

# Responding to the Millennium Development Goals

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**Key words:** Millennium Development Goals, MDG, UN, WB, FIG,

## SUMMARY

The eight Millennium Development Goals form a blueprint agreed to by all the world's countries and all the world's leading development institutions. The United Nations Millennium Summit, September 2000, established a time bound (2015) and measurable goals and targets for combating poverty, hunger, disease, illiteracy, environmental degradation and discrimination of women. These goals are now placed at the heart of the global agenda. The Summit's Millennium Declaration also outlined a wide range of commitments in human rights, good governance, and democracy.

This paper presents the Millennium Goals and targets with a specific emphasis on the areas being particular relevant to the surveying profession.

The paper then suggests that FIG – as an international NGO recognised by the UN – should carefully consider how we can best contribute to reaching the Millennium Goals. FIG should identify their role in this process and spell out the areas where the global surveying profession can make a significant contribution. Issues such as tenure security, pro-poor land management, and good governance in land administration are all key issues to be advocated in the process of reaching the goals. Measures such as capacity assessment, institutional development and human resource development are all key tools in this regard.

It is proposed to establish a FIG Task Force that bring together expertise to analyse, explain, and present a FIG response to the Millennium Development Goals. The task force shall cooperate with the UN-agencies and especially the World Bank to develop a FIG strategy and advise the FIG council on necessary actions.

# Responding to the Millennium Development Goals

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

“The adoption of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) drawn from the United Nations Millennium Declaration, was a seminal event in the history of United Nations. It constituted an unprecedented promise by world leaders to address, as a single package, peace, security, development, human rights and fundamental freedoms.” (Kofi Annan in UN 2005a).

Today’s is the first generation with the resources and technology to make the right a reality for everyone and to free the entire human race from want. There is shared vision of development. The MDGs have become globally accepted benchmarks of broader progress, embraced by donors, developing countries, civil society and major development institutions alike. These goals can be met by 2015 – but only if all involved break with business as usual and dramatically accelerate end scale up action now (UN, 2005a).

Therefore I suggest that FIG – as an international NGO recognised by the UN – should carefully consider how we can best contribute to reaching the MDGs. FIG should identify their role in this process and spell out the areas where the global surveying profession can make a significant contribution. Issues such as tenure security, pro-poor land management, and good governance in land administration are all key issues to be advocated in the process of reaching the goals. Measures such as capacity assessment, institutional development and human resource development are all key tools in this regard.

The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) is a powerful concept towards development, security and human rights for all. Surveyors play a key role in this regard in terms of providing some of the fundamental preconditions for development. These preconditions are also embedded in the Millennium Declaration and spelled out in the targets and indicators for achieving the MDGs. FIG should make the world understand the important contribution of surveyors in this regard and cooperate with the UN agencies such as UNDP, UN-HABITAT, FAO, and the World Bank to optimize the outcome of our common efforts.

Section 2 below presents the MDGs in more details and explains about the framework of targets and indicators established to measure the progress of their implementation. Section 3 talks about the broader background in terms of the Millennium Declaration. Section 4 is about how all this relates to the role of FIG and the work areas of the surveyors and how FIG should respond. Finally Section 5 suggests that a FIG Task Force is established to bring together expertise to analyse, explain, and present a FIG response to the MDGs.

## 2. THE EIGHT MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS

The relevant material on the Millennium Development Goals is available at the UN website:  
<http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/goals.html>

### The UN Millennium Development Goals

#### **Goal 1: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger**

- Reduce by half the proportion of people living on less than a dollar a day
- Reduce by half the proportion of people who suffer from hunger

#### **Goal 2: Achieve universal primary education**

- Ensure that all boys and girls complete a full course of primary education

#### **Goal 3: Promote gender equality and empower women**

- Eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education preferably by 2005, and at all levels by 2015

#### **Goal 4: Reduce Child mortality**

- Reduce by two thirds the mortality rate among children under five

#### **Goal 5: Improve maternal health**

- Reduce by three quarters the maternal mortality ratio

#### **Goal 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases**

- Halt and begin to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS
- Halt and begin to reverse the incidence of malaria and other major diseases

#### **Goal 7: Ensure environmental sustainability**

- Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programmes; reverse loss of environmental resources
- Reduce by half the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water
- Achieve significant improvement in lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers, by 2020

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

- Develop further an open trading and financial system that is rule-based, predictable and non-discriminatory, includes a commitment to good governance, development and poverty reduction— nationally and internationally
- Address the least developed countries' special needs. This includes tariff- and quota-free access for their exports; enhanced debt relief for heavily indebted poor countries; cancellation of official bilateral debt; and more generous official development assistance for countries committed to poverty reduction
- Address the special needs of landlocked and small island developing States
- Deal comprehensively with developing countries' debt problems through national and international measures to make debt sustainable in the long term
- In cooperation with the developing countries, develop decent and productive work for youth
- In cooperation with pharmaceutical companies, provide access to affordable essential drugs in developing countries
- In cooperation with the private sector, make available the benefits of new technologies— especially information and communications technologies

It is obvious that the MDGs address some of the most fundamental issues of our times. It is also obvious that only a few of these issues relate to the work and the world of the surveying community. But in any case, as stated by Kofi Annan (UN, 2005c) “We will not enjoy development without security, we will not enjoy security without development, and we will not enjoy either without respect for human rights. Unless all these causes are advanced, none will succeed.”

In this perspective the MDGs represent a wider concept, or a vision for the future, where the contribution of the surveying community is central and vital. This relates to the areas of providing the relevant geographic information in terms of mapping and databases of the built and natural environment, providing secure tenure systems, and systems for land valuation, land use management and land development.

To track the progress in achieving the MDGs a framework of targets and indicators is developed. This framework includes 18 targets and 48 indicators enabling the ongoing monitoring of the progress that is reported on annually (UN 2001). A complete list of the targets and indicators is shown in an Annex to this paper. More details can be found at: [http://unstats.un.org/UNSD/mi/mi\\_goals.asp](http://unstats.un.org/UNSD/mi/mi_goals.asp).

Most of these targets are not new. They derive from the global conferences of the 1990s and from the body of international norms and laws that have been codified over the past half century. The international agenda set by the Millennium Declaration should therefore be seen as a demonstration of the political will of the UN member States to carry out the commitments already given and to implement strategies already worked out.

### **3. A GLOBAL AGENDA**

The MDGs stem from the Millennium Declaration adopted by the world leaders at the entrance to the new millennium (8 September 2000). Following consultations among the international agencies, including the World Bank, OECD, etc., and the specialized agencies of the United Nations such as FAO, UN-HABITAT, etc., the UN General Assembly (6 September 2001) recognized the MDGs as part of the Road Map (UN 2001) for implementing the Millennium Declaration.

Achieving the MDGs by 2015 will require more focus on development outcomes and less on inputs. The goals establish yardsticks for measuring results, not just for developing countries but for rich countries that help to fund development programs and for the multilateral institutions that help countries implement them. The first seven goals are mutually reinforcing and are directed at reducing poverty in all its forms. The last goal - global partnership for development - is about the means to achieve the first seven.

It is almost a truism that the problems facing humanity are closely intertwined, and that each tends to complicate the solution of one or more other. A comprehensive approach and a coordinated strategy are therefore of vital importance, tackling many problems

simultaneously across a broad front. This is precisely the objective of the Millennium Declaration and this is why the goals, targets and indicators are necessary for monitoring the specific achievements as well as the overall progress towards the deadline of 2015.

However, a coordinated strategy will not be achieved without better coordination among international institutions and agencies, including those within the United Nations system. And this effort must also mobilize the energies of all actors, including notably the private sector, philanthropic foundations, non-governmental organizations, academic and cultural institutions, and other members of civil society (UN 2001).

#### **4. THE CHALLENGE FOR FIG**

A coordinated strategy as presented above can not be established by a top down approach. It has to be developed through mutual initiatives supporting the overall aim and objective. The challenge for FIG in this regard is twofold:

- To explain the role of the surveying profession and the surveying disciplines in terms of their contribution to the MDGs. Such statements also make the importance of the surveying profession disciplines more understandable in a wider political context.

Issues such as tenure security, pro-poor land management, and good governance in land administration are all key issues to be advocated in the process of reaching the goals. Measures such as capacity assessment, institutional development and human resource development are all key tools in this regard. These issues in response of the MDGs should be reflected in the work plan of the council as well as the commission work plans within their specific areas.

A number of FIG publications have already made significant contributions: The Bathurst Declaration on Land Administration for Sustainable Development (FIG publication no 21, 1999); the FIG Agenda 21 (FIG publication no 23, 2001); FIG Guidelines on Women's Access to Land (FIG publication no 24, 2001); The Nairobi Statement on Spatial Information for Sustainable Development (FIG publication no 30, 2002); Land Information Management for Sustainable Development of Cities (FIG publication no 31, 2002), The Marrakech Declaration on Urban-Rural Interrelationship for Sustainable development (FIG publication no 33, 2004); The Aguascalientes Statement on Development of Land Information Policies in the Americas (FIG publication no 34, 2005).

- To work closely with the UN agencies and especially the World Bank in merging our efforts of contributing to the implementation of the MDGs. This provides a platform for focusing on specific issues of mutual interest. At the same time it will contribute further to the well founded cooperation between FIG and our UN partners.

The World Bank Development Agenda plays a key role in implementing the MDGs. It is widely recognized that FIG and the World Bank have conducted some very successful events over the years, and that the two organizations in many areas - especially within land administration - are working very much in parallel. It would be appropriate to develop some more formal relations based on our common experiences and successful cooperation. This could include a more formal contribution from the World Bank at the FIG regional conferences. We may also aim to develop a WB/FIG special event to take place say 2008 at the WB headquarters in Washington that will focus on implementing the MDGs especially in terms of capacity development in the area of Land Administration. It is proposed to establish a FIG Task Force to deal with this issue as argued in section 5 below.

A more targeted area of cooperation includes the UN-HABITAT agenda on the Global Land Tool Network (GLTN) for pro poor land management. The main objective of the GLTN is to facilitate the attainment of the MDGs through improved land management and tenure tools for poverty alleviation and the improvement of the livelihoods of the poor. FIG is committed this agenda (see Augustinus et.al., 2006 and also the FIG commitment to GLTN at [http://www.fig.net/news/news\\_2006/oslo\\_march\\_2006.htm](http://www.fig.net/news/news_2006/oslo_march_2006.htm).)

Other targeted areas of cooperation may include the UNDP, FAO and UNEP on projects related to urban/rural interrelationship and environmental sustainability (see e.g. [http://www.fig.net/pub/morocco/proceedings/PS2/PS2\\_1\\_tveitdal.pdf](http://www.fig.net/pub/morocco/proceedings/PS2/PS2_1_tveitdal.pdf)).

Equally important is the cooperation with the UN OOSA (UN Office for Outer Space Affairs) in relation to issues like disaster and risk management (see the FIG/UN OOSA memorandum at [http://www.fig.net/news/news\\_2004/vienna\\_dec\\_2004.htm](http://www.fig.net/news/news_2004/vienna_dec_2004.htm)).

## **5. A PROPOSED FIG TASK FORCE**

FIG and the world wide surveying profession has already contributed in many ways to the implementation of the MDGs. This includes the impact of the surveying profession and the surveying disciplines to societal development, as well as the impact of the FIG initiatives, conferences and publications, most of them in cooperation with the UN agencies.

However, a more focused approach is needed if FIG is going to present a clear profile in contributing to this global agenda. An appropriate way to achieve this would be to establish a FIG Task Force that bring together expertise to analyse, explain, and present a FIG response to the MDGs. The task force shall cooperate with the UN-agencies and especially the World Bank in developing a FIG policy document including a strategy for implementation and advice of the FIG council on necessary actions.

## 6. FINAL REMARKS

The objective of this paper has been to present the MDGs that serve as a visionary challenge to help garner new energies and resources for the development agenda, with a focus on outcomes. The agenda includes the basic elements for a new global partnership. It also includes, however, a range of challenges and risks to the larger development community – risks posed by the cynicism that failure (or only partial success) could engender (World Bank, 2002).

FIG already shares this global responsibility. It is argued, however, that FIG should develop more focused approach in this area and develop a FIG policy document in cooperation with our UN partners.

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## BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

**Stig Enemark** is Professor in Land Management and Problem Based Learning at Aalborg University, Denmark, where he was Head of the School of Surveying and Planning 1991-2005. He is currently Vice-President of FIG 2005-2008 as well as President of the Danish Association of Chartered Surveyors. He holds a masters of science in surveying, planning and land management and he obtained his license for cadastral surveying in 1970, working for ten years as a consultant surveyor in private practice. He was chairman of FIG Commission 2 (Professional Education) 1994-98, and he is an Honorary Member of FIG.

His teaching and research are concerned with land administration systems, land management and spatial planning, and related educational and capacity building activities. Another research area is within Problem Based Learning and the interaction between education, research and professional practice. He has undertaken consultancies for the World Bank and the European Union especially in Eastern Europe and Sub Saharan Africa. He has about 250 publications to his credit, and he has presented invited papers to more than 60 international conferences.

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## ANNEX 1. Millennium Development Goals – Targets and Indicators

GOALS AND TARGETS	INDICATORS
<b>Goal 1. Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger</b>	
Target 1. Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people whose income is less than one dollar a day	1. Proportion of population below \$1 per day 2. Poverty gap ratio (incidence x depth of poverty) 3. Share of poorest quintile in national consumption
Target 2. Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people who suffer from hunger	4. Prevalence of underweight children (under five years of age) 5. Proportion of population below minimum level of dietary energy consumption
<b>Goal 2. Achieve universal primary education</b>	
Target 3. Ensure that, by 2015, children everywhere, boys and girls alike, will be able to complete a full course of primary schooling	6. Net enrolment ratio in primary education 7. Proportion of pupils starting grade 1 who reach grade 5 8. Literacy rate of 15-24-year-olds
<b>Goal 3. Promote gender equality and empower women</b>	
Target 4. Eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education, preferably by 2005, and to all levels of education no later than 2015	9. Ratio of girls to boys in primary, secondary and tertiary education 10. Ratio of literate females to males of 15-to-24-year-olds 11. Share of women in wage employment in the non-agricultural sector 12. Proportion of seats held by women in national parliament
<b>Goal 4. Reduce child mortality</b>	
Target 5. Reduce by two thirds, between 1990 and 2015, the under-five mortality rate	13. Under-five mortality rate 14. Infant mortality rate 15. Proportion of 1-year-old children immunized against measles
<b>Goal 5. Improve maternal health</b>	
Target 6. Reduce by three quarters, between 1990 and 2015, the maternal mortality ratio	16. Maternal mortality ratio 17. Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel

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**Goal 6. Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases**

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| Target 7. Have halted by 2015 and begun to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS                            | 18. HIV prevalence among 15-to-24-year-old pregnant women  |
|  | 19. Contraceptive prevalence rate  |
|  | 20. Number of children orphaned by HIV/AIDS  |
| Target 8. Have halted by 2015 and begun to reverse the incidence of malaria and other major diseases | 21. Prevalence and death rates associated with malaria   |
|  | 22. Proportion of population in malaria risk areas using effective malaria prevention and treatment measures |
|  | 23. Prevalence and death rates associated with tuberculosis  |
|  | 24. Proportion of tuberculosis cases detected and cured under directly observed treatment short course       |

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**Goal 7. Ensure environmental sustainability<sup>a</sup>**

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| Target 9. Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programmes and reverse the loss of environmental resources | 25. Proportion of land area covered by forest  |
|  | 26. Land area protected to maintain biological diversity   |
|  | 27. GDP per unit of energy use (as proxy for energy efficiency)  |
|  | 28. Carbon dioxide emissions (per capita)<br>[Plus two figures of global atmospheric pollution: ozone depletion and the accumulation of global warming gases]  |
| Target 10. Halve by 2015 the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water  | 29. Proportion of population with sustainable access to an improved water source   |
| Target 11. By 2020 to have achieved a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers                                   | 30. Proportion of people with access to improved sanitation  |
|  | 31. Proportion of people with access to secure tenure<br><i>[Urban/rural disaggregation of several of the above indicators may be relevant for monitoring improvement in the lives of slum dwellers]</i> |

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**Goal 8. Develop a global partnership for development<sup>a</sup>**

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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	[Some of the indicators listed below will be monitored separately for the least developed countries (LDCs), Africa, landlocked countries and small island developing States]
Target 13.	Address the special needs of the least developed countries  Includes: tariff and quota free access for least developed countries' exports; enhanced programme of debt relief for HIPC and cancellation of official bilateral debt; and more generous ODA for countries committed to poverty reduction	
Target 14.	Address the special needs of landlocked 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	
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 communications	
		<b>Official development assistance</b>
		32. Net ODA as percentage of OECD/DAC donors' gross national product (targets of 0.7% in total and 0.15% for LDCs)
		33. Proportion of ODA to basic social services (basic education, primary health care, nutrition, safe water and sanitation)
		34. Proportion of ODA that is untied
		35. Proportion of ODA for environment in small island developing States
		36. Proportion of ODA for transport sector in landlocked countries
		<b>Market access</b>
		37. Proportion of exports (by value and excluding arms) admitted free of duties and quotas
		38. Average tariffs and quotas on agricultural products and textiles and clothing
		39. Domestic and export agricultural subsidies in OECD countries
		40. Proportion of ODA provided to help build trade capacity
		<b>Debt sustainability</b>
		41. Proportion of official bilateral HIPC debt cancelled
		42. Debt service as a percentage of exports of goods and services
		43. Proportion of ODA provided as debt relief
		44. Number of countries reaching HIPC decision and completion points
		45. Unemployment rate of 15-to-24-year-olds
		46. Proportion of population with access to affordable essential drugs on a sustainable basis
		47. Telephone lines per 1,000 people
		48. Personal computers per 1,000 people
		[Other indicators to be decided]

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