

LETTER TO A PARLIAMENTARIAN DEVELOPED COUNTRIES

(Your name)

(Address)

(Date)

(Name of person that you're writing the letter to)

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Dear (Name of person that you're writing the letter to),

Our country, along with almost every other country in the world, agreed at the United Nations Millennium Summit in 2000 to help achieve the Millennium Development Goals by 2015.

The Goals are a set of steps toward ending global poverty. Specifically, once accomplished, the world will see:

- the amount of people living on less than a dollar a day cut in half,
- every single child completing at least a primary education,
- equal numbers of boys and girls in school everywhere in the world,
- two-thirds fewer children dying before they reach the age of five,
- 75% fewer women dying in childbirth,
- a reversal of the spread of AIDS, malaria, and other diseases,
- 50% fewer people without sustained access to safe drinking water, and
- a cleaner and healthier environment for our children and grandchildren.

The Goals are not too ambitious; the world has the resources and the know-how to achieve them. They are technically and financially within our reach, but only if governments from both developed and developing countries take concrete and urgent action.

Developing countries need to do more to achieve the first seven Goals covering poverty, hunger, education, health, the environment and woman's rights. But they cannot achieve their first seven Goals unless developed countries fulfil their promises on Goal 8; give more and higher quality aid, increase trade opportunities for developing countries, and provide greater debt relief to struggling countries.

Please help - take action today to support the Millennium Development Goals. Here are some examples of actions that you can take to make sure our government lives up to its promises to us - its citizens!

► **TELL PEOPLE ABOUT THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS**

Most officials don't know our government agreed to achieve the MDGs by 2015 and we need your help getting the word out.

► **OPEN A DIALOGUE**

For any meaningful progress on the Millennium Development Goals in developed countries, parliamentarians must have open and frank exchange on development issues. In some countries, these issues are not even part of the current agendas. As a Parliamentarian and representative of us, we need you to scrutinize our government's Goal 8 positions on an ongoing basis to ensure that they are in line with what they signed in the Millennium Declaration.

► ENGAGE IN POLICY CHANGE

- Support increased Overseas Development Assistance (ODA) to at least 0.7% of our country's GDP.
- End the policy of giving "tied aid"—aid given on condition that the recipient will use it to purchase goods and services from suppliers based in the donor country.
- Support more sustainable debt relief for poor countries.
- Promote fairer international trade rules that give developing countries a chance to succeed on their own in global economic markets.
- Work to harmonize and simplify the complex donor procedures that overburden developing countries' institutional capacity, particularly through support for implementation of the Rome Declaration on Harmonization adopted in February 2003.
- End agricultural subsidies that lead to worldwide overproduction and artificially depressed world prices, undermining incentives and earning opportunities for farmers in developing communities.
- Channel more aid to poor countries, particularly Sub-Saharan Africa and Least Developed Countries
- Simplify and harmonise their procedures that are required of developing countries that receive aid

Raising hundreds of millions of people worldwide out of poverty will bring tremendous benefits to us as well. A more prosperous world and a more just world is a safer world for all of us to live in.

Please do your part to fulfil our country's promise to put an end to extreme poverty worldwide!

Sincerely yours,

(Your signature)
(Your name)