



THE MILLENIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS (MDGS)

Editorial

The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), the specific goals set and agreed by the international community subsequent to the 2000 UN Millennium Summit, were reaffirmed at the five year review in New York earlier this month.

The MDGs are a useful and tangible framework to alleviate global poverty, which business has consistently supported. They reflect a broad global view on what are the key challenges facing humanity in the 21st Century and they outline, in clear terms, what these challenges are and how to achieve them in time-bound and measurable ways. Usefully they underscore the collective responsibility in their achievement as they link the various components of society, public and private, and commit them to a common set of goals.

At the five year review in New York the role of business in achieving the goals was much to the forefront. But why should business have such an interest in seeing these goals achieved, outside of the global moral imperative? Why the spotlight on business?

Perhaps this is best put by the following : the achievement of the MDGs simply makes sense for business. Or, as was put in the joint IOE-ICC statement on Business and the MDGs, *because business thrives where society thrives !*


Sadly the chances of the MDGs actually being met by the target date seem doubtful. Certainly this will be the case unless there is a more serious and concerted effort to utilize fully the private sector in development strategies.

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<p>The essential role of the private sector in this effort has been widely recognized. As UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan emphasized, <i>"It is the absence of broad-based business activity, not its presence, which condemns much of humanity to suffering. Indeed, what is utopian is the notion that poverty can be overcome without the active engagement of business."</i> This has always been evident to business.</p> <p>The time for more Reports, Commissions or talking shops is now well past. So to ideologically driven approaches. Now is the time for concerted and coherent action. This means international organizations working with each other, respecting the expertise of each other and becoming, in short, a unified whole rather than a sum of diverse - or worse, competing - parts. It also means, above all, the multilateral system working more closely with the Private Sector.</p> <p>The ILO in such efforts is institutionally well equipped to play a prominent role. Unique amongst other international organizations, it has an institutionalized partnership with a global private sector network. While the elements of this network, much like any network, differ and have different strengths and weaknesses, different priorities, different capacities and abilities, it is still an interconnected network of the world's largest companies right down to micro enterprises operating at subsistence levels. These are the central actors that will have the greatest potential to alleviate global poverty through their key role in society, that of wealth creation.</p> <p>The ILO should be <i>the</i> organization that ultimately does the most to meet the overarching (and overwhelming) challenge of tackling poverty, by helping and importantly enabling these actors to fulfil their societal role. Employers' organizations worldwide stand ready and willing for such a challenge.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Antonio Peñalosa Secretary-General</p>	<p>→ <i>Editorial</i></p>
<p>IOE and Member Activities</p>	
<p>The IOE-ILO SME Development Toolkit, which was launched during the International Labour Conference in June, is being rolled out in partnership with ILO Turin. The first training workshops have been carried out, one for Balkan countries which took place in Tirana (Albania) at the end of August, and one for Southern African countries which took place in Johannesburg (South Africa) in early September. The purpose of the workshops is to develop strategies (action plans) that can be implemented by participating employers' organizations and the Toolkit is proving a useful vehicle in which to develop such strategies. Usefully the workshops have also provided clear ideas of where the Toolkit is</p>	<p>SME Workshops</p>

<p>deficient and where it needs further work. Further training workshops are planned for employers in the Arab States and in Latin America within the coming months. IOE Contact Gary Rynhart.</p>	<p>→ <i>SME Workshops</i></p>
<p>The IOE has worked closely with the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) over the last year in providing inputs into the debate on the role of business and the MDGs. In June a joint IOE-ICC statement (available on the IOE website: www.ioe-emp.org) was submitted to what were termed the ‘Public Hearings’ at UN Headquarters in New York, which were organized around the four clusters of UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan's report "In larger freedom" (http://www.un.org/largerfreedom). These hearings were <i>the</i> key vehicle for the input of business into the MDG five year review process. The IOE received input from a number of member federations on how business within its national context is contributing to the achievement of the goals and these contributions also fed into this process. IOE Contact Gary Rynhart.</p>	<p>Millennium Development Goals and Business</p>
<p>An IOE/ICFTU delegation met recently in Brussels with the President of the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) and the Head of the Development Directorate-General of the European Commission. The purpose of these meetings was to explore how the two European Union Institutions can support the implementation of the IOE/ICFTU joint programme on HIV/AIDS.</p> <p>The EESC is currently preparing a Memorandum of Understanding with the ILO and has expressed strong interest that the work of the IOE and the ICFTU be incorporated into that process. The EESC also proposed that ACP-EU sub-regional meetings for non-State actors include HIV/AIDS in their agenda. This would enable both IOE and ICFTU members in Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific to address the challenges of HIV/AIDS in their countries. As the next ACP-EU meeting will be held in Mali, discussions will be held to see how IOE/ICFTU members in Mali could showcase their work on HIV/AIDS. The EESC, through its President Anne-Marie Sigmund, has offered political support for EU funding for the joint IOE/ICFTU activities on HIV/AIDS.</p> <p>The IOE/ICFTU delegation also met Bernard Petit, Director General of the European Commission’s DG Development. The focus of their discussions was on how the IOE/ICFTU joint work on HIV/AIDS could fit into the overall EU policy in confronting HIV/AIDS. The EU is one of the largest funding agencies in the area of HIV/AIDS. One of the mechanisms discussed was how EU funds that are channelled through the Global Fund to Fight HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, WHO, UNAIDS and other multilateral institutions could be utilized by the social partners. The IOE will continue with such partnership-building exercises and equally explore these funding possibilities over the coming months. IOE Contact Frederick Muia</p>	<p>IOE and ICFTU: HIV/AIDS partnerships with the EU</p>
<p>The IOE is to be actively involved in the Global AIDS Simulation to be held in Washington, D.C. (26-27 September). The event, which is being organized by the Global Business Coalition on HIV/AIDS, UNAIDS and the global consultancy Booz Allen Hamilton, will bring together a select group of business</p>	<p>IOE invited to Global AIDS Simulation event</p>

<p>and government leaders to develop real world responses to the AIDS pandemic. Participants will be expected to work with their peers to come up with strategic responses to HIV/AIDS that target resources and coordinate policy at national level. India and Nigeria have been selected as case countries. Booz Allen Hamilton will facilitate the Simulation. Participants will also develop concrete action plans for combating HIV/AIDS, that take into account the HIV/AIDS situation and future scenario. The Simulation event will result in a global HIV policy agenda to be presented to the US Senate on 28 September 2005. IOE Contact Frederick Muia.</p>	<p>→ <i>IOE invited to Global AIDS Simulation event</i></p>
<p>The Confederation of Spanish Employers' Organizations (CEOE), together with the IOE, will host the Sixteenth meeting of Presidents of Ibero-American Business Organizations in Madrid on 11 October. The theme of the meeting will be <i>the sustainable development aspects of globalization</i>. The main objective of the gathering is to adopt a common statement from the business community to be presented to the Ibero-American Summit of Heads of State, which will immediately follow the meeting of Presidents of Ibero-American Business Organizations, and to explore new ways of strengthening existing ties between Latin America and the European Union, in particular Spain and Portugal. IOE Contact Andrés Yurén.</p>	<p>Ibero-American Presidents meeting</p>
<p>All of the papers and documents for the forthcoming IOE European Members meeting to be hosted by the Confederation of Spanish Employers' Organizations (CEOE) in Madrid (Spain) from 21 to 24 September 2005 are now available on the IOE website: http://www.ioe-emp.org/ioe_emp/ioeregions/ioeregions_europe_madridmeeting.htm</p>	<p>IOE European Members Meeting</p>
<p>Forthcoming Publications</p>	
<p>The Secretariat informs members that a number of technical documents, guides and information papers will be available to them on the IOE website within the coming weeks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guide for Entrepreneurs Advocating Policies to Foster Entrepreneurship • Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSPs): A Guide for Employers' Organizations • Employers' Guide to the ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work • Employers' Guide to the Committee of Freedom of Association • Labour Administration Systems • Public Private Partnerships: How voluntary initiatives can impact on national and international development agendas • Additionally, the IOE-ILO Toolkit for Employers' Organizations in tackling Child Labour will be available by the end of the year. <p>All IOE documents are currently available on line www.ioe-emp.org</p>	

International Labour Organization	
<p><i>Mongolia:</i> Mining and mineral production, particularly gold mining, account for more than 50 per cent of Mongolia's industrial output and more than 60 per cent of the country's export revenues. Half of the country's gold production comes from the informal mining activities. The ILO has been working with the Mongolian Employers' Federation (MONEF) in promoting the formalization of the informal mining sector.</p> <p>http://www.ilo.org/public/english/bureau/inf/features/05/mongolia.htm</p> <p><i>Kenya:</i> The informal economy comprises 90 per cent of all businesses in Kenya. While in the past small enterprises were seen as competitors with larger companies, the Government of Kenya and the Federation of Kenya Employers (FKE) now see linkages between the formal and the informal economy as an opportunity to create a win-win situation for both sectors. The ILO has been working closely with FKE in this respect.</p> <p>http://www.ilo.org/public/english/bureau/inf/features/05/juakali.htm</p> <p>Both of these examples were recently featured on CNN. Contact moller@ilo.org</p>	<p>Informal Economy</p>
<p>ACT/EMP has put together ten case studies of the role of employers' organizations in combating gender inequality. The Confederation of Norwegian Business and Industry (NHO) launched in March 2003 <i>Female Future</i>, which is designed to help its members increase the number of women in management and on boards of directors. The Employers' Confederation of the Philippine (ECOP) has developed a number of specific initiatives in respect of work and family. Other case studies, including Jamaica, Kenya and Malaysia, focus on sexual harassment as a fundamental obstacle to equality in employment and occupation. The ten case studies describe the wide range of action that is being taken on the issue of gender equity by employers' organizations from countries at different levels of development. They also highlight the pressures and business reasons that are making it ever more necessary for employers and their representative organizations to take action on this important issue. Contact moller@ilo.org</p>	<p>Employers' organizations and gender equity</p>
<p>Members are informed that the papers for the forthcoming November Governing Body are now starting to become available on line: http://www.ilo.org/public/english/standards/reln/gb/docs/gb294/index.htm</p>	<p>Governing Body Papers now on line</p>

UN and other International Agencies

In the recent past the IOE has strengthened its links with a number of relevant multilateral organizations. The recent draft norms on the roles and responsibilities of business have led to the UNHCHR becoming an increasingly relevant organization for business engagement and is likely to remain so for the foreseeable future.

The IOE continues to track developments at the WTO through its regular briefing sessions and disseminates this information through its *TradeTalk* publication.

Later this year the IOE will extend its Memorandum of Understanding with UNDP which has proven a useful mechanism in helping iron out problems that have arisen at the national level. UNAIDS remains a key partner.

The IOE has made a significant effort to develop a deeper partnership with the World Bank (International Finance Corporation, IFC). The IFC is participating in the SME training workshops that are currently underway. In other areas of collaboration, the IFC gave a presentation (at the specific request of and facilitated by the IOE) at a Technical Preparatory Meeting of the Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Labour (ICML) held in Mexico City in July. The IOE is currently exploring ways in which members federations in given countries can work more closely with the IFC in identifying as accurately as possible the key obstacles to a better national business environment/investment climate and subsequently to advocate for the implementation of key policy recommendations with the government. The IFC's *Doing Business* project would be a key pillar on which these efforts could be centred.

The IOE is working closely with the World Health Organization (WHO), albeit mainly on an issue-by-issue basis. Currently discussions are underway with senior personnel to give the IOE consultative status and to examine how to strengthen the collaboration. The IOE has also recently had substantive discussions with UNCTAD and some clearer ideas have emerged on how the two organizations can work closer, especially in the SMEs and the CSR areas.

There are other organizations with which the IOE will engage on a more sporadic basis as needs arise. The International Organization for Standardization (ISO) is a good example of this, where attempts are being made to introduce a Standard on social responsibility, thus entailing active IOE engagement. Present efforts to develop a standard on OSH (reported elsewhere in this IOE.net) also exemplify this.

Currently the IOE is in discussions with a number of other international organizations to identify where partnerships need to be strengthened. We would appreciate hearing from members as to which organizations they place a value on and, importantly, where they would like the IOE to develop closer partnerships. IOE Contact [Gary Rynhart](#).

IOE and other
International
Organizations

<p>At its last session the UN Commission on Human Rights adopted a Resolution on human rights and transnational corporations and requested the UN Secretary General to appoint a Special Representative to undertake a two-year work programme. The Special Representative – John Ruggie, former Special Adviser to UN Secretary General Kofi Annan – has now been appointed. He will make an initial report in 2006 and prepare a final report with views and recommendations for the consideration of the Commission in 2007 (see IOE.net May 2005 edition for details of his mandate). The IOE held an initial consultation with Mr Ruggie earlier this month. We will keep members fully informed as this process develops. IOE Contact Brent Wilton.</p>	<p>IOE Consultation with UNCHR Special Representative</p>
<p>The Global Compact has developed a new governance framework which will seek to promote greater ownership of the initiative by its participants and other stakeholders, as well as to bring together global and local levels of Global Compact activities within one organizational structure. A non-profit foundation will also be established to help fund Global Compact activities such as publications and events (contributions to it will be voluntary). Along these lines, a revised policy to protect the Global Compact name and logo from misuse as well as clearer ‘integrity measures’ will be implemented. We will keep members apprised of developments as this process unfolds. IOE Contact Brent Wilton.</p>	<p>Global Compact</p>
<p>The IOE has recently learned that further attempts may be made within the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) to develop an ISO Occupational Safety and Health Management Systems (OSH-MS) standard and that it is likely that this will be raised during the ISO 28th General Assembly (Singapore: 21-23 September). The IOE is strongly of the opinion that having two international instruments covering Occupational Safety and Health Management Systems would be both confusing and counter-productive (In 2001 an ILO tripartite meeting of experts drew up Guidelines on Occupational Safety and Health Management Systems (http://www.ilo.org/public/english/protection/safework/cops/english/download/e000013.pdf)</p> <p>Member federations are urged to contact their national standards body to express concern and opposition to the development of an ISO standard in the area of OSH-MS. IOE Contact Barbara Perkins</p>	<p>International Organization for Standardization (ISO) and Occupational Safety and Health Management</p>

Other News	
<p>Global Trade Unions and the UN Environmental Programme (UNEP) will host a “<i>Global Trade Union Assembly on Labour and Environment</i>” in Kenya, Nairobi in January next. Trade unions are hoping to use the event to promote national implementation frameworks for workers and workplaces, where industrial relations incorporates environment and labour perspectives. They will aim to identify common links between the environment, climate change, occupational health and safety, as well as chemicals (i.e. Ban Asbestos, HIV/AIDS, as well as others dealing with trade, poverty and investment issues).</p> <p>IOE Contact Gary Rynhart.</p>	<p>Global Unions and UNEP : World Assembly on Environment, Labour and Sustainable Development</p>
<p>A meeting of international trade union leaders from the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU), the World Confederation of Labour (WCL), the respective regional organizations of the two international bodies, as well as the European Trade Union Confederation was held early in September. For almost two years now discussions have been taking place between the ICFTU and WCL with a view to setting up a new world trade union organization. Draft Statutes will be submitted to the respective bodies of both world organizations in the months ahead. At the same time consultations will be organized with democratic and independent national organizations willing to join this new international trade union structure. Outreach strategies to other ‘democratic and independent national organizations’ are also a key element of this merger process. IOE Contact Sandy Gros-Louis.</p>	<p>Trade union unification at the international level</p>
<p>The International Federation of Chemical, Energy, Mine and General Workers' Unions (ICEM) has signed its first Global Framework Agreement in the Materials Sector - a social responsibility code of behaviour - with French-based Lafarge, a building materials manufacturer. The agreement was signed jointly with the global union federation International Federation of Building and Wood Workers (IFBWW) and the World Federation of Building and Woodworkers Unions (WFBWU). The agreement cites the ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work, the ILO Tripartite Declaration of Principles concerning Multinational Enterprises and Social Policy, the United Nations Global Compact, and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises.</p> <p>IOE Contact Sandy Gros-Louis.</p>	<p>ICEM Signs Global Agreement with French-based Lafarge</p>

Corporate Social Responsibility Round Up

- Bangladesh textile and clothing manufacturers have developed an agreement with some of the world's leading retailers designed to maintain orders and improve working conditions and productivity: www.mfa-forum.net
- KLD Research Analytics is setting up a new investment index of companies that are taking 'positive' action to reduce global warming: www.kla.com
- The international jewellery industry is to establish a set of global reasonability guidelines for its products, which is being overseen by a newly formed Council for responsible jewellery practices: www.responsiblejewellery.com
- The Global Reporting Initiative has come up with a set of boundary protocols which set out how firms should decide whether to cover the social impacts of non-core parts of their business (e.g. suppliers): www.globalreporting.org/guidelines/protocols/boundaries.asp
- An international advisory group has been formed to expand the scope of the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative : www.eitransparency.org
- The European Commission is to launch a campaign to make the public more aware of socially responsible business practices:

http://europa.eu.int/comm/employment_social/calls/tender_2005_en.cfm

Recent Publications

- The World Bank-IFC's *Doing Business in 2006: Creating Jobs* is now available. The Doing Business database provides objective measures of business regulations and their enforcement comparable across 155 economies.
- The number of new jobs created through restructuring activities in Europe is almost equal to the number of jobs lost during the second quarter of 2005, according to the latest European Restructuring Monitor *Quarterly Issue 2 - Summer 2005*.
- EIRO Industrial relations developments in Europe 2004 is now available.
- The 15th annual UNDP Human Development Index is now available: <http://hdr.undp.org/presskit/hdr2005/>
- A new publication from the ILO provides a comprehensive overview of labour standards. "[Rules of the game: a brief introduction to International Labour Standards](#)"
- The World Investment Report 2005 (UNCTAD) (<http://www.unctad.org/Templates/Page.asp?intItemID=1465>)
- The World Bank-IFC third quarterly newsletter Gender Entrepreneurship Markets (GEM) is now available: [http://www.ifc.org/ifcext/enviro.nsf/AttachmentsByTitle/news_gender_July2005Glo/\\$FILE/July2005Glo.pdf](http://www.ifc.org/ifcext/enviro.nsf/AttachmentsByTitle/news_gender_July2005Glo/$FILE/July2005Glo.pdf)

Forthcoming Meetings with IOE involvement

21 - 23 September	→	IOE European Members Meeting (<i>Madrid</i>)
26 - 30 September	→	International Organization for Standardization (ISO) Working Group on social responsibility (<i>Bangkok</i>)
5 - 7 October	→	The evolving Corporate Social Responsibility debate: issues for employers and their organizations (IOE-ILO) (<i>Geneva</i>)
11 October	→	Meeting of Presidents of Ibero-American Business Organizations (<i>Madrid</i>)
13 - 14 October	→	Stability Pact Meeting (<i>Dubrovnik, Croatia</i>)
24 - 26 October	→	ILO Tripartite meeting on promoting fair globalization in textiles and clothing in a post-MFA environment (<i>Geneva</i>)
31 October – 2 November	→	ILO Tripartite meeting of experts on the ILO multilateral framework on labour migration (<i>Geneva</i>)
3 - 18 November	→	ILO Governing Body (<i>Geneva</i>)
11 - 12 November	→	IOE Management Board (<i>Geneva</i>)
6 - 7 December	→	Meeting of the Pan African Employers' Confederation (PEC) (<i>Tunis</i>)
13 - 20 December	→	ILO meeting of experts on updating the list of occupational diseases (<i>Geneva</i>)