

The Oslo Commitments on Armed Violence – Achieving the Millennium Development Goals (Final Draft)

We, the representatives of States, met in Oslo on 21-22 April 2010 to discuss how to address effectively the humanitarian and development impact of armed violence.

Armed violence – whether it occurs in contexts of conflict or crime – is a fundamental challenge to our common humanitarian and developmental goals, often violating human rights, exacerbating gender inequality, and undermining security, justice, education and public health.

Armed violence and development are closely linked. An environment of fear and insecurity can undermine the prospects for human, social and economic development. At the same time, persistent inequality and a lack of development are among the underlying causes of armed violence. We are convinced that development efforts that address the risk factors for armed violence can help to prevent and reduce its incidence, and break the vicious cycle of violence and lack of development.

We commend the work being undertaken to prevent and reduce armed violence by States, international organizations and civil society. We reaffirm the commitments of the *Geneva Declaration on Armed Violence and Development* and will build further on the recommendations made by the United Nations Secretary-General in his reports on armed violence and development (A/64/228) and on developing an action agenda to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in his report ‘Keeping the Promise’ (A/64/665) .

Determined to achieve measurable reductions in armed violence by 2015 in order to achieve the existing Millennium Development Goals, we commit to:

- Support the inclusion of commitments on armed violence reduction and prevention in the High Level Plenary Meeting on the MDGs, and in subsequent MDG achievement strategies, as appropriate, through to 2015;
- Measure and monitor the incidence and impact of armed violence at national and sub-national levels in a transparent way, and develop and apply a set of targets and indicators to assess progress in efforts to achieve measurable reductions in armed violence;

- Recognise the rights of victims of armed violence in a non-discriminatory manner, including provision for their adequate care and rehabilitation, as well as their social and economic inclusion, in accordance with national laws and applicable international obligations;
- Enhance the potential of development to reduce and prevent armed violence by integrating armed violence prevention and reduction strategies into international, regional, national and sub-national development plans, programmes and assistance strategies;
- Strengthen international cooperation and assistance, including South-South cooperation, to develop national and sub-national capacities for armed violence prevention and reduction and achievement of the MDGs.

We will work together, and in partnership with civil society and international organizations, to fulfil and advance these Commitments, both before and beyond the High Level Plenary Meeting on the MDGs in September 2010.

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