

## The Declaration of the Millennium Development Goals

More than a decade after the establishment of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), ample confusion persists regarding their genesis. In particular, many people misunderstand the relationship between the contents of the September 2000 UN Millennium Declaration and the original MDG Targets that were extracted from that Declaration.<sup>2</sup> As recently as 2012, I have heard senior global policy figures state a belief that, “The Millennium Declaration did not establish any quantitative targets. Those were set afterwards.” This is not correct. All of the MDGs’ original formal Targets were established in the Millennium Declaration.

The roots of the misunderstanding probably lie in the U.S. government’s stance from mid-2001, when the MDGs were first used as a policy term, through September 2005, when President Bush first used the words “Millennium Development Goals” in public. During the interim period, U.S. officials would commonly state that, “The United States supports the goals of the Millennium Declaration but not the Millennium Development Goals,” or that “The United States supports Goals 1 through 7 but not Goal 8.” When looking at the actual contents of the Millennium Declaration and the original MDG Targets, neither statement is logical.

The following describes the issues through the form of an FAQ structure.

### **1. Which Targets were taken directly from the Millennium Declaration?**

All of the original MDG Targets were taken directly from the Millennium Declaration. Following the September 2000 Millennium Summit, the UN General Assembly mandated Secretary-General Kofi Annan to prepare a long-term roadmap towards the implementation of the Millennium Declaration. Annan in turn commissioned Assistant Secretary-General Michael Doyle to coordinate a process to extract the development-related outcomes of the Millennium Declaration and thereby crystallize the priorities for follow-up.

In working through the prose of world leaders’ commitments embedded in the body of the Millennium Declaration, Doyle and his team (which included people like Jan Vandemoortele of UNDP and others from UNICEF, the OECD, World Bank, IMF, UNFPA and later WHO) identified a subset of 18 politically agreed commitments, which they categorized under eight overarching “Goals.” These 18 commitments were labeled as “Targets.” Ten out of the 18 Targets were quantitative in nature and nine out of ten set a deadline for 2015, the exception being the slum dweller Target for 2020. Table 1 lists the original 18 MDG Targets next to the relevant passage(s) from the Millennium Declaration. [The 18 Targets were later expanded to be 21, based on 2005 intergovernmental agreements, as described under point #6 below.] Appendix 1 includes the complete Development section of the Millennium Declaration.

The only Target that could potentially be deemed an interpretive stretch from the Millennium Declaration to the MDGs is the non-quantitative Target 9, which is to, “Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programs and reverse the loss of environmental

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<sup>1</sup> Comments and corrections are appreciated and can be sent to [jmcarthur@brookings.edu](mailto:jmcarthur@brookings.edu). I thank Koen Davidse, Michael Doyle and Mark Suzman for comments on an earlier draft of this note. Any errors remain my own.

<sup>2</sup> In this document the words “Goals” and “Targets” are capitalized when referring to the formal MDG objectives.

resources.” The Millennium Declaration includes the first half of the sentence but not the second half, although the latter can be presumed as addressed through the substance of “Agenda 21,” which has its own complicated global history. However, Target 9 has never to my knowledge been cited as a source of significant global political friction.

## **2. Exactly which Targets were quantitative Targets?**

Of the original 18 Targets, only 10 were quantitative and deadline-driven in nature:

- Goals 1 through 6 included eight quantitative Targets, as marked by “Q” in Table 1.
- Goal 7 included two quantitative Targets plus one non-quantitative Target, the latter marked by “NQ” in Table 1.
- Goal 8 included 7 non-quantitative Targets, with no explicit deadlines.

The 10 quantitative Targets are generally considered the core aims of the MDGs, and the 8 non-quantitative Targets are typically seen as important enablers.

## **3. What about the baselines?**

In the period between the 2000 Millennium Declaration and the 2001 formal branding of the MDGs, the one substantive adjustment made by UN officials was to identify a 1990 baseline for all the 2015 Targets. This was important because most of the proportionate Targets in the Millennium Declaration are not explicit regarding a baseline, otherwise the question would have been: to halve poverty by 2015 compared to what? The one exception is the Millennium Declaration language for child and maternal mortality, which specifies ambitions “compared to current rates,” although a common sense reading of the Declaration might presume the year 2000 applies throughout.

The 1990 baseline was identified for two key reasons. First, as Doyle’s team assessed the available information, the statistical experts pointed out that data for 2000 were not yet available for a wide range of countries, and were not likely to be for another few years. Referencing the year 1990 allowed monitoring efforts to begin much more quickly. Second, the team determined that 1990 would be a more reasonable fit compared to historical trends, thereby lessening the pressures on world leaders for 2015. Even though the MDGs were squarely created to *change* trajectories, the UN leadership did want the new Goals to be viably achievable.

Thus anyone who prefers the “goals of the Millennium Declaration” to the MDGs is arguing for *more* ambitious goals, which would presumably require even more aid financing. (The caveat here is that the quantitative Targets for primary education and gender equality are absolute values and thus did not hinge analytically on a baseline.) Such an argument also implicitly advocates a more expansive set of objectives, since the MDGs include only a subset of the goals of the Millennium Declaration.

## **4. But I thought Goal 8 set foreign aid targets?**

Goal 8 has been commonly interpreted to imply aid targets – and most commonly the target of 0.7 percent of national income – but there are no explicit aid targets within the MDGs. Nonetheless, the MDGs do *imply* the need for increased aid and their political lifeblood hinged on the agreements of the 2002 Monterrey Consensus, which amounted to the financial framework in support of the Goals. As outlined in Table 2, the Millennium Declaration explicitly refers to a planned follow-up “High-Level International and Intergovernmental Event on Financing for Development” as the key juncture for figuring out how to finance the Declaration’s sustainable development objectives. That Financing for Development event was originally slated for 2001, but ended up taking place in Monterrey, Mexico in March 2002.

In Monterrey, President Bush and other world leaders signed the pivotal 21<sup>st</sup> century intergovernmental agreement around aid frameworks, famously declaring in paragraph 42 that, “We urge developed countries that have not done so to make concrete efforts towards the target of 0.7 percent of gross national product (GNP) as [official development assistance] to developing countries.” This language was painstakingly negotiated between senior European and American diplomats, with the latter insisting on the word “towards” alongside “the target.” This wobble word might have left ambiguity as to how long it might ever take to achieve the target, but it is unambiguous that the United States and all other countries endorsed 0.7 as a legitimate aid target in 2002.

In Monterrey, this promise of developed countries getting serious on financial support was paired with developing countries’ explicit commitment to good governance and to mobilizing domestic resources, including a key phrase stressing that, “Each country has primary responsibility for its own economic and social development” (paragraph 6). The agreement also affirmed that markets are the primary engine of economic development, and that aid is needed to support poor countries where markets and local governments couldn’t meet the key challenges on their own. This was how the MDGs took shape as the world’s first explicit development partnership framework between developed and developing countries.

The Millennium Declaration does make multiple non-quantitative assertions regarding the need for increased official development assistance (ODA), as also outlined in Table 2. Thus anyone who cites the Millennium Declaration as the reference point for aid budgets is in fact referring to an argument for increased aid.

##### **5. How do the MDG “indicators” fit in?**

Within the MDG structure, the Goals and Targets have a very different status than the dozens of “indicators” that are used to track progress against them, even though all three categories are often listed together in documentation. The Goals and Targets have the political legitimacy that comes from intergovernmental agreements. In 2001, the UN interagency working group chaired by Doyle proposed a series of indicators that could reasonably be used to track progress on the Goals and Targets. The indicators have since evolved through a valiant technical process whereby expert staff align ongoing (if imperfect) improvements in data systems with the political agreements of world leaders. The indicators are not a product of intergovernmental agreement and should not be considered in the same political category as the Goals and Targets.

This distinction has been especially important when any particular UN member state has taken offense to the use of an indicator. One particular complaint often centered around the use of an indicator to track aid flows as a share of national income, since the MDGs include no explicit aid targets. Notwithstanding the points above regarding Monterrey and the 0.7 percent target, this complaint is also inconsistent with even a purist Millennium Declaration perspective, since the Declaration states in paragraph 15 that, “We call on the industrialized countries: [...] To grant more generous development assistance, especially to countries that are genuinely making an effort to apply their resources to poverty reduction.” An ODA indicator is legitimate in tracking progress on that all to action.

As a reflection of the difference between MDG Goals and Targets on one side and indicators on the other, in the course of the work of the UN Millennium Project, Kofi Annan’s independent advisory body mandated to recommend an action plan for the MDGs, we respected and closely interacted with the work of the indicator group, and some of the Project’s task forces deployed significant effort to suggest improved indicators. But the Project never cited the indicators work as a reference point of

intergovernmental agreement. Indeed the UN Millennium Project's final January 2005 report, *Investing in Development: A Practical Plan to Achieve the Millennium Development Goals*, lists all the MDG Goals and Targets at the outset but does not detail the lengthy list of indicators.

#### **6. How did 18 MDG Targets become 21 MDG Targets?**

Following the seminal outcomes of the 2005 UN World Summit, the MDG Targets were updated in 2006 to incorporate the intergovernmental agreements from that event. Table 3 presents the summit outcome language that led to four adjustments: three new Targets and one revised Target. First, a Target to achieve universal access to reproductive health was added under Goal 5 for maternal mortality. Second, a Target to achieve universal access to HIV/AIDS treatment by 2010 was added under Goal 6 for infectious diseases. Third, a Target to reduce the rate of biodiversity loss by 2010 was added under Goal 7 for the environment. Fourth, the original Target 16 for employment was tweaked to include the World Summit agreement to, "achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all, including women and young people," and was relocated from Goal 8 on global partnership to a more logical Goal 1 for ending extreme poverty.

In order to remove confusion between Goal numbers and Target numbers, the UN also subsequently adjusted the labeling system whereby the Targets are ordered by capital letters under each of the MDG Goals, i.e., a simple "[Goal Number].[Letter]" system. Thus the Target under Goal 2 for primary education is now described as "Target 2.A" rather than "Target 3."

For completeness, Table 4 also maps the Targets from the original 1 through 18 numbering to the current ordering from 1.A through 8.F.

**Table 1: The Original 18 MDG Targets and corresponding language from the Millennium Declaration**

Original MDG Target (as of 2005) *	Millennium Declaration Language (September 2000)
<b>Goal 1 – Eradicate Poverty and Hunger</b>	
(Q) Target 1. Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people whose income is less than \$1 a day	Para 19. We resolve further: To halve, by the year 2015, the proportion of the world's people whose income is less than one dollar a day and the proportion of people who suffer from hunger.
(Q) Target 2. Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people who suffer from hunger	
<b>Goal 2 – Achieve universal primary education</b>	
(Q) Target 3. Ensure that, by 2015, children everywhere, boys and girls alike, will be able to complete a full course of primary schooling	Para 19. We resolve further: [...] To ensure that, by the same date, children everywhere, boys and girls alike, will be able to complete a full course of primary schooling and that girls and boys will have equal access to all levels of education.
<b>Goal 3 – Promote gender equality and empower women</b>	
(Q) Target 4. Eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education, preferably by 2005, and in all levels of education no later than 2015	Para 20. We also resolve: To promote gender equality and the empowerment of women as effective ways to combat poverty, hunger and disease and to stimulate development that is truly sustainable.
<b>Goal 4 – Reduce child mortality</b>	
(Q) Target 5. Reduce by two-thirds, between 1990 and 2015, the under-five mortality rate	Para 19. We resolve further: [...] By the same date, to have reduced maternal mortality by three quarters, and under-five child mortality by two thirds, of their current rates.
<b>Goal 5 – Improve maternal health</b>	
(Q) Target 6. Reduce by three-quarters, between 1990 and 2015, the maternal mortality ratio	
<b>Goal 6 – Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases</b>	
(Q) Target 7. Have halted by 2015 and begun to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS	Para 19. We resolve further: [...] To have, by then, halted, and begun to reverse, the spread of HIV/AIDS, the scourge of malaria and other major diseases that afflict humanity.
(Q) Target 8. Have halted by 2015 and begun to reverse the incidence of malaria and other major diseases	
<b>Goal 7 – Ensure environmental sustainability</b>	
(NQ) Target 9. Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programs and reverse the loss of environmental resources	Para 22. We reaffirm our support for the principles of sustainable development, including those set out in Agenda 21, agreed upon at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development
(Q) Target 10. Halve, by 2015, the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation	Para 19. We resolve further: [...] To halve, by the year 2015, [...] the proportion of people who are unable to reach or to afford safe drinking water
(Q) Target 11. Have achieved by 2020 a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers	[WSSD] Para. 8.* We agree to halve, by the year 2015, the proportion of people who are unable to reach or to afford safe drinking water (as outlined in the Millennium Declaration) and the proportion of people who do not have access to basic sanitation  Para 19. We resolve further: [...] By 2020, to have achieved a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers as proposed in the "Cities Without Slums" initiative.

\*Language from the September 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg, South Africa.

Note: (Q) indicates quantitative Target. (NQ) indicates non-quantitative Target.

Original MDG Target (as of 2005)	Millennium Declaration Language (September 2000)
<b>Goal 8 – Develop a global partnership for development</b>	
<b>(NQ) Target 12.</b> Develop further an open, rule-based, predictable, nondiscriminatory trading and financial system (includes a commitment to good governance, development, and poverty reduction – both nationally and internationally)	<p><b>Para 12.</b> We resolve therefore to create an environment – at the national and global levels alike – which is conducive to development and to the elimination of poverty.</p> <p><b>Para 13.</b> Success in meeting these objectives depends, <i>inter alia</i>, 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. We are committed to an open, equitable, rule-based, predictable and non-discriminatory multilateral trading and financial system.</p>
<b>(NQ) Target 13.</b> Address the special needs of the Least Developed Countries (includes tariff- and quota-free access for Least Developed Countries’ exports, enhanced program of debt relief for heavily indebted poor countries [HIPC] and cancellation of official bilateral debt, and more generous official development assistance for countries committed to poverty reduction)	<p><b>Para 15.</b> We also undertake to address the special needs of the least developed countries. [...] We call on the industrialized countries:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To adopt, preferably by [May 2001], a policy of duty- and quota-free access for essentially all exports from the least developed countries;</li> <li>• To implement the enhanced programme of debt relief for the heavily indebted poor countries without further delay and to agree to cancel all official bilateral debts of those countries in return for their making demonstrable commitments to poverty reduction; and</li> <li>• To grant more generous development assistance, especially to countries that are genuinely making an effort to apply their resources to poverty reduction.</li> </ul>
<b>(NQ) Target 14.</b> Address the special needs of landlocked developing countries and small island developing states (through the Program of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States and 22 <sup>nd</sup> General Assembly provisions)	<p><b>Para 17.</b> We also resolve to address the special needs of small island developing States, by implementing the Barbados Programme of Action and the outcome of the twenty-second special session of the General Assembly rapidly and in full. We urge the international community to ensure that, in the development of a vulnerability index, the special needs of small island developing States are taken into account.</p> <p><b>Para 18.</b> We recognize the special needs and problems of the landlocked developing countries, and urge both bilateral and multilateral donors to increase financial and technical assistance to this group of countries to meet their special development needs and to help them overcome the impediments of geography by improving their transit transport systems.</p>
<b>(NQ) Target 15.</b> Deal comprehensively with the debt problems of developing countries through national and international measures in order to make debt sustainable in the long term	<p><b>Para 16.</b> We are also determined to deal comprehensively and effectively with the debt problems of low- and middle-income developing countries, through various national and international measures designed to make their debt sustainable in the long term.</p>
<b>(NQ) Target 16.</b> In cooperation with developing countries, develop and implement strategies for decent and productive work for youth	<p><b>Para 20.</b> We also resolve: [...] To develop and implement strategies that give young people everywhere a real chance to find decent and productive work.</p>
<b>(NQ) Target 17.</b> In cooperation with pharmaceutical companies, provide access to affordable essential drugs in developing countries	<p><b>Para 20.</b> We also resolve: [...] To encourage the pharmaceutical industry to make essential drugs more widely available and affordable by all who need them in developing countries.</p>
<b>(NQ) Target 18.</b> In cooperation with the private sector, make available the benefits of new technologies, especially information and communications technologies	<p><b>Para 20.</b> We also resolve: [...]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To develop strong partnerships with the private sector and with civil society organizations in pursuit of development and poverty eradication.</li> <li>• To ensure that the benefits of new technologies, especially information and communication technologies, in conformity with recommendations contained in the ECOSOC 2000 Ministerial Declaration, are available to all.</li> </ul>

Note: (Q) indicates quantitative Target. (NQ) indicates non-quantitative Target.

**Table 2: Key Foreign Aid Language from 2002 Monterrey Consensus and 2000 Millennium Declaration**

Monterrey conference on Financing for Development (2002)	Millennium Declaration language (2000)
<p><b>Para 39.</b> Official development assistance (ODA) plays an essential role as a complement to other sources of financing for development, especially in those countries with the least capacity to attract private direct investment. ODA can help a country to reach adequate levels of domestic resource mobilization over an appropriate time horizon, while human capital, productive and export capacities are enhanced. ODA can be critical for improving the environment for private sector activity and can thus pave the way for robust growth. ODA is also a crucial instrument for supporting education, health, public infrastructure development, agriculture and rural development, and to enhance food security. For many countries in Africa, least developed countries, small island developing States and landlocked developing countries, ODA is still the largest source of external financing and is critical to the achievement of the development goals and targets of the Millennium Declaration and other internationally agreed development targets.</p> <p><b>Para 40.</b> Effective partnerships among donors and recipients are based on the recognition of national leadership and ownership of development plans and, within that framework, sound policies and good governance at all levels are necessary to ensure ODA effectiveness. A major priority is to build those development partnerships, particularly in support of the neediest, and to maximize the poverty reduction impact of ODA. The goals, targets and commitments of the Millennium Declaration and other internationally agreed development targets can help countries to set short- and medium-term national priorities as the foundation for building partnerships for external support. [...]</p> <p><b>Para 41.</b> We recognize that a substantial increase in ODA and other resources will be required if developing countries are to achieve the internationally agreed development goals and objectives, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration. To build support for ODA, we will cooperate to further improve policies and development strategies, both nationally and internationally, to enhance aid effectiveness.</p> <p><b>Para 42.</b> In that context, <b><i>we urge developed countries that have not done so to make concrete efforts towards the target of 0.7 per cent of gross national product (GNP) as ODA to developing countries</i></b> and 0.15 to 0.20 per cent of GNP of developed countries to least developed countries, as reconfirmed at the Third United Nations Conference on Least Developed Countries, and we encourage developing countries to build on progress achieved in ensuring that ODA is used effectively to help achieve development goals and targets. <b><i>We acknowledge the efforts of all donors, commend those donors whose ODA contributions exceed, reach or are increasing towards the targets, and underline the importance of undertaking to examine the means and time frames for achieving the targets and goals.</i></b> [emphasis added]</p>	<p><b>Para 14.</b> “We are concerned about the obstacles developing countries face in mobilizing the resources needed to finance their sustained development. We will therefore make every effort to ensure the success of the High-level International and Intergovernmental Event on Financing for Development, to be held in 2001.”</p> <p><b>Para 15.</b> “We call on the industrialized countries: [...] To grant more generous development assistance, especially to countries that are genuinely making an effort to apply their resources to poverty reduction.”</p> <p><b>Para 18.</b> “We recognize the special needs and problems of the landlocked developing countries, and urge both bilateral and multilateral donors to increase financial and technical assistance to this group of countries to meet their special development needs and to help them overcome the impediments of geography by improving their transit transport systems.”</p> <p><b>Para 28.</b> “We resolve [...] To take special measures to address the challenges of poverty eradication and sustainable development in Africa, including debt cancellation, improved market access, enhanced Official Development Assistance and increased flows of Foreign Direct Investment, as well as transfers of technology.”</p>

**Table 3: MDG Targets Added or Revised Following 2005 UN World Summit Agreements**

Post-2005 Incremental/Revised MDG Target	World Summit Outcome Document (2005)
<p><b>Target 1.B</b> Achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all, including women and young people</p>	<p><b>Para 47.</b> “We strongly support fair globalization and resolve to make the goals of full and productive employment and decent work for all, including for women and young people, a central objective of our relevant national and international policies as well as our national development strategies, including poverty reduction strategies, as part of our efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals.”</p>
<p><b>Target 5.B</b> Achieve universal access to reproductive health</p>	<p><b>Para 57.</b> “We commit ourselves to: [...] (g) Achieving universal access to reproductive health by 2015.”</p>
<p><b>Target 6.B</b> Achieve, by 2010, universal access to treatment for HIV/AIDS for all those who need it</p>	<p><b>Para 57.</b> “We commit ourselves to: [...] (d) Developing and implementing a package for HIV prevention, treatment and care with the aim of coming as close as possible to the goal of universal access to treatment by 2010 for all those who need it.”</p>
<p><b>Target 7.B.</b> Reduce biodiversity loss, achieving, by 2010, a significant reduction in the rate of loss</p>	<p><b>Para 56 (c).</b> “All States will fulfil commitments and significantly reduce the rate of loss of biodiversity by 2010.”</p>

Note: Latest targets taken from <http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals>



**Table 4: Mapping of Original MDG Targets 1 through 18 to Current MDG Targets 1.A through 8.F**

Original Target Number	Revised Target Label	Target Language
<b>GOAL 1</b>		
1	1.A	Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people whose income is less than \$1 a day
16 *	1.B	Achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all, including women and young people
2	1.C	Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people who suffer from hunger
<b>GOAL 2</b>		
3	2.A	Ensure that, by 2015, children everywhere, boys and girls alike, will be able to complete a full course of primary schooling
<b>GOAL 3</b>		
4	3.A	Eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education, preferably by 2005, and in all levels of education no later than 2015
<b>GOAL 4</b>		
5	4.A	Reduce by two-thirds, between 1990 and 2015, the under-five mortality rate
<b>GOAL 5</b>		
6	5.A	Reduce by three-quarters, between 1990 and 2015, the maternal mortality ratio
[new]	5.B	Achieve universal access to reproductive health
<b>GOAL 6</b>		
7	6.A	Have halted by 2015 and begun to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS
[new]	6.B	Achieve, by 2010, universal access to treatment for HIV/AIDS for all those who need it
8	6.C	Have halted by 2015 and begun to reverse the incidence of malaria and other major diseases
<b>GOAL 7</b>		
9	7.A	Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programs and reverse the loss of environmental resources
[new]	7.B	Reduce biodiversity loss, achieving, by 2010, a significant reduction in the rate of loss
10	7.C	Halve, by 2015, the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation
11	7.D	Have achieved by 2020 a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers
<b>GOAL 8</b>		
12	8.A	Develop further an open, rule-based, predictable, nondiscriminatory trading and financial system **
13	8.B	Address the special needs of the Least Developed Countries **
14	8.C	Address the special needs of landlocked developing countries and small island developing states **
15	8.D	Deal comprehensively with the debt problems of developing countries **
17	8.E	In cooperation with pharmaceutical companies, provide access to affordable essential drugs in developing countries
18	8.F	In cooperation with the private sector, make available the benefits of new technologies, especially information and communications **

\*Target language was tweaked following 2005 UN World Summit. See Table 3 plus explanation under point #6 in text.

\*\* Simplified Target language indicated, as extracted from <http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals> on February 21, 2013.

## Appendix I: Extracted Text of September 2000 UN Millennium Declaration, Section III

### III. Development and poverty eradication

11. We will spare no effort to free our fellow men, women and children from the abject and dehumanizing conditions of extreme poverty, to which more than a billion of them are currently subjected. We are committed to making the right to development a reality for everyone and to freeing the entire human race from want.

12. We resolve therefore to create an environment – at the national and global levels alike – which is conducive to development and to the elimination of poverty.

13. Success in meeting these objectives 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. We are committed to an open, equitable, rule-based, predictable and non-discriminatory multilateral trading and financial system.

14. We are concerned about the obstacles developing countries face in mobilizing the resources needed to finance their sustained development. We will therefore make every effort to ensure the success of the High-level International and Intergovernmental Event on Financing for Development, to be held in 2001.

15. We also undertake to address the special needs of the least developed countries. In this context, we welcome the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries to be held in May 2001 and will endeavour to ensure its success. We call on the industrialized countries:

- To adopt, preferably by the time of that Conference, a policy of duty- and quota-free access for essentially all exports from the least developed countries;
- To implement the enhanced programme of debt relief for the heavily indebted poor countries without further delay and to agree to cancel all official bilateral debts of those countries in return for their making demonstrable commitments to poverty reduction; and
- To grant more generous development assistance, especially to countries that are genuinely making an effort to apply their resources to poverty reduction.

16. We are also determined to deal comprehensively and effectively with the debt problems of low- and middle-income developing countries, through various national and international measures designed to make their debt sustainable in the long term.

17. We also resolve to address the special needs of small island developing States, by implementing the Barbados Programme of Action and the outcome of the twenty-second special session of the General Assembly rapidly and in full. We urge the international community to ensure that, in the development of a vulnerability index, the special needs of small island developing States are taken into account.

18. We recognize the special needs and problems of the landlocked developing countries, and urge both bilateral and multilateral donors to increase financial and technical assistance to this group of countries

to meet their special development needs and to help them overcome the impediments of geography by improving their transit transport systems.

19. We resolve further:

- To halve, by the year 2015, the proportion of the world's people whose income is less than one dollar a day and the proportion of people who suffer from hunger and, by the same date, to halve the proportion of people who are unable to reach or to afford safe drinking water.
- To ensure that, by the same date, children everywhere, boys and girls alike, will be able to complete a full course of primary schooling and that girls and boys will have equal access to all levels of education.
- By the same date, to have reduced maternal mortality by three quarters, and under-five child mortality by two thirds, of their current rates.
- To have, by then, halted, and begun to reverse, the spread of HIV/AIDS, the scourge of malaria and other major diseases that afflict humanity.
- To provide special assistance to children orphaned by HIV/AIDS.
- By 2020, to have achieved a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers as proposed in the "Cities Without Slums" initiative.

20. We also resolve:

- To promote gender equality and the empowerment of women as effective ways to combat poverty, hunger and disease and to stimulate development that is truly sustainable.
- To develop and implement strategies that give young people everywhere a real chance to find decent and productive work.
- To encourage the pharmaceutical industry to make essential drugs more widely available and affordable by all who need them in developing countries.
- To develop strong partnerships with the private sector and with civil society organizations in pursuit of development and poverty eradication.
- To ensure that the benefits of new technologies, especially information and communication technologies, in conformity with recommendations contained in the ECOSOC 2000 Ministerial Declaration, are available to all.