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Office of the United Nations Resident Coordinator

**UN Media Release [Monday 3 September 07]  
Samoa Prime Minister Targeting the MDGs!**



Honorable Prime Minister of Samoa Tuilaepa Sailele Malielegaoi promoting the MDGs during Archery Competition on Friday 31 Aug 2007

## MDGs

By 2015 all 191 United Nations Member States have pledged to:

1. Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger
2. Achieve universal primary education
3. Promote gender equality and empower women
4. Reduce child mortality
5. Improve maternal health
6. Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases
7. Ensure environmental sustainability
8. Develop a global partnership for development

Based on the UN Millennium Declaration and the Millennium Development Goals 8 goals, 18 targets and 40+ indicators.

In another inspirational move during what has been a memorable South Pacific Games 2007, the Prime Minister of Samoa while competing for the Archery Gold/Silver Medal on Friday 31 August happily took time to promote the Millennium Development Goals.

The Prime Minister is one of 189 world leaders who signed the Millennium Declaration at the United Nations General Assembly in September 2000. As a leader known for his “hands on” approach, the Prime Minister has demonstrated yet again that personal commitment and action can bring global commitments home to the Pacific and to Samoa. After receiving his MDG T-shirt earlier in the day from the UN Multi-Country Office in Apia, he not only wore it during most of the competition, but also asked for MDG T-shirts for his entire Archery Team so that they too could spread the MDG word. Happy to oblige, the United Nations Resident Coordinator Ms. Naheed Haque delivered them, and watched as the Prime Minister and the Samoan Archery Team won two silver medals – an excellent score for a team that had only recently taken up archery and had trained for only five months. After the win, the Prime Minister said to her “I took up archery to show that anyone can participate in sport, and hope the medals will inspire a new generation of Samoans to take up archery – a new sport for Samoa”. The team went on to win a gold medal and bronze the next day.

The Millennium Development Goals is a set of 8 global time bound and measurable development goals that all 192 United Nations Member States including Samoa and 13 other Pacific Island Nations have promised that

they will work to achieve for their citizens by the year 2015. Every 5 years, all UN member countries report to the UN General Assembly on how each country is progressing towards the 2015 “development dream”. Samoa, Niue, Cook Islands, Tonga, Fiji, Vanuatu, Solomon Islands and Papua New Guinea have already submitted their first 5-year MDG reports to the United Nations which give a mixed picture of progress. Overall, the Polynesian countries are faring better than their Melanesian counterparts on the MDGs. A Pacific Regional MDG Report published by the Secretariat of the Pacific Community SPC and UNDP in 2005 indicated that apart from Sub-Saharan Africa, the Pacific is the next region where achievement of the MDGs will be a challenge.

The United Nations in collaboration with the Government of Samoa (MCIT, MNRE, MOH, MOF and MESC, the South Pacific Games Authority SPGA), the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), Oceania Football Confederation (OFC), ANZ Bank, Samoatel, Talavou and the Safe Games Campaign are promoting awareness and action on the eight MDGs during the South Pacific Games through an MDG Campaign entitled “Achieve the Dream 2015”.

For more information, please visit us at: [www.un.org.ws](http://www.un.org.ws) or contact: [jane.ishiguro@undp.org](mailto:jane.ishiguro@undp.org) 23670 at UN Multi Country Office and / or: [james@unesco.org.ws](mailto:james@unesco.org.ws), 24276 at UNESCO Pacific Office