



MEDIA ADVISORY: DIVERSE GROUPS FROM AROUND THE WORLD GATHER IN NEW YORK TO CHALLENGE WORLD LEADERS ON THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS

New York, 22 September 2008 -- The UN Millennium Campaign today announced its participation in and support of a range of side events which coincide with this week's High Level Meeting on the Millennium Development Goals during the UN General Assembly.

"Since 2000 there have been some very impressive results in reducing poverty and improving health and education levels," said Salil Shetty, Director of the Millennium Campaign. "But at the current speed we will not be able to achieve the Millennium Development Goals by 2015. The cost of further delay is unacceptably high for the poor. At this week's High Level Event, world leaders need to commit themselves to concrete, inclusive, national and local plans of action to get back on track."

Millennium Campaign officials available for interviews include:

- The Millennium Campaign's Director, Salil Shetty;
- Tajudeen Abdul-Raheem, Deputy Director for Africa
- Minar Pimple, Deputy Director for Asia,
- Marina Ponti, Deputy Director for Europe
- Anita Sharma, North America Coordinator

To schedule an interview, contact Kara Alaimo at Kara.Alaimo@undp.org.

Civil society officials available for interviews include:

- Ashok Bharti, Convener, Wada Na Todo Abhiyan & NACDOR
- Richard Cizik, Vice President for Government, National Association of Evangelicals
- Ndiogou Fall, President of ROPPA, the Network of Peasant and Agricultural Producer Organizations of West Africa
- Aisa Kirabo Kacyira, Mayor of City of Kigali in Rwanda
- Sharmila Karki, Secretary, NGO Federation of Nepal
- Charles F. MacCormack, President and CEO, Save the Children US, and Chairman of the Board, InterAction
- Njongo Ndungane, Archbishop of South Africa
- Dorothy Ngoma, Executive Director of the National Organization of Nurses and Midwives of Malawi
- Annie Raja, General Secretary of the National Federation of Indian Women
- Cardinal Oscar Rodriguez, Archbishop of Tegucigalpa, Honduras / President of Caritas Internationalis

To schedule an interview, contact Kara Alaimo at Kara.Alaimo@undp.org.

On October 17-19th, millions of people around the world will “Stand Up and Take Action” to tell their leaders that they expect them to deliver on the concrete commitments made in 2000 and reiterated at this week’s High Level Meeting. Last year, 43 million people stood up against poverty. This year the number is expected to double. The global movement in support of the Millennium Development Goals is growing. We will no longer stay seated in the face of poverty and the broken promises to end it. For more information on the “Stand Up” mobilization, visit www.standagainstopoverty.org.

Civil Society side events focusing on the Millennium Development Goals include:

International Interfaith Manifestation: NGO Investments in MDGs and Partnerships

September 22, 6:00 pm, UN Church Center, 777 UN Plaza, corner of East 44th Street and First Avenue, across from UN Secretariat

Organized by the MDG-NGO Convening Group and Caritas Internationalis

Event highlighting civil society investments/programs and partnerships to achieve the MDGs. For press access contact Joseph Donnelly at 917-747-0652 or Joel Hanisek at 347-225-2766.

Global Call to Action against Poverty (GCAP) Poverty Hearings on the MDGs and Release of Human Rights Brochure

September 23, 9:30am-12:30pm, Church Centre Chapel

Organized by the Global Call to Action Against Poverty (GCAP), UN Millennium Campaign and UN Non-Governmental Liaison Service

This mock tribunal-style event will ensure that the voices of those living in poverty are heard at the High Level Event on September 25. People from Africa, Asia and Latin America will present testimony on the reality of life in poverty and what failing to achieve the MDGs means to them. At the event the Millennium Campaign will release a human rights brochure jointly produced with the Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights. For press access contact Ciara O'Sullivan, +34 679 594 809.

Local Poverty Reduction and MDG Localization: Scaling Up the Achievement of MDGs

September 23, 12:00-3:15pm, Grand Hyatt Hotel (42nd Street/Lexington Avenue, Grand Central Station, New York, USA)

Organized by the United Nations Development Programme, SNV (Netherlands Development Organization), ActionAid, UN-Habitat, UN Capital Development Fund, and UN Millennium Campaign

Event highlighting key elements of success as well as policy innovations in reducing the macro-micro gap and scaling-up of MDG localized interventions. The event will feature the Mayor of Kigali and the President of the Local Government Associations of Africa.

Consultation Between Heads of States and Religious Leaders on Eliminating Poverty Through the MDGs

September 24, 9:00am-12:00pm, Church Centre

Organized by Religions for Peace and the UN Millennium Campaign

Event to advance partnerships between governments and the religious sector to eliminate poverty through the MDGs. Event will feature the Archbishop of Abuja and other key world faith leaders. For press access contact Andrea Louie at alouie@wcrp.org or 917-721-0300.

Getting the MDG Fundamentals Right

September 24, 9:00-11:30am, Millennium Plaza Hotel

Organized by the Overseas Development Institute, Chronic Poverty Research Centre and UN Millennium Campaign

Event to draw attention to the fundamentals which underlie the achievement of the MDGs. For press access contact Leah Kreitzman at 408-207-6258.

Local Governments' Contributions to the MDGs

September 24, 1:15-2:30pm, Conference Room 8, UN Secretariat building

Organized by Italy, United Cities and Local Government (UCLG) and UN Millennium Campaign

Exchange of best practices by local municipal governments for the achievement of the MDGs, with the participation of many Mayors from cities of developed and developing countries, including the Mayor of Milan, the city that will host the Universal Exhibition in 2015 which will be devoted to the MDGs. Contact: press.italyun@esteri.it.

Interfaith Consultation on the Global Hunger Crisis

September 24, Plenary session open to press from 12:45-2:30pm; reception open to press at 5:00 pm, St. Bartholomew Episcopal Church, 109 East 50th Street, New York City

Organized by Bread for the World, the Alliance to End Hunger and the Inter-Faith Anti-Hunger Coordinators, in partnership with the UN Millennium Campaign

Over 50 heads of communion and directors of religious relief and development organizations from Christian, Muslim and Jewish traditions will convene to discuss their response to the continuing hunger crisis that threatens to reverse the gains made toward the MDGs. This is the first gathering of leaders from all three faiths to discuss the impact of the continuing global hunger crisis on the MDGs.

Launch of Global Campaign: "In My Name"

September 25, 10:00-11:30 am, Dag Hammarskjold Plaza, First Avenue at 47 Street
Organized by the Global Call to Action Against Poverty (GCAP), supported by Oxfam, Save the Children, and Comic Relief

Launch of a three year global public mobilization on the MDGs. Kumi Naidoo, of GCAP, will welcome the Secretary General at 10:20, who will be joined by Queen Rania of Jordan, Kristin Davis, Mary Robinson, Ela Bhatt, Will.i.am and Angelique Kidjo. For press access information, contact sstone@oxfam.org.uk.

The Global Poverty Project

September 25, 2:00pm, Millennium Plaza Hotel, One United Nations Plaza at 44 Street between First and Second Ave., Manhattan Room

Organized by the Global Poverty Project in partnership with the UN Millennium Campaign, supported by the Australian mission to the UN

Launch of an initiative led by Australian humanitarian Hugh Evans to mobilize youth around the globe in support of the MDGs. For press access contact t.ohalloran@cprcomm.com.au.

Note to editors:

The UN Millennium Campaign was established by UN Secretary General Kofi Annan in 2002. The Campaign supports citizens' efforts to hold their governments to account for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. The Millennium Development Goals were adopted by 189 world leaders from the north and south, as part of the Millennium Declaration which was signed in 2000. These leaders agreed to achieve the Goals by 2015. Our premise is simple: we are the first generation that can end poverty and we refuse to miss this opportunity. For more information visit www.endpoverty2015.org