



United Nations Webcast: www.un.org/webcast

Video

Men leaders to combat violence against women

Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon marked the 10th anniversary of the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women on 24 November by launching a Network of Men Leaders, a major new initiative bringing together current and former politicians, activists, religious and community figures to combat the global pandemic. "These men will add their voices to the growing global chorus for action," he said, noting that 70 per cent of women experience in their lifetime some form of physical or sexual violence from men, the majority from husbands, intimate partners or someone they know.

<http://webcast.un.org/ramgen/ondemand/specialevents/2009/se091124am.rm?start=00:05:53&end=00:11:28> (7 minutes)

Inside this issue

It is time to seal the deal

The average temperature of the earth's surface has risen by 0.74 degrees C since the late 1800s. It is expected to increase by another 1.8° C to 4° C by the year 2100 – a rapid and profound change – if the necessary action is not taken. Even if the minimum predicted increase takes place, it will be larger than any century-long trend in the last 10,000 years, p. 1

How ICT can strengthen Parliaments

"For Parliaments, the benefits of ICT can be enormous. ICT can make the democratic process more transparent, accessible and accountable, by facilitating access of members of Parliaments, parliamentary administrations, media and citizens to information services," said Mr. Sha Zukang, USG of DESA at the 2009 World e-Parliament Conference, p. 4

Global dialogue on development, p. 6

Trends and analysis, p. 9

Technical cooperation, p. 14

Publications and websites, p. 18

Comings and goings, p. 20

Calendar, p. 21

Feature articles

It is time to seal the deal

The average temperature of the earth's surface has risen by 0.74 degrees C since the late 1800s. It is expected to increase by another 1.8° C to 4° C by the year 2100 – a rapid and profound change – if the necessary action is not taken. Even if the minimum predicted increase takes place, it will be larger than any century-long trend in the last 10,000 years.

Over a decade ago, most countries joined an international treaty – the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change – to begin to consider what can be done to reduce global warming and to cope with whatever temperature increases are inevitable. More recently, a number of nations approved an addition to the treaty, called the Kyoto Protocol, which has more powerful (and legally binding) measures.

The Kyoto Protocol's first commitment period will end in 2012. A strong multilateral framework needs to be in place as soon as possible to ensure that there

is no gap between the end of the Kyoto Protocol's first commitment period in 2012 and the entry into force of a future regime. This can be possible if world leaders seal the deal at the COP15 (Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change) that will take place in Copenhagen, Denmark, from 7 to 18 December 2009.

Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, who walked the Arctic ice rim in August and saw the impact of climate change on icebergs and glaciers first-hand, said that "we do not have any time to lose. The time is short. We must seal the deal in Copenhagen in December, a deal which will be comprehensive, equitable and balanced, so that both industrialized and developing countries, and all citizens of the world can live in an environmentally sustainable way."



Global warming

The principal reason for the mounting thermometer is a century and a half of industrialization: the burning of ever-greater quantities of oil, gasoline, and coal, the cutting of forests, and the practice of certain farming methods.

These activities have increased the amount of "greenhouse gases" in the atmosphere, especially carbon dioxide, methane, and nitrous oxide. Such gases occur naturally, but in augmented and increasing quantities, they are pushing the global temperature to artificially high levels and altering the climate. Eleven of the last 12 years are the warmest on record -1998 was the warmest year so far.

The current warming trend is expected to be so severe that it will actually cause extinctions. Numerous plant and animal species, already weakened by pollution and loss of habitat, are not expected to survive the next 100 years. Human beings, while not threatened in this way, are likely to face mounting difficulties. Recent severe storms,

floods and droughts, for example, appear to show that computer models predicting more frequent extreme weather events are on target.

The average sea level rose by 10 to 20 cm during the 20th century, and an additional increase of 18 to 59 cm is expected by the year 2100. If the higher end of that scale is reached, the sea could overflow the heavily populated coastlines of such countries as Bangladesh, causing the disappearance of some nations entirely (such as the island state of the Maldives), foul freshwater supplies for billions of people, and spur mass migrations.

Agricultural yields are expected to drop in most tropical and sub-tropical regions – and in temperate regions too – if the temperature increase is more than a few degrees C. Drying of continental interiors, such as central Asia, the African Sahel, and the Great Plains of the United States, is also on forecast. These changes could cause, at a minimum, disruptions in land use and food supply. And the range of diseases such as malaria may expand.

Some controversial points

The negotiations are in fact two parallel sets of talks. Those covering the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) as set out in the Bali Action Plan occur in the Ad Hoc Working Group On Long-term Cooperative Action under the Convention (AWG-LCA). Negotiations under Kyoto Protocol take place in the Ad Hoc Working Group on Further Commitments for Annex I Parties (AWG-KP).

Almost all developed countries want the two negotiations tracks to merge, leading to a single new agreement. Most developing countries favour a dual-track strategy that would both amend the Kyoto Protocol and create a new agreement resulting from the LCA track. They fear that a single agreement may result in some or all of the Kyoto Protocols features being dropped in an attempt to craft a weak deal appealing to the United States. There is a division between the 198 Parties to the Kyoto Protocol, which are negotiating the Protocol's continuation, and the United States, which wants a quite different international framework.

There is another major battle between developed and developing countries. Developed nations have the greatest responsibility for causing climate change because of their combined current and historical greenhouse gas emissions. Developing countries insist that they must deal with poverty reduction and social issues and should be assisted with mitigation

actions, as they did not cause climate change and have fewer resources to deal with it.

Furthermore, there is no agreement yet on whether to use a limit based on the increase of temperature, a total level of emissions or an atmospheric concentration of greenhouse gases. Many developed countries and major developing nations say the increase in global temperature should not exceed 2 °C above pre-industrial levels. But close to 100 other nations, including the Least Developing Countries (LDCs) and the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS) argue for a more ambitious goal of no more than 1.5 °C of warming.

DESA and climate change

Climate change is not just an environmental issue. It also has serious economic and social implications. Climate change is, fundamentally, a sustainable development challenge, that should be linked more firmly to the broader development agenda, including to poverty reduction and other internationally agreed development goals.

DESA facilitates the negotiations of Member States in many intergovernmental bodies on joint courses of action to address the challenge. The Department gears the substantive support it extends to intergovernmental bodies and negotiations to furthering an integrated approach to the UN development agenda, and achieving a renewed focus on implementation, with climate change currently on top of the agenda.

The Department serves the Commission on Sustainable Development, the main United Nations forum bringing countries together to consider ways to integrate the economic, social, and environmental dimensions of development.

Furthermore, through its research, publications and reports, the department seeks to serve all Member States as a global think tank on economic and social affairs. The goal of DESA is to deepen the understanding of sustainable development options that can be incorporated into the climate change discussion, becoming the analytical basis for agreement.

Addressing the COP15 challenges: focusing on technology

Recognizing the serious links between development and climate change and with the world poised for renewed action in the run-up to COP15 in Copenhagen, DESA's Division for Sustainable

Development is working to accelerate technology transfer in a way that advances both adaptation and sustainable development in all countries.

Progress in design and transfer of environmentally sound technologies, particularly cleaner energy technologies and technologies for adaptation, will be an essential component of a comprehensive global effort for combating climate change – and for meeting countries' sustainable and millennium development goals.

With these important objects at stake, DSD is identifying mechanisms for overcoming barriers and obstacles to technology transfer, and improving international cooperation on this important solution. While the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) agreements contain many references to technology transfer to developing countries, the focus of implementation has generally been on creating conditions in developing countries conducive to foreign investment and building capabilities to absorb and utilize imported technologies.

DSD however, is emphasizing measures that Governmental technology suppliers can take to accelerate the distribution and adoption of technology in developing countries. The Division is also working to identify more effective methods of measuring and verifying the extent of environmentally sound technology transfer.

In the lead up to COP15, DSD has organized two key meetings where technology for adaptation is the focus: The Beijing High-Level Conference on Climate Change: Technology Development and Technology Transfer, which took place in November 2008, and its follow-up, the New Delhi High-level Conference, held in October 2009.

DESA's Under-Secretary General Sha Zukang reiterated at the recent High-Level Conference in New Delhi that "climate change demands urgent action and rapid, wide diffusion. The world cannot afford to wait for these technologies to follow the usual path of gradual diffusion, from rich to middle-income to poor countries. Let me be blunt: global climate policy will succeed – or fail – depending on whether it brings low-emission technologies and technologies for adaptation within the reach of poor countries, and poor communities, without further delay".

For more information: <http://en.cop15.dk/>,
<http://www.un.org/esa/desa/climatechange/>,

http://www.un.org/esa/dsd/dsd_aofw_cc/cc_index.shtml, <http://unfccc.int/2860.php>

How ICT can strengthen Parliaments

“For Parliaments, the benefits of ICT can be enormous. ICT can make the democratic process more transparent, accessible and accountable, by facilitating access of members of Parliaments, parliamentary administrations, media and citizens to information services,” said Mr. Sha Zukang, USG of DESA at the 2009 World e-Parliament Conference

With information and communication technology (ICT) advancing more and more rapidly, today’s Parliaments face extraordinary opportunities and enormous challenges when interacting with their constituents. In many countries, legislators can now choose to email, blog, or twitter. They can use Flickr, YouTube, RSS feeds, and e-newsletters, engage in online discussions, hold phone-based town hall meetings, post online surveys, create a Facebook page and a web homepage, participate in television and radio shows or use mobile text messaging and more.



Citizens can also use technology to follow their Parliament and their representatives in an unprecedented way. They can choose to send an email, participate in an online discussion, respond to a blog posting, vote in a survey, sign an e-petition, and watch or listen to various media presentations, including web pages, videos, podcasts or photographs.

World e-Parliament Conference 2009

The World e-Parliament convenes to promote the use of these new ICTs in the parliamentary environment. Co-organized by DESA’s Global Centre for ICT in Parliament, the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the

U.S. House of Representatives, the World e-Parliament Conference 2009 took place in Washington D.C. on 3-5 November.

The 2009 Conference was built on the results of two previous conferences held respectively in Geneva in 2007 and Brussels in 2008, as well as on the findings of the World e-Parliament Report 2008, a joint product of DESA and the Inter-Parliamentary Union, prepared as part of the work of the Global Centre for ICT in Parliament.

More than 400 participants, including speakers and members of parliaments, secretary-generals, parliamentary staff and officials, experts from international organizations and academics who work and deal with ICTs in legislatures had the opportunity to analyze good practices, exchange views on latest trends and institutional developments, learn from each other’s experiences, network with peers, and build partnerships in an international setting.

They addressed a wide range of policy issues including the use of new technologies such as social networking to connect parliaments and citizens, leveraging information technologies to strengthen parliaments in young and emerging democracies, fostering inter-parliamentary cooperation at the international and regional levels. They also covered more technical topics such as open standards and XML for parliamentary documentation, security and reliability of infrastructure, recording of parliamentary proceedings and library services.

Wide gap between developed and developing countries

During the World e-Parliament Conference 2009, the preliminary results of the just completed Global Survey on ICT in Parliament were also presented. The findings will be compiled in the World e-Parliament Report 2010, to be published next year. Despite showing some progress, the preliminary findings confirm that there remains a wide gap between legislatures of developed and developing countries.

“Considering the findings of last year’s World e-Parliament Report, produced by DESA, based on survey information from 105 parliaments, more than 90 percent of the Parliaments surveyed had basic ICT and internet access,” said Mr. Sha Zukang at his opening remarks of the Conference. A number of parliaments are among the early adaptors of web technology and many of these have made considerable progress in achieving high levels of openness and transparency.

Recent elections, particularly in the U.S., have further underscored the potential importance of technology in the political sphere. While not displacing more traditional methods, the innovative use of tools such as social media, text messaging, and targeted emails appear to have had a significant impact on electoral contests.

The Conference final conclusions

One of the main conclusions that emerged during the debate was that there is an opportunity for parliaments to engage a new generation of citizens for whom ICT is central to their way of life in political and parliamentary processes. In this way, their views could be heard and taken into account as parliaments debate and decide on major policies and legislations.

Delegates also concluded that the adoption of open standards will allow parliaments to be more transparent and accountable to citizens. They remarked that access to information underpins citizens' involvement in political processes and indeed the work of members of parliament themselves. Members' enormous information needs can best be met by effective and well-resourced parliamentary library and research services making full use of new technologies for collecting, managing and sharing information.

With information technology, parliaments will also be better equipped to facilitate regional and global cooperation and integration. Many issues requiring legislative action in today's globalized world are in fact common problems that require concerted solutions. Mr. Sha called on parliaments that are more advanced in the use of new technologies to share their expertise with developing countries parliaments, and he encouraged the Global Centre for ICT in Parliament to facilitate such exchange by stepping up its efforts to coordinate technical assistance.

For more information:

<http://www.ictparliament.org/>

<http://www.ictparliament.org/wepc2009/>

<http://www.ipu.org/splz-e/eparl09.htm>

http://www.ictparliament.org/index.php?option=com_contact&task=view&contact_id=3&Itemid=1086

Global dialogue on development

A deal to mitigate climate change

The United Nations Climate Change Conference will be held in Copenhagen from 7-18 December

Governments have set themselves the deadline for agreeing on action to tackle climate change this December in Copenhagen. This conference may not yield in a new global climate treaty with every minor detail in place, but it is hoped that it will close with agreements on political essentials, creating a clarity the world – not least the financially struck business world – needs.

Four key questions calling for an international agreement must be answered in the conference. According to Yvo de Boer, Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the four essentials are: How much will developed countries submit to reducing their emissions? What are major developing countries willing to do to limit theirs? Where will the money and technological support come from to help developing nations to reduce emissions and adapt to climate change? And how will that money be managed?

In the lead up to the conference, DESA's Division for Sustainable Development has organized two key meetings where technology for adaptation is the focus: The Beijing High-Level Conference on Climate Change: Technology Development and Technology Transfer, which took place in November 2008, and its follow-up conference in New Delhi, held in October 2009.

About the COP

The negotiating process on climate change revolves around the sessions of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP), which meets every year to review the implementation of the Convention in order to adopt decisions and resolutions and to make up a detailed set of rules for practical and effective implementation of the Convention.

The COP serves as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (CMP), which also adopts decisions

and resolutions on the implementation of its provisions. The COP/CMP meeting is termed United Nations Climate Conference, which also includes the sessions of the subsidiary bodies to the Convention and the ad hoc working groups as well as the many side events and exhibits held parallel to the talks and negotiations.

Traditionally, the COP/CMP attracts several thousand participants, including government representatives and observer organizations. The sessions in Bali in 2007 was attended by about 11,000 participants, including some 3,500 government officials, over 5,800 representatives of UN bodies and agencies, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, and nearly 1,500 accredited members of the media. The UN Climate Change Conference in Poznań last year came close to that size, with around 9,300 participants.

For more information: <http://en.cop15.dk/>, <http://www.un.org/esa/desa/climatechange/>, http://www.un.org/esa/dsd/dsd_aofw_cc/cc_index.shtml, <http://unfccc.int/2860.php>

Impact of crises on women and children

The Second and Third Committees of the General Assembly considered issues regarding to the development and advancement of women and adopted several draft resolutions

This year, agenda items relating to gender equality and the advancement of women were addressed in the Second Committee and Third Committee of the General Assembly. On 22 October, the Second Committee considered the issue of women in development under agenda item 57(b), while between 12-14 October, the Third Committee considered the advancement of women and the implementation of the outcome of the Fourth World Conference on Women and of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, under agenda items 62(a) and 62(b).

Second Committee

As the sixty-fourth session of the General Assembly took place at the time of ongoing economic, financial, food and energy crises, several Member States at the Second Committee expressed their concerns about the disproportionate impact of these crises on women and children, including as regards to their social and economic costs. Many delegations stressed women's vulnerability to poverty,

highlighting the challenge of its eradication as an essential means of achieving sustainable development and gender equality.

Four resolutions were adopted within the Operational activities for development (item 58): Reports of the Executive Boards of the UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF and WFP (A/C.2/64/L.6); Operational activities for development of the United Nations system (A/C.2/64/L.35); and South-South cooperation for development A/C.2/64/L.42. The Committee thus concluded its consideration of the item 58 on Operational activities for development as a whole.

Third Committee

On 19 November, the Third Committee adopted by consensus the resolution on violence against women migrant workers (A/C.3/64/L.18/Rev.1). Also on 19 November, the resolution on the follow-up to the Beijing Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly was adopted by consensus as a chair's text (A/C.3/64/L.60). The resolution welcomes the opportunities in 2010 to accelerate progress in the achievement of gender equality and calls on Member States and UN entities to fully utilize those opportunities.

A large number of countries welcomed the adoption of General Assembly resolution 63/311 on system-wide coherence, particularly as it relates to the establishment of a new composite gender equality entity. Many delegations looked forward to productive intergovernmental negotiations and an early establishment of a well-resourced entity which would contribute to a well-coordinated approach to gender equality within the UN system and a strong, effective presence at country level.

The recent adoption of Security Council resolutions 1888 and 1889 on women, peace and security, including the mandate for a Special Representative to address sexual violence in conflict, was also welcomed by delegations at the Third Committee.

On 10 November, the Committee adopted by consensus the resolution on "Realizing the Millennium Development Goals for persons with disability" (A/C.3/64/L.5/Rev.1), which had 105 sponsors and co-sponsors.

For more information:

<http://www.un.org/ga/second/index.shtml>,

<http://www.un.org/ga/third/index.shtml>,

<http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/public/WorldSurvey2009.pdf>

Mutual accountability in development cooperation

First High-level Symposium to prepare for the 2010 Development Cooperation Forum (DCF) was held in Vienna on 12 and 13 November

Under the theme of the forum was "Accountable and transparent development cooperation: towards a more inclusive framework", the symposium helped to develop a common understanding of the concept of mutual accountability in development cooperation.

It confirmed that accountability relationships continue to be highly imbalanced. Programme countries have little capacity to hold donors accountable for the quantity and quality of their aid. Likewise, parliamentarians have difficulties holding governments to account on development cooperation as do civil society organizations.

The meeting saw a role for the DCF to review and spur progress in mutual accountability, although there was also a concern to avoid duplication e.g. with OECD/DAC. It was felt that the country level should be the primary area of focus for mutual accountability and there was a clear need to build the capacity of developing countries to monitor donor behaviour.

There were 172 registered participants, with 90 representatives from 61 countries. 56 of these participants represented developing countries, while 34 were from developed countries. 13 parliamentarians were present, along with 6 members of Parliamentary Organizations notably the Inter-Parliamentary Union. 27 representatives from civil society organizations and 23 officials from various multilateral and international organizations also attended.

The existence of national aid policies was seen as an important factor in ensuring mutual accountability at country level. Another important factor - at both global and country level - was the provision of independent evidence as a basis for mutual accountability reviews.

Yet another message of the symposium was that mutual accountability needs to focus on development results, and that the ultimate test for well functioning

mutual accountability mechanisms should be whether or not they meet the needs of programme countries. Two panels were also held on policy coherence and South-South cooperation, to launch the work of the DCF in these areas.

For more information:

<http://www.un.org/ecosoc/newfunct/dcfvienna10.shtml>
l

Trends and analysis

Regional meeting on implementing sustainable development

The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe in collaboration with DESA's Division for Sustainable Development is organizing a Regional Implementation Meeting (RIM) on 1 and 2 December in Geneva

The RIM for Europe and North America will contribute to the work of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) during the CSD 18/19 implementation cycle focused on transport, chemicals, waste management, mining, and the 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production. The meeting will be held in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (JPOI), and will be organized in cooperation with other regional organizations and regional offices of UN funds and programmes.

The RIM will also contribute to the advancement of the implementation of Agenda 21 and the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21. The meeting will provide inputs to the Secretary-General's reports and contribute to the CSD work by identifying region-specific challenges and opportunities as well as lessons learned and best practices. The RIM for Europe and North America will also provide for contributions from major groups.

For more information:

http://www.un.org/esa/dsd/csd/csd_csd18_rims.shtml, http://www.un.org/esa/dsd/csd/csd_pdfs/csd-18/rims/europe-north-america-agenda.pdf

Minimizing the effects of chemicals to human health and environment

Workshop on Case Studies in the Sound Management of Chemical will be held in Geneva on 3-4 December to share best practices

Experts from both developed and developing countries as well as representatives of United Nations bodies, agencies and multilateral environmental conventions will review progress and share best practices in achieving the 2020 goal on the sound management of chemicals, as set at the World Summit on Sustainable Development in 2002.

The workshop, co-organized by the Division for Sustainable Development of DESA, the Secretariat of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) and the UNEP Chemicals Branch, is part of the preparation of discussions on the thematic topic of chemicals at the 18th session of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD-18).

The participants will discuss principles, trends, lessons learned and challenges in sound management of chemicals, and share best practices and experiences. They will also review and finalize the publication on cases studies entitled "*Practices in the Sound Management of Chemicals*", which is an important complementary document to the Secretary-General's report on chemicals and the Trends Report for CSD-18. This publication will be launched during CSD-18 to facilitate discussions on minimizing the adverse effects of chemicals to human health and the environment.

For more information:

<http://esango.un.org/irene/dsd.html?page=viewConte&nr=5182&type=8>

Discussing guidelines on integrated economic statistics

The US Bureau of Economic Analysis, in its role as the moderator of the Friends of the Chair of the Statistical Commission on Integrated Economic Statistics, and DESA's Statistics Division are organizing a meeting on 7-9 December

The meeting in Washington D.C will discuss the draft chapters of the Guidelines on Integrated Economic Statistics developed by the Friends of the Chair Group. The Friends of the Chair Group was established by the Statistical Commission for the purpose of improving the methodology of integrated economic statistics and developing guidelines. The Group includes members from national statistical offices and international organizations. The outcome of the meeting will be suggestions to the lead authors

of the chapters for further work on drafting of the Guidelines.

For more information:

http://unstats.un.org/unsd/newsletter/globalstat_unsd_calendar.htm

Reporting MDG data

DESA's Statistics Division is organizing a workshop on MDG monitoring, in collaboration with the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)

The workshop will take place in Beirut, Lebanon, from 7 to 10 December and bring together representatives from national statistical offices and line ministries to review recommendations for reporting Millennium Development Goal (MDG) data and to establish strategies for dealing with data discrepancies and data gaps at the national and international level.

For more information:

<http://mdgs.un.org/unsd/mdg/Host.aspx?Content=Capacity/Beirut.htm>

Measuring violence against women

DESA's Statistics Division with the Instituto Nacional de Estadística y Geografía of Mexico (INEGI) are organizing a meeting on statistical indicators to measure violence against women

The meeting will be hosted by INEGI, in its role as the chair of the Friends of the Chair of the United Nations Statistical Commission, in Aguascalientes, Mexico, from 9 to 11 December. The purpose of the meeting is to continue the work on developing indicators in line with the recommendations in the first report submitted to the United Nations Statistical Commission in February 2009.

The meeting will also conduct an in-depth technical review of the methodologies currently applied to observe violence against women; and provide methodological advice for developing a set of guidelines for producing statistics on violence against women, regarding the selection of core and additional topics, sources of data, relevant statistical classifications, outputs, wording of questions and all other pertinent issues.

For more information:

<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/meetings/vaw/default.htm>

High frequency indicators of economic performance

International Seminar on Early Warning and Business Cycle Indicators in Scheveningen, Netherlands will be organized by DESA's Statistics Division on 14-16 December

In its response to the global economic and financial crisis, the Statistics Division is organizing a number of international seminars on the methodology to generate high frequency indicators of economic performance, their international comparability, the communication strategy of such indicators and the development of additional synthesis indicators on the performance of the real economy and the financial markets for effective monitoring.

The second meeting of the series is the International Seminar on Early Warning and Business Cycle Indicators, hosted by Statistics Netherlands, will discuss the results from the global assessment of a data template of high frequency indicators and country practices in the preparation of GDP estimates, composite indicators, sentiment surveys and their application in tracking the economic crisis.

For more information:

http://unstats.un.org/unsd/newsletter/globalstat_unsd_calendar.htm

Cutting edge solutions presented at World e-Parliament Conference

DESA, the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the U.S. House of Representatives jointly organized the World e-Parliament Conference 2009 at the U.S. House of Representatives in Washington D.C. from 3-5 November

The World e-Parliament Conference 2009 is an initiative of the Global Centre for ICT in Parliament, which was created by DESA and the Inter-Parliamentary Union in 2006. The event assembled more than 400 elected members and staff of ninety-five parliaments from around the world to discuss

policies and applications relating to the use of modern technologies in parliaments. Selected presentations were delivered by renowned experts and parliamentary officials to showcase cutting edge solutions and case studies.

At the opening of the Conference, Mr. Sha was joined by Nancy Pelosi, Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives, Anders Johnsson, Secretary General of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, Ahmed Fathy Sorour, Speaker of the People's Assembly of Egypt and Ildiko Gall Pelcz, Deputy-Speaker of the Hungarian National Assembly in their capacity as co-Chair of the Board of the Global Centre for ICT in Parliament.

Some of the main conclusions that emerged during the debates were as follows:

- There is an opportunity for parliaments to engage a new generation of citizens for whom ICT is central to their way of life in political and parliamentary processes. In this way, their views could be heard and taken into account as parliaments debate and decide on major policies and legislations.
- The adoption of open standards will allow parliaments to be more transparent and accountable to citizens. Parliaments will also be better equipped to facilitate regional and global cooperation and integration. Many issues requiring legislative action in today's globalized world are in fact common problems that require concerted solutions.
- Access to information underpins citizens' involvement in political processes and indeed the work of members of parliament themselves. Members' enormous information needs can best be met by effective and well-resourced parliamentary library and research services making full use of new technologies for collecting, managing and sharing information.

The Board of the Global Centre met as well on the margins of the Conference to discuss its future work programme and to adopt the principles of a 10-year strategic plan for stimulating parliamentary action to develop modern information societies and expanding the use of ICT in parliaments.

For more information:

<http://www.ictparliament.org/wepc2009/>

The importance of local authorities

DESA's Division for Public Administration & Development Management (DPADM) organized, within the framework of the Euro-African Partnership for Decentralized Governance and in collaboration with the Regional Council of Tuscany, two back-to-back events in Florence, Italy

The Pre-Conference on "Women in Local Authorities' Leadership Positions: Approaches to Democracy, Participation, Local Development and Peace" was held on 5 November and highlighted the critical role that women play in local institutions in Africa. It also laid the foundations for creating a platform for the exchange of Euro-African experiences of women representative of local governments through a virtual network.

Ms. Carolyn Hannan, Director of DESA's Division for the Advancement of Women, made the opening speech, whereas Ms. Adriana Alberti of DPADM made a presentation on the critical role of women in development: lessons learned from the United Nations Public Service Awards. The event resulted in a Declaration with specific recommendations for future action.

The 2nd Conference of European and African Regional and Local Authorities took place on 6-7 November. The conference aimed to build awareness of the difficulties that local institutions are experiencing as they respond to the development challenges posed by the financial crisis. Ms. Carolyn Hannan also made the opening speech on behalf of DESA, whereas Mr. John-Mary Kauzya, Chief of the Governance and Public Administration Branch, DPADM, made a keynote address.

The event resulted in a Declaration with specific recommendations for future action and a special message to the World Summit on Food Security to be held in Rome between 16 and 18 November 2009, highlighting the critical role that local authorities play in ensuring access to food.

As a follow-up measure, DESA and the Regional Council of Tuscany will explore the possibility of extending the Euro-African Partnership Programme to implement recommendations made at both

meetings, which include to establish an Observatory within the Euro-African Partnership Programme that will encourage partnerships and research on decentralized cooperation for the strengthening of decentralized governance and development cooperation. DESA will also establish a virtual network for women leaders in local government in Africa.

For more information:

<http://www.euroafricanpartnership.org/>

Improving usage of the Internet

4th Internet Governance Forum held its fourth meeting in Sharm el Sheikh, Egypt from 15 to 18 November

With more than 1800 participants from 112 countries, the 2009 Forum saw the largest attendance record since its inception in 2006. The participants reflected a diversity of Internet users and came from governments, international organizations, the Internet community, the private sector, civil society and the media.

Discussions in Sharm el-Sheikh, chaired by Tarek Kamel, the Egyptian Minister of Communications and Information Technology, examined ways to improve Internet access by all and to promote local content and cultural diversity, to ensure the safety of the Internet and fight cybercrime and to manage key Internet resources.

The meeting also discussed new issues related to the continued growth of social networks, and the ensuing governance issues that are emerging, in particular the need for new approaches regarding privacy and data protection, rules applicable to user-generated content and copyrighted material, and issues of freedom of expression and illegal content. Parallel to the main sessions on these issues, more than 100 workshops, best practice forums, dynamic coalition meetings and open forums were held around the broad themes of the main sessions and the overall mandate of the IGF.

The Forum, which was set up with an initial mandate of five years that expires next year, discussed the issue of the future of the Forum beyond 2010. Under-Secretary-General Sha Zukang, who led formal consultations on the “desirability of the continuation of the Forum”, stressed the centrality of the principle of inclusiveness and the need for continued

discussions on public policy issues related to the Internet in some form. A report on these consultations will be presented to the Secretary-General, who will then communicate his recommendation to the General-Assembly next year.

Many speakers emphasized the usefulness of the IGF as a platform for dialogue, free from the pressures of negotiations. Most of the speakers who supported improvements would like the IGF to refocus its attention on certain points such as international public policy issues; capacity-building; participation by developing countries; improved transparency; improved communications; improved remote participation; creating a data base for best practices; more visibility for outcomes; and possibly, the ability to make recommendations.

Many speakers supported a continuation of the Forum as it is, that is, to continue the IGF as a multi-stakeholder platform that brings people together to discuss issues, exchange information and share best practices, but not to make decisions, nor to have highly visible outputs.

Other speakers, while supporting a continuation of the IGF along similar lines to its current form, called for some changes. The proposed changes ranged from small improvements to major changes in its functioning, such as adding provisions that would allow it to produce outputs and decisions on a multi-stakeholder consensus basis. Most of those participants who supported the continuation of the Forum would like it to continue for at least another five years. The next IGF meeting will be held in Vilnius, Lithuania, from 14 to 17 September 2010.

For more information:

<http://www.intgovforum.org/cms/>

Promoting sustainable forest management

First Country-led Initiative (CLI) by the People's Republic of China in support of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) was held on 17-20 November 2009 in Guilin, China

The meeting, organized by China in collaboration with the governments of Austria, Finland, Germany and the United States of America with support of UNFF, was held on the theme “Forests for People: the Role Of National Forest Programmes (NFPs) and the Non-legally Binding Instrument on All Types of

Forests (Forest Instrument).” The Forest Instrument provides a comprehensive framework for national actions and international cooperation to promote sustainable forest management.

The meeting, which marked the first ever Country-led Initiative on the implementation of the Forest Instrument, was attended by over 120 international participants with keynote speakers including Ms. Yin Hong, Vice-Minister of the State Forestry Administration of China, Mr. Thomas Stelzer, Assistant Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Inter-Agency Affairs, DESA, and Ms. Jan McAlpine, Director of the UN Forum on Forests Secretariat.

Mr. Stelzer emphasized the linkage of forests and a broad range of economic, environmental and social issues. “Since the Rio Earth Summit in 1992, the international community has kept forests high on the international policy agenda. This political commitment culminated in the adoption of the Forest Instrument in 2007, which is not only aimed at sustainable forest management but also at achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals,” observed Mr. Stelzer.

Ms. McAlpine provided an update on recent developments on forest finance, including the establishment of an intergovernmental ad hoc expert group on financing sustainable forest management, and a “UNFF Facilitative Process” on forest financing.

Participants from various countries, major groups, and Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF) member organizations presented their countries' experiences and lessons learned in implementing national forest programmes and the Forest Instrument to improve livelihoods and eradicate poverty. Participants also met in four working groups, focusing on: policy, legal and organizational frameworks; sustainable production of goods and services; national arrangements to mobilize finance; and capacity building and participatory approaches.

“By developing creative programmes at national and local levels, we can drive home key messages on forests and their contribution to people’s lives,” urged Mr. Stelzer. He also encouraged participants to make best use of the opportunity presented by the General Assembly in celebrating the International Year of Forests in 2011.

For more information: <http://www.apfnnet.cn/cli/>

Capacity Development

Developing capacities for CensusInfo

DESA's Statistics Division is organizing a CensusInfo Regional Workshop in Bamako, Mali from 30 November - 4 December

In partnership with UNICEF and UNFPA, the Statistics Division has developed a free software package, CensusInfo, to help countries to disseminate census data on CD-ROM and on the web. CensusInfo was officially launched at the 40th session of the Statistical Commission in February 2009 and is available on-line. The overall purpose of the workshop is to develop participants' capacities to use CensusInfo to its full potential as a platform for disseminating census data.

The workshop has been designed using an outcome-based training methodology consisting of a series of demonstrations followed by practical exercises. The sessions include designing and creating templates and databases to house country-specific census data, learning various data administration utilities including data exchange to facilitate uploading of data into the CensusInfo system, and generating relevant tables, graphs, maps, reports and profiles for reporting purposes.

For more information:

http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/meetings/wsh/ops/Mali_Nov2009/default.htm

Training on service trade statistics

Workshop on Statistics of International Trade in Services: Challenges and Good Practices will be held in Rio de Janeiro from 1-4 December

The objective of the workshop is to train representatives from national statistical offices and central banks from the Latin American and Caribbean countries on methodological development of the statistics of trade in services and also the current country-practices in compiling trade in services statistics. The training will focus on both the interpretation of conceptual issues and options for the implementation of the international recommendations

in country specific circumstances and facilitate the establishment of a network of statisticians in the participating countries working on service trade statistics.

The workshop is organized by the Statistics Division in collaboration with the Instituto Brasileiro de Geografia e Estatística (IBGE), the Banco Central do Brasil and the Economic Commission of Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC). The workshop will be hosted by the Instituto Brasileiro de Geografia e Estatística (IBGE).

For more information:

<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/tradeserv/Workshops/Rio/default.htm>

Demographic methods of census evaluation

2010 World Programme on Population and Housing Censuses will hold a workshop on census evaluation and post enumeration surveys for French speaking African Countries

The workshop, organized in collaboration with the National Institute of Statistics of Tunisia, will take place from 7-11 December in Tunis. The purpose of the meeting is to present an overview of the various methods of evaluating censuses with a focus on the post enumeration survey (PES) methodology.

More specifically, the workshop will cover demographic methods of census evaluation and elements of the PES with regard to planning and implementation; frames and sample design; methodologies for evaluating content and coverage errors; matching procedures; imputation of missing values; and tabulation and dual system of estimation. The workshop will also offer the possibility to the participants to present and discuss the experience of their countries on different aspects of census evaluation and the post enumeration survey.

For more information:

http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/meetings/wsh/ops/Tunisia_Dec2009/default.htm

ICT to foster development

DESA is organizing a series of regional roundtables on the "Use of ICT for Reaching the MDGs" in African and Asia-Pacific countries

Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) have proven to be important avenues to foster development worldwide. Their applications are innumerable, their potential to enhance living conditions is remarkable, and they have a huge potential to contribute to development, in many ways.

In order to increase its efforts to promote the uses of ICT for development and to enhance awareness of governments and other stakeholders about key applications and uses of ICT, DESA's Division for Public Administration & Development Management and the Global Alliance for ICT and Development (GAID) is organizing a series of regional roundtables on the "Use of ICT for Reaching the MDGs". The roundtables will provide higher visibility and support to the initiatives of GAID and help build an ICT for MDGs Knowledge Matrix and Global Knowledge Base.

The Regional Roundtable for Enhancing Governance with Applications of ICT for achieving MDGs in Asia and the Pacific region will be held in Bangkok from 9-10 December on the theme "Governance and Uses of ICT for Development in Asia-Pacific Countries". The African Roundtable will be held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from 14-15 December, organized in close collaboration with the Regional Commission for Africa, the African Union, the GAID Regional Network in Africa, and other relevant partners from the public and private sectors.

The themes for the roundtable are governance with effective applications of ICT to achieve the MDGs, particularly the goals on poverty and hunger, education and health, sustainable development and climate change preparedness, and gender; partnership building for good governance with the use of ICT to achieve the MDGs; and sub-national, national, and international networks of stakeholders capable of contributing to the establishment of a Knowledge Base on the uses of ICT for good governance and for achieving the MDGs.

For more information:

Asia-Pacific Roundtable:

<http://www.unpan.org/Events/BrowseEventsbyCalendar/tabid/94/mctl/EventDetails/ModuleID/1532/ItemID/1461/language/en-US/Default.aspx?selecteddate=12/9/2009>, [Yoshinobu Yonekawa](#)

African Roundtable:

<http://www.unpan.org/Events/BrowseEventsbyCalendar/tabid/94/mctl/EventDetails/ModuleID/1532/ItemID/1466/language/en-US/Default.aspx?selecteddate=12/14/2009>, [Enrica Murmura](#)

[D/1466/language/en-US/Default.aspx?selecteddate=12/14/2009](http://www.unpan.org/Events/BrowseEventsbyCalendar/tabid/94/mctl/EventDetails/ModuleID/1532/ItemID/1466/language/en-US/Default.aspx?selecteddate=12/14/2009), [Enrica Murmura](#).

Building capacity among leading institutions

Meeting on Economic and Social Councils, National Development Strategies, Participatory Democracy and ICT for Development will be held on 17-18 December in Paris

The overall objective of the meeting is to build capacity among leading institutions from the private sector and public authorities to enhance governance, facilitate citizen engagement and accelerate the adoption of ICT as part of National Development Strategies. The meeting will cover critical issues for socio-economic advancement, including education, health, job creation, government, culture, in particular the achievement of the MDGs.

The meeting will also create awareness about the importance of citizen engagement in development policies, and on the use of ICT as a cross-cutting element in National Development Strategies. It will establish a dialogue with Economic and Social Councils (ESCs) about strategies and actions to promote further citizen engagement, as well as the use of ICT for development, particularly to reach the MDGs.

In addition the meeting will facilitate networking among participants, who will be coming from different ESCs around the world, and UN officials from DESA and UNESCO, to jointly promote further participation of civil society on development policies, including the uses of ICT for development and reaching the MDGs.

The meeting will also help substantiate cooperation between DESA, UNESCO and the International Association of Economic and Social Councils and Similar Institutions to support on a forthcoming African Regional ESCs workshop, and for report on concrete results of this meeting at the next annual meeting of the association in Rome in July 2010.

e-Participation and citizen engagement

Meeting of the Gulf Corporative Council will focus on e-Government and will be held between 21-23 December in Muscat, Oman

DESA's Inter-regional Advisor, Mr. Richard Kerby will be making a presentation on e-participation and citizen engagement in the 1st meeting of the Gulf Cooperative Council (GCC) which will focus on e-Government. The conference will provide the GCC countries the opportunity to discuss e-government services, capacity building and best practices in engaging and empowering citizens. The conference will also look at the impact of technology in a knowledge-based economy.

For more information: <http://www.egulf-oman.com/>

A convergence of sustainable development: health, education and technology

A high-level working session on "Age of Connectivity: Cities, Magnets of Hope ...Imagining the Possible" was held at the United Nations Headquarters on 6 November by the International Council for Caring Communities (ICCC) and co-sponsored by DESA and UN-Habitat

As part of the "Age of Connectivity: Cities, Magnets for Hope" dialogue series, this session set the stage to chart a more consensual, cross-cutting and cross-sector approach to the convergence for sustainable development: health, education and other basic services and technology for the 21st century, with a focus on using ICT as a practical tool for bridging the gaps. The integration of ICT in daily life and work as well as the challenges ahead were highlighted in the working session.

The moderator of the event was Ulrich Graute, Inter-Regional Advisor at DESA's Division for Public Administration & Development Management, with a view of the division's role in engaging citizens through ICT and other forms of public initiatives. Speakers and discussants at the event included the CEO of Telefonica International USA, Mr. Jose Sanz-Magallon, Dr. Theresa Pardo, Director of the Center for Technology in Government, NY State University/Albany and Dr. Craig Lehmann,

Professor & Dean, School of Health Technology and Management, Stony Brook University.

For more information:

<http://www.unpan.org/Events/BrowseEventsbyCalendar/tabid/94/mctl/EventDetails/ModuleID/1532/ItemID/1471/language/en-US/Default.aspx?selecteddate=11/6/2009>

Public sector management and e-governance

In response to an invitation from the Government of Turkmenistan, Mr. Alexei Tikhomirov, Senior Governance and Public Administration Officer, undertook a mission to Ashgabat

DESA's mission was a follow-up to the meeting of the Under-Secretary-General, Mr. Sha Zukang, and the President of Turkmenistan, Mr. Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov, devoted to further cooperation in the area of public sector management and e-governance and was held on 24 September 2009 during the 64th session of the UN General Assembly at which Turkmenistan was elected Vice-President of the session.

DESA's mission met with President Berdimukhamedov, Deputy Prime-Minister Mr. H. Muhamedov, Deputy Prime-Minister T. Japarov and their senior staff to discuss emerging issues of public administration in the environment of the current world economic crisis. As a result, the mission formulated a draft programme on "Strengthening public sector management through the development of a public administration knowledge base" at the national and regional levels. The programme will be implemented and funded by DESA and the Government of Turkmenistan in cooperation with the Inter-parliamentary Assembly for the Commonwealth of Independent States (IPACIS) and the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) and other international/ national organizations.

The mission also facilitated a meeting with Mr. Yahya Maroofi, Secretary General of ECO, who supported the idea of the programme and expressed a wish to participate in it. In this connection, West Asian countries will also be able to engage in the programme implementation process. In addition, the mission provided methodological advice to the President's Administration on the establishment of a computerized system for their office and for human resource management.

The Government of Turkmenistan expressed a gratitude to DESA for its continued support in the fields of public sector reform and e-governance.

Addressing Human Resource Capacity Development

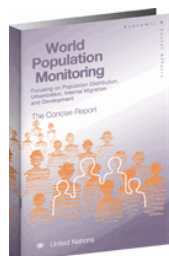
Following an invitation from the Office of the Prime Minister of Uganda, Mr. John-Mary Kauzya, Chief of Governance and Public Administration Branch, undertook a mission to Kampala on 19-22 October

The objective of the mission was to provide substantive support and facilitation at the meeting of ministers and officials responsible for Disaster Preparedness, Relief and Refugees in Africa. The meeting, among other things, prepared a draft Kampala declaration on refugees, returnees and internally displaced persons in Africa, which was later considered and adopted by the Heads of State for African countries, who converged in Kampala from 22 to 23 October 2009.

The main message delivered by Mr. Kauzya was that without a humane leadership that is sensitive to the well-being of the people and respectful of the rule of law and human rights, declarations such as the one prepared in Kampala cannot be fully implemented. H.E. Bjorg S. Leite, the Ambassador of Norway in Uganda and one of the sponsors of the meeting, expressed appreciation of this message and expressed interest in collaborating with DESA in the area of leadership capacity building for addressing the issue of refugees, returnees and internally displaced populations.

Publications and websites

Technical reports

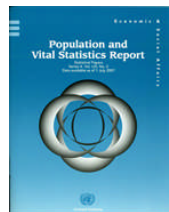


World Population Monitoring: Focusing on Population Distribution, Urbanization, Internal Migration and Development -The Concise Report

This report reviews trends in and prospects for urban and rural population growth and changes in the population of cities based on the 2007 Revision of World Urbanization Prospects. It discusses the contribution of natural increase and the combination of rural-urban migration and reclassification to the growth of the urban population and considers the importance of different types of internal migration and describes the implications of population distribution for urban and rural dependency ratios.

To order: <https://unp.un.org/Details.aspx?pid=19430>

Statistical compilations



Population and Vital Statistics Report: Series A

This report presents most recent data on population size (total, male and female) from the latest available census of the population, national official population estimates and the number and rate (births, deaths and infant deaths) for the latest available year within the past 15 years. It also presents United Nations estimates of the mid-year population of the world, with its various areas and regions.

The Latest Series A report with updated Tables are downloadable in pdf format. A full explanation of each table can be found in the Technical Notes. Tables 2 and 3 of the report are updated every two weeks. Printed versions are issued for reference dates of 1 January and 1 July, respectively, each year. Subscriptions to the Population and Vital Statistics Report are available from the United Nations publications.

For more information:

<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/products/vits/tats/>



Monthly Bulletin of Statistics and MBS Online

The Bulletin presents current economic and social statistics for more than 200 countries and territories of the world. It contains over 50 tables of monthly and/or annual and quarterly data on a variety of subjects illustrating important economic trends and developments, including population, prices, employment and earnings, energy, manufacturing, transport, construction, international merchandise trade and finance.

Vol. LXIII – No. 10, October 2009

Quarterly and bimonthly tables included in this issue:

Retail price indices relating to living expenditures of United Nations officials

Civil aviation traffic: passenger km and cargo net ton km

Total exports and imports by countries or areas: volume, unit value, terms of trade and purchasing power of exports, in US dollars

For more information:

<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/mbs/>

Discussion papers

14th Monthly Briefing on the World Economic Situation and Prospects

The November 2009 issue forecasts that the world economy will shrink by 2.2 per cent in 2009. There are clear indications that recovery is on its way and global output may increase by 2.4 per cent in 2010, according to the preliminary UN forecast. Recovery is still very fragile, however.

A key risk is a premature withdrawal of the stimulus measures in major economies, which presently is a key factor driving the incipient recovery. Pursuing further stimulus now while at the same time ensuring a more sustainable and balanced global growth for the future is a main challenge facing policy makers collectively.

For more information:

http://www.un.org/esa/policy/publications/dpad_wes_pmbn.html

Working papers

Globalization, Off shoring and Economic Insecurity in Industrialized Countries

This paper shows that a “new wave of globalization,” involving extensive off shoring, has raised both actual and perceived labor market insecurity in industrialized countries. The paper analyzes various channels through which this new wave of globalization leads to economic insecurity. It emphasizes the key role of overall macroeconomic conditions in determining the outcome of off shoring. The paper points out the inadequacies of various policy responses that industrialized countries have come up with so far and advocates urgent steps toward formulation of policies and erection of institutional structure more appropriate to confront the challenges of the new of globalization.

For more information:

<http://www.un.org/esa/desa/papers/>

To download:

http://www.un.org/esa/desa/papers/2009/wp87_2009.pdf

Managing Financial Instability: Why Prudence is not Enough?

This paper argues that developing countries have limited arsenal at the national level to manage financial instability. The solutions have to be sought mainly at the multilateral level and these include: provision of adequate international liquidity at appropriate terms for current account financing to countries facing foreign exchange shortages as a result of trade and financial shocks; and orderly debt workout procedures designed to stem attacks on currencies, check capital outflows and involve the private sector in the resolution of crises. Multilateral policy surveillance and advice should also be used to help countries to manage surges in capital inflows.

For more information:

<http://www.un.org/esa/desa/papers/>

To download:

http://www.un.org/esa/desa/papers/2009/wp86_2009.pdf

Comings and goings

Goings



Mr. Sergei Zelenev, Chief of the Social Integration Branch, Division for Social Policy and Development, retired on 30 November 2009. His responsibilities included

substantive support to the intergovernmental policy dialogue of member states at the United Nations, and facilitating international cooperation on social development issues, including technical cooperation.

He conceptualized and oversaw DESA's work on ageing, youth, family and inclusive policy issues, including reports which are submitted to the Commission for Social Development, the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly. He also supervised the preparation of all issues of the biennial World Youth Report published by DESA since 2003.

Mr. Zelenev came to the United Nations from the academia, joining the Secretariat in New York as an Economic Affairs Officer in 1981. Since then he was working in the socio-economic field, performing analytical, normative and managerial functions. Since 1998, when he joined DSPD, he oversaw the preparation of the Comprehensive report on the implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development as well as the 2001 Report on the World Social Situation.

Mr. Zelenev worked in Africa, participating in peace-keeping missions in Namibia and South Africa in 1989-1990 and 1993-1994 respectively. He is also the author of many articles on inclusive policy, social integration, regional social policy, ageing and social protection published in academic journals. Recently, Mr. Zelenev has also been appointed Interim Director of the UN-INSTRAW.

Comings

The following staff members were promoted in November:

Rosanne Clarke, Programme Assistant, Division for Public Administration and Development Management

Diane Goedeck, Programme Assistant, Division for Sustainable Development

Lingyan Hu, Statistics Assistant, Statistics Division

Maria Elena Reyes-Bly, Programme Assistant, Division for Sustainable Development

Lisa Morrison Puckett, Social Affairs Officer, Division for Social Policy and Development

Leonardo Souza, Statistician, Statistics Division

Patience Stephens, Special Assistant to the ASG, Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women

Seiffe Tadesse, Statistician, Statistics Division

Grace Verendia, Administrative Assistant, Technical Cooperation Management Service

Zhiliang Yu, Information Technology Assistant, Division for Public Administration and Development Management

Calendar

December

General Assembly
64th session, New York

Second Committee
5 October-December
<http://www.un.org/ga/second/>

Third Committee
5 October-December
<http://www.un.org/ga/third/>

United Nations CensusInfo Regional Workshop
30 November - 4 December, Bamako, Mali
http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/meetings/wshops/Mali_Nov2009/default.htm

CSD 18 Regional Implementation Meeting - Europe and North America
1-2 December, Geneva
http://www.un.org/esa/dsd/csd/csd_csd18_rims.shtml

Workshop on Statistics of International Trade Services: Challenges and Good Practices
1-4 December, Rio de Janeiro
<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/tradeserv/Workshops/Rio/default.htm>

Workshop on Case Studies in the Sound Management of Chemicals
3-4 December, Geneva
<http://esango.un.org/irene/dsd.html?page=viewContent&nr=5182&type=8>

Meeting of the Friends of the Chair Group on Integrated Economic Statistics
7-9 December, Washington D.C.
http://unstats.un.org/unsd/newsletter/globalstat_unsd_calendar.htm

Workshop on MDG Monitoring
7-10 December, Beirut
<http://mdgs.un.org/unsd/mdg/Host.aspx?Content=Capacity/Beirut.htm>

Workshop on the 2010 World Programme on Population and Housing Censuses: Census Evaluation and Post Enumeration Surveys for French speaking African Countries
7-11 December, Tunis
http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/meetings/wshops/Tunisia_Dec2009/default.htm

United Nations Climate Change Conference
7-18 December, Copenhagen
<http://unfccc.int/meetings/items/4749.php>

Regional Roundtable for Enhancing Governance with Applications of ICT for Achieving the MDGs in Asia and the Pacific
9-10 December, Bangkok
<http://www.unpan.org/Events/BrowseEventsbyCalendar/tabid/94/mctl/EventDetails/ModuleID/1532/ItemID/1461/language/en-US/Default.aspx?selecteddate=12/9/2009>

Meeting of the Friends of the Chair Group on Violence against Women
9-11 December, Aguascalientes, Mexico
<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/meetings/vaw/default.htm>

Roundtable on Governance with Applications of ICT for Achieving the MDGs in Africa
14-15 December, Addis Ababa
<http://www.unpan.org/Events/BrowseEventsbyCalendar/tabid/94/mctl/EventDetails/ModuleID/1532/ItemID/1466/language/en-US/Default.aspx?selecteddate=12/14/2009>

International Seminar on Early Warning and Business Cycle Indicators
14-16 December, Scheveningen, The Netherlands
http://unstats.un.org/unsd/newsletter/globalstat_unsd_calendar.htm

Meeting of the Gulf Corporative Council
21-23 December, Muscat, Oman
<http://www.egulf-oman.com/>

January

Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations, Regular Session
25 January – 3 February, New York
<http://www.un.org/esa/coordination/ngo/>

Observances

International Day for Disabled Persons

3 December

The annual observance of the International Day of Disabled Persons, aims to promote an understanding of disability issues and mobilize support for the dignity, rights and well-being of persons with disabilities. It also seeks to increase awareness of gains to be derived from the integration of persons with disabilities in every aspect of political, social, economic and cultural life. The theme of the day is based on the goal of full and equal enjoyment of human rights and participation in society by persons with disabilities, established by the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons, adopted by General Assembly in 1982.

The theme for this year's observance is "Making the MDGs Inclusive: Empowerment of persons with disabilities and their communities around the world". The Secretary-General will open the Day at 10:00 am at the United Nations Headquarters in New York and announce the new United Nations Messenger of Peace.

A panel discussion on the theme will include representatives from the Governments, World Bank, WHO, UNICEF and civil society organizations who will discuss how the empowerment of persons with disabilities and their communities contributes to the advancement of the international development agenda.

Another discussion on "Finding the Bottom Line – Rights of Persons with Disabilities" on 4 December at the Hilton Hotel in New York will enhance the provision of services by attorneys in relation to persons with disabilities at all levels. A panel presentation at World Bank Headquarters will commemorate the Day by discussing how persons with disabilities have been included in the work of the Bank, the lessons learned and the impact on achieving the MDGs.

For more information:

<http://www.un.org/disabilities/default.asp?id=1484>

DESA News is an insider's look at the United Nations in the area of economic and social development policy. The newsletter is produced by the Communications and Information Management

Service of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs in collaboration with DESA Divisions. Prior to January 2007, DESA News was issued every other month. It is now issued monthly.

Inquiries should be addressed to esa@un.org.