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Annual ministerial review: strengthening efforts to eradicate poverty and hunger, including through the global partnership for development**Strengthening efforts to eradicate poverty and hunger, including through the global partnership for development****Report of the Secretary-General***Summary*

Globally, absolute poverty continues to decline. By 2015, all major regions except sub-Saharan Africa are expected to reduce the proportion of people living in extreme poverty to less than half the 1990 rate. There has also been global progress in other dimensions of poverty, such as access to education and health care. Nevertheless, the rate of improvement is insufficient to achieve the goals in the areas established in the United Nations Millennium Declaration. Meanwhile, the global physical environment continues to deteriorate, with increasing evidence that climate change is reaching a “tipping point”, with potentially devastating consequences for the world’s poor.

In achieving the above-mentioned results, developing countries have been supported by a strengthened global partnership. Official development assistance and debt relief to developing countries have increased, but net financial flows have been negative. Official development assistance has not risen to the level of the commitments made by the developed countries, and the promise held out by the possibility of a development-oriented set of trade negotiations has so far failed to materialize.

* E/2007/100 and Corr.1.



The policies and actions embodied in the United Nations development agenda have contributed to the achievement of the desired results, but not yet on the scale required. Attention has to be focused on strengthening and accelerating implementation of the United Nations development agenda. Developing countries need to sustain momentum by elaborating and implementing, as called for in the 2005 World Summit Outcome, national development strategies that will accelerate progress. Development partners need to ensure that they implement their commitments to increase official development assistance in a predictable fashion; they should also accelerate progress towards a development-friendly outcome to the trade negotiations of the Doha Round.

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I. Introduction

1. Poverty and hunger, an overarching theme of the global summits and conferences, have social, cultural, political, environmental and other dimensions. Correspondingly, efforts to eradicate poverty and hunger will require progress in an array of interlinked areas, which include social integration, employment and decent work, environmental sustainability and demographic issues. The wide-ranging effort that is necessary to eradicate poverty in its many dimensions is synthesized in the United Nations development agenda and the internationally agreed development goals, particularly the Millennium Development Goals, and other outcomes that emanated from the conferences and summits.

2. The first annual ministerial review, to be conducted pursuant to General Assembly resolutions 60/1 and 61/16, will provide an opportunity for all stakeholders to assess progress in overall implementation and to examine the results that have been achieved in implementing the United Nations development agenda. The objective should be to ascertain whether the agreements and commitments that constitute the development agenda are being honoured and whether the outcomes to date are commensurate with the aspirations embodied in the outcomes of United Nations conferences and summits.

3. To that end, the present report provides a broad overview of progress. In many instances, it is difficult to provide a global measure of the implementation of agreed policies and measures. However, a number of concrete goals and targets have been adopted, most notably the Millennium Development Goals, providing benchmarks for measuring some of the results. In particular, data now becoming available make it possible to examine changes in development performance and prospects since the General Assembly, by its resolution 55/2, adopted the United Nations Millennium Declaration. While the first ministerial review will follow a broad approach, subsequent reviews should focus on selected aspects of the United Nations development agenda.

4. The present report should be considered in conjunction with the report of the Secretary-General entitled "Strengthening efforts at all levels to promote pro-poor sustained economic growth, including through equitable macroeconomic policies" (E/2007/68) and the *Millennium Development Goals Report 2007*¹ and its statistical annex.

A. Progress and key challenges in eradicating poverty and hunger and achieving related internationally agreed development goals: strengthening economic growth and reducing poverty and hunger in developing countries

5. In most developing countries, economic growth, a necessary if not sufficient condition for reducing poverty, has strengthened since 2001, averaging over 6 per cent during the period 2004-2006 (see table 1). During that period, over 98 per cent of the population of the developing world lived in countries where per capita income increased, and two thirds lived in countries where per capita income increased by more than 3 per cent. Moreover, growth has been strongest in many of

¹ United Nations publication, forthcoming.

the countries that are home to most of the world's poorest peoples. China and India have achieved high growth, and the least developed countries as a group have been growing faster than the average of other developing countries. Success in converting such global improvements in economic growth into meaningful poverty reduction requires the adoption of pro-poor economic policies, as well as measures to address the non-income dimensions of poverty, at all levels. For a consideration of pro-poor economic policies, see the relevant report (E/2007/68).

Table 1
Selected indicators of progress in developing countries, 2000-2006

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Economic growth							
Growth of output (percentage per year)	5.6	2.7	3.9	5.2	6.9	6.5	6.9
Poverty (millions)							
Population living on less than \$1 per day (millions)	1 120 ^a		1 067	—	986	—	—
Proportion of population (percentage)	22.3 ^a	—	20.4	—	18.4	—	—
Working poor (\$1 per day) (millions)	570	568	560	545	528	515	503
Employment (millions)							
Employment — female	787	800	816	834	847	862	878
Employment — male	1 255	1 276	1 299	1 325	1 347	1 371	1 394
Education (percentage)							
Primary gross enrolment rate — female	78.9	79.5	79.2	81.3	83.7	—	—
Primary gross enrolment rate — male	85.5	85.6	85.4	85.6	87.9	—	—

Sources: *World Economic Situation and Prospects 2007* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.07.II.C.2); World Bank, *Global Monitoring Report 2007* (Washington, D.C., 2007); Millennium Development Goals database (see <http://mdgs.un.org>).

^a 1999.

6. In 2004, the number of people in developing countries living on less than \$1 a day fell below one billion from 1.25 billion in 1990, causing the proportion of such extremely poor people in those countries to decline from 31.6 per cent to 18.4 per cent over the same period. Within the total, China and other parts of Eastern Asia have demonstrated that it is possible to reduce substantially the number of extremely poor people relatively quickly (see table 2). Elsewhere, the numbers of extremely poor have mostly increased or remained roughly constant, but the rate of poverty has begun to decline. All major regions except sub-Saharan Africa are now expected to reach the target of halving the proportion of the population living in extreme poverty between 1990 and 2015.

Table 2
Extreme poverty in developing countries by region, 1999-2004

	Number (millions)			Proportion of population (percentage)		
	1999	2002	2004	1999	2002	2004
Eastern Asia	277	227	169	15.5	12.3	9.1
Eastern Europe and Central Asia	18	6	4	3.8	1.3	0.9
Latin America and the Caribbean	49	48	47	9.7	9.1	8.6
Middle East and North Africa	6	5	4	2.1	1.7	1.5
South Asia	475	485	462	35.8	34.7	32
Sub-Saharan Africa	296	296	298	45.8	42.6	41.1
Total	1 120	1 067	986	22.3	20.4	18.4

Source: World Bank, *Global Monitoring Report 2007* (Washington, D.C., 2007).

7. In most regions, the rate of population growth has slowed, but continued rapid population growth is aggravating the problem of reducing poverty in sub-Saharan Africa. In the future, the changing age structure will have more of an impact on poverty and hunger than the growth of the population. Sub-Saharan Africa, however, will continue to experience rapid population growth in all age groups and will have to address a wider range of challenges.

1. Confronting rural poverty

8. In most developing countries, the majority of poor people live in rural areas and derive their livelihoods, directly or indirectly, from agriculture. Reducing overall levels of poverty and hunger necessarily requires action in rural areas. The share of agriculture in gross domestic product (GDP) is decreasing in many developing countries, and the proportion of the population deriving a major part of its income from agriculture is also falling, but not commensurately. The development of the agriculture sector is key to reducing overall poverty.

9. Poverty reduction in developing countries has been closely correlated with government expenditure on agriculture and rural development. In Asia, rapid progress in reducing poverty and hunger has been associated with high and increasing levels of government expenditure on agriculture; in central sub-Saharan Africa, the low level of public expenditures for agriculture declined further in the 1990s, despite the continued high dependence on agriculture. Even today, many poverty reduction strategies and national development plans do not address rural poverty adequately, contributing to continuing disinvestment in agriculture and rural development. Raising agricultural productivity and rural incomes is crucially dependent on assured irrigation, seeds, fertilizer, agricultural services, electricity and rural roads. However, expenditures on physical infrastructure need to be balanced with those on education, health and sanitation. In addition, rural employment opportunities need to be created to accommodate those who leave the agricultural sector or do not have permanent employment in the sector.

10. In most countries with large numbers of people living in poverty, both domestic public resources and official development assistance (ODA) for agriculture and rural development need to be increased. Measures should be targeted so that resources, assets (including access to land and secure rights of tenure), services, knowledge and information reach the poorest, including women. Actions to improve the productivity of smallholder agriculture are essential but have to be complemented by measures to encourage the development of the non-agricultural sector, particularly small and medium-sized enterprises. The international community should assist in providing improved technologies to farmers by undertaking training in best practices, introducing alternative crops and making available the best technologies at minimal cost. Those activities should be implemented with the full involvement of the poor themselves.

2. Tackling urban poverty

11. The majority of people migrating to cities are joining the ranks of the urban poor and contributing to the proliferation and expansion of slums. The number of people living in slums and informal settlements is projected to reach 1.4 billion by 2020. In many developing countries, health conditions and malnutrition in urban areas, are often comparable to, or worse than, those in rural areas, while drug abuse, alcoholism, crime and environmental degradation are often consequences of the massive movements of people to urban areas.

12. The combination of political commitment, long-term policies and devotion of substantial public expenditures has resulted in the improvement of slums and the prevention of their formation in some countries and in visible progress towards the goal of reducing the global number of slum-dwellers by 100 million by 2010. In other cases, Governments are often unaware of the scope of urban poverty and slum formation. Urban matters are often not addressed by the central Government but are tackled in a piecemeal fashion, with separate sectoral approaches to poverty reduction, health and nutrition, water and sanitation, and education and training by municipal, provincial and regional authorities. Integrated strategies for reducing urban poverty, including upgrading and preventing slums, need to be incorporated into overall national development strategies and into global and country assistance strategies and development frameworks.

13. One characteristic of the changing age structure is that the population over 65 years of age is expected to increase by more than a quarter in all regions between 2007 and 2015 (see table 3). However, many of those individuals are unlikely to have prepared for their senior years, most developing countries do not have public pension systems that can provide adequate financial support and most other support programmes (for example, health care) tend to focus on improving the well-being of, and opportunities for, poor people of working age. There is therefore likely to be an expanding group of elderly poor who will have to rely on family support structures. That, in turn, may contribute to a perpetuation of the intergenerational transmission of poverty. In formulating anti-poverty policies and programmes, Governments should give greater attention to the increasing number of older people. They should examine both the potential of this age group to contribute to development goals and the need for social protection for the poor among them. The year 2007 also marks the fifth anniversary of the Second World Assembly on Ageing held in Madrid from 8-12 April 2002. There is a need to give special attention to the issues regarding ageing populations all over the world.

Table 3
Population on developing countries by age group and region, 2007 and 2015
(Millions)

	0-14 years		15-64 years		Over 65 years	
	2007	2015	2007	2015	2007	2015
Northern Africa	48	51	102	117	8	10
Sub-Saharan Africa	348	403	434	537	25	31
Latin America and the Caribbean	166	165	369	414	37	49
Eastern Asia	290	270	1 008	1 059	113	144
Southern Asia	535	543	1 025	1 200	78	99
South-Eastern Asia	163	162	377	426	32	40
Western Asia	68	72	128	153	9	11
Oceania	4	4	6	7	0.3	0.4

Source: United Nations, *World Population Prospects: The 2006 Revision* (available from <http://esa.un.org/unpp>).

3. Reducing hunger and malnutrition

14. Earlier progress in reducing hunger and improving nutrition stalled around 1990, and there remain more than 850 million people, almost two thirds of whom are in Asia, who are chronically hungry. Three quarters of the hungry live in rural areas, 60 per cent are women and almost one fifth are under five years of age, underlining the need for development efforts to give special attention to those segments of the population. The world's failure to feed such a large proportion of its population adequately is unacceptable, by any standard, when the means to solve the problem are at hand.

15. Particularly in crisis situations, hunger may be the result of the non-availability of food. In many cases, however, the problem is often poverty and the inability of the poor to buy enough food. Moreover, subsidized food sometimes fails to reach the neediest owing to inefficiencies in public distribution systems. However, declines in income poverty are not always accompanied by reductions in hunger and improvements in nutrition. The preceding factors the complexity of reducing hunger and malnutrition and the need for programmes specifically oriented to addressing those problems. Reducing malnutrition requires not only improved distribution of food, but also such measures as education of the poor regarding nutrition and access to nutrition-related technologies. Governments should prioritize actions and allocate resources to eliminate hunger and malnutrition in all countries. Long-term investments in agriculture and rural development, such as those indicated above, as well as measures to increase immediate access of malnourished people to food (such as transfers, food-for-work, school feeding programmes and other food security provisions) are required.

B. Addressing inequality

16. Economic inequality has increased around the world in recent decades. At the extremes, the gap between the world's richest and poorest individuals, in terms of either income or assets, is great and growing. Inequality is also pervasive in such areas as health, education and social protection. Even though democracy has spread, political inequality persists, with segments of society lacking a voice in processes that have a direct impact upon their welfare. Gender continues to be a source of inequality in all the preceding areas. Inequality is also fostered by other forms of discrimination.

17. The links between economic inequality and poverty reduction are varied. Most experience, particularly that of fast-growing Asian countries, suggests that a low level of inequality contributes to higher economic growth and a reduction in poverty. In terms of the magnitude of the impact on poverty, any given growth rate will produce a larger reduction in absolute poverty if a country has a low initial level of income inequality.

18. Another connection between growth and inequality is political in nature. A transfer from the wealthy, politically more powerful to the poor is likely to be more acceptable if those who are wealthy continue to gain in absolute, if not in relative, terms. Faster economic growth therefore gives political leaders more room to manoeuvre in making transfers from the wealthy to the poor.

19. Several of the measures to reduce inequality are identical to those required to reduce poverty and are covered specifically below. Addressing the non-income aspects of poverty is likely to have wider benefits. The experience of Asia suggests that it was not only the low level of economic inequality but also early success in achieving a high degree of social equality that contributed to the region's developmental success.

20. A first step towards reducing inequalities in outcomes is to reduce inequalities in opportunities and access to resources. Providing universal education, health care and social protection will reduce social inequalities. Ensuring education and health care for all is probably the single most important opportunity that can be provided to the poor. In addition to future income equality, education can have a beneficial impact on social integration. Social integration can also be advanced by increasing the voice of the poor through promoting democracy, decentralizing decision-making and fostering participatory processes.

21. Income inequality can be reduced by ensuring that all who seek it have the opportunity to find remunerative employment (see below). For those who are unable to find employment, reductions in income inequality and poverty can be achieved through public sector transfers to the poorer segments of the population, financed by resources mobilized from the richer segments. The transfers can take the form of cash payments (for example, unemployment compensation, family benefits, retirement benefits and the like), subsidies or distributions in kind (such as the forms of food aid mentioned above). A number of developing countries have demonstrated that, even with constraints on public resources, it is possible to find ways of implementing systems of transfer payments.

C. Generating employment and decent work for all

22. Favourable recent global economic trends have not been fully reflected in commensurate growth in employment. Global unemployment reached a record of 195.2 million in 2006, although the rate of unemployment was unchanged from the previous year at 6.3 per cent. For the first time ever, the share of global employment in the service sector (40.0 per cent) rose above that in agriculture (38.7 per cent). Looking ahead, the population aged 15-64 years is expected to increase by 175 million in South Asia by 2015, by 100 million in South-East and Eastern Asia and sub-Saharan Africa, and by 50 million in Latin America. That change will result in a major surge in those seeking employment in developing countries.

23. Employment opportunities in recent years have tended to favour skilled workers over the unskilled so that the poor, with their limited training, have benefited least. Nevertheless, some progress has been made as, among the employed, the number of those earning less than \$1 per day fell by over 10 per cent between 2000 and 2006 (see table 1). Most of these workers moved into the group of those earning less than \$2 a day, whose number rose from 768 million in 2000 to 846 million in 2006.

24. The large and rapid growth in the working-age population in developing countries and the large number of existing unemployed and working poor underline the need for Governments in all regions to mainstream full and productive employment and decent work into national development strategies as a major development goal. The international community should contribute to achieving that goal by creating a global economic environment, including through trade negotiations, that promotes to employment generation in developing countries.

25. Young people are estimated to account for 44 per cent of the world's unemployed. Many young people, especially those living in poverty in developing countries, have difficulty in finding work as a result of inadequate education and skills, a mismatch between their skills and the demands of labour markets or the absence of information about job opportunities. National action plans for youth employment, such as those implemented by countries in the Youth Employment Network, can help create new opportunities for young women and men. Governments should provide both formal and non-formal education for young people so they can acquire skills that enhance their employability and strengthen their entrepreneurial and innovative skills. Job creation and job placement should be undertaken for those without formal education.

26. The ministerial declaration adopted by the Economic and Social Council in 2006 redefined the challenge of productive employment and decent work for all as a key element of poverty reduction strategies and strategies to achieve the international development agenda. As a follow-up to the Declaration, the agencies and organizations of the United Nations system have initiated new activities or reinforced employment goals and integrated them into their existing programmes, including the endorsement of the International Labour Organization toolkit. The process of integration should also help in ensuring that poverty reduction strategy papers give due importance to the goal of generating productive employment and decent work for all.

D. Achieving gender equality and empowering women

27. While it is difficult to provide a global measure of overall progress towards gender equality and the empowerment of women, incremental progress is being made in many areas. Although violence against women and girls persists,² women are acquiring more political influence, including at the most senior national levels; women's opportunities to participate in the paid labour force have expanded, although there are large variations in female labour force participation rates; and several countries have introduced legislation and institutional reforms to expand women's access to and control over land and other productive resources, including the right to inheritance and ownership. Progress is also being made towards gender equality in education, laying an indispensable foundation for greater gender equality and empowerment of women of the next generation. Nevertheless, the world failed in its goal to achieve global gender equality in primary school enrolment by 2005 (see table 1). Among children of primary school age in developing countries, boys and girls have almost equal access to education in much of Latin America, and in East and South-East Asia. In other regions, the gender gap has narrowed considerably since 2000, but disparities in favour of boys persist, particularly in Oceania, Western Asia, South Asia and sub-Saharan Africa.

28. Despite progress, gender equality and the full empowerment of women remain indispensable but unachieved goals. Gender equality is also a vital part of global and national efforts to reduce poverty, not only of women themselves, but also of their families, particularly their children. All national development strategies should embrace the goals of gender equality and the empowerment of women and identify actions to strengthen the present trends towards gender equality. In particular, ensuring equal access to education and training at all levels for women and girls is essential for the empowerment of women and for the reduction of poverty and hunger.

E. Advancing education and literacy

29. Since 2000, progress towards the goals for primary education has accelerated. Primary school enrolment and completion rates have risen more rapidly than ever before, with the improvement in the net enrolment ratio in developing countries from 2000 to 2004 being greater than in the whole of the 1990s. With some regions and countries at or close to full enrolment, the advance has been greatest in the countries with the lowest net enrolment ratios. In the least developed countries, the net enrolment ratio rose from 52 per cent in 1991 to 60 per cent in 2000 and to 69 per cent in 2004; in sub-Saharan Africa, more than 10 countries have raised their net enrolment ratios by more than 15 percentage points since 2000.

30. Notwithstanding those achievements, there remain countries in sub-Saharan Africa where fewer than one out of two children is enrolled in primary education; many other countries in the region are also a long way from achieving universal primary enrolment. Sub-Saharan Africa faces the dual challenge of raising the enrolment ratio of a school-age population that is itself growing (see table 3). With limited resources of its own, sub-Saharan Africa will be unable to meet these needs without substantial external support. The preceding concerns underline the need to

² See A/61/122/Add.1 and Corr.1.

ensure that the existing commitments with regard to additional external resources for sub-Saharan Africa are honoured and sustained over the longer term. Governments and development partners should strengthen their efforts to achieve global universal primary school enrolment. Where that has been achieved, attention can be focused on raising the coverage of secondary and tertiary education and on improving the quality of education at all levels. Greater attention should be given, from the earliest level, to education in science and technology.

F. Improving health

31. The number of people newly infected with HIV remains about 4 million per year, with the result that the number of people with HIV infection continues to increase. Young people accounted for 40 per cent of new infections in 2006; 48 per cent of people living with HIV are women.

32. The number of patients in developing countries with access to antiretroviral HIV/AIDS treatment has multiplied in recent years. However, the number in need of therapy has been rising at a faster pace than treatment services, and the number of people dying from AIDS has continued to increase. More encouragingly, existing programmes are showing results. In a number of sub-Saharan African countries, the proportion of young people having sex before age 15 fell, HIV prevalence among young people declined and condom use increased in 2006. In addition, some progress has been made in the development of new technologies for prevention. Critically, additional financial resources are being made available to fight the pandemic. Developing countries and their array of development partners in this area should spare no effort to achieve the goal of universal access to HIV prevention programmes, treatment, care and support by 2010 called for by the General Assembly in the 2005 World Summit Outcome.

33. The tuberculosis incidence rate has stabilized or begun to fall in all regions, and the global tuberculosis epidemic may be on the verge of decline, meaning that the Millennium Development Goal target for this disease may be met. Despite the reduced incidence rate, population growth has meant that the number of new cases rose slightly in 2005 to an estimated 9 million, of which 7.4 million were in Asia and sub-Saharan Africa. A total of 1.6 million people died of the disease in 2005, including 195,000 patients infected with HIV. Building on the success in halting the spread of the disease, developing countries and their development partners should strive to reduce the incidence of tuberculosis by half by 2015, as called for by the Stop TB Partnership.

34. Increased attention and funding have facilitated a significant expansion of key interventions for malaria control in recent years. Some countries have expanded insecticide-treated net coverage, but only a few African countries came close to the target of 60 per cent coverage for 2005 set at the African Summit on Roll Back Malaria in 2000; a revised target of 80 per cent has been set for 2010. Household survey data suggest that insecticide-treated net coverage for children under age five in rural areas, where the burden of malaria is often highest, was about 40 per cent of that in urban areas. As a result, malaria continues to kill vast numbers of children.

35. International funding for malaria control has risen more than 10-fold over the past decade, but still falls short of the estimated \$3 billion needed in the highest-burden countries. The lack of funding to apply proven solutions to an underlying

development problem typifies the challenge faced with respect to a number of the internationally agreed development goals, but particularly with respect to the Millennium Development Goals pertaining to education and health. A strengthened commitment from all is required to reduce the large number of deaths from malaria and the pervasive negative impact of the disease on development. Special attention should be given to rural areas.

36. Child mortality has declined in many developing countries, partially as a result of various vaccination programmes. For example, deaths due to measles in children under five years of age are estimated to have fallen by some 60 per cent since 1999 owing to higher coverage of measles immunization. Nevertheless, child mortality has increased in some countries. HIV/AIDS has been a contributing factor in many countries; in others, conflict has been the leading cause of increasing child mortality in the recent past.

37. Overall, the goal of reducing the level of child mortality by half is unlikely to be reached in many developing countries. Further progress in reducing child mortality is possible through continued efforts to increase vaccinations and through more widespread application of a number of other actions, such as oral rehydration therapy, insecticide-treated nets and various antibiotics. In most cases, the primary impediment to the application of those solutions is inadequate resources.

38. The rate of maternal mortality remains largely unchanged and unacceptably high in many lower-income countries. One reason for this is that the most effective remedial interventions, notably prenatal care and a skilled attendant at birth, require not only financial resources but also skilled human resources. There is, therefore, a need for extensive training programmes for medical and paramedical personnel.

39. Recent results in health and education demonstrate that some of the quick-impact initiatives called for by the General Assembly in the 2005 World Summit Outcome can produce immediately measurable results. However, those initiatives should not be seen as an alternative, but rather as a complement, to the investment in human and physical capital and to the structural reforms required to guarantee universal access to social services. Countries and their development partners need to strengthen efforts to build universal basic education and health care systems.

G. The multiple dimensions of development

40. The focus on specific dimensions of development, as expressed in the Millennium Development Goals, should not detract from the fact that development is a multifaceted and wide-ranging process in which the different elements are interlinked and mutually reinforcing. Successful development therefore requires the integration of the economic and social dimensions, but it also calls for a consideration of environmental sustainability and the political and human rights dimensions. Within that broader perspective, efforts to achieve development goals should also focus on social development issues.

41. Such mutual interdependencies have to be given consideration in the implementation of national development strategies. Most of the internationally agreed goals and targets in the areas of gender equality, education and health are not only objectives in their own right but are also part of the effort to reduce poverty, both directly and indirectly. In some regions, the recent improvements in some of

these aspects of human development partially offset the lack of progress in reducing income poverty. In addition to the immediate benefits of those improvements, providing such opportunities and access is an investment that should offer the prospect of further reductions in income poverty in the future since raising the human capital of the poor will increase the possibility of halting the intergenerational transmission of poverty. For that reason, achieving universal primary health-care coverage and universal primary education have to be absolute, rather than relative, goals.

42. Development is also not a purely national phenomenon. Such international factors as globalization and global institutional arrangements have a clear though differentiated impact on national development prospects. The development agenda therefore has to embrace systemic issues of global economic governance. All the above forces interact and collectively shape the development possibilities and outcomes for individual societies. Their dimensions or facets require as much, if not more, attention than that given to national factors if the development agenda is to be realized.

H. Achieving environmental sustainability

43. Even though the international community has adopted several agreements regarding environmental protection over the past 15 years, degradation of the environment continues in a variety of ways. Desertification is continuing, exacerbated by extreme weather events. The world's area under forests declined by about 7.3 million hectares per year during the period 2000-2005. The planet is encountering an unprecedented loss of biodiversity. The number of overexploited, depleted and recovering fisheries stocks appears to have stabilized since the 1990s, but there is little room to withstand additional fishing or other pressures. While the degradation is largely due to the unsustainable consumption and production patterns of the developed countries, the burden is borne mostly by the poor.

44. National action plans to reduce environmental degradation should be integrated into national development strategies. Not only for environmental reasons, but also as part of the fight against poverty and the pursuit of sustainable development over the longer term, Governments should reinforce their national and international efforts for the management, conservation and sustainable development of forests; strictly implement the international fisheries agreements; adhere to their commitments under the Convention on Biological Diversity;³ and continue to increase environmentally protected areas.

45. Climate change (global warming) is currently regarded as the dominant environmental threat and as a sustainable development challenge. In a series of three reports issued in 2007, the International Panel on Climate Change concluded that global warming was occurring faster than previously thought and that human activity was primarily responsible. The Panel also concluded that, if present patterns of production and consumption continued unchanged, temperatures would rise to levels at which irreversible adverse consequences for the environment were likely to occur by the end of the century, but that the costs of actions to mitigate that trend were likely to be lower than the costs of managing its adverse effects.

³ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1760, No. 30619.

46. The Panel has pointed out that the developed countries both historically and at the present time bear most of the responsibility for the deteriorating situation, but that the negative consequences are likely to be greatest for the poorest countries and people, who have the least responsibility for contributing to the phenomenon. Poor countries and poor people are heavily exposed to the rising sea levels that are forecast and are disproportionately dependent on agriculture and other climate-dependent activities. At the same time, they lack the resources either to prepare for climate change or to deal with its effects. **There is an urgent need to reinvigorate and make more inclusive, the multilateral process on climate change so that negotiations under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change⁴ lead to urgent, effective and time-bound action by the international community. At the same time, actions for mitigation and adaptation should be accelerated and should constitute the fundamental components of the long-term strategy to combat climate change.**

I. Promoting democracy and good governance

47. Most developing countries have continued to make efforts to improve domestic governance, but the overall extent and results of those efforts are difficult to quantify. Democracy has become far more widespread in developing countries, and more attention is being given to human rights and the rule of law. In many cases, civil society and the public at large have been given a greater role in determining development priorities, not only through parliamentary processes but also through community participation in decision-making at the local level. In almost all developing countries, the public sector has been reformed in order to improve efficiency and effectiveness and reduce corruption. Independent external and social audits have made public sector expenditures more transparent. In some cases, improvements in governance are being reinforced by intercountry arrangements, such as the African Peer Review Mechanism. Many developing countries have ratified the United Nations Convention against Corruption.⁵ Governments in developing countries should sustain their efforts to improve governance in all respects.

48. During the period since the adoption of the United Nations Millennium Declaration, a shift has begun in the overall aid relationship, from a system of donor conditionality to one of recipient ownership. However, many developing countries lack the capacity at the national and local levels to fulfil their “ownership” in an effective manner; in addition to a lack of the human resources required, one difficulty is a lack of data to identify needs, to formulate strategies and to assess progress. Building the capacity to assume full and effective ownership of national development strategies, including improving statistical capabilities, should itself be reflected in those strategies. Development partners should assist developing countries in the above-mentioned tasks.

49. It is increasingly accepted that, to make policies, programmes and actions for the eradication of poverty effective, they have to be designed and implemented with the active involvement of the poor and of civil society more generally. Public consultations and participatory budgeting in some countries have led to some

⁴ Ibid., vol. 1771, No. 30822.

⁵ General Assembly resolution 58/4, annex.

progress in this respect, but more needs to be done in most countries. To this end, Governments should develop participatory processes that involve the poor in decisions regarding the delivery of public services.

J. Monitoring progress towards the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals

50. Collecting the information necessary to measure international progress towards the Millennium Development Goals has highlighted the lack of adequate data in many developing countries. There is an urgent need to improve national statistical systems in many developing countries. To that end, a group of international organizations and national statistical offices adopted the Marrakesh Action Plan for Statistics in 2004. Developing and developed countries, as well as the international agencies concerned, should ensure that the Action Plan is fully implemented.

51. At the 2005 World Summit, world leaders made a commitment to achieving, inter alia, the following four additional targets in addition to those included in the United Nations Millennium Declaration:

(a) Achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all, including women and young people;

(b) Achieve, by 2015, universal access to reproductive health;

(c) Achieve by 2010, universal access to access to treatment for HIV/AIDS for all those who need it;

(d) Reduce biodiversity loss, achieving, by 2010, a significant reduction in the rate of loss.

52. As foreseen in the most recent report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Organization,⁶ the revised Millennium Development Goals framework, incorporating the new targets and corresponding indicators, will be presented to the General Assembly at its sixty-second session. The new indicators and related implications will be reviewed by the Statistical Commission at its thirty-ninth session in 2008.

II. Strengthening the global partnership for development

53. The Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development⁷ identified the critical role in development of increased official development assistance, debt relief, enabling trading conditions, technology transfer and improved global governance.

⁶ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-first session, Supplement No. 1 and corrigendum (A/61/1 and Corr.1).*

⁷ *Report of the International Conference on Financing for Development, Monterrey, Mexico, 18-22 March 2002 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.II.A.7), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.*

A. Official development assistance

54. In 2006, official development assistance from countries members of the Development Assistance Committee of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development fell to \$103.9 billion, a decline of 5.1 per cent, at constant prices and exchange rates, compared to 2005 (see table 4). As a share of developed countries' gross national income (GNI), ODA rose to 0.30 per cent in 2006, compared to 0.22 per cent in 2000. A substantial increase in ODA in 2005 was primarily due to debt forgiveness (mostly for Iraq and Nigeria, with all Iraq's debt to the United States of America being forgiven within the year) and post-tsunami humanitarian assistance.

Table 4
Indicators of the global partnership, 2000-2006

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Financial flows							
(billions of dollars)							
<i>Net official development assistance from Development Assistance Committee member countries to all developing countries</i>							
Bilateral development projects, programmes and technical cooperation	32.1	31.1	33.4	38.4	44.8	52.2	48.9
Humanitarian aid	2.2	1.9	2.8	4.4	5.2	7.2	7.8
Net debt relief grants	1.8	2.1	4.6	7.0	4.3	22.7	19.2
Contributions to multilateral organizations	17.7	17.3	17.5	19.3	25.1	24.6	28.1
Total official development assistance (current prices)	53.7	52.4	58.3	69.1	79.4	106.8	103.9
Memo item:							
Total Official Development Assistance (2005 prices)	68.0	69.4	74.1	77.0	81.1	106.8	101.3
Net grants by non-governmental organizations	6.9	7.3	8.8	10.2	11.3	14.7	—
<i>Other flows</i>							
Net financial flows from multilateral development banks	9.2	9.1	1.2	0.7	3.0	4.4	—
Expenditures on operational activities of the United Nations system	6.8	7.4	7.6	10.0	10.3	12.6	—
Foreign direct investment	165.9	169.1	155.7	158.6	216.8	280.8	325.0
Private sector loans and portfolio investment	20.5	-6.6	12.1	113.7	194.9	270.5	318.0
Workers' remittances	85.6	96.5	113.4	142.1	160.4	188.0	200.0
Net transfer of financial resources	-178.2	-151.9	-202.7	-295.6	-346.8	-525.0	-658.0
Debt service as a proportion of exports							
(percentage)							
Heavily indebted poor countries (HIPCs)	12.6	9.4	8.9	8.6	7.2	6.0	—
Developing countries excluding HIPCs	12.6	11.5	11.5	11.1	8.1	7.4	—

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Real primary commodity prices							
(2000=100)							
Minerals	100	91	88	92	119	147	226
Agricultural products	100	102	101	96	93	102	121
Crude petroleum	100	84	88	102	131	184	223
Tariff barriers of developed countries							
(percentage)							
Proportion of non-oil, non-arms imports admitted duty free to developed countries	65	64	68	70	75	75	—
<i>Developed countries' average tariffs on imports from developing countries</i>							
Agricultural goods	9.4	9.3	9.5	9.4	9.2	8.9	—
Textiles	6.6	6.6	6	5.8	5.2	5.3	—
Clothing	10.8	11.3	10.7	10.4	9.2	8.9	—

Sources: Development database on aid from DAC members, in *International Development Statistics Online Databases on Aid and Other Resource Flows: DAC Online* (Paris, Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, n.d.). Available from <http://www.oecd.org/dac/stats/idsonline>; World Bank, *World Development Indicators 2007* (Washington, D.C., 2007); A/62/74-E/2007/54; World Bank, *Global Monitoring Report 2007: Confronting the Challenges of Gender Equality and Fragile States* (Washington, D.C., 2007); United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, *Commodity Price Bulletin* (monthly, various issues); Millennium Development Goals Indicators database (available from <http://mdgs.un.org/unsd/mdg>).

55. Prior to the 2005 World Summit, 15 members of the European Union made a commitment to increase official development assistance to 0.7 per cent of their gross national income by 2015, and the members of the Group of Eight pledged to double this ODA to Africa by 2015. The announcements of concrete timetables marked a qualitative improvement and should have provided some degree of predictability to total aid flows, although less so for individual recipient countries. Nevertheless, despite the positive trend since 2002, the current and projected levels of ODA for the period 2006-2010 still fall far short of the targets. It is now estimated that \$150 billion is needed to reach the Millennium Development Goals by 2015, and ODA remains significantly below the 0.7 per cent target. Donors have to substantially increase aid, other than debt relief, in order to achieve the target ODA levels. Indeed, donors have to keep increasing aid significantly on a sustained basis. This means that for most Development Assistance Committee member countries, ODA will need to rise at a rate above that of total government expenditure, year after year.

56. Since the United Nations Millennium Declaration, only one country has joined those whose ODA is at least 0.7 per cent of GNI, making the total five (Denmark, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway and Sweden) out of the 21 Development Assistance Committee member countries. Excluding debt relief, the flow of ODA to sub-Saharan Africa was largely unchanged in 2006, suggesting that donors who pledged to double aid to Africa by 2010 will have to accelerate the pace in order to honour their commitments. For the least developed countries, ODA was only about 0.08 per cent of the developed countries' GNI in 2005, roughly half the target.

Seven donors met the 0.20 per cent target, and a further two met the 0.15 per cent target for the least developed countries.

57. Achievement of the targets that were announced by individual countries in 2005 for their ODA in 2010 and 2015 already appears to be under threat. Current estimates by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development of ODA flows for the immediate future (based on statements by individual donor countries) suggest that substantial “end-loading” will be required to meet several of the targets. Such discontinuities in the flow of aid, even if they are increases, impose a burden on development efforts in recipient countries. Following promising beginnings, donors need to revive the spirit of the United Nations Millennium Declaration by achieving their announced national targets for ODA in a continuous, predictable and assured manner. Each donor could consider announcing a trajectory of proposed annual ODA allocations for each recipient country that would result in the donor’s total ODA reaching its 2010 and 2015 aid commitments. Recognizing the special role of multilateral assistance, countries should endeavour to increase their contributions to United Nations funds and programmes and to the other operational activities of the United Nations system, including the fifteenth replenishment of the International Development Association.

58. Qualitatively, international cooperation for development has become more heavily oriented towards the poorest countries and peoples, in part reflected in the fact that ODA to the least developed countries more than doubled between 2000 and 2005. Within their aid programmes, the international financial institutions have focused more keenly on poverty reduction, and a number of donor Governments have made similar adjustments. However, a substantial proportion of the world’s poor live in middle-income countries. The global effort against poverty can succeed only if the attention to the poorest does not detract from meeting the poverty challenges in the other developing countries, especially in the middle-income developing countries.

59. The question of aid effectiveness needs to remain at the centre. Since maintaining taxpayer support in developed countries is critical, managing development aid in a way that delivers real results is a key condition for sustaining the momentum of aid volume increases. The Monterrey Consensus asserted that 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. The 2005 Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness: Ownership, Harmonization, Alignment, Results and Mutual Accountability was a milestone in setting out a set of principles and launching a process to achieve this mandate.

B. External debt

60. Some progress has been made in reducing the external debt burden of the developing countries, particularly for the poorest, owing to the implementation of the enhanced Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative (HIPC) and the introduction of the Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative in 2005 (see table 4). One issue of concern is the return of rising debt ratios of countries after having reached the Initiative’s completion point. According to a World Bank evaluation of the HIPC

Initiative,⁸ 11 out of 13 countries for which the required data are available have experienced deteriorated debt positions since reaching the completion point. Eight of those countries have debt ratios exceeding the HIPC thresholds of sustainability. Many developing countries, especially middle-income developing countries that have not had access to debt cancellation initiatives, continue to have unsustainable debt burdens. All creditors should continue easing the burden of external debt of countries where it is unsustainable. At the same time, it is necessary to ensure that developing countries are able to borrow to meet their financing needs for sustained economic growth and development. In arranging such borrowing, all developing countries and creditors should take actions to ensure that developing countries' external debt does not become unsustainable in the future.

C. Net transfer of resources

61. The net outward transfer of financial resources from developing countries has more than tripled since 2000 and exceeded \$650 billion in 2006. The negative transfer is now universal among developing regions, with sub-Saharan Africa experiencing an outflow for the first time in 2006. Part of this outflow continues to reflect payments on external debt and other foreign-held assets by some countries, but the larger part now takes the form of an accumulation of foreign exchange reserves by a number of countries. Initially, the phenomenon was primarily a feature of the East Asian economies, but oil-exporting developing countries now account for a large part of the net transfer. For many of the countries with a negative net transfer, foreign exchange reserve holdings may now be deemed excessive by prudential standards and could be put to more productive use within the economy concerned. Reducing the negative net transfer effectively requires international cooperation to scale down the present current account imbalances.

D. Innovative sources of finance

62. Some innovative sources of development finance have moved from concepts to implementation. The International Finance Facility for Immunization became operational in 2006, and several countries, including a number of developing countries, have introduced an air ticket levy to mobilize resources for development. Financial flows from those sources are negligible in relation to ODA and should not be viewed as a replacement for it, either conceptually or in quantitative terms. Nevertheless, innovative financing is a useful supplement to traditional official financing, and some proposals have now demonstrated their feasibility. Development partners and, where appropriate, developing countries should continue to identify, explore and adopt innovative financing arrangements, including participating, if they do not already, in those that have become operational.

E. Private financial flows

63. In addition to increased official financing, the Monterrey Consensus recognized the potential role of private financial flows to developing countries. In

⁸ World Bank, Independent Evaluation Group, "Debt relief for the poorest: an evaluation update of the HIPC Initiative" (Washington, D.C., 2006).

the current conjuncture of high global liquidity, private flows in a variety of forms have expanded more rapidly than official flows. Such private flows are highly procyclical and have increased the riskiness of the growth process in developing countries.

1. Foreign direct investment

64. Private sector capital flows to developing countries have risen sharply since 2000. Within those flows, foreign direct investment has partially replaced official lending for investment purposes, roughly doubling between 2000 and 2006 to some \$360 billion annually. However, a substantial proportion of foreign direct investment (FDI) is associated with mergers and acquisitions and so does not necessarily involve additional investment or capacity expansion in the country. Moreover, the bulk of FDI flows still go to a narrow group of countries with robust and steady growth. Those countries have well-designed national investment policies, some of which strengthen related domestic capital formation. Developing countries themselves, notably China and India, have become sources of FDI and have undertaken investments in other developing countries that previously were not major recipients: outflows of FDI from developing countries are estimated to have risen to some \$120 billion in 2006.

65. The increasing global demand for minerals has prompted a second form of diversification, namely a recent resurgence of FDI in extractive industries. Identifying and implementing policies to ensure that those industries generate permanent improvements in domestic productivity and income remains a key challenge. There has also been growth in FDI in infrastructure in some developing countries. However, drastic reductions in public investments in infrastructure have not been compensated by private flows, and there is a need to revive public investment in such projects. Developing countries should continue to adopt policies that ensure that inflows of FDI support clear development goals and provide the maximum potential benefits, while minimizing such negative effects as the crowding out of domestic firms and the abuse of market power.

2. Migrants' remittances

66. There has been a notable ballooning of migrants' remittances to developing countries to some \$200 billion in 2006 (see table 4).⁹ Receipts of such flows are geographically concentrated in countries that have many migrant workers in other countries. Remittances are a complement to but not a substitute for ODA since they perform a different function. Workers' remittances frequently flow directly to poor people and can serve either as a supplement to current income or as a source of family investment in housing, education and health. In a majority of cases, these flows and their uses manifest the survival strategies of impoverished and displaced families and are not easily channelled towards the priorities of national development, such as investment in productive enterprises, employment and infrastructure. Both developed and developing countries, in cooperation with financial intermediaries, should continue their efforts to facilitate the flow of workers' remittances. The flows can contribute to the development of the recipient country, including the alleviation of poverty, if those countries can develop adequate

⁹ Data are incomplete and some of the recorded increase is attributable to improved data collection.

vehicles for investment and capital accumulation so that these earnings are not totally devoted to consumption.

3. Transfers through non-governmental organizations

67. Grants from private foundations and non-governmental organizations in developed countries have also grown in recent years, but official data suggest that they amount only to about \$15 billion. However, underreporting may mean that actual flows are somewhat larger. The funding contributed by non-governmental organizations and special-purpose funds is testimony to the commitment to the reduction of global poverty of the public at large in developed countries. Philanthropic foundations based on personal wealth have become a measurable and catalytic force in development cooperation.

4. Public-private partnerships

68. In addition to, or sometimes as a part of, FDI, there is a growing array of partnerships between private corporations and other development partners in developing countries. Some of them, particularly joint ventures with the public sector in such areas as transport, infrastructure, communications and energy, are commercial ventures. In other cases, firms are engaging in partnerships and similar undertakings purely as a matter of philanthropy and corporate social responsibility. In yet other instances, corporations are combining commercial and philanthropic activities by selling products and providing services that respond to unmet social, economic or environmental needs.

69. The preceding activities should not be allowed to excuse Governments from their own responsibilities to respond to the needs of their populations, particularly since some of the activities may be driven primarily by private sector interests rather than the public good. Multi-stakeholder partnerships raise questions of transparency and accountability. The accountability of individual participants must be complemented with mechanisms for collective accountability. All participants in public-private partnerships should ensure that their activities conform fully with the principle of national ownership of development strategies and that there is effective accountability and transparency in their implementation.

F. International trade

70. A major disappointment since the adoption of the United Nations Millennium Declaration has been the acute lack of progress under the World Trade Organization's Doha Round of trade negotiations launched in 2003. Nevertheless, the average tariffs imposed by developed countries on imports from developing countries, including on items of special interest to developing countries have declined somewhat (see table 4).

71. The Doha Round remains a critical missing element of the global partnership for development. The present opportunity to remedy that shortcoming should not be lost. At the same time, in their efforts to reach agreement, Governments should not lose sight of the initial and overriding objective of the negotiations, namely to make the international trading system and global trading arrangements more conducive to development in all developing countries.

72. Since the launching of the trade negotiations, it has become increasingly apparent that many developing countries will be unable to seize the opportunities offered by the new trading arrangements without external assistance in building additional infrastructure and developing the capacity to supply export markets. Increased “aid-for-trade” has become recognized as an indispensable complement to the Doha Round negotiations. Funding under aid-for-trade programmes should be provided in addition to all other ODA and should be directed towards the adjustment costs and investment requirements of pro-development participation in the global economy. The programmes should be consistent with the overall development strategy of the recipient country and should not be the basis for new conditionality or further restrictions on domestic policy.

G. Science and technology

73. There continues to be extraordinary technical progress globally, but owing to the commercial forces nurturing such advances only a small portion of it benefits the world’s poor. Developing countries should therefore build capacities and capabilities in science and technology to meet their development needs, particularly the needs of the poor. Most developing countries do not have such capacities so that the immediate challenges are accessing, acquiring, adapting, using and improving technologies already available elsewhere. Success depends largely on overcoming formal and commercial barriers to protect intellectual property, including developing a properly balanced intellectual property system.

74. In a few instances, market forces have been sufficient to introduce new technologies that benefit the poor. For example, the rapid but limited adoption of information and communications technology in developing countries has had little public sector intervention beyond providing a legal framework. By the beginning of 2008, there will be more than 3 billion mobile phones and 1 billion fixed line telephones around the world, and it is likely that the goal established by the World Summit on the Information Society — that half the world’s inhabitants should have access to information and communications technologies — will be met. Access to the Internet has also spread rapidly in developing countries, but its future is more constrained than that for mobile phones owing to the need for investment in broadband networks. In many cases, the firms providing these services are from developing countries. Relative progress has been most rapid in some of the poorest countries where the use of mobile phones has enabled countries to circumvent the need to invest in fixed telephone lines.

75. In many instances, intellectual property practices and legal instruments restrict the transfer of technology to developing countries. There was an improvement in the international legal framework for the transfer of technology to developing countries in 2003 when agreement was reached in the World Trade Organization on how to apply the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights to issues related to public health. It enabled developing countries with inadequate capacity for the production of pharmaceuticals to acquire generic versions of products that were patented in developed countries, including some pertaining to HIV/AIDS. However, the requirement for national licensing under TRIPs has curtailed the ability of countries to export their generic drugs to Africa, where inexpensive drugs are badly needed. As a result, the agreement has had limited impact and the benefits extolled at that time have generally remained elusive. It will

remain necessary for national and international intellectual property regimes, including TRIPs, to be kept under review so that they fully take into account the needs of the poor, as well as the broader issues of development and the challenges posed by climate change.

76. There remains vast untapped potential to use science and technology to tackle the various dimensions of poverty. Developed countries should increase incentives to the private sector, including through public-private partnerships, to provide technology to developing countries, particularly technologies that can contribute to reducing poverty and hunger. Innovative forms of public support for research and development on technologies that would address poverty and hunger need to be expanded and broadened. Arrangements for the protection of intellectual property, including the TRIPs Agreement, should take into account the developmental needs of developing countries and be applied flexibly with regard to technologies that can contribute to reducing poverty, hunger and disease.

H. Voice and participation of developing countries in global governance

77. The effectiveness and legitimacy of the present global decision-making institutions depends on their agenda and decisions adequately reflecting the needs and issues of the majority of countries affected by their operations. The International Monetary Fund and the World Bank have taken some steps but they need to adopt concrete measures to improve the voice and representation of developing countries. More representative participation by developing countries in global institutions would result in better recognition of their specific needs and in a fairer, more widely accepted, universal and legitimate system of global governance. That, in turn, would contribute to a more stable financial system with welfare-enhancing effects for all.

III. Conclusion

78. The United Nations Millennium Declaration reflected an unprecedented degree of commitment to implementing the consensus on development policies and practices that has emerged from United Nations conferences and summits. Since then, a broad spectrum of participants and initiatives has been increasingly translating those agreements into action. The outcome of those efforts is becoming apparent in many developing countries and in many dimensions of development. Overall, the broad strategy, embodied in the United Nations Millennium Declaration, the Monterrey Consensus, the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development¹⁰ and the 2005 World Summit Outcome, is working. Many of the initiatives and actions highlighted at United Nations global conferences and elsewhere are yielding positive results.

79. The preceding accomplishments suggest there is cause for a degree of self-congratulation and an element of optimism. However, there is no room for

¹⁰ *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 2, annex.

complacency since past accomplishments have fallen short of what could have been achieved, what needed to be achieved and what the international community committed itself to achieving. Many internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, are being only partially met; many long-standing and stubborn challenges remain and are becoming more apparent; and some new pressures are emerging. All actors must recognize and accept that, despite their achievements, they themselves have not fully met all their earlier commitments.

80. Having demonstrated its efficacy, the present course of action must be not only maintained but accelerated. The focus must remain on implementation; having proven their effectiveness, successful policies and programmes, as well as pilot and quick impact projects and other initiatives that have been limited in scope, need to be expanded wherever and whenever appropriate. All actors should seize the opportunity to build on their successes because hard-won progress can often be fragile and readily lost, particularly in poorer countries. Governments in particular, both individually and collectively, need to take advantage of the present propitious global economic environment to consolidate and sustain recent improvements by actively renewing their commitment to the wide range of interrelated activities that will enable the internationally agreed development goals to be achieved. As a manifestation of that spirit, each participant is invited to mark the inaugural annual ministerial review by making at least one specific commitment that will contribute in some direct and concrete way to the reduction of poverty and hunger.

81. Annual ministerial reviews provide a platform for the Economic and Social Council to monitor and catalyse the realization of the United Nations development agenda, by strengthening accountability at all levels. The reviews need to be supported by closer interaction with activities at the regional and national levels. Member States should therefore consider establishing, in addition to national voluntary presentations, regional ministerial reviews, as building blocks of a broader process leading to future annual ministerial reviews.