



OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

‘Human Rights: Key to Keeping the MDG Promise of 2015’

*Key Human Rights messages for the MDGs Review Summit
New York, 20-22 September 2010*

I. Background on the MDGs and human rights

In September 2000, world leaders adopted the Millennium Declaration making wide-ranging commitments to tackle issues concerning peace and security, development, human rights and the environment. Alongside development goals, commitments to promote democracy and respect for all human rights included the right to development and relevant economic, social and cultural rights with a particular focus on the rights of minorities, women and migrants and access to information. The 2005 World Summit Outcome also contained unprecedented commitments from Member States to mainstream human rights in their national policies.

Since their adoption, the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) have become central to the formulation of national development agendas and in mobilising international cooperation efforts. However, ten years after the Millennium Declaration, global and national MDG progress reports provide clear evidence of uneven implementation among different regions and countries, with growing disparities and reversed gains due to multiple effects of food, oil and financial crises. While many countries are still on course to reach some of the Goals by 2015, many regions are far off track. Yet, even in countries scoring major successes, large disparities still persist, with millions of people left behind.

Against this background, the General Assembly will be reviewing the progress on the MDGs at a High-level Plenary Meeting (hereinafter MDG Summit) from 20 to 22 September 2010 in New York. In accordance with the GA [resolution 64/184](#), the MDG Summit will focus on accelerating progress towards the achievement of the MDGs by reviewing successes, best practices and lessons learned, obstacles and gaps, challenges and opportunities, leading to concrete strategies for action.

The Secretary-General’s report ‘[Keeping the Promise](#): A forward-looking review to promote an agreed action agenda to achieve the MDGs by 2015’ was launched on 16 March 2010. The report strongly reiterated the inter-dependence and inter-relatedness between human rights, development and peace and security, as well as the importance of adhering to the fundamental norms and values of the Millennium Declaration, including human rights, gender equality and democratic governance if countries are to accelerate progress towards the MDGs.

Building on the Secretary-General's report, this note elaborates on [key human rights messages](#) with a view to contributing to outcome of the MDG review summit and beyond. These messages clarify the mutual benefits of addressing together the MDGs and human rights. They emanate from the research and operational work on the MDGs, poverty and human rights that has been done by OHCHR in partnership with other UN agencies, human rights organisations, governments and other national stakeholders over the last few years. This work is reflected in various resources, including in OHCHR annual reports, the 2008 publication '[Claiming the MDGs](#)' and the 2010 publication '[Human Rights and MDGs in practice](#)'. Additional information on the MDGs and human rights, including news, events, and public information materials are available at the following URL: <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/MDG/Pages/MDGIndex.aspx>

II. Key human rights messages

1. Development and Human rights are mutually reinforcing as they pursue similar objectives of universal human wellbeing and dignity.

'The norms and values embedded in the Millennium Declaration and international human rights instruments must continue to provide the foundation for engagement, in particular the key human rights principles of non-discrimination, meaningful participation and accountability'

Secretary-General's report 'Keeping the promise', March 2010

Same objective – complementary strategies

Human rights and development share an ultimate objective of universal human well-being and dignity. However, human rights and development policies use different yet complementary tools and strategies for achieving these objectives. While development policy relies on economic growth strategies, human rights sets universal guarantees that protect all individuals from the abuse of power and puts the State at the service of the people to ensure that everybody benefits from economic growth.

States have reiterated several times the linkages between human rights and development

The linkages between human rights and development are at the heart of the 1945 UN charter and have been subsequently reiterated by Member States in different world conferences, summits and declarations. The outcome document of the MDG Summit should reaffirm these linkages as well as the need to pursue the MDGs in conjunction with broader human rights commitments of Member States in the Millennium Declaration, 2005 World Summit and in international human rights treaties.

Main commitments to human rights and development made by Member States are the following:

- We reaffirm that our common fundamental values, including freedom, equality, solidarity, tolerance, respect for all human rights, respect for nature and shared responsibility, are essential to accelerating progress on the MDGs. (A/RES/60/1, para. 4)
- The Millennium Declaration represents the most important collective promise ever made to the world's most vulnerable people, which is based on the recognition that development, peace and security and human rights are interlinked and mutually reinforcing. (A/64/665, para. 5; A/RES/60/1, para. 9; A/RES/62/208, preamble)
- We reaffirm the resolve made at the World Summit to integrate the promotion and protection of human rights into national policies and to support the further

mainstreaming of human rights throughout the United Nations system. (A/RES/60/1, para. 126)

- 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. (Accra Agenda for Action, para. 13 c)
- States have the right and the duty to formulate appropriate national development policies that aim at the constant improvement of the well-being of the entire population and of all individuals, on the basis of their active, free and meaningful participation in development and in the fair distribution of the benefits resulting therefrom. (Declaration on the Right to Development, Art. 2.3)

2. States who place human rights at the centre of their national MDG strategies stand a better chance of keeping the promise of 2015

'We reaffirm the resolve made at the World Summit to integrate the promotion and protection of human rights into national policies and to support the further mainstreaming of human rights throughout the United Nations system'.

2005 World Summit Outcome

A **human rights-based approach** (HRBA) is a conceptual framework that uses the guidance of human rights standards and principles to analyse inequalities lying at the heart of development problems and redress discriminatory practices and unjust power relations that impede human development without discrimination. The principles and standards enshrined in the international human rights framework must guide development processes, including policy choices, budget decisions and their outcomes. Human rights have an intrinsic value; they are holistic in their vision and States have voluntarily accepted obligations to realise human rights for all. Human rights have an instrumental value as their application creates an enabling environment for the achievement of development outcomes and goals while increasing the meaningfulness and legitimacy of development outcomes.

Human rights promote policy coherence

An HRBA to national MDG strategies ensures more policy coherence in achieving the MDGs by complementing economic growth strategies with other critical success factors and strategies such as national capacity development and social protection:

- An HRBA develops the capacities of the State as the main duty-bearer to respect, protect and fulfil rights. This role of the State is fundamental in correcting eventual market distortions and in ensuring that everybody benefits from economic growth.
- An HRBA is also critical for the development of people's capacities to participate in the conduct of public affairs and the development process. National MDG strategies can benefit from harnessing the mobilising potential of human rights discourse and building participatory and empowering strategies on the basis of civil and political rights. Only under such circumstances can poor people hold their leaders accountable to deliver on the Goals.
- Comprehensive social security programmes need to be set up and strengthened as a matter of urgency in tackling the disastrous effects of the recent food, oil and financial

crises. From a human rights perspective, social protection is a universal entitlement which applies also to those persons who do not have the ability to contribute to social protection schemes either because they work in the informal economy or they lack the capacity to procure their livelihood by themselves.

All MDGs and human rights commitments are interdependent and inter-related

The interdependence of all MDGs is a determining factor in the achievement of each individual MDG. The Goals and targets are interrelated and should be seen as a whole. They represent a partnership between the developed countries and the developing countries to create an environment—at the national and global levels alike—which is conducive to development and the elimination of poverty. Additionally, human rights commitments in the Millennium Declaration, including the respect for civil and political rights, women’s rights and the right to development are key policy components for achieving the MDGs. In the context of globalisation and interdependence, the Right to Development can add value to efforts to realise the MDGs, since it provides an integrated framework for just and equitable development for all, at both the national and international levels, and encompasses all civil, political, economic, social and cultural dimensions of human rights.

An HRBA ensures sustainability by promoting integral responses to problems

An HRBA to national MDG strategies can make development achievements more sustainable. Human rights provide critical guidance in identifying the underlying and structural causes of development problems, which typically relate to persistent patterns of disempowerment, discrimination, exclusion, and multiple human rights deprivations. These deeper causes explain why certain groups of population are left behind in the development process and why development policies must address broader human rights issues, rather than simply deliver a set of technical interventions. A sustained achievement of the MDGs by 2015 will require integral strategies combining short-term interventions with legal, institutional, policy and budget responses addressing underlying and structural problems.

The right to Development offers a comprehensive framework to strengthen all the MDGs

[The Right to Development](#), which is explicitly referred to in the Millennium Declaration, and the MDGs are intrinsically linked, and efforts towards their realisation are by nature and content, mutually reinforcing. The Right to Development was explicitly recognised in the 1986 UN General Assembly Declaration on the Right to Development which defines this right as an “inalienable human right by virtue of which every human person and all peoples are entitled to participate in, contribute to, and enjoy economic, social, cultural and political development, in which all human rights and fundamental freedoms can be fully realised.” The Right to Development stresses a national and global enabling environment conducive to just, equitable, participatory and human-centred development respectful of all human rights. Both the attainment of the MDGs and the realisation of the Right to Development, require international solidarity and cooperation, especially as envisaged in the MDG-8 on the global partnership for development.

3. The human rights standards, as defined in international norms, add quality to the MDG framework of targets and indicators.

Human rights standards go beyond access to focus on quality and cultural appropriateness

The MDGs were conceived to apply and be tailored to national conditions. An HRBA can guide this tailoring process by aligning goals, targets and indicators with human rights standards, in particular, economic social and cultural rights in national and sub-national strategies. For

example, Target 2A requires that all children are able to complete primary schooling. On their side, human rights treaties also require primary education to be free, compulsory and of a certain quality. Integration of these elements has proven successful such as the abolition of school fees in countries like Kenya. Quality is also critical. In its MDG report, Togo noted that the early gains from free primary education were moderated by high dropout rates, with pupils citing poverty and the poor quality of education.

MDGs are flexible benchmarks for the realisation of human rights

In adapting the MDGs to the country context, the MDGs should be seen as a minimum rather than a maximum common denominator. While a global MDG target might be challenging to achieve in a particular country, the same target may be under-ambitious in countries at a different stage of development and higher income. States with additional capacity should aim at more ambitious MDG targets in line with the obligation in article 2 of the ICESCR to take concrete steps towards the progressive realisation of economic, social and cultural rights to the extent of the maximum available resources. For example, the Latin American and the Caribbean region, as a whole, amended primary education target under Goal 2 to include secondary education with a target of 75 per cent of children to be accorded access by 2010.

Human rights can also be development challenges in themselves

Human rights issues can also be regarded as main development challenges and national priorities, within a given country context. This may well be the case, for example in places where gender-based violence, impunity, torture or police abuse are widespread, where children are under-nourished, or where health, water or sanitation facilities are out of reach for large numbers of people. These human rights issues, if not addressed, can clearly hamper the country's development and drive entire groups of population to marginality and exclusion. Whenever a human rights issue becomes a development priority, national strategies should translate these issues into policy objectives and outcomes, and allocate sufficient resources for policy implementation and evaluation, including budget monitoring. Some countries have adopted additional human rights-related goals, like for example Mongolia, which adopted a ninth goal on democracy and governance.

4. Human rights principles of equality and non-discrimination ensure that the poorest and most marginalised are not left behind in the race for achieving the MDGs.

National and global MDG averages mask disparities

All human beings are entitled to enjoy their human rights equally without discrimination. This includes the human rights of women, children, older persons, minorities, indigenous peoples, persons with disabilities, persons living with HIV/AIDS, migrants, refugees and internally displaced persons, etc. However, there is a substantial risk that the predominant focus on reducing, not eliminating, global MDG "averages" will mean continued exclusion of many groups, specifically most marginalised and vulnerable. This is already evident in MDG country reports. A number of countries have reported that they are on track or have achieved certain goals without making any progress on those goals with regard to marginalised or excluded groups.

Visualising the poorest and marginalised: what is happening, to whom and where

States and policy-makers should adopt adequate measures in properly identifying those groups and ensuring that the human rights of those persons are protected, addressed and remedied. *Disaggregating* global average targets and indicators of MDGs is critical in capturing any

discrepancies on the way MDGs are implemented and their impacts or outcomes on different population groups, and also most importantly in capturing persistent patterns of discrimination on all prohibited grounds. Failure to disaggregate data can lead to the invisibility of marginalised groups and a lack of priority attention to them in policy and budget responses; thus widening exclusion and the inequality gap. National assessments and monitoring and evaluation frameworks should provide data disaggregated on different grounds of discrimination in order to determine the severity of the development problem: ‘what is happening, to whom and where.’

Some countries have taken steps to ensure that marginalised groups are better reflected in the targets. Thailand adopted an “MDG-Plus” model to take account of information on quality of access, whether all members of Thai society benefit (not just those targeted), and disaggregated national indicators according to regional and ethnic disparities

Measures to address discrimination and inequality

The analysis of development challenges should determine the degree to which development problems are due to persistent patterns of discrimination, exclusion and disempowerment in society. In addressing these problems, MDG-based strategies and policies should work towards universal access to social services, social protection and reducing inequalities by:

- Taking legislative, administrative and judicial action to remove barriers that prevent equal access of marginalised and discriminated groups to social services and protect against discriminatory practices in the public and private sphere.
- Planning and budgeting for targeted affirmative programmes to empower those groups in a particular situation of disadvantage in the political, social and economic life while structural discrimination persists.
- Directing training and awareness raising programmes and campaigns to State officials, civil servants, the media and the population in general to combat the discrimination against women, children, persons with disabilities, migrant workers, elders, and persons of a different ethnic, social or geographic origin, etc.

5. The human rights principle of participation ensures that the people, in particular the poorest and most marginalised, are active participants rather than mere recipients in achieving the MDGs.

Ultimately, a higher attention to the rights of people living in extreme poverty in the political and policy arena will depend on their active, meaningful and informed participation and their inclusion in and influence over all stages of the decision making processes. Focusing on empowerment also challenges development approaches that are technocratic or top-down. Individuals and communities should be the prime development agents as well as subjects. Failure to address power inequalities (whether political, economic, legal or cultural) will also affect the ability to implement MDG-related strategies. For example, an increase in the amount of assistance for education may not reach the poorest children if they come from an ethnic group or region that has little political power and influence over the allocation and distribution of those funds.

Making participation more genuine

The human rights principle of participation requires going beyond formal—and at times cosmetic—participation to a more genuine—free, active and meaningful—participation. While having the space for participation is a fundamental pre-requisite, this may not be enough without

and enabling legal, policy and institutional environment as well as some basic capacities for participation. In that regard, the following actions can be recommended:

- *(space for participation)* Establish and strengthen inclusive mechanisms for the participation of marginalised and discriminated groups in all phases of national and sub-national policy and budget processes, including monitoring and evaluation.
- *(enabling environment)* Reform or adopt laws, regulations and procedures to remove the barriers to participation, access to information and freedom of association of marginalised and discriminated groups in political and policy processes affecting them.
- *(enabling environment)* Make policy choices, budget allocations and processes and programme information available to the general public in accessible formats and minority languages, including formats for persons with disabilities.
- *(enabling environment)* Create accountability mechanisms to ensure that participatory processes do not result in elite capture, political manipulation or cooptation of civil society leadership.
- *(capacities for participation)* Plan and budget for programmes developing the organisational capacities and technical skills of people living in poverty and extreme poverty to participate in all phases of policy process, to monitor public expenditure using available and easy accessible social accountability and audit tools and to advocate for their rights.

For example, some countries have successfully adopted laws and procedures on access to public information which, coupled with strengthened participatory and inclusive mechanisms, are playing a critical empowering role while ensuring more accountability. Uganda, for example, publishes all budget allocation and implementation figures on public and local newspapers on an on-going basis, so that civil society as well as ordinary people could have an access to budget figures by sectors and geographic areas in order to hold local authorities accountable. Furthermore, in the case of maternal mortality, women's involvement in policy analysis, planning, and MDG costing exercises and public expenditure tracking can greatly contribute to the development of maternal health systems in countries where social spending is low, health spending even lower and programmes on obstetric care are severely underfunded, including the identification of areas of fund leakage and corruption.

6. The human rights principle of accountability ensures more commitment and transparency in national and international efforts for achieving the MDGs by clarifying the duties and responsibilities of developing states, donor states, and non-state actors.

'The time has come for an accountability mechanism between developed and developing countries (as agreed in the Monterrey Consensus and the Accra Plan of Action), and between Governments and their citizens, to ensure that MDG commitments are honoured.'

Secretary-General's report 'Keeping the Promise', March 2010

Accountability means that States and other duty-bearers are answerable for the observance of human rights obligations and for meeting their development commitments. In this regard, they have to comply with the legal norms and standards enshrined in human rights instruments.

Where they fail to do so, the principle of accountability calls for two types of responses: addressing past grievances and correcting systemic failure to prevent future harm. From a development perspective, accountability requires a clear definition of lines of responsibility in contexts where various actors are involved in the delivery of results and the monitoring and evaluation of policy performance and impact.

In his report 'Keeping the Promise' the Secretary-General has highlighted the weakness of the MDG accountability system as one of the factors explaining slow progress. In paragraph 57, he affirms that for MDG achievement, integrity, accountability and transparency are crucial for managing resources, recovering assets and combating abuse, corruption and organised crime adversely affecting the poor.

Accountability is both a process and an outcome of development

Building the national accountability fabric, including legal and regulatory frameworks, and institutional capacity, should be seen not only as a means for MDG progress but as a development outcome in itself. Therefore, national strategies aiming to strengthen human rights and MDG accountability systems should be put in place and funded appropriately both by States and donors. Many actions can be proposed in that regard:

Monitoring and Evaluation:

- Reinforce assessment and monitoring and evaluation MDG frameworks. This calls for further disaggregation of MDG indicators and targets and for the development of more comprehensive systems of indicators and benchmarks at country level, based on the international human rights norms and principles, adequate participatory processes and relevant recommendations of international human rights treaty bodies, Special Procedures mandates-holders and the Universal Periodic Review mechanism of the Human Rights Council. The work of OHCHR on the use of indicators to promote and monitor the implementation of human rights provides a practical guidance for the development of relevant indicators at country level. A growing number of countries have initiated the development of systems of indicators drawing on the conceptual and methodological framework developed by OHCHR (HRI/MC/2008/3).¹
- Develop the capacities of monitoring and evaluation institutions, and statistics departments for data collection, analysis and reporting. These institutions should have enough resources to periodically collect data disaggregated on different grounds of discrimination and the technical capacity to carry out inequality analyses systematically. Reporting systems should be aligned more systematically with policy assessment processes so that the findings of the analysis will feed into the following policy cycle.
- Assess systematically the impact of MDG-based strategies on the rights of the poorest prior to making policy and budget decisions, including mechanisms for communities to participate in budget processes.
- Adopt national laws on access to information and implement inclusive participatory mechanisms to ensure more transparency in all phases of policy and budget processes at national and sub-national levels.
- Create and facilitate an enabling environment for non-governmental organisations, civil society and national human rights institutions to undertake budget analysis and audit

¹ <http://www2.ohchr.org/english/issues/indicators/index.htm>

work, including through making use of existing methods and approaches for public expenditure tracking, service delivery assessments and community-based audits.

- MDG-8 accountability at both national and international levels is extremely weak due to the absence of measurable targets and indicators. The Right to Development criteria elaborated by the High-Level Task Force on the implementation of the Right to Development could potentially be a critical tool to monitor and assess the MDG commitments of both developing and developed States with regard to all the MDGs, including MDG-8.
- As agreed in the 2008 Accra Agenda for Action on Aid Effectiveness, donor countries should publicly disclose regular, detailed and timely information on volume, allocation and, when available, results of development expenditure to enable more accurate budget, accounting and audit by developing countries. Partner countries must also make publicly available all the information regarding aid disbursements, its use and final results.

Redress:

- Make available effective remedies and compensation for those persons negatively affected by development choices of States, bilateral and multilateral donors. This includes access to judicial, administrative and other mechanisms for the legal protection of economic, social and cultural rights.
- Identify and remove the barriers preventing the access of marginalised and excluded groups to social services and to justice.
- Strengthen central and local judicial and administrative mechanisms and informal or traditional mechanisms of justice insofar as they are in accordance with international human rights standards.
- Establish and strengthen national human rights institutions in accordance with the Paris Principles and other independent monitoring mechanisms.
- Member States should ratify all international human rights treaties as systematically recommended at the Universal Periodic Review of the Human Rights Council, including the ratification of the Optional Protocol of the ICESCR; they should submit timely reports to the monitoring bodies of the treaties to which they are party encouraging treaty bodies to provide guidance and recommendations on how to integrate human rights in national policy efforts to achieve the MDGs.
- Ensure that national laws are harmonised with international human rights treaty standards, with duties spelled out as clearly as possible at national and sub-national levels.
- Issue standing invitations for the visit of Special Procedures mandate-holders of the Human Rights Council and encourage them to pay more attention to national policy efforts to achieve the MDGs in the course of their country visit, and to document and disseminate 'good' practices.

III.MDG-specific issues for consideration

Goal 1 to eradicate extreme poverty and hunger

1. The poverty reduction target does not focus on the poorest of the poor, large proportions of which are rural poor. Therefore, additional measures for reducing rural poverty are needed through expanding their economic opportunities based on agricultural reform, access to land reform and titles, ancestral lands and natural resources. Equally, it is important to ensure that peasant farmers are protected from forced evictions for development considerations and violations of their civil rights to organise and express their views.
2. In adapting the global target in MDG-1, States should calculate and adopt through participatory processes national and sub-national poverty (and extreme poverty) lines that are adequately reflecting the cost of basic food and non-food items. This calculation should capture to the extent possible the situation faced by those households for which the cost is higher.
3. Ensure that choice of economic growth policies and priority setting is evidence-based thought undertaking human rights impacts assessment analysis, and does not result in cuts to social spending that violate economic and social rights.
4. Eliminate discrimination in access to work and productive resources, particularly on the basis of sex and gender, race, age and disability.
5. Identify groups vulnerable to food insecurity and whether those groups are adequately protected by the Constitution and national law. This implies establishing whether the right to food is recognised in national legislation and therefore judicially enforceable. In addition, it is imperative to ensure that national food plans and international trade rules comply with General Comment N.12 and the FAO Guidelines, and are implemented.

Goal 2 to achieve universal primary education

6. The nationally set targets for this goal should be adjusted to include free, compulsory and quality primary education in line with international human rights law.
7. Abolish school fees, so that both boys and girls can receive free primary education. Such measures should also be encouraged at secondary level, should available resource permit. User fees particularly prevent children from attending schools, mostly affecting children from poor and/or rural households, girls, orphans, children of migrants, minorities and indigenous people as well as children with disabilities.
8. Make the right to free primary education an enforceable right in national Constitution and law. States are particularly encouraged to ratify the Optional Protocol to the ICESCR.
9. Remove barriers that prevent children, orphans, children with disabilities, children of ethnic minorities, children from remote areas and urban settlements from attending school, including through but not only abolishing school fees.
10. Provide social protection programs or incentives which ensure that children can attend school, such as conditional cash transfers, grants and bursaries, school meals etc.

11. Ensure education is of sufficient quality and culturally acceptable within maximum available resources. Where domestic resources are not sufficient, ensure sufficient international aid for primary education, particularly for countries that provide free primary education.

Goal 3 to promote gender equality and empower women

12. Modify or abolish remaining laws, *de jure* or *de facto*, that discriminate against women and girls, according to pledges made at Beijing World Conference on Women in 1995 and its 2000 review by the 23rd Special Session of the General Assembly.
13. Additional targets on other key rights of women and girls needs to be set or tailored at country level, such as on protection from gender-based violence, access to health, access to the labour market, disparities in compensation, on property and inheritance rights, access to justice and to decision making processes including participation in public life and service.
14. Abolish school fees, so that both boys and girls can receive free primary education. Such measures should also be encouraged at secondary level, should available resources permit, without any discrimination for all children.
15. Address institutional, cultural and income barriers that prevent girls from going to school, including the promotion of safe schools for girls with separate water and sanitation facilities for girls, and encourage parents and communities to invest in the education of girls. Increasing the number of female teachers in schools, for example, can address male bias in the classroom.
16. Governments must promote and facilitate an enabling environment for inclusive employment, through positive employment programmes and supporting women's entrepreneurship. Such actions for economic empowerment of women should include gender-sensitive legal and institutional changes in compliance with human rights and ILO standards, greater recognition of the right to equal pay for equal work, elimination of barriers to access credit, training, technology and land, and legal guarantees of property and inheritance rights.

Goal 4 to reduce child mortality

17. Ensure the judicially enforceable right of children to life and health, through full and explicit recognition of the rights in the national Constitution, health-related law, policies, programmes and national action plans, including through ratifying the ICESCR and its Optional Protocols.
18. Ensure that essential health-care services are affordable, sufficient and equitably distributed without discrimination of any kind, including full and comprehensive coverage of child immunisation programmes and access to essential medicines. Any barriers preventing children to access such services must be removed, including deliberate measures to guarantee effective access to remedy and reparation for those affected.

19. Take preventive steps such as promoting breastfeeding and training community health workers, as well as make child and maternal health related policies, programmes and awareness raising information accessible to general public.
20. Minimum social protection schemes, including but not restricted to conditional cash transfer programmes, must be extended to all children, in particular ensuring the full coverage of the most poorest, marginalised and excluded families and children.
21. Introduce effective birth registration systems as well as a system of child death audits. These audits should be a non-judicial review that goes beyond medical reasons to identify the social, economic and cultural reasons that explains worrying patterns of child deaths.

Goal 5 to improve maternal health

22. [Women's reproductive and sexual health](#) must be recognised as a human right in national Constitutions, laws, policies and programmes, including ratifications of the CEDAW, ICESCR and its Optional Protocol.
23. Medical interventions alone are not enough to address maternal mortality, and fundamentally, the underlying political and socio-economic barriers prevent women from effective and meaningful access to health services must be addressed and eliminated, including gender based violence and discrimination.
24. Provide women with effective access to high-quality, appropriate reproductive health care and contraception, information on family planning and sexual and reproductive health, including through school curricula and better education for girls.
25. Abolish discriminatory laws and harmful social practices, including early and forced marriages, female genital mutilation/cutting. Ensure women's right to participate in decision-making processes that affect their sexual and reproductive lives, and freely determine the number and spacing of children.
26. Provide basic and comprehensive emergency obstetric and neonatal care (EmONC) and access to skilled birth attendance without discrimination of any kind, and ensure that such facilities are equitably distributed, accessible and affordable or free of charge. For every 500,000 persons, a minimum of four basic EmONC facilities and one comprehensive EmONC facility must be established, with adequate assistance and training to midwives.
27. Establish accessible, transparent and effective mechanisms of monitoring and accountability to enforce human rights obligations to provide care and remove barriers, including through introducing, as a matter of urgency, a comprehensive, effective registration system and maternal death audits, and ensure the right of victims to a remedy and reparation.

Goal 6 to combat HIV/AIDS, malaria, and other diseases

28. Ensure the right to health is enshrined in national Constitutions, laws, policies and programmes.

29. Eliminate any discrimination on the grounds of HIV/AIDS, including through breaking down stigma surrounding HIV/AIDS and ensuring the provision of correct information.
30. Provide antiretroviral and essential drugs and associated health-care services to treat those with HIV/AIDS, including counselling services to prevent mother-to-child transmission of HIV/AIDS.
31. Increase financial and human resources to provide access to bed-nets and appropriate medicines, affordable drugs and high-quality care to prevent tuberculosis. Adequate support shall be given to States in addressing neglected diseases.
32. Ensure that communities are empowered with knowledge on HIV/AIDS, malaria, tuberculosis and other diseases, including adequate information on prevention measures and the treatment.

Goal 7 to ensure environmental sustainability

33. Enshrine the rights to environmental health, [water and sanitation](#), and housing and security of tenure in national legislation, and ensure institutions have capacity to enforce these rights.
34. Ensure that national targets aim for the achievement of universal access to clean water sources and sanitation services, which will be critical for reducing poverty and malnutrition, and realizing gender and health-related MDGs.
35. Ensure that explicit targets are set and data collected and monitored with respect to water safety (or quality), accessibility, affordability and reliability (or continuity), rather than “improved water source” alone.
36. Data on access to safe water and adequate sanitation should be disaggregated by gender, rural/urban disparities, and upper and lower income quintiles, and accessible accountability mechanisms should be established at local and national levels to provide redress where rights are not met.
37. Set clear national and local benchmarks to ensure water and sanitation will be extended to poorer and marginalised areas, including through affordability and regularity of water to get an accurate picture of effective access to it.
38. Establish effective institutional and other mechanisms to guard against unfair disconnections and allocations and against water pollution. Ensure the right to water of people in informal settlements, farm workers and dwellers and indigenous peoples.
39. Establish effective legal frameworks, institutional mechanisms and participatory rights-based strategies to provide protection from forced eviction, observance of gender equality in all tenure schemes and women’s rights to land and property ownership and inheritance.
40. Improve security of tenure by adopting pro-poor strategies that are sensitive to the rights of the most marginalised groups, and make the achievement of basic secure tenure for all a national/ local target and indicator.

41. Ensure broad-based participation in city-wide planning and slum upgrading plans and projects, and support civil society organisations to monitor environmental protection.

Goal 8 to develop a global partnership for development

42. Developed countries need to fully conform with their commitments with respect to meeting aid targets (0.7% of the gross national product to developing countries and 0.15-0.20% of the gross national product to least developed countries), and to ensure that a human rights approach, including the right to development, is adopted in development programmes and allocations with a greater focus on aid effectiveness, predictability, quality and impact, and in accordance with the 2005 G-8 Gleneagles commitments and the 2008 Accra Agenda for Action.
43. Development partners and international community should take into account the needs of developing countries in the design and implementation of development programmes by providing for adequate policy space and ensuring policy coherence.
44. Donors and partner countries should further develop and apply the mutual accountability concept. Donor countries should frame their development policies around quantitative and time-bound targets at the country level in line with developing country targets, and transparency and accountability from donor and partner countries directly to individuals and communities should also be strengthened.
45. Debt relief and sustainability should consider each country's debt profile and financing needs for the MDGs, tailored in line with applicable international human rights standards. Developed States should set clearer quantitative targets for debt reduction and ensure that accountability mechanisms are in place to monitor progress, consistent with the 2002 Monterrey Consensus on Financing for Development.
46. The proportion of official development assistance dedicated to sanitation and reducing maternal mortality in particular, should be increased. A greater proportion of international aid should be targeted at least developed countries, and at basic water and sanitation services as well as basic healthcare services, including emergency obstetric and neonatal care facilities.
47. States should set quantitative targets to remove trade barriers for developing countries, including full and unconditional duty-free and quota-free market access to exports from least developed countries, and ensure that the Doha Round of negotiations lead to an outcome conducive to an equitable, just and sustainable development for all.
48. States should take into account the negative effects of free trade and preferential agreements and impacts of the Doha Round on least developed countries and specific vulnerable groups in developing countries. Trade partners should ensure that free trade agreements do not include WTO plus provisions that may not be consistent with development needs of developing countries. A proper *ex ante* human rights impact assessment of trade liberalisation policies and agreements is needed before such agreements are adopted.
49. Developed countries, responsible to protect human rights, must recognise impacts of patent protection under the WTO Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights

(TRIPS) Agreement on access to medicines, and encourage pharmaceutical companies based in their jurisdictions to provide essential drugs at affordable prices to developing countries and refrain from removing TRIPS flexibilities for purchases of generic medicines through additional agreements, and ensure the smooth implementation of TRIPS flexibilities by developing countries.

- 50.** States should adopt a human rights approach to access to technology and communication that emphasises the importance of individual and collective access to scientific progress, not just the overall contribution of technology to economic growth.
- 51.** As this Goal lacks clear time-bound benchmarks and quantifiable indicators for monitoring, there is an urgent need for a rights-based indicators framework to measure the process as well as outcome or impact of public policies relevant to the achievement of the relevant targets.
- 52.** States should strengthen global partnerships for development based on national efforts, international cooperation and shared responsibility of developed and developing countries and other key stakeholders, and thereby promote progress on all the Goals, which together require a globally enabling environment free of structural impediments. The right to development framework should be made an integral part of such partnerships, calling for strengthened human rights accountability at both the national and international levels.