



The MDGs and Sexual and Reproductive Health E-Bulletin July 7, 2005

Dear Colleagues,

As the Millennium+5 Summit, to be held in September 2005 draws nearer, Family Care International is preparing and distributing periodic E-bulletins to ensure that organizations working on sexual and reproductive health and rights around the world are kept up to date.

Update: 2005 World Summit Outcome Document

For the past two weeks, governments have been sharing their initial reactions to the 2005 World Summit draft outcome document, which was released by GA President, HE Mr. Jean Ping, on June 3, 2005. Based on these informal consultations and bilateral discussions, Mr. Ping and the ten facilitators are preparing a second draft of the outcome document, which is due to be released around July 15, 2005. Advocacy with national governments and at the mission level is still necessary to ensure that governments take strong positions on sexual and reproductive health and rights issues throughout preparations for the Summit and at the Summit itself and actively advocate for the draft language on universal access to reproductive health by 2015 currently in the outcome document to be retained.

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

Governments' failed to reach agreement on a ministerial declaration for the high-level segment of the Economic and Social Council, which had the theme *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 ministerial declaration aimed to cover a wide range of development issues, including environmental sustainability, gender equality and women's empowerment, HIV/AIDS, sexual and reproductive health, financing for development, debt relief and trade. The President of the Economic and Social Council, HE Ambassador Munir Akram of Pakistan, decided to end negotiations at 6:00pm on Friday, July 1, when, after a month of informal consultations, it became clear that governments were not able to reach agreement on some of the most contentious issues, mostly related to aid and trade. In his closing remarks, Akram noted that governments were hesitant to make commitments on development issues now that might preempt the outcome of the 2005 World Summit.

In lieu of the ministerial declaration, the ECOSOC President will prepare a chair's summary of deliberations during the high-level ECOSOC segment.

Making Progress

This week we report on the outcomes of NGO and intergovernmental meetings that took place in June.

- **Wye River Call to Action for Global Women's Health:** 65 leaders from governments and NGOs from 21 countries gathered in Maryland from June 5-7 to discuss women's health and development. The conference was organized by Realizing Rights: The Ethical Globalization Initiative, the Council of Women World Leaders and Columbia University's Mailman School of Public Health. Conference participants issued a call to action which stresses that in order to improve women's health, governments must invest in strengthening health systems. They also called upon governments to "endorse the ICPD target of universal access to reproductive health by 2015 as an additional target to MDG 5." For the full call to action, click here.
http://www.realizingrights.org/images/stories/Final_Wye_River_Call_to_Action_June28.pdf
- From June 21-22, representatives from 24 Asian and Pacific governments, as well as from donor countries, UN agencies, and international and regional organizations met during a **High-level Forum on Achieving the Health MDGs in Asia and the Pacific**. The two-day meeting, held in Tokyo, Japan, discussed concrete steps needed to achieve the health MDGs, including by strengthening health systems and promoting equity in access to quality health services. The recommendations emerging from the forum include "the promotion of women's empowerment, gender equality and universal access to reproductive health services in accordance with the Beijing Platform of Action and the ICPD program of Action." The chair's summary of the deliberations during the forum also notes that participants "suggested to add the target of universal access to reproductive health by 2015, in relation to MDG 5 to address women's health beyond mortality prevention—also recognizing its importance in combating HIV/AIDS and reducing child mortality, as well as in promoting gender equality and eradicating poverty." For the full chair's summary, click here:
http://www.mofa.go.jp/policy/health_c/forum0506/chair.pdf

This week sees the G-8 Summit, in Gleneagles, Scotland, where important decisions will be made by the governments of the United Kingdom, United States, Canada, Italy, Germany, France, Japan and Russia on development issues, particularly on aid for Africa. Let's hope that improving women's sexual and reproductive health is among their priorities.

[W]e welcome the prominent recognition given to gender equality and women's empowerment in the draft outcome. But in September our leaders must deliver on these aspirations, by undertaking to prevent and punish all forms of violence against women; to achieving gender balance at all levels of decision-making; to guaranteeing women's land and inheritance rights; and to ensuring universal access to reproductive health.

Sir Emyr Jones Parry
Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom to the United Nations
June 21, 2005

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 in English, French and Spanish! We are committed to making sure that these get into the hands of NGOs, parliamentarians and advocates worldwide who are working to ensure that sexual and reproductive health is recognized as necessary for achieving the MDGs.

Order free hard copies of the briefing cards online at:

http://www.familycareintl.org/pubs/publications_SRH.php or send an email specifying how many you would like and where they should be sent to fcipubs@fcimail.org.

Download the PDF versions at: http://www.familycareintl.org/pubs/publications_SRH.php.

Calendar of Events

July

- | | |
|------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 2-27 | Substantive ECOSOC Segment (New York, USA) |
| 6-8 | G-8 Summit (Scotland) |
| 15 | Anticipated release of the second draft of the 2005 World Summit Outcome Document |

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) |
-

This E-Bulletin is published by:

Family Care International
588 Broadway, Suite 503
New York, NY 10012
Tel: (212) 941-5300
Fax: (212) 941-5563
info@fcimail.org
www.familycareintl.org