

## Summary and Response to the Millennium Development Goals Outcome Document

The **MDG Summit Outcome** indicates the aim to 'create a new foundation for development as a centerpiece of our cooperation and collective efforts in the years ahead', recommending in particular 'intensified collective action by all stakeholders' and 'strengthened institutions' in order to achieve the MDGs. Despite the clear relevance of local authorities to the majority of the actions, local authorities are barely mentioned. Below are a series of amendments that we could propose:

### OWNERSHIP:

**Point 9:** *'We reaffirm national [, including local,] ownership and leadership, as paramount and indispensable in the development process... national [and local] ownership, national policies [created in concert with formally recognized local authorities], domestic resources and development strategies are the key for achieving all the goals.'*

**Point 23:** *'Attention must be focused on the special needs of the most vulnerable and the large and increasing economic and social inequalities, including those resulting from geography, sex, age, disability, ethnicity and other vulnerabilities. [Local governments, which hold the necessary on-the-ground knowledge, must be strongly involved in these efforts.]'*

**Point 30:** *'We reaffirm our commitment to adopt and implement comprehensive national development strategies, [which will include all levels of government,] to achieve the internationally agreed goals, including the Millennium Development Goals.'*

**Point 31:** *'We stress the need for international rules to allow policy space and policy flexibility for developing countries as they are directly related to the development strategies of national governments. We further emphasize the need for policy space including to formulate development strategies that take into account national interests and differing needs of countries. [We affirm also the need for the inclusion of all levels government in national development strategies.]'*

**Point 41:** *'We call for better monitoring and adequate and reliable data for all countries [, at all levels of government], which are vital for designing better programmes and policies and for ensuring accountability by development partners and stakeholders.'*

### GOVERNANCE

**Point 10:** *'Good governance and the rule of law at the national and international levels [, with the support of reinforced local governance and effective decentralization process,] are essential for sustained economic growth, sustainable development and the eradication of poverty and hunger [at all levels].'*

**Point 39:** *'We are determined to advance and support the crucial role of governance, and building institutional implementation capacities at the country level in the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. [Strengthened institutions and management are also necessary at the local level as all aid and development is ultimately destined to local people.] Integrity, accountability and transparency are crucial [at all levels] for managing resources and combating the abuse, corruption and organized crime that adversely affect society, particularly the poor and vulnerable. Good governance goals should be pursued in conjunction with development.'*

**Point 13:** *'We recognize that all the Millennium Development Goals are interconnected and mutually reinforcing and can therefore be best achieved when pursued in a holistic and comprehensive manner. [Local and regional governments, as other levels of governance, should also be comprehensively involved in plans to tackle all eight goals.]'*

### CULTURE

**New Point 37:** *'[We affirm the importance of cultural diversity and, in order to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, the necessity to respond to the diverse cultural needs and demands felt and expressed by people and organizations in a territory, and to bring a cultural perspective to national development plans as a whole, with objectives and actions that show how culture impacts on, and is impacted by, activities in areas such as economy, education, health and urban planning. We recognize also the necessity to build capacity for local officials and officers, so as to strengthen the local governance on culture, in cooperation with civil society.]'*