



**EC-Civil Society Forum**  
**Group Discussion**

**15 October 2008**

**TOPIC:**  
**Poverty and Development**

# **Presentation Outline**

- 1. The Poverty & Development MDGs**
- 2. EC priorities and action on MDG Goals 1 & 8**
- 3. Main EC actions to date in South Africa**
- 4. SA progress**
- 5. Objectives of Panel discussion**
- 6. Introduction of Civil Society speaker**

# **1. Millenium Development Goals** **(MDGs) 1 & 8**

## **GOAL 1: Eradicate extreme poverty**

- **Target 1:** Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people whose income is less than one dollar a day
- **Target 2:** Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people who suffer from hunger

## **GOAL 8: Develop a global partnership for development**

- **Target 12:** Develop further an open rule-based, predictable, non-discriminatory trading and financial system

Includes a commitment to good governance, development and poverty reduction – both nationally and internationally

- **Target 13:** Address the special needs of the least developed countries

Includes: tariff and quota free access for the least developed countries' exports; enhanced programme of debt relief for heavily indebted poor countries (HIPC) and cancellation of official bilateral debt; and more generous ODA for countries committed to poverty reduction

## **GOAL 8: Develop a global partnership for development**

- **Target 14:** Address the special needs of landlocked developing countries and small island developing states (through the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States and the outcome of the twenty-second special session of the General Assembly)
- **Target 15:** Deal comprehensively with the debt problems of developing countries through national and international measures in order to make debt sustainable in the long term
- **Target: 16** In cooperation with developing countries, develop and implement strategies for decent and productive work for youth

## **GOAL 8: Develop a global partnership for development**

- **Target 17:** In cooperation with pharmaceutical companies, provide access to affordable essential drugs in developing countries
- **Target 18:** In cooperation with the private sector, make available the benefits of new technologies, especially information and communication.

# **EC priorities and action on the way toward 2015 – Goal 1**

- Leverage economic growth to boost pro-poor and social spending, especially in those countries where growth went hand-in-hand with increased income inequality.
- Promote decent work as part of the poverty reduction strategy.
- Strengthen consensus amongst governments and donors, have a roadmap for aligning donor assistance with the country's priorities, and a consultation and coordination mechanism, involving also stakeholders and civil society.

## **EC priorities and action on the way toward 2015 – Goal 1**

- More effective food crisis prevention systems and mechanisms.
- Better integration of food security objectives into national development strategies implying better monitoring of food security and appropriate response.
- More effective and sustainable use of food aid, based on sound needs assessment.
- Better management of the natural resources (soil, water marine resources and forests) which are the foundation of food production and the livelihood of the poor.

## **EC priorities and action on the way toward 2015 – Goal 8**

- Work toward a development friendly and sustainable outcome of trade negotiations at the bilateral and multilateral level.
- Decrease substantially the level of trade distortion.
- Ensure implementation of the 2002 Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) reform proposals, by effectively shifting from access fisheries agreement to partnership fisheries agreements.

## **EC priorities and action on the way toward 2015 – Goal 8**

- Address globalisation by improving policy coherence and governance both at global, regional and national level and by strengthening its social dimension.
- Support institutional and regulatory reforms which lead to sustainable formal job creation.
- Increase quantity and quality of trade related assistance, including SPS related programmes.
- Promote better involvement of non-state actors, respect for core labour standards and promotion of social dialogues.

## **EC priorities and action on the way toward 2015 – Goal 8**

- Exploit the synergies between migration and development to make migration a positive factor for development.
- Considering new options to address the debt crisis.

# Main EC actions to date in South Africa

- there is support for the **employment sector** through projects that promote local economic growth, private sector support and innovation for poverty alleviation.
- within the **Social Services Delivery sector** the EC supports 17 projects which address the education and training needs, health and population issues, water and sanitation delivery and promote urban development. This represents 47% of the total stock of EC commitments to date.
- under **governance** twelve projects collectively address issues pertaining to a) the respect for democratic principles, good governance, human rights and the rule of law b) capacitate governmental and state institutions in effective management, c) strengthen local government and the justice system, d) promote participation of CSOs, supporting the vulnerable and disadvantaged, e) improving policy-making and advocacy skills and f) training awareness and public participation.

## Main EC actions to date in South Africa

- Two programmes on **Science and Technology**, namely, Programme for Science and Technology Innovations and Capacity Building (PSTICB) and Innovation for Poverty Alleviation Sector Budget Support Programme, aim to promote innovation, capacity building in the sector and improve life in poor communities respectively.
- In these sectors, the EC provides assistance to CSO implementing projects in South Africa most of which are partners with the European CSOs.
- EC Member States also, independently, support various projects in the abovementioned sectors

# **SA PROGRESS Goal 1**

## **Target 1:**

**The Government has a number of programmes aimed at eradicating poverty.**

**These include cash transfers, provision of health care, education, housing and basic service such as water, electricity and housing. The country is on course to meet the first target. There are also social security and retirement reforms on the cards to ensure income support for citizens. Initiatives to increase employment rates aim to ensure that more people have an income to support themselves.**

# **SA PROGRESS   Goal 1**

## **Target 2:**

The Government efforts towards this target are:

- drive to improve access to five-year olds to Grade R
- adoption of a policy of no-fee schools
- provision of free transport for learners living far from schools
- implementation of the Primary School Nutrition Programme
- Department's investigation into systems for monitoring learner attendance and initiatives to strengthen these

# SA PROGRESS Goal 1

- Improvement of school infrastructure
- Adoption of the Quality Education Development and Upliftment Programme (QEDSUP)
- Strengthening of teacher accountability through a national inspectorate system
- Establishment of a programme directed at girls, the Girls Education Movement (GEM) aiming to enhance the experience of girls in schools and ensure sustained access and retention of girls in schools.

## Goal 8

**Target 12:** South Africa supports a number of development related initiatives aimed

- at achieving the MDGs by countries on the African continent.
- It has played a major role in promoting the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD).
- It promotes South-South co-operation for equitable global development by being a member of the India Brazil South Africa Dialogue Forum (IBSA). This serves as a mechanism for political consultation in strengthening co-operation and helping to improve economic relations among member states.

## Goal 8

### Target 13:

- SA joined the G-20 group at the Ministerial conference of the WTO in Mexico (2003) to lobby on a number of trade and economic issues affecting developing countries.

# Goal 8

## Target 14:

- SA is committed to the objectives of the “Programme of action for the Least Developed Countries (2001-2010), and of the UNEP-UNCTAC Capacity Building Task Force on Trade, Environment and Development.
- Supports the objectives of the Mauritius Strategy for the Implementation of the POA for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States
- SA contributed to the establishment of the African Renaissance and International Co-operation Fund for the purpose of the enhancement of international co-operation on the African continent.

# Goal 8

## Target 15:

- SA supported the World Bank special scheme for countries with heavy debt burdens known as the Heavily Indebted Poor Country (HIPC) Initiative.
- SA also joined the international calls for debt relief for developing countries
- It demonstrated its support for providing debt relief to poor countries by a) contributing its balance in the Second Special Continent Account (SCA-2) which amounts to R7.5million to the HIPC initiative as a grant, b) pledging R200 million in 2000, payable in equal tranches over five years, to the Poverty Reduction Growth Facility-HIPC Trust and c) writing off loans granted to Malawi and Mozambique in the amounts of R8.8 and R48.5 million respectively.

## Goal 8

### Target 16:

- The report shows that young people entering the labour market struggle to find employment. They form a large proportion of the unemployed, especially economically young women.

## Goal 8

### Target 17:

- South Africa made a gallant effort to ensure access to safe and affordable drugs dispensed by qualified and trained personnel
- Medicine pricing regulations have produced an estimated reduction in excess of 20% at the factory gate level. Medical scheme expenditure has declined from R11 billion (2001) to R8.5 billion (2006/7) despite increased medicine usage over the period.

## Goal 8

### Target 18:

- There was a sharp increase in the number of telephone subscribers from 44.4% in 2002 to 70.2% in 2006. The number of mobile telephone subscribers grew at a faster rate as compared to the those who opted to use the land line services.
- General conclusion of the report is that South Africa is well placed to achieve the MDGs in time. This is owing to the government's and social partners' commitment and hard work in improving the lives of all South Africans

## **5. Objectives of the Panel discussion**

- Civil Society Organization (CSO) views on South African Government policies and actions to reach MDGs
- Role of CSOs in achieving MDGs
- Role donors can play to achieve MDGs, including improving aid effectiveness
- What is your view on the Accra Agenda for Action (AAA) and aid effectiveness?
- Do civil society organizations consider they are in a position to influence policy regarding MDGs?

## **5. Objectives of the Panel discussion**

- Are there effective civil society mechanisms for coordination and engagement with Government?
- Are there examples of good partnerships between Government and civil society in support of MDGs
- What is your view on EC cooperation with Civil Society in South Africa?
- How do you see South African civil society's role and current cooperation in the region?



## **6. Introduction of Civil Society Speaker**

**Mr John Kane Berman**  
**South African Institute of Race  
Relations**

**Position: CEO**