



European Union
Delegation of the European Commission
in South Africa



Update: 14/09/2005



United Nations Summit

Representatives of the 191 Member States of the United Nations began to gather in New York earlier today to review progress towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) agreed five years ago. Discussions at the [New York summit](#) will draw on a UN report entitled ['In larger freedom: towards security, development and human rights for all'](#).

MDGs: Unprecedented progress tarnished by unacceptable delays

"The year 2005 is crucial for the realisation of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)," said Kofi Annan, Secretary-General of the United Nations, ahead of the Summit. "Instead of setting targets, the world leaders will this year have to decide how to honour them."

The report of the United Nations notes unprecedented progress in the world fight against poverty, namely in Asia, but draws attention to unacceptable delays, namely in sub-Saharan Africa where the number of people living in extreme poverty increased from 227 million in 1990 to 313 million in 2001. In order to reach the 2015 targets Kofi Annan recommends that "all developed countries that have not yet done so, set themselves a timeframe in which to reach the target of 0.7 percent of their gross national income that would go to official development aid by 2015." He also recommends the "setting up of an international financing facility that would immediately allow the unlocking of funds for development aid" and advises governments to look "for new financing mechanisms for development".

The European Union is the largest provider of official development aid and aims to make an "ambitious" contribution to the United Nations Summit in September. "We can take a development leadership role... do more; do better and do it more quickly to fulfil the millennium objectives by 2015," declared Development and Humanitarian Aid Commissioner Louis Michel.

Security and human rights will also be on the agenda

World leaders will also look into 'collective security', focusing on issues like the fight against terrorism, nuclear, biological and chemical arms, and conflict resolution and prevention. The promotion of democracy, the reinforcement of the rule of law and respect for human and fundamental rights will also be discussed.

(text adapted from Europa Newsletter, issue 64)

News:

UN Press Conference on Eve of UN World Summit 2005 – by Com B Ferrero-Waldner (13/09/2005)

"This is the biggest gathering of world leaders ever seen. Our challenge here is to fit the UN for the challenges and threats of the modern world. In 60 years, the reasons why we need the UN haven't changed. We need a system of international rules and cooperation to help prevent armed conflict and give us a forum where states can work together for the common good. This organisation is the bedrock of the modern world order, and we need to equip it to do its job. Negotiations have been intense, and sometimes difficult. We have today just received the President of the General Assembly's new draft outcome document. The outcome we seem to be moving towards will not include everything we in Europe hoped for. ..." See: http://www.europa-eu-un.org/articles/en/article_5022_en.htm

EUHR Solana to visit UN (13/09/2005)

Javier SOLANA, EU High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP), will visit the United Nations Headquarters in New York between Tuesday, 13 September, and Wednesday, 21 September, 2005. The visit will take place in the context of the UN World Summit (14-16 September) and the launching of the 60th session of the UN General Assembly. The UN World Summit will attract heads of state and government from 170 different nations. See: http://www.europa-eu-un.org/articles/en/article_5020_en.htm



Participation of Louis Michel, Member of the EC in charge of Development and Humanitarian Aid in a web chat on the subject of "The EU at the UN Summit on the Millennium Development Goals (12/09/2005

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