to meet with DFID and to discuss the UK’s position in advance of the Summit. Having said that, we were very disappointed that the UK chose not to include any civil society representatives on its official delegation, as had previously been done at the 2005 World Summit. We believe that this would have strengthened the delegation’s capacity to push on key areas, including the ODA commitment, and other delegations (such as the Danish who included seven representatives) did involve CSOs in this way.

ACCOUNTABILITY

11. Tearfund welcomes the accountability mechanisms outlined in the Outcome Document (the annual review at General Assembly and the Secretary General’s annual report) but it will be hard to assess implementation of outcomes, given the lack of any measurable goals within the key Outcome Document.

12. Commitments made to the Global Strategy for Women’s and Children’s Health are more tangible and it is now essential for the correct infrastructure to be established for taking the implementation of this plan forward.

13. It goes without saying that all commitments should be publicised at a national level so that country-based civil society organisations are able to participate in the accountability process.

LOOKING AHEAD

14. Tearfund agrees with the UK Government’s continued focus on achieving the MDGs by 2015. The MDGs are not perfect and as some NGOs have suggested, a post-MDG framework could potentially focus more on environmental challenges, tackling corruption, dealing with conflict, a fair trading regime, well-being and pursuing equity. Having said that, it is imperative that Governments do not become distracted by a post-2015 discussion that allows them to avoid delivering on their MDG promises between now and 2015.

 SPECIFIC POLICY AREAS:
Climate Change

15. The need to tackle climate change was something of an “elephant in the room” at the Summit, despite being a core part of MDG 7 on environmental sustainability. Without radical steps to reduce carbon emissions and ensure that temperature rise stays below 1.5 degrees, we are likely to see increased disasters, sea-level rise, drought, and the disappearance of small-island states. It will not be possible to tackle global poverty in a sustainable way if the global community fails to agree on urgent action and emerging economies must be supported to develop along a low-carbon pathway rather than follow the well-trodden route of carbon intensive industry.

16. Alongside emissions reductions, there is a pressing need to identify new funding to help poor communities to adapt to climate change and for this funding to be additional to money already committed to overseas development assistance (ODA). The delivery of fast-start finance (\$30 billion) and an agreement on the sources of long-term finance (\$100 billion agreed at Copenhagen moving towards the \$200 billion which is needed) must be delivered in order to build trust and move forward action on climate change. Tearfund is disappointed that the Summit did not give stronger support to the UNFCCC process.

HIV

17. Tearfund was calling for the Summit to give strong impetus to replenishment of the Global Fund to fight HIV, TB and Malaria, ahead of its recent replenishment conference. The Fund has played a key role in providing treatment and saving over five million lives through its financing of successful interventions. But whilst there were warm words about the Fund at the Summit and a few important pledges, its ability to deliver in the future is still in the balance. \$11.7 billion has now been pledged and whilst a few more commitments are likely (including from the UK), the total is likely to fall short of the \$20 billion that is needed between 2011–13.

18. Tearfund is pleased that the UK Government is sticking to its existing multi-year commitment of £1 billion to be delivered by 2015 but we are disappointed that the UK Government did not seize the moment to show global leadership at the Summit and commit £840 million to the Global Fund for the period 2011–13, which is its fair share and which could have encouraged other donors such as the United States to increase their commitments at the replenishment conference.

19. The number of people living with HIV is still increasing (33.4 million) worldwide and universal access to prevention, treatment, care and support is still a long way off. The MDG Summit could have focused on delivering this goal, but whilst there is reference to universal access in the Outcomes Document, and some positive pledges to the Global Strategy for Women’s and Children’s Health, there is no comprehensive plan stating how universal access is to be achieved and implemented.

20. Having said that, the increased money for women and children’s health, including the investment in health systems and the promise, made by a number of African nations, to spend at least 15% of national budgets on health, should have a positive impact on access to HIV services.

21. Tearfund does also welcome the specific commitments made by some nations (Benin, Nepal, Tanzania and Ghana for example) to increase coverage of PMTCT (Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission of HIV) services.

Water and Sanitation

22. In the months running up to the Summit, Tearfund called for the Outcomes Document to recognise the interconnectedness of the MDGs but in so doing to focus on the sectors that are most off-track, such as sanitation. Some 2.6 billion people around the world lack access to sanitation and this undermines progress in other crucial areas such as health, education and gender equality.

23. Tearfund, along with other members of End Water Poverty were also calling for endorsement of “Sanitation and Water for All: A Global Framework for Action” within the document and for the UN Secretary General’s Strategy for Women’s and Children’s Health to include commitments on increasing access to water and sanitation.

24. The Outcomes Document does include some positive language on integrating water and sanitation interventions in efforts to promote health, education and nutrition. However, it is much weaker when it comes to actions and commitments to try to bring this integration about. Unfortunately sanitation wasn’t given the priority we were calling for, and “Sanitation and Water for All: A Global Framework for Action” was not endorsed in the document.

25. Having said that, there was some high-level engagement at an important side event which involved UN Secretary General Ban-Ki-moon and several Heads of State including the Liberian President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf who clearly stated that the sector is “under-discussed, under-prioritised and therefore under-resourced”.

26. In the Global Strategy for Women’s and Children’s Health, again, there is encouraging language on taking an integrated approach to tackling maternal and child health. This recognises the importance of clean water, sanitation and hygiene and Tearfund welcomes this. However, the weakness once again is apparent

in the section outlining the actions to be taken, where water, sanitation and hygiene are not adequately addressed and the summary of country-by-country commitments, published alongside the Strategy, does not mention any specific action on water and sanitation. The true test for both documents will be how they are now implemented and whether the language around the desire for more integration, actually leads to changes in practice.

Hunger and Malnutrition

27. Heads of State participating at the Summit recognized that hunger and malnutrition rose 2007–09 partially reversing prior gains and re-committed to accelerate progress toward MDG 1. They recognized the role of UN agencies, including the Committee on World Food Security to strengthen international coordination and governance in this area, and they reiterated support for the Global Partnership for Agriculture, Food Security and Nutrition. They committed to promote the empowerment and participation of rural women and ensure their access to resources, markets and nutrition and highlighted environmental challenges like drought.

28. However, considering that a child dies every 6 seconds due to hunger, they did not show any urgency to transform global food security, but only committed to strengthen existing mechanisms, most of which have not provided a sufficient shift in getting the MDG target back on track.

29. They did not show willingness to turn around under-investment in agriculture and food security, or outline a mechanism or plan to disburse the \$22 billion pledged for agriculture as additional aid at the G8 Summit in 2009 as part of the L'Aquila Initiative on Food Security. They should have emphasized the cost effectiveness of investing in tackling hunger and preventing food crises, rather than responding with humanitarian aid when it's often too late to save lives and livelihoods.

30. The UK and other donors should follow the leadership of the US which has transformed the amount and way it invests in food security, and we welcome the UK's support of the "1,000 Days: Change a Life, Change the Future" initiative which will help combat child malnutrition.

31. Governments must keep food security high on the political agenda and support the development of comprehensive country-led food security plans. They should discuss a timetable and mechanism to increase investments to halve hunger by 2015 at the Global Conference on Agriculture, Food security and Climate Change at the end of October

Governance and Corruption

32. Without corresponding actions to mobilise domestic resources for poverty eradication and to clamp down on corruption, the MDGs will be virtually impossible to realise. It is estimated that every year, \$1 trillion is lost to the developing world in illicit financial flows, or in other words, that for every \$1 that is spent in ODA, \$10 is lost as a result of corruption, tax evasion and mispriced trade.

33. There were some important statements from Chancellor Merkel of Germany and from President Obama, on the need for good governance and for tackling corruption. In his plenary speech, President Obama made reference to the recent Financial Reform Bill which requires oil, gas and mining companies that raise capital in the United States to disclose all payments they make to foreign governments, a move that has been broadly welcomed by civil society organisations. Initiatives like this to increase transparency and accountability, of both investors and donors, to civil society, must go hand in hand with securing additional resources for development.

Written evidence submitted by UNICEF UK

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 UNICEF, the United Nations Children's Fund, is mandated by the United Nations General Assembly to advocate for the protection of children's rights, to help meet their basic needs and to expand their opportunities to reach their full potential. UNICEF is guided by the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and strives to establish children's rights as enduring ethical principles and international standards of behaviour towards children.

1.2 The UK National Committee for UNICEF welcomes the opportunity to submit evidence to the International Development Committee's inquiry into the outcomes of the UN MDG review summit, which took place in September 2010.

1.3 This submission will look at the first two questions of this Inquiry and provide an outline of the key outcomes of the UN MDG review summit from UNICEF UK's perspective and an overview of our recommendations for DFID's role in delivering the MDGs.

2. SUMMARY OF THE OUTCOMES OF THE UN MDG REVIEW SUMMIT

2.1 The summit was successful in bringing leaders together to engage on international development and re-energising momentum around the MDGs. We welcomed discussions about the emergence of key issues that are currently not (directly) part of the MDG agenda, but which pose significant challenges for development, such as climate change.

2.2 We also welcomed the wide recognition at the Summit that crises affecting development progress appear to be ever more frequent, powerful and less predictable—whether climate, financial, economic, food, fuel or natural disasters. We hope this recognition will encourage further action around building capacity for resilience, including the role of social protection as a buffer for crises, and disaster risk education as a preventative measure against increased climate related disasters.

2.3 Crucially, the increased recognition of the inequities of progress towards the MDGs was very positive. Member states, civil society, the media and think tanks were discussing disparities within and between countries, “increased vulnerabilities”, “deepened inequalities”, and “growing disparities”. UNICEF’s recent report “Progress for Children” highlights this as key to achievement of the MDGs.⁴⁰

2.4 We especially welcome the commitment to scale up action to close the sanitation gap, and the launch of the new “Global Strategy for Women and Children’s Health”, which among other things recognises the vital importance of clean water and adequate sanitation facilities for improving children’s health. The Strategy is a huge leap forward. However, it is not yet clear how it will be funded, and the Strategy admits that there will be a funding gap of \$26 billion to meet the health MDG targets in the poorest 49 countries in 2011. That gap must be closed and extra funds must be provided for the Strategy to be a success.

2.5 The outcome document “Keeping the promise: United to achieve the Millennium Development Goals” which states that the MDGs are achievable if we work together and implement what we know works, includes some very positive actions which could help to speed up global action to achieve the MDGs.

2.6 For example, we particularly welcome its reiteration of the importance of donor countries like the UK keeping their commitments to achieve 0.7% on Official Development Assistance (ODA) as crucial to achieving the MDGs. Without progress on trade and debt, as well ensuring countries keep their promise to give 0.7% of national income in aid it will be impossible to achieve any of the MDGs.

2.7 Similarly, we welcome the commitment within the MDG review summit outcome document to explore new innovative finance mechanisms and strengthen and scale up existing ones. We believe that innovative ways should also be explored as a way to raise additional resources. For example, new taxes on financial transactions in the UK could raise up to £20 billion per year, of which £10 billion per year could be used to support international development and adaptation to climate change.

2.8 However, despite these positives, most of the progress on the MDGs is attributable to middle-income countries, particularly China and India. While the majority of the world’s poor still live in middle income countries (MICs),⁴¹ side-events and statements at the summit pointed to a greater attention to least developed countries and fragile states as the next development frontier. There is a need to recognize the continued importance of poverty reduction in MICs for progress on the MDGs to by 2015.

3. SUMMARY OF DFID’S ROLE IN DELIVERING AGREED STRATEGIES

DFID’s Overall Approach: Achieving the MDGs and Aid Delivery

3.1 Ensuring children’s rights are upheld and fulfilled around the world is central to all UNICEF’s work to improve the lives of children and young people. We therefore welcome the Department for International Development’s (DFID) commitment to achieving the MDGs. Children and young people are the most vulnerable in society and the most affected by the global recession, climate change and conflict and yet they are the least responsible. We acknowledge the increasing difficulties of pursuing the commitment to the MDGs throughout the economic downturn but believe that it is essential to ensure the rights of millions of children around the world are fulfilled.

3.2 UNICEF UK is pleased that the new UK Government made the MDG summit a priority and maintained the UK’s leadership role in international development. In particular, we welcome the significant commitments on malaria, women and children’s health, and the reiteration of aid commitments which will contribute to ensuring children everywhere are able to enjoy their rights.

3.3 There has been notable and encouraging progress since 1990 toward the MDGs. For example, the global under five mortality rate has fallen from 90 deaths per 1,000 live births to 65 in 2008, an additional 1.8 billion people now have access to clean water and the proportion of the population using improved sanitation facilities has increased from 54% to 61% in 2008.⁴² While this progress can be attributed to many separate, but interlinked factors, increased flows of ODA have made a substantial contribution.

⁴⁰ UNICEF, Progress for Children: Achieving the MDGs with Equity, September 2010

⁴¹ Global poverty and the new bottom billion: Three-quarters of the World’s poor live in middle-income countries, Institute of Development Studies, University of Sussex, 2010

⁴² UNICEF, Progress for Children: Achieving the MDGs with Equity, September 2010

3.4 In addition to reviewing the outcomes of UK ODA, it is also expected that DFID will review the ways in which aid is delivered. Despite international efforts to improve the coordination of aid delivery many countries still receive aid from many different sources. We believe that multilateral agencies play a crucial role in improving the coordination, efficiency and effectiveness of the aid system and recommend that they remain pivotal to UK ODA delivery. Multilaterals also play a unique role in helping the international community respond collectively to humanitarian crises. A 2008 survey of progress in implementing the Paris Declaration on aid effectiveness shows that the scores of multilaterals are higher than the scores of bilateral donors on most indicators.⁴³

3.5 Multilateral aid is untied (from being spent on donor country goods and services) and tends to be more insulated from the political agendas of donor countries. It also allows for the efficient pooling of financial resources—donors who may only give a small contribution will see their money go much further when combined with that of others. In addition, multilateral aid programmes tend to be more stable and longer-term than bilateral aid programmes, as they are not as subject to sudden change as a result of political or economic shifts. In fact, multilateral spending is also more flexible in the short term as demonstrated by responses to the recent economic and food crises.⁴⁴ Given these advantages, we recommend that in the future DFID continues to channel at least the same proportion of ODA through multilateral organisations, in particular the UN agencies.

3.6 However, there are also several areas in which we feel DFID could go further to increase the effectiveness of UK aid in achieving outcomes for children and young people through the MDGs.

3.7 Achieving the MDGs will require more than just funding, although adequate resourcing is a precondition for ensuring that children's rights around the world are met. We strongly support the UK Government's commitment to reaching 0.7% of GNI for ODA by 2013 and look forward to the early introduction of this into legislation. However, it is clear that developing countries are increasingly under strain due to climate change and that additional funding is needed to enable them to adapt to its consequences. DFID must therefore maintain or reduce its existing 10% cap on ODA spending for climate change. Other funding for climate change adaptation and mitigation overseas must be additional to the 0.7% ODA commitment.

3.8 Achieving the MDGs over the next five years will require an increased focus on improved outcomes. For DFID therefore, an integral part of this should be in ensuring it has clear and specific objectives in place to guide decision making and measure progress against intentions. It is thus of concern that DFID has recently dropped several public commitments which allowed partners to monitor progress. In order to ensure maximum effectiveness and transparency of aid we recommend that DFID replaces these dropped commitments with output-focused targets aimed at benchmarking contributions toward the MDGs.

Achieving the MDGs for all: The need for an equity based approach

3.9 November 2010 marks the 21st anniversary of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC). When the UK Government ratified the CRC in 1991, it committed itself to undertake all actions and policies in the light of the best interests of the child. This means DFID must work to protect and realise children's rights through UK international development policy.⁴⁵

3.10 Although DFID's work has greatly benefited children across the world, without greater recognition of children's rights and the use of an equity based approach, which ensures we reach all children including those currently missing out, DFID is missing a key opportunity to make real progress towards addressing climate change and achieving the MDGs.

3.11 New UNICEF data shows there is an equity gap in progress toward the MDGs with the most vulnerable, who are often children, missing out.⁴⁶ Ensuring that we achieve the shared goal of achieving the MDGs requires DFID to focus its assistance where it is most needed. This is the case in all the countries in which DFID works. It is crucial that the UK's development activities in retain the rights of children at their heart and that development assistance is directed at and focused on the most vulnerable, those whose lives will otherwise be most blighted by poverty, exclusion and discrimination.

3.12 Yet, the current gains made towards realising the MDGs are largely based on improvements in national averages; a growing concern is that this conceals broad and widening disparities in poverty and children's development both among regions and within countries. For example compared with their wealthiest peers, children from the poorest households are twice as likely to die before they reach five years old.⁴⁷ It is therefore critical, in order to address these marked disparities and reach the MDGs, that DFID places a greater emphasis on equity between and within regions and countries.

⁴³ OECD DAC Report on Multilateral Aid, 2008

⁴⁴ OECD DAC Report on Multilateral Aid, 2010

⁴⁵ Article 4 of the CRC states that "all States Parties shall undertake all appropriate legislative, administrative, and other measures for the implementation of the rights recognized in the present Convention... States Parties shall [also] undertake such measures ... within the framework of international co-operation". The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, <http://www2.ohchr.org/english/law/crc.htm>

⁴⁶ UNICEF, Progress for Children: Achieving the MDGs with Equity, September 2010

⁴⁷ UNICEF, Progress for Children: Achieving the MDGs with Equity, September 2010

3.13 UNICEF's data also demonstrates that while this kind of approach is both morally and strategically right it is also the most practical and cost-effective way of meeting the MDGs for children.⁴⁸ It finds that national burdens of disease, under-nutrition, ill health, illiteracy and many protection abuses are concentrated in the most impoverished child populations. Therefore, providing these children with essential services through an equity based approach to child survival and development has greater potential to accelerate progress than current approaches. In addition, it concludes that an equity based approach could bring vastly improved returns on investment by averting far more child and maternal deaths and episodes of under-nutrition and markedly expand effective coverage of key primary health and nutrition interventions.

Achieving the MDGs and DFID's Approach to Climate Change

3.14 Climate change disproportionately affects the most vulnerable people in the poorest countries, who are often children, despite the fact that these people are the least to blame for the problem. Recent research for UNICEF UK demonstrates the real and growing impact of climate change on children in Kenya.⁴⁹ As this report makes clear, children are highly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, which has the potential to affect many aspects of their lives, including education, health and welfare. DFID must therefore seek to prioritise responses to climate change to prevent climate change impacting on the achievement of and progress towards MDG targets.

3.15 Spending money on climate change adaptation and mitigation is also an effective investment. Without this, the impacts of climate change will undo progress made toward other development goals. The recent UNDP Stocktaking report on the MDGs states that it will be extremely difficult to achieve the MDGs without funding and action on climate change.⁵⁰ Earlier this year, we welcomed the news that DFID will provide Fast Start finance for climate change adaptation,⁵¹ as agreed in the Copenhagen Accords. However, this is only one step along the way. We believe that further to this, DFID should also lead the way in providing support to long term programming to address the causes and impacts of climate change. This will prevent funding for other key development goals being diverted as the impacts of climate change become more urgent, for example through an increase in natural disasters.

3.16 DFID must also prioritise climate change as a key element in all its work and seek to ensure "climate compatible development"—minimising harm from the impacts of climate change and harnessing opportunities presented by the transition to a low carbon future, whilst promoting poverty reduction and human development. Providing support to adaptation projects in countries vulnerable to climate change and mainstreaming adaptive strategies in countries that are likely to be affected by climate change will be a critical component of this.

3.17 In addition, a child rights-based approach to adaptation programmes in developing countries will be key to ensuring children are still able to progress towards MDG targets despite climatic challenges. This approach would prioritise children and involve them in programme design and delivery. Evidence shows that child-focused disaster risk reduction programmes can be effective and efficient in achieving development objectives.⁵² In this context, UNICEF UK would therefore like DFID to recognise children as part of the solution, rather than just as victims.

3.18 Disaster risk reduction will reduce the impact of disasters on vulnerable communities, in particular children, and will allow communities to be prepared in the face of increasing disaster uncertainty. Evidence also demonstrates that child focused disaster risk reduction strategies can help address the specific risks faced by children in disasters, where they are often the most vulnerable.⁵³ Investment in disaster risk reduction is also economically sound, as it reduces the volume of emergency response needed in the future. While DFID has actively promoted an increased focus on disaster risk reduction only a small amount has been child focused.

HIV and AIDS

3.19 DFID has championed commitment to achieve Universal Access to HIV treatment, prevention, care and support. Its leadership together with global momentum has delivered impressive progress, for example there has been a ten fold increase in the number of people accessing antiretroviral treatment over just five years⁵⁴ with coverage reaching more than four million people by the end of 2008. However, with the deadline for achieving Universal Access occurring this year, it is clear that this target has been missed. At the end of 2008 only 38% of children in need of treatment received it and only two in five mothers with HIV had access to the medicine and health care services they needed to ensure their babies were born free from HIV.

⁴⁸ UNICEF, *Narrowing the Gaps to Meet the Goals*, September 2010

⁴⁹ UNICEF UK, *Climate Change in Kenya: Focus on Children*, 2010

⁵⁰ UNDP, *What Will It Take to Achieve the Millennium Development Goals?—An International Assessment*, 2010

⁵¹ Secretary of State for International Development confirmed this in a written answer on climate change 24 Jun 2010 (<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm100624/text/100624w0015.htm>)

⁵² Emma Back, Catherine Cameron and Thomas Tanner, *Children and Disaster Risk Reduction: Taking Stock and Moving Forward*, 2009

⁵³ Emma Back, Catherine Cameron and Thomas Tanner, *Children and Disaster Risk Reduction: Taking Stock and Moving Forward*, 2009

⁵⁴ UNAIDS, *Global Facts and Figures from the 2009 report on the global AIDS epidemic*, November 2009 (p.2).

3.20 Furthermore, in many countries HIV continues to have a significant and cross cutting impact on the development agenda and endangers achievement of the MDGs. It is therefore clear that the efforts of the past five years in scaling up the response to HIV must continue. As highlighted earlier in this submission in order to achieve long lasting and equitable progress DFID should ensure children's rights and an equitable approach are placed at the centre of the implementation of the HIV Strategy.

3.21 While five people are infected with HIV for every two placed on antiretroviral treatment there is an urgent need to scale up action to prevent new HIV infections. With 45% of new infections taking place in young people, addressing new infections within the 15–24 year age group is critical to addressing the HIV epidemic.⁵⁵ Young people need access to information on how to protect themselves against HIV infection, and they need access to youth friendly HIV services that are integrated within existing health provision. In addition to this, young people also need a safe and supportive environment, which enables them to use both their knowledge and access to health services to reduce their risk and vulnerability to HIV infection. While DFID's commitment to health systems is crucial in providing aspects of this spectrum of service provision it remains unclear where financing for the creation of safe and supportive environments will be provided from. As evidence from Tanzania and Zimbabwe demonstrates without access to this kind of environment, HIV prevention efforts will continue to have a limited long term impact.⁵⁶

3.22 The new Government's position on achieving the Universal Access targets remains unclear. It is critical that DFID, as global frontrunners in the international HIV response, maintains the momentum and efforts invested in tackling HIV. For example, by ensuring that the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria is adequately financed and supported. Replenishment of the Fund, which is currently well short, is vital for progress towards achieving MDG 6.

Water and Sanitation

3.23 UNICEF UK has welcomed DFID championing the "Sanitation and Water for All" partnership over the past two years. This partnership aims to coordinate and promote global action on water and sanitation and UNICEF successfully hosted its inaugural meeting in April 2010. While significant progress has been made in expanding access to clean water since 1990, inadequate access to safe water and sanitation services coupled with poor hygiene practices still kills around 4,000 children everyday. It also sickens, impoverishes and diminishes opportunities for many thousands more.

3.24 Climate change is also expected to make access to water and sanitation more challenging, in different areas this could lead to an increased risk of both droughts and flooding. In the long term ensuring that water and sanitation facilities are climate proof will help reduce the impact of future emergencies on service provision.

3.25 Progress toward achieving the MDG target on sanitation remains severely off track, therefore DFID's support for the "Sanitation and Water for All" partnership is a key factor in ensuring this is scaled up and the target is achieved. UNICEF UK therefore recommends that DFID continues and increases this support, and pushes for increased support and action from other donors.

Social Protection

3.26 Social protection is a key method for reducing vulnerabilities by facilitating access to essential services and decent living standards. There is clear evidence that social protection contributes to the achievement of MDGs 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 with larger impacts for the disadvantaged.⁵⁷ In his report to the General Assembly the UN Secretary General stated that "progress must be protected in an era of increased economic insecurity, volatile food prices, natural disasters and health epidemics. This requires universal social protection and measures to support the most vulnerable communities".⁵⁸

3.27 However, it is essential that social protection programmes are child focussed, HIV and AIDS sensitive, and equity based. Children's experiences of poverty and vulnerabilities are multidimensional and differ from that of adults. Thus, social protection should be focused on addressing the inherent social disadvantages, risks and vulnerabilities that children may be born into as well as those acquired later in childhood due to external shocks. Therefore, this is best achieved through integrated child protection approaches.

3.28 UNICEF UK has welcomed DFID's past support for social protection and we hope this will continue given the historical opportunity to expand social protection in developing countries in the aftermath of the global economic crisis. However, DFID should also review the design and implementation of its social protection policies to ensure they are child sensitive and equity based in order to maximise their impact.

⁵⁵ UNICEF UK 2009, *Preventing HIV with Young People: The Key to Tackling the Epidemic*.

⁵⁶ Mema Kwa Vijana and Regai Dzive Shiri. *Rethinking how to prevent in young people: Evidence from two large randomised controlled trials in Tanzania and Zimbabwe*. Policy Briefing Paper No. 10 Nov 2008.

⁵⁷ UNICEF, *Social Protection: Accelerating the MDGs with Equity, Social and Economic Policy Working Briefs*, August 2010

⁵⁸ UN Secretary General, "Keeping the Promise: a forward looking review to promote an agreed action agenda to achieve the Millennium Development Goals by 2015", Report to the UN General Assembly 2010.

Reduction in DFID's administration costs

3.29 Over the past five year Spending Review period DFID has achieved significant reductions in administration costs. DFID's budget has grown steadily over the past five years and in order for the UK to reach its target of providing 0.7% of GNI in ODA by 2013, it is expected to increase further by around £1 billion per year over the next three year period.

3.30 While the reductions in administration costs may have helped DFID operate more efficiently, the extent to which further efficiency savings can be made without damaging its capacity to achieve maximum effectiveness of a growing UK ODA budget is questionable. These concerns have been raised by the International Development Committee in previous enquiries, where the Committee recommended that DFID should be exempt from future Government efficiency targets.⁵⁹ The Cabinet Office has also raised concerns⁶⁰ about the added strains being placed on DFID.

3.31 There is an expectation that the next Spending Review will increase DFID's budget and that the ongoing reviews will aim to increase spending in fragile states and increase the focus on results. These changes will require significant capacity to deliver, and pose questions about the capacity of DFID to manage this if also tasked with further reducing its administration costs.

3.32 We therefore recommend that a new approach is taken to improving the efficiency of DFID, which recognises its growing budget, the wider value for money agenda for DFID and its international responsibilities. This will ensure that DFID makes the greatest possible progress towards achieving the MDGs.

4. SUMMARY OF UNICEF UK'S HOPES FOR THE POST MDG FRAMEWORK

4.1 It is crucial that the post MDG framework continues the focus and international consensus generated by the present framework. To achieve the best possible results it must be rights based and emphasise equity; be child focussed; stronger on accountability; and integrate the affects of climate change.

Written evidence submitted by VSO

INTRODUCTION

About VSO

1. VSO is an international development agency with over 50 years of experience working in a variety of settings worldwide. We take a unique approach to tackling global poverty, by placing committed volunteers with carefully selected partners—from grassroots groups to government ministries. Our 1600 volunteers use their skills to improve the impact of aid efforts for poor and marginalised people. By working closely over time with partner organisations, they provide the right support to help ensure that local development efforts deliver greatest impact and value for money.

2. The content of our submission to this enquiry will focus on question one: the role of DFID in delivering agreed strategies. The submission will look at those areas where VSO has a particular focus: namely, in education (MDG2), health (MDG4-6), HIV and AIDS (MDG6), wealth creation (MDG1) and gender equality.

SUMMIT OUTCOMES

Key Recommendations

- VSO commends the UK Government for the international leadership shown during the Summit. We urge DFID to continue to press other states to meet their commitments in order to ensure the MDGs are met by 2015.
- *Learning for All*, DFID's education strategy for 2010–15, provides a clear direction of travel for the UK's contribution to MDG2. DFID should continue to pursue this strategy.
- The chronic shortage of health workers is the greatest crisis facing developing country health systems. DFID should look at domestic and international solutions to stem the “brain drain” of health workers, including looking at possible changes to the UK's immigration and citizenship framework.
- DFID should continue to drive progress on universal access to prevention, treatment, care and support for those living with HIV and AIDS.
- VSO welcomes DFID's focus on wealth creation as a means to alleviating poverty. DFID should work to ensure that the proceeds of growth are shared by all of society and that the means to accessing markets—such as microfinance—are made available to all, including marginalised groups.

⁵⁹ Report from the IDC inquiry on “DFID's Annual Report 2008”, paragraph 81

⁶⁰ DFID's 2009 Capability Review, “DFID, progress and next steps”, p11

The UK Government should continue to support the newly established UN Women's agency through strong political leadership and ambitious financial commitments.

3. VSO welcomes the continued commitment of the UK Government to reaching the target of spending 0.7% of GNI on aid by 2013. We commend the Government, and DFID in particular, for demonstrating global leadership at this critical time.

4. Progress towards reaching the MDGs by 2015 remains perilously off track. We are concerned that other nations are not set to reach the 0.7% target and that global leaders look set to fail to meet the commitments on aid set at Gleneagles in 2005. The UK Government must continue to press other governments to meet their commitments in order to ensure that the MDGs are met by the 2015 deadline.

THE ROLE OF DFID

Education

5. VSO welcomes the continued commitment shown in the Summit Outcomes Document to MDG2. We particularly welcome the recognition of the use of targeted, evidence-based measures to ensure that more children are given access to primary education. This includes abolishing school fees and providing school meals. We also note the recognition that increasing the quality and quantity of teachers is key to ensuring that quality education is provided and also that increasing the capacity of national governments is central.

6. DFID has a key role to play in the delivery of these pieces of work. VSO believes that DFID's recently published education strategy—*Learning for All*—presents a clear programme for action across a number of these areas. VSO believes that DFID should continue the delivery of its strategy in *Learning for All*.

7. DFID should continue to work with partners to manage the abolition of school fees. As DFID has recognised in the past,⁶¹ the removal of fees has resulted in increases of 12% in primary school enrolment in Mozambique, 18% in Kenya and 23% in Tanzania. We hope that DFID also continues to recognise the need to reduce the cost of schooling in areas where fees have already been abolished. This includes providing support for uniforms and other costs.

8. Increasing the quality of teachers is key to improving the quality of education. VSO believes that pre and in-service training should be prioritised along with ongoing professional development. Our volunteers in programmes around the world have also recognised the consequences of low-salaries, which directly affect the effectiveness of teachers. DFID's commitment in *Learning for All* to train 130,000 teachers each year in DFID programmes was particularly welcome and we hope that the new Government continues to meet this commitment in order to close the gap in the global shortfall of teachers.

9. VSO believes that DFID can continue to contribute to the progress towards MDG2 by improving the management of teachers. Recent research by VSO⁶² highlighted the importance of teacher management in improving the quality of teaching available to students. This includes:

- Improving education management information systems to inform systems for the training, recruitment, deployment and continuing professional development for teachers.
- Capacity building for teachers and head teacher training through continuing professional development opportunities.
- Capacity development of education managers in schools, and at district, provincial and national levels; and effective appraisal systems for teacher and head teachers.

10. VSO's research also highlighted the importance of supporting education systems to increase participation of key stakeholders in planning, implementation and monitoring of education programmes. We were pleased that *Learning for All* reflected a number of these recommendations, which are key to driving progress on MDG2, and hope that DFID will maintain its commitment to these programmes of work ahead of the 2015 deadline for the MDGs.

Health

11. We welcome the commitments made across the health MDGs. VSO currently has 10 dedicated health programmes in addition to 18 HIV and AIDS programmes and 13 disability programmes, which make contributions towards our health goal. In Malawi—VSO's largest dedicated health programme—we work closely with DFID through a Sector Wide Approach (SWAP) to provide support for health systems strengthening at all levels of the health system.

12. The greatest challenge facing health systems in developing countries is a chronic lack of health workers. We are pleased that this has been recognised once again in the Outcome Document. However, significant steps have to be taken if the health MDGs are to be reached by 2015. VSO was disappointed that the Summit Outcomes Document did not provide a commitment for the international community to reach the global target of at least 3.5 million new health workers by 2015 in countries with an acute shortage. We

⁶¹ "Learning for All, DFID's Education Strategy 2010–2015", DFID, 2010

⁶² "Managing Teachers", VSO and CFBT, 2008

urge DFID to provide leadership internationally on this target and also to ensure that at least 25% of all new UK Government funding to health is directed at human resources for health systems, in line with the WHO's 50:50 principle.⁶³

13. We also urge DFID to provide clear leadership to find solutions to combat the “brain drain” of health workers, particularly from those countries with the most acute needs. While the UK's support for the Code of Practice on the international recruitment of health personnel is welcome, we believe that the UK Government and DFID have a role to play in working to combat brain drain through policy solutions that look both domestically and internationally. While we recognise that the movement of health workers is a global problem, requiring joint international action, we also recognise that the actions of the UK may contribute towards the hollowing out of African health care systems. *Brain Gain*,⁶⁴ a recent report by VSO, recommended that the UK Government look to realign its immigration and citizenship regulations to take account of this problem by increasing flexibility for those on the path to citizenship. VSO believes that increased flexibility would encourage health workers to return to their countries of origin temporarily or permanently. We urge DFID to show leadership on this issue within government, particularly in light of the upcoming discussion on the UK's approach to immigration and citizenship. VSO also believes that formal temporary training schemes, such as the Medical Training Initiative, should be expanded to allow health workers to come to the UK to train with a defined route of return to their home health system.

HIV and AIDS

14. DFID has shown strong global leadership over recent years and has demonstrated a progressive vision for HIV and AIDS. For example, DFID's commitment to investing in R&D in vaccines and microbicides sets a gold standard for donors. However, we believe that there are areas that have to be improved if we are to reach MDG6.

15. In particular, we would welcome a renewed focus on the disproportionate effect of HIV and AIDS on women and girls. VSO has highlighted before the importance of looking carefully at the barriers women and girls face at every aspect of prevention, treatment and care and support.⁶⁵ In 2008, DFID committed to ensuring that gender analysis is integrated into national AIDS programmes and that targets and indicators are developed to measure the impact of AIDS programmes on women and girls. We hope that this commitment will continue and DFID will continue to set a gold standard for international donors.

16. We would urge DFID to ensure that care and support are maintained as key components in the universal access agenda. A report in 2004 showed that 90% of care for people living with AIDS takes place in the home. As the home carers are disproportionately women, universal care is important to alleviate the burden on women and girls.

Eradicating Poverty through Wealth Creation

17. VSO welcomes the emphasis placed on wealth creation in DFID's recent Structural Reform Plan. This recognises the important part that economic growth can play in improving the lives and livelihoods of the poorest people. DFID's focus in this area will contribute to the success of the UK's contribution towards reaching MDG1.

18. We welcome the recognition in the Outcomes Document that economic growth has to be both inclusive and equitable. VSO believes that the proceeds of growth should be shared by all of society and that balanced growth—between geographical areas, by gender and by sector—should be the aim of DFID programmes. DFID has a role to play in ensuring that balanced growth becomes a reality in order to ensure that the effects of increased economic inequality—such as reduced social capital and declining educational outcomes—are not felt by developing countries.

19. In making progress towards achieving MDG1 through wealth creation programmes, DFID should play a leadership role in ensuring that marginalised groups are given equal access to opportunities. VSO welcomes the recognition in the outcomes document that agriculture plays an important part in the economic empowerment of women. We are pleased that DFID has made the promotion of the economic empowerment of women and girls a central theme of its work on wealth creation and we hope that DFID can provide leadership internationally in this area. Similarly, DFID should work to ensure that opportunities such as microfinance are opened up to marginalised groups. This includes those who are marginalised due to discrimination and also those who face barriers to participation due to lack of transport or language.

20. VSO would like to see an increased emphasis on micro-enterprise development as DFID develops its role in wealth creation programmes. Through our Secure Livelihoods work, VSO has been engaged in a number of enterprise development projects which aim to expand the capacity and access to markets of fledgling businesses run by poor and disadvantaged groups. Through a strategic partnership with a leading

⁶³ “*World Health Report 2006*”, World Health Organisation

⁶⁴ “*Brain Gain*”, VSO, 2010

⁶⁵ “*Walking the Talk*”, VSO and ActionAid, 2007

management consultancy, VSO has pioneered the use of market assessments for micro-enterprises, which, has directly resulted in increased incomes for communities who previously missed out from the benefits of growth.

Gender Equality

21. VSO commends DFID for the role it has played in the establishment of UN Women—the UN’s consolidated agency for gender equality and women’s empowerment. UN Women is a significant step forward in reforming the UN’s architecture to better deliver for women and girls.

22. Many of the barriers that face women and the subsequent poor outcomes in health and education have at their roots the persistent inequality between men and women. This inequality continues to blight the lives of women and slows progress in the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. It is our belief that the establishment of UN Women, and the increase in resources it brings to tackling inequality, will drive progress towards the MDGs.

23. VSO believes that gender mainstreaming in the UN has failed and that UN Women will have a role in improving the work of all UN agencies to ensure that they are all focused on delivering results for women and girls.

24. The strong leadership that DFID showed during the discussions to establish UN Women must now be matched by a strong commitment of political will and financial resources if it is to achieve its potential. DFID has a key role to play in making this happen. We urge DFID to provide ambitious funding to UN Women and become a major donor to the new agency.

Written evidence submitted by WaterAid

1. KEY OUTCOMES FROM THE MDG SUMMIT

1.1 WaterAid had high hopes for the Millennium Development Goals Summit in September and felt an urgency for action to reach the 884 million people worldwide who do not have access to safe water and the 2.6 billion people living without safe sanitation. Urgency is needed especially for sanitation as it is now (following new figures on maternal mortality) the most off-track Millennium Development Goal in sub-Saharan Africa. The sanitation target will not be met until the 23rd century.

1.2 *Outcome document:* Following the Summit WaterAid was pleased to see significant references made to water and sanitation in the outcome document. However, we have concerns that there is little reference to the required actions which will help achieve the Goals, and the main global initiative on sanitation and water (the Sanitation and Water for All initiative—<http://www.sanitationandwaterforall.org/>) was missing from the document.

1.3 *Side event on sanitation and water:* We were pleased to see Secretary of State Andrew Mitchell, at the water and sanitation side event, alongside President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf and the Secretary General Ban Ki-moon. A number of states recognized and gave their support to the Sanitation and Water for All partnership at this meeting. We hope Andrew Mitchell follows up on his promise at this meeting the British government would do all they can to get water and sanitation to the world’s poorest people by 2015.

1.4 *Global Strategy on Women and Children’s Health:* WaterAid welcomes the Global Strategy for Women and Children’s Health, launched by UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon. This included a set of commitments from a wide range of countries and organizations to reduce the number of mother and child deaths in developing countries; including some statements on the importance of sanitation to reducing child deaths. These commitments are meant add up to \$40 billion over the next five years, although we are unclear as to how much of this is new money.

1.5 Whilst the Global Strategy for Women and Children’s Health is an extremely welcome initiative, action is still needed on neglected areas like sanitation. Whilst the role of sanitation and water was recognised as a challenge in the Global Strategy, there were no solid actions mentioned or commitments in terms of money to sanitation and water in either the strategy or in commitments attached to it. Given that 4,000 children die every day from diarrhoea globally it is an obvious gap in the Global Strategy. It is important that subsequent national strategies related to the Global Strategy should include concrete action on WASH. Overall, we were disappointed with the level of consultation on this strategy—it was initiated by a small group of states, it was quite difficult to understand and negotiate the process of consultation and the consultation at national level did not happen effectively if at all (although we hear this will now happen post the recent launch of the strategy).

1.6 The world can meet the MDGs but only if we focus attention and resources on the problem; that means targeting the poorest people and providing the basics of life. Improve sanitation and hygiene, and the health and prosperity of nations improves. The MDGs are achievable with the right combination of political will and investment—well targeted aid works. We must strive for universal coverage to allow people to live healthy and dignified lives.

2. DFID'S ROLE IN DELIVERING AGREED STRATEGIES

2.1 If DFID is to play its role in delivering the MDGs by 2015, it needs to take an integrated approach to development that prioritises lagging sectors such as child mortality, maternal health and sanitation.

2.2 For sanitation and water in particular, it should:

- Redress the imbalance in DFID's support for "essential services" by setting a goal of lifting 100 million people out of WASH poverty by 2015 through increasing the volume of UK aid spent on WASH to £600 million per annum.
- Integrate WASH within health and education goals and strategies.
- Demonstrate global leadership in turning around sanitation, the most off-track MDG in Africa, through committing the highest levels of government support for the international Sanitation and Water for All initiative.
- Make the most of advisory staff by facilitating better and more agile cross-sectoral working.

2.3 We have attached our bi-lateral aid review submission for more detail on these messages. We have also made a submission to the new DfID Business Plan on Reproductive, Maternal and Newborn Health.

3. LOOKING AHEAD TO AFTER THE MDG DEADLINE OF 2015

3.1 While achieving the MDGs will be a tremendous step forward in terms of development outcomes, many sectors will need continued support if poverty is to be tackled seriously and sustainably. Those remaining without access to basic services are often concentrated in specific countries or regions within countries, are harder to reach, and are likely to be poorer and more vulnerable than those with access. In order to sustainably tackle the root causes of poverty, inequality and ill-health, the post-2015 agenda must necessarily focus on providing universal access to services, including sanitation and water.

3.2 Even if the MDG target on sanitation and water is reached, 1.7 billion people will still not have access to basic sanitation, and 672 million will lack access to improved drinking water. Sanitation and water are strongly linked to key *development outcomes*; an unfinished sanitation and water agenda threatens to undo progress achieved by 2015. Post-2015, the international community should place a much stronger emphasis on key development outcomes, and on achieving results—moving away from the current emphasis on theme/disease-specific interventions. It should also look to enhance aid effectiveness through implementation of the principles agreed under the Paris Declaration and the Accra Agenda for Action, emphasizing country ownership, harmonization, alignment, mutual accountability and management for results.

Written evidence submitted by World Vision UK

World Vision is a Christian relief, development and advocacy organisation dedicated to working with children, their families and communities to overcome poverty and injustice. Motivated by our Christian faith and the belief that no child should live in poverty, we work with communities of all faiths and none to improve the lives of children. World Vision's 40,000 locally based staff work in nearly 100 countries worldwide, 97 % of our staff are nationals of the country in which they work, and work with 100 million people worldwide.

World Vision knows that the best way to change the life of a child is to change the world in which they live. Children and their communities must be active participants in shaping a better future, empowered to find sustainable solutions to poverty.

World Vision welcomes this opportunity to provide written evidence to the International Development Select Committee on the outcomes of the UN MDG Review Summit.

1. KEY OUTCOMES FROM THE SUMMIT

1.1 World Vision welcomes the UN Secretary General's Global Strategy for Women's and Children's Health and its aim to save the lives of 16 million women and children by 2015. This strategy is the result of many months of collaboration between the UN, governments and NGOs to design a launching pad for a global push to accelerate progress towards MDGs 4 and 5, on child and maternal health.

1.2 We welcomed the opportunity to engage with the drafting of the UN Secretary General's Global Strategy for Women's and Children's health and our hosting of joint consultations at key international events and participated in national level dialogue in a number of developing countries.

1.3 Building on existing commitments and the momentum created by the G8 Muskoka Initiative, the aim of the Global Strategy is to galvanise new commitments behind a coordinated effort on child and maternal health, as well as to ensure accountability for delivering results. The US\$40 billion in funding commitments that accompanied the launch of the Global Strategy was a significant step towards filling the gap between

the estimated investment needed and what is currently being provided for women's and children's health. World Vision would welcome clarity on how much of the US\$40 billion is new funding and how much has been rebadged or restated.

1.4 World Vision welcomes the strong emphasis within the Global Strategy on putting women and children at the centre of strong national health plans developed by country governments and for donors to align their resources with these plans, in line with the principles of aid effectiveness.

1.5 The Global Strategy does not provide a mechanism for turning the commitments into action plans for progress on child and maternal health. The Global Strategy calls for an accompanying accountability framework to be developed, and for the World Health Organisation to lead this process. The development of an accountability mechanism for the Global Strategy must now be prioritised, with a view to being completed within the next three months, and must include consultation with civil society organisations from developing and developed countries.

1.6 The Global Strategy did not sufficiently address the barriers that prevent the poorest children and families accessing health care. User fees prevent poor families accessing health care and most stakeholders agree that health care should be free at the point of use for the poor, starting with pregnant women and children under five.⁶⁶ The absence of clear language in the Global Strategy around health care "free at the point of use" risks undermining progress made recently, including the removal of user fees for children under five and pregnant women in Sierra Leone in April this year, supported by DFID.

1.7 Our experience has shown both the need for more coordinated mechanisms to harmonise global health efforts and also that accountability for health systems must start at the community level. Community ownership and engagement is a crucial part of the accountability chain because it enables better data collection, tracking of results and coordination. Civil society organisations like World Vision have a particular role to play in empowering children, families and communities to take control of their own health and engage with local health systems to hold service providers to account. DFID should increase support to those civil society organisations who are empowering citizens to participate in local level accountability processes and hold their own governments to account.

2. DELIVERING THE GLOBAL STRATEGY FOR WOMEN'S AND CHILDREN'S HEALTH—THE ROLE OF THE DEPARTMENT FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT (DFID)

2.1 DFID played a key role in the development of the Global Strategy. This leadership must continue and extend to the delivery of the Global Strategy over the next five years and the achievement of the promised impact on child and maternal health.

2.2 As a result of the Global Strategy, the UK government has committed to increase efforts up to 2015 to double the number of maternal, newborn and children's lives saved. In order to achieve this, the UK has pledged to double its annual support for maternal, newborn and child health by 2012, sustaining this level to 2015. This means providing an average of £740 million for maternal, newborn and child health from 2010 to 2015. These figures mean that the UK will spend an additional £2.1 billion on maternal, newborn and child health. Part of this growth in the budget will come from the UK continuing to increase their spending on official development assistance (ODA) to reach the target of 0.7% of GNI by 2013.

2.3 The UK's contribution to child and maternal health gives it credibility and authority to play a central role in the delivery of the Global Strategy. Beyond just the financial pledges, DFID should play a key role to ensure the speedy development of the accountability framework to accompany the Global Strategy, in order to ensure that progress can be tracked.

2.4 The UK government has been a champion for the removal of user fees, recognising the disproportionate impact of user fees on the poorest and most marginalised, and should continue to keep this issue at the centre of its efforts for women and children. In making their own commitments to the Global Strategy, a large number of developing country governments articulated a desire to provide (or extend) free healthcare for women and children, including Zimbabwe, Liberia, Malawi, Nepal, Niger and Haiti. The UK government must provide financial and technical support to these countries, and others, to ensure that quality healthcare extends to all mothers and children.

2.5 DFID made a large financial commitment on malaria, recognising the interconnectedness of all the health MDGs, and especially the fact that an estimated 85% of malaria deaths occur in children under five. World Vision would welcome clarity on this commitment in relation to that made to the Global Strategy on Women's and Children's Health.

2.6 The strong declaration of support that DFID made at the launch of the "Scaling up Nutrition" framework needs to be translated into action and World Vision is keen to see how this relates to the commitments to double annual support for maternal, newborn and child health. Undernutrition is the underlying cause in more than one-third of all under-five child deaths and contributes substantially to

⁶⁶ See, for example "Removing User Fees in the Health Sector in Low-Income Countries", UNICEF 2009 (http://gtz-rhp.com/blog/wp-content/uploads/2009/11/UNICEF_Guidance_Note%20%283%29.pdf) and "Women and children first: an appropriate first step towards universal coverage" Bulletin of the World Health Organisation 2010 (<http://www.who.int/bulletin/volumes/88/6/09-074401.pdf>)

maternal health, and it is the focus of a new DFID strategy in March 2010. It is important to have clarification from DFID on how these various priorities intersect and where greatest impact can be made from DFID's investment in health.

3. DELIVERING THE GLOBAL STRATEGY FOR WOMEN'S AND CHILDREN'S HEALTH—THE ROLE OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

3.1 World Vision welcomes the principle of country ownership embodied by the emphasis within the Global Strategy on developing country governments taking responsibility to improve child and maternal health within their own populations. Developing country governments must be given the financial and technical support required from donor countries and all other stakeholders. Donors must take note of the commitments and priorities stated by developing countries in relation to the Global Strategy, and in particular provide financial and technical support to the many developing countries articulating a desire to introduce or expand free healthcare to women and children.

4. DELIVERING THE GLOBAL STRATEGY FOR WOMEN'S AND CHILDREN'S HEALTH—THE ROLE OF THE UN, THE WORLD BANK, THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION AND NGOS

4.1 A wide range of stakeholders beyond governments, including key health funders like the Gates Foundation and also a large number of NGOs made commitments towards the Global Strategy. It is essential that all stakeholders are held to account on these commitments through the development of an accountability framework as previously stated.

4.2 World Vision recommends a review of global health governance to be championed by the UK Government with other donors and multilaterals to ensure that aid for health is most effective in improving child and maternal health. The current system of global health governance is inadequate and has failed to respond to the changing nature of global health in recent years, both in terms of accurately reflecting the aid effectiveness principles of harmonisation, ownership and alignment and in adapting to the rapidly increasing numbers of global health stakeholders. The strain being placed on developing country health systems by the plethora of actors in global health will not be completely addressed by the implementation of the Global Strategy, better coordination and priority setting is urgently required and there must be discussion about what form this should best take.

4.3 There was rather limited opportunity for civil society engagement in the MDG Review Summit itself. This was disappointing, given the role of civil society, in both developing and developed countries, in holding their governments to account. One exception was the participation of the Chief Executive Officer of World Vision Canada as a member of the official delegation of the Canadian Government. We recommend that this model of positive engagement, including Civil Society representation and collaboration be used by the UK Government for future similar meetings.

5. LOOKING AHEAD TO AFTER THE MDG DEADLINE OF 2015

5.1 The MDG targets have proved to be powerful tools in galvanising greater efforts in finance, policy and delivery to make significant progress on child and maternal health, as well as the range of other poverty-related indicators. As discussions on looking ahead past the MDG deadline occur, it is important not to lose sight of the need to scale up efforts to meet the current MDG targets, particularly with the momentum that has gathered behind child and maternal health as a result of the Global Strategy.

5.2 The Global Strategy for Women's and Children's Health aims to improve child and maternal health in line with MDGs 4 and 5. The targets of these two MDGs, to reduce child and maternal mortality by two-thirds and three-quarters respectively, are ambitious, but even if met would not deliver the desired outcomes of ending the preventable deaths of children and mothers completely.

5.3 As future priorities and targets are discussed they must be build on the many successes of the MDGs, in line with more than ten years of implementation experience and learning since their inception. Future goals should not be based solely on global, or national, averages but include measurements of equity which require deliberate efforts to reach the most vulnerable and marginalised. Progress amongst the hardest-to-reach populations is likely to be the biggest challenge that remains after 2015, even if MDGs 4 and 5 are achieved, and will require different approaches.

6. SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

1. HM Government should clarify how much of the US\$40 billion announced is new funding and how much has been rebadged or restated.

2. The development of an accountability mechanism for the Global Strategy must be prioritised, with a view to being completed within the next three months, and must include consultation with civil society organisations from developing and developed countries.

3. HM Government should increase support to those civil society organisations who are empowering citizens to participate in local level accountability processes and hold their own governments to account.

4. HM Government leadership on child, newborn and maternal health must continue and extend to the delivery of the Global Strategy over the next five years and the achievement of the promised impact on child and maternal health.

5. DFID should play a key role to ensure the speedy development of the accountability framework to accompany the Global Strategy, in order to ensure that progress can be tracked.

6. HM Government should continue to champion the removal of user fees, recognising the disproportionate impact of user fees on the poorest and most marginalised, and should continue to keep this issue at the centre of its efforts for women and children.

7. HM Government should clarify its commitment on malaria in relation to that made to the Global Strategy on Women's and Children's Health.

8. HM Government should lead champion a review of global health governance with other donors and multilaterals to ensure that aid for health is most effective in improving child and maternal health.

9. A model of positive engagement, including Civil Society representation and collaboration should be used by the UK Government for future meetings similar to the UNGA.

10. Future goals should not be based solely on global, or national, averages but include measurements of equity which require deliberate efforts to reach the most vulnerable and marginalised. Progress amongst the hardest-to-reach populations is likely to be the biggest challenge that remains after 2015, even if MDGs 4 and 5 are achieved, and will require different approaches.

October 2010

Written evidence submitted by WWF-UK

INTRODUCTION

1. WWF engagement with the MDG process: WWF had a small team attending the summit in New York, the team met with approximately 55 member states to discuss our specific positions and asks of the summit. We met with the UK government team independently and as part of a wider NGO meeting. We had also engaged with the UK government in the run up to the summit both through Bond and independently. For example on request we provided Andrew Mitchell with a brief on MDG 7 which was well received.

KEY OUTCOMES FROM THE SUMMIT

2. WWF welcome the fact that there is an agreed outcome document from the summit and the references within it to the environment, biodiversity and climate change.

3. However, the outcome document is weak on clear actions for implementation. Nor does the document capture commitments and discussion from the roundtable or side events that took place at the summit.

4. The success of the summit should be judged on action and delivery—rather than commitments and documentation. The summit did refocus attention on the MDGs, however it is as yet unclear what has changed as a result of the summit and what clear actions will be taken which make a difference to the lives of the world's poorest people.

5. With regard to the specific text on MDG 7 on Environmental Sustainability, WWF welcome the links that are made to the CBD and UNFCCC. However we feel that the text on MDG 7 does not capture important points on economic value of ecosystem services.

6. Nor does the outcome text make specific reference to the need to address the MDGs as one specific and holistic package. There are so many interlinkages between the eight MDGs and a successful outcome for one is dependent upon successful outcomes of all. Something that the EU and UK recognized and fought for but did not make the final text.

7. There appear to be some contradictions in the outcome text, for example it repeats the phrase of “sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth, poverty eradication and sustainable development”. However, “sustained growth” and “sustainable development” are very different concepts. “Sustained growth” may undermine prospects for “sustainable development”.

8. In the plenary speeches most of the heads of state from developing countries referred to climate change as a key challenge. However the outcome text does not reflect this priority strongly enough.

9. References to the links between the MDGs and environmental sustainability were present in summit but environmental sustainability was a long way from being “mainstreamed”. Given the vital role that the environment plays in underpinning the delivery of all the MDGs this is concerning.

10. WWF have some concerns that MDG 7 is often sidelined particularly the aspects concerning biodiversity and environmental resources, the focus is usually on water and sanitation. Access to water for domestic use, water needs for agriculture, clean water for health are themselves dependent on the availability and integrated management of the freshwater resource.

11. The summit's roundtables provided some good language on sustainable development, eg the need for "an environmentally sustainable paradigm for development". Support for smallholder farmers was a theme that came up in the summit through the roundtables. However we are concerned that these issues which were strongly emphasized in the roundtables do not form part of the formal documentation for the summit, and therefore their outcomes and recommendations are lost.

12. The High level meeting on biodiversity happened in parallel to the MDG summit on Wednesday 23 September. We think there was a missed opportunity in terms of linking the two events. This meeting on biodiversity made strong links between poverty, ecosystems, biodiversity and climate change. For example, Ban Ki-moon said that "Ecosystem services are directly linked to the bottom line. They are our natural capital ... We need to show that protecting ecosystems can help us achieve the Millennium Development Goals and build resilience to climate change." It was unfortunate that these vital issues were not fed back into the MDG summit process.

13. A successful outcome of Rio + 20 was called upon at many instances in our conversations with diplomats and also during the summit interventions. We welcome momentum around Rio + 20 and suggest that the MDGs, poverty reduction and links to the environment and climate change need to be key themes at this summit.

14. There are very clear synergies between the UNFCCC, CBD and MDGs. However these three multilateral UN processes are largely happening in isolation of each other, this is not conducive for long term and sustainable impacts in poverty reduction, biodiversity or climate change. It is disappointing that in 2010, when key events were/are happening on each of these UN processes little effort was made to make the linkages which would strengthen delivery individually and collectively. Thinking in a "systems" and "integrated" way seems to be a weakness in the UN approach.

DFID'S ROLE IN DELIVERING AGREED STRATEGIES

15. Firstly we welcome DFID's ongoing commitment to the MDGs.

16. We also welcome DFID's emphasis on results and accountability, for example their push for an annual review of MDGs and a clear list of what different countries and governments are accountable for.

17. WWF welcomed DFID's engagement with civil society in the run up to, and during the summit. However, we think that having a civil society representative as part of the UK delegation would have sent a positive sign to other countries about engagement with civil society. There are many precedents for civil society representation in UK government delegations including for the 2005 MDG Review.

18. DFID could have been more transparent in terms of sharing the specific input they were providing via the EU on the text. Without this it is difficult to know exactly what DFID's input and influence was on the text and process. For example it is unclear to us whether DFID championed an integrated approach and stressed cross cutting issues like gender, environmental sustainability and human rights in negotiations with the EU.

19. We welcomed DFID's engagement in the summit side event on water, and welcome their commitment to this agenda that is so critical for poverty reduction.

20. DFID were very clear from the start that their priorities for the MDG summit were maternal mortality and malaria—all central issues to poverty reduction. We would have welcomed DFID broadening this prioritisation and recognising that the MDGs are a holistic package and need to be achieved jointly rather than cherry picking particular MDGs.

21. On request WWF provided a brief on MDG 7 for the Secretary of State. Whilst this was well received we are unclear how it might have influenced the UK's position and it is not clear if the UK delegation were championing environmental sustainability in the MDG process.

22. The UK delegation took part in the roundtable on "emerging issues". However these were closed meetings and we do not know what input the UK delegation made. We would be keen to see any interventions and positions from the UK delegation at this critical meeting.

23. The UK were jointly hosting with the German delegation a lunch time session focusing on TEEB (The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity) on Wednesday 23 September. However again since this was a closed meeting we cannot give feedback on what the outcomes of this meeting were and DFID's role.

24. We welcome that DFID has recently been meeting with Defra and DECC at a Secretary of State level. However it is a pity that the UK delegation did not make the links between the High level meeting on biodiversity which happened in parallel to the MDG summit. We think there was a missed opportunity in terms of linking the two events, for example it would have been very powerful to have Caroline Spelman and Andrew Mitchell say something on the same platform about the links between the two agendas since they were in the same building on the same day.

25. DFID have appeared reluctant to talk about the impact of climate change and other "emerging issues" on the MDGs, as they don't want to "distract" from achieving the 2015 targets. However, without addressing issues like climate change, environmental degradation and biodiversity loss, any progress on MDGs will be quickly undermined.

26. Innovative financing was a theme that came out of the summit and we would urge DFID to support the proposal for a financial transaction tax and other innovative mechanisms to provide long-term and sustainable financing for international development and climate change adaptation and mitigation.

THE ROLE OF THE UN

27. The UN procedures for NGOs to engage in the summit were extremely difficult to navigate. This excluded many NGOs from participating in the summit. It is also unclear how the UN Civil Society hearing fed into the summit.

28. We appreciated that the plenary sessions were shown live online and the UN summit website is an excellent resource for accessing documents, video footage etc and tracking the summit.

29. As stated above, there are very clear synergies between the UNFCCC, CBD and MDGs. However these three multilateral UN processes are largely happening in isolation of each other, this is not conducive for long term and sustainable impacts in poverty reduction, biodiversity or climate change. It is disappointing that in 2010, when key events were/are happening on each of these UN processes little effort was made to make the linkages which would strengthen delivery individually and collectively. Thinking in a “systems” and “integrated” way seems to be a weakness in the UN approach.

30. The UN should push for, and possibly lead, a mechanism to hold governments to account for their commitments under MDGs eg annual review of MDG targets and commitments.

THE ROLE OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION

31. We welcomed the EUs active engagement in the MDG outcome document and appreciated many of the interventions they made on the outcome document, particularly around the environment, climate change and biodiversity.

32. The EU should be very clear on how it is holding its member states to account for commitments to MDGs, suggestions include an annual review process, publishing all commitments, league table of countries etc.

THE ROLE OF NGOS

33. The role of NGOs in the summit was limited given the difficulties of accessing the UN building and closed meetings. We appreciate that there was civil society representation at the roundtables but would have further welcomed the roundtables being streamed online, or a clear written report with all the interventions at this roundtable.

34. NGOs have a role in holding governments to account for their commitments to the MDGs. Nevertheless it is ultimately governments and not NGOs who are responsible for delivery of MDG commitments.

THE ROLE OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES IN SECURING AND DELIVERING SUMMIT OUTCOMES

35. In their speeches to plenary many heads of state for developing countries referred to climate change and the relationship between climate change and poverty. However this level of concern from developing countries is not captured in the outcome document.

36. Both developed and developing countries need to have mechanisms in place to ensure the delivery of commitments—if the summit is to have achieved anything other than rhetoric.

LOOKING AHEAD TO AFTER THE MDG DEADLINE OF 2015

37. The MDGs are unlikely to be met by 2015. There needs to be a robust and ambitious framework in place for eliminating poverty that comes into force in 2015. Plans need to be developed now for what that new agreement looks like—but without detracting from the need to deliver the current goals by 2015.

38. There needs to be a two track strategy of pushing the MDGs while thinking about what comes next, this is likely to be complex, but is essential if we are to genuinely make progress on poverty reduction.

39. 2015 should be an opportunity to strengthen the current framework and also scale up the level of ambition. For example are goals to “half” poverty and hunger truly ambitious? Surely it is unacceptable that in the 21st century our most ambitious goals still leave millions facing preventable hunger, disease and death?

40. One criticism of the current MDG framework is it focuses largely on the symptoms of poverty rather than the causes and drivers. The attention, and consequently the money, is focused on delivering against the MDG targets rather than tackling the root causes of poverty, such as inequality within and between countries, poor governance, unfair trade systems, environmental degradation, climate change. A post 2015 framework for poverty eradication needs to address this shortcoming.

41. The way that the eight goals are structured means that poverty is approached as a list of separate and isolated problems. The links between them and the underlying causes and drivers that link all the areas outlined in the framework are not sufficiently captured.

42. A future framework for poverty reduction will have to deal effectively with climate change, energy, environmental degradation and biodiversity loss. All of these issues are undermining efforts to reduce poverty and meet the MDGs and they are not effectively dealt with in the current framework.

43. Rio +20 presents a ideal staging post for moving forward on a post 2015 framework. In particular this should be a key opportunity for ensuring that the links between poverty, environment and climate change are sufficiently captured in a post 2015 framework.

44. To be truly effective, a post 2015 framework should integrate the poverty reduction with other key UN processes, particularly the UNFCCC and CBD.

45. The accountability mechanisms of the current framework are weak with no penalties for countries who fail, this includes donor countries that pledge money and then do not follow through. Clear, and possibly legally binding accountability mechanisms should be built into the future framework from the start.

46. A future framework needs to address cross cutting issues including human rights, climate change, gender and environmental sustainability much more effectively than the current MDGs.

47. A future framework needs to focus on long term and sustainable poverty reduction. Efforts to deliver on the current targets could lead to interventions that only make a difference in the short term, especially if they do not address the underlying causes and drivers of poverty.

48. The UN Secretary general recognises that “*Without a sustainable environmental base, we will have little hope of attaining our objectives for reducing poverty and hunger and improving health and human well-being.*”⁶⁷ 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. However, communicating the role of ecosystems and biodiversity in poverty reduction is challenging given the complexity of the systems involved. Developing meaningful metrics and indicators that resonate with development audiences is difficult, and the metrics for MDG 7 in the current MDG framework are extremely weak. However, challenges of measurement and targets should not be an excuse for continuing to undermine the basic support systems of life on Earth. This needs to be reflected in the future framework.

49. The process to develop a new set of goals and targets needs careful consideration. It needs to be a consultative process that prioritizes the needs of poor people in developing countries and engages fully with civil society.

50. WWF propose that sustainable development needs to be the underpinning narrative for a post 2015 framework. This will ensure that results are long lasting, sustainable and reduce poverty for the long as well as the short term.

⁶⁷ UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon’s message for International Mother Earth Day on 22 April <http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2010/sgsm12849.doc.htm>