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**ATTAINMENT OF THE MDGs AND IMPLEMENTATION OF NEPAD
IN NORTH AFRICAN COUNTRIES:
PROGRESS AND PROSPECTS**

This report was presented at the 20th Meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts (ICE) of the ECA Sub-regional Office for North Africa. It has been revised to reflect comments and statistical information provided by meeting participants.

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. The problems of economic development were identified by the international community in the framework of the Millennium Declaration, adopted in September 2000 by 147 heads of state and government. The declaration contains goals labeled 'Millennium Development Goals' (MDGs) which cover most of the international development goals (IDGs) identified at world conferences and summits held during the 1990s.¹ The eight MDGs have been generally accepted as a reference for measuring development progress. They are accompanied by numbered targets to be attained over a period of 25 years, between 1990² and 2015, with appropriate indicators to evaluate the progress achieved in each domain. The first seven goals are mutually reinforcing and are aimed at reducing all forms of poverty. The last goal – global partnership for development – deals with the means for achieving the first seven.

2. The year 2005 is a crucial moment of the implementation of the MDGs. From this perspective, several initiatives have been taken at world level, in particular the publication in January 2005 of the report on the Millennium Project entitled 'Investing in development'. This is seen as a road map showing the way to achieve the MDGs between now and 2015³ at the least cost. To this can be added the publication of a report by the Secretary General of the United Nations Organisation (UN) on the application of the Millennium Declaration in March 2005. In addition, the United Nations General Assembly has decided to hold a high-level plenary meeting with the participation of heads of state and government⁴ at the beginning of its sixtieth session in September 2005 in New York. This meeting will examine the progress achieved towards fulfilling all the commitments made at the major UN conferences in the economic and social domain⁵.

3. At the African regional level, the Economic Commission for Africa, represented by its Executive Secretary Mr K. Y. Amoako, has insisted that in 2005 a clear common African position should be adopted on MDGs and on future prospects, in the light of the commitments made by the African countries themselves and by the international community⁶. It is on this basis that the ECA report on the achievement of the eight MDGs⁷ has been drawn up. The report indicates that most of the countries of the continent have definitely made progress, but that this has generally been below the performances required for the eradication of poverty. It underlines the challenges still facing these countries, especially with regard to their approach to the HIV/AIDS pandemic and to the conflicts which represent serious obstacles to development.

¹ See the list of MDGs in the appendix

² As for the international development goals, the year 1990 was taken as the base year for the millennium goals.

³ See the Report of the Millennium Project team entitled 'Investing in development', sponsored by the UN Secretary general, which was drawn up by an independent group of 265 experts under the supervision of the economist Jeffrey D. Sachs. January 2005.

⁴ United Nations (2004a), Report of the Secretary General on 'Modalities, form and organisation of the high level Plenary meeting of the sixtieth session of the General Assembly'. 1st November 2004.

⁵ United Nations (2004b), Resolution 58/291 on 'Follow up to the outcome of the Millennium Summit and integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up of the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and Summits in the economic and social fields'.

⁶ Speech of the ECA's Executive Secretary at the Sixth Ordinary Session of the Executive Council of the African Union, Abuja, Nigeria, 27 January 2005.

⁷ ECA (2005a), Progress and Prospects of Achieving the MDGs in Africa (draft).

4. Geographically, the situation varies from one part of Africa to another. The data on poverty and the social development indicators show that the performance of North Africa has been more satisfactory than that of other areas. The countries of the subregion are showing higher income levels which allow them to improve many aspects of their human development. However, the results seem to have been less convincing with regard to maternal mortality and youth unemployment, and improving the environment, all domains which require urgent action if these countries are to meet the MDG targets by 2015.

5. The New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), set up in 2001, can provide a framework for speeding up the implementation of the profound socio-economic reforms aimed at achieving the MDGs. The MDGs and NEPAD in fact share the same conditions for success, based on the clear and decisive commitment of all the countries towards the values of peace, democracy, respect for human rights and citizen participation.

6. The present report reviews North Africa's performances towards achieving the MDGs and the implementation of NEPAD. It constitutes a logical follow-up to the first reports on the MDGs drawn up by the ECA-Sub-regional Office for North Africa (SRO-NA) in 2002 and 2003.⁸ The novelty of its approach lies in its provision of a more thorough examination accompanied by proposals for monitoring the strategies to be followed by the governmental institutions. The report contains five chapters. After the introductory chapter, Chapter II offers a review of the progress made and the difficulties and obstacles encountered in the achievement of the MDGs. This review is based on the national and international documents and reports available. The third chapter analyses the challenges and prospects for the full realisation of the MDGs. The fourth chapter demonstrates the progress made towards the implementation of NEPAD, and discusses the possible ratchet effect this may have on the achievement of the MDGs. This chapter is based on the responses of member states to the questionnaire submitted to them by the Office, on discussions with the regional and international bodies and institutions, and especially on information provided by the NEPAD Secretariat. The fifth chapter draws some conclusions.

⁸ See the Reports on Economic and Social Conditions in North Africa, 2002 and 2003.

II. NORTH AFRICA AND THE ACHIEVEMENT OF THE MDGs: REAL PROGRESS?

7. This chapter evaluates the progress of the countries with regard to the achievement of each of the eight millennium development goals, and then identifies the major challenges facing these countries⁹. The various graphs are based on the statistical data in the appendix.

II.1. Goal 1: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger

Target 1: *Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people whose income is less than \$1 per day.*

Target 2: *Halve, between 1990 and 2005, the proportion of people who suffer from hunger.*

8. Graph 1a below is based on the international definition of the poverty threshold (percentage of the population living on less than \$1 per day)¹⁰. It can be seen that Tunisia already reached the target, in 2001. Morocco closely follows, with an estimated poverty rate of 0.5% in 2001 for an expected target of 0.4% in 2015. The poverty figures are also low for the other countries, representing only about 2 or 3% of the population in Algeria and Egypt. These two countries could thus follow Tunisia and Morocco, and also meet Target 1, provided some supplementary efforts are made to modify the historical tendency towards a stagnation of the poverty rate. The lack of available data for Libya, Mauritania and Sudan makes it impossible to evaluate this indicator for these three countries.

9. It is important to note that the international definition of the poverty threshold does not always correspond to that adopted by the governments of the different countries; this has emerged from the national reports on the MDGs. Accordingly, Graph 1b, which relies on official national sources, shows that the number of poor people is much larger than is suggested by Graph 1a. For instance, in Tunisia 4.2% of the population was living below the national poverty threshold in 2001, as opposed to 8% in 1990. The shifts in Algeria and Egypt have been from 23% to 15% and from 25% to 16.7% respectively, and that in Morocco from 23.5% to 13.7%. In Mauritania the rate has dropped from 56.6% in 1990 to 46.3% in 2000.

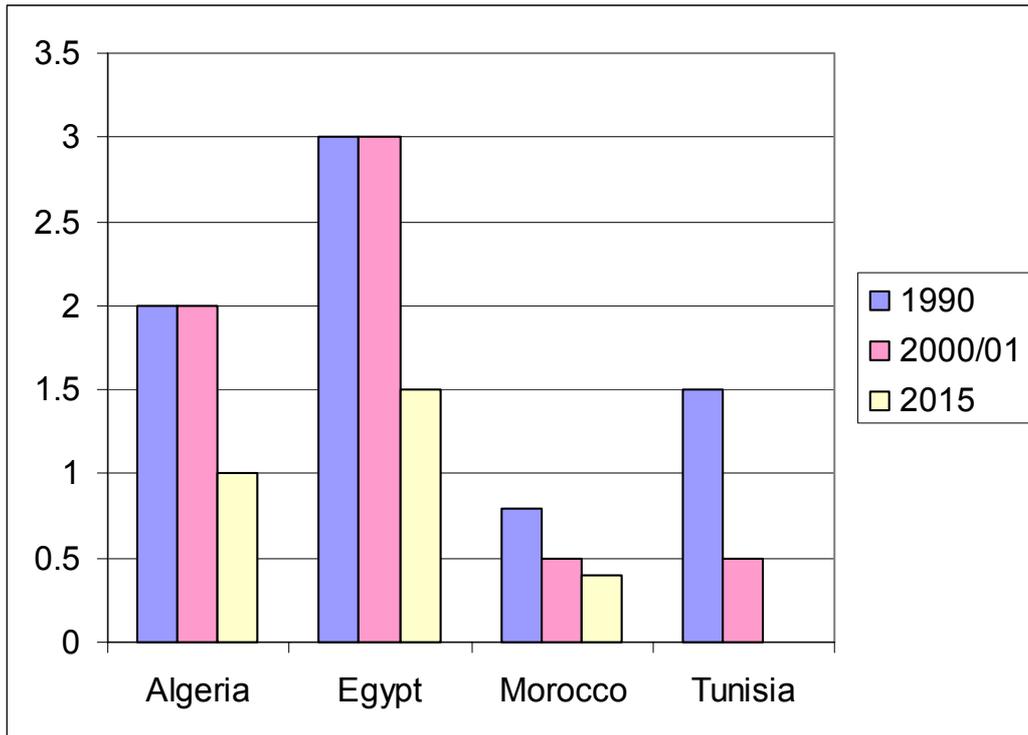
10. However, the trends in Tunisia and Algeria represent a reduction of almost half, which suggests that these two countries will easily be able to reach Target 1 by 2015. In Egypt and Morocco the reduction is smaller, but they could catch up with the other two countries if they speed up reforms aimed at avoiding stagnation or a new upsurge of poverty. Mauritania should increase the initiatives it has taken in its strategy for reducing poverty, with the aim not merely of reducing the actual number of the poor, but also of trying to prevent other vulnerable persons from joining their number.

11. Official data on poverty are not available for Libya and Sudan. However, the results of fieldwork carried out in Sudan show no significant reduction of the phenomenon, which apparently continues to affect more than half the population (World Bank, 2003).

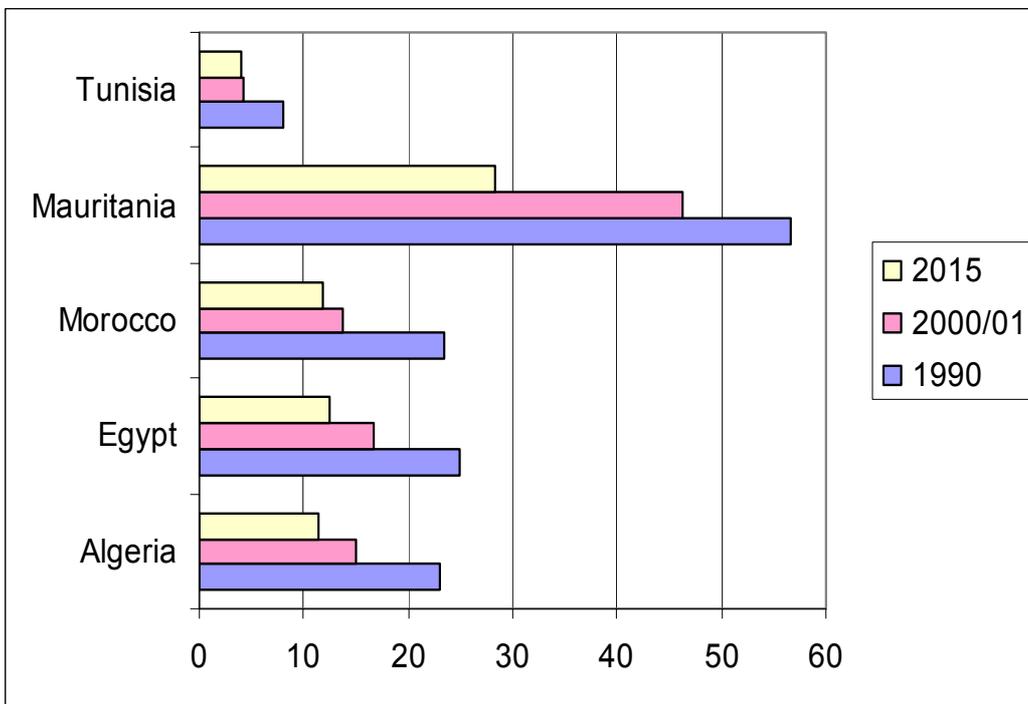
⁹ The choice of indicators used in the analysis was imposed by constraints relating to data and statistical information.

¹⁰ According to the UNDP, Poverty Line is equivalent to \$1.08 (purchasing power of 1993).

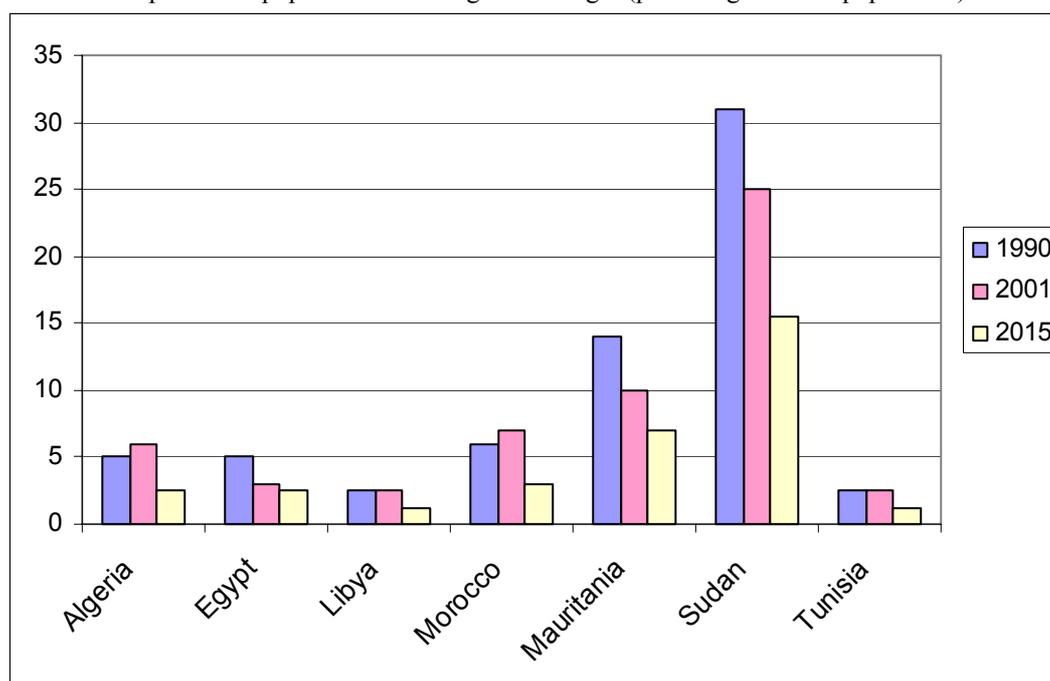
Graph 1a
Proportion of population living below \$1 (PPP) per day



Graph 1b
Percentage of population below national poverty line



Graph 2
Proportion of population suffering from hunger (percentage of total population)



12. Graph 2, relating to Target 2, indicates that in 2001 between 2 and 7% of the total population of a number of countries (Algeria, Egypt, Morocco, Tunisia) were suffering from hunger. The same graph shows a slight increase in the number of persons affected in Algeria and Morocco between 1990 and 2001, whereas the rates observed in Libya and Tunisia (though the lowest) seem to have stagnated since 1990. The rates for Mauritania (10%) and Sudan (25%) are again comparatively the highest. The data concerning Sudan reflect not only the insufficient food supplies but also, especially, the limited access to this for the most vulnerable populations, especially in the areas of conflict.

13. In general, the trends suggest that Algeria, Egypt, Morocco and Tunisia have the ability to potentially meet the targets set for 2015.

II.2 Goal 2: Achieve universal primary education

Target 3: *Ensure that, by 2015, children everywhere, boys and girls alike, will be able to complete a full course of primary schooling.*

14. Education is considered as a major force for development, hence the need for all countries to guarantee it for all strata of their populations. The countries of the subregion are no exception to this rule, and most of them have even achieved fairly high levels of enrolment in primary education. This is shown in Graph 3.

15. The figures for the year 2001 show that the net enrolment ratio in primary education varies from 99% in Tunisia¹¹, to 98% in Algeria and Libya, and 93% in Egypt. It can thus be said that these four countries are very likely to attain the goal of universal education before 2015.

16. The efforts made by the Moroccan government, supported by a strong growth rate, should make it possible to raise the enrolment ratio from 84.5% in 2000/2001 to 100% in 2015. This is already indicated by the enrolment rate of around 92% observed in 2004.

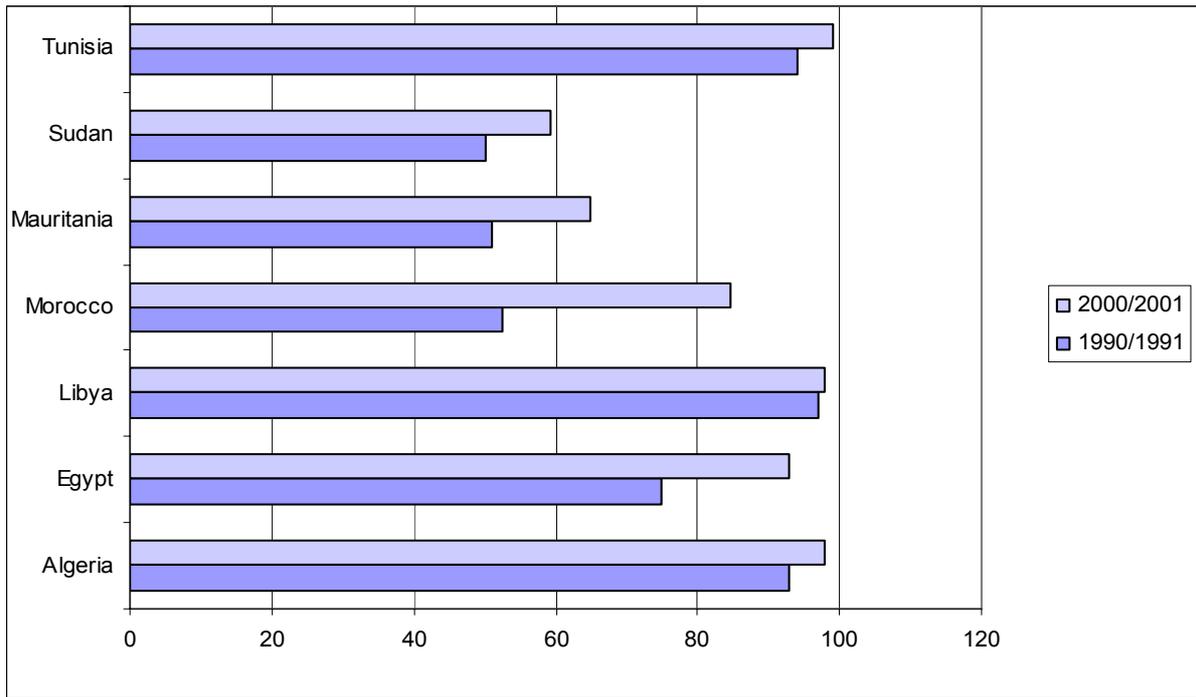
17. With rates of 65% and 59.4% respectively, Mauritania and Sudan must accelerate their progress considerably if they wish to attain this goal. The World Bank (2003), taking 1990 as the base year, estimated that the enrolment ratio in primary education would have to rise by 2.8% per annum on average in Sudan if the target of universal education were to be reached by 2015. Given that this rate had reached only 59.4% in 2001, a growth rate of 4.5% per annum as from 2001 would be needed for the target to be met in 2015.

18. The literacy rate of 15-24 year-olds serves as another indicator of Goal 2. The trend shown in Graph 4 reveals disparities between countries. Thus, it can be seen that with a rate of 94.3% in 2002, Tunisia should follow in the footsteps of Libya, which already achieved the target of 97% in 2001. Algeria (89.9%) is closer to the goal than Sudan (79.1%) and Egypt (73.2%). Behind them come Morocco (69.5%) and Mauritania (49.6%).

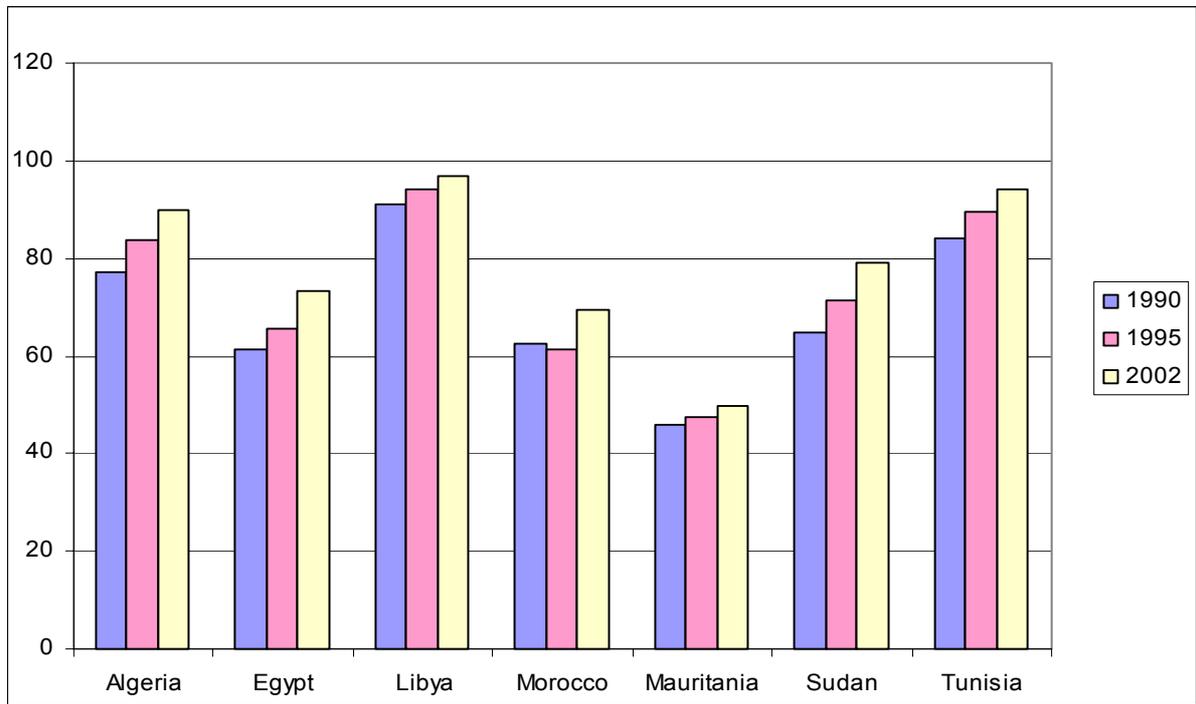
19. From the results relating to Goal 2, it can be deduced that four countries, Algeria, Egypt, Libya and Tunisia, should be on track by 2015. The countries will nevertheless have to deal with the problem of illiteracy which still persists despite the high rates of school enrolment indicated above. In fact, the UNDP data (2004) show that in 2002 there were still high levels of illiteracy, which reached 18.3% in Libya, 26.8% in Tunisia, 31.1% in Algeria, 44.4% in Egypt and 49.3% in Morocco.

¹¹ The results of the 2004 population census show that this rate has not changed since 2001.

Graph 3
Net enrolment ratio in primary education



Graph 4
Literacy rate of 15-24 year-olds



II.3. Goal 3: Promote gender equality and empower women

Target 4: *Eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education, preferably by 2005, and in all levels of education no later than 2015.*

20. Graph 5 shows that Libya has already eliminated the disparities between girls and boys in primary education. Mauritania, Tunisia, Egypt and Algeria should be able to achieve this goal by 2005. Trends in Morocco and Sudan suggest that it will be more difficult for them to reach this target by the deadline.

21. In parallel, the ratio of girls to boys at the level of secondary education shows that parity has even been exceeded in favour of girls in Algeria, Libya and Tunisia between 2000/2001 and 2001/2002 (graph 6). Egypt, with a ratio of 93, should be able to remove the gap at secondary level by 2005. In contrast, given that this gap remains more pronounced in Sudan (89), Morocco (88) and Mauritania (76), extra efforts will be necessary if the disparities between girls and boys at secondary level are to be removed. Issues relating to the improvement of the girl/boy ratio should be at the centre of political debate, and large scale consciousness-raising campaigns should be carried out, especially in rural areas, in order to reduce the rate at which girls drop out of secondary school.

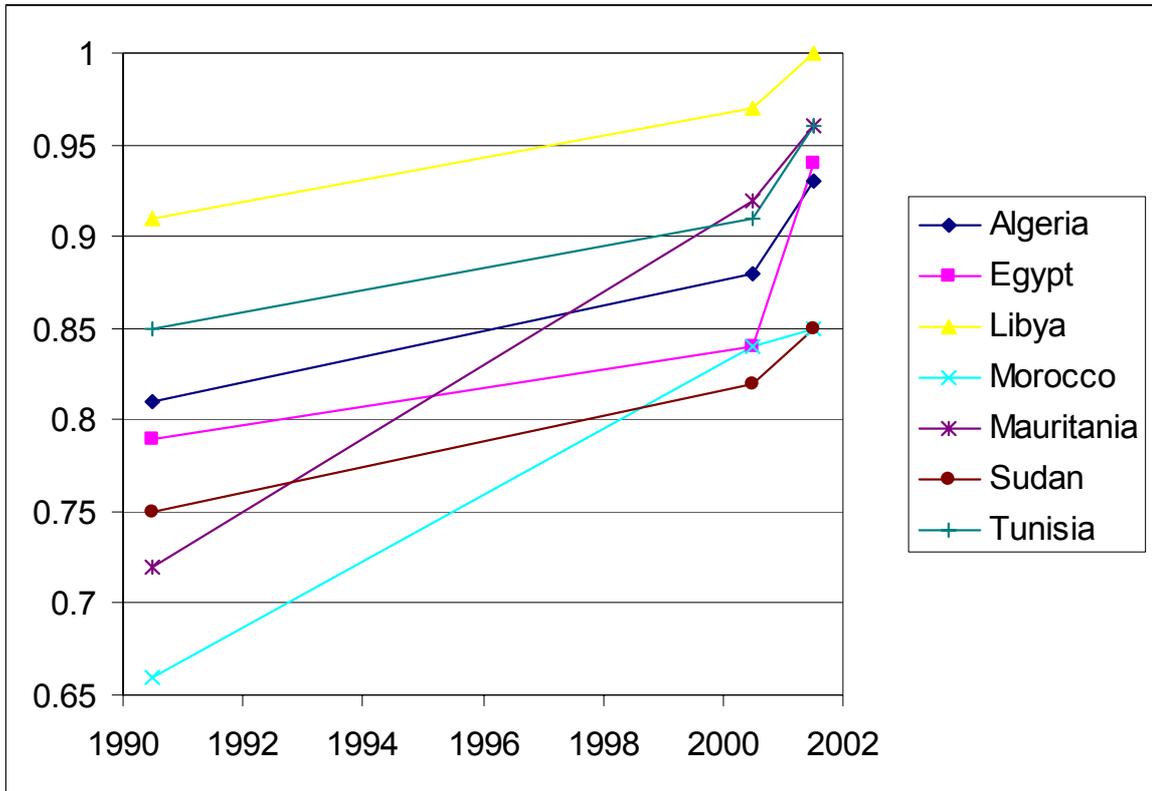
22. At the level of higher education, the data in Table 7 of the Appendix show that countries like Libya, Tunisia and Egypt have made remarkable progress, with 9 girls to 10 boys in higher education, which suggests that these countries will be able to eliminate the disparities between the sexes by 2015. In contrast, Morocco (8.4 to 10) and Sudan (8 to 10) will have to speed up their progress in this domain. As for Mauritania, where only one girl reaches higher education to every 5 boys, the attainment of this goal still seems remote.

23. Another indicator for Goal 5 is the share of women in wage employment in the non-agricultural sector. The available data suggest that this percentage has remained small in most countries, not exceeding 20% according to UNDP data, except in Morocco where it was 27% in 2001. The percentage is 12% in Algeria and 20% in Egypt. Moreover, these proportions have increased only slowly and in some cases have actually decreased (for instance, in Morocco the rate went from 37% in 1990 to 27% in 2001). For this reason, much more attention needs to be paid to the political and legal rights of women. In fact, apart from Tunisia, where considerable advances have been made, and despite the reforms of family law carried out in Morocco (reform of the Moudawana) and Algeria, there still remains much to be done if tangible results are to be achieved.

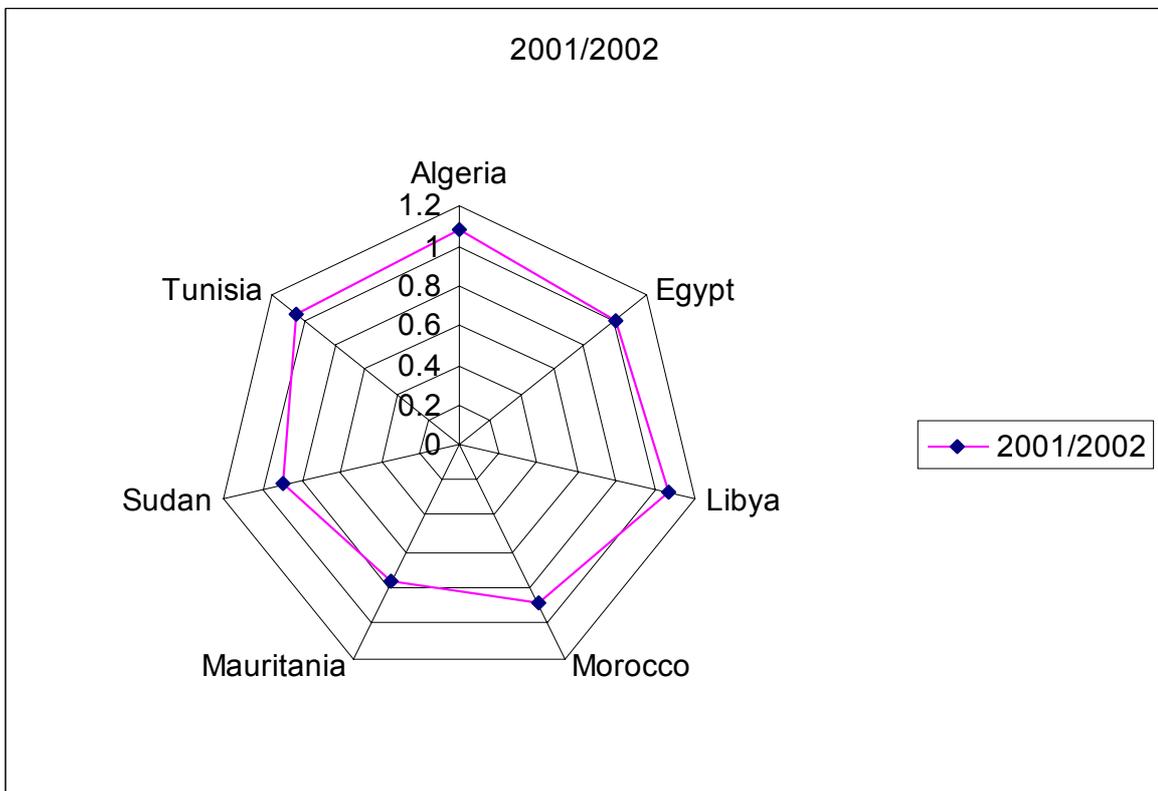
24. The proportion of seats held by women in national parliament has also remained low, at 2% in Egypt, 6% in Algeria, and barely more than 10% in Morocco, Tunisia and Sudan during 2003 (UNDP, 2004).

25. From the above it can be seen that Goal 3 is potentially within reach for five countries: Libya, Tunisia, Morocco, Egypt and Algeria, as far as education and some elements of employment are concerned.

Graph 5
Ratio of girls to boys in primary education



Graph 6
Ratio of girls to boys in secondary education



II.4. Goal 4: Reduce child mortality

Target 5: *Reduce, by two thirds, between 1990 and 2015, the under-five mortality rate.*

26. Graph 7 shows that the juvenile mortality rate has been reduced in Libya and Tunisia, which have the lowest rates in the subregion, at 19 and 26 per 1000 live births respectively. These rates are well below the average for the Arab states (48 per 1000 live births) and countries of medium human development (45 per 1000 live births) and are close to the average for the countries of the OECD (11 per 1000 live births).

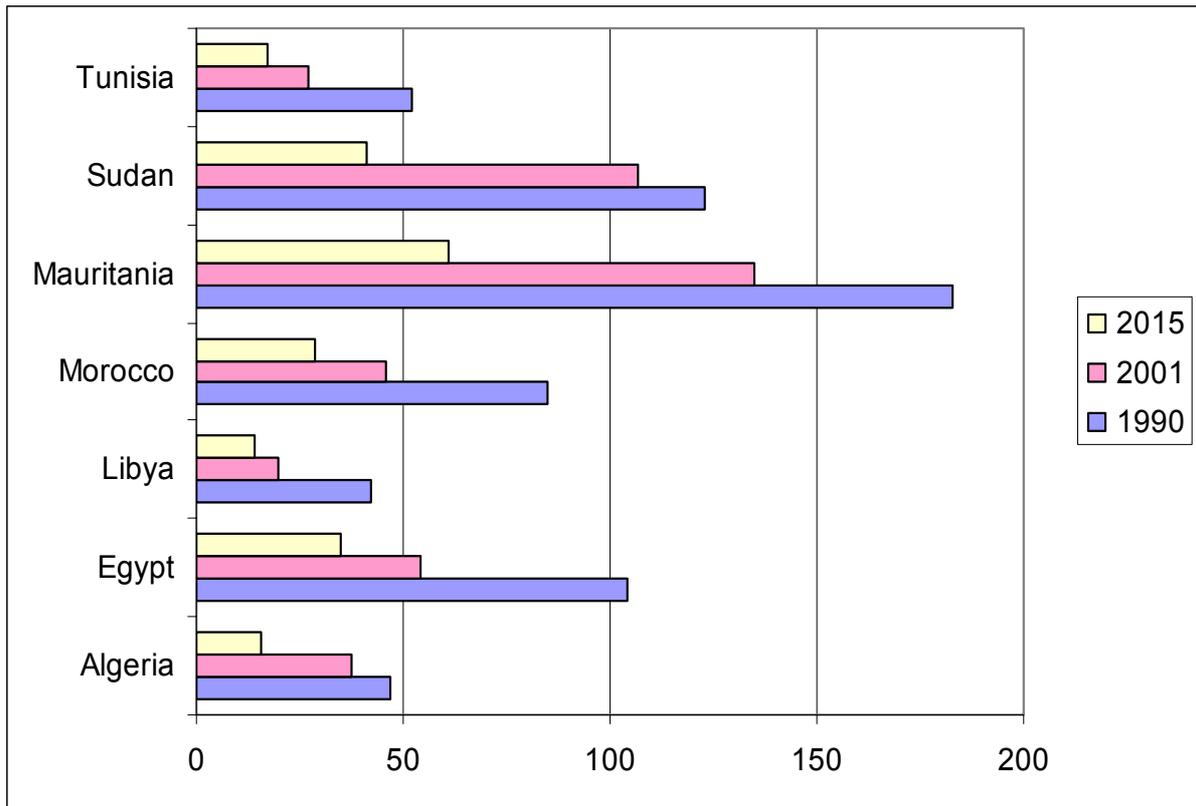
27. Egypt and Morocco, which had relatively high rates in 1990, but whose efforts have led to reductions of these rates to 54 and 46 per 1000 respectively, are well on the way to achieving the target by 2015. Algeria is displaying an downward trend which could allow achieving the target by the deadline.

28. Mauritania and Sudan have achieved a very slight reduction since 1990, with a rate of 135 and 107 per 1000 live births respectively, in 2001. These figures show that if no new measures are taken, Mauritania and Sudan are unlikely to attain the set targets.

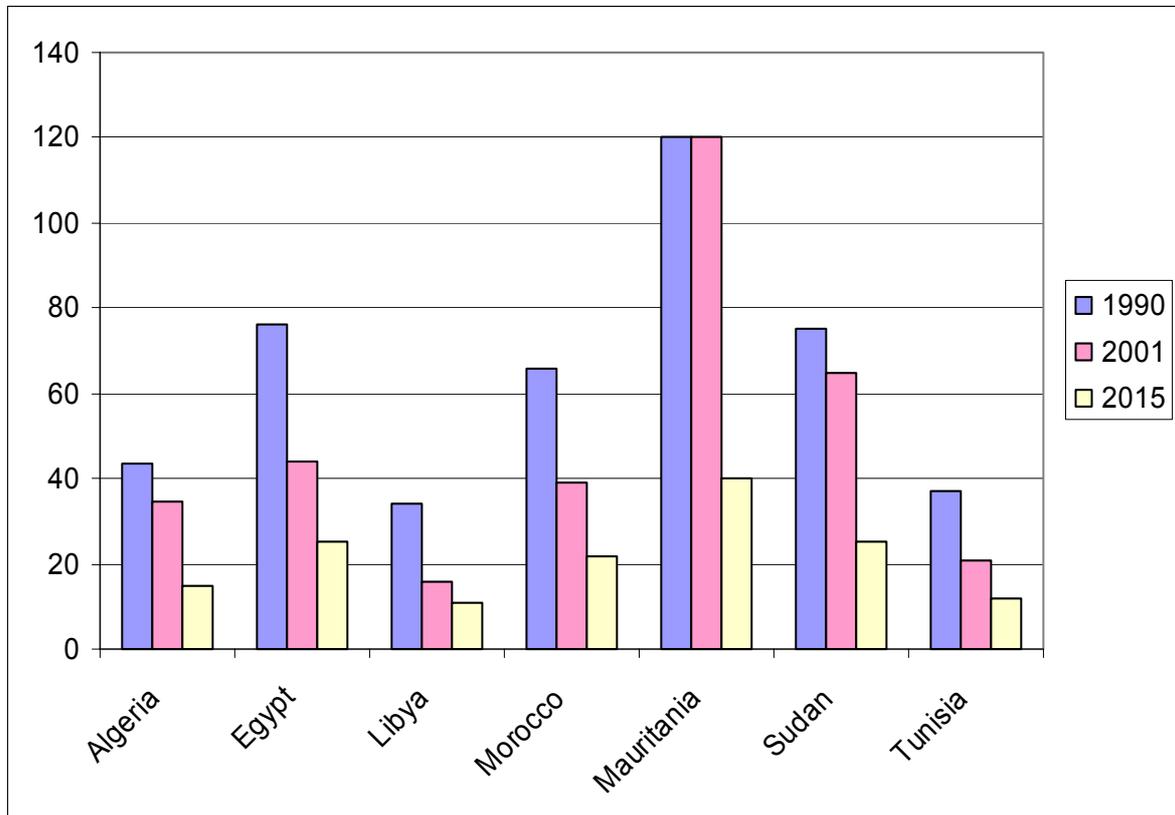
29. Graph 8, showing infant mortality (mortality in infants under one year) displays trends which are more or less similar to those seen in Graph 7, especially for Libya and Tunisia. If the trend continues, these two countries will be able to achieve the goal of reducing infant mortality by two thirds in 2015. Egypt and Morocco have also succeeded in cutting their infant mortality rates, but the present levels are still relatively high, requiring supplementary efforts if the target is to be met by 2015. Algeria and Sudan show a slight reduction, while Mauritania is displaying stagnating trends between 1990 and 2001.

30. From these results, it can be concluded that Libya, Tunisia, Egypt and Morocco should be able to achieve the goal of reducing the infant mortality rate.

Graph 7
Under-five Mortality Rates (per thousand live births)



Graph 8
Infant Mortality Rates (per thousand live births)



II.5. Goal 5: Improve maternal health

Target 6: *Reduce, by three quarters, between 1990 and 2015, the maternal mortality rate.*

31. Graph 9 reveals great disparities between countries with regard to the maternal mortality rate for 2001. The rates vary between 54.8 per 100,000 live births in Tunisia and 747 per 100,000 in Mauritania, with intermediary rates of 84 per 100,000 in Egypt, 97 in Libya, 117 in Algeria, 220 in Morocco and 590 in Sudan.

32. The trends observed reflect direct action taken in the domain of maternal and infant health and in awareness raising programmes in health education and prevention. These have been accompanied by advances in the domain of education among women and in their degree of mobility and empowerment.

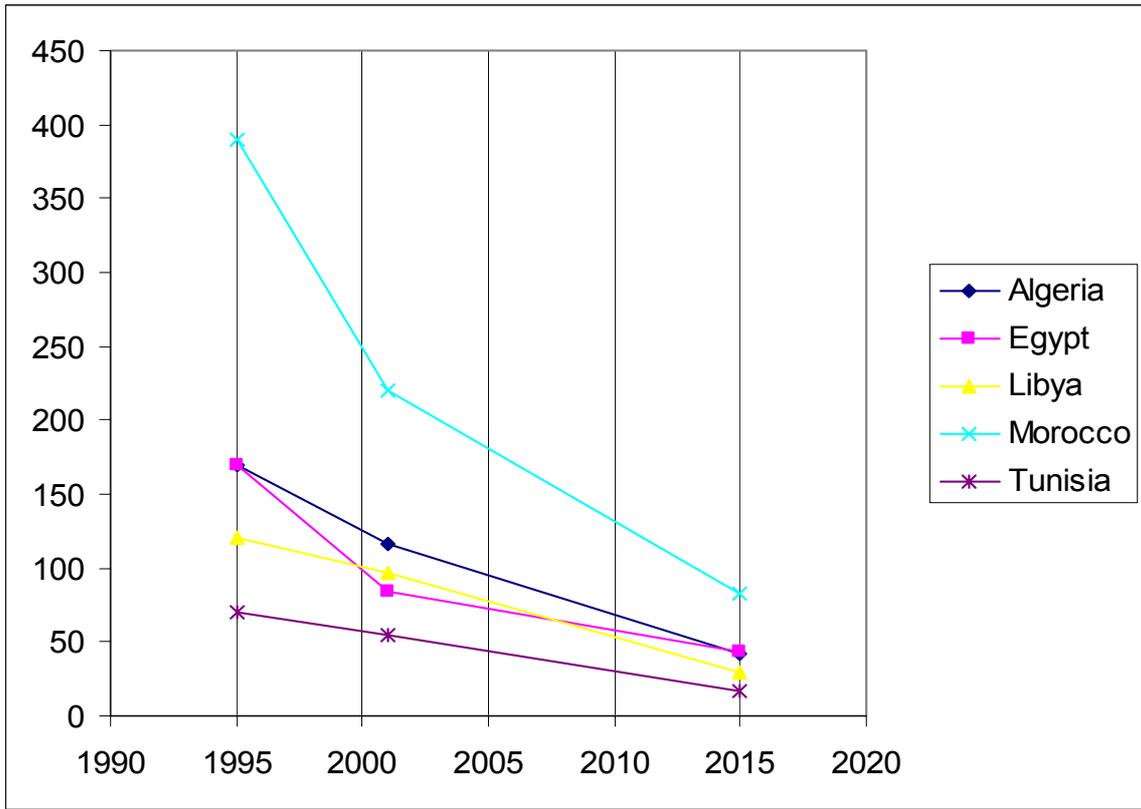
33. The trends shown by the curves for Morocco and Sudan suggest that these two countries are half way to their goal, and may be able to attain it by 2015. The case of Sudan, however, requires careful monitoring, in the light of the persistent state of conflict and massive displacement of people, which may reverse the trend, especially in the high-tension zones.

34. Algeria, Egypt, Libya and Tunisia show the same tendency towards lower rates, but they need to consolidate the action taken in the domain of health in general and reproductive health in particular, in order to speed up the fall in the maternal mortality rate and attain a reduction of three quarters by 2015.

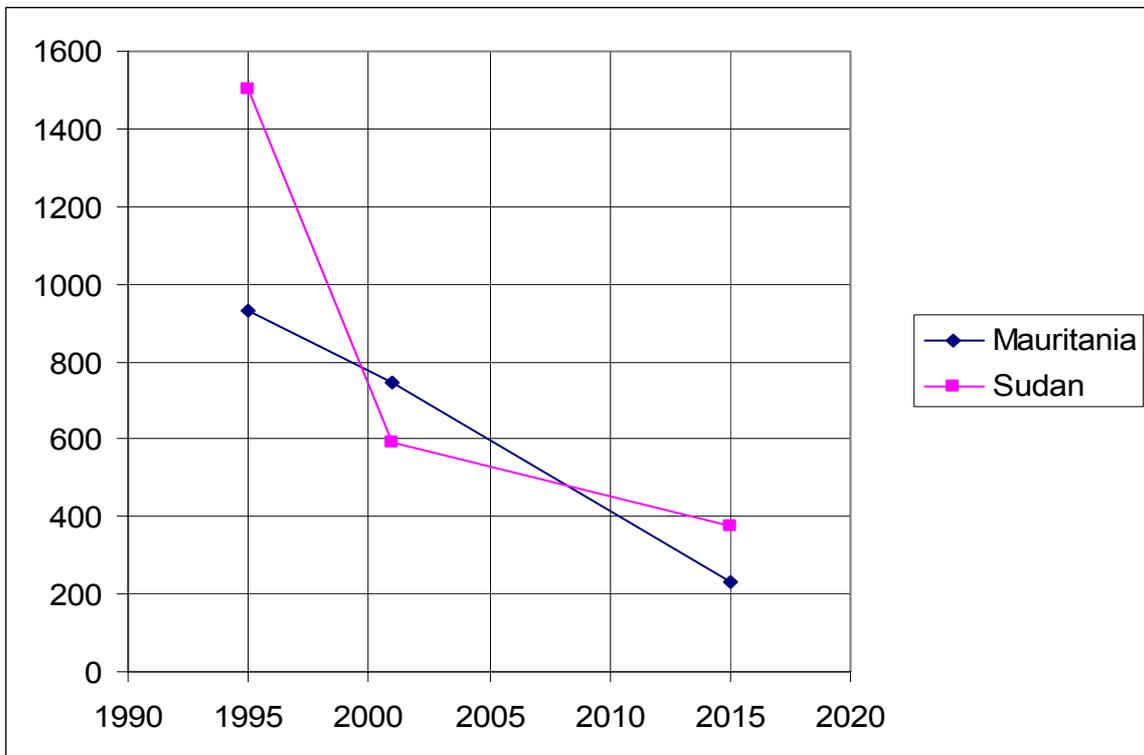
35. Mauritania is certainly the country facing the biggest challenge, given the very high maternal mortality rate and the only slight reduction noted between 1995 and 2001. If this trend continues, it will be difficult to attain Goal 5.

36. In general, the mortality rates remain high, but are tending to fall, which suggests that the targeted reduction in maternal mortality could be achieved within the deadline in Morocco, Algeria, Egypt, Libya and Tunisia, and probably also in Sudan. However, it will be difficult for Mauritania to achieve this goal.

Graph 9a
Maternal mortality rate



Graph 9b
Maternal mortality rate



II.6. Goal 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases

Target 7: *Have halved by 2015 and begun to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS.*

Target 8: *Have halved by 2015 and begun to reverse the incidence of malaria and their major diseases.*

37. In the struggle against HIV/AIDS, the international goal adopted is to curb and begin to reverse progression of the virus between now and 2015. Information from national sources indicates relatively low rates of HIV infection. Thus the evolution of prevalence rates in the 15 -49 year age group (Table 11 of the Appendix) shows rates of around 1% in most countries, except for Sudan, where the rate was about 1.6% in 2003. However, the latest estimates by UNAIDS indicate a rising trend which calls for greater monitoring by the countries, which from now on should be more aggressive in promoting preventive measures, in order to avoid the mistakes made at the beginning of the pandemic by most of the countries of sub-Saharan Africa.

38. Malaria is not a major problem in the subregion. Nevertheless it does constitute a public health problem in Mauritania and Sudan, and this in part accounts for the relatively high mortality rates, especially that for children under five, observed above (see also Table 12 of the appendix). Particular attention should also be paid to the evolution of the malaria rate in Algeria, which was 22 per 100,000 inhabitants in 2000.

39. Deaths related to tuberculosis, although limited (except in Mauritania and Sudan) have displayed a rising trend between 2000 and 2002. The highest rates for 2002 were observed in Mauritania and Sudan, with 437 and 346 per 100,000 respectively (see Table 12 in the Appendix), which represent more than twice the rates for 2000.

40. More support for the prevention and treatment of malaria, tuberculosis and other diseases, together with public awareness campaigns, is therefore needed in the fight against these diseases in order to reverse the trend which is evident not only in the countries at risk (Mauritania and Sudan) but also in countries like Algeria and Morocco, which display relatively high rates of tuberculosis.

41. The trends noted suggest to us that five countries (Algeria, Egypt, Libya, Morocco and Tunisia) have the capacity to achieve Goal 6.

II.7. Goal 7: Ensure environmental sustainability

Target 9: *Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programmes and reverse the loss of environmental resources.*

Target 10: *Halve, by 2015, the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation.*

Target 11: *Have achieved by 2020 a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers*

42. The subregion is known for the fragility of its physical environment. It is for this reason that the countries have already taken measures aimed at preserving their environmental resources.

43. In Algeria, the 1983 Law on the preservation of the environment proposes to integrate concern for the environment within industrial development and within scientific research policies. Moreover, the following laws have been promulgated and implemented, namely (i) the law on planning and sustainable development (2001); (ii) the law on coastal protection and development (2002); (iii) the law on the creation and development of new towns (2002); and, (iv) the law on environment protection and sustainable development (2003)

44. Egypt set up the Environmental Affairs Agency in 1982, with the goal of integrating environmental issues within the policies, plans, programmes and national strategies of sustainable development. This strategy aims to preserve the basis of national resources, cultural heritage and biodiversity, and to reduce current levels of pollutions in order to improve the quality of life.

45. In Morocco, the National Action Plan for the Environment represents the authorities' response to environmental challenges. The strategy adopted aims to make the environmental question a major preoccupation of socio-economic development and to improve the living environment of the population.

46. In Mauritania, the authorities are trying to integrate the principles of sustainable development into development policies, strategies and programmes. However, the actions taken so far still derive from an approach which is overly sector-based, with a certain lack of cross-sector collaboration and synergy.

47. In Sudan, policies and regulations have been adopted in order to find solutions to the environmental problems which are threatening the sustainability of agriculture. The most pressing challenge is to implement these laws and regulations effectively; this requires greater administrative and political commitment, in particular towards the indispensable reinforcement of the institutions responsible for them.

48. In Tunisia, much importance is placed on action to combat soil degradation, which falls within the framework of both the water and land conservation strategy and the strategy for forestry development and the fight against desertification. Recently carried out studies show that 3 million hectares of land in the centre and north are suffering from severe erosion, and more than 7 million hectares in the south are affected by sand invasion, wind depletion and secondary salinisation. The actions taken are all the more justified since, out of the total volume of water in Tunisia, 3000 million m³, which represents three quarters of the total, are considered as very susceptible to pollution.

49. Despite the actions initiated within the framework of the protection and preservation of the environment, most of the countries are facing deforestation and soil degradation which lead to ongoing desertification. Moreover, the proportion of land reserved for the maintenance of biological diversity represents no more than 5% of the total in many countries. Forested areas are quite limited, with proportions for 2001 of less than 1% in Algeria, Egypt and Libya, 3.1% in Tunisia and 6.8% in Morocco (Table 13 in the Appendix). In contrast, they cover about one quarter of the land in Sudan.

50. In the light of the physical and environmental characteristics typical of the subregion, and in spite of the actions undertaken by the different countries, it therefore seems that Target 9 will be difficult to achieve within the deadline.

51. As for Target 10, graph 10 suggests that most of the countries should succeed in guaranteeing regular access to clean water for their populations, especially in urban areas. In fact it can be seen that four countries (Algeria, Egypt, Morocco and Tunisia) provide sustainable access to clean water to more than 90% of their urban populations. They are followed by Sudan (86%) and then Libya (72%). In contrast, in Mauritania more than half the urban population do not have sustainable access to clean water. Moreover, graph 10 reveals that only Egypt will be able to attain the set goal for its rural population. With only 18% of its rural population without sustainable access to clean drinking water, Algeria might be able to follow the example of Egypt and achieve the goal by 2015. In contrast, this goal seems out of reach for Libya, Morocco, Mauritania, Sudan and Tunisia.

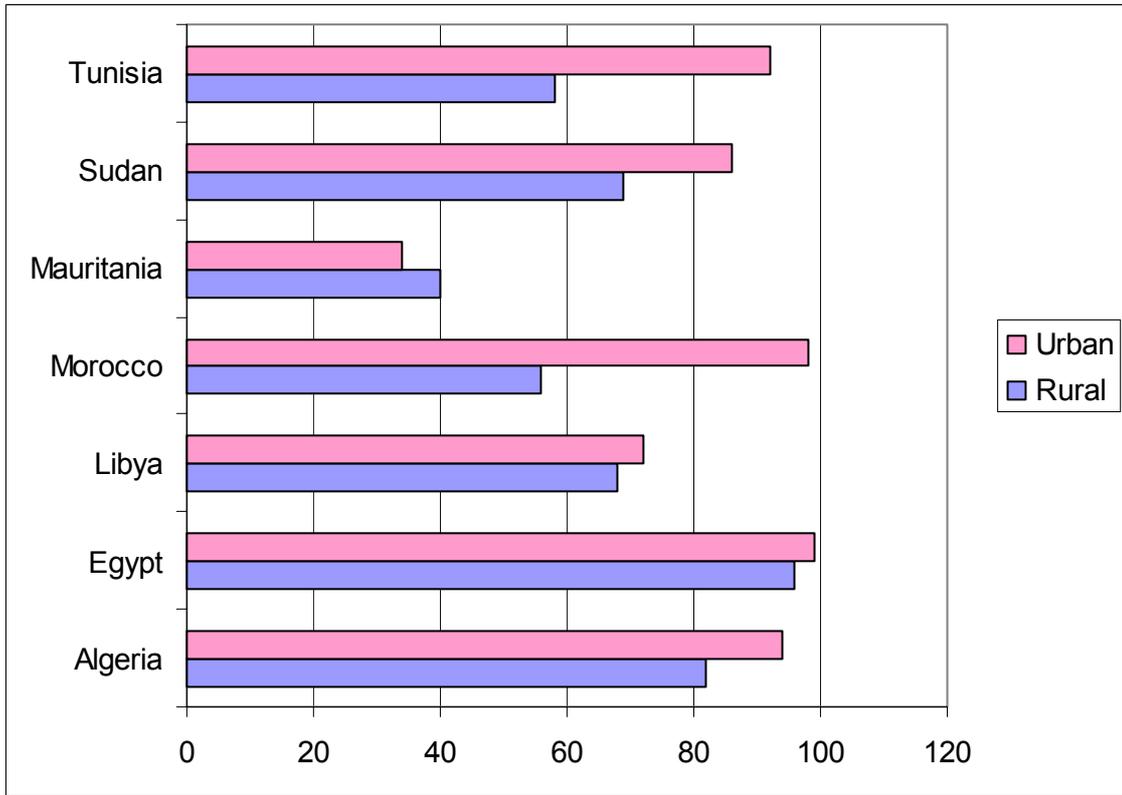
52. In evaluating Target 11, which consists in significantly improving the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers between now and 2020, the indicator used is the percentage of the urban population using improved sanitation¹². Graph 11 shows that Egypt already attained this goal in 2000. With 97%, 96% and 90% respectively, Libya, Tunisia and Algeria should easily reach the target before 2020. Sudan (with 87%) and Morocco (with 86%) might in turn achieve this target provided they redouble their efforts to ensure better conditions of access to sanitation, especially for the poorest sections of the population. However, this target remains a major challenge for Mauritania (38%).

53. These trends relating to Target 11 are mainly due to policies and actions initiated at country level which form part of the various national governmental action programmes. In addition, specific accompanying measures have been initiated by the governments. In this framework can be placed Tunisia's 26/26 Initiative which, since December 1992, has created a National Solidarity Fund, with a view to reducing the isolation of marginalized sectors of the population and giving them the right to a better life based on dignity and wellbeing. Support for this humanitarian programme has been wholehearted, and it has inspired the setting up of the World Solidarity Fund under the auspices of the United Nations.

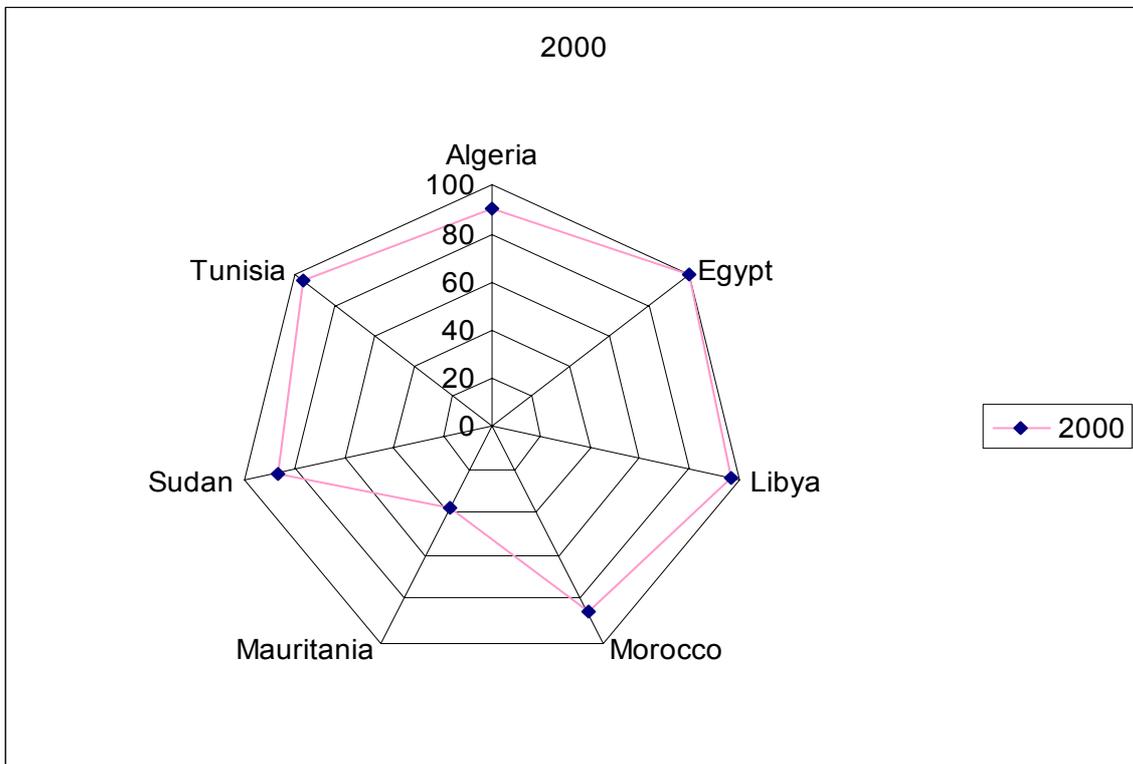
54. However, in spite of the efforts made by the countries, major challenges still remain with regard to the fight against continuing deforestation and degradation and the advance of the desert, which require substantial institutional, organisational and financial measures. It is thus unlikely that the countries will be able to attain Target 7 within the deadline.

13 *Other indicators such as (i) the proportion of the urban population with access at all times to water supply points, (ii) the overcrowding and durability of housing, or (iii) the proportion of households with access to secure tenure, may also be used, according to the UNDP. But the data for these last two indicators are not available at present.*

Graph 10
Populations with sustainable access to an improved water source



Graph 11
Urban population with access to improved sanitation (%)



II.8. Goal 8: Develop a global partnership for development

55. The purpose behind the seven targets of goal 8 is the development of global partnerships in order to ensure, among other things, a reduction in the burden of debt, increased public aid for development, improved access to essential medicines, and decent and productive jobs for young people. Such a partnership should lead to improved living conditions in the countries of the subregion.

56. Debt (Target 15) remains a major problem for countries like Morocco, where (total) debt servicing absorbs 23.9% of export earnings (UNDP, 2004). The percentage stands at 10.3% for Egypt, 0.8% for Sudan and 13.5% for Tunisia. Mauritania obtained a 95% reduction of its debt from the Paris Club in 2001 because it had reached the culmination point of the HIPC (Heavily Indebted Poor Countries) initiative.

57. Reduction in public aid constitutes another problem, especially for the least advanced countries (Mauritania and Sudan).

58. The issue of youth unemployment (Target 16) is becoming alarming because of its structural nature and its failure to be affected by growth surges and the mechanisms for job promotion introduced up to now. As Table 1 indicates, the unemployment rate among young people continues to be much higher than the national averages, and a downward trend is not yet visible, especially in urban areas.

59. In one way or another, the lack of employment, constantly aggravated by a growth in the active population which is still too high and by the short supply of new jobs, seems likely to become a more and more serious problem which has direct repercussions for the problem of development, both at the level of each of the countries concerned and at the level of the region as a whole.

Table 1
Unemployment rate: Overall and for the 15-24 age group

	Overall unemployment		Unemployment 15-24 age group	
	1990-2000	2004p	1990	Latest data
Algeria	20.6 (1991)	17.6	38.7	-20 years: 49.08 (2003) 20-24 years: 43.92 (2003)
Egypt	9.8 (1995)	9.8	23.1	20.4 (2001)
Libya	NA	10.0 (2001)	NA	NA
Morocco	13.6 (2000)	10.8	20.5 (1999)	17.0 (2003) 34.5 Urban (2003)
Mauritania	NA	28.9 (2000)	NA	NA
Sudan	14.2	18.0 (2003)	NA	NA
Tunisia	15.6 (1994)	13,9	NA	NA

Sources: National data, Statistics Division (United Nations), EIU- p: predictions

60. The access of the population to essential medicines (Target 17) at all times and at reasonable cost has improved in Algeria and Libya, where 95 to 100% of the population are concerned, compared to 80 to 94% in Egypt (UNDP, 2004). However, this still remains a major challenge for the subregion, since in Mauritania, Morocco and Tunisia only 50 to 80% of the population have regular access to affordable essential medicines. In Sudan the rate varies between 0 and 49%.

Synthesis of the evaluation

61. The survey of the situation which has been carried out on the basis of national and international sources can be summarised in the table below. From this it is possible to perceive the efforts that have been made towards a reduction in poverty levels, greater access to education and the promotion of gender equality. This leads us to affirm that four or five countries out of the seven are capable of achieving goals 1, 2 and 3, two of these being in some respects even in advance of the deadlines.

62. Nevertheless, it is important to emphasise that even in the domains where progress has been observed, substantial disparities still remain. For example, with regard to the first goal of reducing extreme poverty, the data from national sources indicate disparities between rural and urban zones. Some national reports even talk of an urbanisation of poverty (Tunisia). With regard to Goal 2, concerning education, problems relating to the quality of the results obtained through education are also noted by almost all the national reports on the MDGs. Infant and maternal mortality rates are encouraging but remain high, with striking disparities between countries and within the same country.

63. Moreover, progress has been slow with regard to environmental sustainability. This raises questions about the present capacity of the countries concerned to fully realise Millennium Goals 4, 5 and 7 in the absence of sustained action to speed up reforms at national level.

Table 2
Summary of progress towards attainment of the MDGs by countries

Goal	How many countries will attain the goals?			
	Potentially	Probably	With difficulty	No data
Extreme poverty	4	1	-	2
Primary education	4	1	2	-
Gender equality	5	1	1	-
Infant mortality	4	1	2	-
Maternal health	5	1	1	-
HIV/AIDS	5	2	-	-
Sustainable environment	-	5	2	-

Source: Table drawn from above analysis.

III. CHALLENGES AND PROSPECTS

64. From the survey above it appears that in spite of the progress made towards the achievement of the MDGs, considerable challenges still remain, especially with regard to the eradication of pockets of poverty, reduction of maternal mortality, protection of the environment and job opportunities for young people. The major challenges still confronting the countries of the subregion are discussed below, with some suggested solutions.

III.1. Eradicating pockets of poverty

65. It is quite probable that the goal of reducing extreme poverty will be fully achieved, as the present survey suggests. However, the removal of the deep pockets of poverty which affect a considerable section of the population, and the reduction of the sometimes wide variations in living standards which reflect the spatial, sex-specific and socio-economic aspects of poverty, represent the major challenges still to be met¹³.

66. Eliminating poverty will require policies aimed at combating social marginalisation and unemployment and at reducing social and spatial disparities. In addition, most of the countries are undergoing growing urbanisation which, in the long term, will lead to increased numbers of poor people in urban areas and will accentuate income disparities. To deal with these problems, it will be necessary to carry out profound institutional reforms promoting decentralisation. It will also be necessary to make sector-based reforms (for instance, in agriculture) to improve the provision of services to the poorest sections of the population and to allow them to assert their socio-economic interests.

III.2. Reducing maternal mortality

67. In the light of the trends of the countries' maternal mortality rates, the goal of a three quarters reduction may be envisaged within the time limit. However, the rates observed are in some cases very high, which could have significant consequences for juvenile and infant mortality. The major challenge is thus posed by the high level of the maternal mortality rate, especially in rural areas.

68. As for the future prospects, it is important for the countries to make better provision for reproductive health in their development policies and strategies and to instigate large scale campaigns to discourage early marriage and home births, to promote family planning and remove the socio-cultural barriers which can be harmful to women's health. The countries will also have to invest more in the health sector and provide better health cover, especially for women in rural areas. When drawing up health programmes, it is essential to give importance to the relations between the various sectors; for instance, it would be difficult to reduce maternal mortality without raising the problem of equitable access to clean water and that of transport services.

III.3. Promoting women

69. Progress has certainly been made in promoting gender equality, especially at the level of access to primary, secondary and higher education, and in the empowerment of women. The data by country nevertheless reveal disparities between countries and within countries.

¹³ These aspects have been clearly underlined in the national reports on the MDGs.

Moreover, the participation of women in the economy still remains limited and their political and legal rights are not yet fully recognised. Gender equality and the strengthening of women's role in seeking out strategies for sustainable development thus remain among the great challenges confronting many of the countries of the subregion.

70. The improvement of women's social status and the advancement of their economic activities remain prerequisites for the achievement of the MDGs. The countries of the subregion will thus have to get down to implementing programmes and strategies aimed particularly at raising women's level of education, improving their means of production, and increasing the technological and financial means available to them to enable them to set up viable small and medium businesses¹⁴.

III.4. Reducing unemployment among young people

71. Job creation is a high priority. Accordingly, all the countries of the subregion have adopted active policies aimed at promoting employment by means of various mechanisms they have set up. Nevertheless, we have generally seen only a very slight reduction in unemployment rates, which seems to indicate that the attention paid to this problem and the means adopted are clearly inadequate to deal with the pressures exerted by the problems of unemployment, especially that of young people, and by demographic structures which show a predominance of young people.

72. The challenge of youth employment thus calls for the development of better employment strategies to avoid the threat of a social crisis, limit the increased danger of insecurity which could arise in the absence of sufficient opportunities, and halt the large scale brain drain which is depriving countries of the human potential needed for the advancement of the development process.

III.5. Ensuring environmental sustainability

73. The countries of the subregion have drawn up and implemented various programmes aimed at achieving the general goal of sustainable development. However, the sector-based studies which have been carried out, including the present evaluation, emphasise that with regard to the protection of the environment the countries still need to find appropriate solutions for the problems of deforestation and soil degradation, diminishing water resources, loss of arable land, the capacities of the environmental institutions and worsening air pollution.

74. To do this, the countries need to go beyond the efforts made so far and consolidate their strategy for a sustainable environment. The issue of managing water resources is also of paramount importance, and calls for better regional collaboration aimed at reaching sustainable long term solutions. For this reason, a subregional report has been drawn up to evaluate the progress made by the countries of the subregion towards implementing the African Water Vision for 2025¹⁵

III.6. Ensuring market access and promoting direct foreign investment

75. Most studies emphasise the fact that the countries of the subregion could make greater progress towards achieving the MDGs if they improved their systems of governance and if they

¹⁴ See SRO-NA (2005), *Economic participation of Women in North African countries*.

¹⁵ See the subregional report on *Exploitation of Water Resources in North Africa*, drawn up by the Office in collaboration with the Sustainable Development Division of the ECA

could benefit from wider access to the markets of the developed countries. Among the major challenges in this domain, we can mention the reinforcement of production capacities, the simplification of rules of origin and the growth of direct foreign investment (DFI).

76. The issue of access to markets is addressed within the framework of negotiations of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) agreements and regional negotiations of association agreements with the European Union (EU). Consequently, the countries of the subregion, in collaboration with their development partners, in particular the EU, should aim at reinforcing their productive and financial capacities, as well as developing infrastructures. It is also important to simplify the rules of origin associated with market access preferences in the context of association agreements. The countries will have to prepare a more favourable environment in order to attract more inflow of DFI, especially in the context of the privatisation process, to complete the resources they need to develop their physical and human potential.

III.7. Diversifying the productive and export base

77. The countries of the subregion are struggling to diversify their productive and export bases, several of them being dependent on income from oil. This lack of diversification leads to dependence on a limited number of products and constitutes a hindrance in the search for alternative sources of growth. Consequently, it is important to encourage greater expansion of the productive bases; the targeting of sectors can be done at the national level but also after regional collaboration. It is also necessary to develop specialisation strategies, which could encourage the development of exchanges between countries, allowing them to escape from the predominance of exchanges with Europe, their major economic partner. This could be facilitated through greater regional integration of the markets and productions of the different countries.

III.8. Giving high priority to updating reliable statistical data

78. This study has been based mainly on data produced by the UNDP and the World Bank, but these are sometimes poorly structured, with large discrepancies. Most of the data do not go beyond 2002, even in the most recent reports (UNDP, 2004). This poses a serious problem of lack of up-to-date data, which makes it impossible to carry out sophisticated evaluations and thus to reach tangible conclusions. Not only the countries themselves but also their development partners are concerned by the need to establish data sources which are structured, regularly updated and accessible to all.

79. Within the framework of the Commission for Africa, launched by the British Prime Minister Tony Blair (see text box 1), the ECA's statistics team has prepared a document on the strategic importance of statistics together with the challenges they pose. This document points out the potential problems and suggests an action plan including, among other ideas: (i) the promotion of household surveys (ii) the promotion and development of statistical data bases, (iii) the coordination of statistical activities between the different actors at regional and subregional levels, (iv) technical assistance to countries carrying out analyses, and (v) the publication of the data obtained from household surveys.

80. The document emphasises that monitoring new development initiatives such as the MDGs, as well as the strategies for reducing poverty, leads to an increasing need for data. For this reason the document calls upon donors to allocate a sum of approximately \$60 million per annum to help Africa improve the system of collecting and analysing statistics.

81. To support the action of the ECA, the North African subregional Bureau is setting up an Observatory of Economic Integration which will be an administrative tool incorporating elements of a data base allowing the collection and organisation of interdependent data, focussed mainly on questions of regional integration.

III.9. Reforming institutions and ensuring good governance

82. Initiatives must be taken to achieve better political, economic and social governance and a strengthening of institutional structures. This is what emerges from the ECA Report on the MDGs, extracts from which are provided in Text Box 2.

83. To meet the challenges of social development and the reduction of poverty, countries need to ensure better economic governance based on a closer partnership between the public and private sectors. This can be done through the promotion of policies based on respect for civil liberties, transparency in applying the law, and the availability of an adequate framework of institutions and regulations. In addition, the development of basic infrastructures (energy, water and telecommunications) at lower cost, and greater investment profitability should give new impetus to the direct foreign investment needed for the promotion of private initiative.

84. These various messages are clearly emphasised in the Consensus Declaration of the Fourth African Development Forum (ADF IV) of the ECA¹⁶. They have been corroborated by the ECA's Report on Governance in Africa in 2005, which defines four positive trends leading to the creation of competent and responsible states: the transition to democracy, political opening, freedom of speech and accountability, and economic management¹⁷.

III.10. Giving more priority to regional initiatives

85. Finally, in addition to the actions proposed at the national level, it is important for the countries of the subregion to recognise the crucial role which the regional dimension can play in realising the MDGs. There is a broad consensus that the lack of a regional area leads to additional cost both at the level of economic activities and in countries' ability to generate an environment which will promote business. For example, the question of specialisation would be meaningful only if countries were able to integrate their production and set up a large market. This would allow them to make the economies of scale necessary for the promotion of investments and exchanges. This regional dimension allows the optimisation of relations between training and capacity reinforcement programmes and the job market.

86. An integrated regional market could also facilitate access to reliable data and lead to the setting up of a pool of experts which countries could consult.

87. It is essential that 2005 should be a year in which the role of the Maghreb Arab Union (UMA) should be reinforced through the relaunching of the process of subregional integration. It is within this perspective of a greater integration of the North African economies that the present study seeks to explore the possibility of using NEPAD as a framework for the achievement of the MDGs.

¹⁶ Consensus Declaration of the ADF IV on 'Governance for a progressing Africa' (11-15 October 2004, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia).

¹⁷ See the ECA Report (2005) on Governance in Africa.

Text Box 1

Commission for Africa launched by British Prime Minister Tony Blair

The next G8 summit will be held in the UK in 2005. As a prelude to this event, a Commission for Africa was created in February 2004 on the initiative of Prime Minister Tony Blair. In launching this initiative, Mr Blair promised to make Africa a priority during his country's presidency of the G8 and the European Union. The goal of the Commission is to survey the problems of the African continent so that they may be better taken into account in the discussions of the club of the world's most powerful countries.

The members of the Commission, who include Mr K. Y. Amoako, have just completed a 400 page report in support of the granting of aid to Africa to maintain programmes for development and the fight against poverty. It underlines the urgent need for aid to Africa to be doubled. Between now and 2010, an increase of 25 billion dollars is needed, with a further increase of 25 billion dollars per annum from 2015. The report identifies the priority sectors, notably health and education. But two key factors are emphasised by the members of the Commission as essential for a better use of any foreign aid: good governance and the campaign against corruption.

Text Box 2

Good governance and sustained growth, the keys to achieving the MDGs in Africa

The goal of eradicating poverty by the year 2015 is at the heart of the MDGs. But poverty itself, as well as being dependent on growth, correlates strongly with per capita income and income distribution. The attainment of the MDGs in Africa will thus depend not only on economic growth but also on the ways in which income is distributed in each country. For instance, the countries which exhibit the most unequal income distribution must aim for accelerated growth but at the same time for a better distribution of income if they are to attain the MDGs.

However, experience has shown that as a result of the harmful effects of HIV-AIDS and conflicts in Africa, economic growth has become anaemic, and this could be an obstacle to the attainment of the goal of eradicating poverty. According to the ILO (2004), if the rate of prevalence of HIV continues to grow at its present speed in 33 African countries, economic growth should fall by 10% by 2020. Moreover, between 1990 and 2000, conflicts (19 in all), and in particular civil wars, have led to a fall in growth of around 2.2% during the conflict and 2.1% during the five years following the end of hostilities.

The many challenges facing the African countries need appropriate responses from the political decision-makers and the donor communities. The African governments should promote states which are competent and responsible and should put in place a set of measures aimed at strengthening governance and promoting an environment which will favour the acceleration of sustainable growth and better management of public affairs. The donor countries should increase their PDA to 0.7% of their GNP, in accordance with the commitments made at the Monterey conference on Financing for Development. The quality of this aid must be improved and it must include aid which is harmonised, predictable and in the form of budget support and of policies in accordance with the development goals of the recipient countries.

Source: Extracts from the ECA report on the MDGs (2005a)

IV. NEPAD: A FRAMEWORK FOR THE ACHIEVEMENT OF THE MDGs

88. This section was in principle intended to be a synthesis of the countries' responses to a questionnaire which the Office sent to them. However, only two countries (Tunisia and Egypt) responded to this questionnaire. It was thus necessary to use other regional and international sources, in particular those of the NEPAD secretariat.

89. The New Partnership for Africa's Development is a strategic regional framework drawn up by African leaders. It represents a commitment on the part of these leaders towards the people of Africa and the international community to place Africa on the path towards sustainable growth and to speed up its integration into the world economy (NEPAD 2001). The NEPAD reference document derives from the mandate given to the five African heads of state who founded it (South Africa, Algeria, Egypt, Nigeria and Senegal) to develop an integrated framework of socio-economic development for Africa. The 37th and last Summit of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU), which was held in July 2001 in Lusaka, Zambia, formally adopted the reference document.

90. The main objectives of NEPAD are (i) to eradicate poverty; (ii) to set the African people, both collectively and individually, on the path towards sustainable growth and development; (iii) to halt the marginalisation of Africa and improve its full and beneficial integration with the world economy; and (iv) to speed up the empowerment of women. Its priority sectors are infrastructure, the development of human resources, agriculture, culture, science and technology, mobilisation of resources, market access, and the environment¹⁸.

91. The transformation of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) into the African Union (AU) backs up the vision of NEPAD with regard to the development of the continent. NEPAD has been confirmed as an element of the AU programme. Its secretariat participates in the meetings of the NEPAD management committee, while the NEPAD implementation committee has to present a report each year to the AU summit.

92. The dynamics of NEPAD's action focuses on facilitating, coordinating, supporting and accelerating the implementation of programmes and projects in various domains. For this purpose, the NEPAD secretariat has embarked on a programme aimed at implicating the regional economic communities.

IV.1. Implementation of NEPAD in the countries of North Africa

93. As the major structure for economic integration in the subregion of North Africa, the Maghreb Arab Union (UMA) must play a key role in the mobilisation for NEPAD and in the transformation of goals, objectives and strategies into programmes, projects and activities which can be realised at the subregional level. With this in mind, a series of meetings concerning the modalities for implementing the UMA transport programme have taken place within the NEPAD framework. The UMA secretariat has also identified a number of sectoral projects which have been submitted to the NEPAD secretariat.

94. But while the role of NEPAD is to facilitate and promote projects at subregional level, it remains true that its growth aims and objectives cannot be attained unless the national

¹⁸ NEPAD Secretariat (2004), *Annual Report 2003-2004*.

development strategies and programmes are reformulated in consequence; this indicates the importance of individual actions by each country.

95. In this respect, it is important to emphasise that **Algeria**, one of the five founding countries of NEPAD, has become a member of the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM). The authorities' commitment to incorporating NEPAD's priorities within the various aspects of their national development is reflected in the actions they have taken to reinforce economic governance, whether by introducing institutional structures (the framework regulating legislation in the energy and agriculture sectors) or by setting up permanent mechanisms for bilateral and trilateral consultations with their social partners (OSAA, 2004). A working group has also been given the task of preparing the national evaluation report and the preliminary action programme of NEPAD. In addition, Algeria hosted the Partnership Conference on the NEPAD Environmental Initiative in Algiers on 15 and 16 December 2003. It also hosted the second session of the Forum of Heads of State and Government of the African Peer Review Mechanism (November 2004), which assembled representatives from the 24 countries already involved in the evaluation process and allowed them to share their experiences.

96. **The Egyptian government**, for its part, has set up a national committee to monitor the implementation of NEPAD, composed of representatives of the various ministries and departments. In addition, a parliamentary commission has been set up by the People's Assembly, with the aim of providing regular information about NEPAD's latest developments and supporting its implementation. National level seminars and workshops to increase awareness among the parties involved have been organised in order to ensure their effective participation, which should lead to real commitment to the process. The Faculty of Political Science and Economics of the University of Cairo thus organised a reflection session with the participation of African academicians to discuss the specificity of NEPAD compared to earlier initiatives and the best way to achieve its objectives. Information campaigns and consciousness-raising programmes have also been organised using radio, television and the press. The links between the priorities, objectives and action programmes of NEPAD and those of the two regional economic communities (COMESA and CENSAD) have been taken into account. Accordingly, a list of projects relating to transport within the framework of attempts at regional integration into these two communities has been put forward for incorporation into their respective action plans. Moreover, the Egyptian Agriculture Minister is conducting negotiations with the FAO to finalise a technical cooperation programme for operationalising the NEPAD market access initiative for agricultural products.

97. In **Morocco**, the government has laid particular stress on environmental issues at both **regional** and national levels. The actions taken include creating a focal point within the Department for the Environment, participating in the drawing up of the Action Plan for the Environment, and organising a series of meetings involving all the concerned parties, including women. Political commitment to the implementation of the principles promoted by NEPAD has moreover been expressed at the highest level by His Majesty King Mohammed VI, who recently affirmed that 'the challenges of sustainable development cannot be met without partnerships such as those advocated by NEPAD, and an integrated global strategy, providing the bases for open economies which will generate wealth and provide employment, especially for young people, within solidary societies'¹⁹¹⁹.

¹⁹ *Extract from the Message of His Majesty Mohammed VI to the Francophone Summit held on 26 and 27 November 2004 at Ouagadougou (Burkina Faso).*

98. In addition, **on** the basis of the questionnaires which we sent to the member states²⁰, it can be noted that **Tunisia** has put in place a structure for monitoring the implementation of the NEPAD goals within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. It is also established that the Tunisian government is planning to draw up priority integrated sectoral programmes and projects for the implementation of NEPAD, especially with regard to transport (motorways and railways).

99. To sum up, despite the scarcity of the information available for the evaluation of the implementation of NEPAD in the North African subregion, we can say that some progress in terms of individually taken actions and initiatives can be observed. The almost unanimous commitment to the basic principles which governed the setting up of NEPAD and which underpin its implementation is undeniable. Nevertheless, it must be admitted that reservations are sometimes expressed concerning NEPAD's ability to quickly achieve the goals which the African countries have set themselves through this body. Even the founding fathers call for more caution²⁰. However, as has been recognised by the United Nations and most of the international organisations which are Africa's partners, NEPAD in many respects constitutes a framework for achieving the MDGs for the continent.

100. While it has not yet satisfactorily fulfilled its purpose, it must proceed to an increased mobilisation of all potential resources. It is only through conjugating the efforts of all that we can speed up the agenda for developing Africa and anchor it more firmly within the international agenda.

IV.2. NEPAD, a framework for the achievement of the MDGs

101. NEPAD endorses a development strategy focussing on the priority domains of the environment, infrastructures, education, health, culture and technology. It is becoming more and more clearly recognised as the regional expression and vehicle for achieving the millennium development goals because of its action plan which focuses on consensual goals such as eliminating poverty, promoting growth, increasing cooperation and partnership and resolving conflicts. The aim of the present section is therefore to discuss the priority domains of NEPAD and the MDGs and the paths to follow in pushing forward the development agenda in the North African countries.

102. The first idea is that the countries should maintain a high level of economic growth, superior to that attained in recent years, if they wish to attain the millennium development goal of halving the rate of absolute poverty. All the partners agree that halving absolute poverty between now and 2015 requires an annual growth rate of more than 7%, together with an equitable income distribution²¹. Table 3, which compares the average growth rate by countries and periods, shows that the subregional average was 4.26% for the period 2000-2004, against 3.85 for the period 1995-1999. This result reflects the increase achieved by four countries, Algeria, Libya, Morocco and Sudan, the strong growth for Sudan being attributable to higher oil prices. Thanks to better climatic conditions, Morocco was able to

²⁰ *The Senegalese President, Abdoulaye Wade, as one of NEPAD's founding fathers, admitted at the NEPAD Evaluation Meeting (Johannesburg, 22-23 October 2003) that there were difficulties in accounting for the concrete achievements of NEPAD after three years of existence. For his part, President Obasanjo drew the attention of the developed countries to their failure to respect their commitments to NEPAD.*

²¹ *In particular the ECA (1999) Economic Report on Africa, "The challenges of poverty reduction and sustainability".*

double its growth rate from 2.04% to 4.12%. However, we note a relative fall in performances for Egypt and Tunisia, and stagnation for Mauritania.

103. Given the development goal targeted, the growth level is still far below what is required, and this calls for greater rigour in the application and monitoring of reforms. Moreover, a firm commitment from the countries of the subregion is needed to ensure both a better distribution of resources in favour of the poor and better strategies to tackle unemployment and the promotion of the investments needed for economic growth.

Table 3
Economic growth in North Africa (1995-1999 and 2000-2004)

Period	1995-1999	2000-2004*
Algeria	3.42	4.14
Egypt	5.12	4.08
Libya	1.52	2.48
Morocco	2.04	4.12
Mauritania	4.40	4.18
Sudan	4.92	6.26
Tunisia	5.52	4.58
Subregion of North Africa	3.85	4.26

*Source: National data and estimates of the Economic Intelligence Unit (EIU); *SRO-NA Estimates*

104. The second domain is the promotion of human resources, in order to reinforce the progress already made in education and health (including maternal health).

105. In the health sector, the actions to be taken (setting up accessible and cheaper pre- and postnatal health care structures, especially for rural women) coincide perfectly with the health strategy of NEPAD which commits the countries to allocating at least 15% of their budget to health, and the external partners of Africa to mobilising 22 billion dollars per annum. The countries are also encouraged to carry out regular monitoring and evaluation of the progress achieved towards the accomplishment of the MDGs.

106. With regard to education, the MDGs focus on primary education for all between now and 2015, and some countries of the subregion have already achieved this goal. However, the countries' aspirations do not stop at this, as is stated in the NEPAD education programme, which goes beyond the quantitative issue, and clearly recognises the need for higher quality education programmes which are better adapted to the demands of the job market. The UMA also shares this concern, and in the projects selected and presented to NEPAD addresses issues relating to social exclusion, security, employment, public health, culture and scientific research.

107. The third domain of intervention concerns the protection of the environment, in order to ensure its sustainability in accordance with the MDGs. Continuing desertification, soil degradation and the pressures on the subregion's limited water resources are precisely the problems which NEPAD is seeking to combat through its environmental initiative. The initiative in fact covers domains such as the fight against soil degradation, drought and desertification, the conservation and sustainable utilisation of marine, coastal and fresh water resources, the fight against climatic change, the intersectoral problems of health and the environment. Strategies to meet the challenges posed by the protection of the environment and sustainable development in Africa were in fact discussed at the Partnership Conference on the NEPAD Environmental Initiative, held on December 15 and 16 2003 in Algiers. The

conference approved the declaration of Algiers committing the participating countries to carrying out the Action Plan for the NEPAD Environmental Initiative and to ensuring the continued monitoring of its implementation. In this connection, the UMA submitted to the NEPAD Secretariat a list of projects concerned with the fight against desertification in the subregion.

108. The fourth domain concerns the mobilisation of resources, including external aid. In this connection, the United Nations has recognised on many occasions that the achievement of the MDGs requires the mobilisation of supplementary resources, and the Monterey conference confirmed this. The 20/20 initiative has therefore been encouraged in its goal of committing both developing and developed countries to allocating 20% of their respective national budgets to basic health services. It seems that instead of a 20/20 deal, we have achieved only 12/12, for most of the developing countries have managed to devote only 12 to 14% of their budgets to these services. As for the developed countries, they allocate between 10% and 12%. Most of the North African countries are indeed medium-income countries, but in order to attack their existing pockets of poverty, they also need extra resources, including direct foreign investment (DFI) and technology transfers. In this respect NEPAD provides a framework for partnership which should allow the public and private sectors to collaborate more effectively in order to obtain a large increase in DFI to these countries. In addition, the NEPAD initiative can provide monitoring for emerging issues (population migration, security, etc) and promote the sharing of experiences and good practices across the subregion.

V. CONCLUSION

109. The survey of the eight millennium goals, based on the targets and indicators chosen in this report, has demonstrated the capacity of the countries of the subregion to respect the commitments made within the framework of the Millennium Declaration. This is true for the goal of reducing poverty, even though some challenges remain with respect to eradicating existing marginalised areas and pockets of poverty. Access to education for all and promotion of gender equality could also be achieved. On the other hand, the countries face major challenges relating to the environment and to maternal and infant mortality rates.

110. Goal 8, concerning the development of international partnership, is also important for these countries, which have all taken measures aimed at opening up their economies to exchange with the rest of the world and obtaining complete integration into the international market. However, this opening and integration could be made easier if there were greater integration of the subregional markets.

111. As for the implementation of NEPAD, the progress achieved at national level and the impact on the global level are not perceptible to all, and a mixture of satisfaction and scepticism can be detected. At the North African subregional level, the countries seem to share these feelings, all the more so because the effective implementation of NEPAD's priority and/or sectoral programmes seems to be hindered by the blocked process of integration into the UMA framework. As for future prospects, it will be more appropriate to focus on the actions which must be taken by the countries themselves in order to advance the development agenda.

112. The year 2005 represents a crucial moment with regard to the continued pursuit of the MDGs, with the Monterey conference on the financing of development. 2005 is also the year in which the NEPAD summit will be held, in Egypt, in April. The countries of the subregion should therefore evaluate the progress achieved and together examine the steps to be taken in order to eradicate once and for all forms of poverty. 2005 will certainly bring greater wellbeing to all groups within the populations, both men and women, by offering them greater choice and wider scope for participation in economic development.

APPENDICES

Appendix 1: List of the major millennium goals and targets

GOALS	TARGETS
1. ERADICATE EXTREME POVERTY AND HUNGER	Halve, between now and 2015, the proportion of people whose income is less than \$1 a day (Target 1) Halve the proportion of people who suffer from hunger (Target 2)
2. ACHIEVE UNIVERSAL PRIMARY EDUCATION	Ensure that, by 2015, children everywhere, boys and girls alike, will be able to complete a full course of primary schooling (Target 3)
3. PROMOTE GENDER EQUALITY AND EMPOWER WOMEN	Eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education, preferably by 2005, and in all levels of education no later than 2015 (Target 4)
4. REDUCE CHILD MORTALITY	Reduce by two thirds, between 1990 and 2015, the under-five mortality rate (Target 5)
5. IMPROVE MATERNAL HEALTH	Reduce by three quarters, between 1990 and 2015, the maternal mortality ratio (Target 6)
6. COMBAT HIV/AIDS, MALARIA AND OTHER DISEASES	Have halted by 2015 and begun to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS (Target 7) Have halted by 2015 and begun to reverse the incidence of malaria and other major diseases (Target 8)
7. ENSURE ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY	Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programmes and reverse the loss of environmental resources (Target 9) Halve, by 2015, the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation (Target 10) Have achieved by 2020 a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers (Target 11)
8. DEVELOP A GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP FOR DEVELOPMENT	Develop further an open, rule-based, predictable, non-discriminatory trading and financial system (Target 12) Address the special needs of the least developed countries (Target 13) Address the special needs of landlocked developing countries and small island developing states (Target 14) Deal comprehensively with the debt problems of developing countries through national and international measures in order to make debt sustainable in the long term (Target 15) In cooperation with developing countries, develop and implement strategies for decent and productive work for youth (Target 16) In cooperation with pharmaceutical companies, provide access to affordable essential drugs in developing countries (Target 17) In cooperation with the private sector, make available the benefits of new technologies, especially information and communications technology (Target 18)

Appendix 2: Statistics

Table 1a
Proportion of population below 1\$ per day

	1990	2000/01	2015
Algeria	2	2	1
Egypt	3	3	1.5
Libya			
Morocco	0.8	0.5	0.4
Mauritania	-	-	-
Sudan		-	-
Tunisia*	1.5	0.5	-

Table 1b
Percentage of population below national poverty line

	1990	2000/01	2015
Algeria	23	15	11.5
Egypt	25	16.7	12.5
Libya	-	-	-
Morocco	23.5 (1985)	13.7	11.75
Mauritania	56.6	46.3	28.3
Sudan	-	-	
Tunisia*	8	4.2	4

Sources: Data from national surveys; World Bank (World Development Indicators), 2004; UNDP (Human Development Report) 2003 and 2004.

* Goal attained in 2001.

Table 2
Prevalence of underweight Children (% under 5)

	1990	2001	2002	2015
Algeria	9.2	10.4	6	4.5
Egypt	10.4	4	11	5.2
Libya	..	5	5	..
Morocco	9.5	9	9	4.75
Mauritania	47.6	38 (2000)	32	23.8
Sudan	..	17	17	
Tunisia	9.8	4	4	4.9

Table 3
Proportion of population suffering from hunger

	1990	1995	2001	2015
Algeria	5	6	6	2.5
Egypt	5		3	2.5
Libya	2.5	2.5	2.5	1.25
Morocco	6	7	7	3
Mauritania	14	11	10	7
Sudan	31	22	25	15.5
Tunisia	2.5	2.5	2.5	1.25

Sources: Data from national surveys; World Bank (World Development Indicators), 2004; UNDP Human Development Report), 2003 and 2004.

Table 4
Net enrolment ratio in primary education

	1990/1991	2000/2001	2015
Algeria	93	98	100
Egypt	75	93	100
Libya	97	98	100
Morocco	52.4	84.5	100
Mauritania	51	65	100
Sudan	50	59.4	100
Tunisia	94	99	100

Table 5
Proportion of pupils who complete grade 5

	1990/1991	1999/2000	2015
Algeria	94	97	100
Egypt		99	100
Libya			100
Morocco	75	80	100
Mauritania	75	61	100
Sudan	94	87	100
Tunisia	87	93	100

Sources: Data from national surveys; World Bank (World Development Indicators), 2004; UNDP (Human Development Report), 2003 and 2004.

Table 6
Literacy rate of 15-24 years olds

	1990	1995	2001	2002
Algeria	77.3	83.7	89.2	89.9
Egypt	61.3	65.6	70.5	73.2
Libya	91	94.3	96.7	97
Morocco	62.4	61.5	68.4	69.5
Mauritania	45.8	47.3	49.3	49.6
Sudan	65	71.5	78.1	79.1
Tunisia	84.1	89.7	93.8	94.3

Table 7
Ratio of girls to boys at all levels

	Primary			Secondary		Higher
	1990-1991	2000-2001	2001-2002	2000-2001	2001-2002	2000-2001
Algeria	0,81	0,88	0,93	1,03	1,08	-
Egypt	0,79	0,84	0,94	0,90	0,93	0,84
Libya	0,91	0,97	1,00	1,00	1,06	0,93
Morocco	0,66	0,84	0,85	0,87	0,88	0,84
Mauritania	0,72	0,92	0,96	0,88	0,76	0,20
Sudan	0,75	0,82	0,85	1,61	0,89	0,89
Tunisia	0,85	0,91	0,96	1,01	1,04	0,93

Sources: Data from national surveys; World Bank (World Development Indicators), 2004; UNDP (Human Development Report), 2003 and 2004.

Table 8
Under-five mortality rate

	1990	2001	2002	2015
Algeria	46.8	37.5	34.7	15.6
Egypt	104	54	39	35
Libya	42	20	19	14
Morocco	85	46	47	28.4
Mauritania	183	135	-	61
Sudan	123	107	94	41
Tunisia	52	27	26	17

Table 9
Infant mortality rate

	1990	2001	2002	2015
Algeria	43.71	34.5	39	14.6
Egypt	76	44	33	25
Libya	34	16	16	11
Morocco	66	39	39	22
Mauritania	120	120	120	40
Sudan	75	65	64	25
Tunisia	37	21	21	12

Sources: Data from national surveys; World Bank (World Development Indicators), 2004; UNDP (Human Development Report), 2003 and 2004.

Table 10
Maternal mortality ratio

	1995	2001	2015
Algeria	170	117	42.5
Egypt	170	84	43.5
Libya	120	97	30
Morocco	390	220	83
Mauritania	930	747	232.5
Sudan	1500	590	375
Tunisia	70	54.8	17.5

Table 11

Evolution of the prevalence rate of the 15 to 49 age group

	2001	2003*
Algeria	0.1	0.1 (<0.2)
Egypt	0.1	<0.1 (<0.2)
Libya	0.2	0.3 (0,1-0.6)
Morocco	0.1	0.1 (0, 0-0.2)
Mauritania	1	0.6 (0,3-1.1)
Sudan	2.8 (1.6 in 2003)	2.3 (0,7-7.2)
Tunisia	0.04 (1999)	<0.1 (<0.2)

Sources: (i) Data from national surveys; World Bank (World Development Indicators), 2004; UNDP (Human Development Report), 2003 and 2004.

(ii) UNAIDS (2002), Epidemiological Fact Sheets on HIV/AIDS and Sexually Transmitted Infections 2002 Update for Algeria, Egypt, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, Sudan and Tunisia. *: UNDP estimates (2004), calculated on the basis of new models developed by the UN Common Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS). Intervals are shown in brackets.

Table 12
Prevalence and death rates associated with malaria and tuberculosis, 2000

	Mortality rate associated with malaria per 100 000 inhabitants in 2000	Cases of malaria per 100 000 inhabitants in 2000	Mortality rate associated with tuberculosis per 100 000 inhabitants in 2000	Cases of tuberculosis per 100 000 inhabitants in 2000	Cases of Tuberculosis per 100 000 inhabitants in 2002 *
Algeria	22	2	2	23	51
Egypt	0	-	4	23	38
Libya	0	2	2	11	20
Morocco	8	-	10	47	100
Mauritania	108	11 150	51	209	437
Sudan	70	13 934	50	142	346
Tunisia	0	1	4	18	26

Source: UNDP(Human Development Report) 2003 and 2004. * UNDP data (2004), relating to the frequency of cases of tuberculosis.

Table 13
Proportion of land area covered by forest (%)

	1990	2000
Algeria	0,8	0,9
Egypt	0,1	0,1
Libya	0,2	0,2
Morocco	6,8	6,8
Mauritania	0,4	0,3
Sudan	30	25,9
Tunisia	3	3,1

Table 14
Population with sustained access to an improved water source (%)

	1990	2000	1990	2000
Algeria	-	82	-	94
Egypt	92	96	97	99
Libya	68	68	72	72
Morocco	58	56	94	98
Mauritania	40	40	34	34
Sudan	60	69	86	86
Tunisia	54	58	91	92

Source: UNDP(Human Development Report) 2003 and 2004. * UNDP data (2004), relating to the frequency of cases of tuberculosis.

Table 15
Urban population with access to improved sanitation (%)

	1990	2000
Algeria	-	90
Egypt	96	100
Libya	97	97
Morocco	88	86
Mauritania	44	44
Sudan	87	87
Tunisia	96	96

Source:UNDP,(Human Development Report) 2003 and 2004
* UNDP data (2004), relating to the frequency of cases of tuberculosis.

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