The United Nations Secretary-General reports annually on progress in meeting the global objectives set out in the Millennium Declaration for attaining peace and security, human rights and sustainable development. The Declaration was agreed on by all UN Member States at the Millennium Summit, held in September 2000. In his 2003 report, Secretary-General Kofi Annan makes the following points in relation to the Declaration’s eight Millennium Development Goals:

- Rapid advances in some areas indicate that the Goals, while ambitious, are definitely achievable for nearly every country in the world.

- Growing political and financial support for priority development areas — such as the fight against HIV/AIDS — demonstrate the potential for rapid mobilization of resources to meet global challenges.

- But some current trends indicate that significant parts of the world risk falling far short of meeting many of the Goals.

- There is an urgent need for renewed commitment by political leaders to open trade and increase aid and debt relief, to give developing countries a fair chance to reduce extreme poverty within their borders.

For the full report, see www.un.org/millenniumgoals