



**Speech of UNDP Resident Representative Mr. Frode
Mauring**
***Launch of the Municipal Development Strategy in
Gjakove***

- Dear President of the Municipal Assembly Mr. Shehu, dear Chief Executive Officer Mr. Grezda, Dear Mr. Schook, Principal Deputy SRSG, Dear Mr. Grezda, Deputy Minister, Dear guests from the government, civil society and the media.
- It is good to be in Gjakova. It is the hometown of Lorik Cana the great football player who is also the Kosovo Champion of Millennium Development Goals in Kosovo.
- He is the first such champion in Kosovo, and it looks that somehow these Millennium development Goals - such as reducing poverty, improving health, environment and cooperation between different partners – are somehow linked with this town.
- I will try to keep my speech short.

- Today we are officially launching the Municipal Development Strategy of Gjakova. It is an initiative to localize the Millennium Development Goals and integrate them into development policies and strategies.
- It is important to include the MDG's in the strategic planning and for this there are several reasons:
- With the MDG's the development targets are set in time. Until 2015 the number of poor people in Gjakove should be halved. And citizens of Gjakova will measure the governance of their leaders by the set goals.
- It is important to have MDG's in the strategic planning because it is a global agenda and it is easier to be identified world wide.
- It is important because donor countries have pledged to help the world in reaching these goals.
- I will not go further in explaining the importance of the goals. However, I will say few words about the project that achieved the production of this plan.
- It was an inclusive process where two local Non Governmental Organisations participated fully; It was a process which had a regional angle; the representatives of

Kukes Municipality and experts from Albania also contributed; UN agencies worked together, and on top of everything the engagement of the Municipality was full and dedicated.

- However, this now is a plan, and plans need to be implemented. You the people of Gjakova know where you are going, that is the aim of the plan. Now you have to implement this plan which is another challenge laying ahead.
- Though, the clarification of the final status will not solve everything. 2007 is the year which will mark a new beginning for Kosovo and a new beginning for the people of Gjakova.
- Thank you, JU FALIMINDFERES SHUME, hvala.