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## Introduction

Over the last two decades, the global community has come together in a collective search for sustainable solutions to address the world's development challenges. As far back as 1987, the World Commission on Environment and Development produced the landmark Brundtland Report: Our Common Future. This report defined sustainable development as meeting the needs of present generations without compromising the ability of future generations to meet theirs. Five years later, in 1992, the UN Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), the so-called "Earth Summit," was held in Rio de Janeiro. It produced the Agenda 21 action plan for development and the Rio Declaration on environmental protection and responsible development.

**"The forest sector presents both unique opportunities and unique challenges. It is key to poverty reduction, sustainable development, and the maintenance of environmental services. Indeed, a forest strategy that can make an effective contribution to poverty reduction and environmental conservation is central to achieving the Millennium Development Goals set by the United Nations."**

**Source: Sustaining Forests: A World Bank Strategy, 2002**

In September 2000 in New York, the Millennium Summit was held, bringing together at the UN General Assembly over 150 world leaders to reconfirm their commitment to sustainable development. At that time, the UN member states unanimously adopted the Millennium Declaration for achieving human development. Among other issues, the Declaration addresses the urgent need to reduce extreme poverty and hunger, improve education and gender equality, combat HIV/AIDS, ensure environmental sustainability, and strengthen the capacity of the global community to undertake development. These issues were subsequently summarized in the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) for achieving sustainable development.

There have been two important international events since the Millennium Summit. In March 2002, the UN-sponsored International Conference on Financing for Development was held in Monterrey, Mexico. This conference focused on finding solutions to the financial problems that frustrate the development of many countries. A range of issues was discussed including international trade and finance, institutional and economic reforms, and the role of international aid in sustainable development.

Later that year, the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) met in Johannesburg, South Africa, to review the progress that had been made on achieving the commitments of UNCED, pledged ten years earlier. The focus of the WSSD, unlike UNCED, was much broader than the environmental aspects of sustainable development. Rather, it covered poverty alleviation, consumption and production, health, globalization, conserving and managing the natural resource base, the role of institutions, and the process required for implementing the plan of action adopted.

## What are the Millennium Development Goals?

After the Millennium Summit, agencies of the United Nations, the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development drafted a concise set of eight goals, each with one or more quantifiable targets and indicators to monitor progress. Named the [Millennium Development Goals](#) (MDGs), they were adopted unanimously by the UN General Assembly. Collectively, they are an expression of humanity's desire to better the world in which we live. They eight goals are:

1. Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger
2. Achieve universal primary education
3. Promote gender equality and empower women
4. Reduce child mortality
5. Improve maternal health
6. Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria, and other diseases
7. Ensure environmental sustainability
8. Develop a global partnership for development

A complete description of the goals, targets, and indicators can be found at the Millennium Development Goals website of the World Bank ([http://www.developmentgoals.org/About\\_the\\_goals.htm](http://www.developmentgoals.org/About_the_goals.htm)) or of the UN Statistics Division (<http://millenniumindicators.un.org/unsd/>).

The MDGs are consistent with Canada's strategy for international development assistance. They coincide with the Canadian priorities of promoting good governance; encouraging the growth of the private sector; providing health, nutrition, and HIV/AIDS support services; and guaranteeing basic education for all. Canada recognizes the importance of the crosscutting issues of gender equality and sound environmental management.

## Sustainable Forest Management and Agroforestry: Tools for Sustainable Development

Sustainable forest management "maintains and enhances the long-term health of forest ecosystems for the benefit of all living things while providing environmental, economic, social, and cultural opportunities for present and future generations." ([source](#)) It can contribute to economic diversification, income generation, and poverty alleviation in rural economies through farm forestry, fuelwood management, non-timber forest products, and commercial forestry. Agroforestry is a type of land use that combines trees and/or shrubs with agricultural crops to produce some combination of food, fruit, fodder, fuel, wood, mulches, or other products. Many agroforestry systems use trees to fix nitrogen and provide organic matter for the soil, thereby making it more productive without environmental degradation. Integrated approaches that look at improving rural livelihoods and sustaining agroecosystems through the interaction of agriculture, forestry, water, and other natural resources hold much promise for promoting sustainable rural development. Both sustainable forest management and agroforestry are playing important roles to that end.

Forest-related development, and later agroforestry, has been part of Canada's overseas development assistance (ODA) program since the 1950s. In the beginning, assistance was provided to establish forest industries in East Pakistan (now Bangladesh). Later assistance, from the early days of CIDA to the 1980s, tended to concentrate on helping countries build their forestry institutions through technical assistance and training projects. More recently, the emphasis has been on community forestry, restoration of degraded landscapes, forest conservation, and addressing rural poverty. Some projects have addressed Canada's international commitments to multilateral agreements and conventions on biodiversity, desertification, and climate change. Sustainable forest management and agroforestry have provided the opportunity to address critical natural resource and environmental challenges facing developing countries while at the same time offer alternatives to the serious socioeconomic problems of rural peoples.

## How Can Sustainable Forest Management and Agroforestry Contribute to Achieving the Millennium Development Goals?

While sustainable forest management and agroforestry can contribute to achieving all of the eight MDGs, their most important contributions are related to goal 1: eradicate extreme poverty and hunger, and goal 7: ensure environmental sustainability.

## Forests, Trees, and Eradication of Extreme Poverty and Hunger (Goal 1)

One of the indicators of extreme poverty is the number of people who subsist on less than one dollar a day. Their numbers are estimated to exceed 1.2 billion persons - 40 percent living in South Asia, 24 percent in sub-Saharan Africa, 24 percent in East Asia. The remaining 12 percent are in Latin America, the Caribbean, and elsewhere ([source](#)). It is further estimated that 75 percent of these individuals live in rural areas and that the majority will continue to do so for the rest of this century. Clearly, if the objective is to address extreme poverty, the focus must be on rural areas. Forests and trees-on-farms are, by their very nature, located in rural areas and are important tools in addressing rural poverty and hunger.

Poverty is a multi-dimensional condition. It means more than not having an adequate income; rather it includes a measure of the state of health, level of education, sense of security, quality of governance, respect for justice and human rights, and equality. In many countries, rural poverty is the consequence of the depletion of natural resources upon which previous generations depended ([source](#)). This is seen in increased soil erosion and loss of soil fertility, unrestricted deforestation, and diminished water supplies. In terms of their impact on poverty, these factors combine to produce diminished agricultural production and increased food insecurity, reduced firewood to meet household energy needs, lack of



agroforestry hedge to enrich soil for greater food production and to produce fuelwood

adequate supplies of water for consumption and sanitation, and the loss of valuable forest capital for economic development and environmental stability. The management of forests and woodlands and the adoption of agroforestry can significantly contribute to sustainable livelihoods and reduced vulnerability for the rural poor. This is most evident in the case of the world's aboriginal peoples who mostly live in rural areas, one of the most disadvantaged groups in our global society.

Forests and trees-on-farms provide many products and are important sources of income for rural people. Wood products like lumber, panels, and poles are important goods of commerce. Primary and secondary forest industries and the value-added manufacturers provide much-needed employment that is often an attractive alternative to small-scale agriculture. For example, in Central America, pit-sawing lumber can earn more than double the income from subsistence farming without the high risk of crop failure. Building materials and firewood for cooking and heating are also important household commodities. Non-wood forest products and forest-derived foods are important for nutrition, as survival foods in times of natural disaster, and as traditional medicines. Non-consumptive uses of forests, like eco-tourism, offer new economic opportunities that countries like Costa Rica, South Africa, and Nepal have benefited from.

Many rural areas in the developing world face a crisis in the availability of food, a consequence of growing populations forced to live with scarce resources and the constraints of limited arable land. The situation threatens their ability to produce food and undermines the natural resource base. One of the promising alternatives to conventional farming practices is agroforestry, where farmers choose to grow trees and shrubs with their crops or livestock because they provide additional important benefits. Agroforestry can improve soil fertility, provide animal fodder, create a favourable micro-climate for crops and livestock, produce tree fruits, expand fuelwood supplies, and produce a variety of wood products for farmers' home use, thereby producing greater economic and environmental benefits than planting trees, growing crops, or raising animals alone. Agroforestry is especially suited to cash-poor small farmers who cannot afford to buy costly agricultural inputs.

### **Actions to achieve goal 1**

Sustainable forest management and agroforestry interventions that contribute to achieving goal 1:

- Support local forest extension programs that focus on income generation and self-sufficiency in timber and non-timber forest products.

- Support the strengthening of national agricultural institutions responsible for agroforestry.
- Support local agroforestry extension programs that promote the adoption of agroforestry systems as appropriate land use alternatives for increasing food production, food security, and wood products.
- Support initiatives to improve the collection, processing, storage, and marketing of non-timber forest products.
- Support the establishment of appropriate forest industries dedicated to sound stewardship of the resource and the alleviation of extreme poverty.
- Support community-based partnerships for sound forest stewardship as effective tools for achieving good governance at the local level.
- Support research and education related to sustainable forest management and agroforestry through the Centre for International Forest Research and the World Agroforestry Centre, respectively.
- Sustainable management of forests, woodlands, and on-farm tree/shrub resources contribute to a sustainable environment and to sustainable livelihoods, which are the foundation for achieving all of the Millennium Development Goals.

### **Forests, Trees, and Environmental Sustainability (Goal 7)**

Forests cover almost one-third of the earth's land surface and play a major role in sustaining life. They provide many vital services: moderating streamflows by absorbing excess rainfall, renewing the air we breathe, recycling moisture from the soil to the atmosphere, and providing shelter for people and livestock. Forests can stabilize the soil and protect it from wind and water erosion and thereby avoid downstream sedimentation and the risk of flooding. Forests are the principal habitats for the majority of the world's terrestrial biodiversity and the source of much of our drinking water. Tree and shrub cover cannot only control desertification but can also reverse it. In recognition of their importance, the Millennium Summit Declaration made explicit references to the management of forests as part of the required commitment to the environment.

**Deforestation accounts for approximately 20 percent of all anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions, second only to the burning of fossil fuels. It is the principal cause of the loss of terrestrial biodiversity and is a significant contributor to watershed degradation and disrupted water supplies. During the 1990s, over 140 million hectares of tropical forests were destroyed. It cannot be overemphasized that global environmental sustainability will not be achieved unless tropical deforestation is controlled.**

In addition to contributing to eradicating extreme poverty and hunger, sustainable forest management offers win-win scenarios for achieving environmental goals. Sustainable forest management can help to ameliorate global climate change through carbon sequestration, carbon storage, and the moderation of local weather. Recent studies suggest that the global temperature will increase 1.4°C to 5.8°C by the end of this century with consequent environmental and economic impacts. Young, vigorous forests sequester atmospheric carbon while mature forests act as carbon stores, thereby moderating the negative effects of global climate change. Meeting the obligations of the Kyoto Protocol will require nations to reduce deforestation and the associated emission of greenhouse gases, to manage the carbon stocks stored in their forests, and to increase the area of new forests through investments in reforestation and afforestation.

The conservation and sustainable use of forests are also important aspects in conserving biodiversity. About 90 percent of all terrestrial plant and animal species live in the world's forests, and establishing and maintaining a worldwide network of well-administered protected areas will conserve this global genetic pool. Addressing the loss of forests to deforestation or their degradation from misuse will have a direct, positive impact on the quality of biodiversity.

Watershed management is also important. A "watershed" is a geographic area that drains into a common stream or river. "Watershed management" is the stewardship of the natural resources (e.g., soil, trees, water) that are found within. It is an umbrella term for a management portfolio of related and interdependent land uses like reforestation, soil conservation, agroforestry, protected areas, agriculture, ranching, and others. It can also focus on the management of the catchment area for the production and protection of water supplies as well as hydroelectric

generation. The term "management" implies that a strategy exists, plans are established, and steps are taken to achieve specific goals that have been agreed upon by the stakeholders involved. Watershed management can provide long-term benefits to downstream consumers of secure water supply for drinking, sanitation, irrigation, and industrial uses, while at the same time providing the upstream residents an opportunity to use the natural resources for their continuing benefit. Unfortunately most developing countries do not practise watershed management.



forested watersheds provide clean water

The lack of a comprehensive valuation of forest economic goods and environmental services results in a low appreciation of their worth, hence, they are not respected and managed for their full value and full potential. Policy reforms are required that account for the multi-dimensional, often non-monetary values. Environmental accounting systems are needed that factor in the benefits of water production, carbon sequestration, biodiversity conservation, and the costs of natural resources depletion. Innovative approaches to revenue collection are also needed to pay for forest management. For example, upstream forest users could be paid for by deferring their exploitive use of the forested watersheds in order that downstream consumers could benefit from the water (potable, sanitation, hydroelectric energy), recreational opportunities,

biodiversity, and other services produced. Public awareness programs will be needed that go beyond the traditional messages of the intrinsic value of "nature for our grandchildren," but rather that argue today's costs and benefits.

### ***Actions to achieve goal 7***

Sustainable forest management and agroforestry interventions that contribute to achieving goal 7:

- Establish greater cooperation and coordination among all important stakeholders on forest-related issues.
- Strengthen institutions responsible for forests: their mandates, human and material resources, political support.
- Integrate policies and development plans: adopt a multi-sectoral approach as witnessed in the National Forest Programs and National Forest Strategies being implemented by many countries worldwide.
- Encourage policy and institutional reforms that create the enabling environment for sustainable forest management.
- Implement the international conventions on the conservation of biological diversity, on climate change, and on combating desertification.
- Implement the proposals for action of the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Forests and International Forum on Forests.
- Support initiatives that target environmentally sound watershed management.
- Support monitoring initiatives to assess progress to expanding the area under forest cover and the area protected to maintain biodiversity.
- Support the establishment of intensively managed forest plantations to meet the global wood demand, thereby emphasizing the value of the environmental services of the world's natural forests.
- Compensate communities for not exploiting forest resources, payment for revenues foregone based on comprehensive valuations of natural resource management options.

### **Forests, Trees, and Health, Education, and Gender (Goals 2, 3, 4, 5, 6)**

Investments in the forest sector can make direct contributions to achieving the Millennium Development health goals. Environmental factors are some of the principal contributors to diseases in developing countries and have a direct link to child mortality. Inadequate and unsafe drinking water are major contributors as are poor sanitation conditions. The quantity and the quality of the water are often directly related to the condition of the watershed and the type of land use present. Air pollution caused by forest fires, as has been witnessed in Southeast Asia in recent years, contains smoke and particulate material that can cause respiratory problems, particularly in infants and older people. Household air pollution is a serious problem too because most families in developing countries use wood or

charcoal to heat their homes and cook their food. In fact, the World Bank estimates two million people die each year from the ill effects of stove smoke. Lack of adequate supplies of fuelwood can pose a health risk because foods are not thoroughly cooked and water is not boiled.

Forest-derived plants are important for the health of rural people. Traditional medicines derived from the leaves, bark, resins, and fruits of forest trees and shrubs are the main source of pharmaceuticals, particularly for indigenous forest dwellers. The forests are also sources of edible fruits, nuts, roots, and wild game that improve maternal health and reduce infant mortality. In southern Africa, these foods are relied upon during times of drought and crop failure.

The contribution of forests and trees to achieving the education MDGs is indirect. By contributing reduced poverty, increased food security, and improved health, children are better prepared to attend school and adults are better able to learn.

The household and national wealth that is generated by forest industries, both large and small, provides the household income and tax revenues that can be used to pay for the costs of education and health services. Forest industries are important components of the national economies of countries like Indonesia, Cameroon, and Honduras.

In most developing countries, women are the principal users/managers of natural resources, including the forests and on-farm trees. Women and children collect the firewood, draw the water, and tend the family farm. These chores place major demands on women and children's time, limiting their opportunities to obtain an education. Interventions that lessen the burden and/or make it more remunerative would have a positive impact on their lives.



woman collecting fuelwood

There is also potential for raising women's personal and household income by increasing agricultural production through agroforestry and by developing cottage and craft industries based on non-timber forest products. Equitable benefits are often frustrated by the lack of clear resource tenure for women. Clarification of forest stewardship and tenure rights would improve the situation.

Until recently, forestry and forest sciences have been dominated by men. With the exception of a few countries like Cuba, women have been few in numbers and unable to rise to positions of influence and power because of gender discrimination. They have not been encouraged to enter the forestry profession, and as a consequence there are not as many female technicians and professional foresters as there are male ones. The situation is now changing but more needs to be done to advance women in technical and professional positions in forestry.

### ***Actions to achieve goals 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6***

Sustainable forest management and agroforestry interventions that contribute to achieving goals 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6:

- Support watershed management to improve sanitation and potable water supplies.
- Support agroforestry to improve food security and nutrition.
- Improve women and children's health by adopting efficient, smoke-free cookstoves and improved fuelwood/charcoal use.
- Promote reforms to policies and institutional arrangements that currently impede women entering careers in forestry and agroforestry.
- Improve women's access to forest resources, including fuelwood, as a positive step toward women's empowerment and economic progress.
- Support public education campaigns that raise public awareness of the social, economic, and environmental values of forests.

## **Forests, Trees, and Global Partnership for Development (Goal 8)**

In addition to providing greater debt relief for developing country products and opening markets to their products, MDG 8 also calls for increased levels of ODA funding and greater international cooperation on development issues. The forest sector has been a leader in forging global partnerships for sustainable development. In the 1980s, the Tropical Forest Action Program was one of the first initiatives to reach out and embrace a multi-sectoral, multi-stakeholder approach to development. The current national forest programs (NFPs) are today's evolution of that process. NFPs are being developed and implemented in many countries worldwide, clearly a global partnership. Another example is the International Model Forest Network that builds on the experience of the Canadian Model Forests. The model forest concept promotes a strategy that encourages stakeholder partnerships; operates at the landscape or watershed level; reflects local, regional, and national stakeholders' needs and values; maintains transparency and accountability in governance; makes a commitment to networking and capacity-building; and, of course, has a commitment to sustainable forest management. There are now over 30 model forests in 12 countries and the network continues to expand. Canada has made a significant contribution to the global forest policy debate that seeks a comprehensive solution to the questions of sustainability and development in the forest sector. Canada has been active in the Montreal Process for criteria and indicators of sustainable forest management, the G8 Action Program on Forests, the Committee on Forestry of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN, and others. Canada is an active participant at the UN Forum on Forests that promotes sustainable development of the world's forests and strengthens the political commitment to sustainable forest management.

In recent years, the natural resource sector has suffered more than other sectors from cuts to development assistance funding by most donor agencies. With few exceptions, all bilateral and all multilateral donor agencies reduced their support to the sector during the 1990s ([source](#)). ODA funding levels for the forest sector by Canada have fallen from a high of \$97.8 million per year in 1989 to the present level of approximately \$40 million per year. To have any meaningful impact, funding has to be increased substantially. Fortunately, there is some indication that this situation is changing. Following the Conference on Financing for Development in 2002, the Canadian government has committed to increase funding to international assistance programs by eight percent per annum, which will result in a doubling of the assistance budget by 2010. Investing part of the additional funding in programs that include sustainable forest management and agroforestry would make a major contribution to achieving the MDG.

### ***Actions to achieve goal 8***

Sustainable forest management and agroforestry interventions that contribute to achieving goal 8:

- Support the activities of the International Model Forest Network.
- Increase ODA commitments to sustainable forest management and agroforestry initiatives.
- Support national governments in the preparation and implementation of their national forest programs.
- Participate actively in the international forest policy dialogue, the deliberations of the UN Forum on Forests, and other global fora.
- Facilitate improved market access by encouraging the adoption of certifiable forest management practices that will be acceptable on the world market as coming from sustainably managed forests.

### **Canadian Capabilities and Comparative Advantage**

To make effective use of the financial resources channelled to development assistance programs, Canada will be prioritizing its cooperation in selected countries and sectors where assistance can facilitate sustainable development. Compared to other countries and other sectors, the Canadian forest sector is well positioned to meet the challenges of development cooperation programs in the 21st century. Canada has strong capabilities in the private and public sectors to address the multi-sectoral issues facing the people and environments in developing countries. Fields of expertise include agroforestry, watershed management, natural resource management, appropriate forest industries, education and training, research, policy formulation, and other related disciplines. Canadian specialists are well experienced in sustainable forest management and agroforestry in international cooperation through the participation of universities and technical schools, federal and provincial government departments, private sector, and numerous NGOs.

## **Conclusions**

The sustainable management of forests and trees can make a meaningful contribution towards achieving the MDGs. In particular:

- The management, harvesting, processing, and marketing of wood and non-wood forest products can provide opportunities for employment and income generation.
- The adoption of agroforestry practices can increase food production and food security, provide wood products for sale or consumption, provide a source of household energy, and improve soil composition and structure.
- Watershed management can provide multiple goods and services, especially enhanced and sustained water production that is important to health and sanitation.
- Sustainable forest management can protect biodiversity, moderate climate change, and reverse desertification.

Current indications suggest that the timetable for implementing the MDGs will not be met, and forests will continue to be destroyed and mismanaged in sub-Saharan Africa, in South and Southeast Asia, and in much of Latin America. To reverse the situation, greater effort is required. While no single intervention can be the panacea to achieve all of the MDGs, investments in sustainable forest management and agroforestry can have significant win-win outcomes. Such investments are worthy of an expanded role in Canada's international cooperation program.

**January 2005**

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## **Annex: Millennium Development Goals**

### **Goal 1: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger**

Despite the considerable economic growth in the world economy and the dramatic improvements in agricultural production and distribution in the last half century, more than 1.2 billion persons subsist on less than one dollar per day and suffer from food insecurity.

**Target for 2015:** Halve the proportion of people living on less than a dollar a day and those who suffer from hunger.

### **Goal 2: Achieve universal primary education**

While there have been dramatic improvements in access to primary education during the last decade, there are still over 800 million illiterate adults and over 100 million children who do not attend primary school. The situation is most acute in Africa and South Asia where about 30 percent of all adult males and 50 percent of all females have not had the benefit of a basic education. ([source](#))

**Target for 2015:** Ensure that all boys and girls complete primary school.

### **Goal 3: Promote gender equality and empower women**

The lack of gender equality is a major obstacle to achieving sustainable development. Traditional social structures limit women's opportunities and impede their development. Common constraints include limited decision-making power, lack of access to credit and resources (including forest resources), unduly heavy workload, systemic social and cultural discrimination, and limited education and training opportunities. In many countries, most school-aged girls do not attend primary school because they stay at home to draw water, collect firewood, provide childcare, do domestic chores, and work on the farm.

**Targets for 2005 and 2015:** Eliminate gender disparities in primary and secondary education preferably by 2005, and at all levels by 2015.

### **Goal 4: Reduce child mortality**

In developing countries, children under the age of five continue to die at alarming rates. In 2002 ([source](#)), mortality of children in industrialized countries was only seven deaths per thousand births compared to 90 deaths per thousand births for developing countries. The situation is much worse for the least-developed countries where the mortality rate is 158 deaths per thousand births.

**Target for 2015:** Reduce by two-thirds the mortality rate among children under five.

### **Goal 5: Improve maternal health**

Each year in developing countries, over half a million women die of causes related to pregnancy and childbirth ([source](#)). Millions more have serious health issues resulting from pregnancy. In 2000, the situation was most serious in sub-Saharan Africa and South-central Asia where the maternal mortality was 920 and 520 deaths per 100,000 live births respectively.

**Target for 2015:** Reduce by three-quarters the ratio of women dying in childbirth.

### **Goal 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases**

In 2003, it was estimated that there were nearly 40 million people in the world infected with HIV/AIDS ([source](#)). In sub-Saharan Africa there were 25 million people infected, up one million in just two years. Each year, nearly three million people die of AIDS, most in Africa. Asia now has one of the fastest-growing HIV/AIDS infection rates, particularly in China, Indonesia, and Viet Nam.

**Target for 2015:** Halt and begin to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS and the incidence of malaria and other major diseases.

## **Goal 7: Ensure environmental sustainability**

It is estimated that there are over 1,000 million people without safe drinking water and over 2,000 million without adequate sanitation. Each year over 14 million hectares of tropical forests are converted to unsustainable land uses with the accompanying loss of biodiversity, increase in greenhouse gas emissions, increase in soil erosion, and disruption of watershed services.

### **Targets:**

- Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programmes and reverse the loss of environmental resources.
- By 2015, reduce by half the proportion of people without access to safe drinking water.
- By 2020 achieve significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers.

## **Goal 8: Develop a global partnership for development**

Developed countries need to open their markets to equitable trading, commit to relieving the debt of developing countries, and increase their contributions to international cooperation programs. In turn, developing countries need to focus on good governance and social development priorities. The global private sector is challenged to share the benefits of new technologies, make available and affordable essential drugs, and address the underemployment of youth.

### **Targets:**

- Develop further an open-trading and financial system that includes a commitment to good governance, development, and poverty reduction - nationally and internationally.
- Address the least-developed countries' special needs, and the special needs of landlocked and small island developing states.
- Deal comprehensively with developing countries' debt problems.
- Develop decent and productive work for youth.
- In cooperation with pharmaceutical companies, provide access to affordable essential drugs in developing countries.
- In cooperation with the private sector, make available the benefits of new technologies - especially information and communications technologies.

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