

UN commitments to the poor 1996-2015

A collection of evidence

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poverty by 2030 still interpreted by World Bank "more formally" as 3% or 280 million people; false statements that easier MDGs agreed by leaders in 2000.].....211

Introduction

Among reporters, politicians, academics, charity staff and others, various false ideas persist on what UN member states committed to at the Millennium Summit and elsewhere: examples are at ungoals.org, poornews.org and poorscience.org. The present document gives evidence in chronological form and is aimed at removing doubt.

The evidence in this document may be relevant to accountability for both performance and truthfulness of governments, international organisations, academics, the media and others.

1. In September 2015 almost all the world's nations committed themselves to "ending" poverty and hunger by 2030. But in 2016 the World Bank was still saying this meant "more formally" that the proportion of extremely poor people would be 3%, or around 280 million people.

2. Wrong baseline for the hunger pledge reaffirmed in 2002: Repeated claims from the Food and Agriculture Organisation that the baseline for the 1996 World Food Summit pledge was the easier "1990-2" appear contradicted by the evidence.

3.. Wrong baseline for the Millennium pledges reaffirmed in 2013: While the United States was wrong to claim in 2005 that the MDG structure was "solely a [UN] Secretariat product", it was correct that the MDG structure had never been formally adopted. However, in later years the US fell into line with other material in confusing the public that the MDG structure with easier 1990 baselines had been agreed at the Millennium Summit. This wrong impression misled poor people and others that UN promises had been, according to the official numbers, "met" at particular times.

4. Wrong baseline for the MDG water target: There is widespread confusion about the water and sanitation target in the MDG structure. The rich countries' club, the OECD, told its members a few days after the structure was announced in September 2001 that the water target had a baseline of 2000. People who have safe water sometimes like to say that the pledge on safe water was met in 2010 (see ungoals.org ; poornews.org). But the numbers are not on "safe" or "affordable" water. And the claims appear to use the wrong baseline for both world leaders' pledge and the MDG target which the UN did not clearly adopt. Official numbers would not indicate the MDG target for "sustainable access" to water - even if "improved sources" meant "safe" - was met by 2010, or even by 2015.

On 9 and 11 April 2001 the present author raised and discussed with the OECD and World Bank negotiators for what became the Millennium Development Goal structure the problem that proportions of the worse off look "better" if they die.

Notes

Mention of particular material does not imply acceptance of its accuracy or approach..

Readers are recommended to consult the original documents.

Mention of statistics does not imply acceptance of the philosophy, methods or results. The fact that governments, journalists, or academics have given the wrong baseline, for example, for world leaders' pledges does not mean the statistics are meaningful.

This is not a comprehensive list of flaws in official statements on world poverty.

Underlining has been added.

Care has to be taken not to read too much into isolated or non-systematic errors. At various times, politicians and civil servants have made wrong statements about global commitments which appear to be more random than systematic. The intention here is that readers will take the official commitments in, for example, UN resolutions as authoritative and interpret other statements in the light of those precise words. In some cases it is possible to infer from speakers' statements what they mean - as in the case of speakers at the Millennium Summit who generally appeared to welcome the Secretary-General's report containing the explicit baselines of 2000 for money and water.

"The most common measure is the headcount index, given by the proportion of the population...indeed, if the person dies, the index will fall!"

Issues in Measuring and Modeling Poverty

An extended comment on current practices in poverty analysis.

Martin Ravallion

The World Bank

Policy Research Department

Poverty and Human Resources Division

June 1996

Paper, or a version of it, published in

The Economic Journal, 106 (September), 1328-1343.

© Royal Economic Society 1996

www-

wds.worldbank.org/external/default/WDSContentServer/WDSP/IB/1996/06/01/000009265_3961214130609/Rendered/PDF/multi_page.pdf

'...the more you spend, the richer you get'. This humorous aside illustrates the often ambivalent relationship between politics and economics. Often regarded as the 'dismal science', economics often labours under seemingly esoteric concepts and jargon that are not always accessible to those to those without formal economics training."

Policy in Action: The Challenge of Service Delivery

John Wanna, John Butcher, Benoit Freyens

2010

"estimates for 58 low-income, food-deficit countries range from 576 million people to 1.1 billion people [undernourished]."

"Overall, according to FAO, its estimates of food availability and/or the prevalence of undernutrition for many countries are subject to errors of unknown magnitude and direction."

NSIAD-99-15 Food Security: Factors That Could Affect Progress Toward Meeting World Food Summit Goals

United States General Accounting Office

March 1999

<http://www.gao.gov/assets/230/227002.pdf>

The UN Food and Agriculture Organisation claim that the 1996 food pledge had easier "1990-2" baseline. But documents show 1996.

The Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations claims that the baseline for the World Food Summit pledge of 1996 was "1990-2". This appears contradicted by the evidence.

Background

"At the World Food Conference in Rome in 1974, it was famously asserted by Henry Kissinger that 'within a decade, no child should go to bed hungry'. ...

The World Summit for Children (UN, 1990) committed states to halving the extent of child malnutrition by the year 2000"

MEASURING HUNGER AND MALNUTRITION

J.B. MASON

Tulane School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine, New Orleans, LA

<ftp://ftp.fao.org/es/esa/cfs/MASON%2520Measuring%2520hunger%2520and%2520malnutriti on.pdf>

"The World Food Summit, held in Rome in November 1996...was notable because of its very high level of government representation, with 112 of the 186 countries present being represented by their Heads of State or Government or their deputies."

<http://www.fao.org/docrep/004/y1780e/y1780e06.htm>

"Closing statement by

Mr. Jacques Diouf,

Director-General of FAO - 17 November 1996

...Let us now run against time to go beyond the set goal of halving the number of hungry by the year 2015. This is not a maximum goal, it is a minimum goal...

<http://www.fao.org/wfs/begin/speech/diouf2-e.htm>

"Closing statement by

H.E. Romano Prodi,

Chairman of the Summit- 17 November 1996

"The Rome Declaration calls upon us to reduce by half the number of chronically undernourished people on the Earth by the year 2015. Many have said that this goal is too modest, that it would leave behind too many millions. This is fair criticism and one that I take to heart. I think that as we go out from here this evening and return to our homes and to our daily routines, it is incumbent upon us to incorporate the commitments we have made here in November 1996, to allow them to inform and influence the work we do whether it be government, community service, farming, advocacy, the private sector, or emergency relief. If each of us gives his or her best I believe that we can meet and even exceed the target we have set for ourselves. Twenty years from now, and I wish everybody may be here twenty years from now, that is how history will judge the World Food Summit of 1996.

Thank you very much to all of you.

I am proud and happy to declare closed this wonderful meeting."

<http://www.fao.org/wfs/begin/speech/prodi2-e.htm>

The 1996 hunger pledge

"We, the Heads of State and Government, or our representatives...pledge...number of undernourished people to half their present level no later than 2015." ...

"the target of reducing the number of undernourished people to half their present level no later than 2015."

Rome Declaration and Plan of Action, 1996
<http://www.fao.org/docrep/003/w3613e/w3613e00.HTM>

Longer extracts:

"Rome Declaration on World Food Security

We, the Heads of State and Government, [1] or our representatives, gathered at the World Food Summit at the invitation of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, reaffirm the right of everyone to have access to safe and nutritious food, consistent with the right to adequate food and the fundamental right of everyone to be free from hunger.

We pledge our political will and our common and national commitment to achieving food security for all and to an ongoing effort to eradicate hunger in all countries, with an immediate view to reducing the number of undernourished people to half their present level no later than 2015.

We consider it intolerable that more than 800 million people throughout the world, and particularly in developing countries, do not have enough food to meet their basic nutritional needs. This situation is unacceptable. ...

...we will implement, monitor, and follow-up this Plan of Action at all levels in cooperation with the international community.

We pledge our actions and support to implement the World Food Summit Plan of Action.

Rome, 13 November 1996

Notes

1 When "Government" is used, it means as well the European Community within its areas of competence.

World Food Summit

Plan of Action

This Plan of Action envisages an ongoing effort to eradicate hunger in all countries, with an immediate view to reducing the number of undernourished people to half their present level no later than 2015, and a mid-term review to ascertain whether it is possible to achieve this target by 2010. ...

The FAO Committee on World Food Security (CFS) will have responsibility to monitor the implementation of the Plan of Action. ..."

<http://www.fao.org/docrep/003/w3613e/w3613e00.htm>

Was the baseline 1996 or "1990-2"? Further evidence

"In November 1996, world leaders assembled in Rome for the World Food Summit... Participants at the summit pledged by 2015 to reduce the current number of hungry people by half."

<http://www.ers.usda.gov/topics/international-markets-trade/global-food-security/questions-answers.aspx>

"At the World Food Summit in Rome in November 1996, the United States and 185 other countries made a promise....

The international community set the goal of reducing the number of undernourished people to half the 1996 level by 2015."

<https://web.archive.org/web/20000818013957/http://www.fas.usda.gov/icd/summit/usactplan.pdf>

"Civil society contributed extensively to preparation for the World Food Summit and to development of the Summit declaration and plan of action."

http://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf_docs/pdabw390.pdf

"Closing statement by Mr. Jacques Diouf, Director-General of FAO - 17 November 1996

...Let us now run against time to go beyond the set goal of halving the number of hungry by the year 2015. This is not a maximum goal, it is a minimum goal...

<http://www.fao.org/wfs/begin/speech/diouf2-e.htm>

"1990-92 (the benchmark period used at the World Food Summit)"

[?]

FAO hunger report 2001

http://www.fao.org/docrep/003/y1500e/y1500e03.htm#P2_33

"Progress in reducing hunger after the World Food Summit"

Arne Oshaug

(February 8, 2009) The World Food Summit (WFS) was held in November 1996. The WFS, as spelled out in its final document, clearly indicated what was needed and expected to be done. "...reducing the number of undernourished people to half their present [1996] level no later than 2015". This represented a target goal of 412 million people undernourished, down from 824 million (estimated) in 1996.

...WFS 10 years later: The State of World Food Security (SOFI) on the situation

The SOFI was supposed to report on the achievement towards the WFS objective which the world leaders committed themselves to, and which was considered an attainable intermediate goal, namely to halve by 2015 the number of undernourished people in the world from the 1990 level.

[appears to contradict passage above]

...Oshaug is Professor of Public Nutrition at the Akershus University College, Kjeller, Norway. He was a member of the official Norwegian delegation to the World Food Summit in 1996 and 2002..."

<http://www.worldhunger.org/oshaug/>

"The Summit entrusted FAO's Committee on World Food Security (CFS) with the task of monitoring the implementation of the Plan of Action and progress in reaching the minimum target of reducing the number of undernourished people to half the 1996 level no later than 2015."

Produced by: Technical Cooperation Department

The Committee on World Food Security: NGOs and the reporting process

<http://www.fao.org/docrep/w7515e/W7515e01.htm>

"The world's Food insecure and undernourished people were estimated at about 800 million in 1996 and the world community assembled in Rome decided to reduce this number by at least 20 million each year so as to reduce by half the number of hungry people in the World by the year 2015.

In 1996, Nigeria's poverty and food insecurity profile indicated that about 50% of the population lived below the poverty line."

"The World Food Summit Commitments

1.1 Nigeria participated in the World Food Summit (WFS) held in November, 1996 at the FAO Headquarters in Rome where Heads of State and Government of 186 countries, pledged their political will, common and national commitment to achieving food security and reducing poverty level. The world food insecure and undernourished people were estimated at about 800 million in 1996 and the world community assembled in Rome decided to reduce this number by at least 20 million each year so as to reduce by half the number of hungry people in the World by the year 2015. In 1996, Nigeria's poverty and food insecurity profile indicated that about 50% of the population lived below the poverty line, implying that

Nigeria would need to reduce her army of poor people by about 2 million a year."

"III STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COMMITMENTS

3.1 The 1996 situation as presented in section II constituted the initial conditions and the benchmark against which the results of subsequent public-sector interventions could be assessed."

FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

ftp://ftp.fao.org/es/esa/cfs/nigeria_position_paper.pdf

"the World Food Summit approved a Plan...reducing - no later than 2015 - the number of undernourished people to half the 1996 level."

Flávio Miragaia Perri
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Brazil to FAO
Rome, July 17, 2004
Note addressed to the FAO Director-General
<ftp://ftp.fao.org/unfao/bodies/cfs/cfs30/j2853e.doc>

"The international development summits and conferences held since the World Food Summit have reaffirmed [?] the international community's commitments to achieve global rights and goals. These commitments were reaffirmed [?] at the Millennium Summit and encapsulated in the eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) which represent a new global agenda for development. The first goal reaffirms [?] the international community's commitment to reduce the number of people suffering from hunger to half its 1996 level by 2015 at the latest."

World Food Summit: Five Years Later Rome, Italy, 8-10 June 2002
THE RIGHT TO FOOD: ACHIEVEMENTS AND CHALLENGES
Report by Mary Robinson,
United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
<ftp://ftp.fao.org/es/esa/cfs/HCHR.pdf>

"In November 1996 the world's leaders...pledged their political will and their commitment... with an immediate view to reducing the number of undernourished people to half its 1996 level no later than 2015."

Jacques Diouf
Director-General,
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
The right to food in theory and practice
FAO
1998
<http://www.fao.org/docrep/w9990e/w9990e01.htm>

"Countries are expected to report on actionsto tackle poverty and food insecurity and to reduce the number of the undernourished within the framework of the WFS Plan of Action. On page 1 of the format governments are expected, where possible, to provide an estimate of the number of the undernourished and food insecure people in their respective country in 1996 and in 1999. ...

In column 4 of this form reference should be made to the baseline data or status of the situation in 1996 or any latest year prior to the Summit, in showing the achievement of the objective as a result of the implementation of the Plan of Action."

COMMITTEE ON WORLD FOOD SECURITY
Twenty-fifth Session
Rome, 31 May – 3 June 1999
REPORTING FORMAT FOR MONITORING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF
THE WORLD FOOD SUMMIT PLAN OF ACTION
March 1999

<ftp://ftp.fao.org/unfao/bodies/cfs/cfs25/X1715e.doc>

"The open-ended working group, with regional representatives, developed a revised format, shown in Appendix H, which the Committee endorsed."

APPENDIX H

FORMAT FOR REPORTING PROGRESS IN IMPLEMENTING THE WORLD FOOD SUMMIT PLAN OF ACTION...

1. Name of the country:

...

6. Estimated number of the undernourished or food insecure in the country:

Number in 1996 (or latest available information prior to 1996)

Number in 1999 (or latest available information since 1996)

...Note: In reporting on Progress in Achieving the Objective information should include baseline data or status of the situation in 1996 or any latest year prior to the Summit..."

Council

Hundred and Sixteenth Session

Rome, 14-19 June 1999

REPORT OF THE 25th SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE ON WORLD FOOD SECURITY

(Rome, 31 May - 3 June 1999)

http://www.fao.org/docrep/meeting/X2194e.htm#P170_16888

Some countries at least completed these forms:

"6. Estimated number of the undernourished or food insecure in the country :

Number in 1996 (or latest available information prior to 1996) : 47.0%

Number in 2000 (or latest available information since 1996) : 44.7%

7. The estimate is based on :

| <i>Type of information</i> | <i>Date collected</i> |
|----------------------------|-----------------------|
|----------------------------|-----------------------|

| | |
|---------------------------------|----------------|
| <i>* BBS, Population Census</i> | <i>1995-96</i> |
|---------------------------------|----------------|

| | |
|--|-------------|
| <i>* Bangladesh National Food and Nutrition Policy</i> | <i>1997</i> |
|--|-------------|

| | |
|--|------------------|
| <i>* Bangladesh Country Paper on Nutrition</i> | <i>1995 ..."</i> |
|--|------------------|

"Per capita availability of food has risen from 440 gm./day in 1996 to 532 gm./day/person during 1999-2000, because of thrust on research and extension, favourable environment, government congenial policy and above all efforts of the farmers."

"Over 35 different crop varieties developed by the National Agricultural Research System (NARS) since 1996."

<ftp://ftp.fao.org/es/esa/cfs/Bangladesh.pdf>

"PROGRESS REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WORLD FOOD SUMMIT PLAN OF ACTION..."

1. Name of the Country: - Nigeria

6. Estimated number of the undernourished or food insecure in the country:

Number in 1996 (or latest available information prior to 1996): 67.1 million or 65.5%.

Number in 2000 (or latest available information since 1996): Information not available.

7. The estimate is based on:

| <i>Type of Information</i> | <i>Data Collected</i> |
|--|-----------------------|
| <i>Household income from national consumer survey,</i> | <i>1996 – 97"</i> |

<ftp://ftp.fao.org/es/ESA/cfs/Nigeria.pdf>

According to the Government of the Republic of the Congo, the FAO itself made estimates of hunger in 1996-7:

"6. ESTIMATION DU NOMBRE DE PERSONNES SOUS-ALIMENTEES

En 1996 : 900.000 personnes

En 1998 : 1.400.000 personnes

En 2000: 800.000 personnes

De 1996 à 1997, la FAO a estimé la prévalence des personnes sous-alimentées au Congo au taux de 20 à 34 % de la population totale, soit environ 900.000 personnes."

SOMMET MONDIAL DE L'ALIMENTATION

CINQ ANS APRES

RAPPORT NATIONAL

March 2002

<ftp://ftp.fao.org/es/esa/cfs/CongoRep.pdf>

"Name of Country: Sri Lanka ...

5. Total Population: 1996 18.3 Mn.

2001 18.7 Mn

6. Estimated Number of the undernourished/food insecure in the Country :

1993 32.6% of the children are malnourished

1998 24.8% of the children are malnourished

Data pertaining to adults are unavailable

7. Sources of Estimates :

The 1993 estimate is based on the Demographic & Health Survey (DHS) carried out by the Department of Census & Statistics. The 1998 estimate is based on the Health Survey carried out by the Ministry of Health."

6 February 2002

<ftp://ftp.fao.org/es/esa/cfs/SriLanka.pdf>

"BRAZIL COUNTRY REPORT

World Food Summit: Five Years Later

2002 ...

"The World Food Summit, sponsored by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization-FAQ and the World Health Organization-WHO, held in Rome, Italy in 1996, approved a Declaration and a Plan of Action..."

Participating countries recognized everyone's right to have access to safe and nutritious food, and pledged...to pursue the major objective of reducing the number of undernourished people in the world to half the present level by 2015.

*Five years ago, it was estimated that 800 million people in the world suffered from malnutrition. The figures included in the FAO report titled *The state of food insecurity in the world-SOFI 2000* show that little has been done to achieve that objective. The 1996-98 estimate of 826 million undernourished people in the world was no different from the estimate for the 1995-97 period. ...*

To achieve the target set by the World Food Summit, there must be a reduction in the number of undernourished people in the world by an average of 20 million a year in 1997-2015 (FAO 2000)"

Ministry of Foreign Relations
Division of Social Affairs
2002
<ftp://ftp.fao.org/es/esa/cfs/Brazil.pdf>

The China report:

<ftp://ftp.fao.org/es/esa/cfs/China.pdf>

""We consider it intolerable that more than 800 million people ...do not have enough food to meet their basic nutritional needs. This situation is unacceptable."

"FAO estimates that unless progress is accelerated there could still be some 680 million hungry people in the world by the year 2010"

<http://www.fao.org/docrep/x2051e/x2051e00.HTM>

"World Food Summit: five years later commitment

Countries:

UN member states

...*World Food Summit: five years later...*

Date of commitment:

June 2002

...

Commitment

Heads of States and Governments have reaffirmed the commitments made at the World Food Summit in Rome in 1996....

The original commitment from the World Food Summit of 1996 to 'reduce the number of undernourished people to half their

[text omits the word "present" from "present level" in the actual commitment in paragraph 2, <http://www.fao.org/docrep/003/w3613e/w3613e00.htm>]

level no later than 2015' was reaffirmed.

All commitments assumed with the Rome Declaration and Plan of Action in 1996 were reaffirmed...

...The most recent estimates for the 2006-2008 period set the number of people in the developing regions who are undernourished at 850 million, which corresponds to 15.5 per cent of the world population. This compares to 791 million and 16.8 per cent of world population in 1995-1997. ...

Data source: [MDG Report 2012](#)"

World Food Summit: five years later commitment

Tracking Support for the MDGs

<http://iif.un.org/content/world-food-summit-five-years-later-commitment>

"World Food Summit Rome 2002 - Declaration of the World Food Summit: Five Years Later

...

You are viewing a filtered list of commitments, click here to view all commitments in this text

...

Food security

"Political will

1. We renew our global commitments made in the Rome Declaration at the World Food Summit in 1996 in particular to halve the number of hungry in the world no later than 2015, as reaffirmed in the United Nations Millennium Declaration."

[Incorrect. The Millennium Declaration is to halve the easier "proportion" rather than "number", and uses by implication a 2000 baseline rather than 1996.]

"We resolve to accelerate the implementation of the WFS Plan of Action."

Commit4Africa - "Transparency for Accountability"

Africa Partnership Forum/United Nations Economic Commission for Africa/Development Initiatives

<http://www.commit4africa.org/declarations/485/millennium/0/0>

"Commit4Africa is an online searchable database enabling users to track declarations and commitments made by Heads of State at high level international summits. Commit4Africa is sponsored by the [United Nations Economic Commission for Africa \(UNECA\)](#) and the [OECD](#) in support of the [Mutual Review of Development Effectiveness \(MRDE\)](#) coordinated by these organisations, most recently in 2009. The Commit4Africa site was officially launched in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on October 17 2008.

The Initiative

The logic behind Commit4Africa is to have one space where users can immediately access relevant declarations and decisions, rather than trace an ever burgeoning body of literature disbursed across numerous institutions. It is hoped that this will encourage a wide range of users to monitor and assess commitments, holding governments more accountable to the

promises they have made. Importantly, Commit4Africa explicitly conforms to the principles of objectivity, presenting an undiluted resource for its users.

The Process

All key, high level declarations made by Heads of State have been collated from numerous institutional online records, including the UN, AU, G8, G20, WTO, FAO, OECD, EU and ILO. Commitments have then been extracted and coded according to a range of parameters, such as sectoral and sub-sectoral relevance, the level of commitment (heads of state, ministerial etc.) and scope of commitment (global development commitments of significance for Africa, Africa- and sub-regional specific commitments)."

<http://www.commit4africa.org/about-us>

In 2001, the FAO claimed - as it has since - that the baseline was the generally easier "1990-2" even though this seemed to be contradicted by the evidence, in the case below even in the same speech:

"At the World Food Summit (WFS) in Rome in 1996, heads of state representing 186 countries....agreed to work toward the achievement of the intermediate goal of "reducing the number of undernourished people to half their present number no later than 2015."...

...1990–92 (the baseline for the World Food Summit, 1996)..."

Sustainable Food Security For All By 2020

September 4–6, 2001

Bonn, Germany

Summary Note

Keynote Speaker:

William H. Meyers, Director, Agriculture and Economic Analysis Division, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

Title: Success and Failures in Achieving the Goals of the World Food Summit

http://conferences.ifpri.org/2020conference/PDF/summary_meyers.pdf



**SUSTAINABLE FOOD SECURITY
FOR ALL BY 2020**
September 4-6, 2001 ! Bonn, Germany



SUMMARY NOTE

Keynote Speaker: William H. Meyers, Director, Agriculture and Economic Analysis Division, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

Title: Success and Failures in Achieving the Goals of the World Food Summit

At the World Food Summit (WFS) in Rome in 1996, heads of state representing 186 countries affirmed their "common and national commitment to achieving food security for all" and agreed to work toward the achievement of the intermediate goal of "reducing the number of undernourished people to half their present number by later than 2015." Recognizing the multifaceted nature of food insecurity, the WFS 1996 Plan of Action also contained seven commitments, each in a broad action area relevant for reducing the number of undernourished and eventually achieving food security for all.

It has become clear that if present trends continue, the target of halving the number of undernourished people cannot be met. According to FAO's estimates, this number declined in the developing world from about 830 million in 1990-92 (the baseline for the World Food Summit, 1996) to

http://conferences.ifpri.org/2020conference/PDF/summary_meyers.pdf

FAO claim countries "met" MDG food target

I

The UN hunger report is SOFI - State of Food Insecurity in the World. It is produced by the Food and Agriculture Organisation, the International Fund for Agriculture and Development and the World Food Programme.

The 2015 report mentions an easier target for the proportion of undernourished people in "developing countries" as a group, which is not in the Millennium Declaration or the MDG official list. It is slightly easier than the global targets in the Declaration and the MDG list because, as Thomas Pogge has pointed out, total population rises faster in those countries than globally..

In addition, the FAO include at least 12 countries as "achieving" the MDG target when, by the official MDG list and methods, they did not.

The report that claimed 72 countries "achieved MDG 1c" by including:

- a) an unspecified number of countries which "brought hunger below 5 per cent" and
- b) 12 countries which "kept hunger close to or below 5 per cent".

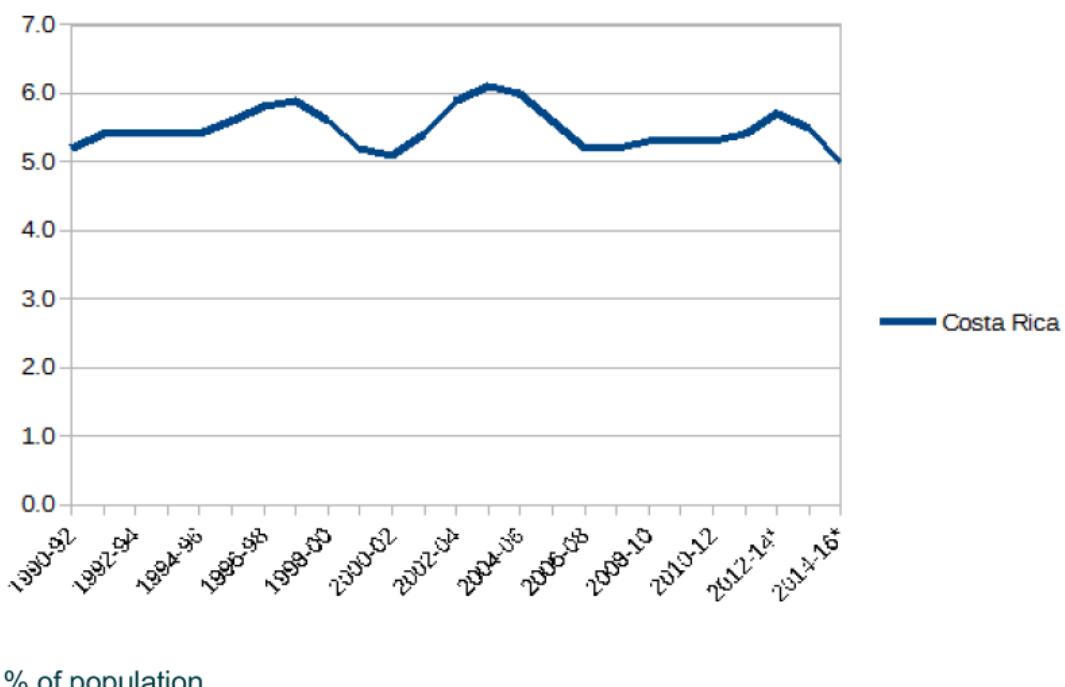
A ridiculous example is this:

"Completing the MDG round...

According to SOFI 2015 [FAO] estimates, Costa Rica has reached the MDG1 hunger target. The [prevalence of undernourishment] has decreased from 5.2 percent in 1990-92 to 4.99 percent in 2014-16. During the same period, the [number of undernourished] has increased from 0.16 million to 0.25 million people."

<https://web.archive.org/web/20150613012334/http://www.fao.org/post-2015-mdg/awards/en/>

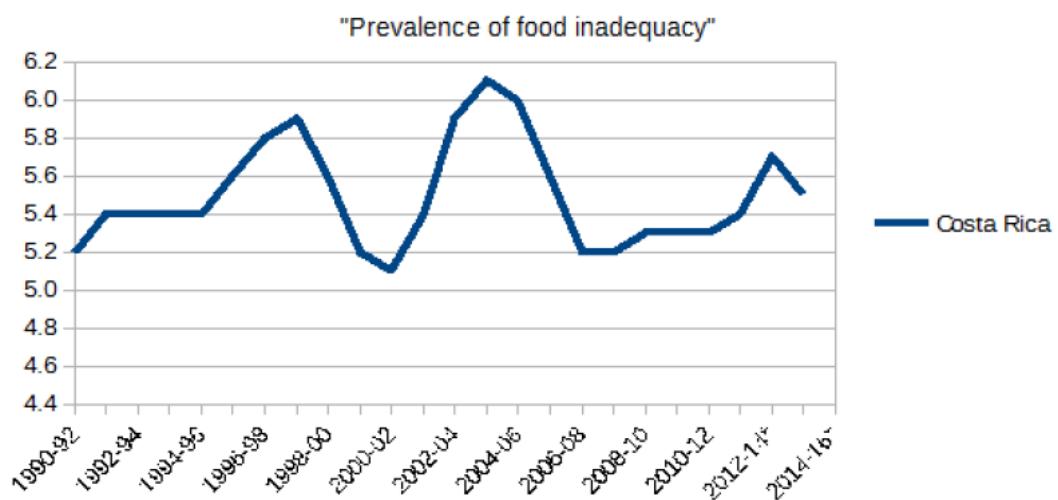
The FAO's own figures for their claim that Costa Rica has met the MDG target of halving the proportion of undernourished people look like this:



% of population

FAO estimates, "prevalence of undernourishment"
- insufficient calories for light activities/over a year

Percentage of people not consuming enough calories, FAO estimates 2015



More information: millenniumdeclaration.org/hunger.pdf

In 2001, UN agencies said Millennium pledges have 2000 baselines - not "1990".

Nations reaffirmed the Millennium Declaration until 2015. How is it not in the public interest for authorities to tell the truth now about so-called "met pledges"?

The philosopher Thomas Pogge has pointed out for over a decade that the Millennium Declaration has no 1990 baseline, but instead mentions "current rates" for child and maternal mortality.

It in effect has a 2000 baseline for the relevant commitments.

Others who have written about this include Peter Singer, George Kent, Frances Moore Lappe and John McArthur, former deputy director of the UN Millennium Project who previously misled the public including in a Lancet article and seems now to have gone back to confusing the public.

For example:

Thomas Pogge
Millions Killed by Clever Dilution of Our Promise
2010
<http://www.crop.org/viewfile.aspx?id=218>

"When the millennium declaration was rewritten as a set of specific goals, the baseline for calculating the proportion to be halved was set not at 2000, but at 1990. That meant that progress already made could contribute to the achievement of the goal... it looks very much as if, come 2015, the world's leaders will have failed to keep their (watered down) promises."

Peter Singer
2010
<http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2010/oct/07/millennium-development-goals-un-poverty>

George Kent:

"Shrinking Commitments

Consider the treatment of the hunger problem, under Millennium Development Goal 1. In the Millennium Declaration of 2000, 191 member states of the UN committed themselves "to halve, by the year 2015, the proportion of the world's people . . . who suffer from hunger." Some have assumed the idea was to reduce the proportion who are hungry to half what it was in the year 2000. A similar commitment was made at the World Food Summit in 1996, when a commitment was made to reducing the number of undernourished people to half their level at that time, 1996, by no later than 2015. On this basis, one might imagine that the Millennium people were thinking of 1996 as the baseline year.

However the project actually uses 1990 as the baseline. Since the proportion of hungry people has been going down until recently, setting the baseline as 1990 rather than 1996 or 2000 makes it easier to achieve the goal of reducing the proportion by half.

While the Millennium Declaration of 2000 promised to reduce by half the proportion of the world's population that are hungry, the FAO and the Millennium Development Project now focus on the percentage of people who are hungry in developing countries. Since developing countries have higher population growth rates, this makes the goal easier to reach. With any given number of hungry people, a growing population means they account for a decreasing proportion of the population."

September 22, 2010 Updated: 25 May 2011

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/george-kent/post_901_b_735376.html

John McArthur, former deputy director of the UN Millennium Project:

"Myth 4: The Millennium Declaration established 1990 baselines.

Explanation

The one substantive adjustment made by UN officials between the 2000 Millennium Declaration and the 2001 Road Map was to identify a 1990 baseline for the 2015 targets."

"Careful assessments of MDG success and failure will form a critical ingredient for any post-2015 policy breakthroughs. To be done well, these should examine the complex pathways through which a diversity of targets were born."

<http://johnmcarthur.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/01/SAISreview2014mcarthur.pdf> ,
pages 16, 23.

"Back to the Future: MDG Creation Myths"

<http://johnmcarthur.com/2015/01/origins-of-mdgs/>

<http://www.brookings.edu/research/papers/2013/03/06-development-goals-targets-mcarthur>

http://johnmcarthur.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/03/Declaration_of_the_MDGs-Brookings-online.pdf

<http://johnmcarthur.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/04/Origins-of-the-MDGs-Ver-Nov30-13.pdf>

.....

At least as late as 2006, the United States' position was that it had not agreed the MDG structure proposed by civil servants in 2001, but the Millennium Declaration.

The child mortality pledge in the Declaration, assuming constant progress and reliable statistics, was for below about 3.6 million child deaths in 2015, not the 4.3 million implied by the MDG target.

The difference would be about 5 million children saved in 2000-15, and rising as time passes - very roughly 2,000 children per day in 2015 and in 2016.

"The General Assembly...

Reiterating that the year 2000 constitutes a unique and symbolically compelling moment to articulate and affirm an animating vision for the United Nations in the new era...

...the unique symbolic moment of the Millennium Summit..."

Resolution 54/254

15 March 2000

<http://www.un.org/documents/ga/res/54/a54r254.pdf>

Secretary-General asked Millennium Summit for 2000 baseline on money and water

He wrote:

"I call on the international community at the highest level — the Heads of State and Government convened at the Millennium Summit — to adopt the target of halving the proportion of people living in extreme poverty, and so lifting more than 1 billion people out of it, by 2015. I further urge that no effort be spared to reach this target by that date in every region, and in every country."

"For consideration by the Summit

...Let us resolve therefore:

- To halve, by the time this century is 15 years old, the proportion of the world's people (currently 22 per cent) whose income is less than one dollar a day.

- To halve, by the same date, the proportion of people (currently 20 per cent) who are unable to reach, or to afford, safe drinking water."

"280. The World Water Forum's Ministerial Conference, which met in March 2000, considered a set of realistically achievable targets on water and sanitation. I ask the Millennium Summit to endorse these targets and to build on them in the years ahead.

281. Specifically, I urge the Summit to adopt the target of reducing by half, between now and 2015, the proportion of people who lack ...safe water."

"- To grant free access to their markets for goods produced in poor countries — and, as a first step, to be prepared, at the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries in March 2001, to adopt a policy of duty-free and quota-free access for essentially all exports from the least developed countries"

Secretary-General

We the peoples: the role of the United Nations in the twenty-first century

"Millennium Report"

27 March 2000

www.un.org/en/events/pastevents/pdfs/We_The_Peoples.pdf

<http://web.archive.org/web/20150821152153/http://unpan1.un.org/intradoc/groups/public/documents/un/unpan000923.pdf>

"My Report sets a series of targets...Within the next 15 years, I believe we can halve the population of people living in extreme poverty...We need a much better informed public"

Statement of Secretary-General Kofi Annan to the General Assembly as he presented his Millennium Report,

“We the Peoples: The Role of the United Nations in the 21st Century”

3 April 2000

<http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2000/20000403.sgsm7343.doc.html>

"Annan...asked the United Nation's 188 member states to set such ambitious goals as...cutting in half the proportion of people, currently 22 percent of the global population, who earn less than \$1 a day"

Washington Post

4 April 2000

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/archive/politics/2000/04/04/annan-seeks-debate-on-un-future-in-millennium-report/b5aef075-4e01-4094-8254-b45f82a3d418/>

"secretary-general...suggests...that the world could try to halve by 2015 the figure of 1.2 billion people or 22% of its population, who currently exist in extreme poverty on less than \$1 a day."

6 April 2000

<http://www.economist.com/node/299914>

"...the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what plans his Department is making to contribute to the UN Millennium Summit in September.

Mr. Hain: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has worked hard to build international support for the UN Secretary-General's proposals for the Millennium Summit. We intend to

publicise his recently published Millennium Report on the Foreign and Commonwealth Office website and to invite feedback on it. ..."

House of Commons Hansard Written Answers for 15 May 2000

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm199900/cmhansrd/vo000515/text/00515w09.htm>

.....

Email to Simon Maxwell, Director, Overseas Development Institute, London, 27 July 2000

Subj: Possibilities

To: s.maxwell@odi.org

...It was good to talk the other day.....I would be very keen to talk further about possibilities for independent policy work, based on a rehumanising of economics.

What I would like to do is get data which reflects the life courses of individuals, then present this to policy-makers and the public in terms that relate to what we value in our own lives - e.g.....we think it's worse to lose a child than to lose our job...

I believe that there already exist data and projections for death rates, which inform the projections of income-poverty rates .

Current projections for 2015 must surely be incorporating something over 100 million early deaths...If these people die, the income figures look a lot better.

It's possible to say how many people might die early given certain policies. One catalyst for this approach could be "we need a rethink due to HIV and the digital divide".

I hope what I'm talking about here amounts to concentrating on real (blindingly obvious) facts that get obscured.

Email to Professor Jonathan Morduch, Princeton
(later the Chairman of the UN Expert Committee on Poverty Statistics)

3 August 2000

To: jmorduch@princeton.edu

...What strikes me is that in policy debates people look at "reducing poverty" without looking at how many people die in the interim.

This seems to me the worst flaw in simple economic analysis...if the poorest die, the income figures look better.

.....

"In a paper released last March by the World Bank's Development Research Group, Bank economists David Dollar and Aart Kraay confront critics of World Bank/IMF policies with new empirical research on incomes in both developed and less developed countries. The authors conclude that "growth generally does benefit the poor and that anyone who cares about the poor should favor the growth-enhancing policies of good rule of law, fiscal discipline, and openness to international trade."...

...Apart from the general problem of measurement error, there are measurement problems which are systematic. For example, there is likely to be a very strong selection bias issue. This operates both within countries and across countries. Across countries, those that don't appear in the sample are likely to be disproportionately the countries which are doing especially poorly. ...

The problem within countries is perhaps more serious. The identity of the bottom quintile of households is going to depend in part on economic conditions. If conditions for the poor turn very bad, then many of the households that would have otherwise made up the bottom quintile may not exist. In some cases, young people who may have otherwise married and formed their own household, instead stay with their parents. The same may also be the case with elderly people moving back in with children. Some young families may emigrate and look for jobs in other countries. And, in many cases, some of the poor will die due to bad economic conditions. In short, the bottom 20 percent of households will not be the same group of people under all economic circumstances.

This effect can be large. Suppose that 10 percent of the households who would have comprised the bottom quintile under normal economic conditions don't exist because of factors related to an economic downturn. The sample would instead include the households who would have otherwise been in the 21st and 22nd percentile of the income distribution, as part of the bottom quintile. This would lead to a substantial upward bias in the measure of the income of this group. In the case of the United States, this substitution would increase the reported income of the bottom quintile by approximately 7 percent.[24] It would be necessary to examine the pattern of household creation and mortality rates within each country to determine the extent to which economic circumstances affect the composition of households within the nation. Without this information, a test of whether economic crises disproportionately hurt poor households, like the one that appears in the DK paper, does not shed much light on the question."

Growth May Be Good for the Poor-- But are IMF and World Bank Policies Good for Growth?

A Closer Look at the World Bank's[1] Most Recent Defense of Its Policies

By Mark Weisbrot, Dean Baker, Robert Naiman, and Gila Neta

Mark Weisbrot and Dean Baker are co-directors of the Center for Economic and Policy Research (CEPR). Robert Naiman is senior policy analyst at CEPR. Gila Neta is a research associate at CEPR. The authors are grateful to Joyce Kim for valuable research and editorial assistance.

Draft published August 7, 2000

http://web.archive.org/web/20000815073236/http://www.cepr.net/response_to_dollar_kraay.htm

Subj: Growth and survival

10 August 2000

To: e.w.j.anderson@ids.ac.uk

Dear Ed,

Here are some thoughts on what we discussed [on the telephone].

The CEPR paper mentions the possibility that the poorest dying off can make the figures look better. This still seems plausible to me, but more plausible is that the figures look better if non-productive people die. ...

It would seem sensible to compare countries' national and bottom-quintile growth rates along with 1) fertility rates; 2) ratios of productive to non-productive members of households; and 3) death rates among non-productive members of households (under-fives would be a good start).

In practice there are more children than adults - so many that more than 50% of all deaths in the global poorest quintile are of people under 15, even though the death rate for people in this age group is 21% . A small percentage increase in their death rate results in a large number of children dying.

I do wonder how in a situation where a high numbers of children die, there could be more debate about the effects of growth on fertility rates and survival rather than on tiny changes in income.

.....

[Similar phone call and email to Clare Melamed of Christian Aid, and email and some time later phone call to Mark Weisbrot]

.....

Note 11 August 2000

..I don't agree with the main International Development Target that gets attention: reducing the proportion of people living on under \$1 a day by half by 2015. If the poorest or least productive people die off, it looks like better progress has been achieved...

.....

"[the UN deputy secretary general said], "*What the Summit will do is elevate the level of commitment to make it a commitment by the leaders themselves. This makes a big difference.*"

30 August 2000

<http://wfile.ait.org.tw/wf-archive/2000/000830/epf304.htm>

"...summit...will almost certainly endorse a UN declaration... halving within 15 years the 22% of the world's population now existing on less than a dollar a day."

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2000/sep/02/cuba.ewenmacaskill>

"When the summit meeting ends, there are to be commitments to ambitious global targets. World leaders will pledge to halve the number of the world's people who live on less than \$1 a day. There are more than a billion such people.

Almost an equal number — many of them the same ones — do not have access to clean water. Their number should also be cut in half by 2015, leaders will say."

"Reuters and The Associated Press contributed to this report."

Sept. 5 2000

<http://abcnews.go.com/International/story?id=82712&page=1&singlePage=true>

[Above references to "number" rather than "proportion" are incorrect. However, the report seems to refer to an expectation that the leaders would agree a 2000 baseline ("halve the number...who live...there are more than..." ..."do not have...their number should also be cut in half".]

Millennium Summit speeches praised 2000-baseline proposals

Note: The Secretary-General's report "specifically" urged the Summit to halve the proportion of the world's people without access to safe and affordable water "between now and 2015" and to halve the proportion "currently" 22 per cent on under a dollar a day.

The speeches are available at: <http://www.un.org/ga/55/pvlista55.htm>

Spain: "... we must overcome poverty.... It would be unforgivable if we do not gather the means to do it. We heartily support the objectives set out to this end in the Secretary-General's report for the Millennium Summit..."

King Harald of Norway: "We have all agreed on the goals for international development. We have the knowledge to achieve them, and we have the resources to achieve them. We live in an age of unparalleled promise and prosperity. We will not be forgiven, and we should not be forgiven, if we fail to fulfil this promise, if we fail to share this prosperity with the neediest among us."

"Let this be remembered as the time when the leadership of the world rose to the occasion and, using all its God-given wisdom, laid down the foundations of a healthy, safe and progressive global village to be our collective destiny in the new millennium. To that end, I pledge most solemnly the full cooperation of the Organization of the Islamic Conference."

Egypt: "I want to congratulate the Secretary-General on the valuable report he submitted to the Millennium Summit; I call for a discussion of the ideas set out in that report in universities and other academic and research centres and intellectual forums."

"to shine a light on....who is not doing what they promised to do may also help..."

Kofi Annan
Millennium Summit
5 September 2000

"the Declaration we are about to adopt at this Summit...the specificity of the language and the time scales mean that we can and will be held accountable"

Prime Minister of Ireland, 6 September 2000

"The numerous specific goals and programmes outlined in this [Millennium] report could well be considered the United Nations plan of action for the twenty-first century..."

Afghanistan fully endorses the values and goals presented by the Secretary-General"

"...Millennium Report serves as an excellent reference for checking whether our homework has been properly done."

Mr Persson, Prime Minister of Sweden

"Secretary-General...the report he presented...sets out clear and precise objectives. Belgium fully supports it. My country commits itself ...to support all actions that can help attain those objectives"

"The Clinton Administration strongly supports Secretary General Kofi Annan's call to action on poverty alleviation, on economic and social development"

U.S. Efforts on the Millennium Report "Call To Action" on Poverty and Economic Development Issues

The White House September 7, 2000

http://clinton5.nara.gov/WH/new/html/Wed_Oct_4_132349_2000.html

"President Clinton is strongly committed to working...to meet the vision of a sustainable future outlined in the Secretary General's Millennium Report."

The White House September 7, 2000

http://clinton5.nara.gov/WH/new/html/Wed_Oct_4_133235_2000.html

"A main target, set by Mr Annan and agreed to by the summiteers, is to halve by 2015 the 22% of people who live on less than a dollar a day"

Editorial
7 September 2000
<http://www.economist.com/node/359559>

The chairman of one of the "round table" discussions between leaders claimed his group were focussed on goals some of which had baselines of 2000:

"The Co-Chairperson (Finland): I now give the floor to the Chairman of the round table held yesterday afternoon..."

*President Chávez Frías (spoke in Spanish): ...round table with heads of State, representatives of Governments of America, Asia, Africa, Europe and Oceania. ...
...we spent about four hours there...*

I am going to make a major effort in these first few minutes to reflect the spirit that prevailed...

My colleagues and I agree on one question based on the deliberations we are witnessing here and on the excellent report submitted by the Secretary-General to guide us at this Millennium Summit. How can the goals determined there be met? ...

Let us inform our peoples about what was discussed here, about the conclusions that were drawn in this Summit..."

"This Summit embodies the commitment of the world's political leaders to strengthen the foundations of the United Nations..."

In the international arena, there is no alternative to strong, multilateral institutions based on impeccable democratic legitimacy. Decisions and procedures must be transparent. Civil society must be more directly involved."

Romano Prodi
President of the European Commission
8 September 2000

"let us be honest at this Millennium Summit, too many times we have set new deadlines to reach old goals."

Prime Minister of Denmark, 8 September 2000

"We resolve...by the year 2015...to have reduced maternal mortality by three quarters, and under-five child mortality by two thirds, of their current rates. ...

[to about 3.6 million child deaths in 2015, or 10,000 deaths a day, not the 4.3 million a year implied by the easier MDG target proposed later]

We resolve...

- To work collectively for more inclusive political processes, allowing genuine participation by all citizens in all our countries.
- To ensure the freedom of the media to perform their essential role and the right of the public to have access to information. ...

We request the General Assembly to review on a regular basis the progress made in implementing the provisions of this Declaration, and ask the Secretary-General to issue periodic reports ...

We...pledge our unstinting support for these common objectives and our determination to achieve them."

8 September 2000

<http://www.un.org/millennium/declaration/ares552e.htm>

"The Secretary-General:

...Your Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen.

...thank you all for ...having given us clear guidance.

I have read carefully the Declaration you have just adopted. ...

You have said that your first priority is the eradication of extreme poverty. You have set specific targets to that goal...we all know the targets can be reached."

"It lies in your power, and therefore it is your responsibility, to reach the goals that you have defined. Only you can determine whether the United Nations rises to the challenge. For my part, I hereby rededicate myself as from today to carrying out your mandate. I know that the whole staff of the United Nations does the same."

"The Co-Chairperson (Namibia): We have come to the close of this historic Millennium Summit..."

We cannot, therefore, afford to go back home from here and continue business as usual. We, as heads of State or Government, have the mandate and the responsibility individually and collectively to take bold steps....

We must act now by translating our commitments into action. It is time to combine our vision and our renewed commitment with the increased resources for the United Nations in a purposeful manner....

We must fulfil our promises..."

[The following text of the co-chairperson's statement is from a press release, <http://www.un.org/press/en/2000/20000908.ga9758.doc.html>, since the official record refers to a non-existent paragraph in the Declaration:]

"I ... call upon [the new President of the General Assembly, Harri Holkeri] to ensure the implementation of the Millennium Declaration and pay particular attention to paragraph 31."

Paragraph 31 of the Millennium Declaration reads:

"We request the General Assembly to review on a regular basis the progress made in implementing the provisions of this Declaration..."

"...Millennium Declaration ... endorsed targets... halving by the year 2015 the 22 percent of the world's population now existing on less than a dollar a day."

Reuters

8 September 2000

itnsource.com/en/shotlist/RTV/2000/09/08/009080017/?s=millennium%20summit

"Progress has been made in reducing poverty during the 1990s, most notably in China between 1993 and 1996..."

UK Department for International Development Target Strategy Paper:
Halving world poverty by 2015 - economic growth, equity and security
September 2000

www.albacharia.ma/xmlui/bitstream/handle/123456789/31730/1574Target_Strategy_Paper_Halving_worldpovertyby_2015_-_economic_growth,_equity_and_security%255B2000%255Dc.pdf

"A declaration to be signed on Friday when the summit meeting ends has set ambitious benchmarks....

One such goal proposes to reduce by half over the next 15 years the number of people earning less than a dollar a day. To achieve that, President Hugo Chavez of Venezuela reckoned, "we should increase that income to levels of fairness and dignity for 140,000 persons each day of each month and of each year from the present until Dec. 31, 2015."

"The Italian prime minister, Giuliano Amato, agreed that radical efforts were required. "

"Published: September 8, 2000

United Nations, Sept. 7"

<http://www.nytimes.com/2000/09/08/world/summit-in-new-york-the-orators-un-speakers-urge-increase-in-charity-to-the-poor.html>

The person who was head of the UN Development Programme in 2000 later wrote of the Millennium Summit and Kofi Annan's recommendation document, which had a baseline of 2000:

"The assembly ...accepted his report wholesale."

Mark Malloch Brown
The Unfinished Global Revolution
Penguin Books, 2011

"...the Summit is a unique, symbolic moment. The Summit Declaration ...will guide our work....for years to come. ...

The Declaration will constitute an authoritative mandate for our work. ...

...the Secretary-General...His report entitled "We the peoples" (A/54/2000) laid an indispensable foundation for the work of the Summit. It has also set for us new standards in clarity of purpose, relevance and readability. ...

It will be the responsibility of the General Assembly to...put into practice the political commitment of our Heads of State or Government. The General Assembly and its Main Committees ...must reflect the results of the Summit in their work. We need to avoid a business as-usual mentality."

Harri Holkeri, President of the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session, 2000-2001

"targets set by the Millennium Summit, including the target to halve, by the year 2015, the current proportion of the world's poor people"

Nguyen Dzy Nien, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Vietnam
General Debate of the 55th Session of the UN General Assembly
13 September 2000
<http://www.un.org/ga/webcast/statements/vietnamE.htm>

"we must now act to turn last week's good intentions into effective action. This means taking responsibility to.... increase transparency and accountability to make a tangible difference for the people we represent."

Lloyd Axworthy, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Canada.

General Assembly 14 September 2000.

"Proponernos reducir a la mitad, dentro de quince años, el número [sic] de pobres que hoy tenemos, es un empeño sin duda encomiable..."

"Setting out to halve in fifteen years the number [sic] of poor people we now have is an undoubtedly remarkable endeavor..."

Felipe Perez Roque, Cuban Minister of Foreign Affairs
General Debate of the 55th General Assembly

15 September 2000

<http://www.un.org/ga/webcast/statements/cubaS.htm>
<http://www.un.org/ga/webcast/statements/cubaE.htm>

"Leaders at last week's Summit provided this Millennium Assembly with a clear direction and a strong mandate. Our countries have delegated us the responsibility to realize that vision of a better world and we must ensure through our efforts and determination that we do not fail them."

Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade of New Zealand, Phil Goff.
General Assembly 15 September 2000

"I wish to pay tribute to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, H.E. Mr. Kofi Annan, for his clairvoyance and leadership. His Millennium Report ...offers concrete, accomplishable and far-sighted recommendations.

Austria welcomes this roadmap for the future course of UN activities and will follow its guidelines.

"Human rights...are an essential prerequisite for comprehensive human development.

If, however, we accept that most challenges to human security have a human rights dimension, we may wish to take a new, more operational look at the promotion and protection of human rights. How can we make our human rights regimes more effective in our societies? The Secretary-General has shown us the path to follow and I would like -to quote his words: "it is the poison of ignorance, all too frequently, that lies at the heart of human rights violations. Knowledge provides an antidote." Ultimately, it will be the citizens themselves who, through better knowledge, will become the owners of their human rights."

Austrian Minister for Foreign Affairs Benita Ferrero-Waldner

<http://www.un.org/ga/webcast/statements/austriaE.htm>

"In East Asia the proportion of extremely poor has already plummeted from 28 percent to 15 percent since 1990."

Mark Malloch Brown, Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme
International Herald Tribune September 21, 2000

http://www.nytimes.com/2000/09/21/opinion/21iht-edbrown.t_0.html

"...the international development targets...aim to halve the proportion of people living in extreme poverty by 2015 - which means a billion people being lifted out of poverty between 1990-2015. ...The UN and all its members...are now all firmly committed to the targets" [!]

Clare Short
UK Secretary of State for International Development
26 September 2000
<http://www.clareshort.co.uk/speeches/DFID/DFID%20Speech%20Sept%202000.pdf>

After the Millennium Summit, surprisingly perhaps, an article in the OECD Observer referred to "the goals for international development" by which it meant the seven International Development Goals with baselines of 1990. It also stated,

"China reduced its number in poverty from 360 million in 1990 to about 210 million in 1998".

Setting the seven development goals - OECD Observer
Sanjeev Gupta, Fiscal Affairs Division, IMF; Brian Hammond, Development Co-operation Directorate, OECD; and Eric Swanson, Development Data Group, World Bank
October 2000
http://www.oecdobserver.org/news/archivestory.php/aid/359/Setting_the_seven_development_goals.html

"The UN Conference on the Least Developed Countries, which will be hosted by the European Union in Brussels next May, offers Europe a golden opportunity to live up to those promises, and to show the world that the commitments made at the Millennium Summit are not just words."

United Nations Secretary-General
4 October 2000
<http://www.un.org/sg/cuffarch/sgcu0900.shtml>

Idea that in 2000 the "MDGs" were seen as very ambitious may be due to two errors

"[MDG] targets were formulated based on historical trends....projections to 2015 based on the global trends in the 60s, 70s and 80s."

Yongyi Min
United Nations Statistics Division
http://mdgs.un.org/unsd/mdg/Resources/Attach/Capacity/manila/Presentations/S6_P6.2_2_MDG%20monitoring%20Post%202015%20rev.1.ppt

"Vandemoortele co-wrote the current eight UN MDGs, 18 targets and 40 indicators as a tool to communicate UN objectives emerging from the Millennium Summit in September 2000 [?]

...

These were decided by measuring global trends in human development over a 25-year period from 1965-1990, and applying them to living standards over the 1990-2015 period, assuming that rates of progress stayed the same.

The MDGs were not intended to increase rates of progress in human development so much as maintain them. "

<http://www.euractiv.com/development-policy/mdg-designer-fears-un-goals-dege-news-530429>

"Vandemoortele (2008: 221):

'Were progress for child survival, for instance, to continue as in the 1970s and 1980s, the global under-five mortality rate (U5MR) in 2015 would be two-thirds lower than in 1990. Were the global net enrolment ratio (NER) to continue its increase of the 1970s and 1980s, universal primary education could be achieved by 2015.'

www.post2015hlp.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/05/Rippin_Progress-Prospects-and-Lessons-from-the-MDGs.pdf

"the [MDG] team determined that 1990 would be a more reasonable fit compared to historical trends, thereby lessening the pressures on world leaders for 2015."

The Origins of the Millennium Development Goals
johnmcarthur.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/01/SAISreview2014mcarthur.pdf

"The commitment by world leaders at this month's United Nations Millennium Summit to halve global poverty and hunger...by 2015 has been dismissed by some as little more than a pipe dream....

That is wrong. These and other goals that the world signed up to are — while deliberately best-case scenarios — carefully calculated and technocratically grounded...

In East Asia the proportion of extremely poor has already plummeted from 28 percent to 15 percent since 1990. ...with only relatively small improvements, progress in Asia alone... will be almost sufficient to put the global target in reach. ...

So this month's Millennium Summit was not a global day-dreamers' fantasy but based on real strategies and calculations. Nevertheless it was what in the language of management-speak might be called a "stretch target."

Mark Malloch Brown, Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme
September 21, 2000

http://www.nytimes.com/2000/09/21/opinion/21iht-edbrown.t_0.html

.....

"The General Assembly...

requests the Secretary-General to prepare a comprehensive report every five years, supplemented by an annual report on progress achieved towards implementing the Millennium Declaration...

(a) The annual reports should reflect the broad array of specific goals and commitments enunciated in the Millennium Declaration...

(b) All reports should focus, in this respect, on the results and benchmarks achieved, identify gaps in implementation....

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly
55/162 Follow-up to the outcome of the Millennium Summit
14 December 2000
<http://www.un.org/Docs/journal/asp/ws.asp?m=A/RES/55/162>

On 9 and 11 April 2001 I called the OECD and World Bank "MDG architects", Brian Hammond and Eric Swanson, and discussed the widespread and staggering error of using statistics which looked better if the poor die.

I did not realise they had already stated the baseline of the commitments in the Millennium Declaration was 1990 when it was really 2000:

"Reduce the proportion of people living in extreme poverty by half between 1990 and 2015.

...

Reduce infant and child mortality rates by two-thirds between 1990 and 2015.

Reduce maternal mortality ratios by three-fourths between 1990 and 2015. ...

The goals are included in the recent United Nations Millennium Declaration by Heads of Government.

One of the great merits of the international development goals is that they address a specific set of objectives in a definite time period."

Finance and Development: A quarterly magazine of the IMF
December 2000, Volume 37, Number 4
Progress Toward the International Development Goals
<http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/fandd/2000/12/index.htm>

2001: Secretary-General proposed MDGs (easier baselines, fewer goals than leaders' Millennium pledges). But instead, nations reaffirmed the wider, 2000-baseline Declaration. Nations called for publicity and reports on the Declaration, not the easier MDG targets.

"Conventional methods of measuring the extent of poverty may thus distort what is morally significant by assigning lower weight to the poor in proportion to their lower life expectancy."

Thomas Pogge
2001

Further extracts:

"One-third of all human deaths are due to poverty-related causes, to malnutrition and to diseases that can be prevented or cured cheaply."

"About one-quarter of all human beings alive today, 1.5 billion, subsist below the international poverty line..."

Because life expectancy among the very poor is much lower than average, far more than a quarter of all human lives – and deaths – occur within the poorest quartile. Conventional methods of measuring the extent of poverty may thus distort what is morally significant by assigning lower weight to the poor in proportion to their lower life expectancy. Suppose, for example, as is approximately true, that the poor live, on average, half as long as the nonpoor. The number of lives and deaths in the poorest quarter would then be twice the average number of lives and deaths in the other three quarters: two-fifths versus three-fifths. Forty percent of all human lives and deaths would occur among the poor, even while these poor, at any given time, make up only 25 percent of the world's population. This distortion affects most conventional statistics I cite in this essay"

"The hunger reduction plan adopted in Rome implicitly envisions well over 200 million deaths from hunger and preventable diseases over the 1997–2015 plan period."

Thomas Pogge
Priorities of Global Justice
Metaphilosophy

January 2001

https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Thomas_Pogge/publication/227680763_Priorities_of_Global_Justice/links/02e7e5233771503b78000000.pdf?origin=publication_detail

"...half, between now and 2015, the proportion of people who lack...safe water and...sanitation ...

This ambitious target...was endorsed at the Millennium Assembly ...in September 2000."

UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

23 February 2001

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

Note by the secretariat

<daccess-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/NB0/100/09/PDF/NB010009.pdf?OpenElement>

Before the 1990-baseline MDGs were agreed by civil servants, some used the phrase "Millennium Development Goals" to mean the 2000-baseline Declaration.

"Representatives of developing countries, bilateral donors, the United Nations and its specialized agencies, the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank gathered in March 2001 at the World Bank's headquarters for a seminar on the International Development Goals.

The seminar took stock of the progress made in establishing a common set of quantitative development objectives; exchanged views on the opportunities for and obstacles to reaching the goals; and laid the groundwork for further international cooperation. A follow up meeting on harmonizing reporting on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the International Development Goals (IDGs) was held in New York in June 2001 to discuss the respective targets and selected relevant indicators, with a view to merging the two documents into a single set of Millennium Development Goals"

<http://www.ifad.org/partners/orgs/>

At the World Bank seminar, was its Managing Director talking about a baseline of "today" for the "*overall goal of halving the rate of extreme poverty*"?

The head of the UN Development Programme emphasised meeting the goals set by world leaders, not the easier "International Development Goals" with 1990 baselines.

Note: When speakers in March 2001 mentioned "*Millennium Goals*" or "*Millennium targets*" this could not refer to the MDG structure, because that did not exist yet. They were talking about the Millennium Declaration goals agreed six months before, which did not have the easier 1990 baselines - "*Millennium Declaration Targets*".

When the head of the UN Development Programme said "*we think there are 10 [goals]*" he was talking about the Millennium Declaration - the "*unique act of endorsement*".

He talked about going beyond the targets to the "*Millennium Communique, which does demand levels of higher global action*".

"Opening Address: "The International Development Goals and the Bank's Action Plan"

Sven Sandstrom Managing Director, World Bank

...International Development Goals ...I would like to say a few words about the Goals, where the world stands today in achieving them...2015 target date...

"As of 1998, according to our estimates, about 1.2 billion people lived in extreme poverty - that is, on less than one dollar a day. ...

..the world could meet the overall goal of halving the rate of extreme poverty by 2015. The number of people living under one dollar a day could drop to 780 million from 1.2 billion today, and in percentage terms, poverty could fall from 23.4 percent today to 12.6 percent by 2015."

"Opening Address: "Working Together to Reach the International Development Goals"
Mark Malloch Brown [head of UN Development Programme:]...

...the question that Jim Wolfensohn set out in a recent letter to Kofi Annan: How can we best work together to ensure that the worthy aspirations embodied in the Millennium Declaration

Targets be matched by real deeds at global and country level that bring real benefits to the world's poor?...

...that which we are discussing today - holding ourselves, governments and others to account for meeting the targets...I think the UN System can build on the real momentum of the Millennium Summit...a new campaign...to monitor and benchmark poverty outcomes.

This will draw on the authority of the Millennium Assembly...

....REPRESENTATIVE OF FAO [Mr. Hjort] ..Mr. Stern made reference to the unprecedented agreement on the Goals, and I noticed that Mark Malloch Brown has spoken of the consensus on the International Development Goals, but then went on to speak about the Millennium Goals. I am sure that everybody knows that there is a fundamental and significant difference between the Millennium Goals and the International Development Goals. My question is will the International Development Goals be modified in the approaches that are being used from the country level on up to conform to the Millennium Goals. As you might expect, my primary concern is the omission in the International Development Goals of the goal that was established by the heads of state of all the governments that are represented here today to halve the number of persons hungry in the world by 2015. That goal is not in the International Development Goals; it is in the Millennium Goals, although it is a less aggressive goal there--it is the proportion, as it is with respect to poverty, instead of the number. Thank you.

MR. RITZEN: Yes?

MR. BROWN: On that, my view is that the International Development Goals were a step toward a process which has now culminated with a unique act of endorsement, which is the 160-plus world leaders--not ministers, but world leaders--at the Millennium Summit, and therefore, my view is that it is a step back to return to a less universally, less high-level endorsed set of goals. I also like the fact that they are slightly wider--we think there are 10 as against the 7 or so in the International Development Targets. So I think both are steps forward. I think that, frankly, both have some omissions, and we may have to slip in a few extra ones. ...

But certainly going to the Millennium Targets and then trying to go even beyond them some by referring to the broader Millennium Communique, which does demand levels of higher global action on imbalances in the world economy and therefore provide the legitimacy for this slightly expansion and balancing of the Goals--that strikes me as the way to go."

Speaker:

"the task force can try to align the IDG targets and the Millennium targets. Frankly, I think that that is a very simple task that can be done very quickly. I had a quick chat with Colin at tea, and he has already done that. So let's not waste time on that, but let's recognize that it is there, and let's let the task force align it for us, and then we can dispose of it so that

everybody can feel comfortable that we are all in the same place. So that is number one."

From Consensus To Action: A Seminar on the International Development Goals

The World Bank

March 19, 2001

<http://www->

wds.worldbank.org/external/default/WDSContentServer/WDSP/IB/2012/01/11/000333037_20120111022246/Rendered/INDEX/662710v10TRANS00action0march1902001.txt

There were further discussions the next day:

"MR. RITZEN:alignment of International Development Goals and the Millennium Development Goals."

<http://www->

wds.worldbank.org/external/default/WDSContentServer/WDSP/IB/2012/01/11/000333037_20120111022545/Rendered/INDEX/662710v20TRANS065765B0march02002001.txt

.....

Letter from Chairman of OECD Development Assistance Committee

"29 March 2001

To:

Heads of UN Agencies and Programmes

Cc:

*UN, IMF and World Bank participants at the 19-20 March Seminar on the IDGs
Delegates to the Development Assistance Committee*

From:

Jean-Claude Faure

...We in the DAC are delighted with the convergence in the international community on the importance of a common set of development goals to make the case for development and achieve real progress on poverty reduction and sustainable development. The adoption of the Millennium Declaration and the partnership between the UN, OECD, IMF and World Bank to produce A Better World for All are two very concrete examples of this shared agenda.

At "From consensus to action: a seminar on the international development goals" hosted by the World Bank on 19-20 March, a number of participants encouraged a process of joint reporting on the International and Millennium Development Goals. ...

As you know, the DAC has played an important role to date in the IDGs, and we look forward to doing so in the next phase, as we take account of goals from the Millennium Declaration. More specifically, as the body that collects data on aid flows, the DAC is well placed to contribute and analyse that data. And the OECD as a whole has a particular advantage in reporting on progress towards policy coherence on aid, trade and investment by donor countries. This advantage is strengthened by the initiative just launched across the OECD on policy coherence. ...

Following the seminar a small group that was active in the production of A Better World for All 2000 met to discuss how to align the International Development Goals with the quantifiable global objectives in the Millennium Declaration and how and when a sequel to BWA should be produced. ..

So I hope that in your deliberations in the ACC next week you will be able to take the opportunity to reaffirm the UN family's commitment to continuing the BWA partnership. A reasonable next step would be to ask the partnership to reach early agreement on the alignment of the international and millennium development goals and the timing and role of BWA in regular reporting to the General Assembly on development progress.

.....

Email to Alex Wilks, Bretton Woods Project:

4 April 2001

[*"halving poverty"*] on its own provides a disincentive to helping the poor survive.

.....

Notes 9 April 2001

No outcome measure can be humanely separated from mortality data for the same group. ...

In the present case, total child mortality is going down, at a slower rate than we hoped.

Between 1990 and 1998 mortality rates are higher than we hoped.

.....

...If the poorest die, then by definition our next measurements are of the less-poor. Not only are the number and proportion of the poorest reduced, but also the average standard of living is higher, since we are now looking at people who weren't so badly off in the first place.

... The goals are mutually reinforcing, but also, **paradoxically, lack of progress on child mortality can result in better-looking outcome measures.**

....The poverty goal aims at a figure of roughly 700 million. Total infant deaths from today until 2015, at present rates of progress, amount to roughly 75 million., of whom a large percentage are in the group targeted by the poverty goal...

Any outcome measure that does not take deaths into account can give paradoxical results.

.....

Any measure of progress against poverty is only meaningful if it takes into account the survival rates...

...a very significant number of people who die early do so after ...being the poorest in the first place ...This is far less of a skewing factor in countries where there is less of a difference in life expectancy among income groups. ...

Comparing average income, or health status, in a group at two different times has one fundamental problem: you are not looking at the same group if the death rates are high.

There is a fundamental question here: do we want to look at what happens to individual people, or an average that leaves out the most important outcome? ...

In Ravi Kanbur's paper on disagreements he points out the mismatch between people's perception of poverty (no improvement) and the headline figures produced by macroeconomists. One reason for this could be the disparity in mortality rates between the middle class and the poor...

One objection to this is that increased incomes tend to reduce mortality... but the object is to find good policies, and all the consequences need to be taken into account. This includes the effect on the poorest in the short, medium and long terms.

Percentage changes in income are cumulative, and from this fact derives some of their importance. So are changes in survival rates, with the difference that they are irreversible. ...

The aim of anti-poverty measures is not to eliminate poverty, but to find ways of improving people's lives. You could eliminate poverty by letting the poor die.

Total child mortality can go down, but go up in the bottom 10%...

Any measure of my well-being has to take into account my likelihood of dying. This risk can be inferred roughly from the number of people similar to me who died in the last year. ...

The difference between previous periods of history and the current situation for poor countries is that then, people from all income groups died early, whereas now it is overwhelmingly the poorest.

Why economics should count dead people in its outcome data....

[diagram of short and long lives]

...Mortality rates reveal degrees of risk for individuals in the group. If the age-specific death rate curve improves nationally, but gets worse for the poor, then poverty has increased.

If the curve gets better nationally and improves at a slower rate for the poor, then inequality has increased.

Policies have differing effects over different timescales. To be meaningful in the assessment of the impact of policies, mortality rates over the period being studied must be measured.

... Measures of "income inequality" don't apply where mortality rate differences are so unequal.

.....

Notes 10 April 2001

... If our aim is to measure the effect of a variable (a policy), then if we do not count those who die, we are only measuring the effect of the policy on those who in the event survive...

... In the worst case...enough of the poorest die that even if the less-poor get poorer, all measures (proportion under \$1, poverty gap etc) look better at the end than they were when the group included the poorest...

.....

Subj: Economics of survival

11 April 2001

To: jeffrey_sachs@harvard.edu

Dear Professor Sachs

I wonder if this of interest to the WHO Commission.

Here are some theoretical points about mortality rates and the International Development Goals, and then some practical points which are less simplistic.

Among the International Development Goals, progress has been faster on reducing the proportion of people in extreme poverty, and slower on child mortality.

The question no-one seems to be asking is this: **Is the proportion of poor people getting smaller partly because child mortality is worse than we hoped?**

Most of the goals [*later correction: "several indicators"* - *21 indicators for the Millennium Goals*] are susceptible to the problem that if the worst-off die, we are closer to

the target.

There are good grounds for thinking that the child mortality goal being on track provides a statistical safeguard among the goals - if this goal goes according to plan, it ensures that we do not get a false impression of progress towards the other goals simply through high death rates among the poorest.

Grounds for believing this include the following. Firstly, child mortality is concentrated among the poorest, so an improvement in the total may well reflect improvement among the target groups. Secondly, the child mortality rate is believed to give an indication of the rate of early deaths among adults Policies which reduce child mortality are likely to also reduce early mortality among adults.

If all this is true, then the closer we are to the required rate of progress on child mortality, the more poor people there are. Slow progress on child mortality (as now) makes for fewer poor people, so the poverty goal looks closer - simply because fewer poor people are alive, not because more of the survivors have raised their living standards.

My hunch is that slower progress on total child mortality means much slower progress on child mortality among the poorest. If this is so, then the effect is stronger.

To me, no outcome measure is humane unless it takes into account what happened to people who started the period but didn't make it to the end. If the poorest die, the average income of those alive at the end of the period will be higher than the average when the group included the poorest, even if none of the survivors' income has gone up. It even looks higher, if enough of the poorest die, when the average among the survivors goes down somewhat - simply because the poorest are no longer there to pull the average down.

If we measure the income of those alive in 1995 and then the income of those alive in 2000, we will not notice the decline in income of someone who died in 1998. The average income of those alive will be exactly the same as if he had survived and raised his income to the average of the group. In fact, since most people in poor countries work on the land, vulnerability is seasonal, and therefore the people who die may have a declining income for a few weeks or months before they die. This is too fast for measurements taken every five years.

My suggestion is this: For any outcome measure - reducing poverty, achieving 100% schooling - account needs to be taken of those within the relevant group who did not achieve the target, whether through death or any other path.

[Later note: "Reducing poverty" is strictly speaking not an outcome measure but an expression of an opinion. If poverty is a lack of prosperity, and prosperity is subjective, then by definition poverty cannot be measured.].

In practice, the relationship between child mortality and statistical progress on the goals would appear to need careful research (see below).

Practical considerations

In real life, there may not be such a clear division between the poorest and the less-poor. However, DHS data seem to point to assets as important determinants of child mortality - the lowest 10% can be far more vulnerable than the next 10% (Bonilla-Chacín and Hammer, "Life and Death among the Poorest", 1999, revised version 2001 forthcoming, World Bank). There may be a clear division, for example, in some geographical areas, between the landed and the landless.

In real life, policies which reduce the proportion of people living under \$1 a day may also save the most vulnerable from death. This cannot be assumed, and may depend on the relative vulnerability of the poorest (see previous point).

In real life, the poorest may produce more children to replace those who have died. The total number of poor children could conceivably be the same in 2015 whatever the child mortality rate. But if adults as well as children die in hard times this is unlikely.

The statistical relationship between mortality and outcome measures can only be determined by careful research, together with an intimate knowledge of household behaviour.

Statistical progress on the goals needs to be translated into human terms. If there is any suspicion that apparent progress on any of the goals is helped by lack of progress on any of the others, then this is an argument for tackling the goals that are furthest behind, not the ones that are furthest ahead.

.....

On 9 and 11 April 2001 I called the OECD and World Bank "MDG architects", Brian Hammond and Eric Swanson, and discussed the widespread and staggering error of using statistics which looked better if the poor die.

Subj: Economics and mortality rates

20 April 2001

To: Arrow@stanford.edu

...Can average welfare measures give valid conclusions about what is good for the poor without taking account of mortality rates?

In studying poor countries, economists ask, for example, “was x or y good for the poor?” on the basis of average income for the bottom quintile of those living in a country at various times. And yet, if the poorest die at a disproportionate rate, 1) the average income of those living will automatically be higher - even if none of those in the group at the end of the period increased their incomes during the period; and 2) the average at the end is not affected by anyone’s decline in income over the period, as long as they die before the end.

My question is this: can a researcher credibly claim that there has been benefit to “the poor” without knowing how many died, and at what level of income?

...

"Staff from the Secretariats of the UN (Secretary General's Office and UNDG), IMF, OECD-DAC, and the World Bank met in New York on 21 June 2001 to discuss aligning the goals."

OECD Secretariat

<http://millenniumdeclaration.org/mdgwaterbaseline.pdf> .

"The Millennium Declaration targets were agreed on amongst governments without wider consultation and the subsequent MDGs were finalised in 2001 by a small UN inter-agency group (Bissio, 2003). This process encompassed backsliding by States on earlier commitments to address income poverty, nutrition and reproductive rights (Antrobus, 2003; Pogge, 2004) while the UN inter-agency group quietly omitted some Declaration targets, such as affordable water, fair trade and support to orphans (UN-OHCHR, 2008). "

Critics pointed to an array of targets that were modestly framed. This range from reducing various poverty gaps by fifty per cent or a mere 11 per cent in case of slum dwellers. A transformative sounding goal on gender equality and empowerment was reduced to

eliminating gender disparity in education while the lone universal target was only concerned with access to primary education. ...

This cautiousness was reinforced by the choice of a 1990 baseline, which allowed many States to reach the targets shortly after, or even before, the goals were announced.

Malcolm Langford

Background Paper for Governance and human rights: Criteria and measurement proposals for a post-2015 development agenda, OHCHR/UNDP Expert Consultation, New York, 13-14 November 2012

<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/776langford.pdf>

Note: The "UN inter-agency group" included representatives of the OECD, World Bank and IMF.

"the MDGs are also often described as being an outcome of various global summits in the 1990s. Yet several authors believe that for political reasons some 'hard-fought goals' got left behind, such as the importance of reproductive health agreed upon in the International Conference on Population and Development (Cairo, 1994) and the Fourth World Conference on Women (Beijing, 1995; [Haines & Cassels, 2004](#); [Mohindra & Nikiema, 2010](#)). [Pogge \(2004\)](#) sees MDG 1 ('Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger') as being far less ambitious when compared to the poverty reduction goal set at the 1996 World Food Summit in Rome. With the MDGs, the choice was made to halve the proportion of people suffering from hunger and poverty instead of halving the absolute numbers of people suffering. Pogge calculates that this would result in a reduction of only 101.5 million instead of 547 million people living on less than \$1 per day. In regard to education, [Robinson \(2005\)](#) explains that only two out of the three timed goals discussed at the Dakar World Education Forum in 2000 were included in the MDGs; the target of adult literacy, especially for women, and equitable access to basic and continuing education for all adults were not integrated into the MDGs.

[Fukuda-Parr \(2010\)](#) doubts that the original intent of eight goals – to be indicators of progress in the implementation of the objectives presented in the Millennium Declaration – was indeed achieved in the formulation of the MDGs. Various authors explain that only one of the seven key objectives of the Declaration (that of development and poverty eradication) became fundamental to the MDG framework, whereas other goals such as peace, security, disarmament, human rights and democracy were left behind ([Hill, Mansoor, & Claudio, 2010](#); [Waage et al., 2010](#)). [Langford \(2010\)](#) writes that the MDGs of 'gender equality and the empowerment of women' were narrowed down to gender equality in education, and the target for 'affordable water' was dropped from the MDG list in order to allow for privatisation in the sector."

Glob Public Health. 2013 Dec; 8(10): 1109–1122.
Published online 2013 Nov 25. doi: [10.1080/17441692.2013.845676](https://doi.org/10.1080/17441692.2013.845676)
PMCID: PMC3877943
Limitations of the Millennium Development Goals: a literature review
Maya Fehling, Brett D. Nelson and Sridhar Venkatapuram
<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3877943/>

The Secretary-General's Road Map of September 2001 proposing the MDG structure:

"under-five mortality decreased...between 1990 and 2000"

"The list of millennium development goals does not undercut in any way agreements on other goals and targets reached at the global conferences of the 1990s."

Comment: Not true in the case of the hunger pledge of 1996, which was harder because due to total population growth, the proportion falls even if the number of hungry stays the same.
Also: *"The World Summit for Children (UN, 1990) committed states to halving the extent of child malnutrition by the year 2000".*

<ftp://ftp.fao.org/es/esa/cfs/MASON%2520Measuring%2520hunger%2520and%2520malnutriti on.pdf>

"Millennium Development Goals..."

*The proposed formulation of the 8 goals, 18 targets and 40+ indicators are listed below. ...
...the normal baseline year for the targets will be 1990..."*

"proposed list of goals, targets...listed below...between 1990 and 2015"

[relevant targets mention 1990 except for water target]

Kofi Annan
Report of the Secretary-General: Implementation of the United Nations Millennium Declaration

6 September 2001
<http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/sreport2001.pdf>

Longer extracts:

"Follow-up to the outcome of the Millennium Summit..."

Executive summary

The road map towards the implementation of the United Nations Millennium Declaration....outlines potential strategies for action that are designed to meet the goals and commitments made by the 147 heads of State and Government, and 189 Member States in total, who adopted the Millennium Declaration.

The report addresses fully each and every one of the goals and commitments contained in the Millennium Declaration...

Section III, "Development and poverty eradication: the millennium development goals"...

...as you have requested, I will submit an annual report...which will chart progress, made or not made, in fulfilling the Millennium commitments...

The entire United Nations family...the private sector and civil society must join together to meet the lofty commitments that are embodied in the Millennium Declaration. Success requires solidarity. ...

... 1. The United Nations Millennium Declaration (General Assembly resolution 55/2), which was adopted by all 189 Member States of the United Nations (147 of them represented directly by their head of State or Government) on 8 September 2000, embodies a large number of specific commitments aimed at improving the lot of humanity in the new century.

2. In paragraph 18 of its resolution 55/162 on the follow-up to the outcome of the Millennium Summit, the General Assembly asked me to prepare a "road map" to set out in detail how these commitments could be fulfilled. That is the purpose of the present report. ...

The present report not only examines each of the commitments contained in the Millennium Declaration in its own right but also considers how they interact with each other. ...

At its twenty-fourth special session, held in 2000, the General Assembly reaffirmed the commitments agreed at the World Summit for Social Development and produced very

significant new initiatives for the eradication of poverty. In particular, there was agreement for the first time on a global target of halving the proportion of people living in extreme poverty by 2015, and the commitment to the global targets for poverty reduction was subsequently endorsed by all countries in the United Nations Millennium Declaration adopted in September 2000. ...

...these priorities include the national efforts to reach the Millennium Declaration goals. ...

Annex

Millennium development goals

- 1. As part of the preparation of the present report, consultations were held among members of the United Nations Secretariat and representatives of IMF, OECD and the World Bank in order to harmonize reporting on the development goals in the Millennium Declaration and the international development goals. ...*
- 2. The list of millennium development goals does not undercut in any way agreements on other goals and targets reached at the global conferences of the 1990s..."*

[Comment: The Secretary-General was not accurate. The MDGs clearly do undercut the 1996 World Food Summit target, and perhaps others such as clean water for all by the year 2000. They also undercut the Millennium Declaration, so while Mr Annan's statement was not strictly speaking inaccurate in relation to the Declaration as it was not in the 1990s, it does distract by a statement which was irrelevant to a main question which should have arisen about the scope and/or ambition of these proposed targets.]

"For the purpose of monitoring progress, the normal baseline year for the targets will be 1990, which is the baseline that has been used by the global conferences of the 1990s."

[Comment: Not in all cases. Contrary to the FAO position in later years, the World Food Summit pledge, which must count as one of those "reaffirmed" by member states in subsequent years, has a baseline of 1996 - as the FAO's own documents from the 1990s show. Also the children's conference in 1990 implied water for all by the year 2000? - check this]

"The United Nations will report on progress towards the millennium development goals at the global and country levels..."

Where relevant, indicators should be calculated for subnational levels — i.e., by urban and rural area, by region, by socio-economic group, and by age and gender.

The proposed formulation of the 8 goals, 18 targets and 40+ indicators are listed below. ...

...between 1990 and 2015"

[Comment: Targets with a baseline tend to mention 1990 except for water, which states:]

"Target 10. Halve by 2015 the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water".

Report of the Secretary-General: Implementation of the United Nations Millennium Declaration

6 September 2001

<http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/sgreport2001.pdf>

MDG water target had 2000 baseline, OECD negotiator officially told 22 countries and European Union

Why did the MDG water target not mention 1990?

The official MDG negotiator for the rich countries' club, the OECD, told member countries of its Development Assistance Committee that it had a 2000 baseline.

OECD report on the outcome of negotiations to agree the MDG framework:

Staff from the Secretariats of the UN (Secretary General's Office and UNDG), IMF, OECD-DAC, and the World Bank met in New York on 21 June 2001 to discuss aligning the goals. In subsequent correspondence they reached agreement on a presentation of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)...

10. It was agreed that there should be a standard baseline year of 1990 against which to

measure progress (with an exception of using 2000 for the safe water goal as that was agreed in a recent UN conference). ”

http://www.mofat.go.kr/webmodule/common/download.jsp?boardid=106&tablename=TYPE_DATABOARD&seqno=075ffcfdfa0fa2ff1fd103b&fileseq=05b06bfb1fd504dfa303b07b

The above document may need the extension .pdf to be added.

It is also available at:

<https://archive.is/fVTZl>

Longer extracts:

"DCD/DAC(2001)18

Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development

14-Sep-2001

**DEVELOPMENT CO-OPERATION DIRECTORATE
DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE COMMITTEE**

MILLENIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS

(Note by the Secretariat)

17 September 2001

This information note charts the progress, since Members of the DAC last received an update in April 2001, on

aligning the International Development Goals (IDGs) with the targets in the Millennium Declaration. The UN,

IMF, OECD and World Bank Secretariats have reached agreement on a formulation of eight Millennium

Development Goals (MDGs) and associated targets and indicators. The UN is publishing the

formulation in the

week beginning 17 September as part of its "road map" of reporting on the Millennium Declaration. The other

agencies are considering issuing co-ordinated press releases at that time. Future reporting on progress will be

against the MDGs...

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E-mail: brian.hammond@oecd.org

**MILLENIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS
From IDGs to MDGs**

1.

Members of the DAC received an update on aligning the International Development Goals (IDGs) with the targets in the Millennium Declaration at their 762nd meeting held on 3 April 2001 (see

Room Document No. 3, from which the Chairman's letter - JCF(01)47 - to heads of UN agencies is

attached as Annex 1 for ease of reference). That letter asked the UN to work on aligning the goals in partnership with the agencies that co-operated on the production of *A Better World for All*.

2.

This co-operation has materialised. Staff from the Secretariats of the UN (Secretary General's Office and UNDG), IMF, OECD-DAC, and the World Bank met in New York on 21 June 2001 to discuss

aligning the goals. In subsequent correspondence they reached agreement on a presentation of the

Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) as in the Annex 2. This presentation will be published in a UN

Press Release during the week beginning 17 September, possibly supported by co-ordinated press releases

from the other agencies.

3.

The agreement is a major step forward. Following the publication of *Shaping the 21st Century*,

and again after the selection of indicators in 1998, the DAC HLM asked for ownership of the IDGs to be

broadened, particularly in the UN. The Millennium Declaration provided UN endorsement of the goal of

halving the proportion of people living under \$1 a day by 2015....

4.

The agreement strikes a balance between having to respect the text of the Millennium Declaration

and retaining the compact presentation and focus of the IDGs. This involved compromises. Extensive UN

consultations with the G77 and OECD country representatives in New York showed their concern was

primarily to cover all the text of Section III of the Millennium Declaration (see Annex 3) neither to add to

it, nor subtract from it, recognising that 189 countries, including 147 Heads of State, signed it

What's changed?

5.

Continuity with the IDGs was achieved as far as possible by listing the many targets of the

Millennium Declaration under eight goals and using indicators to add precision where it was lacking.

7.

All but one of the 21 indicators for the IDGs have been retained.

Staff from the Secretariats of the UN (Secretary General's Office and UNDG), IMF, OECD-DAC, and the World Bank met in New York on 21 June 2001 to discuss aligning the goals. In subsequent correspondence they reached agreement on a presentation of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)...

10. It was agreed that there should be a standard baseline year of 1990 against which to measure progress (with an exception of using 2000 for the safe water goal as that was agreed in a recent UN conference).

Reporting

11. An important part of the agreement was the continuation of close collaboration on reporting. The UN will produce an annual report, starting in 2002, based on participation by all the relevant agencies, in order to have a common global assessment. The common assessment will, in effect, be the successor to A Better World for All, but will not be a joint publication as the UN have the mandate and responsibility to report on the Millennium Declaration."

http://www.mofat.go.kr/webmodule/common/download.jsp?boardid=106&tablename=TYPE_DATABOARD&seqno=075ffcfdfa0fa2ff1fd103b&fileseq=05b06bfb1fd504dfa303b07b

The above document may need the extension .pdf to be added.

It is also available at:

<https://archive.is/fVTZl>

<http://millenniumdeclaration.org/mdgwaterbaseline.pdf> .

Who was notified in 2001 that the baseline for the MDG water target was 2000?

The following seem to have been members of the Development Assistance Committee at the time:

Australia

Austria
Belgium
Canada
Denmark
France
Finland
Germany
Greece
Ireland
Italy
Japan
Luxembourg
The Netherlands
New Zealand
Norway
Portugal
Sweden
Switzerland
Spain
United Kingdom
United States
European Union

South Korea joined in 2010, and the document was hosted on its government website in 2015-6.

Main list from:
DAC in Dates

The History of OECD's Development Assistance Committee
2006
<http://www.oecd.org/dac/1896808.pdf>

A later document also notes the absence of a baseline for the water target.

"Baseline date

The definition of Target 10 does not explicitly provide for a baseline date against which progress should be monitored. Although the MDGs were formulated in 2000 [!], and in spite of the initial statement of UN Secretary General ("Halve, by 2015,...") – [see above section 1.2]), the baseline for the MDG target on water and sanitation, and for most MDG targets in general, has been set as 1990 22.

According to the French Water Academy, who used 2000 as baseline year in its March 2004 report 23, selecting 1990 as the baseline year is not, as could be thought, neutral and [perhaps the writers mean "but"] less demanding: in fact it results in a decrease of the target for access to water at global level from 91 per cent to 89.5 per cent in 2015 and of the target for access to sanitation from 81 per cent to 77.5 per cent. ...

22 JMP report, "Meeting the MDG drinking water and sanitation target – A mid-term assessment of progress", 2004.

23 Water Academy 2004, "The cost of meeting the Johannesburg targets for drinking water", by Henri Smets. "

Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
Meeting the Millennium Development Goal Drinking Water and Sanitation Target in the EECCA region:a goal within reach ?

Financing water supply and sanitation in EECCA

Conference of EECCA Ministers of Economy/Finance, Environment and Water and their partners from the OECD

17-18 November 2005, Yerevan, Armenia

<http://www.oecd.org/environment/outreach/35372500.pdf>

The US Government after the easier 1990-baseline MDGs were proposed:

"Justice demands that global terrorism be silenced so that the Millennium Declaration of the United Nations can be heard."

October 1, 2001

<http://2001-2009.state.gov/p/io/rls/rm/2001/5127.htm>

Subj: Re: Life tables

5 October 2001

To: carl_e@ifs.org.uk

Dear Carl

Thanks very much for these and your time yesterday - it was good to talk to you.

I have wondered whether commercial (pensions and insurance) actuaries may have information that is relevant as regards differential mortality and income in industrialised countries.....

What I am attempting overall is to examine rigorously the process by which conclusions are drawn as to increases or decreases in welfare, from data collected on people living at different times, in any population where survival rates are highly variable.... I believe that it is possible for social science to come to more reliable conclusions about aggregate trends in welfare in poor countries, and to narrow the gap between statistical methods and observational methods; I also believe that this cannot be done without rethinking some aspects of methodology from first principles.

.....

From letter sent to the *Economist* newspaper, 10 October 2001

Sir,

"This year the average size of fish in the pond is higher. This confirms that, on average, the fish grew". Later, we realised big fish lived longer than small fish.

Perhaps survival rates are relevant to what is good for the poor ("Grinding the Poor", September 27) - and not just for the obvious reason.

....

Many people think the following two inferences are obviously valid.

“Average income among the poorest fifth alive now is 1% higher than for the poorest fifth alive last year. Therefore, poor people’s incomes rose on average by 1%.”.

“The proportion of poor people went down. Therefore, poor people’s incomes rose.”

Maybe it is time to find out. Survival data, like cohort data, never give rise to the “fish” mistake.

...

Subj: Statistics and survival

10 October 2001

To: sudhir.anand@economics.ox.ac.uk

File: C:\WINDOWS\Desktop\Letter from Matt Berkley.doc (21504 bytes)

Dear Professor Anand

Thank you for listening to me the other day.

I have sent a letter to the *Economist*, which I attach here.

I believe that I am raising a fundamental issue for social science about the validity of using statistical averages to infer benefit to individuals, in populations with variable mortality....

I have discussed differential mortality with a DFID statistician, the head of statistics at the OECD and the head of statistics at the World Bank. None of them can provide any data on possible effects on average income statistics, or on poverty reduction....

October 2001: UN agencies confirm the Declaration has a 2000 baseline

“Baseline year – 1990 or 2000?

...In two cases - maternal mortality and under-five mortality - the term "current rates" is

used, directly specifying a 2000 baseline. For the remainder, the targets are stated in the form of "to halve by 2015..." This would imply a 2000 baseline year of the Millennium Declaration.."

Guidance Note sent by heads of UNDP, UNICEF, UNFPA, WFP to country offices
United Nations Development Group
Reporting on the Millennium Development Goals at the Country Level
October 2001

http://web.archive.org/web/*/http://undg.org/archive_docs/2356-English.doc

The guidance note was sent by UN Development Group (committee of heads of UN agencies, programmes and funds) chairman Mark Malloch Brown and three other heads of UN agencies on 6 November 2001:

http://web.archive.org/web/20140209140920/http://undg.org/archive_docs/1607-MDGs_-letter - MDGs - letter.pdf

.....

From document written 16 October 2001 written as reminder of contents of email sent to Andrew Smith MP on 15 October 2001.

Email was forwarded to Clare Short MP, Secretary of State for International Development and Governor of the World Bank:

"An influential World Bank paper on growth and poverty, accepted by DFID, claims that "incomes of the poor rise one for one with overall growth". This is widely stated, yet is a mistaken inference from the data. The study only looked at averages for living people at different times.

What it ignored was the fact that poor people in some countries live longer than in others. If the poor live longer, the average, logically, will be reduced. If the poorest die earlier, the

average will rise: a country which is more unequal in income, life length or both will look better...

Many economists think this is a minor technical issue. It is not: it is a fundamental question of what is acceptable social science.

...The logical fallacy that in poor countries (populations with unknown differential mortality rates) "average income went up" is the same as "people's incomes went up"

...The same applies to poverty reduction - no-one knows how much this is due to raised income, and how much to excess mortality among the poor due to AIDS, hunger or bad government. The assumption is made that people's incomes are raised, but this is just an assumption.

We need mortality data or cohort data to ensure that incomes are being raised..."

.....

"This General Assembly was to have been dedicated to the goals of the millennium declaration of last year. And in a sense, it certainly still is, because those goals are, in our view, the antithesis of terrorism. They are freedom, equality, solidarity, tolerance, shared responsibility for the world community. Those are still the goals of the U.N. and certainly the goals of U.S. actions within the U.N."

Background Briefing: United Nations General Assembly Scenesetter

Senior Administration Official

Foreign Press Center Background Briefing

US Department of State

Washington, DC

November 7, 2001

<https://wayback.archive-it.org/1078/20080605224135/http://fpc.state.gov/fpc/7529.htm>

".JEAN DE RUYT (Belgium), speaking on behalf of the European Union, said the Union

would like the Millennium Declaration to be the touchstone for any practical steps taken by the United Nations and its specialized agencies, and by all governments."

19 November 2001
UN Press Release
<http://www.un.org/press/en/2001/GA9973.doc.htm>

More extracts:

"PLEDGES MADE AT 2000 MILLENNIUM SUMMIT MUST BE TRANSFORMED INTO REALITY, SPEAKERS STRESS, AS GENERAL ASSEMBLY CONSIDERS SUMMIT FOLLOW-UP

Takes Up 'Road Map' to Millennium Declaration Implementation"

[Comment: The resolution resulting from this debate of 19 November 2001 was not until 14 December. The mention of the Road Map in that resolution, 56/95, was not exactly that the Assembly "took up" the Road Map.]

...Before the Assembly there is a report of the Secretary-General on the road map towards the implementation of the United Nations Millennium Declaration (document A/56/326). The report contains an integrated and comprehensive overview of the current situation. It outlines potential strategies for action that are designed to meet the goals and commitments made by the 147 heads of State and government, and 189 Member States in total, who adopted the Millennium Declaration"

"Speaking on behalf of the European Union, the Belgian representative said that one must not forget the goals of the Millennium Declaration. ... The Millennium Declaration offered the opportunity to make multifaceted action more effective and coherent, with a view to realizing the objectives that governments had set themselves, particularly in the area of development and human rights.

One must not forget that the goals of the Millennium Declaration were ambitious, he continued."

JEAN DE RUYT (Belgium), speaking on behalf of the European Union, said the Union would like the Millennium Declaration to be the touchstone for any practical steps taken by the United Nations and its specialized agencies, and by all governments."

"KISHORE MAHBUBANI (Singapore) said that the history of the United Nations was replete with summits and declarations. They came, they went, and nothing much changed. It was,

therefore, easy to become cynical about such summits and their results. If the Millennium Summit and its results were not to be tarnished with such cynicism, the international community would have to be serious about matching beautiful words with beautiful deeds. To ensure that the United Nations did not once again fail to implement agreed commitments, Member States should complement the excellent “road map” produced by the Secretariat with an objective analysis of the “roadblocks” that had prevented the implementation of previous commitments.

"GERT ROSENTHAL (Guatemala) said ...His delegation, however, observed that in requesting, in its resolution 55/162, a “road map,” the General Assembly may have erred, for the Millennium Declaration itself constituted such a map."

General Assembly

19 November 2001

Press Release

<http://www.un.org/press/en/2001/GA9973.doc.htm>

Note: Gert Rosenthal has been named as involved in the drawing up of the Declaration:

<http://web.archive.org/web/20080510151408/http://www.ippf.org/en/What-we-do/Advocacy/Reproductive+Health+and+the+Millennium+Development+Goals.htm>

www.un.org/esa/desa/papers/2012/wp117_2012.pdf

"If the Millennium Declaration of the United Nations were not to become another waste paper lying buried in the archives, it would have to be implemented in all sincerity and entirety, said the representative of Pakistan this afternoon, as the General Assembly continued its consideration of the follow-up to the Millennium Summit."

"The pace of the follow-up to the outcome of the Millennium Summit fell far short of the goals set in the Millennium Declaration, said the representative of China. ... WANG YINGFAN (China) said ..."

"Switzerland, said...Road Map presented by the Secretary-General. ...closely followed the main guidelines of the Millennium Declaration. ...The best way forward would be to concentrate on the objectives put forward during the Millennium Summit."

"(Brazil) said that the road map prepared by the Secretary-General was extremely useful. ... Many of the goals of the Millennium Declaration had been with us for years, he said. Brazil believed that to be effective, assessment must be continuous and it therefore endorsed the Secretary-General's proposal to follow up the road map with yearly reports, supported by strategic five-year evaluations on the long-term implementation of the millennium goals."

"(Argentina) reaffirmed the commitments of the Millennium Declaration and said it was a matter of political will for States to implement the road map the Secretary-General had set out."

Kazakhstan "supported the strategies of the "road map" prepared by the Secretary-General. It was committed to a peaceful, stable and environmentally safe world, and supported all of the objectives of the Millennium Summit."

"(Cameroon) said that in the Millennium Declaration, a year ago, the world's leaders had embodied all the highest aspirations of the world's people for peace and development. The documents before the Assembly today represented the Secretary-General's roadmap for implementing the ideal then set out."

United Nations
Press Release 19 November 2001
<http://www.un.org/press/en/2001/GA9974.doc.htm>

The Assembly resolution welcoming the Road Map, 56/95, did not mention "MDGs", eight goals, an Annex to the Road Map, or 1990.

Instead it called for the Declaration, which has a 2000 baseline, to be better publicised.

It requested the Secretary-General to report every five years on "*all the commitments made in the Declaration*".

"Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

56/95. Follow-up to the outcome of the Millennium Summit

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 55/2 of 8 September 2000, by which it adopted the United Nations Millennium Declaration as the outcome of the Millennium Summit of the United Nations, held at Headquarters from 6 to 8 September 2000,

Recalling also its resolution 55/162 of 14 December 2000, in which it, inter alia, requested the Secretary-General to prepare a long-term “road map” towards the implementation of the Millennium Declaration within the United Nations system and to submit it to the General Assembly at its fifty-sixth session,

Reaffirming the need to maintain the will and momentum of the Millennium Summit, as well as the importance of a comprehensive and balanced approach in the implementation of and follow-up to the Millennium Declaration,

- 1. Takes note with appreciation of the report of the Secretary-General entitled “Road map towards the implementation of the United Nations Millennium Declaration”;*
- 2. Recommends that the “road map” be considered as a useful guide in the implementation of the Millennium Declaration by the United Nations system, and invites Member States, as well as the Bretton Woods institutions, the World Trade Organization and other interested parties to consider the “road map” when formulating plans for implementing goals related to the Declaration;*
- 3. Requests the Secretary-General to prepare an annual report and a comprehensive report every five years on progress achieved by the United Nations system and Member States towards implementing the Millennium Declaration, drawing upon the “road map” and in accordance with resolution 55/162, and requests that the annual reports focus on cross-cutting and cross-sectoral issues, as well as on the major areas set forth in the “road map”, while the quinquennial comprehensive reports examine progress achieved towards implementing all the commitments made in the Declaration;*
- 4. Invites the United Nations system, in cooperation with Member States, to adopt specific measures to give widespread publicity to the Millennium Declaration and to increase the dissemination of information on the Declaration;*
- 5. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-seventh session the item entitled “Follow-up to the outcome of the Millennium Summit”. ”*

General Assembly Resolution 56/95

14 December 2001

http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/56/95&Lang=E

Resolution 55/162 reads:

"The General Assembly...requests the Secretary-General to prepare a comprehensive report every five years, supplemented by an annual report on progress achieved towards implementing the Millennium Declaration..."

(a) The annual reports should reflect the broad array of specific goals and commitments enunciated in the Millennium Declaration...

(b) All reports should focus, in this respect, on the results and benchmarks achieved, identify gaps in implementation....

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly
55/162 Follow-up to the outcome of the Millennium Summit
14 December 2000
<http://www.un.org/Docs/journal/asp/ws.asp?m=A/RES/55/162>

2001: General Assembly did not specifically mention "MDGs", easier MDG targets, or the report annex containing the MDG framework

"high-profile politicians in rich countries ...have signed up to such laudable objectives as last year's Millennium Development Goals to reduce child mortality by two-thirds within 15 years"

The Economist
December 20 2001
www.economist.com/node/917279

A week after welcoming the Road Map, member states again endorsed a 2000 baseline for water, and reaffirmed the Declaration:

"The General Assembly...Reaffirming the goal of reducing by half, between 2000 and 2015, the proportion of people who are unable to reach or to afford safe drinking water..."

Resolution 56/192

21 December 2001

http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/56/192

<http://www.worldlii.org/int/other/UNGA/2001/301.pdf>

"The General Assembly adopted resolution 56/192...on 21 December 2001. Reaffirming the Millennium Declaration goal of reducing by half, between 2000 and 2015, the proportion of people who are unable to reach or to afford safe drinking water, the Assembly welcomed the activities undertaken by States, the UN Secretariat, organizations of the UN system that are engaged in inter-agency work related to freshwater"

Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme

Note by the Secretariat

30 January 2002

<http://www.unep.org/GC/GCSS-VII/Documents/K0260039.doc>

"The General Assembly,

Recognizing the urgent need to harness the potential of knowledge and technology for promoting the goals of the United Nations Millennium Declaration"

A/RES/56/183

21 December 2001

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

56/183. World Summit on the Information Society

<http://www.un-documents.net/a56r183.htm>

"The General Assembly...Reaffirming also the United Nations Millennium Declaration"

Resolution 56/188. Women in Development

21 December 2001

http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/56/188

"Reaffirming also the United Nations Millennium Declaration adopted by heads of State and Government"

General Assembly Resolution 56/189.

Human resources development

21 December 2001

www.worldlii.org/int/other/UNGARsn/2001/272.pdf

http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/56/189

"Reaffirming the United Nations Millennium Declaration, in particular the targets and commitments relating to development and poverty eradication ...

Requests the Secretary-General to provide the General Assembly at its fifty-seventh session with an overview of the challenges and constraints as well as progress made towards achieving the major development goals and objectives adopted by the United Nations during the past decade"

General Assembly Resolution 56/191.

Implementation of the Declaration on International Economic Cooperation, in particular the Revitalization of Economic Growth and Development of the Developing Countries, and implementation of the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade

21 December 2001

<http://www.worldlii.org/int/other/UNGARsn/2001/274.pdf>

http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/56/191

Three months later nations at the Monterrey conference agreed to publicise the goals they had explicitly adopted, not the easier MDGs.

"We shall support ...a global information campaign on the internationally agreed development goals and objectives, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration."

<http://www.un.org/esa/ffd/monterrey/MonterreyConsensus.pdf>

UN misleads that the easier MDGs are in the Declaration:

"The Millennium Development Goals are eight key development objectives set out in the Millennium Declaration that was endorsed by over 160 world leaders at the historic United Nations Millennium Summit in September 2000. The goals comprise time-bound global targets to improve health, education and the environment across the world, with the overarching goal of halving extreme poverty by 2015."

UN Press Release
4 February 2002
SG/A/786-DEV/2370
<http://www.un.org/press/en/2002/sga786.doc.htm>

"The Deputy Secretary-General:Let me tell you, first, what this Conference is about...

First, on what it is about: It is about mobilizing resources for development. But when we say "development", remember the Millennium Declaration, which set very, very specific goals."

"That is why I think the Millennium Summit outcome was so important: because it set really crystal-clear goals."

TRANSCRIPT OF PRESS CONFERENCE BY DEPUTY SECRETARY-GENERAL ON
FINANCING FOR DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE

11 March 2002

<http://www.un.org/press/en/2002/dsgsm152.doc.htm>

"We shall support the United Nations in the implementation of a global information campaign on the internationally agreed development goals and objectives, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration. In that respect, we would like to encourage the active involvement of all relevant stakeholders, including civil society organizations and the private sector."

Final text of agreements and commitments adopted at the International Conference on
Financing for Development

Monterrey, Mexico, 18-22 March 2002

<http://www.un.org/esa/ffd/monterrey/MonterreyConsensus.pdf>

"Along with many of you, I'll be in Monterrey, Mexico, next week as leaders from around the world focus on the important work of reducing global poverty..."

America supports the international development goals in the U.N. Millennium Declaration"

President George W. Bush

14 March 2002

<http://georgewbush-whitehouse.archives.gov/news/releases/2002/03/20020314-7.html>

The UNDP Administrator misleads:

"The Millennium Development Goals are not just idealistic aspirations. They are something new and different: clear, time-bound targets for achieving rapid, measurable improvements

in the lives of the world's poorest citizens from putting children in schools, to tackling killer diseases such as HIV/AIDS and malaria, to promoting women's rights to eradicating hunger.

Just as important, they have unprecedented political support: the MDGs were agreed to by 189 countries at the Millennium Summit in New York, making the battle against poverty a collective responsibility to be undertaken by the entire world.

Critically, the goals do not stand in isolation.

They are part of an historic Millennium Declaration"

Mark Malloch Brown

Head of UNDP

Statement by UNDP at the International Conference on Financing for Development;
Monterrey, Mexico; 18 March 2002

<http://www.un.org/ffd/statements/undpE.htm>

*"Mr. Chairman, Excellencies Heads of State and Government,
At the Millennium Summit, leaders across the world declared they would spare no effort...
The peoples of the world are looking to us in anticipation. They expect real steps towards
realising the goals in the Millennium Declaration."*

Kjell Magne Bondevik, Prime Minister of Norway

International Conference on Financing for Development, Monterrey, Mexico
March 2002

"The number people living in poverty reduced by more than a half in 10 years from 1990 to 2000"

Tran Xuan Gia

Minister of Planning and Investment of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam,
March 2002

<http://www.un.org/ffd/statements/vietnamE.htm>

"Les objectifs de la «Déclaration du Millénaire», à réaliser d'ici 2015, constituent la plate-forme de l'engagement de la communauté internationale en faveur du développement."

"Sans le respect des droits de l'homme, l'Etat de droit et la bonne gouvernance, les objectifs du Millénaire ne pourront être réalisés. Il s'agit de principes universels"

Declaration d' Italie a la Conference internationale sur le Financement du Developpement; Monterrey, Mexico; 22 Mars 2002

<http://www.un.org/ffd/statements/italyF.htm>

"During 2000 our Heads of State and Government made a commitment with the adoption of the Millennium Declaration, which includes the Millennium Development Goals. "

Statement by Trevor Manuel, Chairman of the Development Committee at the International Conference on Financing for Development; Monterrey, Mexico; 18 March 2002

<http://www.un.org/ffd/statements/cdcE.htm>

Mr Manuel was right about almost all the Goals, provided the targets are ignored.

"PRESS CONFERENCE BY UNDP ADMINISTRATOR AND SPECIAL ADVISER TO SECRETARY-GENERAL

"Given sufficient help and political will, it was possible to achieve the Millennium Development Goals everywhere, Harvard professor Jeffrey Sachs, Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on the Millennium Goals, told correspondents at a press conference in Monterrey this morning.

[The Millennium Development Goals are eight key development objectives set out in the Millennium Declaration

[!]

that was endorsed by over 160 world leaders at the historic United Nations Millennium Summit in September 2000. The goals comprise time-bound global targets to improve health, education and the environment across the world, with the overarching goal of halving extreme poverty by 2015.]"

UN news story

Press Conference by UNDP Administrator and special adviser to the SG - 20 March 2002
<http://www.un.org/ffd/pressconf/20a.htm>

"1.2 billion people around the World live in extreme poverty. They live on less than one dollar-a-day. They constitute approximately one fifth of the World population. In the United Nations Millennium Declaration we decided to reduce this share by half in 2015. ...the target of halving the number [sic] of poor by 2015."

Per Stir Møller, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Denmark.

Statement at the International Conference on Financing for Development Monterrey, Mexico
18th-22th March 2002

*"On behalf of Canada I would like to voice strong support for the Monterrey Consensus. A consensus that is unprecedented in scope and participation. That seeks to take an indispensable step forward together in securing a fundamental common cause of the United Nations.
As expressed in the Millennium Declaration."*

Monterrey, Mexico March 2002

"The Millennium Summit was a year and a half ago. We made a Declaration. We should wonder a year and a half later what have we done to begin to fulfil those noble challenges that we set ourselves to achieve by 2015"

On behalf of the Group of 77 and China
Statement by His Excellency Mr. Hugo Chávez Frías
President of the Republic of Venezuela Conference on Financing for Development;
Monterrey, Mexico;
21 March 2002
<http://www.un.org/ffd/statements/venezuelaE.htm>

"Eighteen months ago, the political leaders of the entire world agreed, at the Millennium Summit, that we must use the first 15 years of this new century to begin a major onslaught on poverty, illiteracy and disease. And they gave us a clear measure [!] of success or failure: the Millennium Development Goals." [!]

UN Secretary-General
Conference on Financing for Development- 21 March 2002
<http://www.un.org/ffd/pressrel/21a.htm>

"Pour réaliser les objectifs du Sommet du millénaire la Banque mondiale estime..."

"S'inspirant de cet idéal et des engagements du Sommet du Millénaire, la France propose..."

Monsieur Jacques Chirac
Président de la République Française
Declaration de France a la Conference internationale sur le Financement du Developpement;
Monterrey, Mexique; 22 Mars 2002
<http://www.un.org/ffd/statements/franceF.htm>

"To achieve the aims of the Millennium Summit, the World Bank estimates it will be necessary to double the amount currently spent on poverty eradication."

Jacques Chirac, President of France
22 March 2002
<http://www.un.org/ffd/statements/franceE.htm>

"JACQUES CHIRAC, President of France...Every avenue must be pursued to achieve the aims of the Millennium Summit, he said."

Presidents Bush, Chirac announce recent increases in aid at conference on financing for development
22 March 2002
<http://www.un.org/ffd/pressrel/22b.htm>

"Nous sommes conscients de l'impératif moral absolu que constitue la lutte contre l'extrême pauvreté, qui touche un cinquième de l'humanité, et nous avons pleinement souscrit aux objectifs de développement de la "Déclaration du Millénaire".

Nous savons qu'il est nécessaire, pour atteindre ces objectifs"

Romano Prodi
Président de la Commission européenne
Declaration de Communaute Europeenne a la Conference internationale sur le Financement du Developpement; Monterrey, Mexique; 22 Mars 2002
<http://www.un.org/ffd/statements/ceF.htm>

"We [the European Community]have fully endorsed the historic development goals written into the Millennium Declaration.

We know that in order to attain these objectives it is necessary...."

European Community
Romano Prodi
President of the European Commission at the International Conference on Financing for Development

Monterrey, Mexico
March 22, 2002
<http://www.un.org/ffd/statements/ecE.htm>

"the existing spread of poverty represents one of the major challenges to modern civilization. The solution of this problem within the framework set out in the Millennium Declaration by Heads of State will be a determining factor for creating a more secure, stable and fair world free from a terrorist threat."

Statement by Russia at the International Conference on Financing for Development;
Monterrey, Mexico; 22 March 2002
<http://www.un.org/ffd/statements/russiaE.htm>

"In September 2000 the UN General Assembly adopted the Millennium Declaration. Through this declaration rich and poor countries have accepted a shared responsibility to realise the eight Millennium Development Goals. "

[?]

Eveline Herfkens
Netherlands Minister for Development Co-operation
Statement by Netherlands at the International Conference on Financing for Development
<http://www.un.org/ffd/statements/netherlandsE.htm>

"In September 2000, the world leaders gathered in New York adopted the United Nations Millennium Declaration, which presents a clear vision for the future and, on that basis, sets forth international development targets to be achieved by 2015.

Eighteen months have passed since then, and progress toward achieving those targets has, we must admit, been rather slow. Something must be done to galvanize the global political will for an accelerated drive to meet the Millennium Declaration targets. ...

I am convinced that the UN Millennium Declaration points the way forward. ...

It is my profound hope and sincere expectation that through the Monterrey Consensus the global community will be able to achieve the internationally agreed upon goals and objectives, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration."

Han Seung-soo
President of the General Assembly of the United Nations
International Conference on Financing For Development, Monterrey, Mexico
March 2002
<http://www.un.org/ffd/statements/gaunE.htm>

"We the heads of State and Government, gathered in Monterrey, Mexico, on 21 and 22 March 2002..."

71. We recognize the link between financing of development and attaining internationally agreed development goals and objectives, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration, in measuring development progress and helping to guide development priorities. We welcome in that regard the intention of the United Nations to prepare a report annually. We encourage close cooperation between the United Nations, the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund and the World Trade Organization in the preparation of that report. We shall support the United Nations in the implementation of a global information campaign on the internationally agreed development goals and objectives, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration. In that respect, we would like to encourage the active involvement of all relevant stakeholders, including civil society organizations and the private sector.

72. To underpin those efforts, we request the Secretary-General of the United Nations to provide - with collaboration from the secretariats of the major institutional stakeholders concerned, fully utilizing the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination mechanism - sustained follow-up within the United Nations system to the agreements and commitments reached at the present Conference and to ensure effective secretariat support. That support will build on the innovative and participatory modalities and related coordination arrangements utilized in the preparations of the Conference. The Secretary-General of the United Nations is further requested to submit an annual report on those follow-up efforts."

Final text of agreements and commitments adopted at the International Conference on
Financing for Development
Monterrey, Mexico, 18-22 March 2002
<http://www.un.org/esa/ffd/monterrey/MonterreyConsensus.pdf>

.....

"The Monterrey conference brings together 50 world leaders..."

Ahead of the meeting, the prime ministers of Norway, Denmark, Sweden, Luxembourg and the Netherlands issued a joint statement urging leaders to "do what it takes" to meet their pledge to halve the proportion of people living in extreme poverty by 2015. ...

The president of the UN General Assembly Han Seung-Soo said ..."

BBC News
21 March 2002
<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/business/1885360.stm>

"The UN Conference on Financing for Development [in Monterrey] is an opportunity for world leaders to commit resources to fulfill the development goals adopted at the UN Millennium Summit in 2000. ...

Kjell Magne Bondevik is prime minister of Norway. The co-authors are Prime Ministers Anders Fogh Rasmussen of Denmark, Jean-Claude Juncker of Luxembourg, Wim Kok of the Netherlands and Goran Persson of Sweden."

20 March 2002
http://www.gouvernement.lu/898449/20020321juncker_herald
http://www.nytimes.com/2002/03/21/opinion/21iht-a8_6.html

"Political leaders from around the world are gathering in Monterrey, Mexico ... Their aim at the special development summit is to ...meet the Millennium development goals agreed by the United Nations two years ago."

BBC News on the Monterrey Consensus
23 March 2002
http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/talking_point/forum/1886017.stm

"...in the year 2000 we had 150 heads of states and government and princes come to the UN ... They have challenged us to reduce abject poverty by 50 per cent between now and 2015."

Secretary-General
Press conference
Boston, 6 May 2002
<http://www.un.org/sg/offthecuff/?nid=67>
<http://www.un.org/sg/cuffarch/sgcu0402.shtml>

"We, the grown-ups, must reverse this list of failures. And we are pledged to do so. The very rights I described for you are part of the promises made in the Millennium Declaration -- a list of pledges agreed by all the leaders of the world. They promised that, by the year 2015, we will have cut by half the number [?] of people living on less than one dollar a day. ... This gathering of the General Assembly is a reminder that these were promises made to you, the next generation."

The Secretary-General
Address at the opening of the Special Session of the General Assembly on Children
New York, 8 May 2002
<http://www.un.org/ga/children/sgopening.htm>

"The UN and the MDGs: A Core Strategy:

I. Introduction

1. The adoption of the Millennium Declaration in 2000 by all 189 member states of the UN General Assembly was a defining moment for global cooperation in the 21st century. ...

The Declaration sets out within a single framework the key challenges facing humanity at the threshold of the new millennium, outlines a response to these challenges, and establishes concrete measures for judging performance through a set of inter-related commitments, goals and targets on development, governance, peace, security and human rights. The Declaration was the high point of a series of international conferences and summits beginning in 1990 with the World Summit for Children which has witnessed unprecedented agreement within the international community...

3. The momentum achieved with the adoption of the Millennium Declaration was reinforced at the International Conference on Financing for Development (FfD), held in March 2002, which was the first attempt to examine comprehensively the means of mobilising resources for development, focusing on the goals and targets of the Declaration, especially the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). ...

5. Another major development has been the growing recognition that a global campaign is imperative to help ensure that the MDGs are achieved by the target year of 2015. The Secretary-General, in his Report to the Preparatory Committee for the FfD Conference proposed such a campaign; the Report of the High Level Panel on FfD, chaired by the former President of Mexico, Ernesto Zedillo, strongly supported it; and the concept was endorsed formally in the Monterrey Consensus adopted at the FfD Conference which supports "the United Nations in the implementation of a global information campaign on the internationally agreed goals and objectives, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration." In response to this consensus, the Secretary-General has appointed the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), in his capacity as Chair of the United Nations Development Group (UNDG), to coordinate the MDG campaign and country level monitoring activities."

"II. The Overall Strategy

Guiding Principles

6. The guiding principles for the overall strategy are that:

(i)

the MDGs have to be situated within the broader norms and standards of the Millennium Declaration"

2. Consistent with the call in the Monterrey Consensus for a "global information campaign", the Millennium Campaign will aim to increase support for development assistance, trade opportunities, debt relief, technology transfer and other support needed to achieve the MDGs"

[! - the call was actually for a campaign on what UN summits had agreed, not the easier MDG targets proposed by civil servants]

7 June 2002

www.unesco.org/bsp/eng/MDGStrategyfinal.pdf

"World Food Summit, countries back global action plan against hunger

11 June 2002 – Countries from across the globe attending a United Nations conference in Rome have renewed their commitment to reduce by half the number of hungry people in the world by no later than 2015, the UN Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO), which is organizing the event, announced today."

United Nations News Centre

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?newsid=3896&cr=&cr1=#Vmwoj169Vcw>

"Rome, 27 August 2002 -- The World Food Summit: five years later, which ended 13 June, ...unanimously adopted a declaration calling on the international community to fulfil an earlier pledge to cut the number of hungry people to about 400 million by 2015. That pledge was made at the original World Food Summit in 1996 - the largest-ever global gathering of leaders to address hunger and food security..."

WFS:fyl - World Food Summit: five years later reaffirms pledge to reduce hunger
2002

<http://www.fao.org/worldfoodsummit/english/newsroom/news/8580-en.html>

"Dozens of heads of government from Africa, Asia and Latin America came to what was billed as an effort to halve the number of hungry people, from more than 800 million to 400 million ...

The summit was called to generate money and momentum for a flagging effort, launched at a similar gathering in 1996, to halve the number of hungry people by 2015. Those who did come to Rome yesterday admitted that, six years on, little progress had been made.

The UN secretary general, Kofi Annan, said 24,000 people died each day from hunger. "In a world of plenty, ending hunger is within our grasp. Failure to reach this goal should fill every one of us with shame. The time for making promises is over. It is time to act."

Western leaders snub UN food summit

UK sends lowest-ranking delegation to event...

Rory Carroll in Rome

Tuesday 11 June 2002 16.05 BST Last modified on Thursday 13 June 2002 16.05 BST

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2002/jun/11/famine.rorycarroll>

"In 2002, the declaration of the 'World Food Summit: Five Years Later' reaffirmed this need: 'We call upon the concerned development partners to exert all necessary efforts to achieve the international development goals of the Millennium Declaration'"

Nutrition indicators for development

Reference Guide

B. MAIRE

F. DELPEUCH

Institut de Recherche pour le Développement

Montpellier, France.

Nutrition Planning, Assessment and Evaluation Service

Food and Nutrition Division

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

Rome 2005

<http://www.fao.org/3/a-y5773e/y5773e03.htm>

"Heads of Delegation opened the Summit by endorsing the WFS5YL Declaration...The Declaration recommits members to implementation of the original World Food Summit Declaration and Plan of Action."

Secretary of State
Report to the Congress
United States Participation in the United Nations
2002
<http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/26863.pdf>

"The General Assembly....

Endorses the Monterrey Consensus as adopted by the Conference on 22 March 2002...

Stresses the importance of keeping fully engaged, nationally, regionally and internationally, ensuring proper follow-up to the implementation of agreements and commitments reached at the Conference"

Requests the Secretary-General to include in his report to the General Assembly at its fifty-seventh session on the outcome of the Conference...measures taken as well as his proposals for ensuring effective secretariat support, in pursuance of paragraph 72 of the Monterrey Consensus...

9 July 2002

http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/56/210B&Lang=E

The General Assembly emphasised Paragraph 72 of the Monterrey Consensus about a "global information campaign" on the Millennium Declaration.

Paragraphs 71 and 72 are:

"71. We recognize the link between financing of development and attaining internationally agreed development goals and objectives, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration, in measuring development progress and helping to guide development priorities. We welcome in that regard the intention of the United Nations to prepare a report annually. We encourage close cooperation between the United Nations, the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund and the World Trade Organization in the preparation of that

report. We shall support the United Nations in the implementation of a global information campaign on the internationally agreed development goals and objectives, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration. In that respect, we would like to encourage the active involvement of all relevant stakeholders, including civil society organizations and the private sector.

72. To underpin those efforts, we request the Secretary-General of the United Nations to provide - with collaboration from the secretariats of the major institutional stakeholders concerned, fully utilizing the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination mechanism - sustained follow-up within the United Nations system to the agreements and commitments reached at the present Conference and to ensure effective secretariat support. That support will build on the innovative and participatory modalities and related coordination arrangements utilized in the preparations of the Conference. The Secretary-General of the United Nations is further requested to submit an annual report on those follow-up efforts."

Secretary-General confuses leaders' 15-year pledge - which nations subsequently restated at the Johannesburg Summit in September 2002 - with his easier 25-year proposed target which member states had not agreed:

"This, the first such annual report, focuses on commitments made in all chapters of the Declaration....

The development goals set out in the Millennium Declaration express the resolve of the world's political leaders....

...the world has committed itself to reducing child mortality by two thirds between 1990 and 2015."

[! - When?]

Kofi Annan, 31 July 2002

Report of the Secretary-General: Implementation of the United Nations Millennium Declaration

<http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/sgreport2002>

"UNEP Calls for More Action on Water Issues At Johannesburg Summit

"Klaus Toepfer, head of the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP), has called on world leaders who will attend the upcoming World Summit on Sustainable Development to tackle the growing global water crisis ...

It is vital that world leaders...start implementing the Millennium Declaration goals, the head of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) said today.

...The UN Millennium Declaration goal is to halve, by 2015, the proportion of people who do not have access to safe drinking water (currently 20 per cent)."

12 August 2002

<http://iipdigital.usembassy.gov/st/english/texttrans/2002/08/20020813153902jfuller@pd.state.gov.0.2198755.html>

"United Nations

*Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development
Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002*

...

Round table 1 ...

On 2 September 2002, the Chairman of round table 1, Aleksander Kwasniewski, President of Poland, opened the round table and made a statement. ...

The summary prepared by the Chairman, an advance version of which was circulated in an informal paper, read as follows:

1. In his introduction the Chairman cited commitments made in Rio and Monterrey, as well as at the Millennium Summit ..."

"Opening statements

Statement by Thabo Mbeki, President of South Africa and President of the World Summit on Sustainable Development:

"...The United Nations Millennium Summit stands out among these global gatherings because its outcome, the Millennium Declaration, constitutes a united pledge made by the world's political leaders at the highest level. These leaders committed themselves to meet the Millennium development goals, which must inform the outcome of this Summit." "

Statement by Nitin Desai, Secretary-General of the World Summit on Sustainable Development ...

"the Millennium Summit has given us a comprehensive set of medium-term goals for the year 2015, focusing on issues of poverty, education, health and sustainable development. As I said earlier, we have many, many wonderful examples of local success. We must bring these things together in order to scale up these successes, so that what is happening in a few places can happen much more widely. If we connect the medium-term framework that we all accepted at the Millennium Summit with the larger vision of sustainable development, if we use the opportunities that a successful implementation of Doha and Monterrey can provide on the finance side, then, I think, we can show results. This is what our work so far has been oriented towards: a plan of implementation focused on targets, timetables, goals and activities that can lead to concrete results.

It is important that we focus here on key, current challenges in the areas of water and sanitation, energy, health, agriculture and biodiversity, in ways that will give us a sense of concrete commitment, that will give us something both achievable and monitorable. "

*"Statement by Han Seung-soo, President of the General Assembly of the United Nations
I am very pleased and honoured to address this historic World Summit on Sustainable Development. ...*

The historic Millennium Summit was instrumental in bringing greater focus and attention to a number of international development goals. .

I also consider that there is an urgent need to integrate follow-up actions to the Millennium Declaration, the Doha Development Agenda, the Monterrey Consensus and the outcome of this meeting. The General Assembly would provide a most appropriate forum for this purpose. I strongly propose to use the high-level dialogue of the General Assembly for deliberating on effective ways and means to achieve the various international development goals and sustainable development in a more mutually reinforcing manner."

http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/documents/WSSD_POI_PD/English/WSSD_PlanImpl.pdf

"REMARKS BY SECRETARY OF STATE COLIN L. POWELL AT WORLD SUMMIT ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT"

September 4, 2002

Here in Johannesburg, we have recommitted ourselves to achieving, by 2015, the development goals set forth in the Millennium Declaration."

<http://wfile.ait.org.tw/wf-archive/2002/020904/epf306.htm>

Like the Millennium Declaration, the 2002 Sustainable Development Summit says nothing about a 1990 baseline.

The 2002 World Summit for Sustainable Development (Earth Summit) resulted in the Johannesburg Declaration. It did mention "*Millennium development goals*" in paragraphs 20 and 30.

However, Footnote 6 to the phrase "Millennium development goals" in paragraph 20 reads:

"See General Assembly resolution 55/2."

It therefore refers to the 2000-baseline Millennium Declaration goals, not the generally 1990-baseline MDG framework of more dubious formal standing.

The plan which leaders adopted mentions a 2000 baseline:

I. Introduction

1. The United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, held in Rio de Janeiro in 1992,¹ provided the fundamental principles and the programme of action for achieving sustainable development. We strongly reaffirm our commitment to the Rio principles,² the full implementation of Agenda 21² and the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21³. We also commit ourselves to achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration⁴ and in the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and international agreements since 1992.

(f) Develop programmes and initiatives to reduce, by the year 2015, mortality rates for infants and children under 5 by two thirds, and maternal mortality rates by three quarters, of the prevailing rate in 2000, and reduce disparities between and within developed and developing countries as quickly as possible, with particular attention to eliminating the pattern of disproportionate and preventable mortality among girl infants and children;

8. The provision of clean drinking water and adequate sanitation is necessary to protect human health and the environment. In this respect, we agree to halve, by the year 2015, the proportion of people who are unable to reach or to afford safe drinking water (as outlined in the Millennium Declaration) and the proportion of people who do not have access to basic sanitation, which would include actions at

Johannesburg Declaration:

“We, the representatives of the peoples of the world...commit ourselves to the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation and to expedite the achievement of the time-bound, socio-economic and environmental targets contained therein.”

Plan of Implementation:

"Develop programmes and initiatives to reduce, by 2015, mortality rates for infants and children under 5 by two thirds, and maternal mortality rates by three quarters, of the prevailing rate in 2000 and reduce disparities between and within developed and developing countries as quickly as possible"

World Summit on Sustainable Development

4 September 2002

<http://www.un-documents.net/jburgdec.htm>

http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/documents/WSSD_POI_PD/English/WSSD_PlanImpl.pdf

Longer extracts:

"20. We are committed to Millennium development goals 6 and the Plan of Implementation of the Summit. ...

[footnote 6 is "See General Assembly resolution 55/2" - the 2000-baseline Millennium Declaration]

30. We undertake to strengthen and improve governance at all levels for the effective implementation of Agenda 21, the Millennium development goals and the Plan of Implementation of the Summit.

36. We commit ourselves to the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and to expediting the achievement of the time-bound, socio-economic and environmental targets contained therein.

37. From the African continent, the cradle of humankind, we solemnly pledge to the peoples of the world and the generations that will surely inherit this Earth that we are determined to ensure that our collective hope for sustainable development is realized."

Johannesburg Plan of Implementation:

"*I...We also commit ourselves to achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration and in the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and international agreements since 1992...*

II. Poverty eradication

7 . concerted and concrete measures are required at all levels to enable developing countries to achieve their sustainable development goals as related to the internationally agreed poverty-related targets and goals, including those contained in Agenda 21, the relevant outcomes of other United Nations conferences and the United Nations Millennium Declaration. This would include actions at all levels to:

(a) Halve, by the year 2015, the proportion of the world's people whose income is less than 1 dollar a day and the proportion of people who suffer from hunger and, by the same date, to halve the proportion of people without access to safe drinking water...

8. ...we agree to halve, by the year 2015, the proportion of people who are unable to reach or to afford safe drinking water (as outlined in the Millennium Declaration) and the proportion of people who do not have access to basic sanitation...

25. Launch a programme of actions, with financial and technical assistance, to achieve the Millennium development goal on safe drinking water. In this respect, we agree to halve, by the year 2015, the proportion of people who are unable to reach or to afford safe drinking water, as outlined in the Millennium Declaration, and the proportion of people without access to basic sanitation, which would include actions at all levels to: ...

(b) Facilitate access to public information and participation, including by women, at all levels in support of policy and decision-making related to water resources management and project implementation...

40... Sustainable agriculture and rural development are essential to the implementation of an integrated approach to increasing food production and enhancing food security and food safety in an environmentally sustainable way. This would include actions at all levels to:

(a) Achieve the Millennium Declaration target to halve by the year 2015 the proportion of the world's people who suffer from hunger...

54. Strengthen the capacity of health-care systems...and to reduce environmental health threats... This would include actions at all levels to:....

(f) Develop programmes and initiatives to reduce, by the year 2015, mortality rates for infants and children under 5 by two thirds, and maternal mortality rates by three quarters, of the prevailing rate in 2000 and reduce disparities between and within developed and developing countries as quickly as possible...

(h) Promote the preservation, development and use of effective traditional medicine knowledge and practices, where appropriate, in combination with modern medicine, recognizing indigenous and local communities as custodians of traditional knowledge and practices, while promoting effective protection of traditional knowledge...

XI. Institutional framework for sustainable development

137. An effective institutional frame work for sustainable development at all levels is key to the full implementation of Agenda 21, the follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and meeting emerging sustainable development challenges.

Measures aimed at strengthening such a framework should build on the provisions of Agenda 21, as well as the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 of 1997, and the principles of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development and should promote the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration, taking into account the Monterrey Consensus and relevant outcomes of other major United Nations conferences and international agreements since 1992. It should be responsive to the needs of all countries, taking into account the specific needs of developing countries including the means of implementation. It should lead to the strengthening of international bodies and organizations dealing with sustainable development, while respecting their existing mandates, as well as to the strengthening of relevant regional, national and local institutions.

138. Good governance is essential for sustainable development. Sound economic policies, solid democratic institutions responsive to the needs of the people and improved infrastructure are the basis for sustained economic growth, poverty eradication, and employment creation. Freedom, peace and security, domestic stability, respect for human rights, including the right to development, and the rule of law, gender equality, market-

oriented policies, and an overall commitment to just and democratic societies are also essential and mutually reinforcing. ..."

"Role of the General Assembly

143. The General Assembly of the United Nations should adopt sustainable development as a key element of the overarching framework for United Nations activities, particularly for achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration..."

"151. Stress the need for international institutions both within and outside the United Nations system...to enhance...efforts to: ...Enhance the effectiveness and coordination of international institutions to implement Agenda 21, the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, relevant sustainable development aspects of the Millennium Declaration..."

Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development
4 September 2002

<http://www.un-documents.net/jburgpln.htm>

"How will Government adherence to commitments made in Johannesburg be monitored?"

Following decisions made at the Summit, the UN Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) will now have an enhanced role in respect of reviewing and monitoring ..."

http://www.johannesburgsummit.org/html/basic_info/faqs.html#joburg12

.....

"On behalf of the European Union...the world community still has far to go if we are to meet the goals of the Millennium Declaration.

For many countries, the United Nations is first and foremost about combating poverty. How to ensure everyone access to the essentials of life; the next meal; the medicine and health care to survive; and access to basic education. These are the promises contained in the Millennium Declaration. And we must not let the world down."

Statement by H.E. Anders Fog Rasmussen

Prime Minister of Denmark on behalf of the European Union

Fifty-Seventh Session Of The General Assembly

General Debate

New York, 12 September 2002

<http://www.un.org/webcast/ga/57/statements/020912denmarkE.htm>

"The UN's development philosophy is shaped and executed by UNDP and fellow members of the UN Development Group (UNDG), which is comprised of the UN Children's Fund, the UN Population Fund (UNFPA), and the World Food Program. It is based on international development goals (IDGs), including those contained in the Millennium Declaration."

"Key activities in 2002 included:

- UNDP incorporated achievement of the IDGs into its work plan. By the end of 2004, country teams in every developing country will have produced a report containing information on progress made since the baseline year of 1990 and an analysis of what is needed to achieve the Millennium Declaration goals by 2015."*

"In September 2000, at the UN Millennium Summit, world leaders agreed to a set of time-bound and measurable goals and targets.....

These targets [?] plus a number of other targets with which UN member states have not agreed, were listed as the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in the UN Secretary-General's 2001 report, "Road Map Towards the Implementation of the UN Millennium Declaration."

Comment: The US Government was wrong to say "these [Millennium Declaration] targets"

were included in the Road Map of 2001 proposing the MDGs. Several of the best-known "time-bound" targets in the MDGs have a generally easier standard baseline.

The United Nations mounted a campaign to raise public awareness of the MDGs, and aims to build coalitions and mobilize worldwide political action on behalf of the MDGs.

In March 2002, the President said, “America supports the international development goals in the UN Millennium Declaration, and believes that these goals are a shared responsibility of developed and developing countries.” ”

United States Participation in the United Nations

2002

<http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/26863.pdf>

“Unless we can speed things up dramatically, we shall find when we get to 2015, that the words of the Declaration ring hollow.”

Kofi Annan

1 October 2002

<http://www.aparchive.com/metadata/UN-Annan/98e563abc1f9ea8f00130359afb0f962>

“Item 44: Follow-up to the outcome of the United Nations Millennium Summit

Statement by H.E. Mr. Jan KAVAN

President of the United Nations General Assembly

4 October 2002

Mr. Secretary-General, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Today, we open our first joint debate on two very important agenda items: the work of the Organization and the Follow-up to the outcome of the Millennium Summit. Let me first express my appreciation to the Secretary-General for his introduction of both reports and specially for his determination to pursue the goals of the Millennium Declaration ...

"During the 57th Session, I am particularly determined to devote special attention to the issue of the coordinated and integrated follow-up of the outcomes of the major United Nations international conferences of the past decade, especially the Millennium Summit, and the Monterrey and Johannesburg Summits."

"Millennium Development Goals became the basis of the economic and social policy of the United Nations Organization and international development cooperation. Their implementation must remain our top priority. Now, with the first report on the Implementation of the United Nations Millennium Declaration presented, it is time to engage ourselves in the search for the most effective approach in the follow-up mechanism, formulating a set of requirements for monitoring and review of the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals to ensure due results at the due time".[?]

President of the UN General Assembly: Statements

4 October 2002

<http://www.un.org/ga/president/57/pages/speeches/statement021004.htm>

In early 2003, I spoke with the Chief of Statistical Services at the UN, Robert Johnston, for over an hour about problems with poverty statistics. I was unaware of the problem below.

"The United Nations Millennium Declaration...establishes eight goals and eighteen targets for development and poverty eradication and for protecting our common environment. These are set out below..."

Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people whose income is less than one dollar a day...

Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people who suffer from hunger...

Reduce by two thirds, between 1990 and 2015, the under-five mortality rate

Reduce by three quarters, between 1990 and 2015, the maternal mortality ratio"

https://web.archive.org/web/20021001072052/http://unstats.un.org/unsd/mi/mi_goals.asp

Secretary-General's Message for 2002:

"...at the United Nations Millennium Summit, world leaders ...resolved that by 2015 they would: halve the proportions of the world's people living in extreme poverty and hunger and without safe drinking water...reduce child mortality by two thirds and maternal mortality by three quarters...recommit ourselves to these Millennium Development Goals, and reflect on the progress..."

people living on less than \$1 a day in developing countries declined from one third in 1990 (the agreed start date from which progress is to be measured) to one quarter in 1999. ...

By the year 2000....we should have been 40 per cent of the way there." [!]

International Day for the Eradication of Poverty

17 October 2002

<http://www.un.org/en/events/povertyday/2002/sgmessage2002.shtml>

"In September 2000, at the United Nations Millennium Summit, world leaders agreed to a set of time-bound and measurable goals and targets for combating poverty, hunger, disease, illiteracy, environmental degradation and discrimination against women. Placed at the heart of the global agenda, they [!] are now called the Millennium Development Goals"

FACT SHEET [!]

Implementing the Millennium Declaration

Millennium Development Goals and the United Nations Role

Published by the United Nations Department of Public Information

October 2002

<http://web.archive.org/web/20030804231848/http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/MDGs-FACTSHEET1.pdf>

"The General Assembly...

Cognizant of...the need to achieve the internationally agreed development goals, including those set out in the Millennium Declaration..."

UN General Assembly Resolution 57/7

Final review and appraisal of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s and support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development

4 November 2002

www1.uneca.org/nepad/nepad_ares577.aspx

"[global proportions of people suffering hunger, lack of water/sanitation/literacy and other aspects of poverty] are depressing enough. Yet, they can plausibly be accused of making things look better than they are. By focusing on human beings alive at any given time, all these statistics give less weight to persons whose lives are short. Thus, if the poorest third of humankind live, on average, half as long as the rest (which is approximately true), then they account for fully one half of all human lives. To give the same weight to each human life irrespective of its duration, all the above statistics would have to be similarly adjusted for differences in life expectancy"

Thomas Pogge

World Poverty and Human Rights

8 November 2002

*"** BBC Lecture*

At 3:30 this afternoon at the Dag Hammarskjöld Library Auditorium, the Secretary-General will present a special BBC World Service lecture as part of the celebration of the seventieth anniversary of the British Broadcasting Corporation, and he will discuss a range of issues, from threats to peace and security, whether in Africa or the Middle East, to the goals enshrined in the Millennium Declaration."

DAILY PRESS BRIEFING BY THE OFFICE OF THE SPOKESMAN FOR THE SECRETARY-GENERAL | Meetings Coverage and Press Releases

10 December 2002

<http://www.un.org/press/en/2002/db121002.doc.htm>

"[the Secretary-General] stressed the importance of the targets set in the Millennium Declaration adopted by world leaders at a UN summit in 2000"

10 December 2002

United Nations News Centre - In BBC address, Annan says Iraq must fully comply with disarmament obligations

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=5612&Cr=iraq&Cr1=annan>

"I believe we now have an agenda for the new century..."

That agenda is the Millennium Declaration, on which all the world's leaders agreed, two years ago, when they assembled at the United Nations for the Millennium Summit. It brings together all the conclusions of the great world conferences of the past decade.

[- not true - the 1996 food conference pledge was more ambitious]

And the most immediate and urgent part of it is the Millennium Development Goals -- a set of clear targets...

These are minimum, achievable goals, with a clear deadline: 2015"

And the most important thing we at the United Nations can contribute is to keep you informed.

We need to tell you what your leaders have promised in your name, and what must happen, in every government and every society, if those promises are to be kept – so that you can keep your own scorecard of your country's performance.

The more you know, the better placed you are to insist that the right things are done.

Every year, for the rest of my time in office, I shall deliver a report to the General Assembly of the United Nations, on the progress the world is making, or failing to make, in implementing the Millennium Declaration. But we shall also help every developing country to produce its own annual report and – rest assured – we shall keep reminding the developed countries of their responsibilities, too.

I am delighted to say the BBC World Service Trust is also going to help. ...

It is an old saying that knowledge means power. Much of our work, here at the United Nations, is aimed at giving you, the peoples of the world, greater power over your own lives and your environment. The better informed you are, the greater our chances of success. And those who provide you with clear and honest information are our best allies.

So let me once again thank the World Service for this opportunity, and for all it does. May it continue and prosper for at least another seventy year.

Thank you very much."

Secretary-General Kofi Annan's BBC World Service lecture

Knowledge Means Power -- and Those Who Provide Honest Information Are Best Allies of UN, Says Kofi Annan...

10 December 2002

<http://www.unis.unvienna.org/unis/en/pressrels/2002/sgsm8552.html>

"The General Assembly...

Reaffirming the importance of the implementation of and follow-up to the Millennium Declaration in a comprehensive, integrated, coordinated and balanced manner at the national, regional and international levels...

Invites the organizations and agencies...and encourages other interested parties...to continue to pursue vigorously...the...[2000-baseline] goals contained in the Millennium Declaration..."

"Invites the United Nations system, in cooperation with Member States, to promote awareness of the Millennium Declaration, and the development goals contained therein, through increased dissemination of information and widespread publicity"

UN General Assembly Resolution 57/144

16 December 2002

unstats.un.org/unsd/mdg/Resources/Static/Products/GAResolutions/57_144/a_res57_144e.pdf

The commitments of the World Summit on Sustainable Development were endorsed at the General Assembly by Resolution 57/253 on 20 December 2002:

"The General Assembly...

Endorses the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation...

Decides to adopt sustainable development as a key element of the overarching framework for United Nations activities, in particular for achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration ..."

"Requests the Secretary-General to take into full account the outcomes of the Summit"

20 December 2002

www.preventionweb.net/files/resolutions/N0255606.pdf

"Priority actions and commitments to translate the WSSD outcomes into reality

"Framework for Discussion" paper by the Chair of CSD11 for the Inter-active Ministerial Roundtables

Six months ago in Johannesburg, Governments committed themselves to specific goals, targets and time-bound measures aimed at accelerated transition to sustainable development. While some of them reaffirm the Millennium Development Goals, the majority of these undertakings represent new commitments..."

Priority actions and commitments to translate the WSSD outcomes into reality

www.un.org/esa/sustdev/csd/csd11/csd11_framework_ministerial.pdf

"MDG-1 in fact sets a much less ambitious target than had been agreed to at the 1996 World Food Summit in Rome...

While the earlier Rome Declaration spoke of halving by 2015 the number of undernourished, the later Millennium Declaration speaks of halving by 2015 the proportion of people suffering from hunger and extreme poverty. ...

As the human population grows by 18.6 percent over the 2000-2015 period, so the number of

extremely poor people deemed acceptable in 2015 also increases by 18.6 percent...

One may think that the missing baseline is obvious: It is simply the time at which the MDGs [!] are adopted, the year 2000 — in analogy to how the Rome Declaration set the “present level” as the baseline. But the UN instead uses 1990 as the baseline, thereby expanding the plan period to 25 years. ...

Thanks to China’s success, reported extreme poverty in the entire “East Asia and the Pacific” region has been halved by 1999 already — one year before the Millennium Declaration was even adopted! ...

The goal of halving extreme poverty therefore becomes even less ambitious if the number of poor is put in proportion not to the growing human population, but to the faster-growing population of the developing countries. ...

On the official UN interpretation, MDG-1 commits the world’s governments to reducing the number of extremely poor persons by 19 percent — from 1094 million when the Declaration was adopted in 2000 to 883.5 million by 2015.”

Thomas Pogge

The First UN Millennium Development Goal: A Cause for Celebration?

"This paper was presented as the first Oslo Lecture in Moral Philosophy at the University of Oslo on

September 11, 2003 (www.etikk.no/globaljustice)"

ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---dgreports/---stat/documents/publication/wcms_087882.pdf

The paper was published in the Journal of Human Development in November 2004, in which the author writes,

"The reflections it contains are unwelcome in the developed countries, and I have found it impossible to interest the more popular media there in any of them."

"We, the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Group of 77 and China...at the United Nations Headquarters in New York on 25 September 2003, adopted the following declaration:

... We reaffirm our commitment to the Millennium Declaration and call upon the international community to fully and speedily implement the provisions set out therein and in other major United Nations conferences and summits"

www.g77.org/doc/decg77-xxvii-mm%28english%29.pdf

"Dans le prolongement des conférences mondiales organisées par les Nations Unies au cours des années 1990, la Déclaration du Millénaire de 2000 a manifesté une volonté forte d'oeuvrer pour le droit au développement, la paix et la sécurité, l'égalité des sexes, l'élimination de la pauvreté....Cette Déclaration, adoptée par 147 chefs d'Etat et 189 Etats, a défini ce que l'on appelle les huit objectifs du Millénaire pour le développement, comportant 18 cibles assorties d'un calendrier précis."

Mark Malloch Brown
Président
Groupe des Nations Unies pour le développement
Septembre 2003
<http://www.paris21.org/sites/default/files/1883.pdf>

"We, the representatives of the peoples of the world, assembled in Geneva from 10-12 December 2003 for the first phase of the World Summit on the Information Society, declare our common desire and commitment to build a people-centred, inclusive and development-oriented Information Society, where everyone can create, access, utilize and share information and knowledge, enabling individuals, communities and peoples to achieve their full potential in promoting their sustainable development and improving their quality of life, premised on the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and respecting fully and upholding the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. ..."

Our challenge is to harness the potential of information and communication technology to promote the development goals of the Millennium Declaration..."

World Summit on the Information Society
12 December 2003
Declaration of Principles
<http://www.un-documents.net/wsis-dop.htm>

"The General Assembly...

Reaffirming the United Nations Millennium Declaration...

Recognizes that a substantial increase in official development assistance and other resources will be required if developing countries are to achieve the internationally agreed development goals and objectives, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration...

Encourages the international community, the United Nations system, the private sector and civil society to continue to provide the necessary financial resources to assist national Governments in their efforts to meet the development targets and benchmarks agreed upon at the World Summit for Social Development, the Fourth World Conference on Women, the International Conference on Population and Development, the Millennium Summit..."

23 December 2003

A/RES/58/206

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

<http://daccess-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N03/460/64/PDF/N0346064.pdf>

"The General Assembly...

Reaffirming the internationally agreed development goals on water and sanitation, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration,⁵ and determined to achieve the goal to halve, by the year 2015, the proportion of people who are unable to reach or to afford safe drinking water, and a similar goal set out in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation to halve the proportion of people without access to basic sanitation..."

A/RES/58/217

International Decade for Action, "Water for Life", 2005-2015

23 December 2003

<http://www.un-documents.net/a58r217.htm>

"New evidence coupled with a wider perspective suggest sizable economic returns to better health

How health influences "full income"

Judging countries' economic performance by GDP per capita, however, fails to differentiate between situations where health differs: a country whose citizens enjoy long and healthy lives clearly outperforms another with the same GDP per capita but whose citizens suffer much illness and die sooner.

Individual willingness to forgo income to work in safer environments and social willingness to pay for health-enhancing safety and environmental regulations provide measures, albeit approximate, of the value of differences in mortality rates. Many such willingness-to-pay studies have been undertaken in recent decades, and their results are typically summarized as the "value of a statistical life" or VSL (Box 2).

Although the National Income and Product Accounts (NIPA) include the value of inputs into health care (such as drugs and physician time), standard procedures do not incorporate information on the value of changes in mortality rates. In a pathbreaking (but long-neglected) paper, Dan Usher of Queen's University, Canada, first brought the value of mortality reduction into the economic analysis of national income accounting. He did this by generating estimates of the growth in "full income"—a concept that captures the value of changes in life expectancy by including them in an assessment of economic welfare—for six countries and territories (Canada, Chile, France, Japan, Sri Lanka, and Taiwan Province of China) during the middle decades of the 20th century. For the upper-income countries in this group, perhaps 30 percent of the growth of full income resulted from declines in mortality. In the developing countries, where this was a period of particularly rapid mortality decline, full income was influenced even more by mortality changes.

Estimates of changes in full income are typically generated by adding the value of changes in annual mortality rates (calculated using VSL figures) to changes in annual GDP per capita. Even these estimates of full income are conservative in that they incorporate only the value of mortality changes and do not account for the total value of changes in health status.

For almost 15 years, little further work was done on the effects of mortality change on full income (although the number of carefully constructed estimates of VSLs increased enormously). Two papers then appeared that kindled substantial new interest. Newly appointed World Bank Chief Economist François Bourguignon and Christian Morrisson (University of Paris) addressed the long-term evolution of inequality among world citizens starting from the premise that a "comprehensive definition of economic well-being would consider individuals over their lifetime." Their conclusion was that rapid increases in life expectancy in poorer countries had resulted in declines in inequality, broadly

defined, beginning sometime after 1950, even though income inequality had continued to rise. (The table on page 10 shows life expectancy increasing between 1960 and 1990 in developing countries at a rate of 6.3 years a decade, whereas in the high-income countries, the rate was “only” 2.3 years a decade.) In another important paper, Yale University’s William Nordhaus assessed the growth of full income per capita in the United States in the 20th century. He concluded that somewhat over half of the growth in full income in the first half of the century had resulted from mortality decline, and somewhat less than half in the second half of the century. This was a period when real income in the United States increased sixfold, and life expectancy increased by a little over 25 years. Nordhaus’s paper also provides a valuable summary of the theory and methods of estimation of full income. Three lines of more recent work extend these methods to the interpretation of the economic performance of developing countries in recent decades, and all reach conclusions that differ substantially from analyses based on GDP alone. Two of these studies—one undertaken for the World Health Organization’s Commission on Macroeconomics and Health (CMH) and the other at the IMF—assessed the impact of the AIDS epidemic on full income. Both concluded that the AIDS epidemic in the 1990s had far more adverse economic consequences than its effects on per capita GDP would suggest (see Box 3). Gary Becker and colleagues at the University of Chicago extended the earlier work of Bourguignon and Morisson in finding strong absolute convergence in full income across countries over time, in contrast to the standard finding of continued divergence of GDP per capita. Finally, Jeffrey Sachs (Columbia University) and colleagues have extended the earlier CMH work by using standard cross-country growth regressions to model determinants of full income (rather than GDP per capita). They also conclude that economies have been converging in terms of full income, and, tentatively, they find the determinants of growth in full income to be similar to those of growth in GDP”

Health, Wealth, and Welfare

Finance & Development

March 2004

David E. Bloom, David Canning, and Dean T. Jamison

<http://web.worldbank.org/archive/website01055/WEB/IMAGES/BLOOM.PDF>

"We, the democratically elected Heads of State and Government of the Americas... reiterate our firm intention to continue implementing... the commitments made at the Millennium Summit"

Special Summit of the Americas
Monterrey, Mexico
2004

http://www.oas.org/juridico/english/mesicic_summit_special.htm

"The General Assembly,

- 1. Decides to convene in New York in 2005....a high-level plenary meeting of the Assembly with the participation of heads of State and Government..."*
- 2. ...this major event will undertake a comprehensive review of the progress made in the fulfilment of all the commitments contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration....and of the progress ...of the outcomes and commitments of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields, on the basis of a comprehensive report to be submitted by the Secretary-General"*

6 May 2004
Resolution 58/291
http://www.omdg.org/en/images/a_res_58_291.pdf

"On behalf of the Group of 77 and China..."

Our leaders agreed upon some common goals which have been clearly articulated in the outcome documents of various UN conferences and summits including the Millennium Summit. And all our leaders agreed that those common goals must be achieved. ...

Regrettably, the report on the implementation of the Millennium Declaration points out that many of us are being left far behind and to those countries, these common goals are becoming increasingly distant. ...

...the Millennium Declaration must be implemented in its entirety. ...

The Millennium Declaration is no doubt important, but equally important are the outcomes of other UN conferences and summits. ...

The realization of the goals of the Millennium Declaration have gained increasing importance..."

Statement on behalf of the Group of 77 and China

Integrated and Coordinated Implementation of and follow-up to the Outcomes of the Major United Nations Conferences and Summits in the Economic, Social and Related Fields

Implementation of the United Nations Millennium Declaration, General Assembly Plenary (New York, 22 November 2004)

<http://www.g77.org/Speeches/112204.htm>

"We welcome the adoption of General Assembly resolution 58/291 of 6 May 2004 on the integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major UN conferences and summits in the economic and social fields, which decided to convene in New York in 2005, a High-level plenary meeting to undertake a comprehensive review of the progress made in the fulfillment of all the commitments contained in the Millennium Declaration, including the internationally agreed development goals and the global partnership required for their achievement. "

Declaration of the Twenty-eighth Annual Ministerial Meeting of the G-77

<http://www.g77.org/doc/Decl2004.htm>

"The Group of 77 is determined to work actively for the success of the high-level plenary meeting to be held at the...General Assembly, in 2005... to review progress made in the fulfillment of all the commitments made in the United Nations Millennium Declaration"

Ministerial Declaration

2004

<http://www.g77.org/40/declaration.htm>

"We reaffirm our commitment to fight global poverty and to help countries achieve the international development goals of the Millennium Declaration"

Statement by G-7 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors, 2004
<http://www.treasury.gov/press-center/press-releases/Pages/js1979.aspx>

The IDGs - International Development Goals - were devised in 1996 by the rich countries' club, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. They had 1990 baselines.

"The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) emerged in 2001 as a compromise between the IDGs and the Millennium Declaration, with a view to avoiding separate development agendas. While the IDGs essentially became the basis for the MDGs..."

http://www.oecd.org/derec/adb/ADB_supportforAchievingMDG_Post2015.pdf

"Consequences of current monitoring system

- *Donors misinformed by overly optimistic picture of status of the Water Supply and Sanitation ("WSS") sector as conveyed in UN progress reports ⇒ on that basis, they could decide to allocate funds in other regions where needs are deemed more important"*

March 2005

<http://www.oecd.org/env/outreach/34714687.pdf>

2005: US said MDGs had not been agreed, and that world leaders' 2005 Summit document would mean the agreed Declaration goals, not the "MDGs" publicised by UN staff

The United States was correct in 2005 and 2006 that member states had never formally adopted the MDG structure.

However, it did overstate its case in material such as the document below, claiming the UN Secretariat "*formulated a set of goals...targets and indicators*" - "*solely a Secretariat product*".

In reality a large seminar was held at the World Bank in March 2001, attended by national representatives as well as international civil servants. At the seminar, there was general agreement that a relatively short set of development objectives should be agreed.

After this, there was agreement between UN representatives and those from the World Bank, OECD and IMF on the MDG structure.

As the Secretary-General stated in his Road Map of September 2001,

"consultations were held among members of the United Nations Secretariat and representatives of IMF, OECD and the World Bank in order to harmonize reporting on the development goals in the Millennium Declaration and the international development goals."

I am not aware of evidence against the following:

"The Declaration was driven by the UN Secretary General and his staff and negotiated by diplomats. It was built on the agendas adopted at the UN development conferences driven by interest groups including sectoral ministries and social activists.

The MDGs, on the other hand, were defined by technocrats from UN agencies with expertise in development data representing several multinational agencies.

The Chair of this group was Michael Doyle, another well-known international relations scholar who succeeded Ruggie as the chief strategy adviser to the Secretary General, who focused on the big-picture issues of political negotiations and basic principles.

But the dominant members were the representatives of the UNDP, the World Bank and the OECD who had worked together on reporting on the Development Assistance Committee's International Development Goals. It is worth noting that this was an unusual group for a UN

initiative on data, since the three individuals were not from the statistical units of a UN secretariat such as the Department of Social and Economic Affairs or specialised agencies with thematic/sectoral mandates such as the World Health Organization (WHO) or the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). They were development economists rather than statisticians.

And it was highly unusual for the World Bank and OECD to be participating in a UN exercise, but here the two organisations were playing a leading role. . Statisticians from the UN agencies were also included in this group but did not dominate the process. Many voiced dissatisfaction that it did not reflect adequate consultation with the UN statistical networks and the knowledge and experience of specialized agencies in areas such as education and health. "

Global Development Goal Setting As A Policy Tool For Global Governance:
Intended And Unintended Consequences

Sakiko Fukuda-Parr

Professor of International Affairs, The New School

Working paper

April 2013

International Policy Centre for Inclusive Growth

United Nations Development Programme

"The International Policy Centre for Inclusive Growth is jointly supported by the Poverty Practice, Bureau for Development Policy, UNDP and the Government of Brazil.

The International Policy Centre for Inclusive Growth disseminates the findings of its work in progress to encourage the exchange of ideas about development issues. The papers are signed by the authors and should be cited accordingly. The findings, interpretations, and conclusions that they express are those of the authors and not necessarily those of the United Nations Development Programme or the Government of Brazil."

<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/863IPCWorkingPaper108.pdf>

"The MDGs were presented to UN member States during the 56th session of the General Assembly (2001), as an annex to the Secretary-General's report titled "Roadmap towards the implementation of the UN Millennium Declaration." States only took note of the report and recommended that the roadmap be considered a "useful guide" in implementing the Millennium Declaration by the UN System in 2001 (A/RES/56/95). Clearly, not all States immediately endorsed the MDGs, arguing that they had not been inter-governmentally negotiated and adopted. Nonetheless, there was already broad acceptance of the Goals as benchmarks of progress on the part of several donors, developing countries, civil society and main development institutions."

Morgera, E 2010, 'The Environmental Dimension of the MDGs: Progress Made?'

Environmental Policy and Law, vol 40, no. 6, pp. 269-72.

Elisa Morgera, Lecturer in European Environmental Law,

It has been claimed by at least one person involved in the formulation of the MDG structure that there was liaison between the negotiators and member states. It might be hard to imagine otherwise.

A more sensible point which the US could have emphasised instead is that member states, both at the General Assembly and in various combinations, went on reaffirming the Declaration.

*"FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO ALL DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR POSTS COLLECTIVE
ALSO FOR AID MISSIONS ...*

SUBJECT: THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS (MDGS) -- WHAT ARE THEY? ...

SUMMARY

*-----

1. THE TERM "MDGS" PRESENTS AN AMBIGUITY IN INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT DISCUSSIONS. DEPENDING ON WHO IS USING IT, "MDGS" CAN REFER TO TWO QUITE DIFFERENT SETS OF GOALS: THE GOALS IN THE MILLENNIUM DECLARATION ADOPTED BY WORLD LEADERS AT THE MILLENNIUM SUMMIT IN 2000 OR THE GOALS AND ASSOCIATED TARGETS AND INDICATORS THAT THE UN SECRETARIAT FORMULATED AND PROMULGATED IN 2001.THE PURPOSE OF THIS CABLE IS TO PROVIDE POST WITH GUIDANCE AND BACKGROUND IN DEALING WITH "MDGS," AND TO CLEAR THE MISAPPREHENSION THAT THE UNITED STATES IS OPPOSED TO THE "MDGS." END SUMMARY.*

NOT ALL MDGS ARE THE SAME

2. AT THE 2000 UN MILLENNIUM SUMMIT, HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT ADOPTED THE MILLENNIUM DECLARATION, WHICH, AMONG OTHER THINGS, BROUGHT TOGETHER A VARIETY OF DEVELOPMENT GOALS ON POVERTY, HUNGER, EDUCATION, HEALTH, AND ENVIRONMENT, MOST OF THEM TO BE ACHIEVED BY 2015, SOME OF WHICH WERE FROM EARLIER CONFERENCES AND SOME ORIGINAL.

3. IN 2001, THE UN SECRETARIAT ISSUED A REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MILLENNIUM DECLARATION. BASED ON THE GOALS THAT UN MEMBER STATES HAVE AGREED TO IN THE DECLARATION, THE SECRETARIAT FORMULATED A SET OF GOALS AND SUBSIDIARY TARGETS AND INDICATORS, AND CHRISTENED THEM "MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS." THEY ARE SOLELY A SECRETARIAT PRODUCT, NEVER HAVING BEEN FORMALLY ADOPTED BY MEMBER STATES.

THE PROBLEM

4. SINCE THEN THE TERM "MDGS" HAS BECOME AMBIGUOUS. MOST PEOPLE USING THE TERM ASSUME THAT THE "MDGS" ARE AGREED DEVELOPMENT GOALS FROM THE MILLENNIUM DECLARATION, WHICH THE UNITED STATES SUPPORTS. OFTEN THE UN SECRETARIAT AND REPRESENTATIVES OF A NUMBER OF COUNTRIES, HOWEVER, USE IT TO REFER TO THE SECRETARIAT GOALS AND, IN PARTICULAR, TO THE SO-CALLED "MDG GOAL EIGHT" ...

7. IN ADDITION, BY SEPARATING DEVELOPMENT GOALS FROM THE MILLENNIUM DECLARATION, WHICH ALSO INCLUDES COMMITMENTS TO GOOD GOVERNANCE, DEMOCRACY, AND HUMAN RIGHTS, THE ADVOCATES OF THE ODA-FOCUSED APPROACH IN EFFECT DETACH THESE FUNDAMENTAL ELEMENTS FROM THE DEVELOPMENT EQUATION AND TURN ANY DEVELOPMENT DISCUSSION INTO AN ODA DISCUSSION.

THE UNITED STATES OBJECTS TO TAKING THE DEVELOPMENT GOALS OF THE MILLENNIUM DECLARATION OUT OF THE CONTEXT OF THE DECLARATION.

HOW WE HANDLE IT

8. *IN 2002, ON THE EVE OF THE UN MONTERREY CONFERENCE ON FINANCING FOR DEVELOPMENT, PRESIDENT BUSH SAID IN A SPEECH AT THE INTER-AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK, "AMERICA SUPPORTS THE INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT GOALS IN THE U.N. MILLENNIUM DECLARATION." THE SPEECH CAN BE FOUND AT:*

HTTP://WWW.WHITEHOUSE.GOV/NEWS/RELEASES/2002/03/20020314-7.HTML.

[As of 13 July 2016 the speech is at:
<http://georgewbush-whitehouse.archives.gov/news/releases/2002/03/20020314-7.html>]

9. *TO AVOID THE AMBIGUITY THE TERM "MDGS" BRINGS IN NEGOTIATED TEXTS, UN MEMBER STATES HAVE SUPPORTED US IN REPLACING "MDGS" OR "MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS" WITH THE FOLLOWING FORMULATION: "INTERNATIONALLY AGREED DEVELOPMENT GOALS, INCLUDING THOSE IN THE MILLENNIUM DECLARATION." THIS SPELLS OUT WHAT "MDGS" REFER TO, AND DISTINGUISHES THE GOALS ADOPTED BY GOVERNMENTS FROM THE SECRETARIAT PRODUCT. AS A RESULT, NEGOTIATED UN TEXTS ON DEVELOPMENT HAVE CONSISTENTLY ESCHEWED THE TERM "MDGS" OR "MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS."*

BACKGROUND ON MILLENNIUM DECLARATION GOALS

11. *THE DEVELOPMENT GOALS IN THE MILLENNIUM DECLARATION ADOPTED BY UN MEMBER STATES ARE THE FOLLOWING (AS CONTAINED IN PARAGRAPH 19):*

-- TO HALVE, BY THE YEAR 2015, THE PROPORTION OF THE WORLD'S PEOPLE WHOSE INCOME IS LESS THAN ONE DOLLAR A DAY AND THE PROPORTION OF PEOPLE WHO SUFFER FROM HUNGER AND, BY THE SAME DATE, TO HALVE THE PROPORTION OF PEOPLE WHO ARE UNABLE TO REACH OR TO AFFORD SAFE DRINKING WATER.

-- BY THE SAME DATE, TO HAVE REDUCED MATERNAL MORTALITY BY THREE QUARTERS, AND UNDER-FIVE CHILD MORTALITY BY TWO THIRDS, OF THEIR CURRENT RATES.

THE SECRETARIAT'S "MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS".....48 INDICATORS...
...THESE INDICATORS WERE NEVER SUBJECT TO INTER-GOVERNMENTAL
NEGOTIATIONS... WE, THEREFORE, DO NOT WANT THEM PRESENTED AS BEING
AGREED AMONG GOVERNMENTS. ...

.. RICE" ...

SUBJECT: THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS (MDGS) -- WHAT ARE THEY?
04/26/05
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO ALL DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR POSTS COLLECTIVE
ALSO FOR AID MISSIONS

US State Department
26 April 2005
pdf.usaid.gov/pdf_docs/Pcaab560.pdf

"Paris, 4 May 2005

OECD Ministers reaffirm Millennium and Monterrey development commitments

...OECD Ministers meeting in Paris have reassured their countries' commitments to the Millennium Declaration and the Monterrey Consensus on development. ...

But the OECD countries also emphasise the responsibilities of individual countries for their economic and social development. "Sound macro-economic policies, good governance based on solid democratic institutions and accountability responsive to the needs of the people ..." their statement says.

Corruption is a major impediment to development and investment, the OECD countries warn. In their statement, they pledge to help developing countries build effective anti-bribery systems. But they also insist that increased aid must be accompanied by more effective use, and that aid programmes must be monitored and measured for their effectiveness. ...

ENABLING DEVELOPMENT

OECD statement to the follow-up of the UN Millennium Declaration and Monterrey Consensus

1. We, Ministers of OECD countries, gathered at the OECD Ministerial Council Meeting on 3-4 May 2005 in Paris, reaffirm our strong commitment to the implementation of the Millennium Declaration and the Monterrey Consensus and for achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration (MDGs)." [?]

OECD Ministers reaffirm Millennium and Monterrey development commitments
[www.oecd.org/officialdocuments/publicdisplaydocumentpdf/?cote%3DPAC/COM/NEWS\(2005\)16%26doc](http://www.oecd.org/officialdocuments/publicdisplaydocumentpdf/?cote%3DPAC/COM/NEWS(2005)16%26doc)

"The High Level Event on Millennium Review in September of this year provides an opportunity to assess the implementation of the commitments of the Millennium Declaration and the results of the major UN Summits and Conferences. ...

The United States and the European Union...share...the perspective that the interlinked dimensions of peace and security, human rights, rule of law, democracy, and development need to be addressed coherently, within more efficient and transparent institutions and procedures. ...

Achieving the development goals of the Millennium Declaration will require significant additional resources, which should come from many sources, as set out at Monterrey...

We stand ready to increase our financial assistance to countries with good governance and sound policies and transparent, [!] ambitious and accountable strategies to achieve long-term economic growth and reach the internationally-agreed development goals in the Millennium Declaration."

U.S.-EU Declaration on the 60th Anniversary of the Signing of the San Francisco Charter
June 20, 2005

<http://2001-2009.state.gov/p/eur/rls/or/48381.htm>

"Too often, humanitarian relief has been separated from development and from achievement of the goals of the Millennium Declaration..."

...if we are to continue the recent increases in ODA and assure the goals of the Millennium Declaration are achieved, we must also ensure aid effectiveness, sustainability and results. ...

With the right choices, we have a good chance of reaching the goals we set for ourselves at Monterrey and in the Millennium Declaration."

Andrew S. Natsios, Administrator for U.S. Agency for International Development
Statement to the United Nations High-Level Dialogue on Financing for Development
June 27, 2005

<http://2001-2009.state.gov/e/eeb/rls/rm/2005/48689.htm>

*"We, the Heads of State and Government of the Member States of the African Union,
...on 4th and 5th July 2005..."*

Determined further to fulfill our commitments to the Millennium Declaration and the achievement of the MDGs within the deadline"

"In a little over two months our heads of state and government will review progress against their Millennium Declaration commitments. ...

The EU welcomes this year's coordination segment theme - "Towards achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration" – which focuses on how UN system coordination can contribute to these broad objectives in 2005 and beyond. ...

The European Union is strongly committed to the implementation of the outcomes of the conferences in the economic, social, environmental and related fields, and in particular to the Millennium Declaration and the achievement of the MDGs ...

We underline the link between achieving the MDGs and reaffirming and implementing these

outcomes, including those set out in the Millennium Declaration and those from Beijing, Copenhagen, Cairo, Istanbul, Monterrey, Vienna, Johannesburg, Rome, as well as Brussels, Almaty and Mauritius."

EU Presidency Statement – ECOSOC Co-ordination Segment:

Towards achieving internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration

July 6, 2005

http://eu-un.europa.eu/articles/en/article_4864_en.htm

The G8 in 2005 emphasise the Declaration:

"*We need to work with our partners to increase access to energy if we are to support the achievement of the goals agreed at the Millennium Summit in 2000."*

"...*the action needed for all developing countries to meet the Goals agreed at the Millennium Summit in 2000.*

...Africa, which is the only continent not on track to meet any of the Goals of the Millennium Declaration by 2015. ...

The core aims for education and health are stated in the UN Millennium Declaration. We support our African partners' commitment...to reduce mortality ...particularly women and children; and so that ...people have access to safe water and sanitation. ...

A substantial increase in official development assistance, in addition to other resources, is required in order to achieve the internationally agreed development goals and objectives, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration (the Millennium Goals) by 2015, as we agreed at Monterrey in 2002. Fulfilling this commitment is needed in order to consolidate and build on recent progress in Africa..."

G8 agreement

July 2005, Gleneagles, Scotland

Signed by:

Presidents Bush, Putin, Chirac, Berlusconi;

Prime Ministers Koizumi, Blair, Martin;

Chancellor Schroeder; President of the European Commission Barroso

http://web.archive.org/web/20051027075956/http://www.fco.gov.uk/Files/kfile/PostG8_Glen_eagles_Communique,0.pdf

"Many civil society organizations broadly support the global partnership that the Goals encapsulate, as laid out in the UN Millennium Declaration, but remain skeptical about the Goals themselves, for several reasons. They question whether the Goals are different from previous UN goals that were not met. They have not been systematically involved in the Goal-setting process and so feel no ownership. They argue that the Goals are "top down," imposed by the international community, rather than locally developed, and that there is uncertainty about their role in achieving the Goals. They see the Goals as too narrow and unambitious, especially in comparison to the UN Millennium Declaration, leaving out critical issues of importance."

Investing in Development

UN Millennium Project: Report to the Secretary-General
2005

<http://www.unmillenniumproject.org/documents/MainReportComplete-lowres.pdf>

"eJOURNAL USA Economic Perspectives / August 2005

Dimensions Of Development

International Development Goals: Moving Forward

Leaders of the world's eight major economies (G8), at their annual meeting in July 2005, called on all nations to recommit themselves to supporting economic progress and good governance in the developing world, particularly in Africa—the only continent not on track to meet by 2015 any of the goals agreed on at the international Millennium Summit in 2000 and put forth in the Millennium Declaration. ...

This journal provides a glance at some of the individual U.S. development projects throughout Africa, Asia, and Latin America that seek to address the key objectives of the Millennium Declaration...

Question:

What is your assessment of progress to date by the global community in meeting the goals of the Millennium Declaration agreed to in the year 2000?

<http://photos.state.gov/libraries/vietnam/8621/translations/ej082005.pdf>

A Foreign Office spokesman said ... it was "important that we do not row back from...the UN millennium summit."

August 27, 2005

<http://www.theguardian.com/politics/2005/aug/27/uk.usa>

"Achieving the goals articulated in the Millennium Declaration is very much...central to the mission of USAID."

Andrew Natsios
Administrator
U.S. Agency for International Development
August 2005

<https://web.archive.org/web/20050908193817/http://usinfo.state.gov/journals/ites/0805/ijee/natsios.htm>

The following published by the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights is correct in the sense that before 2005 the Assembly did not explicitly mention or endorse the MDGs.

But the United States insisted until at least 2006 that the Assembly had still not endorsed them.

"the United Nations General Assembly explicitly mentioned and endorsed [?] the eight MDGs only as late as October 2005."

Claiming the Millennium Development Goals: A human rights approach
Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
United Nations
New York and Geneva, 2008
ohchr.org/Documents/Publications/Claiming_MDGs_en.pdf

The OHCHR document reads "October 2005" but seems to mean the Summit of September 2005.

The problem with its statement is this:

Just before leaders adopted their 2005 summit outcome document at the General Assembly, the United States claimed that the document's mention of "MDGs" would in fact refer to the Declaration's goals, not the Secretary-General's proposals of 2001 which the US said had never been agreed by member states.

The US position was that at the 2005 Summit, neither the US nor the Assembly was endorsing the MDG structure (with the 1990 baselines).

Ambassador Bolton reiterated this position in 2006.

The OHCHR text of 2008 says, correctly:

"Until [2005, the General Assembly] had focused (and still does) on calling for the implementation and monitoring of all goals and measures in the Millennium Declaration, which go beyond development."

The US position:

*"Let there be no doubt: the United States supports the development goals of the Millennium Declaration. ...The next year...the Secretariat formulated.... "Millennium Development Goals." They are solely a Secretariat product, which member states never formally adopted.
..."*

UN member states have consistently agreed to use the formulation "internationally agreed development goals, including those in the Millennium Declaration" in negotiated texts. This spells out exactly what we are committed to...

...must not backtrack on previous agreements or create ambiguity....

...President Bush said... "America supports the international development goals in the UN

Millennium Declaration."

We remain committed to work with member states in support of those goals."

John R. Bolton

US Ambassador to the UN

Letter to colleagues

26 August 2005

<https://www.globalpolicy.org/images/pdfs/0826bolton.pdf>

http://www.humanrightsvoices.org/assets/attachments/documents/bolton_letter_mdgs.pdf

"Our views on the sub-headings of the Development Chapter [of leaders' proposed September 2005 World Summit outcome document] are summarized below:

...the U.S. proposes using the phrase internationally agreed development goals rather than the term Millennium Development Goals in order to be clear that we are referring to goals agreed among governments --not the subsequent more elaborate framework of goals, targets and indicators prepared by the UN secretariat."

John R. Bolton

US Ambassador to the UN

30 August 2005

http://www.humanrightsvoices.org/assets/attachments/documents/bolton_development.pdf

"John Bolton, US ambassador, said there was "no doubt the United States supports the development goals of the Millennium Declaration", adopted in 2000.

But the term "Millennium Development Goals" had caused confusion, he said, as it was used to refer to a subsequent package of "goals and subsidiary targets and indicators" which were "solely a Secretariat product, which member states never formally adopted."

August 30, 2005

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/652ccfa2-199d-11da-804e-00000e2511c8.html>

"ASSISTANT SECRETARY SILVERBERG: On the reference to -- and John can jump in on this, too. Ambassador Bolton sent a very specific letter to address -- and so there was no confusion at all -- our view on the term "Millennium Development Goals" or, as we prefer to say, the goals in the Millennium Declaration.

The U.S. stands by its commitment to the goals in the Millennium Declaration. The President has said so specifically. This is an important commitment we made and, of course, we remain committed to it.

Separate from the Millennium Declaration, the UN Secretariat created a document that provides a number of indicators, ways to measure, ways the UN Secretariat thinks would be appropriate to measure progress towards those goals. Some of them we agree with, some of them we don't agree with. The U.S. never signed onto it [the Secretariat's MDG framework]. Other member-states didn't sign onto it. So we try to be very precise when we're talking about the Millennium Declaration to say we support the goals in the Millennium Declaration that were subject to U.S. agreement. ...

QUESTION: What exactly do you find offensive in the Millennium Development Goals that you're stripping -- you would like reference stripped to that term, and then having the kind of looser term "internationally agreed development goals"? What exactly is there in there? ...

ASSISTANT SECRETARY SILVERBERG: ... the Millennium Declaration was about a nine-page document. Again, the document we signed onto. What's commonly referred to as the Millennium Development Goals is, you know, a 55-page, you know, single-spaced, very detailed document. There are lots of different things in it that we agree with and disagree with on...the U.S. didn't sign onto it. And so we -- it's appropriate that we resist any implication that we have signed onto it. ...

QUESTION: Is the elimination of the Millennium Development Goals sort of your bottom line? And what happens if everyone else is pushing for it and you don't get agreement on that?

ASSISTANT SECRETARY SILVERBERG: This has been an issue that's come up in numerous international fora. It comes up really pretty frequently. And so I think that our view on it is pretty well understood by member-states. I think that we have a very good way of talking about it and one that ought to get lots of agreement, which is again, we support the goals of the Millennium Declaration. So, you know, we, I think, feel reasonably confident we'll be able to persuade -- come to agreement around something that we can all agree to.

QUESTION: But is that your bottom line in your negotiating process --

ASSISTANT SECRETARY SILVERBERG: I don't -- yes, I don't want to negotiate our bottom line here. I will say that it's, you know, a longstanding U.S. view."

Assistant US Secretary of State for International Organization Affairs
Kristen Silverberg
On-The-Record Briefing
Washington, DC

August 31, 2005

2001-2009.state.gov/p/io/rls/rm/52382.htm

.....

"U.S. Representative to the U.N. Bolton stunned the development community when he announced that the United States rejects the MDGs — the goals developed by Annan's staff.

...

"The [goals] are solely a [U.N.] Secretariat product, which member states never formally adopted," Bolton wrote in an Aug. 26 letter to his fellow envoys. Although the United States still supports the 2000 Millennium Declaration on which the goals were based, Bolton says, Annan's MDGs go too far.

"We're trying to go back to what governments agreed to," a member of Bolton's staff says."

September 9, 2005

<http://library.cqpress.com/cqresearcher/document.php?id=cqresrre2005090905>

"The negotiated final summit document expected to be adopted September 16 by the U.N. General Assembly clarifies that the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) are those agreed to by the United States and other U.N. members in the 2000 Millennium Declaration, says Assistant Secretary of State Kristen Silverberg.

In an exclusive interview with the Washington File September 15, Silverberg, who heads the State Department's Bureau of International Organization Affairs, said the United States regards the Millennium Declaration – a key set of principles and objectives on an array of international issues – as a "good product."

Silverberg said the United States continues to "strongly support" the goals it agreed to in the Millennium Declaration, such as reducing world poverty by half by 2015...

"Sometimes people use [the term] MDGs to mean...a list...in a document the [U.N.] secretariat produced" following the Millennium Declaration, Silverberg said. The United

States did not negotiate that document or agree to it and neither did many other states. It is solely a document of the secretariat, she said.

She said confusion about the U.S. stance on the MDGs was a result of erroneous reports presented by some media about the meaning of the term “Millennium Development Goals.”

“The [world leaders'] outcome document clarifies the term MDGs, which means goals in the Millennium Declaration,” she said.”

16 September 2005

<http://iipdigital.usembassy.gov/st/english/article/2005/09/20050916110129aklennoccm0.3649256.html>

<http://wfile.ait.org.tw/wf-archive/2005/050916/epf509.htm>

2005 UN Summit outcome document, 16 September 2005:

"We, Heads of State and Government...reaffirm the Millennium Declaration...

We strongly reiterate our determination to ensure the timely and full realization of the development goals and objectives agreed at the major United Nations conferences and summits, including those agreed at the Millennium Summit that are described as the Millennium Development Goals"

"We, Heads of State and Government...call for strengthened cooperation..., in particular through the Inter-Parliamentary Union, with a view to furthering all aspects of the Millennium Declaration"

http://mdgs.un.org/unsd/mdg/Resources/Attach/Indicators/ares60_1_2005summit_eng.pdf

More extracts:

"We, Heads of State and Government...reaffirm the United Nations Millennium Declaration....

We strongly reiterate our determination to ensure the timely and full realization of the development goals and objectives agreed at the major United Nations conferences and summits, including those agreed at the Millennium Summit that are described as the Millennium Development Goals..."

"we commit ourselves to: ...integrating [the reproductive health] goal in strategies to attain the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration, aimed at reducing maternal mortality, improving maternal health, reducing child mortality...."

"We therefore resolve to create a more peaceful, prosperous and democratic world and to undertake concrete measures to continue finding ways to implement the outcome of the Millennium Summit"

"We emphasize the critical role of both formal and informal education in the achievement of poverty eradication and other development goals as envisaged in the Millennium Declaration"

"22. ...we resolve: (a) To adopt, by 2006, and implement comprehensive national development strategies to achieve the internationally agreed development goals and objectives, including the Millennium Development Goals..."

(c) ...support developing countries by providing...aid of sufficient quality and arriving in a timely manner to assist them in achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals..."

"23. We reaffirm the Monterrey Consensus

[Comment: The Monterrey Consensus states that economic conditions to fulfil internationally agreed objectives, including those of the Declaration, will be the "first step" and expresses an intention for a "global information campaign" on those objectives, again including those of the Declaration.

<http://www.un.org/esa/ffd/monterrey/MonterreyConsensus.pdf>]

...and recognize that mobilizing financial resources for development and the effective use of those resources in developing countries and countries with economies in transition are

central to a global partnership for development in support of the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals."

"We call for strengthened cooperation between the United Nations and national and regional parliaments, in particular through the Inter-Parliamentary Union, with a view to furthering all aspects of the Millennium Declaration"

"Inviting the Secretary-General to launch work to further strengthen the management and coordination of United Nations operational activities so that they can make an even more effective contribution to the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals"

http://mdgs.un.org/unsd/mdg/Resources/Attach/Indicators/ares60_1_2005summit_eng.pdf

One media organisation at least thought the world's national leaders were recommitting themselves in 2005 to the Declaration:

"...member states' reaffirmation [in September 2005] of goals set by a UN Millennium summit in 2000 to halve poverty by 2015."

September 17, 2005

<http://www.ft.com/intl/cms/s/0/13d5a1d0-271f-11da-b6fe-00000e2511c8.html>

While leaders in 2005 did refer in other passages of the outcome document to meeting MDG targets, that makes no difference to the commitments they reaffirmed to the more ambitious pledges.

*"Dhaka Declaration
Thirteenth SAARC Summit
13 November 2005*

The Prime Minister of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, Her Excellency Begum Khaleda Zia; the Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Bhutan, His Excellency Lyonpo Sangay Ngedup; the Prime Minister of the Republic of India, His Excellency Dr. Manmohan Singh; the President of the Republic of Maldives, His Excellency Mr. Maumoon Abdul Gayoom; the King of Nepal, His Majesty Gyanendra Bir Bikram Shah Dev; the Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, His Excellency Mr. Shaukat Aziz; and, the President of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, Her Excellency Mrs. Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga met at the Thirteenth Summit meeting of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) in Dhaka, Bangladesh on 12 - 13 November 2005. ...

They called upon the international community to redouble efforts to meet the commitments of the Millennium Summit and the Monterrey consensus. They noted the outcome of the UN World Summit 2005 and underlined the need for meaningful reforms of the United Nations system in consonance with its role as the central organ for the cooperative management of the global problems and for the promotion of peace, security, development, justice and human rights. They also reiterated their full support for a comprehensive approach, which would facilitate implementation of the Millennium Declaration and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in a time bound manner."

<http://www.saarc-sec.org/userfiles/Summit%2520Declarations/13%2520-%2520Dhaka%2520-%252013th%2520Summit%252012-13%2520Nov%25202005.pdf>

"WHO's commitment to the Millennium Declaration has been reaffirmed by its governing bodies"

2005

www.who.int/hdp/publications/mdg_en.pdf

2006: US and UK still differed over whether MDGs were agreed

"Senator Sarbanes. When you first went up to the U.N., you sought to delete the references to the Millennium Development Goals from the outcome document, is that correct?"

Ambassador Bolton. What I sought was to eliminate an ambiguity that had developed over the course of years about that term, which I'd be happy to explain here at greater length, if you'd like.

Senator Sarbanes. When the President went to speak at the U.N., he specifically endorsed the Millennium Development Goals, is that not right?

Ambassador Bolton. That's exactly right. And the ambiguity that we corrected, in fact, in the course of negotiating the outcome document, was as follows: The Millennium Development Goals, as they're frequently called, were originally written in the Millennium Declaration, which was the outcome document that came out of the 2000 Summit in New York. Those goals were endorsed by the United States and by all the member governments, and--that was during the Clinton administration--and were endorsed by the Bush administration shortly after it came into office, as well.

Subsequent to the adoption of the Millennium Declaration, the U.N. Development Program and other U.N. agencies took those goals and attempted to put them in quantifiable terms. Those efforts at quantification were not endorsed by all member governments, and specifically not by the United States. And yet, over time there developed an ambiguity as to what one meant when one used the phrase ``Millennium Development Goals.''

In the negotiation of the outcome document, we made several efforts to eliminate the ambiguity, and, ultimately, all of the member governments accepted a definition in the outcome document for "Millennium Development Goals" that said, "These are the goals adopted in the Millennium Declaration of 2000." So, obviously, that was something we had accepted, and that President Bush had previously endorsed, even before his speech in New York last September."

Senate Hearing 109-935
NOMINATION OF HON. JOHN R. BOLTON TO BE U.S. REPRESENTATIVE TO THE UNITED NATIONS
July 27, 2006
<https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/CHRG-109shrg36452/html/CHRG-109shrg36452.htm>

The UK gave a different impression from the US:

"The MDGs were agreed at the UN in 2000 [!]. These eight goals have guided international development ever since. Having set the standard, the UN is helping hold countries to account for progress. [!]"

In 2005 at the UN summit, world leaders re-committed themselves to achieve the MDGs by 2015." [?]

UK Department for International Development White Paper
2006

"The General Assembly..."

Remaining concerned that Africa is the only continent currently not on track to achieve any of the goals of the United Nations Millennium Declaration by 2015"

"Reaffirming further the commitments to the global partnership for development set out in the Millennium Declaration, the Monterrey Consensus⁶ and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation ...

1. Calls for concerted efforts by all to ensure the timely and full realization of the development goals and objectives agreed at the major United Nations conferences and summits, including the Millennium Development Goals..."

"56. Decides to dedicate a specific meeting focused on development, including an assessment of progress over the previous year, at each session of the General Assembly during the debate on the follow-up to the Millennium Declaration 2 and the 2005 World Summit Outcome; ..."

"63. Requests the Secretary-General to report on progress made in the implementation of the development outcome of the 2005 World Summit in the framework of the comprehensive report on the follow-up to the Millennium Declaration and the 2005 World Summit Outcome."

92nd plenary meeting
30 June 2006

https://www.gfmd.org/files/documents/A_RES_60_265_en.pdf

"The EU Sustainable Development Strategy (EU SDS) (Council of the European Union, 2006) ...objective is 'to ...ensure that...policies are consistent with...its international commitments'.

...the EU SDS sets out....:

Make significant progress towards meeting the commitments of the EU with regard to internationally agreed goals and targets, in particular those contained in the Millennium Declaration ..."

Sustainable development - global partnership - Statistics Explained

http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/Sustainable_development_-_global_partnership

""In 2000, the 192-member states of the United Nations, including the United States, agreed to work toward achieving the development goals of the Millennium Declaration. These goals include reducing the child mortality rate by two-thirds and reducing the maternal mortality rate by three-quarters from 1990 levels

[!]

worldwide by 2015. "

" The Millennium Development Goals were adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in the 2000 United Nations Millennium Declaration and are supported by the United States. A version of the goals, however, that differs in significant respects from what was agreed to at the United Nations in 2000 is widely in use. The maternal and child health goals, however, are the same in both versions

[!]

--namely, to reduce maternal mortality by three-quarters, and under-5 child mortality by two-thirds by 2015."

United States Government Accountability Office
Report to Congressional Committees
April 20, 2007
<http://www.gao.gov/assets/260/259632.html>

"if people move to cities for work, they may begin paying rent, having previously lived on family land. It was not clear to me from Absolute Poverty Measures whether this kind of thing - changes in consumption needs - was taken into account, or whether the new urban/rural adjustments were solely for prices.

...in respect of economies of scale, a plausible scenario might be that economic growth coincides with smaller household units, as single people travel to cities for work. This would be additional to considerations about economies of scale related to children's needs and smaller family sizes as birth rates fall.

Thirdly and fourthly, it is not clear to me how surveys have generally dealt with expenditure on personal debt, or costs which are sometimes the subject of public concern and whose incidence varies across countries and times, such as charges for water, medicine or schooling."

Email 18 May 2007 to Martin Ravallion, one of the two global poverty monitors for the World Bank
<http://blogs.worldbank.org/developmenttalk/should-we-care-equally-about-poor-people-wherever-they-may-live>

"it was here seven years ago...[!] in this United Nations conclave... with the eyes of the whole world upon us all...

that every world leader [!], every international body, almost every single country signed a historic declaration for the new millennium, pledging to set and then to meet by 2015 eight [!] development goals.

It was a remarkable moment --- the whole world coming together as one, the leadership of the poorest countries to be empowered by the obligations [!] accepted by the richest. All of us accepting our shared responsibilities to work together for change.

But seven years on [!] it is already clear that our pace is too slow; our direction too uncertain; our vision at risk.

The Millennium Development Goal to be met in 2015, is to reduce infant mortality by two thirds. But unless we act, it will not be met by 2015, not even by 2030, not until 2050...."

Text of Gordon Brown's speech to the UN

July 31, 2007

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/28b08110-3f73-11dc-b034-0000779fd2ac.html>

"It is imperative that all stakeholders meet, in their entirety, the commitments already made in the Millennium Declaration...."

Ban Ki-Moon

UN Millennium Development Goals Report

2007

<http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/pdf/mdg2007.pdf>

"All stakeholders need to fulfil, in their entirety, the commitments they made in the Millennium Declaration and subsequent pronouncements."

UN Millennium Development Goals Report

2007

<http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/pdf/mdg2007.pdf>

Ban Ki-moon, UN Secretary-General:

"The norms and values embedded in the Millennium Declaration and international human rights instruments must continue to provide the foundation for engagement, in particular the key human rights principles of non-discrimination, meaningful participation and accountability".

Undated?

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/MDG/Pages/Quotes.aspx>

"without vigorous democratic participation, official accountability, strengthened institutional capacity, Governments are unlikely to deliver on commitments to achieve the Millennium Declaration, including the Millennium Development Goals, and other internationally agreed development goals."

"At the 2005 World Summit (see General Assembly resolution 60/1), world leaders committed themselves to achieving four targets additional to the ones included in the United Nations Millennium Declaration"

Report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Organization
2007

<http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/sgreport2007.pdf>

How can people have "vigorous democratic participation" if the authorities tell them leaders only pledged the easier MDG targets?

The Secretary-General's 2007 report wrongly refers to the 1990-baseline targets as

"targets (from the Millennium Declaration)...1990...1990..."

In the cases of the mortality targets, he directly contradicted the Declaration's text,
"of their current rates".

"We seek to reduce hunger in Africa by half by 2015, in keeping with the United Nations (UN) Development Goals of the Millennium Declaration."

Department of State and USAID Strategic Plan
Bureau of Resource Management
2007
<http://www.state.gov/s/d/rm/rls/dosstrat/2007/html/82960.htm>

"WSSD reaffirmed the MDGs of reducing, by 2015, mortality rates for infants and children under five, by two thirds, and maternal mortality rates by three quarters, of the prevailing rate in 2000."

UNITED NATIONS
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL
ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA
Follow-up to the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD):
Regional Review Report AFRICA
November 2007
https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/eca_bg1.pdf

"On September 25, 2008, Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao delivered a keynote speech at the U. N. High-Level Meeting on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) at the United Nations headquarters in New York. ...

Wen said that China has honored its commitments to the Millennium Declaration and done what it can to help some least developed countries.

Meanwhile, the premier pointed out, about one billion people in the world still live below the poverty line. To attain the goals of the Millennium Declaration globally remains a long and uphill journey...

...It is important to improve the working mechanisms for the development goals in the Millennium Declaration."

Wen Jiabao Delivers Keynote Speech at U.N. High-Level Meeting on MDGs
2008

http://www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa_eng/wjdt_665385/zjyh_665391/t515546.shtml

"we reaffirm our commitment to contribute decisively to the Millennium Development Goals of the Millennium Declaration agreed to at the 2000 Summit and other development targets we have agreed to in other international fora. We will reinvigorate our efforts to meet these goals...we pledge our commitment to...foster human rights, democracy, and good governance..."

[It might be argued that the EU and US broke their stated intention on democracy and good governance before they made the declaration, by including in it a passage either falsely implying that the easier MDGs were the Millennium pledges or blurring the difference. But in any case this was a clear recommitment to the Declaration.]

...We will continue to support partner countries as they work to achieve the health-related goals of the Millennium Declaration. We are accountable for progress in delivering on our promises to combat HIV/AIDS, malaria, TB, polio and other diseases."

U.S. - EU Summit Declaration

2008

<http://georgewbush-whitehouse.archives.gov/news/releases/2008/06/20080610-8.html>

"The United States is a strong and consistent supporter of the goals of the Millennium Declaration of the United Nations. The adoption of the Millennium Declaration in 2000 by the international community reflects a shared sense of the urgency of development..."

"Achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration, demands a new partnership between developed and developing countries.

*- International Conference on Financing for Development, Monterrey, Mexico, March 2002
."*

To meet and sustain the goals of the Millennium Declaration, the world community must help

developing nations harness the full potential of resource flows to countries in the developing world. ...

The United States has extensive programs in education, infectious diseases, famine prevention, and other areas that support the goals of Millennium Declaration."

The United States Commitment to the Millennium Development Goals

United States Agency for International Development

April 2008

http://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf_docs/Pdacl239.pdf

"Why GAO Did This Study

In 1996, the United States and more than 180 world leaders pledged to halve the number of undernourished people globally by 2015 from the 1990 level...."

United States Government Accountability Office

Accountability Integrity Reliability

May 2008

INTERNATIONAL FOOD SECURITY

Insufficient Efforts by Host Governments and Donors Threaten Progress to Halve Hunger in Sub-Saharan Africa by 2015

GAO-08-680, a report to congressional requesters

May 2008

www.gao.gov/new.items/d08680.pdf

"At the 1996 World Food Summit (WFS) in Rome, the United States and more than 180 world leaders pledged to halve the total number of undernourished people worldwide from the 1990 level"

[!]

United States Government Accountability Office

July 17, 2008:

Congressional Requesters:

Food Insecurity Persists in Sub-Saharan Africa despite Efforts to Halve Hunger by 2015:

<http://www.gao.gov/assets/100/95636.html>

"The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the commitments made by the international community in the United Nations Millennium Declaration, in particular its goal to create an environment conducive to development and the elimination of poverty"

Resolution 63/23

17 November 2008

Promoting development through the reduction and prevention of armed violence

<http://www.genevadeclaration.org/fileadmin/docs/UNGA-Resolution-AVD-2008-final-english.pdf>

"The G-8 agreed that support for good governance...is essential to... achieving the goals of the Millennium Declaration."

The White House

Fact Sheet: Development and Africa

<http://georgewbush-whitehouse.archives.gov/news/releases/2008/07/20080708-17.html>

"Reaffirming the goals and commitments of the Monterrey Consensus

1 . We, Heads of State and Government and High Representatives, gathered in Doha, Qatar, from 29 November to 2 December 2008, almost seven years after the landmark International Conference on Financing for Development, held in Monterrey, Mexico, reiterate our resolve to take concrete action to implement the Monterrey Consensus...We once again commit ourselves to eradicate poverty, achieve sustained economic growth and promote sustainable development as we advance to a fully inclusive and equitable global economic system.

2. We reaffirm the Monterrey Consensus in its entirety...

40. ... we recall our commitments to the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, and call for the international community to redouble its efforts to facilitate the achievement of these goals"

www.un.org/esa/ffd/doha/documents/Doha_Declaration_FFD.pdf

"One of the centerpieces of foreign aid efforts in the new millennium has been the effort to attain seven millennium development goals (MDGs) for developing countries by the year 2015, representing progress on a range of economic and social indicators.¹ These goals were first agreed at a summit of virtually all world leaders at the UN in 2000"

[!]

William Easterly

2008

dri.fas.nyu.edu/docs/IO/13016/UnfairtoAfrica.pdf

"We, parliamentarians from across the globe... call for our governments to recommit to the Millennium Declaration....as a priority on the political agenda ...

We, Parliamentarians, have the mandate to monitor government action and hold our government to account for promises made – including at international conferences. We believe a promise is a promise, and a promise to the world's poor should not be taken lightly"

Interparliamentary seminar

Final Declaration

MDGs Parliamentary Sub-Committee of the Italian Chamber of Deputies Foreign Affairs Committee

UN Millennium Campaign

The Role of National Parliaments in Achieving the Millennium Development Goals

July 2nd 2009

http://leg16.camera.it/543?shadow_mostra_allegato=22953

"Mr. Chairman and Members of the Subcommittee: I am pleased to be here to discuss the extent to which host governments and donors, including the United States, are working to improve global food security.[Footnote 1] This problem is especially severe in sub-Saharan Africa, the region where food insecurity is most prevalent with 1 out of every 3 people considered undernourished. The number of undernourished people worldwide has been growing and now exceeds 1 billion, according to the estimates of the United Nations (UN) Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). As the largest international donor, contributing over half of all food aid supplies to alleviate hunger and support development, the United States plays an important role in responding to emergencies and ensuring global food security. Global targets were set at the 1996 World Food Summit and reaffirmed

[? - in fact weakened]

in 2000 with the Millennium Development Goals (MDG)

[!],

when the United States and more than 180 world leaders pledged to halve the total number and proportion of undernourished people reported worldwide from the 1990 level

[!]

by 2015. In recent years, GAO has issued a number of reports on international food assistance that made recommendations to improve U.S. food aid and global food security."

U.S. Government Accountability Office

Testimony:

Before the Subcommittee on Africa and Global Health, Committee on Foreign Affairs, House of Representatives
International Food Assistance: A U.S. Governmentwide Strategy Could Accelerate Progress toward Global Food Security
October 29, 2009
<http://www.gao.gov/assets/130/123657.html>

2009: Nations decided to "ensure urgent ...action to fully realize" 485 million chronically undernourished people by 2015 (according to FAO baseline estimated in 2015). In 2015 FAO estimate not 485 but nearly 800 million.

"We, the Heads of State and Government, or our Representatives and the Representative of the European Community have assembled in Rome at the World Summit on Food Security to take urgent action..."

We will reinforce all our efforts to meet by 2015 the targets of Millennium Development Goal 1 and the World Food Summits.

We commit to take action towards sustainably eradicating hunger at the earliest possible date. ...

7. We decide to:

7.1 *Ensure urgent national, regional and global action to fully realize the target of Millennium Development Goal and the 1996 World Food Summit goal, namely to reduce respectively the proportion and the number of people who suffer from hunger and malnutrition by half by 2015."*

World Summit on Food Security, Rome 16-18 November 2009: Declaration
<http://www.commit4africa.org/declarations/1631/millennium/0/0>

"The General Assembly focus has always been on calling for implementation and monitoring of all the goals and measures in the broader Millennium Declaration framework."

"...the OECD's International Development Goals (IDGs) in 1996, whose targets were expanded to become the MDGs."

"concerns have been raised as to the formulation and implementation of MDGs from a human rights perspective, particularly as the MDGs were decoupled from the broader agenda encapsulated in the Millennium Declaration. It has been queried whether the MDGs have lowered human rights standards in some instances:

for instance, Goal 2 does not require primary education to be free, contrary to the near-universally ratified Convention on the Rights of the Child; and the goal of 'fair trade' in the Millennium Declaration was reduced to 'free trade' in the MDGs.

Furthermore, most of the quantitative targets are likely to be lower than minimum human rights standards in the case of middle income countries. This can be discerned in the seemingly triumphant tone of national MDG reports of some of these countries when they report on meeting the goals."

Human Rights and MDGs in Practice:

A review of country strategies and reporting

"This report is based on a global analytical paper commissioned by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) from Malcolm Langford, Norwegian Centre for Human Rights, University of Oslo. The views expressed in this paper do not necessarily represent those of OHCHR, UNICEF or the United Nations."

http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/MDGs/Human_rights_and_MDGs_in_practice_ML.pdf

"At the 1996 World Food Summit, world leaders set a goal to halve the total number of undernourished people worldwide by 2015 from the 1990 level. [!] ...

However, in 2000, the first of eight UN Millennium Development Goals [!]
(MDG), referred to as MDG-1, was defined as a commitment to halve the proportion of undernourished people. Both goals apply globally as well as at the country and regional levels. MDG-1 has two targets: first, between 1990 and 2015, [!] to halve the proportion of people whose income is less than \$1 a day.. "

US Government Accountability Office

Testimony

Before the Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration,

and Related Agencies, Committee on Appropriations, House of Representatives
Global Food Security: Progress toward a U.S. Governmentwide Strategy Is Under Way, but Approach Has Several Vulnerabilities
Statement of Thomas Melito, Director International Affairs and Trade Team
March 2010
www.gao.gov/new.items/d10494t.pdf

"the MDGs represent basic development benchmarks, and promise a better life for billions of people. Those people are entitled to believe that the promises of action made in 2000 were promises which were meant to be kept."

Remarks at the DFID MDG Conference
Helen Clark
Head of United Nations Development Programme
2010
<http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/presscenter/speeches/2010/03/11/helen-clark-remarks-at-the-dfid-mdg-conference.html>

But not entitled to know what those promises are?

Helen Clark, as Prime Minister of New Zealand, agreed the Millennium Declaration and so made the promises herself.

"As one who signed the Millennium Declaration, back in 2000, I have never believed that the MDGs were meant to be mere aspirational or stretch targets. The MDGs can be met, and we should do everything possible within our power to ensure that they are.

That's because the MDGs represent basic development benchmarks, and promise a better life for billions of people. Those people are entitled to believe that the promises of action made in 2000 were promises which were meant to be kept."

Helen Clark: Remarks at the DFID MDG Conference

<http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/presscenter/speeches/2010/03/11/helen-clark-remarks-at-the-dfid-mdg-conference.html>

At the 2010 MDG Summit:

"We reaffirm the importance of the United Nations Millennium Declaration and underscore the continuing relevance of the outcomes of all major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields, as well as the important commitments contained therein."

Statement on behalf of the Group of 77 and China

High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals
20 September 2010

<http://www.g77.org/statement/getstatement.php?id=100920>

"The Institute of Development Studies, a leading thinktank on development issues, has issued a report [<http://www.ids.ac.uk/go/news/millennium-development-goals-performance-indicators-paint-a-distorted-picture-of-progress>] critical of the MDGs. The report says that without promoting equity and tackling the root causes of social exclusion, the goals betray the promise of social justice contained in the Millennium declaration."

Millenium development goals summit day two - live updates

The Guardian

21 September 2010

<https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/poverty-matters/2010/sep/21/millennium-development-goals-live-updates>

*"at the dawn of a new millennium,
we set concrete goals...
These are the standards that we set."*

Remarks by the President at the Millennium Development Goals Summit
22 September 2010

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2010/09/22/remarks-president-millennium-development-goals-summit-new-york-new-york>

The "dawn of a new millennium" part echoes the Declaration.

"We, Heads of State and Government...reaffirm our resolve to work together for the promotion of the economic and social advancement of all peoples, recalling the development goals and commitments emanating from the United Nations Millennium Declaration and the 2005 World Summit Outcome.

2. We reaffirm that we continue to be guided by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and with full respect for international law and its principles.

3. We also reaffirm the importance of freedom, peace and security, respect for all human rights, including the right to development, the rule of law, gender equality and an overall commitment to just and democratic societies for development.

4. We underscore the continued relevance of the outcomes of all major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields and the commitments contained therein, including the Millennium Development Goals..."

General Assembly Resolution 65/1
22 September 2010

Note: It is not clear why member states are here talking about "*commitments*" "including the *Millennium Development Goals*" in the context of outcomes of UN conferences and summits.

The US claimed in 2005 that the mention of MDGs in the 2005 Summit outcome in fact meant the Declaration goals, not the "MDGs" produced by Kofi Annan's staff. At what Summit or conference are the members now claiming they "committed" to the MDGs?

<http://iipdigital.usembassy.gov/st/english/article/2005/09/20050916110129aklennoccm0.3649256.html#ixzz3pPkGi19h>

"Between now and 2015, we must make sure that promises made become promises kept. The consequences of doing otherwise are profound..."

We must hold each other accountable.

The UN system and I personally will do our utmost to promote accountability on all sides."

Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon

Closing remarks at High Level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals

New York, 22 September 2010

<http://www.un.org/sg/STATEMENTS/index.asp?nid=4798>

"The MDGs are a group of measurable development targets agreed to by 189 U.N. member states—including the United States—as part of the 2000 Millennium Declaration." [!] The Goals, which governments aim to achieve by 2015, include (1) eradicating [!] extreme hunger and poverty..."

Since 2000 [!], governments have worked to achieve the MDGs...

"In 2000, 189 U.N. member states, including the United States, adopted the U.N. Millennium Declaration.¹ In the Declaration, countries made commitments to achieve a series of measurable development targets worldwide by 2015 known as the "Millennium Development Goals" (MDGs or Goals) [!].² In all, there are eight MDGs comprised of 21 quantifiable

targets measured by 60 indicators.³ Table 1 lists the Goals, and Table A-1 in the Appendix provides the corresponding targets"

Table: "between 1990 and 2015"

"As explained by a 2005 State Department cable to all U.S. embassies and USAID missions, the United States agreed to the development goals included in the Millennium Declaration adopted at the 2000 UN Millennium Summit. It did not, however, commit to the goals, targets, and indicators issued by the U.N. Secretariat in 2001.³⁰ These are the eight goals and related indicators that are generally referred to today as the MDGs, but were described by the State Department as "solely a Secretariat product, never having been formally adopted by member states."³¹

The Bush Administration did not fully accept the Secretariat's formulation of the MDGs for two primary reasons. First, it argued that the Secretariat took the MDGs out of the context of the Millennium Declaration, which included commitments to good governance, democracy, human rights, and other U.S. foreign policy priorities."

"Accountability

Some experts attribute limited advancement toward the MDGs to the absence of accountability stipulations"

[!]

Congressional Research Service

Luisa Blanchfield

Specialist in International Relations

Marian Leonardo Lawson

Analyst in Foreign Assistance

September 23, 2010

The Millennium Development Goals: The September 2010 U.N. High-level Meeting

fpc.state.gov/documents/organization/150194.pdf

"...report to Congressional Requesters.

Why GAO Did This Study:

The Senator Paul Simon Water for the Poor Act of 2005 (the Act) made access to safe water and sanitation for developing countries a U.S. foreign assistance policy objective.

....the importance of access to water was recognized in September 2000 with the ratification of the United Nations (UN) Millennium Declaration, whereby many countries and leading development institutions agreed to work toward meeting the needs of the world's poorest people. Among the declaration's eight Millennium Development Goals

[?]

is that of halving, by 2015, the proportion of people lacking sustainable access to safe drinking water from 1990 levels."

[!]

"In 2002, the UN recognized the importance of sanitation with a declaration that included the goal of halving, by 2015, the proportion of people without access to basic sanitation, also from 1990 levels. [Footnote 10]

*[10] UN, Report of the World Summit of Sustainable Development:
Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August - 4 September, 2002 (New York: 2002)*

[! - the Johannesburg Plan of Action says nothing about 1990]

United States Government Accountability Office
GAO-10-957, U.S. Water and Sanitation Aid: Millions of Beneficiaries Reported in Developing Countries, but Department of State Needs to Strengthen Strategic Approach
September 30, 2010
<http://www.gao.gov/assets/320/310356.html>

*"Reaffirming [the UK's] commitment to the Millennium Declaration (2000) and the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (1994) by empowering women through universal access to education, family planning and reproductive health services will ensure:...
Reduced Maternal and Infant Mortality & Morbidity rates...
It is time for us to stand up and fight for women's rights..."*

UK All Party Parliamentary Group on Population, Development and Reproductive Health
Written evidence to the House of Commons Environmental Audit Committee
3 August 2011

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201012/cmselect/cmenvaud/1026/1026vw28.htm>

"The event was extremely well attended, demonstrating the commitment of parliamentarians to realising the Millennium Declaration..."

International parliamentary conference on the Millennium Development Goals
2011

<http://www.parliament.uk/mps-lords-and-offices/offices/bicameral/cpa-home/programmes/conferences/international-parliamentary-conference-on-the-millennium-development-goals/footballers-and-parliamentarians-join-to-score-a-millennium-development-goal/>

"The Millennium Declaration is the strategic framework for German development co-operation."

Policy changes in DAC members' development co-operation
OECD 2011

<http://www.oecd.org/dac/peer-reviews/47368129.pdf>

"We, the Heads of State and Government and high-level representatives..

recommit to fully implement the internationally agreed commitments related to Africa's development needs, particularly those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration..."

Future We Want
United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development
Rio de Janeiro
22 June 2012
<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/futurewewant.html>

"I have attempted to understand the reasoning in Dr Ravallion's and Dr Chen's methodology papers underlying statements on global poverty..."

Since the FAO adjust for rising food needs per person due to rising adult-child ratios, it is not clear why the World Bank does not do likewise. Other things being equal there would be an element of spurious progress.

It is not clear why the Bank has not factored in numbers of AIDS deaths, especially in sub-Saharan Africa, into an assessment of the progress of poor people since 1981"

Query for Dr Ravallion

19 November 2012

<http://blogs.worldbank.org/developmenttalk/should-we-care-equally-about-poor-people-wherever-they-may-live>

"A high-level meeting in Norway has brought government leaders, health experts and private sector together....The Global Campaign for the Health Millennium Development Goals was initiated by Prime Minister Jens Stoltenberg of Norway in 2007. The Campaign brings together a number of actions and initiatives, all aimed at fulfilling the promises given by world leaders in the Millennium Declaration in 2000."

WHO | High-level Conference launch Global Campaign Report in Norway
2013

www.who.int/pmnch/media/news/2013/20130122_global_campaign/en/

"The Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Member States of the Group of 77 and China...reaffirmed... the Millennium Declaration..."

Ministerial Declaration

<http://www.g77.org/doc/Declaration2013.htm>

"David Woodward, fellow at the New Economics Foundation and previously an adviser at the IMF and World Bank, said....the goal to reduce to 3% the share of the world's population living on less than \$1.25 a day would still leave 200 million people in extreme poverty."

21 March 2013

<https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2013/mar/21/world-bank-vision-poverty-unambitious>

"If countries can achieve this, then absolute poverty will be brought below three percent," said Kim, speaking in Georgetown's historic Gaston Hall. "Our economists set the goal line here because below three percent the nature of the poverty challenge will change fundamentally in most parts of the world. The focus will shift from broad structural measures to tackling sporadic poverty among specific vulnerable groups. ""

World Bank President: Ending Extreme Poverty Possible by 2030 | Georgetown University
April 2, 2013

<https://www.georgetown.edu/news/president-of-the-world-bank.html>

Is part of the problem that in some way the rich don't see the poor as human?

"Extreme poverty could be wiped out [! - not what the World Bank is in fact saying] by 2030, World Bank estimates show

...The Bank's target of eliminating "extreme" poverty by 2030 does not include the poorest 3%, which [!] it defines as being sporadic rather than structural poverty."

<https://www.theguardian.com/business/2013/apr/02/global-poverty-wiped-out-world-bank>

"Unlike the World Bank, which seems to have targeted reducing the percentage of people living in extreme poverty to 3% by 2030, the high-level panel apparently envisages its reduction to nothing."

How progressive is the push to eradicate extreme poverty? | David Woodward | Global development | The Guardian

<https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/poverty-matters/2013/jun/07/eradicating-poverty-shift-in-focus>

"the president of the World Bank, Jim Yong Kim, scrawled the figure "2030" on a sheet of paper, held it up and announced, "This is it. This is the global target to end poverty." He was echoing Barack Obama who, in February, promised that "the United States will join with our allies to eradicate such extreme poverty in the next two decades."

"Mr Ravallion calculates that the acceleration in growth outside China since 2000 has cut the number of people in extreme poverty by 280m.

[Comment: The Economist is mistaken. Ravallion was not here making any "calculation" about "growth". He just converted his own "poverty" claims from proportions to numbers:

"the developing world outside China has moved to a steeper trajectory of poverty reduction since 2000....

If the pre-2000 trajectory had continued, then 29.6 percent...would have lived below \$1.25...representing an extra 280 million people".

As with the complaint that the Economist had repeatedly given the wrong baseline for world leaders' pledges of 2000, partially described at

<http://millenniumdeclaration.org/2%20Matt%20Berkley%20supplementary%20report%202029%20August%20Economist.pdf>,

neither the editor nor the Press Complaints Commission gave any coherent response.
See also <http://www.millenniumdeclaration.org/economist.htm>.]

Can this continue? And if it does, will it eradicate extreme poverty by 2030?"

"Mr Ravallion provides an optimistic projection. If developing countries were to maintain their post-2000 performance, he says, then the number of extremely poor people in the world would fall from 1.2 billion in 2010 to just 200m in 2027.

This would be a remarkable achievement. It took 20 years to reduce the number of absolutely poor people from 1.9 billion in 1990 to 1.2 billion in 2010 (a fall of less than half). Mr Ravallion's projection would lift a billion people out of poverty in 17 years and implies almost halving the number in just ten (from 2012 to 2022).

But even this projection does not get to zero poverty. The figure of 200m poor implies a poverty rate of just over 3%. To get to zero would require something even more impressive. Mr Ravallion estimates that to reach a 1% poverty rate by 2027 would require a surge in household consumption of 7.6% a year—an unrealistically high level.

Drops of good cheer

Mr Chandy and his co-authors get similar results. They take a projection of falling poverty based on forecasts of consumption by the Economist Intelligence Unit, our sister company. If growth were two points better than forecast, then the poverty rate would be just over 3%; if two points worse, it would be almost 10%—a big disappointment. If income distribution within countries gets progressively better or worse (ie, if the poorest 40% do better or worse than the top 10%), then the range of outcomes would be the same as if growth were higher or lower. And if you combine all these variables, then the range is wide indeed, from a miserable 15% poverty rate (lower growth, more inequality) to a stunning 1.4% (higher growth, less inequality).

Two conclusions emerge from these exercises. First, the range of outcomes is wide, implying that prospects for eradicating poverty are uncertain. The range is also not symmetrical, suggesting the risk of failure is greater than the hope of success. It is also noticeable that no one is forecasting zero poverty."

Not always with us | The Economist

1 June 2013

<http://www.economist.com/news/briefing/21578643-world-has-astonishing-chance-take-billion-people-out-extreme-poverty-2030-not>

"The EU and its Member States reaffirm their commitment to the Millennium Declaration"

EU@UN -

EU Council Conclusions on the Overarching Post 2015 Agenda

25 June 2013

http://eu-un.europa.eu/articles/en/article_13692_en.htm

"Launched in 2000 [!], the MDGs mobilised the international community around common goals. The MDGs were set as global targets, and were considered feasible at that level. When translated to the national level, however, some developing countries had surpassed many of the targets at the time of their launch"

"Helen Clark became the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme on 17 April 2009"

Helen Clark: Speech at Commonwealth Local Government Forum Conference 2013 | UNDP
<http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/presscenter/speeches/2013/05/16/helen-clark-speech-at-commonwealth-local-government-forum-conference-2013-.html>

"We, the Commonwealth Heads of Government....recognise the importance of meaningful social protection for all..."

MB note: But telling citizens what governments are committed to is social protection, and telling them falsehoods about this is to act against social protection.

"...in achieving inclusive development, and also as an important tool in addressing poverty, inequality, vulnerability and social exclusion. Given the varying degrees of vulnerability to crises, particularly among the developing states, we underline the need for having proactive national initiatives on social protection, based on relevant international agreements..."

We recall the Millennium Declaration and the outcome of the United Nations General Assembly special event on the MDGs. We reaffirm their commitment to the Millennium Declaration..."

Colombo Declaration on Sustainable, Inclusive and Equitable Development
Commonwealth Heads of Governments' Meeting
2013

<http://thecommonwealth.org/media/news/colombo-declaration-sustainable-inclusive-and-equitable-development>

"The landmark Millennium Declarationand the 2005 World Summit Outcome Document... reflect the commitment of Member States to reach specific goals..."

UN Press Kit

2013

"United Nations General Assembly opens on 17 September 2013"

<http://www.un.org/en/ga/president/68/pdf/presskit/backgrounder.pdf>

"The Global Campaign for the Health Millennium Development Goals was initiated by Prime Minister Jens Stoltenberg of Norway in 2007. The Campaign brings together a number of actions and initiatives, all aimed at fulfilling the promises given by world leaders in the Millennium Declaration in 2000."

WHO

2013

http://www.who.int/woman_child_accountability/news/post_coIA/en/index1.html

"2015 is the end date for the MDGs, by which time we will judge huge progress on the commitments we made in the Millennium Declaration."

Justine Greening

Secretary of State for International Development

2013

<http://www.odi.org/sites/odi.org.uk/files/odi-assets/publications-opinion-files/8732.pdf>

The Economist's false statement on world leaders' historic pledge:

"In September 2000 the heads of 147 governments pledged that they would halve the proportion of people on the Earth living in the direst poverty by 2015, using the poverty rate in 1990 as a baseline."

1 June 2013

From the print edition

<http://www.economist.com/news/briefing/21578643-world-has-astonishing-chance-take-billion-people-out-extreme-poverty-2030-not>

"...targets to replace the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), which were set in September 2000

[untrue - understates UN commitments]

and expire in 2015...The world's achievement in the field of poverty reduction is, by almost any measure, impressive.

[The Economist omits the actual pledges of 1996 and 2000 and misleads on the latter]

Although many of the original MDGs — such as cutting maternal mortality by three-quarters and child mortality by two-thirds —will not be met, the aim of halving global poverty

[not a UN aim: it had a target on the proportion living on under, in theory, what the local equivalent would be to a dollar a day in the US.]

between 1990 and 2015

[not what leaders promised in "September 2000"]

was achieved five years early"

1 June 2013

From the print edition: Leaders

<http://www.economist.com/news/leaders/21578665-nearly-1-billion-people-have-been-taken-out-extreme-poverty-20-years-world-should-aim>

"Mr Ravallion estimates that to reach a 1% poverty rate by 2027 would require a surge in household consumption of 7.6% a year—an unrealistically high level.

Drops of good cheer

Mr Chandy and his co-authors get similar results. They take a projection of falling poverty based on forecasts of consumption by the Economist Intelligence Unit, our sister company. If growth were two points better than forecast, then the poverty rate would be just over 3%...

It is also noticeable that no one is forecasting zero poverty."

The Economist

1 June 2013

<http://www.economist.com/news/briefing/21578643-world-has-astonishing-chance-take-billion-people-out-extreme-poverty-2030-not>

The editor of The Economist and the Press Complaints Commission claimed to respond to the complaints made, but in fact did not (see below under PCC response of March 2014).

"The World Bank wants to galvanize international and national support around two goals: to virtually end extreme poverty in a generation and to push for greater equity."

LIVE Q&A: The World Bank's Twin Goals by 2030: Ending Extreme Poverty and Boosting Shared Prosperity
World Bank

Page for event of 6 September 2013

<http://live.worldbank.org/sites/default/files/archive/en/world-bank-ending-extreme-poverty-boosting-shared-prosperity>

"We, the Heads of State and Government and heads of delegation...reaffirm our commitment to the Millennium Declaration...and the outcomes of all the major UN conferences and summits in the economic, social, and environmental fields."

UN Special Event Outcome Document

25 September 2013

<http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/pdf/Outcome%20documentMDG.pdf>

"The General Assembly...

Reaffirming also its commitments contained in resolution 55/2 of 8 September 2000, entitled "United Nations Millennium Declaration"..."

A/RES/68/188

18 December 2013

The rule of law, crime prevention and criminal justice in the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015

http://www.unodc.org/documents/commissions/CCPCJ/Crime_Resolutions/2010-2019/2013/General_Assembly/A-RES-68-188.pdf

"The WBG [World Bank Group] is better focused on delivering the twin goals of eliminating extreme poverty by 2030 and boosting shared prosperity"

"If the Bank is to achieve its goal of effectively eradicating poverty by 2030..."

"the Bank's goal to reduce the extreme poverty rate to 3% globally by 2030"

UK engagement with the World Bank Group

Department for International Development

2014

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/361616/UK-engagement-World-Bank-Group.pdf

"Accelerating progress is essential if the goal of zero extreme poverty by 2030 is to be achieved."

Economic development for shared prosperity and poverty reduction: a strategic framework
31 January 2014

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/276859/Econ-development-strategic-framework_.pdf

"The burden of proof, as always in the PCC system, falls on the editors. If they wish to claim the story was true, then they will need to demonstrate that there were no significant inaccuracies or distortions and that it was not misleading."

"The context would be crucial. The PCC might need to decide if the alleged error, taken alone, was of consequence, or even if a series of relatively minor errors, taken together, were likely to mislead or distort."

UK Press Complaints Commission
http://www.pcc.org.uk/assets/449/Clause_1.pdf

The Economist and Press Complaints Commission err on MDGs

"The complainant expressed concern about eight articles – published over a two-month period"

Incorrect: in fact 15 articles over a 13-year period.

"The complainant also believed that readers had been misled by the claim that the Millennium Development Goals were set in the year 2000."

Misleading: In fact several claims including explicitly false statements that the UN Summit of 2000 made pledges with the easier 1990 baselines.

"Given that the MDG's were signed in the year 2000..."

Untrue - as the complainant had already demonstrated using the UN documentation (see below, document of 29 August 2013).

"...the Commission was satisfied that readers had not been misled."

Press Complaints Commission

March 2014

<http://millenniumdeclaration.org/5%20Matt%20Berkley%20Complaints%20to%20Press%20Complaints%20Commission%20The%20Economist%20.pdf>

The Press Complaints Commission was incorrect on the relevant facts and misleading on the complaint.

This particular complaint on UN goals was not on one "article" or one claim. The problem was not essentially anything to do with dates. It was on misrepresentation of UN pledges - as the complaint made abundantly clear.

In reality, the first page of text in the complainant's detailed document of 29 August 2013

<http://millenniumdeclaration.org/2%20Matt%20Berkley%20supplementary%20report%2029%20August%20Economist.pdf>

read,

"The Commission may consider that systematic distortions can add up to something more significant."

The first page contained a "Proposed form of a statement by the Economist". Its first paragraph contained this:

*"...We referred to a "baseline of 1990" which is not in the text of the resolution.
...Millennium Development Goal target, which is substantially easier to meet than the pledge.
.... The pledge was therefore not "enshrined" in the Goals as we stated. The pledge in the*

Millennium Declaration implies, by the current World Bank line and method, a target of under 17% rather than 21.5%."

The "proposed form of statement by the Economist" also read:

"In the context of our analysis including "the world's achievement in the field of poverty reduction is, by any measure, impressive"... We accept that the achievement on poverty reduction is not impressive by other measures: heads of governments' pledge in 1996 on a plan for the number of undernourished people to be under 400 million by 2015 - the current official numbers are almost 900 million; and their pledges of 2000 to cut the proportion of hungry people by half the 2000 rate by 2015, and to cut child and maternal mortality by half and two-thirds respectively of their levels in 2000.

"We overstated the official report of progress on extreme poverty; the significance of the World Bank target in the MDG structure; progress relative to a UN pledge"

The main document read:

"The world's achievement in the field of poverty reduction is, by almost any measure, impressive" misled, since it is contradicted by other official measures in the field of poverty, and by the implications of intergovernmental pledges.

A footnote read:

..."By any measure impressive" [complainant should here and elsewhere, have written "by almost any measure" as he did above, but the point still holds], misled in view of the UN pledge of 2000 to halve the proportion of hungry people in the world, with no indication that the starting point was to be backdated as in the MDG target. ...

The UN MDG Report 2013 Statistical Annex gives the following figures, among others, for "Indicator 1.9 Proportion of population below minimum level of dietary energy consumption (Percentage)":

World:

| | |
|---------|------|
| 1990-92 | 18.6 |
| 1999-01 | 15.0 |
| 2010-12 | 12.5 |

...

The heads of state and governments pledged to halve the world proportion from around 15% to around 7.5%."

"Goals...which were set in September 2000" misleads that "original MDGs—such as cutting maternal mortality by three-quarters and child mortality by two-thirds" refers to pledges in the UN resolution.

Those particular pledges clearly had a baseline of 2000.

The text of the UN resolution refers to "current rates".

"By [2015] to have reduced maternal mortality by three quarters, and under-five child mortality by two thirds, of their current rates."

The pledges were to achieve the targets in 15 years, not 25 years as in the MDG targets.

The shortfall in progress on them is therefore greater than for the MDG targets. "By any measure" therefore misleads in relation to these measures."

The complainant wrote:

"The Millennium Development Goals were not "*set in September 2000*""

The footnote read:

"The Economist misled that the Goals' intermediate targets are the same as the UN pledges of 2000. In reality some of the current targets are easier than the pledges."

"The Millennium Declaration pledge on a dollar a day did not use "*1990 as a baseline*".

The footnote read:

"a) The reference to a "*1990... baseline*" is incorrect, and significantly understates the pledge. The text of resolution 55/2, the Millennium Declaration, gives no reason to believe that a baseline would be other than 2000.

b) The pledge as written was therefore not, as the Economist claimed, "*enshrined.. in the.. Goals*".

If the baseline were the only difference, then if the current World Bank statistics, level of line, and method are applied to the Declaration's mention of a dollar a day, the UN pledge would have a target of 17%, not 21.5%. However, that is not the only difference."

"The pledge on a dollar a day was not what was "enshrined" in the Goals, since the pledge

was to achieve more progress than the target now used."

"The article would reasonably be taken as implying that any other pledges of 2000 with counterparts in the MDG targets were also "enshrined", meaning taken unchanged, into the MDG targets."

The footnote read,

"The article would reasonably be taken as implying that pledges on hunger, water, and child and maternal mortality were also among a "*litany of worthy aims*" "*enshrined*" in the Goals' targets. These pledges, like the pledge on a dollar a day, were in fact to achieve greater statistical progress than the targets now used.

For example, according to the figures in the UN's MDG Report 2013, the global maternal mortality rate in 2000 was 320 per 100,000 live births. The pledge of 2000 was to reduce it by three quarters from "current rates", and the pledge does not say it was limited to "developing countries". The pledge therefore implies bringing the global rate below 80.

The MDG target has a baseline of 1990. The MDG Report's stated levels for 1990 imply that the target is either 110 for "developing regions", or 100 for the world - compared to the UN pledge to bring the global level down to 80 deaths per 100,000 live births."

"The Millennium Development Goals: Global targets, local ingenuity'

Sep 23rd 2010

<http://www.economist.com/node/17090934>

... "Goals...a set of targets adopted by world leaders at the UN ten years ago. The leaders gave themselves 15 years to reach the goalposts set in 2000... This week they returned to the UN for another meeting" and in the context of that passage "targets set at UN-sponsored summits" misled that the pledges became MDG targets, as explained above."

...

Heads of governments' pledges and MDG targets

1996: Heads of governments' pledge on plan for 400 million hungry by 2015

Rome Declaration

<http://www.fao.org/docrep/003/w3613e/w3613e00.HTM>

2000: Secretary-General's recommendation document to Millennium Summit, March:

<http://unpan1.un.org/intradoc/groups/public/documents/un/unpan000923.pdf>

2000: Heads' of governments' pledges, General Assembly resolution,

Millennium Declaration September:
<http://www.un.org/millennium/declaration/ares552e.htm>

... Professor Pogge's analysis of implications of differences a) between Millennium Declaration pledge and MDG target on the "dollar a day"; and b) between Rome Declaration plan and MDG target on hunger:

<http://www.crop.org/viewfile.aspx?id=401> "

Complaint document sent to UK Press Complaints Commission
29 August 2013

.....

Complaint to Press Complaints Commission, November 2015 on two further articles

"Growth or safety net?
September 21st 2013
Print edition
www.economist.com/news/international/21586601-eradicating-extreme-poverty-no-longer-pipe-dream-first-governments-must-agree ...

The Economist misleads that the intergovernmental pledge of 2000 on halving extreme poverty has been met: "That enabled the 189 governments who signed a pledge to halve the share of the poorest between 1990 and 2015 to claim they had met their goal early"."

"The analysis below stems from the observations of Thomas Pogge, as did related observations in a previous complaint.

First, the pledge was not to halve "between 1990 and 2015". There are no grounds in the resolution of 2000 or the Secretary General's recommendation document to the Millennium Summit to think that the start date would be backdated at all. Both documents refer in the context of at least one aim to "current rates". The MDG target agreed later is easier.

The pledge is in the Millennium Declaration, a UN General Assembly resolution. The text does not include any reference to 1990.

<http://www.unrol.org/files/United%20Nations%20Millennium%20Declaration.pdf> ...

Not even the easier MDG target has been officially met for hunger. Progress towards both the Declaration drinking water target and the part of the MDG target on drinking water are currently technically unmeasurable.

The Economist wrote,

"...\$1.25....That enabled the 189 governments who signed a pledge to halve the share of the poorest between 1990 and 2015 to claim they had met their goal early"."

"Goal" is inaccurate in relation to not only the pledge but also the Millennium Development Goals agreed later. ...

The next frontier

Sep 21st 2013

<http://www.economist.com/news/finance-and-economics/21586512-guest-article-jeffrey-sachs-director-earth-institute-columbia>

From the print edition

.... "*the end of extreme poverty by 2030, a goal recently adopted by the World Bank*"

misleads, since the goal of 3% would leave something like 250 million or so under the line. In practice, that would mean many more being below the line sometimes, because as is well known among academics (who refer to "churning") people's economic situations fluctuate.

It is not clear that any research has been done even to establish a baseline for what the poor's money can buy now, so it is not clear what the \$1.25 in 2030 will be compared with.

.....

"There may have been a serious misunderstanding. There are significant differences between the points answered by the editor and my complaints...the wrong statement about the UN

resolution...the Economist made a major error in claiming that the UN had met a pledge in the resolution of 2000"

"The General Assembly resolution of 2000 is still in force. In that resolution governments resolved to "spare no effort" to make sure everyone was free from extreme poverty. So I cannot see how governments could get out of the commitment without a new vote in the General Assembly.

The Commission may wish to concentrate more on the Economist's claim that the UN pledge was met."

From response to The Economist editor's response to complaints, January 2014.

The editor had failed to respond to any of the complaints on The Economist's error about the Millennium Declaration pledges (see details above in document of 29 August 2013).

"All nations were united by a common purpose when the Millennium Declaration was issued 14 years ago. And we agreed then, and I quote, that "... Democratic and participatory governance based on the will of the people best assures these rights." "

UK Ambassador to the UN

25 April 2014

<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/we-have-an-opportunity-to-reflect-these-principles-within-the-new-international-development-framework>

"We, the Heads of State and Government of...the Group of 77 and China....

...decide to accelerate the implementation of our respective commitments

[on full and equal opportunities for women's participation and leadership in all areas of sustainable development]

...in...the United Nations Millennium Declaration..."

Declaration of the Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Group of 77
For a new world order for living well
Annexed to letter to the Secretary-General of the UN
June 2014
[http://www.g77.org/doc/A-68-948\(E\).pdf](http://www.g77.org/doc/A-68-948(E).pdf)

Note

Women cannot have

"full and equal"

opportunities for

"their participation...in all areas of sustainable development"

if they die from childbirth, or their children die from easily preventable causes, or they have no access to affordable and clean water, as a result of governments' failure to meet international commitments.

Nor can they "participate" fully if governments or their agents understate their pledges.

Even after the complaint, The Economist contradicted the Millennium Declaration:

"Achieving a two-thirds decline from 1990 mortality rates....was one of the UN's Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), a set of eight development targets for 2015 that were approved at a UN summit in 2000."

From the print edition

27 September 2014

<http://www.economist.com/news/international/21620223-setting-goals-helped-save-young-lives-causes-welcome-trend>

"Assessment of the global poverty target

Given the broad approach taken by the World Bank to measure global poverty, this section attempts to provide a perspective on the target to end poverty by 2030. As was noted above, the World Bank's target is to end poverty by reducing global poverty to 3 percent or less.

Why should a global poverty rate of 3 percent be interpreted to imply an ending of poverty?

As discussed below, poverty in many countries remains extremely widespread. reducing poverty to zero in such countries over any reasonable time frame would be extremely unrealistic. However, a global goal of zero poverty would require the elimination of poverty in each and every country. It is also important to acknowledge that at any moment in time, some churning is likely to be taking place in which some people, possibly for reasons beyond their control, fall into poverty, even if only temporarily. It is difficult to imagine a world in which nobody at all is poor. For these reasons, it seems reasonable to view global poverty as having effectively ended even if some frictional poverty remains at a very low level. hence, the global target is 3 percent or lower."

"Why set the global target for poverty reduction to 3 percent of the world's population by 2030? The 3 percent target derives from conceptual and empirical considerations.

Conceptually, it may be desirable to set a target to eliminate global poverty altogether. However, a global goal of zero poverty would require eliminating poverty in each and every country. Poverty in some countries remains deep and widespread, and it is simply not realistic to expect to be able to eliminate poverty in these countries by 2030. It is also the case that at any moment in time there is likely to be some churning taking place in which some people, possibly for reasons beyond their control, fall into poverty, even if only temporarily. It is thus practical to set a global target close to zero, but which allows for some heterogeneity at the country level. Empirically, simple back-of-the-envelope simulations can be conducted to assess the plausibility of the goal to end poverty by 2030. When such simulations are based on highly stylized and rather optimistic assumptions—such as stable and continuous annual growth rates in consumption per capita of at least 4 percent in all developing countries and an unchanging distribution of income—then a global poverty rate of 3 percent is achievable.² Such analysis suggests that the World Bank's dream of ending global poverty by 2030 is a highly aspirational objective, but is not entirely beyond reach with concerted efforts and commitment from individual countries as well as the international development community."

World Bank
Report stated as released October 2014
Document dated 2015
<http://elibrary.worldbank.org/doi/pdf/10.1596/978-1-4648-0361-1>

A text search of the above document resulted in no occurrences of the words "hunger", "hungry", or "undernourished", or "FAO", except for "hunger" in the title of one document it mentions.

Association of South-East Asian Nations recommits to the 2000-baseline pledge on child survival:

"The ASEAN-UNICEF [Agreement] sets the course....for the next five years and beyond. It aims to pursue their common goals of ensuring sustainable survival....of children in line with...the Millennium Declaration..."

Association of South-East Asian Nations
4 December 2014
<http://www.asean.org/news/asean-secretariat-news/item/asean-unicef-sign-framework-agreement-for-cooperation>

"The Council adopted the following conclusions...

The EU and its Member States remain strongly committed to the Millennium Declaration, to accelerating efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and to ensuring that the post-2015 agenda provides a comprehensive follow-up to Rio+20 and addresses the structural causes of poverty, inequality..."

Council of the European Union
Council conclusions on a transformative post-2015 agenda

General Affairs Council meeting

Brussels

16 December 2014

http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_data/docs/pressdata/en/foraff/146311.pdf

Even in 2015 nations were reaffirming Millennium Declaration.

"The EU and its Member States remain strongly committed to the Millennium Declaration"

Delegation of the European Union

United Nations General Assembly Plenary Meeting

8 January 2015

http://eu-un.europa.eu/articles/en/article_15930_en.htm

Complainant, January 2015 to John Micklethwait, editor of The Economist:

"There is no "1990" baseline in the Millennium Declaration. Please correct."

The Economist: No response.

26 January 2015 to Matthew Bishop, Globalisation Editor of The Economist:

"Dear Mr Bishop,

...wrong impression of world leaders' commitments at the Millennium Summit.

There is no 1990 baseline in the Millennium Declaration. The child and maternal mortality reductions specified are the same as in the MDG targets proposed in 2001: by two-thirds and three-quarters. But the leaders committed themselves in 2000 to those reductions from "current rates"....The World in 2015 and the article of September 27...

...General Assembly Resolution 55/2...

I renew my proposal for a correction."

The Economist: No response.

Lionel Barber, Editor of the Financial Times through lawyer, 24 February 2015:

"the aims adopted [!] in 2000 have become widely known [!] simply as the MDGs."

<http://aboutus.ft.com/files/2010/09/Matt-Berkley-adjudication.pdf>

"the [2015 Summit] declaration needs to show the international community's resolve to fulfil the promise of the Millennium Declaration and Rio+20, completing and building on the unfinished business of the MDGs."

17 February 2015, New York

Statement on behalf of the European Union and its Member States
delivered by Mr. Gustavo Martin Prada

Director EU Development Policy - DG DEVCO,
European Commission,
at the United Nations Post-2015 Intergovernmental Negotiations
http://eu-un.europa.eu/articles/en/article_16119_en.htm

"...essential contribution to achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration."

Group of 77 and China

9 March 2015

<http://www.g77.org/statement/getstatement.php?id=150309c>

"When the Millennium Development Goals were adopted in 2000

[!]

they seemed Utopian. But the most important one

[! - data known to be unreliable; no estimate of inflation for the poor; no estimate of changing needs]

was achieved five years early.

[wrong baseline for what was "adopted in 2000"]

This was to halve, by 2015, the share of people globally living on under \$1.25 a day, which was 36% in 1990. ...more than 700m people struggled out of extreme poverty

[strange categorical claim, since there are no official statistics on clean water, no estimates of inflation for the poor and no estimates of changing needs, and no estimates of assets or debts]

in that period. ...

Of the other targets... Over 2.3 billion people got access to improved drinking water

[["improved" is not a Millennium pledge or an MDG target; nor is it what the official monitors have statistics on: they consider the category of "improved sources" which may or may not mean "improved water"]

between 1990 and 2012...

[not what was "adopted in 2000", since leaders did not backdate the baseline to 1990; OECD nations were told clearly in September 2000 by their officials that the MDG structure of 2001 did not have a 1990 baseline either]

...though the share of undernourished people has declined (from 24% in developing countries in 1990-92

[wrong baseline for the pledge; wrong denominator, since neither the Millennium pledge nor the easier MDG target refers to "developing countries". If they had, the targets would have been easier than they in fact are, since total population of "developing countries" was increasing faster than world population]

to 14% in 2011-13), it will not have halved by 2015."

The good, the bad and the hideous

Mar 28th 2015

From the print edition

The Economist

<http://www.economist.com/news/international/21647316-which-mdgs-did-some-good-and-which-sdgs-might-work-good-bad-and-hideous>

One of the three comments on the article:

"This article makes the same major error as elsewhere in The Economist's coverage. The MDG targets for 2015 were not agreed in 2000. They were not agreed by 189 governments at the General Assembly at the Millennium Summit. The Millennium Declaration in fact has no 1990 backdated baseline. The Economist has for years confused the Declaration's pledges of 2000 with the MDG framework proposed by the Secretary-General in 2001, which does have the easier baseline. I refer editorial staff to my complaint via the Press Complaints Commission of 2013; and my emails to the former editor and Matthew Bishop this year. I renew my call for correction, with a view to remedy of the false impression given to the public."

Comments on The good, the bad and the hideous | The Economist

<http://www.economist.com/node/21647316/comments#comments>

The Economist's new editor Zanny Minton Beddoes, like the previous editor John Micklethwait and the Press Complaints Commission, failed to respond to the complaints on The Economist's understating UN pledges.

Editor of the Financial Times, through his Senior Legal Counsel:

"we have nevertheless considered it appropriate to amend a few words, as shown below in bold, to ensure sufficient accuracy"

Financial Times Complaints Commissioner:

"The Complainant...complained on 21 and 28 January 2015 [in fact he had originally requested correction in December 2014 but received no response] about nine (9) articles in particular (but Financial Times' precision generally) in respect of the Millennium Development Goals ("MDGs").

- 2. The Complainant draws attention to the distinction between the United Nations ("UN") General Assembly Resolution 55/2 of 2000 ("the Millennium Declaration") and the specific set of MDGs which were proposed by the Secretary-General of the UN in September 2001, which in some cases went beyond the leaders' pledges in 2000.*
- 3. The Complainant says this distinction is material because the Millennium Declaration included a pledge to reduce child and maternal mortality from "current rates", whereas the MDGs introduced a "1990 baseline" which would be used to assess progress towards achieving the MDGs.*

- 4. Because, on the Complainant's case, "current rates" in 2000 meant "2000 rates" not "1990 rates", and because the "1990 baseline" makes the MDGs easier to achieve than the pledges on a "2000 baseline" implied in the Millennium Declaration, the Complainant says this constitutes an inaccuracy in the reporting of the MDGs. In particular, the Complainant complains of phrases such as "the MDGs, adopted/agreed in 2000" as being inaccurate."*

"I have no doubt that the Complainant is correct that there is a material distinction between the 1990 baseline" and a 2000 baseline" (assuming that he is correct that a 2000 baseline" is implicit in current rates" in the Millennium Declaration). Had the articles suggested otherwise [?], this would have been [?] a highly-material inaccuracy of fact....

Clause 1.1 will only be breached if the Press has not taken care to avoid publishing inaccurate information. It is a rule against slapdash journalism that is negligent in setting out the facts. It is not a rule which is breached by the mere presence of any inaccuracy however minor. It is breached only by such inaccuracies that a careful newsroom could and should have avoided publishing...

If any of the articles had [?] been specifically about the appropriate baseline, and whether the MDGs were being achieved (on a particular basis), I might have been inclined to find a breach"

"I am far from sure I would have deemed the inaccuracies sufficiently significant as to have required correction/clarification"

"Having been put on-notice of the important distinction between the possible baselines, and the ways in which the MDGs may differ from the Millennium Declaration (as affirmed unamended in 2005), it would be disappointing if future articles in Financial Times were to elide the two, or fail to recognise the distinction. Were it particularly germane to the

"particular article, my decision under Clause 1.1 might be different now that the Complainant has put Financial Times on notice of this potentially important question of fact"

Financial Times complaints commissioner
Adjudication dated 29 March 2015
Sent to complainant 8 April 2015
<http://aboutus.ft.com/files/2010/09/Matt-Berkley-adjudication.pdf>

"It is necessary to conclude a genuine intergovernmental negotiation among UN member states, to create a real political commitment, in order not to repeat the mistakes of the MDGs, that were not created nor agreed governmentally..."

Asociacion Cubana de las Naciones Unidas
(Cuban United Nations Association) [NGO]
27 Apr 2015
<http://esango.un.org/irene/?page=viewContent&nr=18662&type=8§ion=8>

"We are faced with unique opportunities and responsibilities over the coming months. We should be excited by the emerging Sustainable Development Goals. They have the potential to rekindle the spirit of solidarity that underpinned the Millennium Declaration. We have a collective responsibility to deliver on our promises"

[!]

Official visit of Ban Ki-moon, United Nations Secretary-General, to the OECD
April 2015
<http://www.oecd.org/about/secretary-general/introduction-of-united-nations-secretary-general-ban-ki-moon-at-oecd-28-april-2015.htm>

Note

In 2000 and 2001 the General Assembly asked the Secretary-General to report on *progress on the Millennium Declaration commitments, formally agreed.*

Instead, Mr Annan and Mr Ban reported on the mostly easier and narrower *MDG targets*, of more dubious formal standing.

Mr Ban's 2015 Report on the Work of the Organization entirely omits the Millennium Declaration and Millennium Summit.

"...shared responsibility, as already enshrined in the Millennium Declaration.

We need to recommit and build more clearly on the Millennium Declaration..."

European Union and its Member States

22 June 2015

http://eu-un.europa.eu/articles/en/article_16598_en.htm

"We will substantially increase the share of renewable energy and double the global rate of energy efficiency and conservation, with the aim of ensuring universal access to affordable, reliable modern and sustainable energy services for all by 2030."

Addis Ababa Action Agenda

Adopted at the Third International Conference on Financing for Development
(Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 13–16 July 2015) and endorsed by the
General Assembly in its resolution 69/313 of 27 July 2015.

http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/69/313

In July 2015, world leaders in effect recommitted to publicising the wider, 2000-baseline

Millennium Declaration - but largely ignored it.

"We, the Heads of State and Government and High Representatives...reaffirm and build on the 2002 Monterrey Consensus"

"In September 2015, the United Nations will host a summit to adopt an ambitious and transformative post-2015 development agenda, including sustainable development goals. This agenda must be underpinned by equally ambitious and credible means of implementation. We have come together to establish a holistic and forward-looking framework and to commit to concrete actions to deliver on the promise of that agenda. Our task is threefold: to follow-up on commitments and assess the progress made in the implementation of the Monterrey Consensus and the Doha Declaration"

"We recognize that since the adoption of the Monterrey Consensus the world has made significant overall progress."

[Comment: But the world has gone backwards in terms of commitments and at least in one respect in terms of accountability. The Monterrey Consensus was about the Millennium Declaration, but instead of following its commitment to publicise the Declaration, the UN publicised the easier "MDG targets" which had not specifically been agreed by member states.]

"6. We recommit to adopting and strengthening sound policies and enforceable legislation and transformative actions for the promotion of gender equality and women's and girls' empowerment at all levels"

[Comment: By giving women and girls a false impression of what leaders have pledged on child and maternal mortality?]

"113. Building on the vision of the Monterrey Consensus, we resolve to strengthen the coherence and consistency of multilateral financial, investment, trade, and development policy and environment institutions and platforms, and increase cooperation between major international institutions, while respecting mandates and governance structures. We commit to taking better advantage of relevant United Nations forums for promoting universal and holistic coherence and international commitments to sustainable development."

Addis Ababa Action Agenda

Adopted at the Third International Conference on Financing for Development

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 13–16 July 2015

Endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 69/313 of 27 July 2015.

http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/69/313

The 2002 Monterrey Consensus which leaders reaffirmed in July 2015:

"We shall support ...a global information campaign on the internationally agreed development goals and objectives, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration."

<http://www.un.org/esa/ffd/monterrey/MonterreyConsensus.pdf>

The 2002 agreement also read:

"we commit ourselves to promoting national and global economic systems based on the principles of justice, equity, democracy, participation, transparency, accountability and inclusion."

"economic conditions needed to fulfil internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration...will be our first step to ensuring that the twenty-first century becomes the century of development for all."

"we should encourage...coordination....and coherence...to meet the Millennium Declaration development goals"

"Sheikh Hasina, Prime Minister of Bangladesh, stated that over the past 15 years, her country had mobilized its people and resources to realize the Millennium Declaration's commitments "

World Leaders Call for 'New Chapter' in Global Growth as General Assembly Concludes Sustainable Development Goals Summit
Meetings Coverage and Press Releases
<http://www.un.org/press/en/2015/ga11691.doc.htm>

"Accelerating progress is essential if the goal of zero extreme poverty by 2030 is to be achieved."

Economic development for shared prosperity and poverty reduction: a strategic framework
https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/276859/Econ-development-strategic-framework_.pdf

"DFID's Economic Development Strategic Framework outlines how DFID plans to work with governments, multilateral institutions, civil society and the private sector to achieve global prosperity and eliminate extreme poverty by 2030. "

Department for International Development | Annual Report and Accounts 2014–15
https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/445698/Annual-Report-2014-2015.pdf

"The EU has been committed to the Millennium Development Goals since their adoption in 2000" [!]

European Commission, European Union

24 September 2015

<https://europa.eu/eyd2015/en/european-union/posts/2030-agenda-sustainable-development>

It seems hard to avoid this conclusion: World leaders in 2015 knew they were agreeing a goal of 280 million "extremely poor" people rather than zero, but took special care not to advertise it.

Heads of State and Government and High Representatives at the United Nations,
adopting the post-2015 Global Goals agenda,
25 September 2015:

*"Integrated and coordinated implementation of
and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United
Nations conferences and summits in the economic,
social and related fields*

*Follow-up to the outcome of the Millennium
Summit*

*" We, the Heads of State and Government and High Representatives... ...reaffirm the
outcomes of all major United Nations conferences and summits...*

[This reaffirmation, like others from 2001 to 2015, includes

- the 1996 World Food Summit pledge to halve the number of hungry people by 2015 and
- the Millennium Summit pledges with baselines of 2000;
- the 2002 Johannesburg commitment on child and maternal mortality with 2000 baselines;
- the 2002 Monterrey commitment to publicise the Millennium Declaration]

"1. We, the Heads of State and Government and High Representatives, meeting at the United Nations Headquarters in New York from 25-27 September 2015 as the Organization celebrates its seventieth anniversary, have decided today on new global Sustainable Development Goals.

2. On behalf of the peoples we serve, we have adopted a historic decision on a comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centred set of universal and transformative Goals and targets. We commit ourselves to working tirelessly for the full implementation of this Agenda by 2030. We recognize that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development. We are committed to achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions — economic, social and environmental — in a balanced and integrated manner. We will also build upon the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals and seek to address their unfinished business. ...

3. We resolve, between now and 2030, to end poverty and hunger everywhere...

4. ...we pledge that no one will be left behind. ...

Our vision

7. In these Goals and targets, we are setting out a supremely ambitious and transformational vision. We envisage a world free of poverty, hunger, disease and want, where all life can thrive. We envisage a world free of fear and violence. A world with universal literacy. A world with equitable and universal access to quality education at all levels, to health care and social protection, where physical, mental and social well-being are assured. A world where we reaffirm our commitments regarding the human right to safe drinking water....

Our shared principles and commitments

10. The new Agenda is...grounded in...the [2000-baseline] Millennium Declaration...

16. ... Almost 15 years ago, the Millennium Development Goals [!] were agreed."

[Although the public would be likely to think this means world leaders' pledges of 2000, in fact no-one mentioned "Millennium Development Goals" at the Millennium Summit. What were agreed "almost 15 years ago" were the more ambitious 2000-baseline Millennium Declaration pledges. The US repeatedly stated in 2005 that member states had not agreed the Millennium Development Goal framework proposed by the Secretary-General in 2001.]

"21... We will respect national policy space for sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, in particular for developing States, while remaining consistent with relevant international rules and commitments. ...

24. We are committed to ending poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including by eradicating extreme poverty by 2030. All people must enjoy a basic standard of living, including through social protection systems. We are also determined to end hunger ...

25. We commit to providing inclusive and equitable quality education at all levels — early childhood, primary, secondary, tertiary, technical and vocational training.

26. To promote physical and mental health and well-being, and to extend life expectancy for all, we must achieve universal health coverage and access to quality health care. No one must be left behind. We commit to accelerating the progress made to date in reducing newborn, child and maternal mortality by ending all such preventable deaths before 2030. ...

35. ...The new Agenda recognizes the need to build peaceful, just and inclusive societies...that are based on...good governance at all levels and on transparent, effective and accountable institutions. Factors which give rise to violence, insecurity and injustice, such as inequality, corruption, poor governance and illicit financial and arms flows, are addressed in the Agenda. ...

45. We acknowledge also the essential role of national parliaments through their enactment of legislation and adoption of budgets and their role in ensuring accountability for the effective implementation of our commitments. ...

Follow-up and review

47. Our Governments have the primary responsibility for follow-up and review, at the national, regional and global levels, in relation to the progress made in implementing the

Goals and targets over the coming 15 years. To support accountability to our citizens, we will provide for systematic follow-up and review at the various levels, as set out in this Agenda and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda. The high-level political forum under the auspices of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council will have the central role in overseeing follow-up and review at the global level. ...

62. *This Agenda, including the Sustainable Development Goals, can be met within the framework of a revitalized Global Partnership for Sustainable Development, supported by the concrete policies and actions outlined in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda 1, which is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. ...*

¹ *The Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development (Addis Ababa Action Agenda), adopted by the General Assembly on 27 July 2015 (resolution 69/313).*

91. *We reaffirm our unwavering commitment to achieving this Agenda and utilizing it to the full to transform our world for the better by 2030."*

"Goal 4. Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education"

"Goal 1. End poverty in all its forms everywhere

1.1 By 2030, eradicate extreme poverty for all people everywhere, currently measured as people living on less than \$1.25 a day

1.2 By 2030, reduce at least by half the proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions according to national definitions

1.3 Implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all, including floors, and by 2030 achieve substantial coverage of the poor and the vulnerable

1.4 By 2030, ensure that all men and women, in particular the poor and the vulnerable, have equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to basic services, ownership and control over land and other forms of property, inheritance, natural resources, appropriate new technology and financial services, including microfinance..."

Goal 2. End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture

2.1 By 2030, end hunger and ensure access by all people, in particular the poor and people in vulnerable situations, including infants, to safe, nutritious and sufficient food all year round

2.2 By 2030, end all forms of malnutrition, including achieving, by 2025, the internationally agreed targets on stunting and wasting in children under 5 years of age, and address the nutritional needs of adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating women and older persons ...

Goal 3. Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

3.1 By 2030, reduce the global maternal mortality ratio to less than 70 per 100,000 live births

3.2 By 2030, end preventable deaths of newborns and children under 5 years of age...

Goal 6. Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

6.1 By 2030, achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all

6.2 By 2030, achieve access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all

http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/70/L.1

Note: The leaders broke their commitment to "inclusive...quality education" within days, and arguably in their own resolution.

The World' Largest Lesson material facilitated by UN agencies contains the misleading idea - also expressed by David Cameron in his speech at the UN summit - that the MDGs were adopted in 2000.

The leaders' words "almost 15 years ago" are likely to confirm a wrong impression that at the Millennium Summit, which was the meeting which in reality took place fifteen years ago, leaders of the time only committed to meeting the easier MDG targets.

Leaders at the UN did not mention the phrase MDGs until 2005, when they at the same time reaffirmed the Declaration, and the US still claimed that leaders were referring not to the 1990-baseline MDG targets but to those in the Declaration.

Leaders were still committed to the more ambitious Millennium Summit goals – making the MDGs look like, partly, a public relations exercise to distract.

Why did the world's leaders make that misleading statement in 2015?

Because MDGs have easier targets than leaders actually agreed, which Heads of State and Government and heads of delegation reaffirmed in 2013?

"We...reaffirm the outcomes of all major United Nations conferences and summits..."

Comment: Those commit nations, for example, to:

- reducing child mortality by 2015 to a third of its 2000 rate
 - saving about 5 million more children over 2000-15 than for the MDG target;
- and working to
- halve the number of hungry by 2015 from the 1996 rate.

Some outcomes reaffirmed in 2015 are more ambitious than these.

"By 2030, eradicate extreme poverty for all people everywhere, currently measured as people living on less than \$1.25 a day"

Goal 1: No Poverty

<http://www.globalgoals.org/global-goals/no-poverty/>

"we project that in 2015, just over 700 million are living in extreme poverty..."

Is it still possible for the World Bank to meet its goal to reduce extreme poverty to 3% (or less) by 2030?"

FAQs: Global Poverty Line Update

30 September 2015

<http://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/poverty/brief/global-poverty-line-faq>

UN Women states that it is guided by the 2000-baseline Declaration:

"The mandate of UN Women is guided by...the United Nations Millennium Declaration..."

Job advertisement

UN Women - United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
[!]

Thematic Evaluation on Women's Leadership and Political Participation [!]

30 September 2015

https://jobs.undp.org/cj_view_job.cfm?cur_job_id=60126

"the first overarching goal of the World Bank itself - reducing the global incidence of extreme poverty to 3% by 2030 – was set in terms of “those living under \$1.25 per person per day, at 2005 PPPs”. The same is true of the first Sustainable Development Goal, to which world leaders signed up at the UN just over a week ago."

The international poverty line has just been raised to \$1.90 a day, but global poverty is basically unchanged. How is that even possible? 4 October 2015

<http://blogs.worldbank.org/developmenttalk/international-poverty-line-has-just-been-raised-190-day-global-poverty-basically-unchanged-how-even>

"Moussa Faki Mahamat, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Economic Integration of Chad, said 15 years ago the Millennium Declaration was adopted unanimously as the most appropriate response to poverty."

United Nations
Press release on General Assembly Debate
1 October 2015
<http://www.un.org/press/en/2015/ga11697.doc.htm>

"Over the last 15 years, we saw remarkable results working together toward achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)."

Opening Statement From Ambassador Deborah L. Birx, M.D., at the UNAIDS 37th Programme Coordinating Board Meeting
<http://www.pepfar.gov/press/releases/2015/248739.htm>

"Howard Steven Friedman published a report in 2013 suggesting that fulfillment of many of the MDGs began before the goals were implemented. Friedman found that MDG indicators that were successful often experienced an acceleration before 2000 (when the goals were created)." [!]

Making the Millennium Development Goals Sustainable
Harvard International Review
2015
<http://hir.harvard.edu/making-the-millennium-development-goals-mdgs-sustainable/>

"Developed in 2000 at the UN Millennium Summit, [!] the Millennium Development Goals ... During their 15-year lifespan..." [!]

Progress for Whom? Assessing the Millennium Development Goals

Harvard International Review

2015

<http://hir.harvard.edu/progress-assessing-millennium-development-goals/>

"2000 — a time when fin de siècle fever was running high — the year the world, for the first time, agreed on the Millennium Development Goals, which would expire in the then-distant year of 2015. Those goals, which included a commitment to cut extreme poverty in half"

An Astonishing Year for the War on Global Poverty

Foreign Policy

January 8, 2016

<http://foreignpolicy.com/2016/01/08/united-nations-paris-climate-development/>

Holding governments to account by changing the baseline to make it easier:

"experts from the UNDP, DESA, UNICEF, UNFPA, the World Bank, IMF and OECD met in the Spring of 2001 to identify the "roadmap" to implement the Millennium Declaration that the General Assembly had requested..."

The experts were quite confident that the international community would be able to cut extreme poverty by half by 2015 at the global level, barring a catastrophe such as a World War III, and provided that a 1990 baseline was the starting point. ... I...

As Kofi Annan later remarked: "The MDGs, and their standardized rating system for evaluating progress in development contained in their simple and universally accessible aspirations, have provided a mechanism for civil society in all parts of the world to hold governments to account" 2

I ... I should mention that I directed the Secretariat group preparing the Roadmap report and co-chaired the group of inter-agency experts who crystallized the MDGs from the Millennium Declaration and selected the indicators that would best measure those goals and targets.

*2 Kofi Annan, *Interventions: A Life in War and Peace* (New York: Penguin, 2012), p245."*

Michael W. Doyle

Lessons from the MDGs for Implementing the SDGs

United Nations, New York

February 29, 2016

https://www.iom.int/sites/default/files/our_work/ICP/IDM/2016_IDM/Statement-Michael-Doyle.pdf

"United Nations Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), eight global policy goals designed to end extreme poverty worldwide by 2015. The eight goals—the product of a working committee made up of the World Bank, the World Health Organisation, the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development, and several United Nations (UN) organizations—were adopted by acclamation by world leaders from 189 countries at the 2000 UN Millennium Summit, which was held in New York City on September 6–8, 2000."

United Nations Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)

Britannica.com

Last updated: March 2016

<https://www.britannica.com/topic/United-Nations-Millennium-Development-Goals>

"OXFORD – From 2000 [!] to 2015, the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) focused minds and budgets on global poverty"

April 2016

Unsustainable Development Goals? by Ngaire Woods

<https://www.project-syndicate.org/commentary/unsustainable-development-goals-by-nгаire-woods-2016-04>

"governments committed to achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), which are a set of development goals agreed upon by world leaders in 2000 1. Despite the progress that has been made, one of the most prominent goals for 2015 (MDG-4), which aims to reduce the child mortality by two-thirds from the level in 1990...."

"*the Millennium Development Goals adopted in 2000*" [!]

U.S. Department of State Official Blog
April 18, 2016
Data, Design, and Factivists: The Unexpected Formula for Global Progress?
DipNote
<https://blogs.state.gov/stories/2016/04/18/data-design-and-factivists-unexpected-formula-global-progress>

"From 1990 to 2015, the number of people living in extreme poverty was halved, even though the global population increased by two billion during the same period. Global child mortality has been reduced by over 50 %... the MDGs were launched in 2000."

Call to action – Norway's commitment to the SDGs
8 June 2016
https://www.regjeringen.no/no/aktuelt/norge_sdg/id2503240/

"*the onset of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs; ie, from 2000)*" [!]

Development assistance for health: past trends, associations, and the future of international financial flows for health - The Lancet

18 June 2016

[http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(16\)30168-4/fulltext](http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(16)30168-4/fulltext)

"Progress achieved towards the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) between 2000 and 2015 demonstrated the power of national action, backed by international partnerships, to deliver transformative results."

UNICEF

State of the World's Children

June 2016

http://www.unicef.org/lac/20160628_UNICEF_SOWC_2016_ENG.pdf

The rich are still misleading the poor about what was promised, even if only by putting "MDGs" close to "In 2000":

"A key factor in this progress were the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). In 2000, world leaders agreed to ambitious targets that would realise a brighter future for all. The MDGs helped drive tremendous progress for children, proving how much can be achieved by galvanising global efforts around concrete, common goals."

Executive Director, Unicef UK

28 June 2016

http://www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/mike-penrose/children-life-chances_b_10701022.html

Another misleading statement that 1990-baseline MDGs were what was agreed at the Millennium Summit:

https://www.nichd.nih.gov/about/advisory/nachd/201605/Documents/kutlesic_201605.pdf

In 2015, the UN pledged to end poverty and hunger by 2030. Why is the World Bank still talking about a target of 3%?

Is the target zero, or about a third?

"In 2013, the World Bank Group announced two goals that would guide its development work worldwide. The first is the eradication of chronic extreme poverty, more formally, it is the target of bringing the number of extremely poor people, defined as those living on less than 1.25 ppp-adjusted dollars a day, to less than 3% of the world population by 2030. "

July 12, 2016

<http://www.worldbank.org/en/programs/commission-on-global-poverty>

"More formally" 3%?

The 2015 Summit resolution "formally" says

"3....We resolve, between now and 2030, to end poverty and hunger everywhere",

4. ...we pledge that no one will be left behind."

- not "280 million people in extreme poverty".

"The report details the decline of those living in global poverty...to a forecast 9.6 percent of the world's population in 2015"

Global Monitoring Report 2015-16
<http://www.worldbank.org/en/publication/global-monitoring-report>

The 3% figure, though previously mentioned by the World Bank, is not in the "formal" framework of proposed indicators:

<http://indicators.report/goals/goal-1/>

I am unable to find the figure "3%" in the UN Sustainable Development Goals Report - which seems, like world leaders, to imply 0%:

"The latest data show that about one in eight people still lived in extreme poverty, nearly 800 million people suffered from hunger, the births of nearly a quarter of children under 5 had not been recorded, 1.1 billion people were living without electricity, and water scarcity affected more than 2 billion people."

"With collective global action, we can seize the opportunities before us and, together, fulfil the pledge of the 2030 Agenda to leave no one behind. ..."

Ban Ki-Moon"

"Goal 1 calls for an end to poverty in all its manifestations, including extreme poverty, over the next 15 years. All people everywhere, including the poorest and most vulnerable, should enjoy a basic standard of living and social protection benefits."

"The proportion of the global population living below the extreme poverty line dropped by half between 2002 and 2012, from 26 to 13 per cent."

"Goal 2 seeks to end hunger and all forms of malnutrition and to achieve sustainable food production by 2030. It is premised on the idea that everyone should have access to sufficient nutritious food"

"The proportion of the population suffering from hunger declined globally from 15 per cent in 2000-2002 to 11 per cent in 2014-2016." ...

"Ensuring that no one is left behind

In launching the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, Member States recognized that the dignity of the individual is fundamental and that the Agenda's Goals and targets should

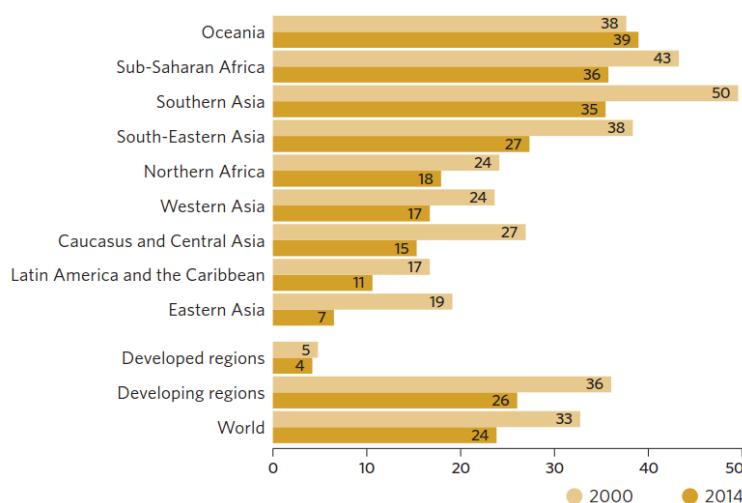
be met for all nations and people and for all segments of society. Furthermore, they will endeavour to reach first those who are furthest behind. Going beyond rhetoric in this regard will be no simple matter ...

Wu Hongbo
Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs"

"In signing Agenda 2030, Governments around the world committed to ending poverty in all its manifestations, including its most extreme forms, over the next 15 years. They resolved that all people everywhere should enjoy a basic standard of living."

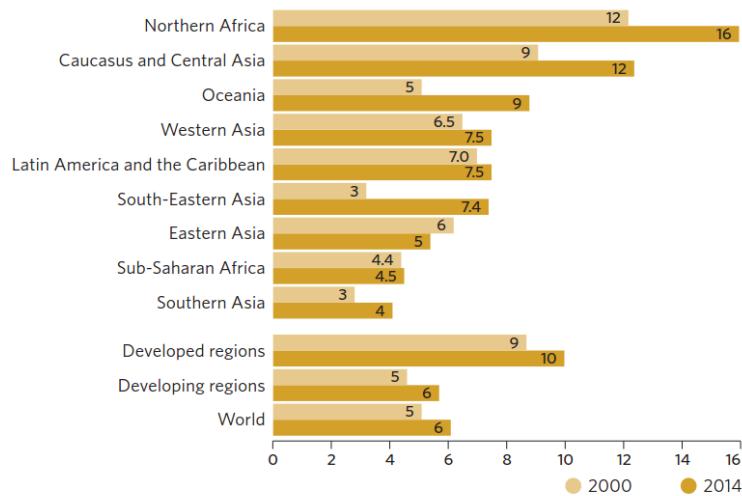
"Chronic undernutrition, or stunted growth, still affects one in four children under age 5"

Proportion of children under age 5 with stunted growth, 2000 and 2014 (percentage)



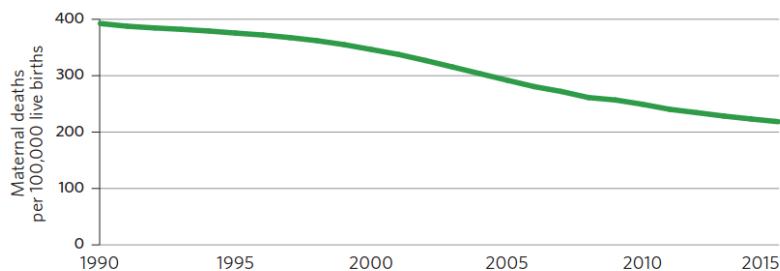
"The share of overweight children under age 5 has increased by nearly 20 per cent"

Proportion of children under age 5 who are overweight, 2000 and 2014 (percentage)

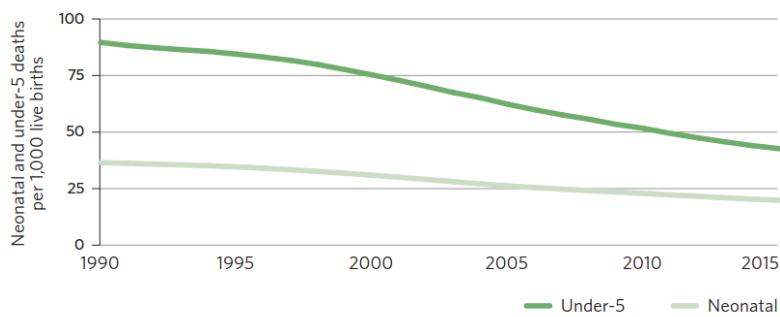


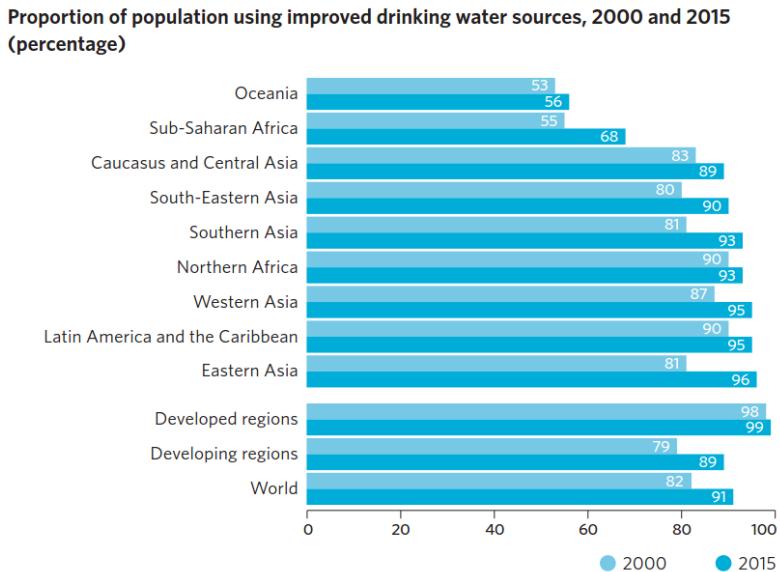
Note: The population coverage for developed regions is less than 50 per cent for all periods between 2000 and 2014.

Maternal mortality ratio worldwide, 1990-2015



Neonatal and under-5 mortality rates worldwide, 1990-2015





"not all improved water sources are safely managed. In 2012, for example, it was estimated that at least 1.8 billion people were exposed to drinking water contaminated with faecal matter."

"More than 40 per cent of the world's people still rely on polluting and unhealthy fuels for cooking"

"Central to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is the need to promote peaceful and inclusive societies based on respect for human rights, the rule of law and transparent, effective and accountable institutions.

Goal 16: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels"

"far too many people are poorly supported by weak institutions and lack access to justice, information and other fundamental freedoms. Efforts are under way to make national and international institutions more effective, inclusive and transparent. Today, more than half the world has internationally recognized human rights institutions. However, significant challenges remain, including lack of data on various forms of violence against children and other vulnerable groups, access to justice and public access to information."

"Goal 17...Meeting implementation targets, including the raising of necessary funds, is key to realizing the Agenda, as is the full implementation of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda."

The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2016

<http://unstats.un.org/sdgs/report/2016/The%20Sustainable%20Development%20Goals%20Report%202016.pdf>

Comment: There is "lack of data" on public "access to information"?

The official MDG list contains a falsehood: it claims that the easier 1990-baseline targets were what leaders pledged in the Millennium Declaration.

The Secretary-General's 2015 report, which was supposed to assess progress on the Millennium Declaration, instead reported on the generally narrower and easier MDGs - which the US in 2006 said were "not endorsed by all member governments, and specifically not by the United States" - repeating the US position that what world leaders agreed in 2005 referred to the goals in the Declaration.

<https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/CHRG-109shrg36452/html/CHRG-109shrg36452.htm>

The UN is making claims about "extreme poverty" when poverty is supposed to be inadequacy of resources to meet needs, but the staff have not estimated changing needs.

"The SDG, agreed on by all UN member states, replaced the much-maligned millennium development goals that were the yardstick for global development from 2000 [!] to 2015."

21 July 2016

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/3/437cb940-4f28-11e6-8172-e39ecd3b86fc.html>

Misleading timeline from UN gives under "2000",

"Millennium Declaration - Millennium Development Goal 1 "

Sustainable Development Knowledge [!] Platform

<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/topics/povertyeradication>

"Millennium Development Goals

A set of eight goals adopted at the UN Millennium Summit in September 2000"

From: [Millennium Development Goals](#) in A Dictionary of Public Health

Oxford University Press

<http://oxfordindex.oup.com/view/10.1093/oi/authority.20110803100158284>

The official MDG list falsely claims that the 1990-baseline targets are "from the Millennium Declaration".

<http://mdgs.un.org/unsd/mdg/Host.aspx?Content=Indicators/OfficialList.htm>

Broken commitments to transparency, accountability, reporting the Millennium Declaration...

[section to be completed: eg resolution of December 2000 and December 2001 asking Sec-Gen to report on Declaration; reaffirmations of Declaration up to 2015; Monterrey Consensus 2002 commitment to publicise Declaration]; UN commitment of 2015 to end poverty by 2030 still interpreted by World Bank "more formally" as 3% or 280 million people; false statements that easier MDGs agreed by leaders in 2000.]

Related evidence, including on widespread inaccurate statements about world poverty pledges, targets and research claims is available via ungoals.org .