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Ban Ki Moon
UN Secretary-General

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Dear Honorable Secretary-General

We are writing as an international and inter-sectoral civil society coalition, representing hundreds of organizations and networks, to present our recommendations to be acted upon at the UN High-Level Plenary on the Millennium Development Goals this September.

Progress in achieving the Millennium Development Goals has not only been insufficient, it has been deeply uneven. Inequities in delivering results across targets, regions and social groups have held back progress across the goals, and the response from the international community must be to do more, and to do it better.

All of the MDGs require additional attention. Yet we must also provide a renewed focus on those targets, regions and people left furthest behind. That progress in reducing hunger has gone into reverse is a crisis demanding action, as is the fact that - despite recent progress - maternal and child mortality rates remain scandalously high. Accepting current trends that will see the target for sanitation unmet in Sub-Saharan Africa until the 23rd Century is untenable if poverty, undernutrition and ill-health are to be defeated.

We have joined together in support of your plea to treat the MDGs holistically, and in agreement with your statement that "the synergies across the Goals are clear and indisputable... taking advantage of these will reduce costs, increase effectiveness and catalyse local action". We believe that only by comprehensively tackling the range of factors that determine poverty, ill-health and undernutrition, and by better focusing efforts on groups excluded from progress made to date, can our common goals be achieved.

Enclosed is a joint report with specific recommendations we believe should form part of a comprehensive outcome from the High-Level Plenary. They include recommendations to be considered in the drafting of the final communiqué under the themes of:

- 1. Agreeing a Global Action Plan to meet the MDGs**, with more and better finances, robust accountability mechanisms and a greater role for the involvement of civil society.
- 2. Enhancing integrated and holistic approaches** at a national and global level to achieve key development outcomes in a more effective and equitable way.
- 3. Providing a renewed focus on the most off-track targets and countries:** more and better finance for interlinked targets like nutrition, health, sanitation and water, comprehensively delivered, with additional focus on the poorest countries.

We trust that you will consider the recommendations made, look forward to your response, and please do not hesitate to get in touch to discuss further.

Yours sincerely,

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