



Human Development Report **2005**

International cooperation at a crossroads
Aid, trade and security in an unequal world



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Programme
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The *Human Development Report* is the product of a collective effort. Members of the National Human Development Report Unit (NHDRU) provide detailed comments on drafts and advice on content. They also link the Report to a global research network in developing countries. The NHDRU team is led by Sarah Burd-Sharps (Deputy Director) and comprises Sharmila Kurukulasuriya, Juan Pablo Mejia, Mary Ann Mwangi and Timothy Scott. The HDRO administrative team makes the office function and includes Oscar Bernal, Mamaye Gebretsadik and Melissa Hernandez. HDRO operations are managed by Yves Sassenrath with Ana Maria Carvajal. HDRO's outreach and communications programme is managed by Marisol Sanjines and Nena Terrell.

Foreword

This is, sadly, the last *Human Development Report* for which I will write the foreword, as I will step down as United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Administrator in August. When I arrived at UNDP in 1999, I said that the *Human Development Report* was the jewel in the crown of the organization's global intellectual and advocacy efforts. Six years and six reports later, I can report with some pride that its lustre has only grown.

Building on the powerful foundation laid during the Report's first decade, when successive *Human Development Reports* introduced and fleshed out the concept of human development, the Reports have gone from strength to strength. From examining how best to make new technologies work for rich people and poor people alike to highlighting the critical importance of strengthening human rights and deepening democracy to protect and empower the most vulnerable, the *Human Development Report* has steadily widened the intellectual frontiers of human development in the new millennium. And that shift has been increasingly mirrored in development practice through work by UNDP and its many partners on the ground in all these critical areas.

In short, as a robustly independent and articulate voice that, while sponsored by UNDP, does not necessarily reflect UN or UNDP policy, the *Human Development Reports* over the years have won a well deserved global reputation for excellence. They have played an indispensable catalytic role in helping frame and forge concrete responses to the key development policy debates of our time. Today, as this Report makes clear, the single greatest challenge facing the development community—and arguably the world—is the challenge of meeting the Millennium Development Goals by the target date of 2015.

Human Development Report 2003, drawing on much of the early work of the UNDP-sponsored UN Millennium Project, laid out a detailed plan of action for how each Goal could be achieved. But even as significant progress has been made in many countries and across several Goals, overall progress still falls short of what is needed. Earlier this year the UN Secretary-General's own five-year review of the Millennium Declaration, drawing heavily on the final report of the UN Millennium Project, laid out a broad agenda for how this can be achieved by building on the 2001 Monterrey consensus. The cornerstone of that historic compact is a commitment by developing countries to take primary responsibility for their own development, with developed countries ensuring that transparent, credible and properly costed national development strategies receive the full support they need to meet the Millennium Development Goals.

But, as this Report persuasively argues, that agenda simply will not succeed unless we can decisively resolve bottlenecks currently retarding progress at the pace and scale that are needed over the next decade in three broad areas: aid, trade and conflict. Across each of these critical areas this Report takes a fresh look at the facts and delivers a compelling and comprehensive analysis on how this can be done—and done now. The year 2005 will be remembered

as a year of choice, when world leaders had the opportunity at the UN September Summit to turn pledges and promises into concrete actions to help eradicate extreme poverty in our world. It is an opportunity we cannot afford to miss if we are to bequeath a safer, more secure and more just world to our children and future generations.

Finally, while this may be my own last Report as Administrator, it marks the first to be written under the leadership of Kevin Watkins as Director of the Human Development Report

Office. The strength and depth of its analysis make clear that the *Human Development Report* and the legacy of human development it represents and symbolizes could not be in safer hands. I wish him, his dedicated team and my own successor, Kemal Dervis, all the very best for the future.



Mark Malloch Brown
Administrator, UNDP

The analysis and policy recommendations of this Report do not necessarily reflect the views of the United Nations Development Programme, its Executive Board or its Member States. The Report is an independent publication commissioned by UNDP. It is the fruit of a collaborative effort by a team of eminent consultants and advisers and the *Human Development Report* team. Kevin Watkins, Director of the Human Development Report Office, led the effort.

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Kevin Watkins
Director

Human Development Report 2005

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