



## **UNITED NATIONS MILLENNIUM CAMPAIGN COMMENTARY**

### **On the Resolution of the Committee on Development of the European Parliament on 'progress towards the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals: mid-term review in preparation of the UN high-level meeting in September 2010'**

The UN Millennium Campaign welcomes the resolution presented by the Development Committee of the European Parliament and appreciates the focus on key areas where European donor countries can strengthen their efforts to enhance a successful achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by 2015.

**In particular, the United Nations Millennium Campaign welcomes the following points of the resolution and urges the European Council to incorporate them into its conclusions on MDGs for High Level Plenary Meeting (HLPM) in New York.**

#### **A. EU donor countries should increase aid quantity and improve aid effectiveness. In particular we welcome the call to:**

- Lead the process towards new, results-oriented, additional, transparent and measurable commitments;
- Introduce development aid measures and issue multi-annual timetables to meet the MDGs;
- Avoid broadening the definition of development aid (ODA);
- Insist that funds to help poor countries fight the effects of climate change and the current economic crisis are genuinely additional to existing aid commitments. **In this regard, we urge the European Parliament and the EU Council to ensure that innovative financing mechanisms are also additional to existing ODA commitments;**
- Agree on a new interim target of 0.63% of GNI as ODA for 2012;
- Untie all aid;
- Improve donor coordination also by recognizing that different Member States can offer expert knowledge in various geographical areas and development sectors. **To improve donor coordination, we invite the European Parliament and the EU Council to urge EU donor countries to implement the EU Code of Conduct and improve the division of labour. This would be instrumental to reduce aid fragmentation;**
- Increase the amount of aid provided through budget support, in particular via MDG contracts.



**B. EU donor countries should recognize that policy coherence is key to achieving the MDGs and that trade and development objectives must be consistent. In particular we welcome the call to:**

- Take concrete action against poverty by adopting a coherent policy encompassing the areas of trade and development cooperation, as well as EU common agricultural and fisheries policies, in order to avoid direct or indirect negative impacts on developing countries' economies;
- End agricultural export subsidies and other harmful aspects of EU farm policy as soon as possible;
- Avoid pressuring poor countries into opening up vulnerable market sectors when their level of development precludes them from competing fairly on the global stage;
- Fight for a timely, development-focused conclusion of the Doha WTO round. **In this regard, we invite the European Parliament and the EU Council to monitor the development impact of other initiatives in the area of trade, such as the “Everything But Arms” (EBA) initiative, which have not lived up to their promises. Since its introduction, EBA has not led to an increase of imports from the poorest countries due to its so called ‘rules of origin’ requirements which entail vast amounts of paperwork. These requirements prevent many producers from Least Developed Countries (LDCs) to cope with the complexity of the rules affecting their exports.**

**C. EU donors should focus aid on vulnerable groups which are most in need. In particular we welcome the call to:**

- Channel at least half of EU aid into LDCs and target the neediest within these countries, with special focus on women, children and people with disabilities;
- Mainstream more effectively the interests of vulnerable groups in EU development strategies