

Addis Ababa, November 18, 2012 (WIC) - The United Nations and the African Union stressed the need for African countries to exert maximum efforts to meet the Millennium Development Goals by 2015.

In a joint press conference they gave on Thursday in Addis Ababa, UN Deputy Secretary-General, Jan Eliason and AU Commission Deputy Chairperson Erastus Mwencha said governments need to boost efforts to achieve the MDGs in the remaining three years, as the years are crucial to meet the goals.

Though Africa is registering a significant economic growth, there is still a gap in mobilizing resources to minimize basic social problems, Mwencha said.

According ERTA, he said the continent has financial constraints to meet the MDGs because of the reduction of support from donor countries due to the global economic crisis.

To solve this financial problem and achieve the goals, African countries need to mobilize and use their own resources, he said.

Though Africa is struggling to achieve the MDGs, there are challenges for the continent to meet the goals particularly in reducing maternal and child mortality and ensuring access to health and sanitation services by 2015, said Deputy Secretary-General, Eliason.

According to him, Ethiopia and Rwanda are on the right track towards achieving these goals.