



We can, we must!

Statement on the Millennium Development Goals

At the beginning of the millennium, countries around the world signed a declaration for the purpose of improving the conditions in which millions of people live every day. 10 years later without a major change students from 7 countries from 3 continents gathered together to remind the decision makers that we are the first generation who posses the resources, knowledge and skills to achieve all 8 of the Millennium Development Goals.

We call for justice, shout with us!

We realize our responsibility, share it with us!

We have the will to change the world, join us and make it happen!

This is the statement of us, the young people, to politicians all over the world to call for urgent action to achieve the Millennium Development Goals.

Young people, as global citizens, should play a significant role in spreading awareness about the Millennium Development Goals. Governments, media and educators alike, should ensure that all people, in all countries, are aware of the significance of the MDGs and the role they can play in development.

Education is a basic human right, and should be accessible to all. Education empowers people to make their own decisions and to take responsibility for their own development. Universal high-quality education will reduce maternal and child deaths, and will reduce the spread and incidence of diseases such as HIV/AIDS and malaria. We appeal to you, our governments to invest in education around the world.

Our generation is concerned about the irresponsible exploitation of natural resources by governments, companies and individuals. Sustainable development must be made a high priority in government and company policy, to reduce and reverse the effect of climate change. We must repair the damage we have caused to our planet, especially by reducing water pollution, and finding alternative sources of energy which cause the least harm to the environment.





Governments must eliminate corruption in order for our aims to be achieved. Governments must work collaboratively to find solutions to the global issues we face today.

Developing countries must be equal partners in deciding global trade policy. Unjust trade barriers must be removed to give equal opportunities to developing nations. The poverty gap ratio can, and must, be reduced, and discrimination on the basis of gender, religion, ethnicity, race, nationality and worldview must be eradicated.

There needs to be a renewed, sincere partnership between all countries with mutual respect and co-operation between governments, NGOs, private firms and individuals. All debts of the developing countries should be cancelled. In addition social and cultural understanding should be promoted between all countries.

Peace is the basic condition for development and should be added to the Millennium Declaration. The international community should strengthen their efforts to reduce arms and ensure that human rights are upheld globally.

Conclusion

This is the statement of us, the young people, to politicians all over the world to call for urgent action to achieve the Millennium Development Goals as they promised in the year 2000. Future generations will judge how we have acted now. Will we be the generation that stood by while 1 million women died each year while giving birth? Will we be the generation that let millions of people die when their diseases could have been so easily treated? Don't tell us that it can't stand up to this injustice. We can, we must!!

Participants of MDG' 15 International camp, Prague, 2010[©]

