

The Millennium Consumption Goals – a crucial completion of the Millennium Development Goals

Resolution of the Members of Climate Alliance at the General Assembly
on 24 May 2012 in the city of St.Gallen

Background

The global overuse of natural resources has a dramatic impact on the environment and leads to social problems. Only when the use of resources is reduced will we achieve the conditions for effective climate protection and a reduction in poverty agreed in the Millennium Development Goals (MDG).

All political levels recognise the problem of the overuse of resources as one of the leading hindrances to development. It is primarily the developing countries who suffer the consequences of the wasteful use of resources – from environmental destruction to food crises and climate change, they are affected particularly severely.

In a 2011 declaration on sustainable development, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon emphasised how important it is to 'decouple' economic growth from the ever-increasing use of natural resources. (Declaration of the General Secretary at the 19th Session of the Commission on Sustainable Development, May 2011).

The growing world population will require more food supplies and other resources. The EU already obtains over 60% of its natural resources from outside of Europe (Sustainable Europe Research Institute, 2011). At the same time, a great deal of land loses its fertility due to overuse and as a result of climate change. This leads to increased competition for limited resources such as land in addition to between food and energy production (UNDP Human Development Report, 2011).

A great many indigenous peoples in Amazonia, but also other population groups in Africa and Asia report of the destruction caused by the exploitation of natural resources such as crude oil, ores, gold, wood, etc. Their livelihoods are being endangered.

Thus the national governments were urged to decouple economic growth from the ever-increasing use of natural resources during the 2011 UN session.

The European Commission has also established that the availability of sufficient natural resources does not automatically result in sustainable growth in all countries anyway (COM (2011) 25 final).

At Climate Alliance's 2011 International Annual Conference in Munich, Professor Mohan Munasinghe introduced the Millennium Consumption Goals (MCG).



Climate Alliance

The Millennium Consumption Goals (MCG)

Resolution reached at the
Climate Alliance General
Assembly

St.Gallen, 24 May 2012

**International Annual Conference and General Assembly of the
Climate Alliance, St.Gallen, 23-26 May 2012**

The initiative offers an international framework encompassing a variety of activities and actors working towards the sustainable use of resources. The Climate Alliance members are important partners in this network, having already committed to reducing greenhouse gases locally and to conserving the rainforests. They reduce their consumption of fossil resources and advocate a sustainable lifestyle.

Resolution text

The Climate Alliance member asserts:

- The excessive use of resources endangers the development opportunities of millions of people on all continents and primarily affects those already suffering from a lack of resources or the unequal distribution thereof.
- Scarce resources and climate change are the result of the same development model that primarily disregards the social impact.
- A sustainable approach to all kinds of soils to conserve and nurture all soil functions as well as their resources and the natural and cultural heritage must be striven for the current and future generations. This includes socially fair soil and land usage (cf. European Land and Soil Alliance, ELSA).
- The Climate Alliance members are committed to the conservation of biological diversity on the local, national and international levels.
- The self-imposed commitment of Climate Alliance members to reducing the local CO₂ emissions, developing renewable resources, and contributing to conservation of the rainforests as well as supporting the indigenous peoples of the rainforests is to be renewed.
- We commit to the Millennium Consumption Goals initiative as an important complement to the Millennium Development Goals. Our common aim is to protect natural resources and their usage so as to meet the basic needs of the poorer population groups of the world.
- We call upon the international institutions and relevant UN processes for the climate, biodiversity and sustainable development (Rio+20) to include the Millennium Consumption Goals in the official negotiation documents.
- We also appeal to the European governments to include the MCG initiative in their national strategies for the Rio+20 outcome document, and to make a binding commitment to reducing the use of resources.



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