

THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS

QUOTE ON RELIGIOUS LEADERS  
AND THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS

October 2005

The eight Millennium Development Goals are a set of simple but powerful objectives which, together, make up the world's agreed blueprint for building a better world. They have been embraced by donors, developing countries, civil society and major development institutions alike.

Enlightened religious leaders and scholars of all faiths also have a key role to play. Their advocacy can influence political leaders and ordinary citizens alike. Their teaching and guidance can inspire people to new levels of responsibility, commitment and public service. And by their example, they can promote interfaith dialogue and bridge the chasms of ignorance and misunderstanding. The decisions taken at the 2005 World Summit, and the mobilization of civil society groups throughout the world, offer encouraging signs of gathering political will to reach the Goals.

I encourage religious leaders and scholars to do their part in defeating poverty and hunger, and in delivering the world's poorest and most marginalized people from despair.

Kofi Annan  
Secretary-General of the United Nations