Reforming the role of the UN Towards achieving the MDGs

Simon Maxwell

Overseas Development Institute

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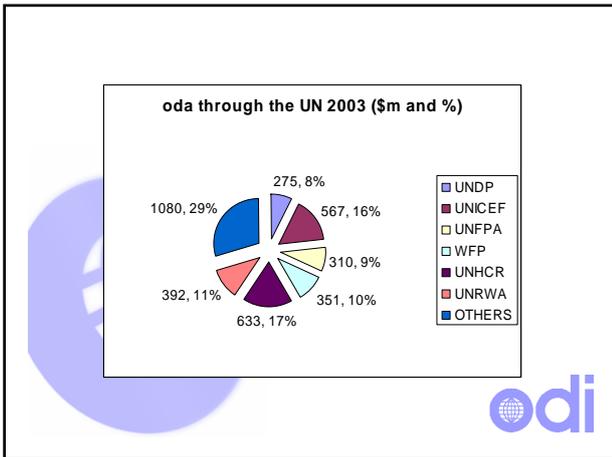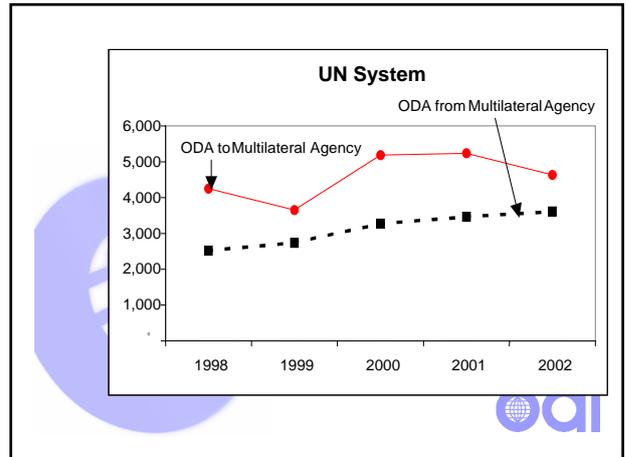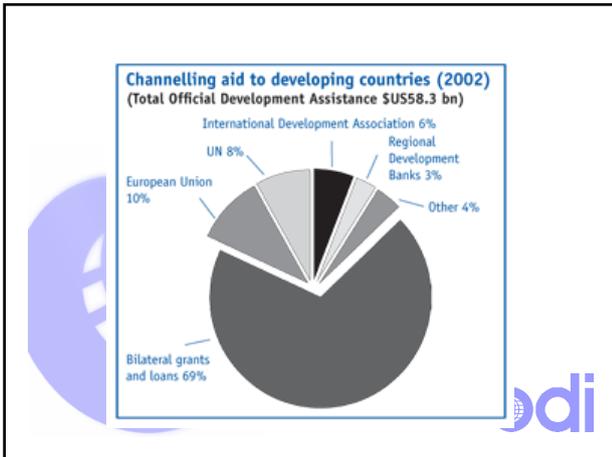## 2005: OUR DATE WITH DESTINY . . .

- High Level Panel on Threats etc . . .
- Sachs Report and MDG Summit
- Africa Commission
- High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness
- IDA renewal
- G8 initiatives
- EU (new Commission, new policy, financial perspectives)
- Hong Kong trade agenda
- The IFF?

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UN Roles

- Research on cross-cutting issues
- Consensus-building, advocacy, and target-setting
- A forum for the preparation and negotiation of inter- national treaties or conventions
- Technical co-ordination and standard-setting
- Information collection and dissemination
- Co-ordination of action among agencies, both national and international.
- Direct action (development, peace-keeping)

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Channelling aid to developing countries (2002)
(Total Official Development Assistance $US58.3 bn)

- International Development Association 6%
- Regional Development Banks 3%
- UN 8%
- European Union 10%
- Other 4%
- Bilateral grants and loans 69%

UN System

ODA to Multilateral Agency

ODA from Multilateral Agency

6,000
5,000
4,000
3,000
2,000
1,000

1998 1999 2000 2001 2002

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oda through the UN 2003 ($m and %)

- 275, 8%
- 1080, 29%
- 567, 16%
- 310, 9%
- 392, 11%
- 351, 10%
- 633, 17%

- UNDP
- UNICEF
- UNFPA
- WFP
- UNHCR
- UNRWA
- OTHERS

The United Nations system

But . . .

' . . . The system is not working as it should

. . . We need to take a hard look at our institutions themselves

. . . They may need radical reform.'

Kofi Annan - 8 September 2003

No lack of vision

1992 Agenda 21
1995 Commission on Global Governance
1996 Nordic UN Reform Project
1997 Renewing the UN: A Programme for Reform
1999 UNDP Human Development Report
2000 - 'We the Peoples: the role of the UN in the 21st Century
- UN Millennium Declaration
- Panel on UN Peace Operations (Brahimi)
- Swedish Initiative on financing the UN

2002 - Helsinki Process established
- Strengthening the UN – an agenda for future change
2003 - Commission on Human Security
- EU Communication on EU-UN relations
2004 - World Commission on Social Dimensions of Globalisation
- High level Panel on UN Civil Society Relations
- High level panel on threats, challenges and change
- WEF Global Governance Initiative
- Utstein Plus Initiative
2005 - In Larger Freedom

No lack of principles

- Respect for life
- Liberty
- Justice
- Equity
- Mutual respect
- Caring
- Integrity
- Solidarity
- Diversity
- Safety first
- Respect for human rights
- Equitable North-South representation
- Tripartism
- Greater subsidiarity
- Participation
- Dignity
- Sovereign equality of states
- Self-determination
- Tolerance
- Respect for nature
- Shared responsibility
- Human development
- Effective voice
- Challenge and competition
- Medium term predictability
- Flexibility
- Impartiality
- High returns, added value and low transactions costs
- Responsive to political analysis

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No lack of ideas

- Track 1 and Track 2
- Expanded membership of Security Council
- Qualified Majority Voting in GA
- Economic and Social Security Council
- New role for the Trusteeship Council
- New voting arrangements for BWI Boards
- More open appointment procedures
- Replenishment funding of UN agencies
- Greater coordination, at headquarters and in the field (e.g. UNDG,UNDAF, UN House)
- Better evaluation and oversight
- Harmonisation of procedures

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UN Reform

- Not Why?

- Not What?

- But How?

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One way in: collective action theory

- Thin and thick rationality
- Public goods
- Managing common property
- Kin and Group selection
- Reciprocity and tit-for-tat
- Role and norm theories
- Social capital
- Six thinking hats

(Do read: Sarah Gillinson: 'Why cooperate? A multi-disciplinary study of collective action' ODI Working Paper 234, February 2004)

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When does cooperation happen? Sixteen conditions, including . . .

- Individual and collective interests aligned
- High degree of trust
- Long time scale
- Parties relatively equal
- The powerful need cooperation
- Social norms foster cooperation
- Free-riding noticed in small group
- The costs of defection are high
- Selective incentives induce cooperation
- Cooperation wide-ranging

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Doing better: An eight step programme

1. Keep the core group small
2. Trust building measures
3. Use the same core group throughout
4. Encourage network closure
5. Choose the right issues
6. Use positive incentives
7. Increase costs of defection
8. Establish institutions to manage change

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2005 Specifics

In Larger Freedom:
- Security Council Reform
- Responsibility to Protect
- Human Rights Council
- Peace-building Commission
- Democracy Fund
- ECOSOC as a development cooperation forum

What might be added?

- Governance Reform of the BWI?
- A financial funding window for the UN?
- Central financing of OCHA?
- A central budgeting system for the UN development system?

- Is there a need for Jackson II?