

USCMA Resolution on UN Millennium Development Goals 2004 Annual Meeting

In September 2000, the United Nations Millennium Summit brought together the leaders of 189 nations. The Declaration issued by the Summit recognized the UN's collective responsibility to uphold principles of human dignity, equality and equity at the global level. This Declaration affirmed the UN's determination to establish a just and lasting peace and to ensure that globalization becomes a positive force for all the world's people. To implement this Declaration, the UN set the **Millennium Development Goals**.

Be resolved that:

USCMA members, recognizing the great need for a more just sharing of the world's resources, affirm and support the **Millennium Development Goals**, i.e.

By the year 2015:

1. **Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger:** Reduce by half the proportion of people living on less than a dollar a day and those who suffer from hunger.
2. **Achieve universal primary education:** Ensure that all boys and girls complete a full course of primary schooling.
3. **Promote gender equality and empower women:** Eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education preferably by 2005, and at all levels by 2015.
4. **Reduce child mortality:** Reduce by two thirds the mortality rate among children under five.
5. **Improve maternal health:** Reduce by three quarters the maternal mortality ratio.
6. **Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases:** Halt and begin to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS and the incidences of malaria and other major diseases.
7. **Ensure environmental sustainability:** Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programs; reverse loss of environmental resources. Reduce by half the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water. Achieve significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers by 2020.
8. **Develop a global partnership for development:** Develop a fair system of trade and finances. Address the special needs of the least developed countries and those of landlocked and small island developing States. Address debt problems of developing countries. Develop and implement strategies for decent and productive work for youth. Provide access to affordable essential drugs. Make available the benefits of new technologies, especially information and communication.

Call for Specific Actions:

USCMA requests its members to:

- Promote knowledge of the Millennium Development Goals in their religious congregations, local parishes and places of ministry.
- Urge the US Government to use these Goals as a basis for its foreign development assistance.
- Support the “Water for the World” Resolution, which has been introduced into Congress (H.Con.Res.468). This Resolution supports the UN’s declaration that water is a basic human right and affirms that the US Congress firmly commits itself to meet the Millennium Development goals, especially as they pertain to universal access to water and sanitation.