

17.4 United Nations Millennium Development Goals

Sources: <http://www.undp.org/mdg/basics.shtml>; <http://www.un.org/millennium>

Instructions: The United Nations Millennium Development Goals are eight goals supposed to be achieved by 2015. They respond to some of the world's main challenges. They are based on the Millennium Declaration that was adopted by 189 nations and signed by 147 heads of state and governments in September 2000. Read the Millennium Declaration Statement of Principle and Millennium Development Goals and answer questions 1 - 4.

Questions

1. Who agreed to the United Nations Millennium Declaration?
2. According to the statement of principle, what is the central challenge that faces the world today?
3. How will the United Nations respond to this challenge?
4. In your opinion, which three of the eight development goals are most crucial to achieve? Explain your answer.

Millennium Declaration Statement of Principle

We recognize that, in addition to our separate responsibilities to our individual societies, we have a collective responsibility to uphold the principles of human dignity, equality and equity at the global level. As leaders we have a duty therefore to all the world's people, especially the most vulnerable and, in particular, the children of the world, to whom the future belongs . . . We believe that the central challenge we face today is to ensure that globalization becomes a positive force for all the world's people. For while globalization offers great opportunities, at present its benefits are very unevenly shared, while its costs are unevenly distributed. We recognize that developing countries and countries with economies in transition face special difficulties in responding to this central challenge. Thus, only through broad and sustained efforts to create a shared future, based upon our common humanity in all its diversity, can globalization be made fully inclusive and equitable . . . We will spare no effort to promote democracy and strengthen the rule of law, as well as respect for all internationally recognized human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the right to development.

Millennium Development Goals

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