

Poverty on the rise in CIS countries as global economic crisis bites

– Development progress in the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) has declined, in part as a result of the on-going global economic and financial crisis. The Millennium Development Goals Report 2009, launched in Geneva by UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, says that in almost all areas, the two groups of countries that are part of the CIS—one in Asia and the other in Europe—have experienced a very different pace of progress.

Levels of extreme poverty, which had risen over the 1990s in both groups and more than tripled in the Asian ones, have since then declined in the whole CIS region. However, while the European side has already reached the target of halving extreme poverty, with only 0.3 per cent of the population living on less than \$1.25 a day, in the Asian CIS, progress has been slow and 19 per cent of the population still live in extreme poverty.

The MDG Report points out that the CIS countries had high levels of carbon dioxide emissions in 1990—at that time the highest among regions, with the exclusion of the rich countries. Since then, emissions have gone down, but remain the second highest level after the developed regions and Eastern Asia.

The Millennium Development Goals Report is the most comprehensive global MDG assessment to date. It is based on a set of data prepared by over 20 organizations both within and outside the United Nations system, including the World Bank and Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). The project is overseen by the UN Secretariat's Department of Economic and Social Affairs.

For more information, see www.un.org/millenniumgoals or <http://mdgs.un.org/unsd/mdg/>

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