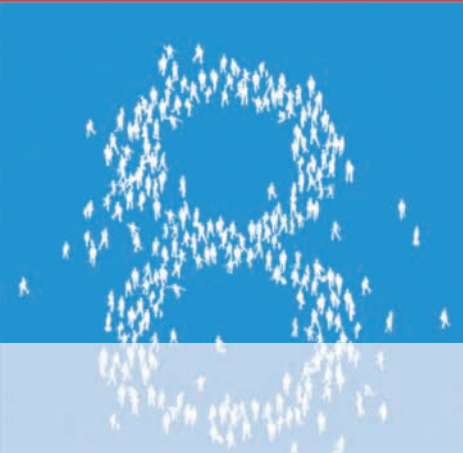


2010

France and the

MDGs





Bernard KOUCHNER
(19 May 2010, Paris)

France's first message, in view of the New York Summit, is this: the Goals are not out of reach, and nothing will weaken our resolve.

Towards a new historic commitment

On 8 September 2000, the General Assembly of the United Nations adopted the Millennium Declaration, the first international consensus on development. The Member States decided to eradicate extreme poverty and strive to ensure that the benefits of globalisation were more fairly shared, while endeavouring to promote democracy and the Rule of Law. Recognising that defending the principles of human dignity, equality and equity was a collective responsibility, **States pledged to overcome the main development challenges by 2015.**

The international consensus on the MDGs **was a major stride forward in the approach to development.** Over and above its symbolic aspect and its power to mobilise, it focussed on human development, which is both a condition and an end-goal of any development process.

The MDG Summit (New York, 20-22 September 2010) involves carrying out an assessment of all of the achievements, best practices and lessons learned from obstacles encountered to date, which must result in the adoption of concrete action strategies.

Ten years after the MDGs were agreed upon, it is vital to remain, on the one hand, lucid and realistic regarding the **mixed results** to date and the magnitude of today's new challenges, and steadfastly optimistic, on the other hand, about the international community's capacity to commit, collectively. **Appropriation** by governments in developing countries is a crucial factor for success.

By working towards an extended global partnership, France is furthering its firm commitment to these Goals alongside the European Union and its partners who likewise call for greater effectiveness and governance of aid.

THE EIGHT MDGs

- MDG 1:** Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger
- MDG 2:** Achieve universal primary education
- MDG 3:** Promote gender equality and empower women
- MDG 4:** Reduce child mortality
- MDG 5:** Improve maternal health
- MDG 6:** Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases
- MDG 7:** Ensure environmental sustainability
- MDG 8:** Create a Global Partnership for Development

THE "HUIT FOIS OUI" (EIGHT TIMES YES) CAMPAIGN

Since September 2008, the "Huit fois oui" campaign on the MDGs has been raising public awareness in France on development issues thanks to display kits and a dynamic, interactive internet site. This campaign, funded by the French Development Agency and the MFEA, has raised the profile of the MDG challenges among more than 2,000 schools in France and abroad.

More information at: <http://www.huitfoisoui.fr/>





France's position on the MDGs

The French approach to aid

● France's sectoral priorities can be asserted through **bilateral aid**. Convinced of the appropriateness and added value offered by European development activities, France also dovetails its cooperation policy with the European framework. French cooperation is also part of a **multilateral framework** which has become, in a world which is more interdependent than ever, the appropriate level for forging joint responses to global challenges.

With its **Official development assistance increasing by 11% between 2008 and 2009** to reach a total of €8.6 billion, **France is the world's second-largest contributor**. France's cooperation strategy for development is centred on three primary missions:

- combating poverty;
- fostering economic growth;
- and safeguarding global public goods.

France gives priority to the **14 poor countries in sub-Saharan Africa**, as well as to countries in crisis or emerging from crises. **Five priority sectors for ODA** have been identified: health; education and vocational training; agriculture and food security; sustainable development and climate; as well as support for growth and for the private sector.

● In the education sector, France has been a driving force at multilateral level in the design and implementation of the international initiative, Education For All. This programme approach contributes to capacity-building for countries and their national administrations. The expertise that France has managed to bring to the surface, especially in sub-Saharan Africa, has had an influence going beyond its direct contribution to the Fast Track Initiative.



EDUCATION: A KEY ISSUE FOR DEVELOPMENT

The Fast Track Initiative is currently the only international initiative that deals with the Goal of achieving universal education. 40 countries, among the world's poorest, have entered into partnerships and created sectoral strategies for education. Thanks to the initiative more than \$1.5 billion were raised for education between 2004 and 2009 from donors. Moreover, this initiative has the power to influence partner countries' budget decisions regarding education, a sector that was hitherto neglected as it was deemed too spendthrift.

France contributes to the schooling of some 4.5 million children around the world, of whom almost 2 million live in Africa.



Guinea © IRD

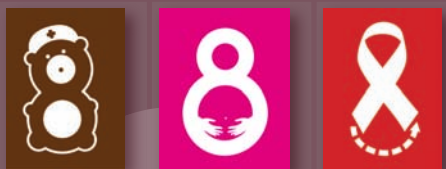
Raising awareness, mobilising and assessing

France recognises that three main missions assigned to the MDGs have been largely fulfilled:

- awareness-raising among the international community;
- mobilising the donor community;
- and assessing and monitoring results.

Seen in light of the situation in the 1990s, **the successes of the MDGs are significant, but these efforts need to be pursued** to heighten synergy and ensure greater effectiveness of the initiatives undertaken.

The pandemics of AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis are responsible for more than 5 million deaths every year. The battle against the major pandemics requires massive financial mobilisation and coordination of the efforts made by one and all. **France favours multilateral international cooperation with the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria**, to which it dedicates ever-increasing resources. France has confirmed not only that it fully subscribes to the objectives and activities of the Global Fund but also that it would increase its contribution, which totalled €900 million for 2008-2010.



Thanks to France's contributions to the Global Fund, more than **525,000** HIV positive people have received anti-retroviral treatment, **24 million** mosquito nets have been distributed and **1.6 million** tuberculosis cases have been treated.

THE BATTLE AGAINST MAJOR PANDEMICS

France contributes to training and research initiatives on the different diseases thanks to various public and private French partners. Several avenues that could lead to an anti-malaria vaccine are currently being explored, in particular with the Institut Pasteur, GSK and Sanofi-Pasteur. As concerns the fight against AIDS, France's activities also take the form of support for research institutions which had spearheaded the creation of anti-AIDS strategies, validated by the WHO and applied today in developing countries.



AIDS prevention campaign in South Africa © IRD/E. Deliry-Antheaume



Mixed results

Although much headway has been made, there is still a very long way to go. It is time to move faster and to ensure that the achievements made are sustainable and of high quality. **It is difficult to offer a thorough assessment** of MDG progress, as the intra-country and inter-country situations are all developing so differently. Even within a single country, **there are still significant inequalities** between rich and poor, urban-dwellers and rural communities, men and women.

When it comes to fighting extreme poverty, the east and south-east Asian sub-continent have reached the objective of halving the percentage of people living in extreme poverty. The slowest progress has been recorded in sub-Saharan Africa, where the number of poverty-stricken people rose by more than 100 million between 1990 and 2010.

A SUSTAINABLE FORM OF DEVELOPMENT



Under the Copenhagen agreement on climate change, France is to make an annual contribution of €420 million for three years (2010, 2011 and 2012) in order to assist developing countries, with targeted aid for vulnerable countries, Africa and for the protection of forest areas. This will enable developing countries to devise low-carbon development strategies and to build their human and institutional capacities, so that they can implement the new international regime on climate change in the best possible conditions.

French experts take part in the transfer of knowledge and know-how (for example, by installing climate risk-related early warning systems (Africa, Madagascar, the Comoros, the Seychelles and Mauritius). France also shares its expertise in forest management with countries in the Congo basin.

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THE FRENCH DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

The role of this public body, known by its French initials, AFD, is to implement France's development policy through its activities in over 60 developing countries. AFD funds and supports projects that improve the living conditions of vulnerable communities, sustain economic growth and safeguard the planet. Since 2000, AFD has dedicated more than €10 billion to projects that contribute to the delivery of the MDGs.



Further information on AFD's work on the MDGs can be found at www.afd.fr and <http://omd.afd.fr>.



Meeting with civil society, researchers and elected representatives at the United Nations MDG summit in Paris (19 May 2010) © MAEE/F. de la Mure

The fight against poverty: a global challenge

Poverty, inequality and vulnerability are at the core of today global challenges.

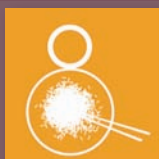
Since 2000, the international community has had to consider **new problems**, which were less of a threat at the time when the MDGs were adopted: the economic and financial situation, increased awareness and new risks associated with global challenges (biodiversity, climate change, pandemics, terrorism, migration, etc.). It is also important to **underscore the impact that demographic dynamics** – including, notably, the transition of fertility, urbanisation processes and internal migration – have had on MDG progress.

The 2007-2008 food crisis, followed by the economic

and financial crisis, caused an increase in the number of people affected by hunger in absolute terms, with the figures shifting from 800 million people in 2006 to over one billion in 2009. Demographic and climatic developments mean that the world's agricultural output must increase by 70% by 2050 if there is to be enough food to feed the planet's projected 9 billion inhabitants. The main challenge is to **ensure consistency across the range of policies that impact food security**, given the four pillars of food security:

- availability of agricultural products;
- accessibility of foodstuffs;
- quality and nutritional value;
- and crisis prevention.

FOOD SECURITY



France played a leading role in setting up the Global Partnership for Agriculture, Food Security and Nutrition, tabled at the high-level meeting on food security in Rome in June 2008.

This partnership is centred on three components: financial input totalling €1.5 billion over three

years; the establishment of a new international governance structure with a coordination platform that is open to all stakeholders concerned; knowledge enhancement and sharing with active participation by a high level expert group and support from an advisory group for international agricultural research.



A market in Vietnam © Serge Snrech



Development funding: a broader vision

Alongside official development assistance (ODA), the mobilisation of local resources, the promotion of regional integration and trade and an environment conducive to investments and open to the private sector all constitute sources for growth and funding for development. With this broader vision of development funding, France supports innovative financing mechanisms.

In four years, innovative financing has raised nearly \$3.5 billions of additional funding. This innovative financing, which is more stable and predictable than conventional ODA, uses activities that benefit from globalisation (air transport, financial transactions) via six types of mechanism: loan guarantees (for example, the IFFIm or AMC); new markets (CO₂ Cap and Trade); taxes (such as the levy on air tickets which funds

UNITAID); voluntary contributions (by individuals or firms); debt management (Debt2Health); and lotteries. These innovative financing mechanisms are accompanied by new North-South partnerships, as well as partnerships between States and NGOs, and between the public and private sectors. **The Leading Group on innovative financing for development**, whose Permanent Secretariat is hosted by France, currently comprises 60 countries as well as the main international organisations and NGOs.

In May 2009 France created, with 11 other pioneering countries (Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Chile, Germany, Italy, Japan, Norway, Senegal, Spain and the United Kingdom) a Task Force to buttress MDG progress using a levy on international financial transactions.

THE IMPACT OF INNOVATIVE FINANCING FOR DEVELOPMENT



In 2006, France committed to the International Financial Facility for Immunisation, and is its second-highest contributing country, for the repayment over 20 years of a quarter of the four billion euros loan which was launched that same year. These new resources will mean that the lives of some 5 million children will be saved between 2006 and 2015 and more than 5 million adults in the future.



In 2009, six countries (Chile, France, Guinea, Mauritius, Niger and South Korea) applied the levy on air tickets and sent the proceeds to UNITAID in full or in part. France transfers almost all

proceeds from this tax to UNITAID, and is the leading contributor with annual input of over €100 million. This international health product purchasing facility is designed to improve access to and reduce the prices of medication used to combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis in developing countries.



Immunisation campaign (Burkina Faso) © Serge Snrech

The development process: a qualitative approach

The quality of policies and institutions at different levels, the coordination between them within a coherent framework and changes in the international context are indispensable if the outcome of these transfers of resources are to offer noticeable and sustainable progress toward achieving the MDGs.

Over and above financial mobilisation, other vital elements for reaching the MDGs swiftly and providing developing countries with the sustainable development tools they need include **support for multilateral dialogue, research and knowledge transfer.**

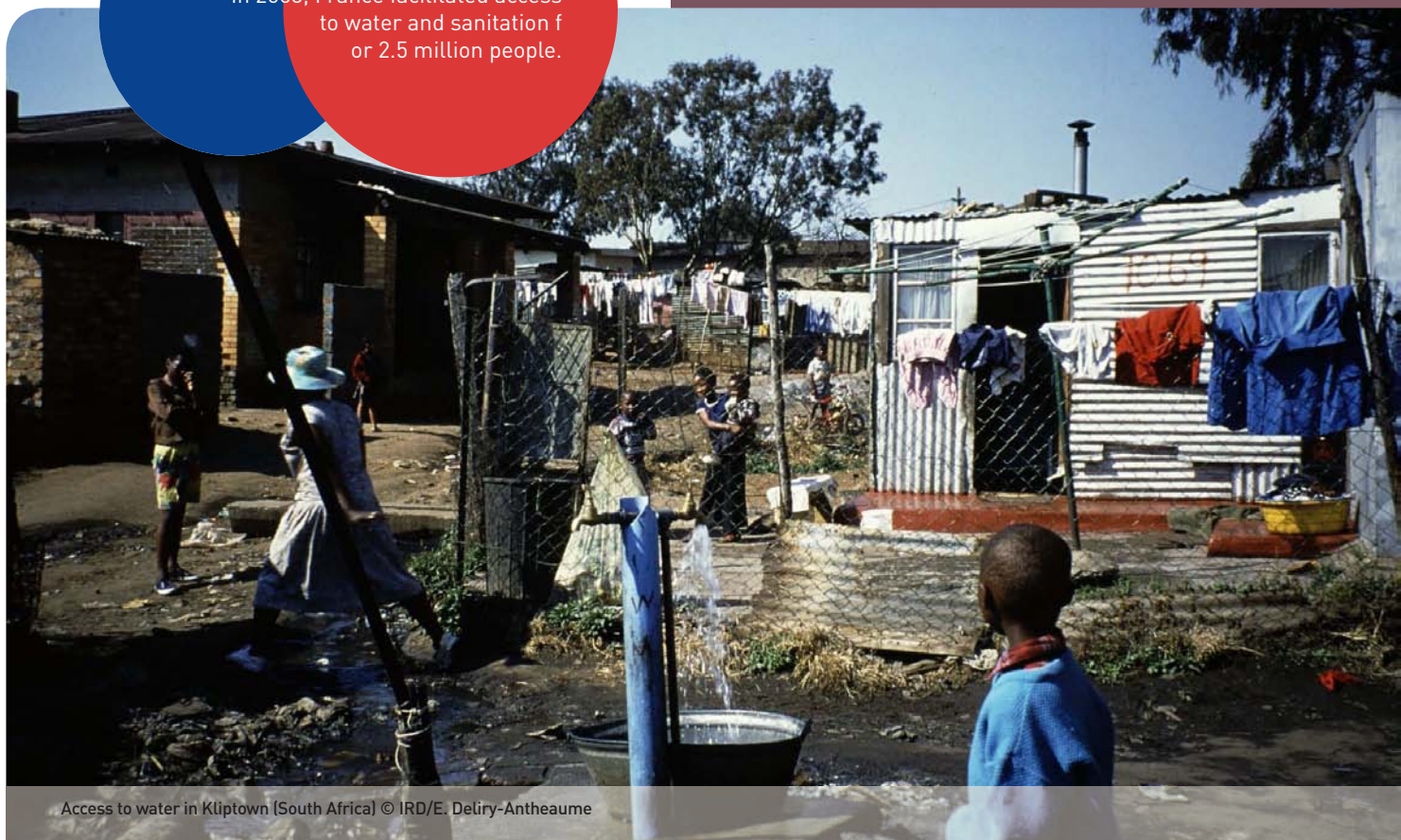
In 2008, France facilitated access to water and sanitation for 2.5 million people.

SUPPORTING MULTILATERAL DIALOGUE, RESEARCH AND KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER



In the field of biodiversity, France is heavily involved in promoting the proposed Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES). The creation of this knowledge-sharing instrument will make it possible to issue warnings and report on the consequences of biodiversity losses. This platform will facilitate the involvement of scientists from the South and better equip their countries to defend their interests.

In 2012 France will host the 6th World Water Forum in Marseille, which is the sector's largest international event. This forum will be an important step in achieving the Millennium Development Goals in 2015. It will provide an opportunity to develop a concerted, multi-stakeholder approach to reasoned and shared management of water resources within and between States and to organise a universal right to water and sanitation.



Access to water in Kluipatane (South Africa) © IRD/E. Deliry-Antheaume



From a cross-cutting approach to a local approach

It is vital to identify the **determinant factors in success or failure**, to ensure that interactions between the MDGs are taken into consideration when drafting public policies and to adapt programmes to local needs.

Given the urbanisation of poverty, cities have a growing role to play in economic and social dynamics and implementation of the MDGs. **Decentralisation** offers a framework that is conducive to the exercise of democratic governance: citizens' participation in the creation of public policy and dialogue among all stakeholders are key conditions for a sustainable form of development.



The Institut des métiers is the fruit of cooperation between Île-de-France region and city of Antananarivo (Madagascar) © Région Île-de-France



SUPPORT FOR INTERNATIONAL ACTION UNDERTAKEN BY LOCAL AUTHORITIES

The 26 French regions, more than three-quarters of France's départements, almost every major city and urban centre, myriad small and mid-sized towns and a growing number of inter-municipal structures are involved internationally in cooperation projects for development.



Discussion on re-housing options, EL Mina District, Nouakchott (Mauritania). © Groupe Huit

The crucial role of governance

Beyond the problem of scant financial resources, there are other major obstacles to achieving the MDGs, such as the degradation of security and shortcomings in governance in some countries.

The governance deficit makes it difficult to settle on development programmes and public policies, makes action more costly, hinders the targeting of vulnerable groups and jeopardises the sustainability of results. **States in fragile situations**, and those emerging from conflict, require the international community's special attention and flexible tools, adjusted to the local contexts and with long-term vision.



LOCAL DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE

Alongside its partners, France is involved in a series of actions aiming to support the Rule of Law and reform of partner States, to improve transparency, and to facilitate access to basic public and social services. UN-Habitat entrusted France, whose expertise is renowned, with the lead role for the implementation of the guidelines on decentralisation and access to basic services.

Inclusive, equitable and sustainable growth

The underlying goal of all cooperation activities for development must be to achieve **sustained growth**, as it enables the provision of public goods and services, of adequate quantity and quality, for the benefit of the most vulnerable communities.

The vital role of women

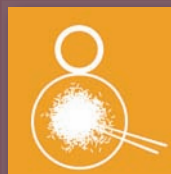
Since the issue of gender affects each and every one of the MDGs, since women account for more than half of the world's population and since women are the disproportionate victims of social and economic discrimination, it is crucial that equality between men and women be factored in to all public policies and cooperation programmes if the MDGs are to be achieved.

In its cooperation, France wants to secure the reduction of gender inequalities and to guarantee that equality between the sexes is mainstreamed into all of its activities. France provides direct support for certain programmes and projects concerning women's access to fundamental rights, gender violence and the socio-economic integration of women in vulnerable situations.



A citizen of Malawi exercising her right to vote © Nicolas Teindas

SUPPORTING GROWTH AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR



The President of the French Republic's initiative for supporting growth in Africa aims at mobilising €2.5 billion through various financial instruments for investment and should mean, in particular, that some €8 billion can ultimately be raised. This French initiative should be of benefit to 2,000 firms and maintain or create over 300,000 jobs. It aims to broaden the access that SMEs have to financing, ensuring that loans and guarantees are available to them and making equity investments.



© AFD - Benoît Verdeaux

GUARANTEEING EQUALITY BETWEEN THE SEXES AND THE EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN



The "Gender and Economic Development" programme, which has been running since 2009, aims to empower women who are producers and entrepreneurs in six West African countries (Benin, Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger, Senegal, and Togo), by incorporating a gender approach into projects of an economic nature. This programme supports 11 projects run by NGOs in the six countries in various sectors such as food processing, local fast-food outlets, processing and marketing shea butter and women's handicrafts.



FRANCE'S COMMITMENTS FOR FAST-TRACKING THE MDGs

❶ France's five sectoral priorities

- Education
- The battle against major pandemics
- A sustainable form of development
- Food security
- Supporting growth and the private sector

❷ Innovative financing mechanisms

France supports innovative financing mechanisms in order to accelerate delivery of the MDGs.

❸ Supporting multilateral dialogue, research and knowledge transfer

This French support provides developing countries with the necessary tools and knowledge for autonomous development.

❹ The role of local authorities

Local authorities from all around France are deeply involved with local authorities abroad, promoting development and local governance.

❺ Democratic governance

France is committed to promoting democratic governance, which is an essential condition to the achievement of MDGs.

❻ Equality between the sexes and the empowerment of women

Guaranteeing equality between men and women is absolutely essential for achieving the MDGs. France is committed to ensuring women's access to fundamental rights, the eradication of violence against women, and achieving their socio-economic integration.



On April 4th, 2009 the Minister of Foreign and European Affairs, Bernard Kouchner welcomed the United Nations Secretary-General Secretary Ban Ki-moon in the Quai d'Orsay

DGM/Directorate-General of Global Affairs,
Development and Partnerships

Global Public Goods Directorate



Philippe Thiebaud,
*Director of Global
Public Goods*



Philippe Lacoste,
*Deputy Director
of Global Public Goods*

Directorate-General of Global Affairs, Development and Partnerships of the French Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs

The missions of the French Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs are:

- summarize information on the changing global economy and put it into perspective, prepare decisions on the French government's foreign policy,
- draft France's foreign policy,
- coordinate France's international relations,
- protect French interests abroad and assist French nationals outside France.

The creation of the Directorate General of Global Affairs, Development and Partnerships (DGM) in April 2009, as part of the reform of the Ministry, enables diplomacy to anticipate, identify and respond to the challenges of globalisation more effectively.

Confronted with global issues that have a direct impact on the lives of our citizens and multiple actors, the Ministry intends to emphasise the need to tackle global issues, in the firm belief that every major economic, cultural and societal issue calls for collective action with more outward focus, anticipation, interministerial coordination, responsiveness, interdisciplinarity and a resolutely European approach.



Directorate for Communication and the Spokesperson's Office

www.diplomatie.gouv.fr