

Informal Summary

**Second Committee
64th General Assembly**

**Panel discussion on
“Achieving the MDGs by 2015: Preparing for the 2010 UN MDG Summit”
United Nations Headquarters, New York, 12 October 2009**

- Chair: **H.E. Mr. Park In-kook**, Chairperson of the Second Committee
- Keynote address : **Professor Jeffrey Sachs**, Director, The Earth Institute and Professor of Health Policy and Management, Columbia University
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- Panellists: **Professor Esther Duflo**, Abdul Latif Jameel Professor of Poverty Alleviation and Development Economics, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and Founder/Director of Jameel Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL)
- Mr. Olav Kjørven**, Assistant Secretary

To conclude, Prof. Sachs stressed the importance of the next 11 months leading up to the 2010 UN MDG Summit by saying that “this is the last chance for the world to get it right”. He also warned the international community that the current focus on climate change should not distract attention from the importance of the MDGs. He therefore urged that nations follow the proposal of the US President Barack Obama, made at the general debate of the United Nations General Assembly in S3.5 5.5 5.5ere

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In conclusion, Mr. Kjørven appealed to UN member states to stop “business as usual” break through old habits, and work as a coalition in order to mobilize huge efforts and political will to achieve the MDGs by the 2015 target date.

Mr. Patrick Hayford, Director of the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa, observed that the MDGs are the expression of a renewed global consensus and partnership in international development cooperation. The MDGs have also given the international community clear targets and benchmarks to be met. Since the Millennium Summit, the MDGs have been vigorously promoted and publicized by global civil society, and many developing countries have placed attainment of the MDGs at the centre of their development agenda.

Mr. Hayford stressed that it is still possible for Africa to achieve the MDGs if African countries continue to implement and scale-up best practices, and if the resources outlined in the report of the Secretary-General’s MDGs Africa Steering Group are mobilized. He pointed out that the 2010 UN MDG Summit will be a convenient opportunity to review the progress made, but also warned of the possibility that the Summit would take place under a climate of severe economic stress in which countries would find it difficult to recommit to the meeting of MDGs.

Mr. Hayford also pointed out some specific details regarding preparations for the 2010 UN MDG Summit. He stressed that the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness and subsequent agreements have provided a clear roadmap for mutual accountability which needs particular emphasis within the preparations. He also noted that the 2010 UN MDG Summit should involve a broad range of national and international stakeholders, including parliamentarians, trade unions, student groups, women’s organizations, the faith-based community, charities and the media, all of whose efforts should also be supported by the UN. Furthermore, he pointed out that attention should be paid to new and emerging challenges and opportunities, in particular, climate change, peace and security issues, south-south partnerships, and restructuring of global economic governance. He therefore urged the Summit to include a review of the current peace processes, and the impact of the international peace initiatives upon the attainment of the MDGs.

In conclusion, Mr. Hayford stated that mobilization of the additional resources needed to help implement the MDGs will require a special effort of political will on all sides. Developing countries will need to scale up successful processes and initiatives, and developed countries will need to act decisively in meeting their aid commitments.

Interactive Dialogue

Delegations reiterated their commitment to convening a UN Summit on the MDGs in 2010, focused on scaling-up efforts to attain the MDGs. They all agreed that the Summit will provide a crucial opportunity to establish a new strategic partnership to fund MDGs and thus helping the most vulnerable countries. Delegations also expressed their concern that multiple global crises could slow or even reverse the progress towards the MDGs.

Some delegations expressed their concern regarding the substance of the 2010 UN MDG Summit, and urged that the framework and scope of the Summit be defined soon. They emphasized the importance of identifying concrete policy priorities for 2010 Summit, including resource mobilization, mutual accountability, and south-south cooperation; and cross-cutting development issues, such as peace and security, good governance, food security and agricultural development, climate change, and gender equality. The specific challenges of middle-income countries and Africa were also highlighted.

Furthermore, the possibility of enlarging the MDG framework with additional goals was presented. The scope of a possible post-2015 development strategy was also voiced, but the concern was raised by some delegates and panellists that working on a post-2015 strategy might divert the focus away from the 2015 MDG target date.

