

UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

Fourth Forum of the World Alliance of Cities Against Poverty

Rome, 31 March – 2 April 2004

PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME

Wednesday, 31 March Plenary opening session

8 am – 9 am Registration of participants

9 am – 10 am Opening ceremony, presided by Mr Walter Veltroni,
Mayor of Rome; welcome address to participants

Addresses by representatives of:

- the Italian Government,
- UNDP,
- UN Habitat,
- WACLAC and
- the Italian association of municipalities.

Presentation of the programme by the Coordinator of the
World Alliance of Cities Against Poverty

Break: 30 mins.

10.30 am – 1 pm ***General communications on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)*** by representatives of governments and United Nations agencies

Part 1: The strategy of the international community to achieve the MDGs

- The conclusions of the United Nations Millennium Summit
- The definition and the implementation of the MDGs at the national level
- The support of institutions from the United Nations system
- The contribution of the international financial community

Discussion

1 pm – 2.30 pm Lunch

2.30 pm – 6 pm ***General communications on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)*** by representatives of cities, associations of cities, universities, NGOs.

Part 2: Ways and means for municipalities to address the issue of the MDGs at the local level:

- decentralisation and local autonomy,
- good governance and local participation,
- international municipal cooperation,
- financing for projects,
- partnerships with the private sector and other actors in civil society.

Thursday, 1 April Workshops

Morning:	9 am – 1 pm (30 mins. break at 11 am)
Lunch:	1 pm – 2.30 pm
Afternoon:	2.30 pm to 6 pm (30 mins. break at 4 pm)

These workshops will cover the pooling of experience on the effective adoption of responsibility for MDGs at the municipal level. After the presentation of a number of cases by cities in relation to the themes of each workshop, there will be extensive discussion, with the aim of reinforcing the action undertaken at municipal level and developing new initiatives in order to achieve the MDGs fully at the local level.

Morning

Workshop A: MDG 1 – Eradicating extreme poverty and hunger

Combating poverty:

- ♣ Halving the proportion of the population with an income of less than one dollar a day, between 1990 and 2015.

Combating hunger:

- ♣ Halving the proportion of the population that suffers from hunger, between 1990 and 2015.

Workshop B: MDG 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 – Education and health for women and children

Achieving primary education:

- ♣ Ensuring primary education for all: giving all children - both girls and boys - everywhere in the world the means of completing their primary education.
- ♣ Promoting gender equality and the independence of women: eliminating disparities between the genders in primary and secondary education by 2005 if possible and at every level of education by 2015 at the latest.

Access to health care:

- ♣ Reducing infant mortality among the under fives: reducing the infant mortality rate among the under fives by two-thirds, between 1990 and 2015.
- ♣ Improving the health of mothers: reducing the childbirth mortality rate by three-quarters, between 1990 and 2015.

Combating HIV/Aids, malaria and other diseases:

- ♣ Halting the spread of HIV/Aids and starting to reverse the current trend, by 2015.
- ♣ Controlling malaria and other major diseases and starting to reverse the current trend, by 2015.

Afternoon

Workshop C: MDG 7 – Sustainable development

Protection of the environment:

- ♣ Integrating the principles of sustainable development into national policies and reversing the current tendency to squander environmental resources.

Access to drinking water:

- ♣ Halving the percentage of the population that has no permanent access to drinking water, by 2015.

Improving the habitat:

- ♣ Substantially improving the lives of at least 100 million people living in slum conditions, by 2020.

Workshop D: MDG 8 - Global partnership for development

Commitment at national and international level:

- ♣ Continuing the setting up of an open, multi-lateral commercial and financial system based on foreseeable and non-discriminatory rules. This supposes a commitment in favour of good governance, development and combating poverty at both national and international level.

Aid to the least advanced countries:

- ♣ Addressing the specific needs of the least advanced countries. Achievement of this goal supposes acceptance of their exports without levying customs duties and without applying quotas, application of the reinforced programme for alleviating the debt of heavily indebted poor countries, the cancellation of bilateral debts owed to official creditors, and the granting of more generous public development aid to those countries demonstrating their determination to combat poverty.
- ♣ Responding to the specific development needs of land-locked States and Small Island States.
- ♣ Dealing globally with the debt problem of developing countries through measures at national and international levels to make their debt sustainable in the long term.

Cooperation with the private sector:

- ♣ In cooperation with the pharmaceutical industry, making essential medicines available and affordable in developing countries.
- ♣ In cooperation with the private sector, placing the advantages of the new technologies, particularly information and communication technologies, within the reach of all.

7 pm Reception

Friday, 2 April - Plenary closing session

9 am – 11 am **Presentation of the session and workshop report**
Additional statements by participants

Break: 30 mins.

11.30 am – 12.30 pm **Synthesis and conclusions**
Closure

12.30 pm **Press conference**

1 pm – 2.30 pm Lunch

From 2.30 pm **Visit of social projects in the City of Rome**