

Monday 12 October 2009

**“The work of the UN system in creating momentum and consensus on action
leading up to the 2010 Summit”**

Remarks of Olav Kjørven, Assistant Secretary-General and
Director of UNDP's Bureau for Development Policy

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

It is an honour to be here speaking to you today at this prominent event in support of the MDGs and in preparation for the 2010 Summit.

We are pleased that the 2010 Summit and review process is already generating great interest, as witnessed just a few weeks ago at an event hosted by UNDP on the sides of the GA-- where a large number of Ministers from around the world restated their commitment to the MDGs and to making the Review process and Summit a turning point in MDG progress.

It is a pleasure t

- o **Malawi** where agricultural productivity has doubled in a short period of time;
- o **Ghana, Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda** where primary school enrolment has increased substantially;
- o **Zambia** where access to basic rural health services has been improved;
- o **Niger** where the feasibility of large-scale reforestation has been demonstrated;
- o **Togo, Niger and Zambia** where a dramatic and impressive fall in the incidence of malaria has been made possible through the free distribution of bed nets. And in
- o **Malaysia and Thailand** where there has been remarkable progress in maternal health.

Still, as Professors Duflo and Jameel have demonstrated - despite these impressive examples, positive changes in the lives of the poorest are taking place at an

- o **Climate change will increasingly threaten** to undo hard fought gains. To avoid this, countries must rise to the daunting challenge of transforming their economies to strengthen climate resilience, protect the most vulnerable and use new funding sources to move towards low-carbon development.

These are the range of obstacles to MDG progress we face today

Yet, it is possible - building on the real life achievements in countries around the world - to turn these ominous challenges into opportunities. The time to do this – however- is running out. We must use every opportunity between now and the Summit to do four things:

1. Advance a deeper understanding of what works and what doesn't – pointing to the large and growing body of evidence from local and national efforts in countries around the world;
2. Based on that, **RAPIDLY** invest in the things that actually work and where we can achieve demonstrable scaling up success
3. Galvanize a renewed coalition of diverse actors committed to working together, country by country, to overcome key constraints to MDG progress;
4. Build urgency and consensus around the need to ensure that countries hit by the global economic crises - and the growing threat of climate change - can sustain progress and avoid MDG reversals and human development catastrophes.

If we are to deliver on the promise of 2015 - it will be because the world decided finally and determinedly to come together at next year's.

future collective commitments, movements and coalitions. If today's political leaders also want to be tomorrow's leaders, not just in name but in gain, seen as credible in the eyes of publics across the globe, it is now or never.

This is why in the coming weeks and months, the UN will be working closely with its partners to do three things:

1. **Coordinate a 12 month series of global, regional and country initiatives** that spark early and continued political momentum – leading up to the 2010 Summit. The UN will bring together high level government officials, parliamentarians, donors, local actors, civil society organizations, the UN system and key private sector actors identify critical points where we can work together to accelerate progress towards the MDGs.
2. **Build the analytical and actionable case for accelerating progress on the MDGs** by updating and strengthening national assessments that identify the bottlenecks that impede implementation and the good practices that can accelerate progress.

We know that certain initiatives have made a big difference: school feeding programmes keep children in school and improve their nutrition; investing in skilled attendants help deliver babies and reduce child mortality.

What we still don't understand, in many cases, however, is what it takes to make

UN Development Assistance Frameworks in the next three years the introduction of this approach is very timely.

3. Critically the MDG Acceleration Framework goes well beyond assessment –**we will use it to bring the UN system together behind a core package of services that channels our collective energy to overcoming binding constraints and expanding what works. There is no prescription. This will look different in all countries and even within countries. In many cases it may mean doing more of what we already do – in concert with likeminded partners – including strengthening the national and local capacities that make governments better listeners,**