



**Brasília, 27 July 2010** - UNDP Chief Helen Clark begins a two day official visit to Brazil tomorrow, meeting with President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, Ambassador Celso Amorim, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ms Izabella Teixeira, Minister of Environment, and other top-level Brazilian authorities.

During her visit, she will also sign a strategic partnership framework agreement between UNDP and the Brazilian government. South-South cooperation initiatives and continued action for achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) are among the top priorities for the agreement.

Helen Clark comes to Brazil in the run up to a UN summit in New York in September to review progress on the Millennium Development Goals. Established in 2000, the eight goals set firm benchmarks for reducing extreme poverty in its many dimensions by 2015.

Speaking from New York before the trip, Helen Clark said that Brazil has made enormous progress on the MDGs and is contributing a lot internationally to development, both in the debate and in actual contributions.

She stated that during the summit, President Lula would be able to show a very good set of experiences in tackling the MDGs. She highlighted Brazil's strong social protection programmes and their importance in building resilience against crises.

Helen Clark will also visit [IPC-IG headquarters in Brasilia](#) and take part in a dynamic presentation by IPC-IG researchers on the current research agenda, activities, outputs and policy impacts. She will additionally express her views on the role of IPC-IG within UNDP global vision for engaging in policy dialogue with the emerging economies.

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