

Land, energy and water

Johannesburg and MDG implementation

Together with the UN's 2000 Millennium Summit in New York and the 2002 Conference on Financing for Development in Monterrey, the Johannesburg World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) marks a new phase in efforts to achieve a global partnership between industrial nations and countries with developing and transitional economies. The MDGs were validated in explicit terms in Johannesburg, with stronger linkages being forged between environmental sustainability and poverty reduction.

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In September 2000, the 189 Member States of the United Nations ratified the Millennium Declaration at the biggest summit meeting in UN history. The MDG Declaration lays down the agenda for international policy in the 21st century, focusing on four programmatic areas of action:

- ① Peace, security and disarmament,
- ② Development and poverty eradication,
- ③ Protection of our common environment,
- ④ Human rights, democracy and good governance.

The common, overarching objective is to eradicate extreme poverty worldwide. To implement the Millennium Declaration, a working group made up of the United Nations, World Bank and OECD, along with other international organizations, devised a «road map», which UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan put before the General Assembly in the September of the same year. This road map contains a selection of internationally acknowledged development-policy goals from the Millennium Declaration's chapters on development and environment which are based on the UN's large-scale global summits in the 1990s and the 1996 OECD/DAC

A key target of MDGs is to reverse the loss of environmental resources: Reforestation is one of the most important measures in this context.



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resolution «Shaping the 21st Century». The eight goals contained in this list became known as the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) (see box). The MDGs are broken down into 18 concrete targets whose level of achievement can be measured against 48 indicators. The targets selected from the fields of education, gender, health and environment are not intended as a comprehensive vision of human development, but rather as a yardstick for measuring the extent to which the world is progressing towards «equitable globalization» as demanded in the Millennium Declaration.

Risks and challenges

The consensus on poverty eradication as the prime, common goal indicates that the international development policy is now operating along the same basic lines of orientation as those that have been applied in German development policy since the early 1990s. The MDGs document the belief shared by the community of states that successful development calls for the coherent interplay of various policy areas – a new concept in this form. With the commitment to attain goals that cannot be achieved by a single state alone, development policy has become a joint international task. The MDGs also mark a deviation from standard practice to date in that successful development will no longer be judged only by the amount of resources invested (inputs), but by the results achieved with these resources (outputs) and the attendant outcomes (development impacts).

The project is fraught with both risks and challenges. Failure to achieve the goals would be counterproductive to the political objective of mobilizing greater public support for development-policy concerns. Also, gearing development cooperation to quantitative results might mean neglecting quality whilst prioritizing regions, sectors and population groups for which improvements can be implemented more easily and quickly. As a consequence, the level of disparity vis-à-vis sub-Saharan Africa would only increase.



One upshot of the Johannesburg summit was to network poverty reduction more closely with measures targeting ecological sustainability.

The Millennium Development Goals

- ① Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger
- ② Achieve universal primary education
- ③ Promote gender equality and empower women
- ④ Reduce child mortality
- ⑤ Improve maternal health
- ⑥ Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases
- ⑦ Ensure environmental sustainability
- ⑧ Develop a global partnership for development

A particular challenge here is cooperation with sectors that are not actually mentioned in the MDGs themselves, but which are often mentioned in the Millennium Declaration and are of great importance for achieving the MDGs. Indeed, measures designed to promote peace and security, human rights, democracy and good governance and which strengthen civil society and the role of the private sector are key components of the framework needed for the kind of dignified development that will sustainably eradicate poverty and ensure minimum standards of education and health as well as conserving the natural basis on which human life depends.

The development goals state what is to be achieved, but do not explain how. Implementation has to be aligned with respective national and local conditions. The main tools used here are the Poverty-Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSPs) and comparable national development strategies. Further, no time must be lost in strengthening the national capacity to deliver reliable statistics. Indeed, this is what PARIS21 is all about (Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century). This consortium of international organizations such as the United Nations and its agencies, the World Bank, IMF,

OECD, Eurostat, along with members from both industrialized and developing nations, was set up in 1999 to help build up statistical capacity and systems in developing countries. Reliable data empower governments to develop policies based on realistic analyses of poverty, education and health and, above all, of the quantities of water and energy resources required and actually available. To date, figures relating to the MDG indicators are available up to the years 2000 and 2001, and in a few cases up to 2002. For this reason, it is not possible to confirm the extent to which the decisions made at the Millennium Summit, the Conference on Financing for Development in Monterrey, and the WSSD in Johannesburg already have on site impact.

Johannesburg and the Millennium Development Goals

The 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg specifically directed attention to global problems in the field of water, energy, health, agriculture and biodiversity. The importance and binding nature of the Millennium Development Goals were reconfirmed at this Summit. At the same time, measures targeting ecological sustainability were tied in more closely with poverty reduction. The implementation plan explicitly obliges all signatories to manage the earth's resources in a responsible and equitable manner within the scope of broader efforts to realize the MDGs. MDG 7 addresses the international targets of environmental sustainability (see box on page 12). In Johannesburg, a sub-

goal was added, namely, to reduce by half the proportion of people without access to basic sanitation by the year 2015. MDG 7, its targets and indicators highlight the mutual dependency of wealthy and poorer countries in this world. Environmental degradation, climate change and loss of biodiversity know no borders. The international community of states has to come together and undertake joint efforts to protect natural resources, secure access to better sources of water and basic sanitation, and improve the living conditions of those population groups housed in slums.

The indicators for target 9 (Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programmes, and reverse loss of environmental resources) do not focus on the developing nations, as do many of the other targets from MDG 1–7, but also include measures to be taken by industrialized nations. The indicators monitor progress in sustainable forest management, the conservation of biological diversity and genetic resources, energy efficiency, the prevention of further global warming and the depletion of the ozone layer.

Since 1990, the base year for the targets, substantial success has been noted in these fields, along with certain setbacks. Of considerable concern is the progressive loss of forest areas the world over, especially in tropical areas. During the 1990s, the world lost some 4.2 percent of its natural forests, and only 1.8 percent can be regained through natural extension and reforestation measures, in particular in industrialized nations. The estimated loss in net terms for this period is put at 9.4 million hectares a year, which corresponds to an area the size of Portugal.

In contrast, the percentage share of protected areas serving to conserve biological diversity was expanded from 6.9 percent in 1990 to 8.9 percent today. This translates into an overall growth of more than 25 percent, with the larger part in South-East Asia. Both industrialized and developing countries have improved their energy efficiency. Low-income states improved their energy efficiency by 18 percent between 1990 and 2000, and

MDG 7: Ensure environmental sustainability

Target 9:

Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programmes; reverse loss of environmental resources

Indicator 25: Proportion of land area covered by forest
 Indicator 26: Land area protected to maintain biological diversity
 Indicator 27: Energy use (kg oil equivalent) per \$ 1,000 GDP (PPP)
 Indicator 28: Carbon dioxide emissions (per capita) and consumption of ozone-depleting CFCs
 Indicator 29: Proportion of population using solid fuels (percentage of households)

Target 10:

Reduce by half the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water and to basic sanitation by the year 2015 (extended at the WSSD in Johannesburg)

Indicator 30: Proportion of population with sustainable access to an improved water source
 Indicator 31: Proportion of people with access to improved sanitation

Target 11:

Achieve significant improvement in lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers, by the year 2020

Indicator 32: Proportion of households with access to secure rights of tenure (owned or rented)

industrialized nations by 23 percent. Overall, middle-income countries consumed 25 percent less energy to produce one GDP unit.

Efforts to halt global warming have not shown any decisive measure of success to date. Carbon dioxide emissions rose from 6,110 million tonnes of carbon in 1990 to 6,457 million tonnes in 1999. CO₂ emissions in developing countries rose by an estimated 36 percent. However, global consumption of the ozone-depleting chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) has been reduced drastically, thus essentially fulfilling the conditions of the Montreal Protocol. The use of CFCs dropped from 1.1 million tonnes of ozone-depletion potential in 1986, prior to ratification of the protocol, down to just 120 tonnes in 2001.

No changes worth mentioning have been noted since 1990 in the percentage share of people using solid fuels. In developing nations, some 75 percent of households still have to rely on wood, wood charcoal, harvest residues, manure and coal for cooking and heating. And some 1.6 billion people are still without electricity.

To attain target 10 (Reduce by half the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation by the year 2015), the rate at which connections are being established will have to be upped dramatically. Between 1990 and 2000, the share of people with access to better sources of water was only increased from 79 to 83 percent. At present, around 1.2 billion people, one fifth of the world's population, still do not have access to safe drinking water and

twice as many are without basic sanitation. Worldwide, approximately 6,000 children die each day from diseases caused by contaminated water. Progress has mostly been made in rural areas, whilst in cities it has more or less stagnated. The differences between rural and urban areas still remain immense. In sub-Saharan Africa, only 45 percent of the rural population has access to safe drinking water as opposed to 83 percent in the cities.

In the 1990s, global development in terms of the percentage share of people with access to basic sanitation only advanced at half the rate needed to achieve the goal. In spite of a definite increase between 1990 and 2000 (from 21 to 35 percent), the proportion of the rural population in developing countries with access to basic sanitation remains very low (UN Statistics Division: <http://millenniumindicators.un.org> and http://millenniumindicators.un.org/unsd/mi/pdf/Goal_7-final.pdf)

To accelerate the pace of MDG implementation, the EU launched two key initiatives on the theme of water and energy at the WSSD: «Water for Life» and «Energy for

Poverty Reduction and Sustainable Development». However, reliable data on progress will not be available before 2005 at the earliest.

German commitment

The German contribution to the implementation of the Millennium Declaration and the MDGs is set out in the Program of Action 2015 which the German government ratified in April 2000. In keeping with its broad understanding of development policy, the program does not favour a narrow interpretation of the MDGs, but involves various fields of action from the Millennium Declaration. The German government's commitment to the principles of sustainable development are set out in concrete terms in the «Sustainability Strategy for Germany», which was launched in 2002. Part of this strategy is the project called «Combating poverty with sustainable, site-appropriate land use» which is to promote experience-sharing and the networking of state, civil-society and private-sector partners working in the field of sustainable land management.

Sustainable water supply and wastewater disposal along with sustainable energy supplies are among the priorities of the German development policy. With an annual contribution to water projects amounting to 350 million euros, Germany is one of the biggest donors worldwide in this sector, and 42 percent of these funds are employed in Africa.

Special importance is placed on «Access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation» and «Cross-border water management». To improve access to regulated water supplies and sanitation for people in developing countries, development cooperation (DC) focuses on three key areas of activity. First, strengthening the institutional framework conditions. To this end, German Technical Cooperation (TC) advises on sector reforms that will make public and state supplies and services more efficient and thus better ensure that all population groups will benefit. In states with a well functioning regulatory system the cooperation partner can be the local, national or international private sector. For example, thanks to the successful

German-led coordination of various donors, an agreement was reached with the Zambian government on a gradual water sector reform, as part of a comprehensive cooperation project.

The second key area of activity is securing drinking water and access to basic sani-

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tation in urban areas, primarily for the benefit of poor population groups. Dilapidated urban water-supply and sanitation networks are being extended or rehabilitated.

The third key area of activity concerns the supply of drinking water and basic sanitation in rural areas. As part of its sustainability strategy, the German government will promote efforts to establish a catalogue of concrete measures for achieving the targets in this sector.

In the energy field, the German government announced at the WSSD in Johannesburg that it is intending to allocate one billion euros through bilateral state development cooperation within the next five years: 500 million euros for renewable sources of energy and 500 million euros to increase energy efficiency. This financial pledge is at the heart of the «Sustainable energy for development» programme which aims not only to strengthen bilateral cooperation in the energy sector but, more importantly, to sound out new approaches to public-private sector partnerships.

Within the scope of its extended commitment, the German government is also supporting key international initiatives launched at the 2002 Worldwide Summit in Johannesburg such as the EU initiative «Energy for Poverty Reduction and Sustainable Development», the «Global Village Energy Partnership» and the «Global Network on Energy for Sustainable Development».

Outlook

If the present rate of development is not stepped up considerably, many countries will fail to meet the Millennium Development Goals, most particularly in sub-Saharan Africa. Nonetheless, a handful of success stories (see box on this page) show impressively just how much can be achieved in very little time, when internal resources and external support are mobilized through debt relief and development cooperation and when there is the political will to employ the resources available in a targeted manner. Too few governments in developing countries are truly determined to translate the declarations of intent made at the international level into consistent reforms at the national level. And economic growth, when achieved, usually does not sufficiently benefit the poor population groups. Nevertheless, even here there are some outstanding success stories, such as in Vietnam. Reform efforts, especially in land use, water and energy, have to be intensified, especially for the 900 million rural poor and 250 million people who are

native peoples and ethnic minorities – *inter alia* to halt the increasing impoverishment in urban conglomerations.

Industrialized countries now have to meet the challenge and harness the opportunities generated by the new global partnership, so that the international framework conditions for achieving MDGs are improved. MDG 8 demands the development of fair trade conditions, the abolition of agricultural subsidies and the promotion of debt relief to enable even the poorer countries to finance their development primarily with their own funds. Further, development cooperation should be stepped up particularly with countries with good governance and poverty-oriented policies. Johannesburg has undoubtedly strengthened the resolve of the international community to implement the resolutions adopted at the Monterrey conference and at the Millennium Summit and to invest more in the conservation of the natural resource base on which life depends. The United Nations is scheduled to take initial stock of global progress in the year 2005.

In spite of all the problems and deficits, the fact that the MDGs have, for the first time, given international cooperation a generally accepted, common reference point is something that cannot be appreciated highly enough. Governments and actors from civil society, international development organizations and the private sector, however, must still undertake to maintain the ongoing and very real momentum and to turn the words spoken at the international level into results that can be felt by the people on the ground.

Examples of progress in achieving MDG 7

In *Vietnam*, the proportion of the population without access to safe drinking water was reduced from 74.3 percent to 48.2 percent between 1990 and 2000. Reforestation measures upped the forest-coverage percentage from 28.2 percent in 1995 to 35.8 percent in 2002. The environment and water sector is a key focus of German development co-operation with Vietnam. The German government pledged some 92 million euros to this sector between 2000 and 2003.

With the help of German forestry projects, a total of 54,420 hectares has been reforested to date. A drinking water supply project raised the number of household connections in the provincial capital of Viet Tri from 7,500 to 16,800. This means that through the German contribution, approximately 60,000 more people have gained access to safe drinking water since December 2002.

In *Bolivia*, a priority country for German development cooperation, the percentage of the population in rural areas with access to an improved source of water rose from 47 to 64 percent between 1990 and 2000. In urban areas, the share went up from 91 to 95 percent. The overall population with access to better sanitation facilities rose in the same period from 52 to 70 percent.

Tanzania is an exceptional success story in terms of drinking water. Between 1990 and 2001, the proportion of people with access to improved water sources increased from 38 to some 68 percent. Germany is Tanzania's most important bilateral cooperation partner in the field of water supply and wastewater disposal. The Federal German Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) provided around 100 million euros in Financial Cooperation funding for projects in this sector in the period from 1990 to 2003, thereby reaching about 2.2 million of Tanzania's 35 million citizens. The fundings are based on a joint German-Tanzanian priority strategy. In cooperation with German development cooperation, the country has been reorganising authority and responsibility for urban and rural water supply since 1991, increasingly transferring it to local decision-making bodies.



Photo: KfW
Germany is Tanzania's major cooperation partner in the field of water supply and sanitation.