



network of autonomous European non-governmental development organisations working towards peace, justice and equality in a world free of poverty. Its rooted in their own societies, works together to influence Europe's role in the world, particularly in pursuing the eradication of injustice and poverty. It advocates open's policies and practice based on the perspectives drawn from direct experiences of its members and their partners in development in tries across the world. The members of Eurostep include: 11.11.11 (Belgium), ACSUR Las Segovias (Spain), Alliance Sud (Switzerland), CFSI (France), Concern island), Deutsche Welthungerhilfe (Germany), FDSC (Romania), Hivos (Netherlands), Kepa (Finland), Maniteze (Italy), Marie-Stopes International (UK), : Samvirke (Denmark), Network of East West Women (Poland), Oikos (Portugal), Oxfam International (Netherlands), People in Need (Czech Republic), Sloga V (Netherlands), terre des hommes Germany.

Why the EU's efforts are central to the achievement of MDG8 and therefore also for the achievement of the 7 other goals – and it is not only about stepping up ODA funds but equally important about financial, fiscal and economic justice.

For the EU, a major global actor and the world's largest donor, the commitments made at the 2000 Millennium Summit constitute obligations to ensure the means are in place for developing countries to achieve their own commitments. For the EU this primarily means fulfilling its part of the consensus through delivery on goal 8. This not only includes ensuring the provision of the aid that it has promised, but also working to set in place an overall enabling economic environment that is most conducive for sustainable development to be realized.

MDG 8 is aiming at the development of a further an open, rule-based, predictable, non-discriminatory trading and financial system. We are advocating for the putting in place of a global regulatory system that enables the interests of all to be promoted and protected, and not just those with wealth and power. Such a system must be wholly consistent with the values and principles set out in the treaty, and be based on the principles of equity, justice and sustainability.

The development of a global partnership for development is key to the achievements of all MDGs.

Just to give two examples of how the international economic and financial regulatory system is linked to the success or failure of the achievement of other MDGs:

For the achievement of MDG 1 – Fighting Hunger – an effective international regulation of speculative finance (including hedge funds) in food stock exchange and future markets for food and agriculture is needed. Food speculation causes serious constraints on the budgets of developing countries, which are dependent on food imports to feed their populations, particularly in situations of humanitarian disasters.

With a view to MDG 5 – Improving maternal health, the MDG most lagging behind, where almost no progress was made since 1990 - access to key maternal health services, a secure supply of contraceptives and new preventive technologies would greatly advance women's health in all developing countries.

The EU projects itself as a global leader in the fight against poverty, and for the promotion of development strategies in poor countries which diminish inequalities, and enable people to live meaningful lives free of poverty. Clearly this can only be successfully achieved in partnership with other countries and their citizens, not least developing countries. However, for the EU to be recognised as a trusted leader does require the EU to fulfil its commitments. If it does not do so we can hardly be surprised when others do not feel obliged to fulfil the commitments they have made.

At the 2010 MDG review+10 summit next week, the EU (member states) must come up with a clear statement expressing its practical implementation of its vision for the achievement of the MDGs. Because Vision without political will is just deception.

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