

# LETTER TO A PARLIAMENTARIAN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

(Your name)

(Address)

(Date)

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

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

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.

We cannot achieve the first seven Goals unless developed countries fulfil their promises on Goal 8. However, it is the primary responsibility of developing countries to achieve the first seven Goals covering poverty, hunger, education, health, the environment and woman's rights.

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 developing countries, parliamentarians must have open and frank exchange on the issues at stake. As a Parliamentarian and representative of us, we need you to scrutinize our government's positions on an ongoing basis to ensure that they are in line with what they signed in the Millennium Declaration.

► ENGAGE IN POLICY CHANGE

- Adapt poverty reduction strategy plans to achieve the Millennium Development Goals in the national context
- Involve civil society and the poor in formulating national development priorities, policies and plans
- Make sure that adequate resources are allocated to provide quality public services to all citizens
- Fight corruption and be transparent in how public funds are being used and become accountable
- Develop decent and productive work for youth

As a young person, your commitment to the Goals is of outstanding importance to me. Not only because it is my future that you are shaping with the decisions you make today, but also because my generation is so severely affected by poverty. With 10 million young people currently living with HIV/AIDS, 238 million young people living on less than \$1 per day, and 133 million young people not being able to read or write – it's evident that your support of the MDGs helps the world's youth.

The MDGs are our best chance to end poverty in our country, please refuse to miss this opportunity.

Sincerely yours,

(Your signature)

(Your name)