

The Most Noble Endeavour

In this my last Annual Report as the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), I can look back on the six best years of my professional life. This is because of my [UNDP](#) colleagues, who daily work with governments and their people to help address the most pressing challenges of our time: tackling extreme poverty, and promoting human development and the attainment of a more just, safe and prosperous world for all.

When I became Administrator in July 1999, despite the distinguished history of our organization and its dynamic role and wealth of experience across the developing world, we faced severe financial and organizational challenges. Together we have accomplished the most comprehensive reform of any UN agency in recent history. Major changes have been secured in the direction of the funding situation, with total resources significantly increasing from US\$2.4 billion in 2000 to \$4 billion in 2004. And as an organization we have become known as a catalyst for change, deploying our unique assets smartly; as a repository of development knowledge and best practices; and as a premier adviser, advocate and champion of people-centred development.

With the 2000 Millennium Declaration and the Millennium Development Goals ([MDGs](#))—which UNDP has done so much to promote and mainstream into development thinking, as well as broader political and civil society—we have seen extraordinary advances in the development community, with an unprecedented global agenda to eradicate extreme poverty and hunger. With the MDGs, developing countries

have a clearer focus and targets for the policy reforms they are undertaking to meet their side of the global bargain, including the prioritization of poverty reduction, the promotion of democratic governance and the rule of law, and the fight against corruption.

And for donor countries, where just a few years ago development was viewed as a low political priority, today the MDG agenda is at the centre of mainstream politics. This has been driven, in part, by new campaigning activities, which have seen the MDGs move from being just one more declaration of another UN meeting, to being the development framework for the next decade.

UNDP, as well as the UN Millennium Campaign and [UN Millennium Project](#), which UNDP hosts, has played an important role in advancing the MDG agenda—but the work continues. The year 2005 offers world leaders a unique opportunity to take decisive action at the UN Summit to review the Millennium Declaration and the MDGs to ensure the MDGs are achieved by 2015, as well as to drive through the achievement of the goals at country level. For UNDP, the consolidation of the UN Resident Coordinator system, the further professionalizing of our practices and knowledge management networks, as well as the effective establishment of regional centres, remain some of the challenges we face. I know the new UNDP Administrator, Kemal Derviş, will take on these challenges with exceptional passion and commitment. He brings with him a wealth of valuable experience: 22 years of service at the World Bank, before being chosen as Minister of Finance in the Turkish Government, where he led a historic restructuring of the economy and its debt while innovatively seeking to mitigate the impact on the poor. With experience in international development operations, as well as knowing the help a country needs from UNDP and others, I am fully confident that he will prove to be a superb leader, both for UNDP internally, and for the attainment of the MDGs globally.

There is no more noble endeavour than the fight for social and global justice, and for peace and development. As I end my time at UNDP, I am proud to have worked for an organization committed to putting these ideals into practice.



In December 2004, Malloch Brown travelled to Yemen as the Chair of the UN Development Group (UNDG) and Administrator of UNDP. He visited UNDP projects to support local governance and a school assisted by the World Food Programme, a UNDG agency. Food rations have encouraged more parents to send their children to class.

Mark Malloch Brown

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Administrator