

**Statement by Medicus Mundi International  
to the 67th session of the World Health Assembly  
on agenda item 14.1 MDGs to be delivered by Patricia Thomas**

Thank you, Chair, for the opportunity to address the Assembly on behalf of Medicus Mundi International and the People's Health Movement.

The MDGs framework was based on a charity model that sought to palliate the effects of an unfair and unsustainable global dispensation, rather than seeking to change it.

The structural problems we face include an unfair trade regime; an unstable financial regime; a global tax regime which drives tax competition and facilitates capital flight and tax avoidance; an IP regime which prevents urgently needed technology transfer; and an investment regime which privileges the interests of transnational corporations. The MDGs did not address any of these structural distortions and injustices.

While the UN is proposing a post 2015 framework based on equality and sustainability, global economic policies are contributing to widening inequality. Provisions in trade agreements further extend patents rights, keeping medicines unaffordable in many countries, and reducing national policy space.

Our planet faces a savage attack from the culture of over-consumption. Urgent action is needed in the post 2015 period to reverse environment degradation.

Development cannot be construed solely as economic growth and industrialisation; it must also include social, cultural and institutional development if we are to address widening inequalities, conflict and environmental degradation. There is an urgent need for 'development' in the rich world as well as in the global South. New economic relations and new forms of regulation are needed, based on the principles of equity, rights and *buen vivir*.

Universal Health Coverage (UHC) is highly problematic as a flagship priority for the post-2015 agenda because of its multiple interpretations, carrying different meanings for different interest groups.

Realising the right to health calls for universal access to comprehensive integrated health systems based on PHC principles and furthermore, calls for effective action on the social and structural determinants of health.

Thank you.