

From: Dick Bernard dick@chez-nous.net
Subject: P&J#876 The Millenium Goals of the United Nations
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A few hours ago, along with several hundred others, I had the privilege of being formally introduced to the Millenium Development Goals of the United Nations. These eight principles are by no means 'rocket science', but deserve the five minutes or less it will take to read them.

You will find them at www.un.org/millenniumgoals/. As the program succinctly laid out these goals were "Unanimously adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 2000, the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) are intended to strengthen the global effort to promote human development and improve the well being of people throughout the world. All 191 member states of the UN agreed in 2000 to work together to reduce the number of people in the world living in poverty by 2015."

There is much editorial commentary which could be offered. Suffice to say that executive director Eveline Herfkens; world business leader and executive Marilyn Carlson Nelson, local legislator Keith Ellison, and Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy President Mark Ritchie made their case: the goals are attainable and would not even require much reallocation of resources by the wealthy countries. All that is required is the will to do it.

There were many great thoughts offered by everyone. Here are three, hopefully properly transmitted. About the ability of a single person to change the world: "The Power of One" (yourself) is the greatest power of all. About women's proper role in society: "if the village were on fire, would they only call out the men?". And, finally, about children from Dr. Karl Menninger: "What is done to children they will do to society."

Extra Special Thanks to the Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy, www.iatp.org, which put together the program.

A great editorial about this program in yesterday's Minneapolis Star Tribune follows as #876A.

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Visit the websites of the other organizations which sponsored this event:
UN Foundation www.unfoundation.org
Millennium Campaign www.millenniumcampaign.org
United Nations Association of Minnesota www.unamn.org
Bread for the World – Upper Midwest Office www.bread.org
Minnesota International Center www.micglobe.org
Citizens for Global Solutions – MN www.globalsolutionsmn.org
Minnesota Alliance of Peacemakers www.mapm.org
Peace and Justice Comm of Hennepin Ave United Methodist Church
www.haumc.org

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