

Goal 8: Develop a Global Partnership for Development

Global Partnership for Moldova

'In case you wonder what people think about you, don't bother. They might not even think about you at all,' an American preacher used to say a few decades ago. Ambassador John Todd Stewart, the second US Ambassador in Moldova, concluded that 'this advice should apply to Moldova, as it is not the centre of world attention' in his speech delivered at the round table 'Democracy in Moldova: Challenges and Prospects' organized by the National Endowment for Democracy in Washington. The speech of the American diplomat 'Moldova seen by the West and International Assistance' directly targets the eight Millennium Development Goals, even if it isn't explicit.

Building a global partnership for development is one of the targets adopted by the world leaders at the Millennium Summit in New York in September 2000, in the commitment to build a better world.

International Assistance is a two-way street

'The Millennium Development Goals cannot be achieved at the United Nations or solely by the United Nations staff. The primary responsibility rests of course with the government and people of each country,' declared UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan, explaining where responsibilities are.

The eight Goals of the Millennium Declaration adopted in New York by 189 states including Moldova are: eradicating poverty and hunger, achieving universal primary education, promoting gender equality, reducing child mortality, improving maternal health, combating HIV/AIDS, ensuring environmental sustainability and building a global partnership for development.

Moldova was represented by its president at the Millennium Summit, the largest gathering of world leaders in history. It was a working reunion, as we call it. The world leaders concluded that expanding markets, advancing technology, and spreading democracy are the global forces for development.

We asked Mr. Bruno Pouezat, the United Nations Development Programme Resident Representative and UN Resident Representative in Moldova to comment on the global partnership and to highlight for us the positive aspects. 'Development is the responsibility of the developing countries. However, if the rich countries do not provide effective development assistance, the Millennium Development Goals will not be accomplished. To achieve the targets, official development assistance will need to double from its current level up to \$ 100 billion per year.'

The same answer is provided by Mr. Mark Malloch Brown, the UNDP Administrator, in the Foreword to the 2003 Human Development Report, 'Millennium Development Goals: A compact among nations to end human poverty.' 'And the Compact puts responsibilities squarely on both sides: requiring bold reforms from poor countries and obliging donor countries to step forward and support those efforts.'

Mr. Bruno Pouezat voices that rich states can help poor states by providing economic assistance, increasing market access, easing the burden of debt, and access to information and communication technologies. 'There are a number of successful examples of global partnerships: in 1999 Uganda was encouraged by donor countries to invest in primary education and HIV infested children its savings in debt relief and the results were amazing. Uganda managed to halt its HIV/AIDS epidemic rate.'

Moldova. Foreign Debt of \$1 billion and child mortality

Moldova is an example of how the burden of foreign debt affects human development. The National Bank announced that Moldova's foreign debt was at the end of the first trimester of 2003 over \$1 billion. A UNICEF paper revealed that Moldova, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan use at least one third of their state budget for foreign debt. The 'Social Monitor' focuses this year on child mortality, one of the eight Millennium Goals, and identifies the main causes that determine high rates of child mortality poverty, health, inadequate nutrition of mothers, diseases and insufficient medical care.

To assess the strategy necessary to accomplish each of the targets of the Millennium Development Goals, UNDP Moldova coordinates the desk study for Moldova of the 'Millennium Development Goals' elaborated by the Institute for Public Policy (IPP). It can be currently accessed at the address www.un.md/mdg. 'The Republic of Moldova has not established its top priorities regarding this goal,' reveals the desk study. 'It is extremely important to provide clear information on what Moldova really needs and for us to become receptive to progress,' Arcadie Barbarosie, IPP Executive Director, said in an interview in Chisinau at the launch of the 2003 Human Development Report that ranks Moldova 108 (109 in year 2002) out of 175 nations assessed by the report.

Even if Moldova is not at the centre of world attention and it has not identified its top priorities, the Republic of Moldova can be part of the global partnership. Proof is the positive feedback given by the cooperation at national level between international agencies, governmental institutions, NGOs, and local partners. UNDP Resident Representative, Mr. Bruno Pouezat explains that 'All countries, small and big, rich and poor, have a vote in the United Nations. All member states have equal opportunities. Thus, Moldova is part of the global partnership, but what we need is a firm commitment to promote economic and social reforms, democracy, human rights, viable civil society, and a free media.' Successful examples of partnerships at national level are two actions targeting the halting of HIV/AIDS and ensuring access to primary education. 'The project targeting HIV/AIDS is launched by a few UN agencies in Moldova - World Bank, UNDP, UNICEF, and World Health Organization - that involve civil society, the government, and HIV positive persons; and the 'Education for All' project is an effort of the UN agencies to provide equal rights to education. As a consequence, the government has approved at the beginning of this year the National Strategy 'Education for All' aiming to develop the education sector.'

Igor Guzun