



Dear Colleagues,

As the Millennium+5 Summit, to be held in September 2005 draws nearer, Family Care International will prepare and distribute periodic E-Bulletins to ensure that organizations working on sexual and reproductive health and rights around the world are kept up to date on the preparations leading up to the Summit and opportunities for advocacy.

Making Progress

There have been two major achievements in the past week at the global and regional levels:

- On May 25, the [World Health Assembly](#), attended by delegations of 192 member states, adopted [two resolutions](#) highlighting the need to ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health information and services in order to achieve the MDGs.

The resolution entitled, *Working towards universal coverage of maternal, newborn and child health interventions*, specifically urges member states to “establish or sustain national and international targets, and to establish monitoring mechanisms for measuring progress towards the achievement of agreed goals, particularly the target on universal access to reproductive health by 2015.”

The resolution, *Accelerating the achievement of the internationally agreed health-related development goals including those contained in the Millennium Declaration* asks the member states to develop national roadmaps for achieving health-related development goals, “including those contained in the Millennium Declaration and the goal of universal access to reproductive health by 2015 set at the United Nations International Conference on Population or Development. . . .” In relation to this, the resolution also asks governments to establish or sustain “national monitoring mechanisms for measuring progress towards the achievement of agreed goals.”

For more information, [click here](#).

- On May 24, the **European Union’s General Affairs and External Relations Council** adopted Council Conclusions entitled [Accelerating progress towards achieving the millennium development goals](#). The conclusions, which are legally binding on EU member countries, state:

“The EU further recognizes that the MDGs cannot be attained without progress in achieving the Cairo goal of universal sexual and reproductive health and rights. In accordance with the Council Conclusions from November 2004, the EU will therefore work to ensure that this linkage is properly reflected in the outcome of the September 2005 High-Level event. In this context, the EU strongly supports that a subsequent technical process examines how best to incorporate related targets and monitoring indicators under MDG 5.”

For more information, [click here](#).

The Millennium+5 Political Declaration Update

The outcome from the Millennium+5 Summit will be a political declaration covering four core areas identified by the Secretary-General in his report, "In Larger Freedom:" **Freedom from Want, Freedom from Fear, Freedom to Live in Dignity, and the Imperative for Collective Action**. The Secretary-General included an annex to his report on issues for consideration by Heads of State and/or Government, which lays the groundwork for first draft of the political declaration.

The President of the General Assembly has enlisted the assistance of ten permanent representatives to help draft the political declaration and ensure that the concerns of all governments are adequately reflected. He has also outlined the issues to be covered under each of the four clusters. The facilitators and issues are:

Freedom from Want

Facilitators:

- Barbados - H.E. Mr. Christopher Fitzherbert Hackett
- Ghana - H.E. Mr. Nana Effa-Apenteng
- Ukraine - H.E. Mr. Valeriy P. Kuchinsky

Issues:

- Implement Monterrey and Johannesburg
- Meeting the special needs of Africa
- Comprehensive MDG Strategies for Developing Countries
- Official development assistance (ODA): 0.5% by 2009, 0.7% by 2015
- Debt relief
- Trade
- International Financing Facility and innovative funding
- Quick Wins (from Millennium Project Report)
- HIV/AIDS
- Gender equality
- Support for scientific research and development
- Framework for climate change beyond 2012
- Early warning system for natural disasters
- Immediate ODA increase for well-governed countries

Freedom from Fear

Facilitators:

- Australia - H.E. Mr. John Dauth
- Thailand - H.E. Mrs. Laxanachantorn Laohaphan
- Tunisia - H.E. Mr. Ali Hachani

Issues:

- Collective security consensus
- Treaty on the Non-proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention (BWC) and Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) compliance
- Small arms and light weapons (SALW)
- Definition of terrorism
- Implement of the UN counterterrorism strategy
- Accede to 12 anti-terrorism conventions/conclude comprehensive convention and convention on nuclear terrorism
- Principles on use of force
- Peacebuilding Commission
- Peacekeeping strategic reserves and standby capacities
- Security Council sanctions

Freedom to Live in Dignity

Facilitators:

- Bangladesh – H.E. Mr. Iftekhar Ahmed Chowdhury
- Slovenia – H.E. Mr. Roman Kirn

Issues:

- Rule of law, human rights and democracy
- Responsibility to protect
- Support 2005 treaty events and treaties on protection of civilians
- Democracy Fund
- International Court of Justice

The Imperative for Collective Action

Facilitators:

- The Netherlands – H.E. Mr. Dirk Jan van den Berg
- Panama – H.E. Mr. Ricardo Alberto Arias

Issues:

- Reaffirm the Charter of the United Nations
- Revitalize the General Assembly
- Reform the Security Council
- Reform the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)
- Establish a Human Rights Council
- Reform the Secretariat
- System-wide coherence
- Humanitarian response system
- Environmental governance
- Regional organizations
- Charter amendments

Informal consultations were convened by the facilitators of each of the four clusters from April 19 – May 2. During these consultations governments made statements outlining the issues they would like the facilitators to address as they draft the political declaration.

During the “**Freedom from Want**” cluster informals, more than 70 countries and groups spoke on a number of different issues. Overall there was broad support for the implementation of the “quick wins” suggested by the UN Millennium Project, one of which is expanding access to sexual and reproductive health services and information and closing the funding gap for sexual and reproductive health supplies. **Sixteen countries and the European Union discussed the need to ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health services and information in order to achieve the MDGs.** Many countries, as well as the African Group and the G-77 and China, stressed that the implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action and the Beijing Declaration and Platform of Action.

The facilitators are now working with the President of the General Assembly to prepare the first draft of the political declaration, which is expected to be released on June 3, 2005.

“I note that reproductive health issues are identified in two of the seven clusters proposed by the Secretary General. The September summit should reiterate the crucial importance of universal access of reproductive health services by 2015, with a view to reversing the appalling state of maternal health and spread of HIV/AIDS and to fostering women’s empowerment. In addition, the balanced strategy of prevention, treatment and human rights proposed by the Secretary-General in regard to HIV/AIDS requires sustained investments in Reproductive health commodities and affordable access as well as education services for young people as essential components of a quick win initiative in this domain.”

*Statement by Ambassador Ronaldo Mota Sardenberg
Permanent Representative of Brazil to the United Nations
April 26, 2005*

The Millennium+5 Summit Update

According to the General Assembly's April 15 resolution on modalities, the Millennium+5 Summit (September 14-16) will be attended by government delegations headed by high-level representatives, preferably heads of state and/or government, of the United Nation's 192 member states and two permanent observers (Palestine and the Holy See). It will be comprised of:

- **Six plenary meetings** (two meetings per day), during which governments and the permanent observers will have the opportunity to read five-minute statements (however, they may distribute longer written statements). Other organizations with observer status in the General Assembly—the League of Arab States, African Union, European Community, Organization of Islamic Conference, and the World Conference of Speakers of Parliaments of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, may be included on the list of speakers. One representative each of non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, civil society organizations and the private sector, to be chosen at the informal interactive hearings in June, may also be invited to speak.
- **Four interactive roundtables**, attended by the head of delegation and two advisers, which will address the entire agenda of the Summit. Each roundtable will have at least 40 participants subject to the principle of equitable geographic distribution and will be chaired by a head of state or government. General Assembly observers and the representatives from NGOs, civil society organizations and the private sector attending the plenary meetings may also be invited to participate, as may the heads of UN agencies. These roundtable discussions will be closed to the media and general public.
- **A high-level meeting on financing for development** (September 14 - 10a.m. - 1p.m.).

Some governments are including NGO representatives on their delegations to the Summit. Delegations are being decided well in advance, so if you are interested, contact your government to find out if they are including NGOs on the delegation and if there is a selection process.

Upcoming Advocacy Opportunities

High-level Meeting on HIV/AIDS, June 2, 2005 UN Headquarters, New York

The meeting is primarily an interim technical review of the 2005 goals set out in the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS, which was adopted during the UN General Assembly Special Session on HIV/AIDS on 27 June 2001. The discussions during the meeting will be considered throughout the preparatory process for the Millennium+5 Summit. Advocacy is needed to ensure that governments participating in the meeting discuss the need for better policy and program linkages between sexual and reproductive health and HIV/AIDS.

High-level Dialogue on Financing for Development, June 27-28, 2005 UN Headquarters, New York

The meeting will examine countries' progress in implementation of the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development, which was held in March 2002. The recommendations emerging from the dialogue will be considered throughout the preparatory process for the Millennium+5 Summit.

For more information, visit: <http://www.un.org/esa/ffd>.

High-Level Segment of the Economic and Social Council, June 29 - July 1, 2005 UN Headquarters, New York

The theme of the 2005 high-level segment of ECOSOC *"Achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration, as well as*

implementing the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits: progress made, challenges and opportunities." The outcome of the high-level segment will be a political declaration. Both the high-level segment and the coordination segment of ECOSOC will contribute to preparations for the Millennium+5 Summit. Advocacy is needed to ensure that the political declaration emphasizes the importance of implementing the ICPD Programme of Action and the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and that universal access to sexual and reproductive health information and services is recognized as being necessary to achieve the MDGs, particularly for the goals on gender equality and maternal health.

Calendar of Events

May

31-3 June Global Health Council annual conference on health systems
(Washington, DC, USA)

June

1-3 Africa Economic Summit, Cape Town, South Africa
2 High-level meeting to review the progress on the implementation of
the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS.
6 G8 Parliamentarians Conference (Scotland)
8-11 Preparatory NGO Conference on the High-Level Plenary Meeting
(Copenhagen, Denmark)
12-16 Second South Summit, G77 (Doha, Qatar)
21-22 Asian Health Ministers Meeting on MDGs (Tokyo, Japan)
23-24 Civil Society Hearings toward the High-Level Plenary (New York, USA)
27-28 High-Level Dialogue on Financing for Development (New York, USA)
29-1 High-level ECOSOC Segment: Theme "Achieving the internationally
agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium
Declaration" (New York, USA)

July

2-27 Substantive ECOSOC Segment (New York, USA)
6-8 G-8 Summit (Scotland)

September

7-9 Meeting of Speakers of Parliament (New York, USA)
7-9 DPI-NGO Meeting (New York, USA)
14-16 General Assembly High-Level Plenary to Review
Implementation of MDGs (New York, USA)