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عنوان المقال:

## **Ensuring Environmental Sustainability in the Light of the Millennium Development Goals**

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**BAHMED Kenza** Algiers University

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## Ensuring Environmental Sustainability in the Light of the Millennium Development Goals

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BAHMED Kenza

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### Abstract:

In September 2000, world leaders gathered in the millennium summit to resolve the global issue which is extreme poverty. This summit ended with the adoption of the common document “the millennium declaration”, which contains a statement of values, principles, and objectives for the international 21 Century Agenda. This declaration translated into eight global goals known as “the Millennium Development Goals”. The goal seven, entitled “Ensure Environmental Sustainability”, it involves four main targets turning around integrating the principles of sustainable development in countries policies, reducing biodiversity loss, providing safe drinking water sources and improving slum dwellers’ lives. As well as the targets are determined by specific indicators in order to evaluate the achievements by the deadline of 2015. Fifteen years later, there were several achievements in all the MDGs and the MDG7, in which many countries and Algeria succeeded to reach the MDG7 targets particularly in providing safe drinking water and protecting forests. Besides these achievements, there were various challenges that hinder the accomplishment of the other targets; mostly the big gap between the poor and the rich people and climate change. Thus, world countries are required to work together in order to cope with these challenges and to fulfill the global sustainable development of post-2015.

**Keywords:** The millennium summit, the Millennium Development Goals, Ensure Environmental Sustainability.

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**الملخص:**

في سبتمبر عام 2000، اجتمع قادة العالم في قمة الألفية من أجل إيجاد حل للمشكل العالمي ألا وهو الفقر المدقع. انتهى هذا الاجتماع بتبني الأطراف للوثيقة المعروفة بـ "بيان الألفية"، الذي يتضمن بياناً للقيم، و المبادئ و كذا أهداف أجندة القرن 21 العالمية. هذا البيان ترجم إلى ثمانية أهداف، و هي المعروفة بـ "الأهداف الإنمائية للألفية". يتضمن الهدف السابع " كفالة الاستدامة البيئية" أربع غايات أساسية، تدور حول دمج مبادئ التنمية المستدامة في سياسات الدول، التقليل من فقدان التنوع البيولوجي، توفير مصادر المياه الآمنة و تحسين حياة سكان الأحياء الفقيرة. بالإضافة إلى أن هذه الغايات قد حددت بمجموعة من المؤشرات من أجل تقييم الانجازات مع نهاية عام 2015. بعد خمسة عشر سنة، كان هناك عدة إنجازات في الأهداف الإنمائية للألفية و في الهدف السابع، حيث أن العديد من الدول و الجزائر نجحت في بلوغ غايات الهدف السابع خاصة فيما يتعلق بتوفير المياه الصحية و حماية الغابات. إلى جانب تلك الانجازات، كان هناك الكثير من التحديات التي تعيق إتمام الغايات الأخرى، و يأتي في المقام الأول الفجوة الكبيرة بين الأغنياء و الفقراء و تغير المناخ. و بالتالي، يستوجب على دول العالم العمل معا من أجل التغلب على هذه المشاكل و تحقيق التنمية المستدامة العالمية لما بعد عام 2015.

**الكلمات المفتاحية:** قمة الألفية، الأهداف الإنمائية للألفية، كفالة الاستدامة البيئية.

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## Introduction :

In the late of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the world witnessed many challenges. At that time, the world community had focused on economic development that led to many financial crises and the widespread of poverty around the world. As well as the globalization waves that affected the world cooperation which knew the mistrust towards the international institutions due to their preference to cooperate with reach countries rather than the vulnerable ones. This prompted the world political leaders and the United Nations as well to adjust the conditions of global cooperation through appealing for an international meeting known as “the millennium summit” in 2000. This summit had seen the wide attendance of heads of governments and states and other members of the world community; who signed at the end of the meeting the most common document known as “the millennium declaration”. This latter is considered as the basic source of the millennium development goals.

World leaders gathered at the Millennium summit in order to find solutions to extreme poverty and hunger in the entire world. This dangerous problem has many effects on people's life areas; education, health, and environment.....etc. As it is increasing year after year, the international community must tackle this problem at all levels nationally, regionally and globally, and this requires an international cooperation to work on the global framework, took the form of eight goals drawn from the

millennium declaration, with a deadline of 2015.

Our case of research is “Ensuring Environmental Sustainability”, which is the seventh goal of the millennium development goals. MDG7 is considered as a vital global goal, because the environment is a fundamental and basic key in a human being's life, and any progress or not in this goal can impact positively or negatively all the other MDGs.

Thus, to what extent did world countries in general and Algeria in a specific succeed to reach MDG7; ensuring environmental sustainability?

Hence, this paper aims to address the major achievements in MDG7 on the national and international levels, to evaluate the global assessment in achieving the progress in MDG7, and to identify the barriers or challenges that could hinder the attainment and the accomplishment of this goal.

## 1-The Millennium Development Goals

### 1-1-The origins of the Millennium Development Goals

The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) were established as a response to the world's foremost challenges as they appeared in 2000. At that time, the world community had focused on the development through macroeconomic fundamentals, which had achieved limited results. The Asian financial crises of 1997-98 had sent shockwaves around the globe and Latin America was recovering from its own series of economic crises, and the total decline of post- cold war aid budgets.

Many former Eastern bloc countries were still struggling to regain their economic footing after the demise of the Soviet Union. Most troubling, sub-Saharan Africa had suffered two “lost decades” of economic growth while the prevalent disease HIV/ AIDS infected twenty-five million people without a global treatment effort.

The late of the 1990s also saw a deepening global mistrust towards international economic institutions. Many people viewed globalization as a force that supports the will of rich corporate interests against the need of disempowered poor. Tensions and Stresses due to mistrust led in December 1999 to “battle in Seattle”, where street protests forced the abandonment of WTO (World Trade Organization) ministerial meeting.

In 2000, the new political leaders of the world had obtained the opportunity to revise the terms of global cooperation. Among them, United Nations Secretary Kofi Annan, who was at the height of his influence and he was aiming to reframing debates around a new spirit of partnership. That spirit gave a rise to the MDGs. The MDGs took shape through a complex mix of international political processes, agreements, and proposals, combined with real-time global debates. Since that time, The MDGs have become the world’s central reference point for development cooperation.<sup>1</sup>

## 1-2-The millennium summit

On 17 December 1998, the general assembly of the United Nations appealed the world countries to participate in the millennium summit,

under its resolution 53/207. The millennium summit was held from 6-8 September 2000; at the United Nations headquarters in New York. In which Algeria and 148 heads of states and government attended, in addition to high-ranking officials from over 40 other countries. This summit ended with the adoption of the common document called “the millennium declaration”, as well as the attendees agreed on eight global goals entitled “The Millennium Development Goals”.<sup>2</sup>

The millennium declaration contained a statement of values, principles, and objectives of the 21 International Agenda and the deadlines of many collective actions. In which the head of states and government members reaffirmed their faithfulness to the United Nations and its charter as a vital organization to achieve peace, prosperity, and justice in the entire world. As well as, they confessed on their collective responsibility to support human dignity, equality and equity as the world leaders' duty towards all people, particularly children and the most vulnerable ..... By taking into consideration certain fundamental values to be essential to international relations, including freedom, solidarity, tolerance, respect for nature and shared responsibility.<sup>3</sup>

The millennium development goals are eight, it turns around stopping the most global issue which is poverty by 2015. They are respectively (Appendix 1); the first goal is to eradicate extreme poverty and hunger

by reducing the proportion of hungry people and increasing the employment level and raising wages. The second and third goals are to achieve and promote a universal equality for both genders in primary and secondary education and to empower the role of a woman. The fourth, fifth and sixth goal are around reducing the number of deaths in children, improving maternal health and combating the HIV/AIDS, Malaria and other diseases through providing universal access to a productive health. The seventh goal is to ensure sustainable development; it is discussed in details in the following paragraphs. Finally, the eighth goal is to provide a global partnership for development by developing further and open trading, addressing a special help to the less developed countries, dealing comprehensively with debt problems, providing benefits of new technologies especially information and communication in cooperation with the private sector.

## **2-MDG 7 “Ensure environmental sustainability”**

### **2-1-The definition of environmental sustainability**

Environmental sustainability is the vital key to sustainable development. It is the heart of the seventh goal (MDG7), and it is not explicitly defined in the millennium declaration. In the General Assembly (2000), countries agreed that “we must spare no effort to free all humanity, and activities, our children, from the threat of living on a planet irredeemably spoilt by human identify and whose resources would no longer be sufficient

for their needs. The World leaders here referred to the ethic of respecting nature in the millennium declaration and reaffirmed their support for the sustainable development articulated in the agenda 21(1992), where they used the term of sustainable development for the first time.

The most common definition of sustainable development was done by the Brundtland commission in 1987 as... “Sustainable development is the development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. It contains within it two key concepts: the concept of 'needs', in particular the essential needs of the world's poor, to which overriding priority should be given; and the idea of 'limitations' imposed by the state of technology and social organization on the environment's ability to meet present and future needs..”<sup>4</sup>

In 2002, the World Summit on Sustainable Development marked a further expansion of the standard definition with the widely used three pillars of sustainable development: economic, social, and environmental. The Johannesburg Declaration created “a collective responsibility to advance and strengthen the interdependent and mutually reinforcing pillars of sustainable development, economic development, social development and environmental protection at local, national, regional and global levels.”<sup>5</sup>

Another way to define sustainable development is in what it specifically seeks to achieve. To illustrate, it is helpful to examine three

sets of goals that use different time-horizons: the short-term (2015) goals of the Millennium Declaration, the two-generation goals (2050) of the Sustainability Transition of the Board on Sustainable Development; and the long-term (beyond 2050) goals of the Great Transition of the Global Scenario Group. Also, sustainable development can be defined in how it is measured through indicators that Combines global, national, and local initiatives. Still another mode of defining sustainable development is through the values that represent or support sustainable development and they are essential to international relations: freedom, equality, solidarity, tolerance, respect for nature, and shared responsibility.<sup>6</sup>

More specifically, environmental sustainability has been defined by Robert Goodland as "the maintenance of natural capital" and as a concept apart from, but connected to, both social sustainability and economic sustainability. This definition is accepted as a valid, supported, and used as a basis from which to proceed to further develop this concept.<sup>7</sup> Lately, John Morelli (2011) has defined environmental sustainability as "a condition of balance, resilience, and the interconnectedness that allows human society to satisfy its needs while neither exceeding the capacity of its supporting ecosystems to continue to regenerate the services necessary to meet those needs nor by our actions diminishing biological diversity."<sup>8</sup>

Thus, environmental sustainability is indicated in the second part of the common definition of sustainable development (Brundtland's definition)

i.e. sustainable development is the development that satisfies the current generations' needs without depriving the ability of future generations from meeting their needs. This definition contains two key concepts: first, the concept of 'needs', in which the priority should be given to the poor peoples' needs. Second, the idea of limitations, they are the effects of development on the environment's ability to meet present and future needs. Consequently, environmental sustainability is the ability to sate both current and future generations' needs without depleting or damaging the ecosystems.

## **2-2-The link between MDG7 and the other MDGs**

Achieving environmental sustainability is fundamental to achieving all the MDGs and it cannot be analyzed out of the context of the other MDGs. This is due to the great role that is played by the environment and natural resources in providing economic processes with the material-energetic and environmental basis, which has a significant impact on many aspects of development and poverty.

Relationships between (MDG 7) and (MDG 1, 2, 3) are so evident. In the case of poverty, it is obvious that environmental degradation can be either the cause or the consequence of the poverty of the population residing in environmentally vulnerable areas<sup>9</sup>. Lack of education and awareness of sustainable method of exploitation for poor people impact negatively on environmental resources such as

cutting and burning forest to clear land for agriculture, overfish the stocks, hunt wildlife...etc, therefore education is linked with MDG7; if people were knowledgeable about environmental conservation, they would seek to promote and develop it<sup>10</sup>. There is also a link from Target 11 to MDG 2, in which children living in slum areas often do not have access to education, for lack of a legitimate address for registration<sup>11</sup>. Another link with gender equality, it occurs through time spent by a woman to collect fuel and water instead of schooling and participating in decision-making activities<sup>12</sup>.

MDG 7 is connected to health goals (MDG 4, 5, 6). These goals are considered as health priorities, and they are related to the environment, housing, and settlement patterns. They are caused by population growth that produces environmental vulnerability, or migration and other components of demographic change influence the growth of urban slums and deforestation<sup>13</sup>. Thus, the link between (MDG 7) and health goals occur through the increase of death among children and mothers and the widespread epidemics as result of bad environmental conditions, and the lack of water and sanitation services<sup>14</sup>.

Sustainable development should be viewed through the lens of international cooperation, i.e., environmental sustainability is associated with the building of global partnerships. In today's world, all countries are interconnected and interdependent. The global scale of pressure on the environment is

determined by problems such as global warming and the depletion of the ozone layer, confirms the fact that countries are becoming increasingly interdependent and vulnerable. Therefore, (MDG 7) depends on global partnerships for development (MDG 8)<sup>15</sup>.

### 2-3-MDG7 targets and indicators

The global MDG framework includes targets and indicators that can be used to measure and evaluate the global progress towards achieving each MDG. In the case of MDG7, the targets and indicators are global in nature; they require national responses from both developed and developing countries that would impact regional and global level in order to meet the targets by 2015. These targets and indicators are the starting point for monitoring the country's level progress in ensuring environmental sustainability. However, these targets and indicators are the frameworks to achieve the global sustainable development; they do not capture national and local priority issues, which usually need to complete them with country's specific targets and indicators. This led some countries to tailor their targets and indicators according to the country's resources and capacities, in order to identify the gaps in MDGs progress and adapting the framework to meet the needs, priorities and goals of the country<sup>16</sup>.

Countries use a variety of data banks in establishing baselines and reference points that are used to tailor targets and develop indicators. In setting MDG7 targets and indicators, countries have used mainly national



data sources and databases. Supporting MDG monitoring process with a national monitoring system is strongly encouraged, as it is an approach that underpins the progress towards the MDGs. United Nations with its agencies are custodians of the global databases and the main data resources for many countries, including United Nations Habitat, the United Nations Environmental Program (UNEP), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), and The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). The United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) compiles with data collected by all of these specialized agencies as does the World Bank. One-third of countries specify the original sources of data collection when reporting on indicators and environmental sustainability information through mainstream surveys, for instance, Algeria uses its household consumption survey to report access to water and sanitation<sup>17</sup>.

The MDG7 framework "ensuring environmental sustainable development" contains three global targets and ten global indicators (Appendix 2). Firstly, to integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programs and reverse the loss of environmental resources, this can be achieved through protecting forests, increasing afforestation, reducing the global emissions of carbon dioxide and eliminating the substances that damage the ozone layer. As well as, to reduce

biodiversity loss by protecting ecosystems that covered 15.2 of land and 8.4 of coastal marine areas in the worldwide by 2014. Secondly, to reduce the proportion of the population without sustainable access by providing safe drinking water and basic sanitation services. Thirdly, to achieve a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers (poor houses) through improving water resources, sanitation facilities, and durable or less crowded houses.

#### **2-4- MDG 7 interventions and implications**

According to (Appendix 2), the seventh goal "ensure the environmental sustainability" (MDG 7) contains three main targets, requiring different types of interventions and having differentiated implications for ecosystems and their services.

Target 9 refers specifically to ecosystem services. This target can clearly be subdivided into two components: (a) integration of the principles and (b) reversal of environmental loss. The first component is due to the lack of integration in planning and policy-making, which has been recognized for a long time as one major obstacle to progress sustainable development. Among the interventions required, the most important are: reinforce environmental policies, introduce environmental principles in economic and social policies, reinforce and enforce environmental legislation at various scales, train and build capacity on sustainable development in the public and private sectors... etc. The

increased integration of sustainable development principles into policies and programs will considerably reduce the negative ecological impacts of economic and social policies and actions<sup>18</sup>.

The second component is the loss of environmental resources which is considered as a serious problem. It occurred as a result of the clearing of forests and other types of vegetation in mountainous regions of the world, which has diminished the capacity of the land as a habitat for people, and in some cases led to the death of thousands of people in mudslides associated with extreme rainfall. Thus, a number of interventions will be necessary, such as increase expenditure on environmental sustainability, implement programs of ecosystem restoration and rehabilitation and ecological engineering, develop economic incentives and regulatory instruments directed to the sustainability of ecosystem services, and introduce the principles of sustainable development in education curricula and implement programs for raising public awareness. Meeting this target will have a number of positive ecosystem impacts; improved management of ecosystems will contribute to enhancing ecosystem services and this will help to fulfill the other goals, as well as, increased understanding of ecosystem functions will provide novel management technologies and identify new productive and sustainable uses for ecosystem services<sup>19</sup>.

Target 10 is to halve the proportion of people without

sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation. It requires a considerable expansion of infrastructure services in developing countries to meet the needs of 1.2 billion people for improved access to drinking water and 1.8 billion people who need to be connected to sanitation by 2015. Critical interventions for achieving the water and sanitation targets include the expansion of appropriate water and sanitation infrastructure services accompanied by improved hygiene education, and the need for additional water storage capacity to ensure a fixed and timeless supply of fresh water. The overall impact that achieving the 2015 targets may have on water demand and quality depends critically on appropriate water demand management policies such as pricing that can help to contain a demand for fresh water beyond the minimum basic needs of 20–50 liter per capita. In addition, integrated governance and institutional frameworks such as basin management authorities, and other multispectral approaches to managing water needs; can reduce pressure on ecosystems and their services. Finally, the nature of sanitation technologies and the extent to which they are properly operated can help mitigate adverse impacts on water quality<sup>20</sup>.

Target 11 has two components. The first focuses on slum upgrading as stated in the text of the MDG Target, “by 2020, to have achieved significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers.” The second component concentrates on prevention by stopping the formation of slums by 2006 as stated by the Cities Alliance

for Cities without Slums. United Nations Habitat proposes that a person whose living conditions is considered as 'a slum dweller' and suffers from at least one of the following five characteristics: inadequate access to safe water, inadequate access to sanitation and other infrastructure, poor structural quality of housing, overcrowding, and insecure residential status. Based on these criteria, it is estimated that currently over 900million people (roughly one-third of the world's urban population) live in slums. More than 70% of the urban population in the least industrial countries and sub-Saharan Africa live in slum-like conditions. This number is set to increase to roughly 2 billion by 2020 unless current trends change substantially. Meeting target 11 will require a combination of slum upgrading and prevention of the formation of new slums. Slum upgrading refers to the provision of basic services such as solid waste disposal, improved infrastructure including water supply and sanitation, and improvements in housing. On balance, meeting target 11 will have profound and positive effects on ecosystems and their services found within and adjoining to urban areas. Further preventing the formation of new slums is likely to have an even greater impact on ecosystems and their services through improving the urban environment and reducing pollution of water and air.<sup>21</sup>

### 3-MDG 7 main achievements

#### 3-1-The integration of sustainable development principles and the reversal of environmental loss

According to UN data, some countries succeeded to achieve target 9-a by slowing deforestation due to both a slight decrease in deforestation and an increase in afforestation, in which the net loss in forests declined from 8.3 million hectares annually in the 1990s to an estimated 5.2 million hectares each year from 2000 to 2012. In spite of this improvement, deforestation remains alarmingly in some countries.

At the national level, According to the General Directorate of Forestry, forest cover area in Algeria is currently estimated at 4.1 million hectares, widespread over forty of states (with the exception of the eight southern states). ElTaref state is considered as the most covered state of forests with 57.51% of the state's total area, while the percentage does not exceed 0.36% of Annaama state, and this highlights the disparity in the distribution of forest between the states of the country.<sup>22</sup> Algeria has made considerable efforts in order to protect and expand forest areas, starting with the project Green Dam (1972), then the National Scheme of Reforestation (1999), which aims to plant more than 1.2 million hectares of trees to raise the afforestation ratio from 11% to 14% by 2020. As well as the National Scheme of Territory Configuration and Sustainable Development, it aims mainly to raise the proportion of forest cover in our country to 18 %<sup>23</sup>.

Globally, there was another achievement in target 9 due to the international cooperation. The signatories of the Montreal protocol on substances that deplete the ozone layer (16/9/1987), developed management policies for ozone depleting substances and licensing systems to control their consumption and production. To date, 197 parties have phased out of 98% of all major ozone-depleting substances compared to 1990 levels. The remaining substances will be phased out over the next 15 years, and the ozone layer is projected to recover by the middle of this century. As a result of the growth of global emissions, which have accelerated over two decades, rising 10% from 1990 to 2000 and 38% from 2000 to 2012, the UN has organized a convention on climate change in Paris in December 2015, in which the participants have worked to forge an agreement on the protocol that provides a framework to strengthen international actions to mitigate and decrease climate change<sup>24</sup>. In the framework of the implementation of the Protocol and its amendments (London 1992, Copenhagen 1999, Montreal 2007 and Beijing 2007) Algeria has implemented a national program of elimination of substances that deplete the layer "Ozone-Depleting Substances (ODS)". This program aims mainly to updating of the rules for the use of substances that deplete the ozone layer, restructuring of public enterprises and private to alternative technologies in the areas that use aerosol solvents, refrigeration, fight against fire and fumigation of dates. Thanks to the restructuring of several companies and organizations, Algeria

has respected the fixed date of final disposal of using CFC (chlorofluorocarbon) substances<sup>25</sup>.

In order to reduce biodiversity loss, many regions pursued the way of protecting land and marine areas, particularly in Latin America and the Caribbean, Oceania and western Asia, which resulted in a significant reduction in the rate loss. Terrestrial and marine protected areas help to prevent loss of biodiversity, maintain food security and water supplies, strengthen climate resilience and improve human health and well-being. Protecting these areas aims to conserve and nurture biological diversity, ensuring are areas safeguarded and maintained for future generations. Many regions have substantially increased their terrestrial protected areas since 1990. In Latin America and the Caribbean, coverage of terrestrial protected areas rose from 8.8% to 23.4% between 1990 and 2014. In western Asia, the terrestrial area under protection has more than quadrupled, from 3.7% in 1990 to 15.4% in 2014. Some regions of the world have also increased their protected areas substantially. In Oceania, there were no coastal or marine protected areas in 1990, but 7.4% of such areas were protected in 2014. Global coverage of protected areas has expanded since 1990, and protected areas are projected to reach at least 17% of terrestrial and inland waters and 10% of marine and coastal areas by 2020.<sup>26</sup>

Algeria as well succeeded in increasing the country's protected areas. According to the fourth national report on the implementation of the

Convention on Biological Diversity, the number of protected areas in Algeria increased from 19 areas in 1990 to 28 in 2008; it constitutes 33.74% of the total area. In addition to these protected areas, among 1451 moist area, 42 of them classified as a part of the International Convention on Wetlands 'RAMSAR'. And in the framework of implementing the Coast Configuration Scheme, which is programmed in the approved 2015 to strengthen the network of areas in Algeria by more than twenty-protected area, 5 national barns and 10 game reserves<sup>27</sup>.

### **3-2-The provision of sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation**

The globally achieved MDG target is for drinking water, which has been met five years ahead of schedule, but the large gap between rural and urban people still remaining. One of the most remarkable achievements is that the global rural population without access to improved drinking water has declined by more than half since 1990, from more 38% to 16% in 2015. Currently, 96% of urban populations use improved water sources, compared with 84%. Similarly, out of five urban people have access to piped drinking water compared with just one in three people in rural areas. Since 1990, the proportion of the global rural population without access to improved sanitation has declined by a nearly quarter, and open defecation rates in rural areas have fallen from 38% to 25% in 2015. Still, nearly half of people living in rural areas do not have improved sanitation facilities, and one

in four still practice open defecation. By contrast, only 18% of people in marginalized groups are less likely to have access to improved water and sanitation facilities and less likely to enjoy piped water on the premises. Progressive elimination of inequalities in access and service levels will continue to be an important focus for the post-2015 agenda<sup>28</sup>.

Nationally, Algeria succeeded to raise the proportion of the population with improved drinking water from protected sources to 95%, and this due to the recommendation of the UNICEF (United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund) and WHO (World Health Organization). In addition to the increase in the rate of population connected to improved sanitation services, which represents 86 % in the urban areas; more than the planned rate 82%. This achievement was due to the Algeria's program which includes making stations and sanitation lagoons, and the extension of sanitation network in urban and rural areas. In terms of water treatment, Algeria currently has 97 stations in operation, and 10 others require rehabilitation for their return to service. As well as it is expected to complete 40 new ones and to construct 50 stations lagoon.<sup>29</sup>

Beside the previous achievements, the World Bank has played a great role in reaching environmental sustainability through financing most of the world environmental projects. It is considered as the largest external source of financing for water projects totaled \$17 billion, with 56% for water supply and

sanitation. The World Bank also is one of the largest international financiers of biodiversity conservation with a portfolio of 245 projects in 74 countries with over \$1 billion from 2004 to 2013.<sup>30</sup>

### **3-3- The improvement of the slum dwellers' lives**

Another great achievement occurred in the lives of people living in slums which have improved significantly in the last 15 years. Between 2000 and 2014, more than 320 million people gained access to either improved water, improved sanitation, durable housing or less crowded housing conditions, this means the MDG was largely surpassed. In which the proportion of urban population living in slums in the developing regions fell from approximately 39% in 2000 to 30% in 2014. The proportion of urban population living in slums has fallen significantly in almost regions and the largest declines have taken place in Eastern Asia, South-Eastern Asia, and Southern Asia. In 2015, the regions with the lowest prevalence of slum conditions are Latin America and the Caribbean and Northern Africa, this later the proportion of urban slum declined almost by half from 20% in 2000 to 11% in 2014.

Despite this impressive progress, the number of urban people living in slums still growing due to accelerating urbanization, population growth and the lack of appropriate land and housing policies, over 880 million urban residents is estimated to live in slum conditions today. For instance,

Sub-Saharan Africa continues to have the highest prevalence of slum conditions of all regions estimated at 55% in 2014, as well as Iraq, which experienced an increase of more than 60% between 2000 and 2014 due to conflicts<sup>31</sup>.

At the national level, The Algerian housing sector has benefited from huge investments within the economic revival scheme, support growth program, and development programs associated with these programs during the period 2000-2009, which had led to an overall improvement of the housing indicators where the sector grew by 9.8% in 2008. On the other hand, the Algerian government has made prestigious efforts during the period 2000-2008, in which has been eliminated around 70,000 fragile housing units. In the same context and as a part of the program that aimed to eliminate approximately 561,000 fragile housing units, it has been allocated 340,000 units of rental public housing formula and they are in the process of completion<sup>32</sup>.

## **4-MDG7 progress and gaps**

### **4-1-The Evaluation of MDG7 progress from 2005-2015**

According to the United Nations millennium development goals progress charts (2005-2015) (Appendix3), the major achievements in MDG 7 were fulfilled by 2015. Before the deadline, Most of the world regions had succeeded to meet the MDG7 targets, particularly the target9,

through the indicator of “reversing the forests loss” by adopting the principles of afforestation in the countries’ policies. Recently, countries in Asia, Latin America, and the Caribbean have succeeded to halve the proportion of people without improved drinking water. Furthermore, Northern Africa, Eastern, Western Central Asia, and the Caucasus have achieved the target of halving the population without sanitation, whereas, only Northern Africa has met the target of improving slum dwellers’ lives. On the other hand, till 2015, Sub-Saharan and Oceania didn’t experience any progress in all MDG 7’s targets, and the UN didn’t get sufficient data to evaluate the progress.

On the national level, according to the national MDGs’ report (2005), Algeria succeeded to reach the target 9 as the other world countries. The rate of forest areas rose to 22 % of required area for ecological balance, as a result of the government’s adoption of the National Reforestation Plan (NRP). The NRP is planning to achieve long-term targets, by increasing the forest cover of the North of Algeria from 11% to nearly 13% over 20 years.<sup>33</sup>

By 2010, Algeria had experienced the fulfillment of the target providing drinking water and sanitation facilities, i.e. Algeria has reached extremely reducing the proportion of people who safe drinking water and sanitation facilities are not available to them in half before the deadline 2015, in which 95% of the population are using improved drinking water from protected sources, and 86 % of the population are using improved

sanitation services in the urban areas<sup>34</sup>. But these results hide a lot of the disparity between urban and rural areas, which has reached 40% in 2005<sup>35</sup>. For the target of improving the slum dwellers’ life, Algeria is making efforts to develop the housing sector through increasing rental public and rural housing, which reached 65% of delivered houses, and furthermore projects in the process of completion.<sup>36</sup>

Despite all these significant achievements, the data indicate the inequality and disparity in reaching the MDG7 targets between the developed and non-developed countries, Northern and Southern regions, and the gap between the rural and the urban people within the one country. Moreover, other barriers and obstacles that may hinder the progress, particularly in the outback and fragile regions such as Sub-Saharan and Oceania.

#### **4-2- MDG7 gaps and challenges**

Countries face many challenges to monitoring MDG7 and the other MDGs indicators due to the lack of basic data that hinder policy making. Basic data for development are missing important data on development such as the number of deaths, the number of quality of jobs, and data on agricultural productivity. Data gap for monitoring MDG7 remains low, especially in small and fragile countries. These countries suffer from political, institutional and financial obstacles that hamper collecting, analyzing data and accessing them to the public, for instance, most of the Sub-Saharan African countries.

Thus, there is an urgent need to improve the data sources or sustainable data used for sustainable development. This led the international community to start working on a new development framework in which the report of the high-level panel of eminent persons on the post 2015 development agenda called for a "data revolution", which reflects the demand for better, faster, more accessible, more disaggregated data monitoring MDGs progress to reduce poverty and achieve sustainable development. The new data demand requires country ownership and government commitment to increase resources for the statistical system and building statistical capacity, with the support of the international community. It also asks to bring new information technologies and existing data infrastructure together to produce improved development data.<sup>37</sup>

Climate change is considered as the urgent global challenge for the international community that hampers the progress achieved in MDG7. Such as, Global emissions of carbon dioxide have increased by over 50% since 1990 addressing the large rise in greenhouse gas emissions and resulting impacts on the climate change as changed ecosystems, weather extremes, and risks to society<sup>38</sup>. Addressing climate change is a demanding priority for the World Bank Group. Without bold actions now, the warming planet threatens to put prosperity out of reach of millions and roll back decades of development. For that reason, climate risk is now considered in all country assistance and partnership strategies for the poorest countries. About 85% also consider disaster risk. All country

strategies increasingly incorporate climate- and disaster-resilient planning and interventions such as "climate smart" agriculture and measures to boost food security and water efficiency<sup>39</sup>

As well as, environmental degradation also remains the problem that weakens the ecosystems and damages them. The water scarcity affects 40 percent of people in the world land and it is expected to increase in future. Many forests are under the threat of declining in which 5.2 million of hectares were lost in 2010, an area about the size of Costa Rica. In addition, over-exploitation of marine fish stocks led to declines in the percentages of stocks within safe biological limits, down from 90% in 1972 to 71% in 2011. And Species are also declining overall in numbers and distribution this will lead to the threat of extinction.<sup>40</sup>

According to the previous achievements, the big gaps between the poorest and the reaches, the rural and urban areas are evident. In wish, progress was uneven across fragile countries and regions. The poorest and the most vulnerable people are being left behind because of their sex, age, disability, ethnicity or geographic location. About 16 %of the rural population do not use improved drinking water sources, compared to 4 %of urban population. About 50% of people living in rural areas lack improved sanitation facilities, compared to only 18% of people in urban areas. As well as, the poorest people are most likely to suffer from the environmental issues and climate



change due to bad life conditions they are living in<sup>41</sup>.

Recently another challenge has occurred and spread around the world; conflicts significantly threaten both human and sustainable development. By the end of 2014, conflicts have forced almost 60 million people to abandon their homes, and this is the highest level recorded since the Second World War. Every day 42.000 of people on average are forcibly displaced and compelled to seek protection due to conflicts, almost four times the 2010 number of 11.000. Fragile and conflict- affected countries typically have the highest rate of poor and hunger people, without access to basic services. In which, 1 in 3 people still use unimproved sanitation facilities and 946 million people still practice open defecation, 880 million of people are estimated to live in a slum- conditions, thus they will affect badly on the environment.<sup>42</sup>

## Conclusion

As a conclusion, the millennium development goals have produced the most successful approach to stop poverty in the world history. In 2000, World leaders had entered into a global commitment to stop poverty before 2015 by achieving all the MDGs. As it is mentioned in this paper, the goal seven "ensuring environmental sustainability" is a vital goal as the development is grounded from the environmental resources, thus MDG7 is so linked to the other MDGs. By 2015, the counties of the world have experienced a great progress in this goal indicators and achieved its main

targets, particularly the target of halving the proportion of people without access to improved water sources and sanitation services, and the indicator of reversing the loss of forests for instance Algeria. However, this doesn't mean to stop at 2015, but further global work is needed to bridge the gaps and find solutions to the previous issues and challenges especially the need to tackle the environmental issues. This is the first step towards working on the post-2015 development agenda, including the set of sustainable development goals.

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- <sup>14</sup> - United Nation development programme, op.cit, p.p.32-33.
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- <sup>16</sup> - United Nation development programme, op.cit, p.13.
- <sup>17</sup> - Ibid. p. 26-27.
- <sup>18</sup> - G. Gallopin, K.Khoday, N.Lewis, J.Lubchenco, J. Melillo, G.Schmidt-Traub, M.Sombilla " Implications for Achieving the Millennium Development Goals", Ecosystems and Human Well-being: Policy Responses, Findings of the Responses Working Group, volume 3, Island Press 2005, p.p.566-567.
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## Appendix 1: The Millennium Development Goals and Targets

The millennium development Goals	Targets
Goal 1: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger	<b>Target 1:</b> Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people whose income is less than one dollar a day <b>Target 2:</b> Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people who suffer from hunger
Goal 2: Achieve universal primary education	<b>Target 3:</b> Ensure that, by 2015, children everywhere, boys and girls alike, will be able to complete a full course of primary schooling
Goal 3: Promote gender equality and empower women	<b>Target4:</b> Eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education preferably by 2005and to all levels of education no later than 2015
Goal 4: Reduce child mortality	<b>Target 5:</b> Reduce by two-thirds, between 1990 and 2015, the under-five mortality rate
Goal 5: Improve maternal health	<b>Target 6:</b> Reduce by three-quarters, between 1990and 2015, the maternal mortality ratio
Goal 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases	<b>Target 7:</b> Have halted by 2015, and begun to reverse, the spread of HIV/AIDS <b>Target 8:</b> Have halted by 2015, and begun to reverse, the incidence of malaria and other major diseases
Goal 7: Ensure environmental sustainability	<b>Target 9:</b> Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programmes and reverse the loss of environmental resources <b>Target 10:</b> Halve, by 2015, the proportion of people without sustainable access to safedrinkng water <b>Target 11:</b> By 2020, to have achieved a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100million slum dwellers

Goal 8: Develop a Global Partnership for Development	<p><b>Target 12:</b> Develop further an open, rule-based, predictable, non-discriminatory trading and financial system Includes a commitment to good governance, development, and poverty reduction – both nationally and internationally</p> <p><b>Target 13:</b> Address the Special Needs of the Least Developed Countries. Includes: tariff and quota free access for LDC exports; enhanced programme of debt relief for HIPC and cancellation of official bilateral debt; and more generous ODA for countries committed to poverty reduction</p> <p><b>Target 14:</b> Address the Special Needs of landlocked countries and small island developing states (through Barbados Programme and 22<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly provisions)</p> <p><b>Target 15:</b> Deal comprehensively with the debt problems of developing countries through national and international measures in order to make debt sustainable in the long term</p> <p><b>Target 16:</b> In cooperation with developing countries, develop and implement strategies for decent and productive work for youth</p> <p><b>Target 17:</b> In cooperation with pharmaceutical companies, provide access to affordable, essential drugs in developing countries</p> <p><b>Target 18:</b> In cooperation with the private sector, make available the benefits of new technologies, especially information and communications</p>
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**Source :** adopted from UN Statistics Division Millennium Development Goals website : <http://mdgs.un.org>. last access: 15/10/2016.

## Appendix 2: MDG 7 Global Targets and Indicators

Goal7(MDG7)	Ensure	Environmental	Sustainability
Targets	Indicators		
Target 9.A: Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programmes and reverse the loss of environmental resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Proportion of land area covered by forest</li> <li>7.2 CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, total, per capita and per \$1 GDP (PPP)</li> <li>- Consumption of ozone-depleting substances</li> <li>7.4 Proportion of fish stocks within safe biological limits</li> </ul>		
Target 9.B: Reduce biodiversity loss, achieving, by 2010, a significant reduction in the rate of loss	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Proportion of total water resources used</li> <li>- Proportion of terrestrial and marine areas protected</li> <li>- Proportion of species threatened with extinction</li> </ul>		

Target 10: Halve, by 2015, the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Proportion of population using an improved drinking water source</li><li>- Proportion of population using an improved sanitation facility</li></ul>
Target 11: By 2020, to have achieved a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Proportion of urban population living in slums</li></ul>

**Source :** Adopted from: United Nations, UN Statistics Division Millennium Development Goals'' Official list of MDG indicators “, effective 15/1/2008. Available at: <http://mdgs.un.org>. last access 15/10/2016.

MDG 7 TARGETS	YEAR	Africa		Asia				Oceania	Latin America and Caribbean	Common_wealth of	Independent states
		Northern	Sub- Saharan	Eastern	Southern-Easter	Southern	Western			Europe	Asia
Reverse loss of forests	2005	Small area	Medium area	Medium area	Large area	Medium area	Small area	Large area	Large area	Large area	Small area
	2010	Low forest cover	Medium forest area	Medium forest area	High forest cover	Medium forest area	Low forest cover	High forest cover	High forest cover	High forest cover	Low forest cover
Halve proportion without improved drinking water	2005	High coverage	Low coverage	Moderate coverage	Moderate coverage	High coverage	High coverage	Low coverage	High coverage	High coverage	Moderate coverage
	2010	High coverage	Low coverage	Moderate coverage	Moderate coverage	Moderate coverage	High coverage	Low coverage	High coverage	High coverage	Moderate coverage
	2015	High coverage	Low coverage	High coverage	High coverage	High coverage	High coverage	Low coverage	High coverage	Cocacus and	Central Asia
										Moderate	coverage
Halve proportion without sanitation	2005	High coverage	Very low coverage	Low coverage	Moderate coverage	Very low coverage	High coverage	Moderate coverage	High coverage	High coverage	Moderate coverage
	2010	Moderate coverage	Very low coverage	Low coverage	Low coverage	Very low coverage	Moderate coverage	Low coverage	Moderate coverage	Moderate coverage	High coverage
	2015	Moderate coverage	Very low coverage	Moderate coverage	Low coverage	Very low coverage	High coverage	Very low coverage	Moderate coverage	Cocacus and	Central asia
										High	coverage
Improve the lives of slum-dwellers	2005	Moderate proportion of slum-dwellers	Very high proportion of slum-dwellers	High proportion of slum-dwellers	Moderate proportion of slum-dwellers	Very high proportion of slum-dwellers	High proportion of slum-dwellers	-----	High proportion of slum dwellers	Low proportion of slum-dwellers	Moderate proportion of slum dwellers
	2010	Moderate proportion of slum-dwellers	Very high proportion of slum-dwellers	Moderate proportion of slum-dwellers	Highproportion of slum-dwellers	High proportion of slum-dwellers	Moderate proportion of slum dwellers	Moderate proportion of slum dwellers	Moderate proportion of slum-dwellers	-----	-----
	2015	Low proportion of slum-dwellers	Very high proportion of slum-dwellers	Moderate proportion of slum- dwellers	Moderate proportion of slum-dwellers	Moderate proportion of slum-dwellers	Moderate proportion of slum-dwellers	Moderate proportion of slum-dwellers	Moderate proportion of slum-dwellers	Caucasu and	Central Asia
										-----	-----

**Appendix 3: MDG7 progress chart from (2005-2015)**

The progress chart operates on two levels. The words in each box indicate the present level of development. . The colours show progress made towards the target by 2015 according to the legend below:

No progress

Target is not expected to be met by 2015

Target is expected to be met by 2015

Target already met or very close to being met

(-----) Insufficient data

United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the UN Department of Public Information, Millennium development goals progress chart (2005)

**Source:** Adopted from:

United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Statistics Division, millennium development goals progress chart (2010), (2015)

Available at: UN Statistics Division Millennium Development Goals website: <http://mdgs.un.org>. Last access: 15/10/2016.