



Harnessing science, technology and innovation for the SDGs

Scientists, innovators and technologists will meet with representatives from governments, civil society, the private sector and other experts at the first Multi-stakeholder Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals (STI Forum), from 6 to 7 June to explore how to realize the potential of science, technology and innovation to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

New global innovators are emerging. Patterns of technology are shifting. Joint projects are bringing together experts from different regions and specialities with the common goal of sustainable development. The STI Forum seeks to grasp the opportunities that these and other developments bring.

Wu Hongbo, Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, has said that developed and developing countries alike have high expectations for the Forum. “They have emphasized repeatedly that the STI Forum needs to be innovative and interactive, and should focus on practical, win-win solutions for the SDGs, engaging all stakeholders”, he said.

Outlining the key functions of the STI Forum, Mr. Wu noted that “it is envisioned as a venue for facilitating interaction, matchmaking and the establishment of networks; It is a forum for identifying and examining technology needs and gaps; It seeks to help

facilitate development, transfer and dissemination of relevant technologies for the SDGs.”

Advancing human progress

The STI Forum will highlight how technology, science and innovation can help us advance human progress and live up to the promise of leaving no one behind.

On the first day of the forum on 6 June, participants will, among other things, discuss activities and policies that can support the development of technology, science and innovation that support the SDGs.

They will explore how to deploy or incentivize the uptake of existing knowledge and new, innovative solutions and technologies and make them more readily available to those who need them. Innovators will present transformative, scalable examples that already shape human interaction in a variety of areas.

Creating shared value

Day two of the Forum will look at how to create shared value and at opportunities for networking and matchmaking. Best practices in identifying scientific knowledge, technologies and innovations, and effectively scaling them up, will also be explored.

A Ministerial Dialogue will identify key elements for action plans and roadmaps for effective science, technology and innovation policy frameworks, and a Youth session will shed a light on how young people are using new approaches and perspectives to innovate and develop solutions to meet the SDGs.

Showcasing innovations

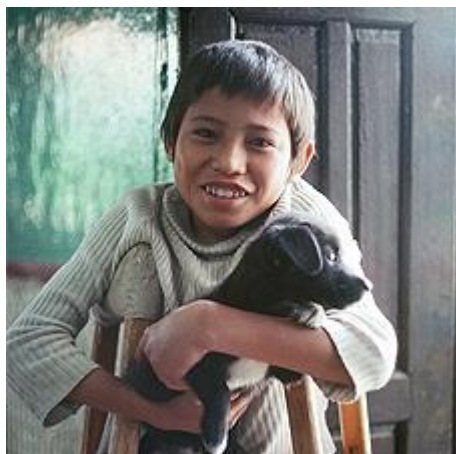
A special event and exhibition hosted during the forum will showcase innovations that were collected through a Call to Action and that provide practical examples of concrete progress on the ground. More than 250 innovations were received through this call, and 12 outstanding innovations were selected to be featured at this event.

The annual Multi-stakeholder Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals Forum is convened by the President of ECOSOC. It is part of the Technology Facilitation Mechanism mandated by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, and supported by an Inter-Agency Task Team and a 10 member stakeholder group.

For more information:

Multi-stakeholder Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals (STI Forum)

Working towards a world where no one is left behind



Last September, the UN General Assembly adopted a landmark global development agreement – the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The 2030 Agenda includes 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and features 169 related targets that aim to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure prosperity for all, over the next 15 years. The new agenda comes after the conclusion of an earlier 15-year global development plan that proved to be the most successful in the history of the planet – the Millennium

Development Goals (MDGs).

The new SDGs and their targets also cover vulnerable and marginalized groups, including the 1 billion people living with disabilities, worldwide.

This year marks the first year of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, as well as the 10th anniversary of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), an international human rights treaty that was adopted by the UN General Assembly in 2006.

Tracking implementation of the CRPD

Each year, Governments that have ratified the CRPD meet at UN Headquarters in a “Conference of States Parties” to discuss the implementation of the CRPD and chart a way forward to improve the lives and well-being of people with disabilities. From around the world, high-level Government delegates, representatives of UN agencies, and hundreds of civil society participants, including representatives of organizations of persons with disabilities, join in the discussions.

This Conference of States Parties to the CRPD has grown to be one of the largest and most diverse meetings on disability in the world.

Next month, the 9th session of the Conference of States Parties (COSPP) will take place at UN Headquarters from 14 to 16 June. The aptly chosen overarching theme of this year’s session is: “Implementing the 2030 development agenda for all persons with disabilities: Leaving no one behind”.

Sub-themes of the Conference relating to the SDGs include: Eliminating poverty and inequality for all persons with disabilities, Protecting the rights of persons with mental and intellectual disabilities, and Enhancing accessibility to information, technology and inclusive development.

Achieving the SDGs for people with disabilities

This year's CRPD anniversary and COSP provides a timely opportunity for States Parties and other stakeholders to look at how the CRPD can better inform and guide the implementation of the new development framework presented in the 2030 Agenda to help achieve the SDGs for people with disabilities.

The event will also offer an opportunity to take stock of the progress made by States Parties and other stakeholders in realizing an inclusive society for all. In conjunction with the COSP, Governments, UN agencies and civil society organizations convene short parallel side-events that cover a myriad of disability-related issues that add value to this international gathering of disability activists, advocates, policy-makers, practitioners, Government and UN officials and others. In the three days of the Conference over 70 side-events are expected to take place.

A day prior to this year's COSP, the President of the UN General Assembly will organize a panel discussion to follow up on the status of and progress made towards the realization of the development goals for persons with disabilities.

Forum brings voices of civil society

A Civil Society Forum will also be held a day prior to the COSP that will provide a space for civil society, including representative organizations of persons with disabilities and other stakeholders, to map out their vision and work to strengthen the voice of people with disabilities in the intergovernmental discourse.

Over the past 10 years, the world has seen increasing support for the implementation of the CRPD that currently has 164 States parties. The international community has come a long way since the adoption of the Convention ten years ago, as the global normative framework to advance the rights of persons with disabilities in society and development has been strengthened significantly. The voices and perspectives of persons with disabilities continue to be better reflected at the international level and in the work of the United Nations, which serves to ensure that they are not left behind.

For more information:

9th session of the Conference of States Parties (COSP)

Panel Discussion organized by the President of the UN General Assembly

Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)

Elder abuse: A global social issue



The World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (WEAAD) is commemorated each year on 15 June to highlight the often silent suffering of the elder generation. The Day was officially recognized by the United Nations General Assembly in December 2011, following a request by the International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse (INPEA), who first established the commemoration in June 2006.

This is the one day of the year when the whole world voices its opposition to the abuse and suffering inflicted to some defenseless older people. As former UN Secretary-General Kofi

Annan said at the Second World Assembly on Ageing in 2002: “We will all grow old one day — if we have that luck.”

In many parts of the world elder abuse occurs with little recognition or response. It is a global social issue which affects the Health and Human Rights of millions of older persons around the world, and an issue which deserves the attention of the international community.

Even today, elder abuse continues to be a taboo, mostly underestimated and ignored by societies across the world. Evidence is accumulating, however, to indicate that elder abuse is an important public health and societal problem.

According to the World Health Organization, prevalence rates or estimates exist only in selected developed countries – ranging from 1 to 10 per cent. Although the extent of elder mistreatment is unknown, its social and moral significance is obvious. More effective prevention strategies and stronger policies are needed to address all aspects of elder abuse.

Individuals, communities, municipalities and organizations will come together and hold events to raise awareness of elder abuse on 15 June. As in previous years, many activities will be held, with the hope to bring greater recognition of the mistreatment of older adults wherever they live throughout the world and to highlight the need for appropriate action.

For more information:

[World Elder Abuse Awareness Day](#)

[Video: Empowering Older Women – The forgotten half-billion](#)



Celebrating UN Public Service Day

2016 presents an unprecedented opportunity for the world to come together and embark upon a journey to transform the world. From ending poverty to eliminating hunger, to reaching social and economical equality, and to taking climate actions; sustainable development cannot be realized without the concrete efforts from public institutions with effective public service delivery.

Every year on 23 June, a date designated by the General Assembly, the United Nations Public Service Day is celebrated around the world. It highlights the value and virtue of public service to communities and development, as well as recognizes the work of public servants and encourages young people to pursue careers in the public sector.

In order to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals “governments everywhere will need to adopt innovative and integrated approaches to promote policy change, institutional coordination, participatory decision-making, and effective, responsive, inclusive and accountable service delivery,” said Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon when UN Public Service Day was celebrated in 2015.

The 2030 Agenda for sustainable development calls for a society that leaves no one behind. Public servants around the world are undertaking important work to ensure that this vision becomes a reality.

To commemorate the UN Public Service Day this year, a special event will be held at UN Headquarters in New York on 23 June on the theme of “Leaving No One Behind through Innovative Public Service Delivery”.

This event aims to highlight the importance of effective public service delivery in implementing the SDGs, as well as promoting the innovations in the delivery of public service.

For more information:
[2016 UN Public Service Day](#)



Getting the numbers right on human mobility

Tracking the movements of refugees and migrants across the globe has been at the heart of Bela Hovy's work for the past 20 years. As the Chief of the Migration Section in UN DESA's Population Division, he and his team ensure that the international community has accurate data to help promote safe and well-managed international migration.

The Secretary-General's new report, 'In Safety and Dignity: Addressing Large Movements of Refugees and Migrants', was just about to be launched when UN DESA's communications team got a chance to speak with Bela Hovy, who has led the Migration Section in UN DESA's Population Division since 2006, and who was previously in charge of statistics at the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

Mr. Hovy shared the efforts involved to make sure that we have correct data and the department's role in providing input to this new report of the Secretary-General, as well as the work ahead to support the preparations for the upcoming High-level Meeting on Addressing Large Movements of Refugees and Migrants, which will take place on 19 September.

"For me it is very important that the UN responds to global issues and global challenges," said Bela Hovy, describing the severe challenges faced by millions of refugees and migrants around the world. "The key for us is to put out evidence to inform the debate, to make sure that people have an accurate picture," Mr. Hovy explained, also emphasizing the role of accurate data in countering xenophobia and intolerance.

Behind the trends lies extensive work

"The key contribution we make is using demographic techniques to harmonize data we receive from countries," said Mr. Hovy, describing the work-intensive process of obtaining data through a country's population censuses, which is then channeled through UN DESA's Statistics Division for inclusion in its Demographic Yearbook database.

From this point on, the Population Division has access to the information and can download the variables needed, for example on the number of foreign-born, citizenship, sex, age or country of birth. What Mr. Hovy's team then focuses on is to make the data comparable. "In the end we have a harmonized dataset of the international migrant stock at five year intervals by country of destination, by country of origin, by age and by sex," Mr. Hovy explained.

Learning the age of international migrants

"It is extremely exciting work, because 10 years ago we did not know anything about the age of the migrants," Bela Hovy said. But thanks to funding from UNICEF, the Division invested in estimating the age distribution of migrants.

“Over the past 10 years we have also developed the place of birth component,” he said, pointing to the fact that they now know where migrants are coming from, not only where they are going.

“That has really influenced the debate on international migration and development,” Mr. Hovy said. “We are now able to demonstrate that there is a lot of migration going on within the global South as well as within the global North.”

Promoting safe and well-managed migration

Discussing the value of these estimates produced, Mr. Hovy highlighted how they help inform Member States, which might have limited demographic analytical capacity. “We really help those countries in crunching the data, and for them to understand future trends, so that they can better prepare and develop their population policies in general but also in regards to migration,” Bela Hovy explained.

Mr. Hovy also talked about the evidence that shows the positive contributions of migration to poverty reduction and global prosperity and how important it is that we highlight them. “Yes there are gaps in the governance of migration, but look at the economic impact, contributions and how many people are benefitting from it,” he said.

We also discuss the need to promote safe, orderly and regular migration. One relevant new tool to help achieve this is the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. “I am very excited to see that migration is fully mainstreamed into the 2030 Agenda,” Mr. Hovy said. “We have all worked with Member States, civil society and with other UN entities to make it happen.”

Looking ahead towards the High-level meeting in September, Bela Hovy and his team will be busy supporting the intergovernmental process leading up to this event, working in close collaboration with the Office of the Special Adviser Karen AbuZayd and the Co-facilitators from Ireland and Jordan.

For more information:

UN DESA’s Population Division – Migration Section

Migration data from UN DESA’s Population Division

‘In Safety and Dignity: Addressing Large Movements of Refugees and Migrants’

High-level Meeting on Addressing Large Movements of Refugees and Migrants



Highlights from the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

After its two week session gathering more than 1,000 participants [from more than 250 organizations](#), some 70 Member States and 35 UN agencies, the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues concluded its 15th session on 20 May with the adoption of its session report, including recommendations for States, UN bodies and indigenous peoples.

Taking place from 9 to 20 May at UN Headquarters in New York, the event saw a record number of over 80 side events organized by the participants parallel to the main meetings – and a cultural night saw inspiring performances of two indigenous artists, [Maya singer Sara Curruchich](#) from Guatemala and Sámi rapper, [SlinCraze](#) from Norway.

The discussions at the session covered the main theme of “Indigenous peoples: conflict, peace and resolution” with [interactive panels](#) highlighting the root causes of conflicts affecting indigenous peoples, [the specific situation of indigenous women in times of violent conflict](#) – as well as the contributions of indigenous peoples to sustainable peace and harmony in post-conflict societies.

Other topics discussed throughout the weeks were the six mandated areas of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous issues: health, education, human rights, economic and social development, environment and culture.

Furthermore, the Permanent Forum had discussions on the need to empower [indigenous women](#) in times of conflict, [indigenous youth’s efforts to overcome challenges of suicide](#), the [participation of indigenous peoples in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda](#) and the upcoming ten-year anniversary of the adoption of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in 2017.

“After two weeks of dialogue with indigenous peoples, Member States and UN entities, the Permanent Forum has today made strong recommendations to ensure indigenous peoples’ rights,” said Mr. Alvaro Pop, the Chairperson of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues on the last day of the session.

He added that, “the statements made during the 2016 session show a worrying trend of increased threats and violations against indigenous human rights defenders – and that there is an urgent need to ensure indigenous peoples’ access to justice and to address impunity.”

[At the closing of the session](#), United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon called for indigenous peoples’ participation in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and said that “States must be held accountable for implementing the 2030 Agenda, with full respect for the rights and minimum

standards guaranteed for indigenous peoples in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.”

Now, the UN has a system-wide action plan on the rights of indigenous peoples, which will bring the UN system together in dialogue with indigenous peoples. The report adopted by the expert members of the Permanent Forum, as orally revised (unedited), is available via the website <http://www.un.org/indigenous> and the official document is expected in June. The report will be presented to the Economic and Social Council in July 2016.

For more information:

15th Session of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

Indigenous peoples share hopes for the SDGs

Indigenous peoples and the 2030 Agenda

UN DESA's Division for Social Policy and Development – Indigenous peoples

Photo credit: UN Department of Public Information/Flaminia Bondi

MORE FROM DESA



Technology and Innovation for Sustainable Development

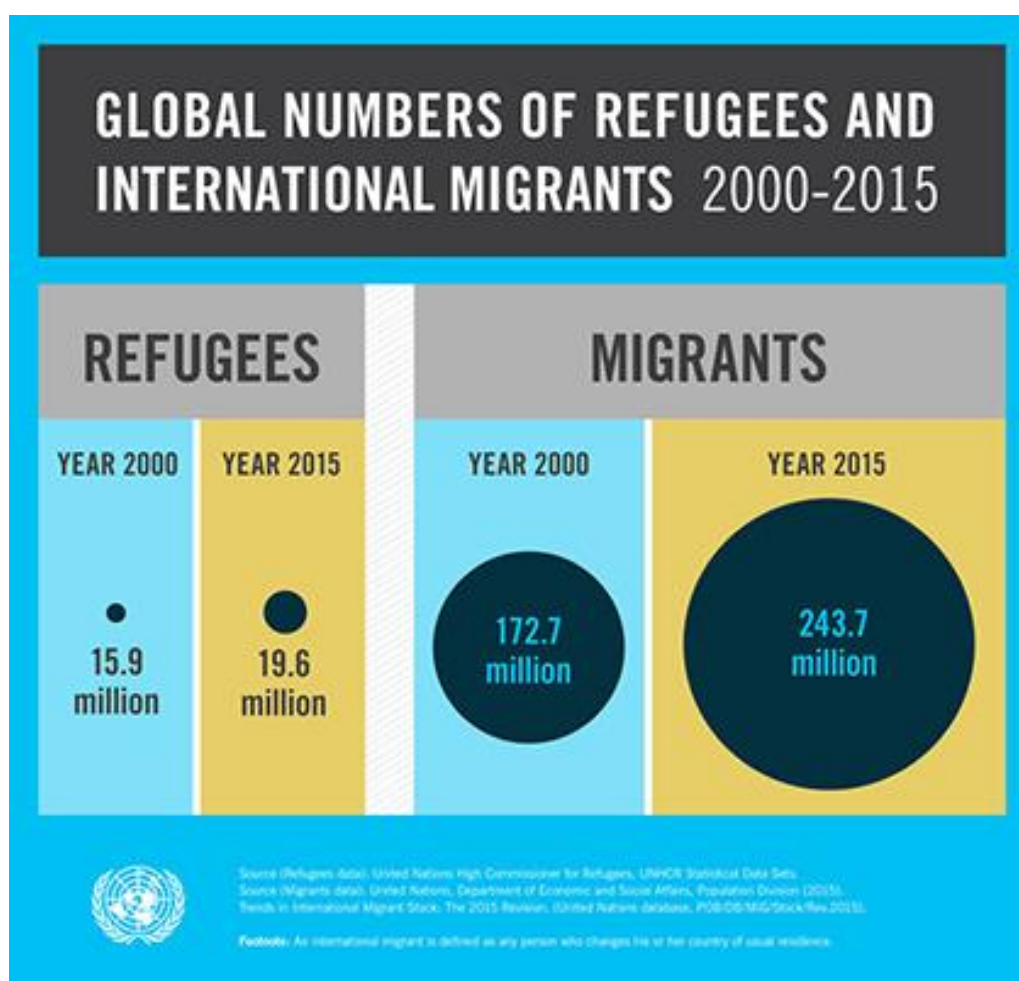
Environmental sustainability is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The concept of sustainable development has been recognized as the only way to balance the imperative of eradicating extreme poverty and human deprivation with a need to keep the stability of our natural environment.

In *Technology and Innovation for Sustainable Development*, experts provide a variety of insights about the behavioral and policy changes that would need to accompany the technical transformation needed for sustainable development. The book underlines that challenge of improving and adapting existent technology to the specific local needs of countries. It discusses the experience of countries and the policy options confronted by Governments to expedite the adoption of green technology and to facilitate rapid diffusion and knowledge sharing.

Co-edited by Diana Alarcon, Chief of the Development Strategy and Policy Analysis Unit in UN DESA's Development Policy and Analysis Division, and Rob Vos, Director of Agricultural Development Economics at FAO, *Technology and Innovation for Sustainable Development* spells out the behavioral and policy changes that would need to accompany the next technological transformation, taking into account the complexity of inducing technological change in the energy and agricultural sectors. The assessment suggests that this will require major, but doable improvements in national innovation systems and major, but affordable shifts in investment patterns and related macroeconomic adjustments.

The book is available for purchase via [UN Publications](#).

Global numbers of refugees and international migrants



Where do international migrants come from and where do they go? The new report by the Secretary-General [“In Safety and Dignity: Addressing Large Movements of Refugees and Migrants”](#) includes facts, figures and shares findings and recommendations to ensure that human mobility happens in a dignified and safe manner.

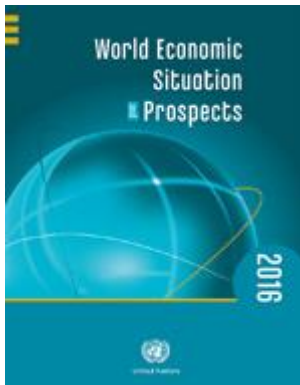
Recent estimates show that the number of international migrants hit 244 million in 2015 – 41 per cent more than in 2000. For more in-depth data, UN DESA’s Population Division offers an interactive site exploring recent trends.

For more information:

[International migrant stock 2015: graphs](#)

[Global dataset on international migration](#)

[In Safety and Dignity: Addressing Large Movements of Refugees and Migrants](#)



Weak global growth continues

Economic activity in the world economy remains lacklustre, with little prospect for a turnaround in 2016, according to UN DESA's World Economic Situation and Prospects as of mid-2016 report, launched on 12 May.

According to the report, world gross product will grow by just 2.4 per cent in 2016, the same pace as in 2015, marking a downward revision of 0.5 percentage points from UN forecasts released in December 2015.

Persistent weakness in aggregate demand in developed economies remains a drag on global growth, while low commodity prices, mounting fiscal and current account imbalances and policy tightening have further dampened prospects for many commodity-exporting economies in Africa, the Commonwealth of Independent States and Latin America and the Caribbean. This has been compounded by severe weather-related shocks, political challenges and large capital outflows in many developing regions.

For more information:

[World Economic Situation and Prospects as of mid-2016](#)

[Watch report launch via UN webcast recording](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

- | | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| 6-7 June, New York | First annual Multi-stakeholder Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals |
| 10 June, New York | Committee on NGOs, resumed session |
| 14-16 June, New York | 9th session of the Conference of States Parties to the CRPD |
| 15 June | World Elder Abuse Awareness Day |
| 23 June | United Nations Public Service Day |

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