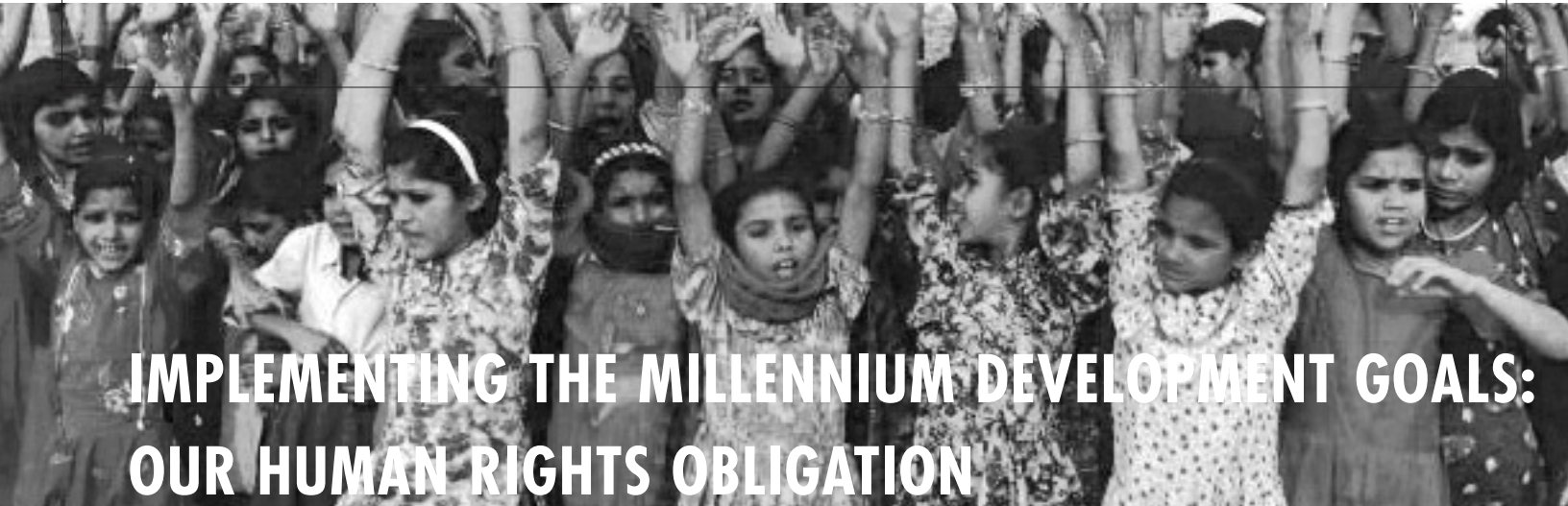


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RIGHTS & DEMOCRACY'S NEWSLETTER



IMPLEMENTING THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS: OUR HUMAN RIGHTS OBLIGATION

BY JEAN-LOUIS ROY, PRESIDENT, RIGHTS & DEMOCRACY

WE KNOW the enormous challenge that confronts us to meet the Millennium Development Goals. Despite the fact that the MDGs are the most broadly supported, comprehensive and specific poverty reduction targets the world has established, our efforts and investments to date are falling short. Despite the fact that the MDGs are recognized as a "linchpin for global security" and a "fulcrum for international development," there are huge disparities in progress across continents and within countries. Despite the fact that the attainment of the MDGs are a life-and-death issue for millions of children, women and men around the world, the international community may fail, again, to deliver on its promises and pledges.

Rights & Democracy has therefore organized a two-day conference to bring together our Canadian and international partners and to mobilize a broad cross-section of individual and institutional efforts towards the attainment of the MDGs. In view of the UN Summit in September 2005, this summer is an important period to build momentum and strengthen our voice.

OUR CENTRAL MESSAGE RELATING TO THE MDGs IS THAT THEY ARE INTRINSICALLY LINKED TO THE REALIZATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS, PARTICULARLY ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL RIGHTS. WHETHER IT IS THE RIGHT TO FOOD, THE RIGHT TO HEALTH, THE RIGHT TO EDUCATION AND THE RIGHT TO AN ADEQUATE STANDARD OF LIVING, MANY OF THE MDGs CAN BE REINFORCED BY THE BINDING HUMAN RIGHTS OBLIGATIONS OF STATES.

Our central message relating to the MDGs is that they are intrinsically linked to the realization of human rights, particularly economic and social rights. Whether it be the right to food, the right to health, the right to education or the right to an adequate standard of living, many of the MDGs can be reinforced by the *binding human rights obligations of States*. The targets relating to the health and well-being of women and children can be reinforced by broader efforts to promote women's rights and children's rights. Moreover, the enhancement of civil and political rights is crucial for reinforcing democratic governance at the national level, which is necessary for the effective realization of all rights.

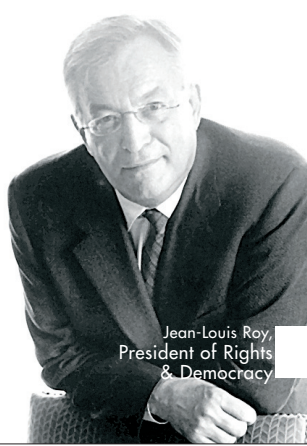
We are concerned, however, that neither the human rights nor the development communities have taken the necessary steps to capitalize on the immense potential for a complementary approach between the human rights and MDG frameworks. Despite the shortcomings and critiques of the MDGs, human rights advocates should play an active role in attaining the MDGs. This is a make-or-break issue for the United Nations and north-south cooperation; we cannot afford to stand on the sidelines. Certainly, human rights advocates have other concerns beyond the MDGs, but we cannot be indifferent to such a serious and concerted attempt to tackle complex and urgent issues such as extreme poverty, gender inequality, environmental sustainability and HIV/AIDS.

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Rights & Democracy
International Centre for Human Rights
and Democratic Development

Rights & Democracy (International Centre for Human Rights and Democratic Development) is an independent Canadian institution created by an Act of Parliament in 1988. It has an international mandate to promote, advocate and defend the democratic and human rights set out in the International Bill of Human Rights. In cooperation with civil society and governments in Canada and abroad, Rights & Democracy initiates and supports programmes to strengthen laws and democratic institutions, principally in developing countries.



Jean-Louis Roy,
President of Rights
& Democracy

In this year of UN reform, we must link human rights, development and security. We must examine the most successful strategies and draw lessons-learned from our collective experience so far in order to re-focus our future efforts. Not only is this the moment to push for the achievement of the MDGs, but it is also part of our shared human rights obligations.

Jean-Louis Roy.

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1001 de Maisonneuve Blvd. East
Suite 1100
Montreal (Quebec) Canada H2L 4P9

Telephone: (514) 283-6073

Fax: (514) 283-3792

dd-rd@dd-rd.ca

www.dd-rd.ca

IMPLEMENTING THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS: OUR HUMAN RIGHTS OBLIGATION

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In our conference, we will explore the international context to understand the conceptual, operational and institutional linkages between human rights and the MDGs. In this year of UN reform, we must link human rights, development and security. We must examine the most successful strategies and draw lessons-learned from our collective experience so far in order to re-focus our future efforts. We need to work on the effectiveness and transparency of the international aid system to ensure that we improve aid processes, as well as the policies of multilateral agencies and donor countries. We must gather a global coalition including civil society and the private sector around the attainment of the MDGs.



We also know that the MDGs will be realized, or not, at the national level. Our international efforts must touch-down and improve the real lives of individuals and communities. We therefore will examine some of the issues that affect success or failure at the national level, such as democratic governance; the existence of poverty traps and cycles; the challenge of excluded groups or regions; and the effectiveness and comprehensiveness of public policies. Also, we will examine how human rights mechanisms and civil society groups can strengthen the development process at the national level in recipient countries. We must compare the challenges for smaller countries (such as Mali, Bolivia and Bangladesh) with those for larger countries (such as China, India and Brazil). Also, we must consider the important role that emerging regional powers have in achieving the MDGs, as they move from being recipient countries to donors themselves.

We will also explore what is happening in Canada. We have a new international policy statement that emphasizes the importance of MDGs in our development efforts; the Canadian International Development Agency is focussing its programming on the attainment of the MDGs; and the Minister of Finance has cancelled the debt of some of the developed countries. Nonetheless, many Canadian individuals and groups are concerned about the lack of a clear timeline to meet the 0.7% of GNP target for international development assistance, as well as the lack of a clear rights-based framework to strengthen our aid policies. In comparison with other donor countries, what are our strengths and what can we do better?

We must remember, however, that Canada is more than its government, bureaucracy and international policy. We have an impressive variety of civil society organizations that are actively involved in international development. A number of these have launched important campaigns that will contribute to public awareness, involvement and, ultimately, the attainment of particular MDGs. The business community is becoming increasingly active in corporate social responsibility initiatives, as well as in partnerships for international development. Our parliamentarians and political parties can also make international development and the MDGs a priority.

As we encourage Canadians to mobilize around attaining the MDGs, we cannot turn a blind eye to some of the difficult issues relating to poverty, hunger, health, education, diseases and the environment in Canada. Despite our prosperity, the number of families making use of food banks is on the rise. The condition of many aboriginals remains a blight on our nation's conscience and reputation. Without addressing these issues and strengthening our commitment to the human rights of all individuals, we undermine our credibility to play a leadership role in implementing the MDGs.

Rights & Democracy will be an active player throughout this summer, bringing together our government and civil society partners in preparation for the UN Summit in September. Not only is this the moment to push for the achievement of the MDGs, but it is also part of our shared human rights obligations. *ℓ*

ERADICATING EXTREME POVERTY: THE TOP PRIORITY

BY JANINA FOGELS, MCGILL FACULTY OF LAW INTERN,
AND LLOYD LIPSETT, SENIOR ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT, RIGHTS & DEMOCRACY

In the last decade, extreme poverty has become an overarching concern of the international community. In what is perhaps the culmination of this concern, the first Millennium Development Goal aspires to eradicate extreme poverty and hunger by 2015.

Up until now, however, we have lacked a persuasive linkage between poverty, human rights and Goal 1 that could inform a concerted program of action and cooperation for human rights advocates. Despite the fact that poverty and hunger are the most obvious and pervasive obstacles to the fulfillment of human dignity, there has been a reluctance on the part of the international community to make this linkage in explicit and unambiguous terms.

WILL THE REAL EXTREME POVERTY PLEASE STAND UP?

Part of the problem stems from the fact that no firm consensus exists about the definition of extreme poverty in the development and human rights communities. Target 1 of Goal 1 (to halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people whose income is less than \$1 a day), has settled on three indicators and one sub-indicator.

Target 1: Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people whose income is less than \$1 a day.

Indicators:

- 1: Proportion of population below \$1 per day
- 1a: Poverty headcount ratio (percentage of population below the national poverty line)
- 2: Poverty gap ratio (incidence x depth of poverty)
- 3: Share of poorest quintile in national consumption

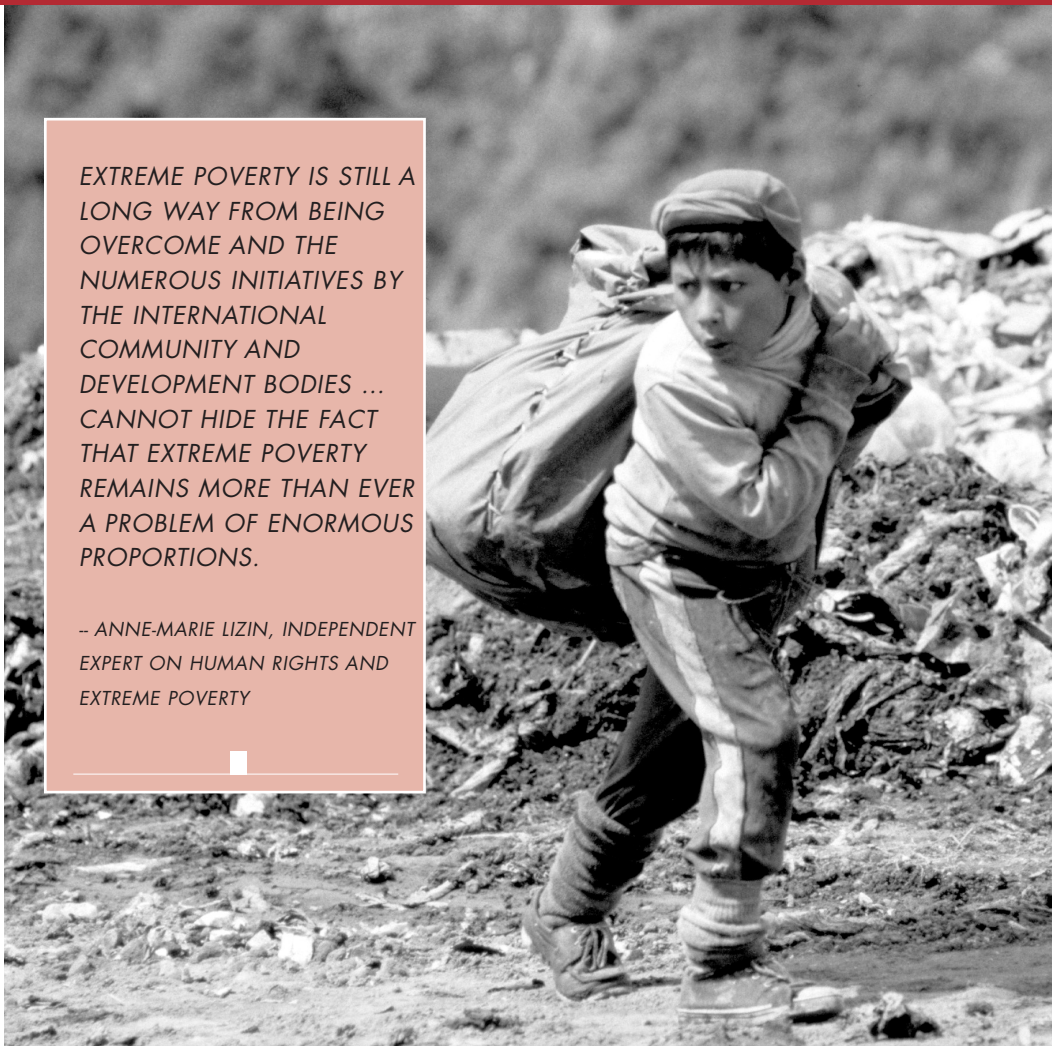
These indicators form a particular definition of *income poverty*. The measurement and monitoring of country and regional progress on the eradication of extreme poverty is being carried out under this conception of the problem. It defines the poverty line as one dollar per day often called the "absolute poverty line."

On one level, these indicators are appealing. They allow for quantifiable, time-limited monitoring mechanisms with data that are easily compared from one country to another. On the other hand, a definition of poverty that is measured in terms of income runs counter to many other definitions that prevail in development and human rights literature.

For example, in the most recent report of the UN Commission on Human Rights, Independent Expert on Human Rights and Poverty Arjun Sengupta identifies other concepts that should be included in a definition of extreme poverty:

EXTREME POVERTY IS STILL A LONG WAY FROM BEING OVERCOME AND THE NUMEROUS INITIATIVES BY THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY AND DEVELOPMENT BODIES ... CANNOT HIDE THE FACT THAT EXTREME POVERTY REMAINS MORE THAN EVER A PROBLEM OF ENORMOUS PROPORTIONS.

-- ANNE-MARIE LIZIN, INDEPENDENT EXPERT ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND EXTREME POVERTY



• *Human development poverty.* This is the conception used by the United Nations Development Program's (UNDP) Human Development Index and refers to poverty as the deprivation of capability. Under this conception of poverty, in addition to per capita income, the preferred indicators are health, education, food and nutrition.

• *Social exclusion poverty.* This approach captures the relational aspect of poverty, analyzing how social mechanisms, institutions and agents interact to cause deprivation. An added dimension to this relational analysis is a study of the power relationships that determine levels of access to resources, especially according to gender.

In his report, Mr. Sengupta argues that we should apply a composite definition of extreme poverty, which includes income poverty, human development poverty and social exclusion poverty.

Applying this *composite* definition of extreme poverty, we can see that other MDGs capture aspects of poverty beyond income and food. Access to education is targeted by Goals 2, 3 and 6. Health and nutrition and disease are targeted by Goals 5 and 6 and considered by 8. Furthermore, Goal 4 tackles child mortality and Goal 7 addresses environmental sustainability and issues such as safe drinking

ERADICATING EXTREME POVERTY: THE TOP PRIORITY

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water, improved sanitation and security of tenure. Finally, access to employment is tackled by Goals 3 and 8.

A holistic analysis reveals that a human development or capabilities approach to poverty eradication cuts across most, if not all, the Goals and that many non-income factors have been addressed beyond Goal 1. Therefore, poverty eradication must be actively read into the other eight Goals. However, some important non-income factors that affect poverty are still left out, notably those related to insecurity and armed conflict.

HUMAN RIGHTS: THE MISSING LINK

Over the past 15 years, activists and academics have made significant efforts to link poverty and human rights. Nonetheless, there is a considerable on-going debate about whether extreme poverty is, strictly and legally speaking, a violation of human rights. While the donor community, multilateral institutions and NGOs would benefit from further conceptual clarity, we need a rights-based framework for our poverty eradication efforts now. We cannot afford to wait for a firm consensus to emerge before integrating human rights concepts and obligations into our poverty reduction programmes and efforts to achieve the MDGs.

The human rights dimension infuses the MDGs with the imperative of an international legal obligation, adding another layer of legitimacy to the demand for poverty reduction.

The linkage between poverty, human rights and Goal 1 is most clearly anchored in the right to an adequate standard of living (Article 11(i) of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights). The second target, that of halving world hunger, is directly related to the progressive realization of the right to adequate food (Article 11(i)), the right to be free from hunger (Article 11(2)) and the right to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health. When we apply a wider conception of poverty, there are clear human rights obligations relating to concerns such as education and labour, as well as women's and children's rights. Furthermore, basic human rights principles such as equality and non-discrimination must be filtered through the processes for achieving the MDG targets and indicators.

The eventual recognition of the right to development should be part of the equation. Development is a comprehensive cultural, political, economic and social process which aims at the constant improvement of the well-being of populations. The right to development stresses the fair distribution of the benefits resulting

from development. In sum, rights are not only a preamble to MDGs, but are at the heart of the Millennium Declaration and the Goals themselves. Extreme poverty is a denial of human rights.

ENOUGH RHETORIC: GET RIGHT TO IT!

We know that governments will be reluctant to admit that they have legal obligation towards the poorest individuals and communities around the world. The eradication of extreme poverty in Africa, Asia, the Middle East, Latin America as well as in the cities and rural communities of the developed world is a costly and complicated endeavor, but the international community has the technical and financial capacity to make significant progress.

The MDGs give us a common reference for the critical mission of eradicating extreme poverty, which is also a root cause of insecurity. We have created expectations amongst those who are suffering, desperate and dying. For those of us concerned with human dignity and human rights, we must give our fullest efforts to make sure that we do not default on this promise. *ℓ*

"Whatever one's motivation for attacking the crisis of extreme poverty human rights, religious values, security, fiscal prudence, ideology the solutions are the same. All that is needed is action."

— Millennium Project Report to the UN Secretary General, "Investing in Development: A Practical Plan to Achieve the Millennium Development Goals."

A chronology of the linkages between poverty and human rights at the United Nations

1990: Commission on Human Rights begins an ongoing study of the relationship between human rights and extreme poverty.
1993: Vienna World Conference on Human Rights affirms that extreme poverty constitutes a violation of human dignity.
1995: World Summit for Social Development commits governments to greater focus on efforts to eradicate extreme poverty by promoting effective enjoyment of all human rights.
1996: First Special Rapporteur on human rights and extreme poverty, Leandro Despouy, is appointed by the Subcommission on the Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities.
1997: First Independent Expert on the question of human rights and extreme poverty, Anne-Marie Lizin, is appointed by the Commission on Human Rights.
1997: Proclamation of the first UN Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997-2006).
1999: World Bank and the International Monetary Fund launch Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers.
2000: Millennium Summit declares: "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."
2001: Commission on Human Rights secures a group of experts to develop guiding principles on human rights, poverty and extreme poverty. The same year, the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights states that poverty constitutes a denial of human rights.
2002: Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights develops draft guidelines on a human rights approach to poverty reduction strategies, with illustrations of how human rights can reinforce each MDG.

MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOAL NUMBER THREE - GENDER EQUALITY AND THE EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN

AN INTERVIEW WITH CAREN GROWN, DIRECTOR, POVERTY REDUCTION AND ECONOMIC GROWTH TEAM,
INTERNATIONAL CENTER FOR RESEARCH ON WOMEN, BY STEVE SMITH, EXTERNAL RELATIONS OFFICER, RIGHTS & DEMOCRACY



"Gender equality is possible the main obstacles are a lack of political will and the lack of resources to make it happen."



Caren Grown, a Senior Associate on Task Force 3 of the UN Millennium Project, knows she has her work cut out for her if Millennium Development Goal Number Three, Promote Gender Equality and Empower Women, is to be realized by 2015.

Five years after the Millennium Declaration, Grown, who is also Director of the Poverty Reduction and Economic Governance Team at the International Center for Research on Women in Washington DC, says progress on gender equality is a mixed picture. On the positive side, Grown says she sees gender equality, or MDG 3, being mainstreamed into many of the latest recommendations that will be addressed at the upcoming Millennium Project Summit in September.

"Many policy makers now recognize that gender equality and women's empowerment are fundamental to achieving all the MDGs and, conversely, the achievement of all the other goals is fundamental to realizing Goal 3," she said. "The project overview report (Investing in Development: A Practical Plan to Achieving the Millennium Development Goals) is very strong on the interconnections, and most of the reports from the other Millennium Project Task Forces, such as the Task Force on Water and Sanitation, the Task Force on Maternal and Child Health, and the Task Force on Hunger, all contain some really critical gender-sensitive recommendations."

On the downside, Grown says the Secretary General's five-year progress report on the Millennium Declaration, called "In Larger Freedom: Toward Development, Security and Human Rights for All," does not adequately address the security dimension of gender issues, nor does it properly address gender issues as human rights issues.

The report emphasizes three pillars of development the Freedom from Want, Freedom from Fear and Freedom to Live in Dignity. While gender issues are addressed under Freedom from Want, Grown points out that there is no mention of gender in the sections on Freedom from Fear and Freedom to Live in Dignity; this is a serious deficiency.

"For example, in the section on Freedom from Fear, violence against women really ought to be raised," she said. "It's not just a development issue - violence against women exists along a continuum that spans issues of security and human rights as well."

The fact that few of the country reports on national MDG progress do a good job of mainstreaming gender equality is another of Grown's concerns.

"No country has done as much as they could," she said. "Few have taken the steps to look at the gender issues inherent to every MDG, other than MDG 3."

Yet Grown points to a few stand-out countries that have gone above and beyond to address gender equality in their country reports. Vietnam, Bosnia-Herzegovina and Ethiopia are countries whose reports show important steps being taken toward realizing MDG Number Three.

"Bosnia-Herzegovina has recognized gender inequality as a violation of women's human rights and Ethiopia has done some good work in the area of costing the implementation of MDG 3," she said. "I think it's important that we highlight these achievements and keep pushing on others." *ℓ*

INCREASED RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS LEADS TO A MORE EQUITABLE DISTRIBUTION OF RESOURCES

BY DIANA BRONSON, COORDINATOR, GLOBALIZATION & HUMAN RIGHTS, RIGHTS & DEMOCRACY

Goal 8 calls for an open, rule-based trading and financial system, more generous aid to countries committed to poverty reduction, and relief for the debt problems of developing countries. It draws attention to the problems of the least developed countries, of landlocked countries and small island developing states, which have greater difficulty competing in the global economy. It also calls for cooperation with the private sector to address youth unemployment, ensure access to affordable, essential drugs, and make available the benefits of new technologies.

We know that increased respect for human rights leads to a more equitable distribution of resources. We know that poverty flourishes in countries where democracy is flouted and rights are stomped upon. We have learned the lesson from Amartya Sen that no famine has ever occurred in a democracy.

Or have we?

Critics of the MDGs argue that insufficient attention has been paid to the human rights dimension, that with their emphasis on aggregate results, their silence on civil and political rights, their lack of focus on process and voice and ownership, they are doomed to fail. On the other hand, the focus on economic and social rights is welcome, and long overdue.

The MDGs have international momentum, the "buy-in" of world leaders and a significant commitment of resources from key international development institutions. And while many of us would like to see more ambitious goals (why only halve hunger?), we recognize that their achievement would be a positive development particularly given many negative development indicators over the past decade.

MDG 8 has a special place in these goals for, in many ways, achieving the other goals depends on the success in creating a new partnership for development. But while MDG 8 deals with a crucial element of the poverty agenda namely the responsibilities of wealthy countries it falls short in several respects.

First of all, MDG 8 compared to the other goals does not have as a clear set of time-bound benchmarks and quantifiable indicators. It does, however, indicate three main areas where action is required:

AID: including the amount of aid (as a percentage of GNP) as well as what that aid is used for. Average official development assistance is still less than half of the internationally agreed target of 0.7% of GNP.

TRADE: including reduced tariff levels, agricultural subsidies and increased market access and technical assistance.

DEBT RELIEF: the progress in achieving debt relief under the Highly Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) initiatives.

There has been progress on all of these issues in Canada: aid is back on the rise although still far from 0.7% of GNP; tariffs have been lowered for imports from developed countries and significant bilateral relief measures have been

adopted. All of these are positive developments although they still do not adequately integrate human rights.

The World Bank and the World Trade Organization are obviously key organizations when it comes to debt relief, development and trade. Yet both these organizations consistently fail to integrate a human rights analysis or to understand how it relates to their mandates.

When human rights advocates challenge this omission, the typical response goes something like this: human rights are a political issue, we are an economic institution; that is better done by UN agencies specialized in human rights; human rights are western concepts and developing countries do not want us to use them.

The problem, however, is that both these institutions affect human rights, particularly economic and social rights, in a myriad ways: when privatization schemes deprive poor people of access to essential services; when agricultural liberalization undermines the livelihoods of rural communities; when servicing the debt imposes hardships on poor people; when intellectual property laws prevent people from accessing essential medicines.

The argument that these economic institutions can leave human rights to others has lost all credibility. It is precisely these institutions that must be engaged in human rights because many of the challenges human rights are facing stem precisely from their policies.

That does not mean we should be prepared to hand over human rights to the Bank or the WTO. But it does mean that the governments that are members of the WTO or shareholders of the Bank, must carefully consider the human rights impacts of the policies they defend there.

Human rights are indeed the missing ingredient from the Millennium Partnership for Development. As stated in the UDHR, "Everyone is entitled to a social and international order in which the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration can be realized." In the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights there is a clear obligation on states to "take steps individually and through international assistance and co-operation" to progressively realize the rights in the Covenant.

It is high time that developed countries examine how their own international economic policies can be improved in human rights outcomes, and that serious consideration is given to our legal and moral obligation to ensure that all human beings live in the dignity promised by the Universal Declaration. *ℓ*

ENSURE THAT THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS DO NOT FURTHER IMPOVERISH INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

BY MARIE LÉGER, COORDINATOR, RIGHTS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES, RIGHTS & DEMOCRACY

At a meeting in October 2004, the United Nations Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Issues noted that indigenous peoples were not involved in most of the work on the Millennium Development Goals. The Group concluded that it was essential that indigenous peoples participate in defining the goals and strategies, and that the dimension of gender be considered for each of its eight goals.

While indigenous peoples are among the poorest and most marginalized (according to socioeconomic data and the few statistics we have), it appears that they do not necessarily define poverty in the same terms as most development agencies. Accordingly, essential criteria for indigenous peoples include participation in the decisions that affect them and access to their land and resources. We must understand that indigenous peoples have their own definitions of development and their own strategies for achieving it.

As we attempt to integrate human rights into the implementation of the MDGs, it is important that we respect the rights of indigenous peoples. Otherwise, the development strategies proposed to eradicate poverty could, if they infringed on the territorial integrity of indigenous peoples, have the opposite effects to those desired, namely increased poverty, poor health and compromised access to culturally adequate basic services. *ℓ*

To prepare for the fourth session of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Peoples, several documents and research papers have been drafted and can be viewed at www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii/4session. Specifically, these include Canada's presentation on the issue (E/C.19/2005/5/add.1).



RELATED LINKS



Information about human rights and the MDGs:
www.unhchr.ch/development/mdg.html

General information about the MDGs:
www.un.org/millenniumgoals/
www.undp.org/mdg/

Information about the Millennium Project and its recommendations about meeting the MDGs by 2015:
www.unmillenniumproject.org/

Data about how countries are meeting the MDGs, see the Global Monitoring Report 2005 on the World Bank Development Data Group website:
ddpext.worldbank.org/ext/MDG/home.do

Information about how the MDGs are included in Canada's international development policy:
urlsnip.com/544713

Example of the many Canadian and international civil society actions and campaigns around the MDGs:
www.civicus.org/mdg/2-2.htm

For three important campaigns that aim to mobilize support to achieve the MDG goals, see the following links:

The Canadian component of the global campaign to end poverty
www.makepovertyhistory.ca

Comprehensive study on civil society activism to implement the MDGs (We the People 2005)
www.nsi-ins.ca

Oxfam International's campaign
www.oxfam.org.uk/what_you_can_do

HUMAN RIGHTS & MDGs - A LEGAL SNAPSHOT

GOAL 1 - ERADICATE EXTREME POVERTY AND HUNGER

- The right to an adequate standard of living, including food, clothing, housing, medical care and necessary social services (Article 25, Universal Declaration of Human Rights)
- The right of everyone to be free from hunger (Article 11(2), International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights)
- To improve the methods of production, conservation and distribution of food (Article 11(2)(a), International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights)
- To ensure an equitable distribution of world food supplies in relation to need (Article 11 (2)(6) of International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights)

GOAL 2 - ACHIEVE UNIVERSAL PRIMARY EDUCATION

- The right to education (Article 26, Universal Declaration of Human Rights)
- Primary education shall be compulsory and available free to all (Article 13(2)(a), International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights)
- States which have not achieved compulsory, free, primary education for all must work out and adopt a detailed plan for the progressive implementation, within a reasonable number of years, to be fixed in the plan, of the principle of compulsory education free of charge for all (Article 14, International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights)

GOAL 3 - PROMOTE GENDER EQUALITY AND EMPOWER WOMEN

- States guarantee that the rights will be exercised without discrimination of any kind as to sex, etc. (Article 2(2) of International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights)
- States undertake to ensure the equal rights of men and women (Article 3 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights)
- Fair wages and equal remuneration for work of equal value without distinction, in particular for women (Article 7(a)(i) of International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights)
- See also the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women

GOAL 4 - REDUCE INFANT MORTALITY

- Special protection should be accorded to mothers during a reasonable period before and after childbirth (Article 10(2) of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights)
- Right to health measures to include reduction of the stillbirth rate and of infant mortality (Article 12(2)(a) of International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights)
- Articles 6 and 24 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child

GOAL 5 - IMPROVE MATERNAL HEALTH

- The right to highest attainable standard of physical and mental health (Articles 12(i) and (2)(a) - (d) of International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights)
- Article 12 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women

GOAL 6 - COMBAT HIV/AIDS, MALARIA AND OTHER DISEASES

- The right to health includes the prevention, treatment and control of epidemic, endemic, occupational and other diseases (Article 11(2) of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights)

GOAL 7 - ENSURE ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

- The right to health includes improvement of all aspects of environmental hygiene (Article 12(2)(b) of International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights)
- The right to health has been interpreted as including access to water and sanitation and healthy environmental conditions (Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, General Comment 12)

GOAL 8 - DEVELOP A GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP FOR DEVELOPMENT

- The entitlement to a social and international order in which rights and freedoms can be fully realized (Article 28 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights)



“The diverse human rights – civil, political, economic, social and cultural – are causally linked and can be mutually reinforcing. They can create synergies that contribute to poor people's securing their rights, enhancing their human capabilities and escaping poverty. Because of these complementarities, the struggle to achieve economic and social rights should not be separated from the struggle to achieve civil and political rights. And the two need to be pursued simultaneously.”

- UNDP, Human Development Report 2000.