

**USCMA Resolution on UN Millennium Development Goals
2005 Annual Meeting
Tucson, AZ**

*In September 2000, the United Nations Millennium Summit brought together the leaders of 189 nations. The Declaration issued by the Summit recognized the UN's collective responsibility to uphold principles of human dignity, equality and equity at the global level. This Declaration affirmed the UN's determination to establish a just and lasting peace and to ensure that globalization becomes a positive force for all the world's people. To implement this Declaration, the UN set the **Millennium Development Goals**.*

*In June 2005, the Group of 8 (G-8) Finance Ministers announced a plan for multilateral debt cancellation for 18 of the most impoverished countries in the world so that the money now spent on debt payments can be used for human needs such as education and health care. This was a significant first step toward achievement of the **Millennium Development Goals**, but it is not enough – at least 62 nations require full cancellation in order for the **Millennium Development Goals** to be met. The recent meetings of the IMF and World Bank in Washington, DC ensured these debt cancellation proposals.*

Be it resolved that:

USCMA members, recognizing the great need for a more just sharing of the world's resources, affirm and support the **Millennium Development Goals**, i.e.:

By the year 2015:

1. **Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger:** Reduce by half the proportion of people living on less than a dollar a day and those who suffer from hunger.
2. **Achieve universal primary education:** Ensure that all boys and girls complete a full course of primary schooling.
3. **Promote gender equality and empower women:** Eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education preferably by 2005, and at all levels by 2015.
4. **Reduce child mortality:** Reduce by two thirds the mortality rate among children under five. Still each day 30,000 children die a preventable death due to extreme poverty.
5. **Improve maternal health:** Reduce by three quarters the maternal mortality ratio.
6. **Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases:** Halt and begin to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS and the incidence of malaria and other major diseases.
7. **Ensure environmental sustainability:** Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programs; reverse loss of environmental resources. Reduce by half the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water. Achieve significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers by 2020.
8. **Develop a global partnership for development:** Develop a fair system of trade and finances. Address the special needs of the least developed countries and those of landlocked and small island developing States. Address debt problems of developing countries. Develop and implement strategies for decent and productive work for youth. Provide access to affordable essential drugs. Make available the benefits of new technologies, especially information and communication.

Call for Specific Actions:

Given the influence of globalization and the tremendous need for a reconciling presence in our world USCMA requests its members to:

- Promote knowledge of the Millennium Development Goals in their religious congregations, local parishes and places of ministry.
- Urge the US Government to use these Goals as a basis for its foreign development assistance and to work for 100% debt cancellation for those countries which require debt cancellation in order to meet the Millennium Development Goals.
- Support the JUBILEE Act which has been introduced into Congress (HR 1130). The JUBILEE Act would require the U.S. Treasury Department to work in appropriate multilateral settings to achieve 100% cancellation of the debts of 50 impoverished nations so that the money can be used for poverty reduction, health care, and education.