

## **IBVM at the United Nations**

Update 07 /13



**It's Your World**

**When you hear « United Nations » mentioned, what is your reaction ?**

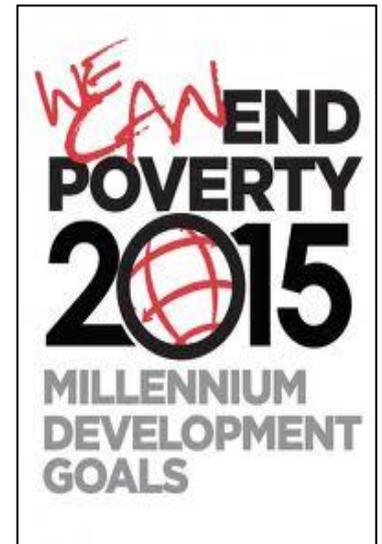
*The Deputy Secretary-General, Jan Eliasson, made an interesting comment on The United Nations when he said it "is a reflection, a mirror, of the world as it is but its job is to slowly move toward what the world should be."*

### **From MDGs to POST 2015**

In recent weeks a lot of energy has been expended on **The World We Want** after 2015. Why? The deadline for the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) is 31st. December 2015. So, at the moment, not only are we striving to conclude the promises made by our governments, but we are also preparing the vision and goals to follow on from the MDGs. This activity is relevant for us as we consider the way each one of us and our IBVM Network have engaged with different MDGs during these years.

### **The Good News about the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)**

- The MDGs have unified, galvanized, and expanded efforts to help the world's poorest people.
- They have promoted cooperation among public, private, and nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), providing a common language and bringing together disparate actors.
- The vision of cutting the amount of extreme poverty worldwide in half by 2015 anchored the attention and resources in a series of specific goals.



### **Some Weaknesses of the MDGs.**

- Though effective for campaigning, the simplicity of the MDGs has also been characterized by some as their main weakness. They do not reflect the full breadth of the Millennium Declaration, as the choice of MDGs omitted issues such as governance, peace and security, equality and unprecedented demographic change, and minimized the framing of environmental sustainability. It became a very narrow agenda.
- MDG 8 – the Global Partnership for Development – is seen as the weakest link in the MDG chain. The issues selected for inclusion in MDG 8 are fundamental, perhaps even more than could have been predicted in 2000. The choice of targets and indicators was piecemeal, did not easily link to the other goals. It was considered the most relevant for economically powerful countries yet the least fleshed out, being basically reduced to overseas aid.

**Are you part  
of it  
already ?**

### **Post 2015 – to succeed the MDGs**

The MY World survey is the United Nations global survey for a better world. Here people can vote on which six development issues most impact their lives. Complementing the MY World survey is the World We Want

platform, where citizens may engage further in the various consultations taking place on the post-2015 development process. Some of the information has already been included in Reports made to the Secretary General. Perhaps your contribution is there.

**A New Global Partnership.** NGOs representing civil society at the UN were recently presented the Report titled a “**New Global Partnership**” elaborated following consultations with some 5000 groups from around the world. On May 30<sup>th</sup>, it was presented to the Secretary, General Ban Ki Moon, and will serve as an input in the process of consultations being conducted by the United Nations. The Report builds on the MDGs and has some inspiring innovations to bring us forward as **human family**. Some of the salient initiatives :

1. The focus shifts from North / South divide to universal responsibility and solidarity.
2. We are all included. “Leave nobody behind” is one of the transformative shifts hoped for.
3. The social agenda of the MDGs is now set in a Sustainable Development context.
4. It also brings up issues such as inequality, employment, conflict which were not so obvious in 2000.

It is worth while reflecting on the future we want as presented in the Report.

[http://www.un.org/sg/management/pdf/HLP\\_P2015\\_Report.pdf](http://www.un.org/sg/management/pdf/HLP_P2015_Report.pdf)



**Working Group on Girls (WGG).** The **Working Group on Girls**, in which we are involved, presented its 2012 - 2013 Annual Report on June 6th. The Executive Committee, along with four Task Forces - Girls Participation, Advocacy, Research and Writing, Protecting Girls from Violence - have been fully engaged in the United Nations activities.

- Side events at The Commission on the Status of Women (CSW 57) included *A girls Tribunal on Violence, Zero Tolerance for violence against Girls, Changing Systems that hurt. Girl-Boy dialogue, Girls speak.*

- Advocacy Sheets were prepared to provide up to date information, resources and action proposals. There are 10 sheets on 10 issues addressing ways in which girls experience discrimination and violence.
- Statements were made on behalf of the membership at CWS 57 and fact sheets on the situation of girls are available.

The rising tide of awareness of discrimination and violence against girls and women around the world makes our advocacy on their behalf urgent. Google **The Working Group on Girls** WGG to access information. It is helpful when practicing or teaching advocacy and if you are thinking of activities for the next **International Day of the Girl** on 11 October, 2013.

**Upcoming dates/events. Looking ahead.**

**Learn+assess+pray+act+advocate**

- **September 2013.** IBVM / Loreto NGO - 10 years at the United Nations.
- **September 21st.** International Day of Peace. This year's theme is "Education for Peace," Information at [www.internationaldayofpeace.org](http://www.internationaldayofpeace.org) and [www.peaceday.tv](http://www.peaceday.tv)
- **October 11th. Day of the Girl.** Last year, this day came onto the international agenda for the first time. Our IBVM network held activities in many countries. Let's make most of it in our Endeavour for girls throughout the world.

*Cecilia O'Dwyer ibvm*