



The MDGs and Sexual and Reproductive Health E-Bulletin September 14, 2005

World Leaders Commit to Achieve Universal Access to Reproductive Health by 2015

The United Nations General Assembly adopted the outcome document of the 2005 World Summit at 5:00pm on Tuesday, September 13 after two weeks of marathon negotiations.

For NGOs worldwide that have been advocating for the integration of sexual and reproductive health information, services, and education into strategies to achieve the MDGs, the news is good. When the outcome document is adopted during the Summit, which starts today, world leaders will commit to:

Achieve universal access to reproductive health by 2015, as set out at the International Conference on Population and Development, integrating this goal in strategies to attain the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration aimed at reducing maternal mortality, improving maternal health, reducing child mortality, promoting gender equality, combating HIV/AIDS and eradicating poverty (¶ 57(g)).

World leaders will also commit to “ensuring equal access to reproductive health” as a vital and necessary step to promote gender equality and eliminate pervasive gender discrimination (¶ 58(c)).

The document also contains strong language on gender equality and women’s human rights, strengthening health systems, and fighting HIV/AIDS, including by implementing measures to “increase the capacities of adults and adolescents to protect themselves from the risk of HIV infection.”

In addition to the MDGs and development, the 35-page document covers a wide range of issues, including reform of UN bodies and the secretariat, human rights, and peace and security. While the scope of the outcome document was broad and ambitious, governments ultimately fell short of agreeing to take the “bold actions” urged by UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan that are necessary to address the world’s most pressing challenges. While we experienced gains in the areas of health and gender equality, governments barely held the line on existing commitments in the areas of ODA, trade or debt relief, or protecting the environment. They did not harness the political will necessary to ensure effective reform of the UN secretariat or make key decisions that would ensure the success of two new UN bodies established by the outcome document: the peace-building commission and the human rights council.

To see the final outcome document that will be adopted this week, click here:
<http://www.reformtheun.org/index.php/articles/1397>.

2005 World Summit: All Eyes on World Leaders

Starting this morning, heads of state and government from around the world are making bold pronouncements on their national policies on development, human rights, peace and security, and strengthening the United Nations. For months, sexual and reproductive rights NGOs have been advocating for world leaders to recognize the importance of ensuring universal access to reproductive health by 2015 in their national statements. Now is the time to see if they will follow through.

The World Summit plenary sessions are being webcast and national statements are being posted on the official Summit website: <http://www.un.org/webcast/summit2005/statements.html>

Briefing Cards: Millennium Development Goals and Sexual and Reproductive Health

FCI's briefing cards on the Millennium Development Goals and sexual and reproductive health are available in English, French and Spanish!

Order free hard copies of the briefing cards online at:

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Calendar of Events

September

14-16	2005 World Summit
15-17	Clinton Global Initiative Inaugural Meeting (New York, USA)

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