

ISSUES AND ACTIONS

February, 2007



*We are earth of this earth, and we are bone of its bone.
This is a prayer I sing,
for we have forgotten this and so
The earth is perishing.
of One Another*

Barbara Deming, *We Are All Part*

At the end of October 2006 the Archdiocese of San Francisco sponsored a two day conference with the goal of reducing “global poverty by mobilizing Catholics in the United States to influence policy toward developing nations.”

Speakers from around the world addressed the:

- * Call of the Poor
- * Call of the Gospel
- * Call of the Global Community
- * Call of the Universal Church
- * Response Rooted in Solidarity with the Poor
- * Response Grounded in Economic Reality
- * Response That Penetrates and Unites the Catholic Community in the U.S.
- * From Words into Action: Working Groups for Mobilizing the People of God

As we listened, reflected, and dialogued with others, we became aware of the relationship between The Earth Charter and the Millennium Development Goals (MDG). Thus we have chosen to focus on this integration during 2007 by addressing two MDG in each Issues and Actions sponsoring a retreat day on June 18, 2007.

Millennium Development Goals

[Information below is taken from Kofi A. Annan, *Forward, The Millennium Development Goals Report 2005*]

THE ADOPTION OF THE Millennium Development Goals, drawn from the United Nations Millennium Declaration, was a seminal event in the history of the United Nations. It constituted an unprecedented promise by world leaders to address, as a single package, peace, security, development, human rights and fundamental freedoms.

As I said in my March 2005 report entitled “In larger freedom: towards development, security and human rights for all”, to which the present report is a complement: “We will not enjoy development without security, we will not enjoy security without development, and we will not enjoy either without respect for human rights. Unless all these causes are advanced, none will succeed.”

The eight Millennium Development Goals range from halving extreme poverty to halting the spread of HIV/AIDS and providing universal primary education – all by the target date of 2015. They form a blueprint agreed by all the world’s countries and all the world’s leading development institutions – a set of simple but powerful objectives that every man and woman in the street, from New York to Nairobi to New Delhi, can easily support and understand. Since their adoption, the Goals have galvanized unprecedented efforts to meet the needs of the world’s poorest.

Why are the Millennium Development Goals so different? There are four reasons:

First, the Millennium Development Goals are people-centered, time-bound and measurable.

Second, they are based on a global partnership, stressing the responsibilities of developing countries for getting their own house in order, and of developed countries for supporting those efforts.

Third, they have unprecedented political support, embraced at the highest levels by developed and developing countries, civil society and major development institutions alike.

Fourth, they are achievable.

Goal 1: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger

Target: Halve the proportion of people living on less than a dollar a day and those who suffer from hunger.

One of the main challenges posed by the MDG is achieving Goal 1. United Nations Development Program (UNDP) is actively working to help countries monitor and achieve this goal. In this context, many of the best practices have risen from linking national Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers to the MDG.

Goal 2: Achieve universal primary education

Target: Ensure that all boys and girls complete primary school.

Some of UNDP's most relevant work in this area is done through partnerships with other UN Agencies and National governments. Projects such as India's Community Based Education Programme are important examples of UNDP's work at country level in collaboration with other UN Agencies.



Information on Goal 1 and Goal 2 is taken from undp.org

What you can do...

- ⇒ Save the date: Monday, June 18, 2007 for a retreat day with Joanna Bramble, CSJ on working to integrate The Earth Charter and the Millennium Development Goals
- ⇒ Read more and join existing networks

unmillenniumproject.org (UN Millennium Project)

usccb.org/globalpoverty (USCCB Catholic Campaign Against Global Poverty)

crs.org (Catholic Relief Services Advocacy Opportunities)

ONE.org (The ONE Campaign: The Campaign to Make Poverty History)

Bread.org (Bread for the World: One Spirit, One Will, Zero Poverty)

Jubileeusa.org (Jubilee USA Network to Drop the Debt)

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