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Evolution of the Millennium Development Goals

- ▶ The Millennium Declaration of 2000 set out an ambitious international agenda to tackle peace and security, development, human rights, and the environment. Alongside development goals on poverty, water and education, commitments were also made to promoting democracy and respect for all human rights

- ▶ This included the right to development and relevant economic, social and cultural rights, with a particular focus on the rights of minorities, women and migrants, and the right to access to information. In the following year, the development goals were slightly amended and published in a single list called the Millennium Development Goals

- ▶ The Goals are accompanied by 18 targets, to be mostly reached by 2015, and are measured by indicators using 1990 as a baseline

- ▶ The targets and indicators were selected under the auspices of the United Nations Secretary-General and the list was broadly endorsed by United Nations funds, programmes and agencies, the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)

- ▶ The Goals did not emerge in a vacuum, but represent the culmination of a decade-long global debate and earlier attempts to set international development targets. They have subsequently gained a high profile, particularly among the international development community and a significant number of developing States.

- ▶ They have been lauded for providing a clear and simple means of benchmarking and assessing the progress of human development. According to the United Nations Millennium Project, policy and institutional reforms and resource allocations often result from an approach focused on time-bound targets.

- ▶ Goal 1 Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger Target 1: Halve (1990 to 2015) the proportion of people whose income is less than one dollar/day Target 2: Halve (1990 to 2015) the proportion of people who suffer from hunger Goal 2 Achieve universal primary education Target 3: Ensure that, by 2015, children everywhere, boys and girls alike, will be able to complete a full course of primary schooling

- ▶ Goal 3 Promote gender equality and empower women
Target 4: Eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education, preferably by 2005, and in all levels of education no later than 2015

- ▶ Goal 4 Reduce child mortality Target 5: Reduce by two thirds (1990 to 2015) the under-five mortality rate

- ▶ Goal 5 Improve maternal health Target 6: Reduce by three quarters (1990 to 2015) the maternal mortality ratio

- ▶ Goal 6 Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases
Target 7: Halt by 2015 and have begun to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS
Target 8: Halt by 2015 and have begun to reverse the incidence of malaria, other major diseases

- ▶ Goal 7 Ensure environmental sustainability Target 9: Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programs and reverse the loss of environmental resources Target 10: Halve, by 2015, the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation Target 11: By 2020 achieve significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 mn slum dwellers

- ▶ Goal 8 Develop a global partnership for development
Target 12: open, rule-based, predictable, non-discriminatory trading and financial system.
Target 13: Address needs of least developed countries: tariff and quota-free access for exports; enhanced debt relief; more generous ODA for countries committed to poverty reduction
Target 14: ...needs of landlocked developing countries and small island states

- ▶ Target 15: ...measures in order to make debt sustainable in the long term Target 16: ...implement strategies for decent and productive work for youth Target 17: ...provide access to affordable essential drugs... Target 18: ...make available the benefits of new [information and communication] technologies.
(Source: United Nations Statistics Division. Millennium indicators database.)
(<http://millenniumindicators.un.org>).

- ▶ What are human rights?
- ▶ Human rights are rights inherent to all human beings, whatever our nationality, place of residence, sex, national or ethnic origin, colour, religion, language, or any other status. We are all equally entitled to our human rights without discrimination. These rights are all interrelated, interdependent and indivisible.

- ▶ The Millennium Development Goals and Human Rights
- ▶ Human rights are essential to achieving and sustaining development. The [Millennium Declaration](#), adopted by all the world's leaders in 2000 recognized the link between human rights, good governance and development.
- ▶ Ten years after the [Millennium Development Goals](#) (MDGs) were established, it is clear that the objectives of human well being and dignity for all, enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, will not be achieved if the MDGs are pursued in isolation from human rights.

Millennium Development Goals and human rights standards

- ▶ **Goal 1:** Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger Right to adequate standard of living
Right to work
Right to food
- ▶ **Goal 2:** Achieve universal primary education
Right to education
- ▶ **Goal 3:** Promote gender equality and empower women
Women's rights to equality

- ▶ **Goal 4:** Reduce child mortality Right to life
- ▶ **Goal 5:** Improve maternal health Women's right to life and health
- ▶ **Goal 6:** Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases Right to health

- ▶ **Goal 7:** Ensure environmental sustainability Right to environmental health
Right to water and sanitation
Right to adequate housing
- ▶ **Goal 8:** Develop a global partnership for development
- ▶ Right to development.
Economic, social and cultural rights
Right to health

- ▶ UN Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights Kyung-wha Kang told that integrating the human rights principles of non-discrimination, participation and accountability into national development strategies was necessary to redress the root causes of poverty, which often relate to persistent patterns of disempowerment, discrimination and exclusion.

- ▶ The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) has worked closely with other parts of the United Nations system and national partners to integrate human rights into the full range of development work, including in the areas of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)

- ▶ This raises a concern that the Goals were more a donor-driven agenda, although a greater focus on poverty reduction in donors' policies could arguably be seen as a success in itself. One response to these critiques was to call for States and donors to adopt a human rights approach to the Goals. This was strengthened by evidence of an almost total absence of human rights in MDG reporting.

- ▶ OHCHR aims to strengthen the integration of human rights norms and principles such as non-discrimination, participation and accountability in the context of poverty reduction strategies, policies and budget processes. Such country-level work will provide further inputs to the global advocacy and policy work of the Office

- ▶ Every year, over 350,000 women die from pregnancy and childbirth-related causes, and over seven million children under the age of five die, most from preventable causes.

- ▶ Women, rural inhabitants, ethnic minorities, people with disabilities and other excluded groups often lag well behind national averages of progress on MDG targets. . . . The denial of human rights and the persistence of exclusion, discrimination and a lack of accountability are . . . barriers to the pursuit of human development and the MDGs.

Recommendations proposed by Shyama Kuruvilla et al

- ▶ (1) assuring entitlements that operationalize human rights provisions with resources; (2) building capacities for different contexts and challenges; (3) promoting integration and innovation to catalyze progress; (4) combating inequality and discrimination; (5) committing to accountability for resources and results; and (6) emphasizing sustainability.

- ▶ Claiming the Millennium Development Goals, by OHCHR, sets out a tailored human rights approach to the Goals. States and development actors are asked to incorporate human rights in MDG-related planning, implementation and monitoring by:

- ▶ (a) Aligning the Goals with human rights by harmonizing MDG targets and indicators with human rights standards; (b) Being transformational, not technocratic, by adopting a human rights-based approach to empowerment and participation;

Cont.

- ▶ (c) Prioritizing rights by making policy choices and resource-allocation decisions within a human rights framework; (d) Claiming the Goals by ensuring enforceable rights, accountability mechanisms and sustainable strategies.

Thank you