

The Honorable Thorbjørn Jagland
Chairman of the Norwegian Nobel Committee
Henrik Ibsens gate 51
0255 OSLO
Norway



31 January 2015

Dear Mr. Chairman,

We are writing to nominate the United Nations Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), supported by the UN development system at country level, as a candidate for the 2015 Nobel Peace Prize.

At the turn of the century, world leaders gathered at the UN and agreed on an ambitious vision for the future through the Millennium Declaration. The goals set to implement the Declaration, the MDGs, were a pledge to uphold the principles of human dignity, equality and equity and free the world from extreme poverty. They established a blueprint for tackling some of the most pressing challenges of our time, recognizing that peace can only be built on the foundation of human rights and development for all. The MDGs were guided by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations as the foundation for a more peaceful, prosperous and just world.

The MDGs have made a profound difference in people's lives: Global poverty has been halved five years ahead of the 2015 timeframe. Nine out of ten children in developing regions now enroll in primary education, with as many girls in school as boys. Remarkable gains have also been made in the fight against malaria, tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS. The likelihood of a child dying before age five has been nearly cut in half over the last two decades. This translates into about 17,000 children saved every day. The target of halving the proportion of people who lack access to improved sources of water has also been met ahead of time. It is the first time that a global agenda has mattered so much and made a difference to so many people at the local level.

The MDGs have also served as a political agenda behind which people and organizations all over the world have rallied to hold their governments accountable and lay the foundation for more equitable,

resilient, and peaceful societies. They have encouraged poorer countries to invest in tackling the most egregious forms of poverty, and have provided a framework for donors and partners to increase and improve their assistance. Despite continued global economic hardship, official development assistance (ODA) reached the highest level recorded in 2013. In this sense, they became an agenda that belonged to all countries and all people, one acted upon across the world with passion and commitment.

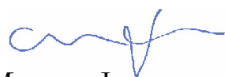
The MDGs have united people for action; regardless of race, religion or political affiliation. The concerted efforts of national governments, the international community, civil society, the media and the private sector – have helped expand hope and opportunity for people all over the globe. While progress has sometimes been uneven within countries, poorer countries have generally been catching up with those that are richer – growing faster, reducing poverty, and laying the foundation for more peaceful and inclusive societies.

We argue that the power of the MDGs, as a concept and practical framework for action, and as an idea to advocate for and unite behind, has had a profound effect on the lives of millions of people. The values that they represent – solidarity, strengthening resilience and preventing conflict, promoting equality, dignity and respect for nature – resonate strongly with the founding Charter of the United Nations. The MDGs have allowed those values to touch many more people all over the world at a time when the world is challenged by inequality, insecurity and division. They have reinforced global citizenship and highlighted how the lives of all people are connected.

We believe that the MDGs are a worthy candidate for the Nobel Peace Prize for 2015. The main custodians of the MDGs – the UN Development Group – have been central to their implementation and in helping countries to track their progress. And beyond the UN, this award would honour the committed governments and thousands of organizations that have played a role in their implementation – and the millions of people, in towns and cities, who have been agents of change.

This award would also give much-needed impetus to the process of defining Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that will build on the MDGs and further guide the world towards a more sustainable, secure and peaceful future. These new goals will build on the success of the MDGs and be the core of a bold, new universal post-2015 development agenda.

Sincerely yours,



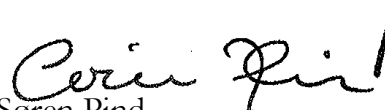
Mogens Jensen
The Social Democratic Party
Minister for Trade and
Development Cooperation,
Denmark (2014-present)



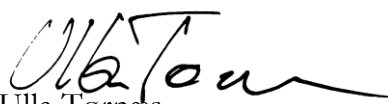
Rasmus Helveg Petersen
The Social Liberal Party
Minister for Development
Cooperation, Denmark (2013-
2014)



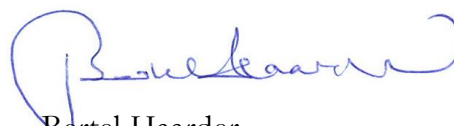
Christian Friis Bach
The Social Liberal Party
Minister for Development
Cooperation, Denmark
(2011-2013)



Søren Pind
The Liberal Party
Minister for Development
Cooperation, Denmark (2010-
2011)



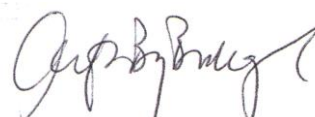
Ulla Tørnæs
The Liberal Party
Minister for Development
Cooperation, Denmark
(2005-2010)



Bertel Haarder
The Liberal Party
Minister for Development
Cooperation, Denmark
(2004-2005)



Per Stig Møller
The Conservative Party
Minister for Foreign Affairs,
Denmark (2001-2004)



Anita Bay Bundegaard
The Social Liberal Party
Minister for Development
Cooperation, Denmark
(2000-2001)



Poul Nielson
The Social Democratic Party
Minister for Development
Cooperation, Denmark (1994-
1999)