



The MDGs and Sexual and Reproductive Health E-Bulletin July 18, 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.

Making Progress

- On July 5th, at the **5th African Union (AU) Summit** in Sirte, Libya, heads of state and government of the Union's 53 member states adopted a declaration reaffirming the need to ensure gender equality and expand access to sexual and reproductive health services in order to achieve the MDGs. The declaration, titled "Declaration on the review of the Millennium Declaration and the Millennium Development Goals" calls for "[i]nvestment in strengthening health systems including access to reproductive and sexual health services to ensure sustained and long-term improvement in maternal, newborn and child health." It also calls for the "mainstreaming of gender into national development strategies and in particular, addressing the persistent and high levels of poverty among women through the implementation of the Dakar and Beijing Platforms for Action."

The declaration represents the African Union's common position on development for the 2005 World Summit and is intended to constitute "Africa's input into the Review of the Millennium Declaration and the Millennium Development Goals." For more information about the AU Summit and its outcomes, click here: <http://www.africa-union.org/summit/JULY%202005/home.htm>.

- On July 18th, the **European Union General Affairs and External Relations Council** adopted a new set of Council Conclusions on the 2005 World Summit that reiterated their commitment to sexual and reproductive health and rights. The document stresses that the EU will continue to work towards achieving a "balanced and ambitious Summit outcome, resulting in substantive actions to support the full implementation of the Millennium Declaration and related commitments." In discussing their priorities for the Summit's outcome document, the conclusions state that "[t]he EU further recognizes that the MDGs cannot be attained without progress in achieving the Cairo goal of universal sexual and reproductive health and rights." Strengthening gender equality within the UN system and intensifying the response to HIV/AIDS are also among the EU's priorities for the Summit. For the complete Council Conclusions, click here: http://ue.eu.int/ueDocs/cms_Data/docs/pressData/en/gena/85770.pdf.
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Update: 2005 World Summit Outcome Document

The second draft of the 2005 World Summit Outcome document is now expected to be released on Friday, July 22nd. Governments are expected to have a short timeframe to respond to the second draft and provide additional comments. As such, advocates will need to work quickly to provide feedback to missions in New York and to capitals. In the meantime, **keep up the advocacy to ensure that governments take strong positions on the contribution of sexual and reproductive health and rights towards achieving the MDGs!**

G-8 Outcome Disappointing for Women

By Kristan Callahan

Last week, the leaders of G-8 countries—Canada, Italy, France, Germany, Japan, Russia, the United Kingdom and the United States—met in Gleneagles, Scotland to set common policies on a number of issues, including development in Africa and climate change. In a communiqué on Africa, the leaders identified a number of priorities aimed at helping Africa to meet development goals. The priorities ranged from fighting terrorism and violence to improving investments in people.

One positive aspect of the Summit's communiqué is that G-8 members recognized the importance of educating communities to reduce the spread of infectious diseases, increasing training for healthcare workers, nurses, and doctors, and providing better care to those most vulnerable, particularly women and children. However, when compared to the UK's **Commission for Africa** Report, which set the scope of discussion on Africa for the Summit, the G-8 outcome falls significantly short when it comes to recognizing and protecting the sexual and reproductive health and rights of Africa's women, men and youth.

The Commission for Africa Report called upon African governments to “show strong leadership in promoting women's and men's right to sexual and reproductive health” and urged donors to “do all they can to enable universal access to sexual and reproductive health services.” The report also noted that the failure to invest in sexual and reproductive health “has serious consequences for improving public health and addressing the HIV and AIDS pandemic effectively.” Yet, the G-8 failed to address sexual and reproductive health—an issue that is strongly related to poverty reduction, health, and development—at the Summit.

For more information about the G-8 Summit, click here: <http://www.g8.gov.uk>.

World Association for Sexual Health Adopts Montreal Declaration: "Sexual Health for the Millennium"

On July 15, the World Association for Sexual Health concluded its 17th meeting with the adoption of the Montreal Declaration: "Sexual Health for the Millennium." The declaration aims to influence governments, international agencies and other stakeholders to recognize the contribution of sexual health to the health and well-being of individuals and societies, as well as to sustainable development, and to integrate sexual health into strategies to achieve the MDGs. The declaration also calls for the recognition, promotion and protection of sexual rights; advances towards gender equality; the elimination of sexual violence; and universal access to comprehensive sexuality information and education.

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.

Respect for the rights of women and the girl child is also critical in the struggle against HIV/AIDS. An educated woman or girl child would be empowered to negotiate her way around social and cultural practices that might threaten her health. . . . Any comprehensive strategy [to prevent HIV/AIDS] should include respect for reproductive health rights and provision of sexual and reproductive health services.

H.E. Ambassador Crispin Grey-Johnson
Permanent Representative of the Gambia to the United Nations
High-level Meeting on HIV/AIDS
June 2, 2005

Calendar of Events

July

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| 2-27 | Substantive ECOSOC Segment (New York, USA) |
| 22 | Anticipated release of the second draft of the 2005 World Summit Outcome Document |

August

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| 3-5 | The Challenges of Asia and the Pacific countries in achieving the MDGs in 2015 and Beyond (Jakarta, Indonesia) |
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September

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| 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) |

If you know of any additional events, [email us!](mailto:fcipubs@fcimail.org)

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