



Women, Development and Global Governance

Poverty has a woman's face, and the key to the sustainable human development is the fulfilment of women's rights and gender justice. Societies where women are more equal stand a much greater chance of achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) by 2015. MDG 3 reaffirms gender equality and women's empowerment as essential ingredients of achieving all the other MDGs.

MDG 8: Develop a Global Partnership for Development



Targets

- 1. Develop further an open, rule-based, predictable, non-discriminatory trading and financial system*
- 2. Address the special needs of least developed countries, landlocked countries and small island developing states*
- 3. Deal comprehensively with developing countries' debt*
- 4. In cooperation with pharmaceutical companies, provide access to affordable, essential drugs in developing countries*
- 5. In cooperation with the private sector, make available benefits of new technologies, especially ICTs*

Quick Facts

- * Official development assistance stands at 0.31% of the combined national income of developed countries, still falling short of the 0.7% target. Only five donor countries have reached or exceeded this target.
- * Seven % of aid flows in 2006 had gender equality as a major objective (<http://www.awid.org>)
- * Women's rights groups – and other civil society organizations – have been advocating for a more inclusive, accountable and democratic international system.



feminist task force

The Feminist Task Force (FTF) was launched in 2005 when leaders of international women’s rights groups gathered in New York City for the UN Commission on the Status of Women annual meetings. The global launch marked the start of a new alliance aimed at ending poverty among women and putting gender equality at the core of poverty eradication. Established under the umbrella of the **Global Call to Action against Poverty (GCAP)** the Feminist Task Force focuses on raising awareness around women’s issues and calling for “**Gender Equality to End Poverty**”.

Ten years ago, when the Millennium Declaration outlined the eight MDGs, many women’s organizations viewed them as “minimalist development goals”; as simply watered-down commitments of the internationally agreed development goals of the UN conferences of the 1990’s. Since then, reports indicate mixed progress, with the new crises worsening the feminization of poverty.

Now, with only five years left until the 2015 deadline to achieve the MDGs, the UN MDG 2010 Review Summit in September provides an opportunity to critique the progress of governments in fulfilling the MDGs, and also offers women’s organizations the time to emphasize once again the centrality of gender equality and the empowerment of women in achieving all the MDGs and sustainable human development.

Women’s groups will critically assess how the MDGs have or have not served women, and examine the impact on women of interconnected crises – financial/economic, climate change, food, maternal mortality – and how they have exacerbated living conditions for women and thrown millions back into poverty.

