

“The millennium goals, for those of you who don’t know, are a persistent nag of a noble, global compact.”

Bono in an opinion column published by *The New York Times* in October



“Girls get to eat last. Pregnant women already have weakened immune systems, so their babies suffer and die. This is a human crisis, not just a financial crisis.”

Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, managing director at the World Bank and a former finance minister of Nigeria, on the impact of the global economic crisis on women

“A Congolese woman told me: ‘For you in the West, the financial crisis is a change in lifestyle. For us it is a matter of life and death.’”

Iraqi-born Zainab Salbi, founder of Women for Women International, speaking at the fifth Women’s Forum in France in October. The Washington-based group helps survivors of war, civil strife, and other conflicts



“What you do from this day forward will write, or rewrite, the story of AIDS across Africa.”

Michel Sidibé, Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) executive director, to South African President Jacob Zuma, just before Mr. Zuma announced that the country would treat all HIV-positive babies and expand testing. South Africa has the most HIV-infected people in the world

“Never again should we face the deadlock that threatened to pull down those talks; never again should we let a global deal to move towards a greener future be held to ransom by only a handful of countries.”

Gordon Brown, British Prime Minister, after four days of negotiations at the climate change summit in Copenhagen in December 2009



“I have the feeling of dread we are on the *Titanic* and sinking fast. It’s time to launch the lifeboats.”

Ian Fry, a delegate from Tuvalu at the Copenhagen summit in December. Tuvalu, an archipelago of tiny islands in the South Pacific, is threatened by rising sea levels caused by global warming

“Our targets are tough. Air transport is the first industry to commit to carbon-neutral growth at the global level, and we have done it with an aggressive timeline of 2020.”

Giovanni Bisignani, International Air Transport Association director general and CEO, on efforts to cut CO₂ emissions

