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## World Health Summit in Berlin Discusses Millennium Development Goals

International heads of state and government are taking stock in New York this week: at the UN Millennium Summit ten years ago, representatives from 189 countries defined the so-called Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) for 2015. These include the fight against extreme poverty and hunger, achievement of universal primary education, equal treatment of both sexes, a significant reduction in infant and maternal mortality, the containment of AIDS and malaria expansion, sustainable use of the environment, and building a global partnership for development. While there has been progress to date, there are still significant challenges to be met. This week in New York, international leaders are reviewing existing strategies as well as additional efforts that are necessary in order to achieve the goals they have set for themselves in the coming ten years.

The **World Health Summit 2010** will also focus on many of the MDGs. For example, with respect to reducing infant mortality and improving maternal health: Ousmane Touré (Health Minister, Mali), Mickey Chopra (Global Health Chief UNICEF), Zulfiqar Ahmed Bhutta (Aga Kahn University Pakistan) and Luis Sambo (WHO Regional Director for Africa), among others, will discuss experiences, strategies, and hurdles in the campaign against infant and maternal mortality at a plenary discussion on "**Accelerating towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals 4 & 5**" hosted by UNICEF.

In the run-up to the conference, Sambo declared, "Five years before the deadline for the Millennium Development Goals of 2015, we are increasingly concerned that MDG5 – to improve the health of mothers – has advanced the least. It is necessary to work on all of the factors that concern mothers and children in order to improve the health of both of these groups. This includes efforts to fight poverty, access to education, and sexual equality. The endeavor requires cross-country measures, not only by governments, but also from the private sector, foundations, and non-governmental organizations."

MDG 6 - the fight against HIV/AIDS – is the subject of the symposium "**Progress in the Global Fight Against HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria**", which is organized by the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria. The speakers include, among others, Baron Peter Piot, former Director of UNAIDS.

Leading personalities from science, politics, economics, and civil society will meet at the Second World Health Summit in order to discuss the most important global challenges for medical research and health care and to develop strategic solutions.

**The summit will take place from October 10-13, 2010, at Langenbeck-Virchow-Haus, 58/59 Luisenstraße in Berlin-Mitte.**

Further information, the conference program, and an overview of the speakers can be found at [www.worldhealthsummit.org](http://www.worldhealthsummit.org).

### Media & Press Office

Anja Marx  
B2 talk+tv produktion GmbH  
Schiffbauerdamm 8  
10117 Berlin, Germany  
[media@worldhealthsummit.org](mailto:media@worldhealthsummit.org)  
Tel.: +49 30 97004833  
Fax: +49 30 97004834

[www.worldhealthsummit.org](http://www.worldhealthsummit.org)  
[www.m8alliance.org](http://www.m8alliance.org)