



Making Progress

Over the past months, there have been several meetings and conferences organized by NGOs and Parliamentarians on the Millennium Development Goals. Many of the outcomes of these meetings have recognized the importance of sexual and reproductive health towards achieving the MDGs and have called upon governments to ensure that universal access to reproductive health by 2015 and protection of reproductive rights are duly considered in preparations for the Millennium+5 Summit. Here is just a sampling of the calls for action from three such meetings.

- More than 60 young people aged 15-29 gathered in Buenos Aires, Argentina, from May 16-20 for an **international youth forum on sexual and reproductive health and rights and the MDGs** that was organized by the Youth Coalition. The participants in the forum produced a declaration and an action plan for an international campaign to raise awareness about young people's sexual and reproductive health and rights and the Millennium Development Goals. The declaration calls for greater attention to young people's specific situations and needs and demands that governments ensure that young people have access to comprehensive sexuality education, sexual and reproductive health information and services, and the elimination of discrimination. To read the declaration and action plan, visit the Youth Coalition's website:
<http://www.youthcoalition.org/DEV/mambo2/index.php?option=content&task=view&id=85&Itemid=86>.
- From June 6-7, **parliamentarians from G8, European and African countries** met in Edinburgh, Scotland for a G8 International Parliamentarians' Conference on Development in Africa 2005. The conference, organized by Interact Worldwide, the Inter-European Parliamentary Forum on Population and Development, and the Parliamentary Network on the World Bank, the World Bank and hosted by the Scottish Parliament, focused on financing for development, HIV/AIDS and sexual and reproductive health and rights. The conference participants adopted a declaration, which calls for G8 countries to "devote 10 percent of their Official Development Assistance to population, and reproductive health and rights programs" and "support African led efforts to create an enabling legislative environment for women's rights" including by developing national and regional policies and legislation that protects and promotes sexual and reproductive health and rights and aims to mitigate gender-based violence." To read the declaration, visit <http://www.interactworldwide.org/G8parliamentarians.asp>
- The United Nations Association of Denmark convened an NGO conference in preparation for the Millennium+5 Summit in Copenhagen June 8-10. NGO representatives from 23 countries, gathered to discuss strategies for accelerating development, protecting human rights, ensuring peace and security, and strengthening the UN. Their declaration, Freedom for All, calls for special emphasis on "the integration of the ICPD goals of universal access to reproductive health by 2015 into strategies to attain the MDGs." The declaration is available on the Danish UNA website:
http://una.dk/commonimages/uploaded/Copenhagen_draft_editorial_group_final.doc.

Update: Civil Society Hearings

The General Assembly President's Task Force has released the full list of speakers and participants for the Informal Interactive Hearings of the General Assembly with NGOs, Civil Society Organizations and the Private Sector, which is available on the UN Non-Governmental Liaison Service website: <http://www.un-ngls.org/GA-hearings.htm>.

All who are participating, either actively or observing, must register and pick up grounds passes in the lobby of the United Nations Headquarters. Remember to bring your confirmation letter, along with valid photo identification. The registration desk will be open:

Wednesday, June 22, 2005:	9:00 AM – 1:00 PM and 2:00 PM – 5:00 PM
Thursday, June 23, 2005:	9:00 AM – 1:00 PM and 2:00 PM – 5:00 PM
Friday, June 24, 2005:	9:00 AM – 1:00 PM and 2:00 PM – 5:00 PM

Accreditation lines at the UN can be very long, so plan to get there early! More information is available on the UN NGLS site: <http://www.un-ngls.org/GA-hearings.htm>.

Update: High-level Segment of the Economic and Social Council

The high-level segment of the Economic and Social Council will take place from June 29 – July 1st. The theme of this year's high-level segment is *"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."*

A ministerial declaration on this theme will be adopted on the final day of the meeting and is currently being negotiated by the missions to the United Nations in New York. The "draft elements" of the ministerial declaration is currently available on the Economic and Social Council website: <http://www.un.org/docs/ecosoc/meetings/2005/hl2005/outcome.shtml>. The outcome document from the high-level segment will contribute to preparations for the Millennium+5 Summit.

Advocacy is needed to ensure that the ministerial 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 and protection of reproductive rights is recognized as being necessary to achieve the MDGs, particularly for the goals on gender equality and maternal health.

NGOs that wish to participate in the High-level Segment must register by June 22nd. The registration form (see attached), should be sent to **Mr. Paul Simon, DESA Office for ECOSOC Support and Coordination, by fax at (212) 963-7454 or email at simonp@un.org.**

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 now available online in English, French and Spanish! Download the PDF versions online at: http://www.familycareintl.org/pubs/publications_SRH.php.

To order hard copies of the briefing cards, email fcipubs@fcimail.org to specify how many you can use and where they should be sent.

New Website: www.srh-mdgs.org

The UN Millennium Project has launched a new website on sexual and reproductive health and the MDGs. The website has links to resolutions, declarations and other outcomes of intergovernmental and NGO meetings that are related to sexual and reproductive health, updates on the UN Millennium+5 process, and a calendar of events. Visit the website at www.srh-mdgs.org.

Upcoming Advocacy Opportunities

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>.

Calendar of Events

June

8-11	Preparatory NGO Conference on the High-Level Plenary Meeting (Copenhagen, Denmark)
12-16	Second South Summit, G77 (Doha, Qatar)
16-18	European Heads of Government Meeting (Luxembourg)
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)

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