



Video

### Securing children's rights

*“As household incomes decline and governments reduce spending on public services, more poor families are falling deeper into poverty and must find ways to cope with meeting basic needs. These coping strategies often have long-term consequences for human development, especially of children and most often girls,” says Ms. Rachel Mayanja, Special Advisor on Gender Issues and the Advancement of Women on the observance of the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty on 19 October, calling attention to the experiences and contributions of children and families living in poverty.*

<http://webcast.un.org/ramgen/ondemand/pressconference/2009/pc091019am1.rm> (39 minutes)

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### Eliminating violence against women

Today, at least one out of every three women is likely to be beaten, coerced into sex or otherwise abused in her lifetime. Worldwide, one in five women will become a victim of rape or attempted rape in her lifetime and more than 80 per cent of trafficking victims are women. Up to 130 million women have been genitally mutilated. “All of us – men and women, soldiers and peacekeepers, citizens and leaders – have a responsibility to help end violence against women”, says the Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, p. 1

### Joining efforts for development

“Concerted action is essential if we are to alleviate extreme poverty, fight diseases and achieve the development targets,” warned the Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon at the last High Level Dialogue on Financing for Development. There is a clear need to take urgent action. Without rapid progress, by 2015 there will be more people struggling in poverty, and millions of people will not realize the basic promises of the MDGs in their lives, p. 4

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## Feature articles

### Eliminating violence against women

*Today, at least one out of every three women is likely to be beaten, coerced into sex or otherwise abused in her lifetime. Worldwide, one in five women will become a victim of rape or attempted rape in her lifetime and more than 80 per cent of trafficking victims are women. Up to 130 million women have been genitally mutilated.*

“All of us – men and women, soldiers and peacekeepers, citizens and leaders – have a responsibility to help end violence against women. States must honour their commitments to prevent violence, bring perpetrators to justice and provide redress to victims. And each of us must speak out in our families, workplaces and communities, so that acts of violence against women cease”, states the Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon.

Under these circumstances, this year’s observance of the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women on 24 November will launch the Secretary-General’s Network of Men Leaders who will work to support the UNiTE campaign, a call for action on ending violence against women and girls. Some of these men will pledge to undertake specific activities to end violence.

In last year’s event, Mr. Ban called for more efforts to enforce laws and counter impunity. “We need to combat attitudes and behaviour that condone, tolerate, excuse or ignore violence committed against women. And we need to increase funding for services for victims and survivors”, he said.

Violence against women has enormous social and economic costs, and undercuts the contribution of women to development, peace and security, and human rights. It poses a serious threat to the achievement of internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals.

In his message on the International Day in 2008, the Secretary-General pointed out that “women everywhere are at risk, but those living in societies experiencing armed conflict face even graver danger. As conflicts have become more complex, the pattern of sexual violence has evolved. Women are no longer in jeopardy only during periods of actual fighting;

they are just as likely to be assaulted when there is calm, by armies, militias, rebels, criminal gangs or even police”.



A worldwide campaign: Say NO – UNiTE

“Say NO – UNiTE to End Violence against Women” is a global call for action on ending violence against women and girls under the leadership of UNIFEM’s Goodwill Ambassador Nicole Kidman, who is the spokesperson to “Say NO”.

UNiTE calls on governments, civil society, women’s organizations, young people, the private sector, the media and the entire United Nations system to join forces in addressing the global pandemic of violence against women and girls. The campaign builds on existing international legal and policy frameworks, and works to synergize the efforts of all United Nations offices and agencies working to end violence against women.

By 2015, UNiTE aims to achieve in all countries the adoption and enforcement of national legislation in line with international human rights standards; the adoption and implementation of multi-sectoral national action plans; establishment of data collection and analysis systems; establishment of national and/or local awareness-raising campaigns; and systematic efforts to address sexual violence in conflict situations.

Between 2007 and 2008 more than 5 million people said NO. 30 Heads of State, 69 Governments and more than 600 Parliamentarians added their names to the campaign and more than 215 civil society groups; religious networks; and corporations joined. For this year’s campaign, the initial goal is to reach 1 million actions by November 2010.

**Sixteen Days of Activism against Gender Violence**

Each year since 1991, tens of thousands of activists from every region of the world have taken part in the 16 Days of Activism against Gender Violence Campaign. The campaign's central messages – women's rights are human rights and violence against women constitutes a violation of human rights – have been a rallying call of the women's movement.

Recognizing that violence against women affects people from every country, race, class, culture, and religion, the 16 Days Campaign provides an opportunity for activists to work together in solidarity and draw upon this period of heightened international attention to gain support for their local efforts.

In celebration of the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights during last year's 16 Days Campaign, millions of people pledged their support for ending violence against women and upholding human rights.

Building upon this momentum, the Center for Women's Global Leadership dedicates the 2009 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence Campaign to honoring groups and individuals who have committed to bringing violence against women to the forefront of global attention, to encouraging everyone in their various capacities to take action to end the violence, and to demanding accountability for all of the promises made to eliminate violence against women.

This year's campaign from 25 November to 10 December will be on the theme "Commit – Act – Demand: We CAN End Violence Against Women" and will encompass four significant dates: 25 November, the International Day Against Violence Against Women; 1 December, World AIDS Day; 6 December, the anniversary of the Montreal Massacre, where 14 women engineering students were gunned down for being feminists; and 10 December, Human Rights Day.

### Origin of the International Day

On 19 October 1999, at the 17<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Third Committee during the 54<sup>th</sup> session of the General Assembly, the representative of the Dominican Republic on behalf of his Government and 74 Member States introduced a draft resolution (document A/C.3/54/L.14) calling for the designation of 25 November, the anniversary of the day of the murder of the Mirabal sisters, as the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women.

Two months later, on 17 December 1999, the General Assembly designated 25 November as the annual

date for the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women in commemoration of the sisters. This day also marks the beginning of the 16 days of Activism against Gender Violence.

The Mirabal sisters were political activists in the Dominican Republic and became highly symbols of resistance to Trujillo's dictatorship. Consequently, the sisters and their families were constantly persecuted for their outspoken as well as clandestine activities against the Government.

Over the course of their political activity, the Mirabal sisters and their husbands were repeatedly imprisoned at different stages. Despite Trujillo's persecution, the sisters still continued to actively participate in political activities against the dictatorship.

In January 1960, Patria took charge of a meeting that eventually established the Clandestine Movement on 14 June 1960 of which all the sisters participated. When this plot against the dictator failed, the sisters and their comrades in the Clandestine Resistance Movement were persecuted throughout the country.

In November 1960, Trujillo declared that his two problems were the Church and the Mirabal sisters. On the 25<sup>th</sup> of that month, the sisters were assassinated in an "accident" as they were being driven to visit their husbands who were in prison. The accident caused much public outcry, and shocked and enraged the nation. The brutal assassination of the Mirabal sisters was one of the events that helped propel the anti-Trujillo movement, and within a year, the Trujillo dictatorship came to an end.

The memory of the Mirabal sisters and their struggle for freedom and respect for human rights for all has transformed them into symbols of dignity and inspiration. They became symbols against prejudice and stereotypes, not only for those in the Dominican Republic but others around the world.

*For more information:* <http://endviolence.un.org/>,  
<http://www.unifem.org/campaigns/sayno/>,  
<http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/news/vawd.html>  
, <http://www.un.org/Depts/dhl/violence/>,  
<http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/>,  
<http://www.cwgl.rutgers.edu/16days/home.html>

## Joining efforts for development

*“Concerted action is essential if we are to alleviate extreme poverty, fight diseases and achieve the development targets,” warned the Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon at the last High Level Dialogue on Financing for Development. There is a clear need to take urgent action. Without rapid progress, by 2015 there will be more people struggling in poverty, and millions of people will not realize the basic promises of the MDGs in their lives.*



The future of development financing is under discussion again at a High-Level United Nations event in New York that will attract the participation of ministers, central bank governors, government delegates and representatives of business and civil society, to advance a 2002 agreement made in Monterrey, Mexico and declaration adopted in Doha, Qatar in 2008.

The fourth High-level Dialogue on Financing for Development, held on 23 and 24 November in New York, will focus on the overall theme of “The Monterrey Consensus and Doha Declaration on Financing for Development: status of implementation and tasks ahead”.

The Dialogue presents a unique opportunity for Member States and all relevant stakeholders to take stock of what steps have been taken since the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus held in Doha, Qatar, from 29 November to 2 December 2008, and commit to further measures that should be implemented.

The event will consist of a series of plenary and informal meetings and also include three multi-stakeholder round tables. The informal meeting will

provide an opportunity to review the progress towards the attainment of the broader UN Development goals. More details about the format of this year’s high-level dialogue can be found in the “Global dialogue on development” section of this newsletter.

### Recent developments related to the overall theme of the Dialogue

The Secretary-General’s report on the “Follow-up to and implementation of the Monterrey Consensus and Doha Declaration on Financing for Development” (A/64/322) provides a major substantive input into this year’s dialogue. It highlights recent developments related to the six major thematic areas of the Monterrey agenda.

On the issue of mobilizing domestic resources for development, the report points out that, in order to counter the sharp increase in poverty generated by the current financial and economic crisis, developing countries need to implement expansionary macroeconomic policies, including social spending that targets the poor. Additional financial resources need to be provided to the affected developing countries.

With regard to mobilizing international resources for development, the report notes that, in the wake of the global financial crisis, private capital flows, including Foreign Direct Investment, to developing countries have dropped sharply, combined with a steep rise in the cost of external financing.

Moving to international trade, it is noted that, in response to global economic recession and downturn in domestic production and employment, protectionist trade measures have been observed in national recovery policies. It is therefore important to ensure that the global trading system remain open to support the development efforts of all countries, particularly the world’s poorest countries.

The chapter on the financial and technical cooperation for development concerns that the strain of the current crisis may lead to decreases in aid volumes, as happened during the economic recession of the early 1990s. Such a reversal at the present time would put an additional burden on developing countries already struggling with restricted sources of income.

In the area of external debt, the report points out that, with the onset of the global financial crisis, many developing economies, including those that have

benefited from debt relief initiatives, could fall into debt distress due to reduced capital inflows, tightened external financing conditions, lower revenues and additional fiscal pressures arising from currency depreciations and higher interest rates. These factors pose serious risks to the debt sustainability of developing countries.

On systemic issues, it argues that reforms of the international financial architecture must include reshaping regulatory systems to identify and take account of macro-prudential risks, strengthening IMF surveillance over the major financial markets to reduce global imbalances and enhancing the voice and participation of developing countries in the major institutions of global economic governance.

### Follow-up of the Monterrey Consensus

Almost seven years after the landmark International Conference on Financing for Development held in Monterrey in 2002, Heads of State and Government and High Representatives gathered in Doha, Qatar, in December 2008 to reiterate their resolve to take concrete action to implement the Monterrey Consensus and to address the challenges of financing for development in the spirit of global partnership and solidarity. Once again, they committed themselves to eradicate poverty, achieve sustained economic growth and promote sustainable development as we advance to a fully inclusive and equitable global economic system.

The Conference concluded with the adoption of the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development. The declaration reaffirmed the Monterrey Consensus and called for a United Nations Conference at the highest level to examine the impact of the world financial and economic crisis on development.

Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, recalling that the Monterrey Consensus marked “a new era of cooperation, bridging the old North-South divide”, stated at the Conference that “the Monterrey vision could yet deliver all that, and more. Faithfully implemented, it is a path out of our current predicament”.

On behalf of the Secretary-General, Mr. Sha Zukang, Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, who steered UN substantive support to the Conference, called the Declaration “an important milestone in the struggle for development” that adds significant value to what was achieved in Monterrey 2002. “On every aspect of the financing for

development agenda, we can identify areas in which there has been progress”, Mr. Sha Zukang said.

### Actions in time of crisis

The United Nations Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and its Impact on Development, which took place in June 2009, was mandated at the follow-up conference in Doha in 2008. Member States requested the General Assembly President Miguel d'Escoto Brockmann to organize the meeting “at the highest level”.

In order to assess the worst global economic downturn since the Great Depression, the aim was to identify emergency and long-term responses to mitigate the impact of the crisis, especially on vulnerable populations, and initiate a needed dialogue on the transformation of the international financial architecture, taking into account the needs and concerns of all Member States.

Government leaders and senior ministers agreed on a sweeping action plan to help blunt the impact of the economic downturn, especially for developing countries, but “in the interest of all nations [...] to achieve more inclusive, equitable, balanced, development-oriented and sustainable economic development to help overcome poverty and inequality”.

“We are all in this crisis together. While each country has primary responsibility for its own economic and social development, we will continue to work in solidarity on a vigorous, coordinated and comprehensive global response to the crisis, in accordance with our respective abilities and responsibilities”, the political leaders pledge in the outcome of the Conference.

*More background information for the High-level Dialogue on Financing for Development, including inputs received from all relevant stakeholders and a calendar of side events will be posted and updated, on a regular basis, on the website of DESA's Financing for Development Office at [www.un.org/esa/ffd](http://www.un.org/esa/ffd).*

*For more information: <http://www.un.org/esa/ffd/>, <http://www.un.org/esa/ffd/monterrey/MonterreyConsensus.pdf>, [http://www.un.org/esa/ffd/doha/documents/Doha\\_Declaration\\_FFD.pdf](http://www.un.org/esa/ffd/doha/documents/Doha_Declaration_FFD.pdf), <http://www.un.org/ga/econcrisissummit>*

## Global dialogue on development

### Making mutual accountability mechanisms more effective

*First High-level Symposium to prepare for the 2010 Development Cooperation Forum will discuss key development cooperation issues from 12-13 November in Vienna*

This multi-stakeholder event, as the first of series of multi-stakeholder consultations in the run up to the 2010 Development Cooperation Forum (DCF), will present a timely opportunity for inclusive, balanced and participatory dialogue on key development cooperation issues, notably mutual accountability in development cooperation.

The symposium, organized by DESA together with the Government of Austria is expected to catalyze agreement on what is meant by mutual accountability and on ways to promote balanced mutual accountability mechanisms. The symposium will also provide orientations for the next phase of preparation for the DCF, notably on south-south cooperation and policy coherence.

Around 100 participants, representing national governments, civil society organizations, parliamentarians and international organizations, will participate in the symposium and contribute to the development of a more inclusive framework for accountable and transparent development cooperation. The outcome of the symposium will be used to prepare the report of the Secretary-General to the DCF and to launch further analytical work.

*For more information:*

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

## Implementing the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development

*General Assembly will hold the fourth High-level Dialogue on Financing for Development on 23-24 November in New York to take stock of what steps have been taken since the Doha Review Conference a year ago*

This year's Dialogue will focus on the overall theme "The Monterrey Consensus and Doha Declaration on Financing for Development: status of implementation and tasks ahead" and presents a unique opportunity for Member States and all relevant stakeholders to focus on the steps that have been taken since the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus (Doha, Qatar, 29 November - 2 December 2008) and commit to further measures that should be implemented.

The event will consist of a series of plenary and informal meetings and also include three multi-stakeholder round tables.

### Plenary meetings

The plenary meetings, chaired by the President of the General Assembly, will be held on Monday, 23 November 2009. At these meetings, ministers and high-level officials attending the Dialogue will be able to make formal statements.

Following the formal opening of the Dialogue by the President of the General Assembly, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the President of the World Bank, the Managing Director of the IMF and the Director-General of the WTO will be invited to make statements. At the beginning of the plenary meeting in the afternoon of the same day, the President of ECOSOC, the Secretary-General of the UNCTAD and the Administrator of the UNDP, will be invited to speak.

### Multi-stakeholder round tables

Three multi-stakeholder round tables will be held on the morning of Tuesday, 24 November, and chaired by two chairpersons to be appointed by the President of the General Assembly from among the ministers attending the High-level Dialogue. The themes of the round tables will be as follows:

- Round table 1: The reform of the international monetary and financial system and its implications for development;
- Round table 2: The impact of the current financial and economic crisis on foreign direct investment and other private flows, external debt and international trade;
- Round table 3: The role of financial and technical development cooperation, including innovative sources of development finance, in leveraging the mobilization of domestic and international financial resources for development.

Each round table will be open to participation by representatives of all Member States; observers, relevant entities of the United Nations system and other accredited intergovernmental organizations, as well as representatives of accredited civil society organizations and accredited business sector entities.

#### Informal interactive dialogue

The informal interactive dialogue, open to all relevant stakeholders and chaired by the President of the General Assembly, will be held on the afternoon of Tuesday, 24 November, in the form of an informal meeting of the Assembly. It will focus on the theme “The link between financing for development and achieving the Millennium Development Goals: the road to the 2010 high-level event”. Pursuant to GA resolution 60/265 on the development follow-up to the 2005 World Summit Outcome, this dialogue provides an opportunity to review the progress towards the attainment of the broader UN Development goals through a pointed discussion of financial means of implementation, particularly within the framework of the holistic financing for development agenda.

For more information: <http://www.un.org/esa/ffd/>

## The need for a new financial architecture

*Countries expressed concern in the Economic and Financial Committee on the impact of the economic and financial crisis and on the prospects of developing countries to achieve the MDGs*

During the plenary of the Second Committee of the General Assembly, which took place from 5-7 October, about 90 delegations dealt with issues on the

global economic and financial crisis, along with climate change and food security.

Many considered the upcoming United Nations Summit on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in September 2010 as an opportunity to take stock of progress and agree on concrete steps to expedite efforts to achieve the goals.

Delegations expressed a broad range of views about current measures and processes set in place to tackle current crises and to find lasting solutions. Most delegations agreed on the need for a new financial architecture and called on the United Nations to play a leading role in providing a framework for a comprehensive and global solution to the economic and financial crisis.

Many urged to move forward on the implementation of the outcome of the United Nations High-Level Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and welcomed the establishment of the Open-ended Working Group to follow up on issues contained in the Outcome Document.

On climate change, several countries commended the initiative of the Secretary-General to hold a Climate Change Summit in September and called on the Committee to maintain the momentum to promote a new agreement in Copenhagen. Several countries reiterated the principle of common but differentiated responsibility to be maintained in the post-Kyoto regime and stressed the need for the Copenhagen conference to deliver on financial resources, technology and capacity-building for growth and poverty eradication.

Many countries commended the Chair of the Second Committee for adding a new item on food security on the Committee’s agenda as a way to maintain momentum on this issue and to ensure a successful conclusion of the World Summit on Food Security in November.

Countries expressed concern on the slow progress made in the negotiation for the Doha Development Round and called for a timely and equitable outcome. Other key issues raised included Official Development Assistance commitments, debt cancellation, South-South cooperation, and health.

In order to follow up with discussions, the Second Committee will hold two panel discussions in November. The first one, which will take place on 4

November, will discuss issues related to the “Global social protection floor”. The second panel will be on “Enhancing governance on water” and will be held on 6 November.

For more information: <http://www.un.org/ga/second/>

## Young people spoke out at the General Assembly

*At the 64<sup>th</sup> session of the General Assembly over twenty UN Member States from all regions included one or more youth delegates in their official delegations*

The youth delegates were given the opportunity to engage in the General Assembly debate on issues related to youth, all bringing with them voices from young people in their countries. While in New York, 18 of the youth delegates delivered a statement to the Third Committee of the General Assembly on behalf of young people from their countries. Among the main points that were raised as the greatest concerns for youth from around the world was climate change, in particular its effect on the most vulnerable. The lack of youth participation in decision-making processes, youth unemployment and the importance of education and sport in reaching the MDGs were also highlighted.

Additionally, youth representatives participated in the general work of their Missions by attending a range of meetings and informal consultations on this year’s youth resolution, where they actively contributed with important youth perspectives. The youth delegates also organized side events on topics such as climate justice, youth in armed conflict and youth unemployment. A side event on youth participation, hosted by the European Union delegation, was jointly held with the European Commission and the United Nations Information Centre in Brussels via video link.

Although most youth delegates only were in New York for a few weeks or months, many of them have been selected for a term of one year. Before attending the General Assembly, many of them traveled around their home countries, interacting with young people from all different parts of society. This not only helped them to gather opinions and concerns from a wide range of young people in their countries on the issues highlighted at the General Assembly, but has also enabled them to spread the word about the work of the United Nations to young people around the

world. Upon return to their home countries, the youth delegates will act as a resource to continue the progress on youth policies at the national level and encourage other young people to participate more in their country’s development process.

The need for youth delegates has long been recognized by the Member States of the United Nations since youth bring with them the imagination, energy and ideals that are vital for the continuing development of the societies in which they live. One of the priorities in the World Programme of Action for Youth, adopted by the United Nations in 1995, is to support the participation of youth in decision-making. In particular it invites Governments to strengthen the involvement of young people in international forums by the inclusion of youth delegates in their national delegations to the General Assembly.

For more information: <http://www.un.org/ga/third/>

## Technology, climate change and national development

*DESA organized in October, jointly with the Government of India, a high-level conference to help countries to unlock the full potential of technology in addressing both climate change and national development*

The High Level Conference, entitled Climate Change: Technology Development and Transfer, was held from 22 to 23 October in New Delhi, India, to promote international technology development and transfer in context of the Bali Action Plan for enhancement of long term cooperation for implementation of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

To help pave the way for a successful outcome in Copenhagen, the Delhi Conference objective was to advance understanding on key actions needed to accelerate technology development and transfer in all countries in accordance with their national needs. The Conference aimed to throw light on technology scenarios, institutional and business models of development and deployment, mechanisms to promote technology transfer to developing countries, and to enhance the scope for cooperation on research and development.

The main objectives were to evolve mechanisms for international technology cooperation and



collaboration; to highlight the progress of discussions on technology transfer in the context of the climate change negotiations and the Bali Road Map; and to define a consensus on the roadmap for enabling technology transfer to developing countries to meet their needs for climate change mitigation and adaptation.

*For more information:*

<http://www.newdelhicctechconference.com/index.htm>

## Trends and analysis

### Discussing complex parliamentary environments

*The 2009 World e-Parliament Conference will take place on 3-5 November in Washington, DC, co-organized by DESA and the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU)*

The World e-Parliament Conference is the annual forum of the community of parliaments addressing both the policy and technical perspectives on how the use of information and communication technology can help improve representation, transparency, accountability, openness, and effectiveness in the complex parliamentary environment. This year's conference will be hosted by the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives H.E. Ms. Nancy Patricia D'Alesandro Pelosi and is expected to be attended by more than 400 participants, representing parliamentarians from around the world. The official opening and closing sessions will be co-chaired by Under-Secretary General of DESA Mr. Sha Zukang and H.E. Speaker Pelosi.

The event is structured around three policy-oriented plenary sessions and ten parallel sessions of a more technical nature. The three plenary sessions will touch upon the following topics: connecting Parliaments and citizens: new technologies to foster openness, transparency, and accountability; how ICT can strengthen Parliaments in emerging democracies and promoting democracy and inter-parliamentary cooperation: a collaborative approach to institutional building through a shared framework for e-parliament.

Presenters will include speakers, senior members and officials of parliament, high-level representatives of Governments and international organizations, and world renowned experts. In each session ample time will be set aside for open discussion from the floor.

During the conference, the preliminary results of the Global Survey on ICT in Parliament will be presented, along with guidelines and tools developed to help parliaments to assess and improve their technological level. The conference will also serve as a platform to identify and agree upon future goals and targets for the international community of

Parliaments and to provide inputs to the next World e-Parliament Report in 2010.

*For more information:*

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

### Reviewing merchandise trade statistics

*DESA's Statistics Division will organize the second meeting of the Expert Group on International Merchandise Trade Statistics from 3- 6 November at the United Nations Headquarters in New York*

The Expert Group on International Merchandise Trade Statistics (EG-IMTS) was established by DESA's Statistics Division to assist in the revision of the existing United Nations recommendations on international merchandise trade statistics published in International Trade Statistics, Concepts and Definitions (Statistical Papers, Series M, No 52, Rev 2).

The EG-IMTS has to ensure active country involvement in the revision of the recommendations for international merchandise trade statistics; to review and endorse the draft revised recommendations and to provide guidance on the implementation of the revised recommendations after their adoption by the Statistical Commission.

The main purpose of this meeting is to review and endorse the provisional draft of the revised recommendations for international merchandise trade statistics which has to be submitted to the United Nations Statistical Commission for adoption at its 41st Session (23-26 February 2010). The Expert Group will also discuss a number of issues relevant to the development of the implementation program of the revised recommendations. Experts from different countries and regions as well as from international and regional organizations active in the area of international merchandise trade statistics will be participating in this meeting.

*For more information:*

<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/trade/EG-IMTS/EG-IMTS%20Nov%202009.html>,

<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/trade/EG-IMTS/EG-IMTS%20web%20announcement.htm>

## Analyzing the gender implications of the current economic crisis

*Expert Group Meeting will discuss the current economic crisis and its implications for the promotion of gender equality and empowerment of women from 4-6 November*

At its 2010 Annual Ministerial Review (AMR), the Economic and Social Council will review the implementation of internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to gender equality and empowerment of women. In preparation for its contribution to that discussion, the Committee for Development Policy (CDP) will hold an Expert Group Meeting from 4-6 November to analyze the gender implications of the current economic crisis and propose gender-responsive policies on how to mitigate any negative impacts.

The meeting will bring together CDP members and gender specialists from ILO, UNDP, UNIFEM and DESA's Division for the Advancement of Women to review the impacts of the current crisis on women's work and livelihood and to assess to what extent the various economic stimulus packages adopted so far address gender inequalities. The meeting aims to produce a set of policy recommendations on the gender dimensions that stimulus policy measures should include so as to avoid a reversal of progress achieved thus far and in order to build a gender equitable society. The recommendations will be presented and further discussed at the CDP plenary in March 2010.

*For more information:*  
<http://www.un.org/esa/policy/devplan/index.html>.

## Financial crisis and local institutions

*The II Conference of European and African Regional and Local Authorities will take place from 6-7 November in Florence, Italy.*

This II Conference will focus on "The impact of the economic and financial crisis on decentralized governance in Africa: the response of local authorities to the new development challenge". Its aim is to raise the awareness of the international community about the difficulties that local

institutions are experiencing in responding to the development challenges posed by the financial crisis.

Representatives of international agencies and civil society, national and regional authorities, as well as international organizations and senior managers of public institutions and/or programs related to decentralized governance in Africa and Europe will gather in Florence to review good practices and distill lessons learned on how to reduce the impact of the crisis and its effects.

The conference will revolve around the following topics:

- Decentralization and sustainable development: leveraging territorial resources to fight poverty and achieve the MDGs
- Financial and fiscal decentralization: revenue raising and expenditure powers
- Enhancing delivery of basic services at the local level
- Exchanging competencies, knowledge and resources: north-south and south-south partnerships among regional and local authorities.

*For more information:*  
<http://www.euroafricanpartnership.org>

## Water and sanitation for sustainable development in Africa

*2<sup>nd</sup> African Water Week will take place in Johannesburg, South Africa, between 9-13 November*

This week will be both unique and innovative in character as the main focus will be on implementation and partnership as Africa sprints towards the 2015 Millennium Development Goals targets. Firstly, it will bring together through a strong unity of purpose, African countries and United Nations agencies, civil society groups, the private Sector and development cooperation partners, to address the critical issue of water and sanitation, which is a key to sustainable development on the continent. Secondly, it is in direct response to the Sharm El Sheikh Commitments on water and sanitation adopted by the African Union Heads of State and Government that took place in Egypt on July 2008.

UN-Water will hold a seminar on the three United Nations Global Assessments on Water that are implemented through UN-Water, namely the World Development Report, The Global Annual Assessment on Sanitation and Drinking Water (GLAAS), and the Joint Monitoring Program (JMP). The side event will discuss the role of these assessments for policy and decision making in an African Context and analyze how the assessment can be further improved to respond to the unique challenges of Africa.

*For more information:*

[http://www.dwaf.gov.za/dir\\_ws/2aww/](http://www.dwaf.gov.za/dir_ws/2aww/)

## Helping to disseminate census data

*DESA's Statistics Division is organizing two meetings in November to improve census data dissemination and environment statistics systems*

The Statistics Division, in collaboration with the Instituto Nacional de Estatística of Mozambique, is organizing a Regional Workshop on CensusInfo in the context of the 2010 World Programme for Population and Housing Censuses. The Workshop will take place from 10-13 November in Maputo, Mozambique.

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 offers specific functionalities to enhance census data dissemination, including a user-friendly interface, template reports for presentation of data at any geographical level, as well as graphing and mapping facilities.

CensusInfo can be customized, in terms of the graphical layout, the list of statistics/indicators and geographical levels for data presentation. 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.

DESA's Statistics Division is also organizing, in collaboration with Statistics Canada, an Expert Group Meeting on the Framework for the Development of Environment Statistics on 10-12 November in New York. The objectives of the meeting are to discuss a conceptual framework that best supports an integrative approach to environment statistics and helps countries to establish and improve their national environment statistics systems.

The meeting will review the UN Framework for the Development of Environment Statistics and its accompanying handbooks and will advise UNSD on the directions to take in the revision of these documents as well as on the modalities of the revision process. The conclusions of the EGM will be submitted to the 41st Session of the Statistical Commission in February 2010.

*For more information:*

*Regional Workshop on CensusInfo:*

[http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/meetings/wsh\\_ops/Mozambique\\_10Nov09/default.htm](http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/meetings/wsh_ops/Mozambique_10Nov09/default.htm)

*Expert Group Meeting on the Framework for the Development of Environment Statistics:*

<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/environment/fdes.htm>

## Reviewing the implementation of the Beijing Declaration

*Expert Group Meeting on the impact of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action on the achievement of the MDGs will take place in Geneva on 11-13 November*

At its fifty-fourth session, to be held at United Nations Headquarters in New York from 1-12 March 2010, the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) will review the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly and its contribution to shaping a gender

perspective towards the full realization of the Millennium Development Goals.

In preparation for the session, DESA's Division for the Advancement of Women (DAW) is organizing an Expert Group Meeting on "The impact of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action on the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals" in Geneva in association with the United Nations Development Programme. The meeting will be hosted by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe.

The findings and recommendations of the meeting will provide input to a Secretary-General's report to CSW, and will assist CSW as it contributes to shaping a gender perspective towards the full realization of the Millennium Development Goals.

The objectives of the Expert Group Meeting are to examine how the implementation of the strategic objectives and actions outlined in the 12 critical areas of concern of the Platform for Action contributes to accelerating progress towards achievement of all MDGs, and also to consider case studies and good practice examples of initiatives at the national level to integrate the gender equality framework in efforts towards the achievement of the MDGs, and identify gaps and challenges for doing so.

Based on experts' and observers' papers and the discussions at the meeting, the Expert Group Meeting will propose a limited number of concrete and practical steps and policy recommendations for Governments, the United Nations and other relevant stakeholders for accelerating achievement of the MDGs through enhanced implementation of the Platform for Action. Experts will be invited to develop a framework (guidelines, checklist) to support such work by different stakeholders at the national level.

*For more information:*

[http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/egm/impact\\_bd\\_pfa/index.html](http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/egm/impact_bd_pfa/index.html)

## **Water and sanitation services in developing countries**

*1st International Water Association (IWA) Development Congress (UN-Water) will be held in Mexico City between 15-20 November*

The Congress will set the practice and research agenda for water and sanitation services in developing countries and have a strong focus on what works in a development setting and those projects that have potential for large-scale delivery.

The event will bring together 1,000 international water and sanitation professionals to discuss emerging solutions, developments and approaches to sustainable water and sanitation management and exchange knowledge on all aspects of service delivery in low and middle income countries. The emphasis will be on what is working now in the water and sanitation sector of the developing world and what has potential for large-scale delivery.

Participants will include researchers, practitioners, policy makers, consultants, manufacturers, technology suppliers and members of the international development community who play a key role in translating knowledge into workable policies, programs and research that result in action on the ground to support such work by different stakeholders at the national level.

*For more information:*

<http://www.iwa2009mexico.org/>

## **Promoting social integration**

*Expert Group Meeting on Practical Strategies to Promote Social Integration: Lessons learned from existing policies and practices will be held in Accra, Ghana from 17-19 November*

DESA's Division for Social Policy and Development (DSPD) in collaboration with the Ministry of Employment and Social Welfare of the Government of Ghana is organizing this meeting as part of the preparations for the 48th session of the Commission for Social Development, which is scheduled to take place in New York from 3 to 12 February 2010.

The meeting is convened in the context of ECOSOC resolution 2008/19, in which the Economic and Social Council decided that the priority theme for the 2009-2010 review and policy cycle of the Commission should be "Social integration", taking into account its relationship with poverty eradication and full employment and decent work for all. The outcome of the meeting will present an important input to the work of the Commission, in

particular contributing to policy-oriented sessions geared towards promoting social integration.

*For more information:*

<http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/social/meetings/egm09/index.html>

## Supporting the implementation of the Disabilities Convention

*4<sup>th</sup> United Nations Inter Agency Support Group for the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities will be held in Geneva on 18-19 November*

The Inter-Agency Support Group that coordinates the work of the United Nations system in support of the promotion and implementation of the Convention will discuss good practices, challenges and opportunities to support the implementation of the Convention.

Group members will also share experiences on mainstreaming disability issues in displacement, as well as work to develop guiding principles to include disability in the work of United Nations country teams.

*For more information:*

<http://www.un.org/disabilities/default.asp?id=448>.

## Regional meetings on sustainable consumption and production

*DESA's Division on Sustainable Development is collaborating with ECLAC and ESCAP and other regional partners in organizing two Regional Implementation Meetings (RIMs) towards the end of November*

The RIM for Latin America and the Caribbean will be held from 26-27 November in Antigua, Guatemala, followed by the RIM for Asia and the Pacific from 30 November - 1 December in Bangkok.

The meetings will contribute to the work of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) during the implementation cycle focused on transport, chemicals, waste management, mining, and

the 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production. The meetings 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 offices of United Nations funds and programmes.

The RIMs will contribute to the advancement of the implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the JPOI. The meetings will also provide inputs to the Secretary-General's reports and contribute to the 18th session of CSD by identifying region-specific challenges and opportunities as well as lessons learned and best practices. The RIMs 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_csd18_rims.shtml)

## Capacity development

### Women and local institutions in Africa

*Seminar on Women in Local Authorities' Leadership Positions: Approaches to Democracy, Participation, Local Development and Peace will take place on 5 November in Florence, Italy*

The seminar aims to focus on the added value provided by the presence of women in local institutions in Africa. It also lays the foundation for creating a platform for exchanging Euro-African experiences of women representatives of local governments.

The debate will focus on three main topics: decentralized governance and participation: an overview of practices with a gender perspective; women's role in the informal economy and their contribution to the local development; and strengthening women's networks: north-south and south-south partnerships.

In particular, the seminar will endeavor to:

- Examine best practices on the participation of women administrators in local assemblies and in local governments and their relationships with the civil society;
- Assess the impact that women make in local institutions, on the governments agendas and on policies to develop decentralization processes;
- Analyze good governance strategies in those countries which envisage actions to strengthen the role of women in local government in order to foster development and fight against poverty;
- Review programs and projects for the enhancement of female micro-enterprise and microfinance for women;
- Review the strategies adopted within and across countries to enhance the creation of networks of European and African women administrators;
- Define a shared policy agenda which represent a basis of intents to build a Euro-African network of local women administrators.

*For more information:*

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

### Enhancing capacity for electronic and mobile governments

*Workshop on Electronic/Mobile Government in the LAC Region: Building Capacity in Knowledge Management through Partnerships will be held on 17-20 November in San José, Costa Rica*

The workshop, co-organized by DESA's Division for Public Administration and Development Management (DPADM), the Central American Institute for Public Administration (ICAP) and UNDP, will enhance the capacity of officials in Latin America, particularly in Central America, in tackling current issues and challenges of electronic /mobile government development in the Latin America and Caribbean (LAC) Region.

The workshop will also promote interactions on e-Government between three sub-regions: South America, Central America and the Caribbean, further consolidate the UN Global e/m Knowledge Repository (tentatively called emGKR, or UNPAN portal), develop partnerships for capacity building in the region and identify capacity building needs for e/m-government in the region.

As a by-product of the workshop, modules for online training courses on e-Government for knowledge management and public administration will be adapted and/or developed for upload into the United Nations Public Administration Network (UNPAN) and its portal, representing the first tailor-made online courses addressing the needs of the region by DESA through partnerships.

*For more information:*

<http://www.unpan.org/Events/BrowseEventsbyCalendar/tabid/94/mctl/EventDetails/ModuleID/1532/ItemID/1415/language/en-US/Default.aspx?selecteddate=11/17/2009>

### Public administration challenges

*The project cycle of the introduction of public administration themes into the Africa, Caribbean and*

*Pacific development goals has been successfully concluded*

The Director of DESA's Division for Public Administration and Development Management (DPADM), Ms. Haiyan Qian, together with the Inter-regional Advisor, Mr. Jonas Rabinovitch, met with Mr. Onofre Rojas, former Secretary of State of Dominican and responsible for negotiating with the European Union an umbrella package worth US \$3 billion for ACP countries (Africa/ Caribbean/ Pacific) in the areas of energy, health, infrastructure and public administration. Mr. Rojas reaffirmed to Ms. Qian that he was a personal advocate of introducing public administration themes into the ACP development portfolio and that Dominican Republic had pioneered this initiative.

With the project cycle successfully concluded, Mr. Rojas stated that he is keen to pursue follow-up activities with the European Union as, according to him, "public administration challenges are not going away, but becoming more crucial for Member States to address development goals". Ms. Qian agreed to follow-up with Mr. Rojas by planning a mission of Mr. Jonas Rabinovitch to the European Union headquarters in Brussels.

*For more information:*

<http://www.unpan.org/DPADM/AboutUs/tabid/420/Default.aspx>

## **Reviewing the deliverables of the Driving License Project**

*DPADM, represented by the Inter-regional Advisor Mr. Richard Kerby, participated in the Belize Tripartite Meeting for Capacity Building Initiative of ICT for Development from 24-25 September*

The objective of the Tripartite Meeting was to review the deliverables of the Driving License Project and ensure its sustainability after the project has been officially closed. The project was implemented by DESA through DPADM and funded by the Italian Trust Fund. With all the added security features, the driving license project will assist to eliminate fraud and duplication. It will also assist law enforcement in the management of fines and traffic violations, since all drivers will be required to obtain a new driving license with the correct addresses and information of the driver.

In addition to reviewing the deliverables, the meeting focused on developing a strategy to effectively roll out the driving license application other to regions, taking into consideration the costs and the ability of the Ministry of Transportation to cover these costs. The Ministry of Transportation has received adequate training in the new application, which has a number of checks and balances that prevent staff from manipulating applications for driving licenses, which reduces the possibility of manipulation and fraud. The meeting concluded that the project was well implemented and had made a positive impact. The Government of Belize expressed appreciation for the valuable assistance provided by DPADM.

*For more information:*

<http://www.unpan.org/DPADM/AboutUs/tabid/420/Default.aspx>

## **Meeting with the Director General of the Ethiopian ICT Development Agency**

*At the request of the Government of Ethiopia, Ms. Haiyan Qian and her team from DPADM met with Mr. Debrezion G. Michael, the Director General of the Ethiopian ICT Development Agency (EICTDA).*

During the meeting, Ms. Qian briefed Mr. Michael on the methodology and update of the 2010 United Nations E-Government Survey and the type of support that DPADM could provide Member States in the area of e-government. Mr. Michael advised DPADM that the Government of Ethiopia was at the beginning stages of implementing e-government in the country and that it has recently launched its new national portal. He requested that DESA will undertake a mission to assist the Government of Ethiopia to review the content of the portal and assist them in optimizing the use of ICT tools to improve service delivery in their public sector.

In response to a specific request by Mr. Michael, DPADM has completed a technical advisory mission to Ethiopia from 18 to 22 October providing advisory services to senior administrators in charge of the six line ministries on how to improve national and ministerial online services. In addition, DPADM will work with the Government of Ethiopia to develop a UNDP funded project on e-government development in Ethiopia.



*For more information:*

<http://www.unpan.org/DPADM/AboutUs/tabid/420/Default.aspx>

## **Enhancing public service through e-government policies for development**

*DPADM participated in the 33rd annual conference of the ICT Committee for Public Administration of States and Municipalities in Mexico, on 23-25 September*

Interregional Advisor Mr. Jonas Rabinovitch, representing DPADM, delivered a keynote speech on the challenges, approaches, criteria and examples for the enhancement of public service through e-government policies for development. He also elaborated on the UN e-Government Survey and the UN Public Service Awards.

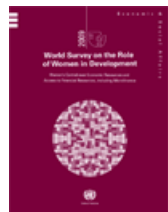
The event was attended by state governors, more than 1,000 mayors and other government officials representing the majority of the 2,500 municipalities in Mexico. DPADM and CIAPEM are exploring a possible partnership to formulate methodologies for the development of e-government approaches at the state and local levels so that development needs are more efficiently addressed by public administrations.

*For more information:*

<http://www.unpan.org/DPADM/AboutUs/tabid/420/Default.aspx>

## Publications and websites

### Technical reports



#### **2009 World Survey on the Role of Women in Development**

This flagship publication of DESA's Division for the Advancement of Women addresses the important theme of "Women's control over economic resources and access to financial resources, including microfinance". It illustrates the importance of examining women's access to economic and financial resources in a broad sense. The scope covers resources generated at national level through budgets, trade, and development assistance; financial services, such as savings, credit, remittance transfers and insurance; employment and social protection; and land, property and other productive resources. The World Survey also points to the inter-linkages between different types of economic and financial resources.

The publication is presented to the Second Committee of the General Assembly at five-yearly intervals. The 1999 World Survey focused on globalization, gender and work and the 2004 World Survey addressed women and international migration.

*For more information:*

<http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/public/flagship.htm>



#### **Implementing the Millennium Development Goals: Health Inequality and the Role of Global Health Partnerships**

This publication examines the extent of health inequalities within and between countries and analyses ways in which global health partnerships (GHPs) – an innovative and important vehicle for international cooperation – can alleviate health inequality so as to support developing countries in achieving internationally agreed goals in health, including the health-related Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

New approaches for international cooperation such as GHPs have contributed to the strides developing

countries have made in achieving health-related MDGs, health inequalities still persist between rich and poor countries and within countries among different socio-economic, ethnic, racial and cultural groups. Tackling health inequalities requires an integrated approach, that is to say giving priority to primary health care and the strengthening of the institutional and technical capacities of the health system in recipient countries.

*For more information:*

<http://www.un.org/esa/policy/devplan/cdppublications/publications.htm>

#### **Technical Report on Methods of Census Data Capture**

This report has been prepared to help countries in planning their next population and housing census. It is intended to give the reader an insight into the various technical options available for data capture and how they apply to each method. It should be pointed out that the methods are not necessarily totally independent of one another as some countries have successfully used combinations of these methods. The choice of what method(s) to use is dependant to a large degree on the circumstances and needs of each country.

*For more information:*

<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/census2010.htm>

<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/sources/census/census3.htm>

### Statistical compilations



#### **2006 Energy Statistics Yearbook**

The 2006 Energy Statistics Yearbook is the fiftieth issue in a series of annual compilations of energy statistics summarizing world energy trends. Annual data for 215 countries and areas are presented for the period from 2003 to 2006 on the production, trade and consumption of solid, liquid and gaseous fuels and electricity. Per capita consumption series are provided for all energy products.

The selection of graphs presented shows historic trends and/or changes in the composition of the production and/or consumption of major energy products. The Energy Statistics Yearbook contains 38 tables. Special tables of interest include: international trade of coal, crude petroleum and natural gas by partner countries; selected statistics for renewables

and wastes; refinery distillation capacity and throughput; and energy reserves and resources.

*For more information:*

<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/pubs/gesgrid.asp?id=410>

### **Global Consultation of the Draft International Recommendations for Water Statistics**

The latest draft of the International Recommendations for Water Statistics (IRWS) has been released for global consultation. The IRWS is designed to assist countries in the establishment and strengthening of an information system for water in support of integrated water resources management.

In particular, the draft IRWS supports the collection, compilation and dissemination of internationally comparable water statistics in countries; supports the implementation of System of Environmental and Economic Accounts for Water (SEEAW); and provides the necessary information for deriving coherent and consistent indicators over time and across countries. The IRWS presents a list of recommended and supplementary data items covering a broad range of water statistics needed to populate the standard tables of the SEEAW and to meet other user demands.

*For more information:*

<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/envaccounting/irws/gc.asp>

### **2006 Industrial Commodity Statistics Yearbook (PDF)**

The 2006 Industrial Commodity Statistics Yearbook is the fortieth in a series of annual compilations of statistics on world industry designed to meet both the general demand for information of this kind and the special requirements of the United Nations and related international bodies.

The present Yearbook contains data in physical quantities, as well as in monetary value of production. It is therefore organized in two volumes, namely Volume I: Physical Quantity Data and Volume II: Monetary Value Data.

*For more information:*

[http://unstats.un.org/unsd/industry/icsy\\_intro.asp](http://unstats.un.org/unsd/industry/icsy_intro.asp)

### **Meeting records**



#### **Report of the Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and Its Impact on Development**

This report includes information on resolutions adopted by the Conference, held in New York from 24-30 June 2009, attendance and organization of work, general debate interactive round-tables, report of the Credentials Committee, adoption of the outcome document and of the report of the Conference. Annexes include list of documents and summaries of round-table discussions.

*For more information:*

<https://unp.un.org/Details.aspx?pid=19723>

### **Working papers**

#### **The Bottom of the Pyramid Strategy for Reducing Poverty: A Failed Promise**

The movement emphasizing free markets to reduce poverty has found strong expression in the 'bottom of the pyramid' approach in recent years. It views the poor as "resilient and creative entrepreneurs and value-conscious consumers". This romanticized view of the poor harms the poor in two ways. First, it results in too little emphasis on legal, regulatory and social mechanisms to protect the poor who are vulnerable consumers. Second, it overemphasizes microcredit and underemphasizes fostering modern enterprises that would provide employment opportunities for the poor. More importantly, it grossly underemphasizes the critical role and responsibility of the state in poverty reduction.

*For more information:*

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

*To download:*

[http://www.un.org/esa/desa/papers/2009/wp80\\_2009.pdf](http://www.un.org/esa/desa/papers/2009/wp80_2009.pdf)

#### **Insurance, Credit and Safety Nets for the Poor in a World of Risk**

This paper asks how insurance can be more effectively delivered to the poor, and what its role should be relative to other microfinance programmes, safety nets and informal insurance systems. We focus on the various interactions, including how insurance

may crowd out credit and informal insurance, and implications for the design of insurance schemes. We argue that well-designed insurance schemes, building on existing informal systems, and focusing on catastrophic and serious covariate risks, could offer protection against risk and contribute to poverty reduction beyond the combined impact of microcredit programmes, safety nets and existing informal mutual support systems.

*For more information:*

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

*To download:*

[http://www.un.org/esa/desa/papers/2009/wp81\\_2009.pdf](http://www.un.org/esa/desa/papers/2009/wp81_2009.pdf)

### **Can Microfinance Reduce Economic Insecurity and Poverty? By How Much and How?**

The paper suggests that, rather than through its narrow, direct financial impact, microfinance may prove to be more potent in reducing insecurity and poverty through its indirect, broader impact conducing to a more egalitarian initial endowment distribution that is necessary for the “take-off” of an equitable growth process. The paper begins by examining the distinctive roles of micro credit, micro savings, and micro insurance programs in dealing with poverty and insecurity, and highlights the complementariness that exists among these programs and how this complementariness can be used to overcome the weaknesses of the individual programs.

*For more information:*

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

*To download:*

[http://www.un.org/esa/desa/papers/2009/wp82\\_2009.pdf](http://www.un.org/esa/desa/papers/2009/wp82_2009.pdf)

### **Assessing the insurance role of microsavings**

The paper contends that more attention should be paid to micro savings in view of multiple ways in which it can help poor to deal with economic insecurity. The paper presents information to show that while microsaving programs have spread, their full potential is far from being realized. It presents a detailed analysis on the basis of data from a selection of micro savings programs to show how savings help the poor to smooth consumption and undertake investment. The paper urges for a strong campaign to popularise micro saving programs.

*For more information:*

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

*To download:*

[http://www.un.org/esa/desa/papers/2009/wp83\\_2009.pdf](http://www.un.org/esa/desa/papers/2009/wp83_2009.pdf)

### **Assessing the success of microinsurance programmes in meeting the insurance needs of the poor**

The paper reviews attempts to provide insurance against risks afflicting the poorest. It presents empirical evidence on the impact of different types of microinsurance, and recommends the idea of ‘quasi-insurance’—the provision of insurance functions through a non-insurance route—where institutional or regulatory constraints prevent insurance proper from being offered. The paper argues that microinsurance so far has been somewhat supply-driven rather than driven by effective demand, especially from the poorest, and thus the insurance products which would benefit the poorest are still at a limited stage of development. Institutional innovations and new insurance products therefore deserve promotion.

*For more information:*

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

*To download:*

[http://www.un.org/esa/desa/papers/2009/wp84\\_2009.pdf](http://www.un.org/esa/desa/papers/2009/wp84_2009.pdf)

### **Insurance against Losses from Natural Disasters in Developing Countries**

This paper examines the recent experience with insurance and other risk-financing instruments in developing countries in order to gain insights into their effectiveness in reducing economic insecurity. Insurance and other risk financing strategies are viewed as efforts to recover from negative income shocks through risk pooling and transfer. Specific examples of public-private insurance programs for households, business-firms, and governments are described, highlighting their limitations, especially in light of the post-Katrina experience in the United States. It examines arguments both in support of and in opposition to donor and public involvement in provision of subsidized insurance in developing countries.

*For more information:*

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

*To download:*

[http://www.un.org/esa/desa/papers/2009/wp85\\_2009.pdf](http://www.un.org/esa/desa/papers/2009/wp85_2009.pdf)

## Comings and goings

### Comings

*The following staff members were promoted in October:*

Papa Malick Diakhate, Programme Assistant,  
Statistics Division

Alain Gaugris, Statistician, Statistics Division

Nathan Henninger, Staff Assistant, Division for  
Public Administration and Development  
Management

Andre Voicu, Statistics Assistant, Statistics Division

Soe Htike Htike Kyaw, Statistics Assistant, Statistics  
Division

### Goings

*The following staff member retired in October:*

Grace Simonetti, Technical Co-operation Assistant,  
Division for Public Administration and Development  
Management

## Calendar

### November

#### General Assembly

64<sup>th</sup> session, New York

<http://www.un.org/ga/>

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

#### Expert Group Meeting on Policies to Advance Social Integration

New York, 2-4 November

<http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/social/meetings/egm09/index.html>

#### Second Meeting of the Expert Group on International Merchandise Trade Statistics (EG-IMTS)

New York, 3-6 November

<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/trade/EG-IMTS/EG-IMTS%20Nov%202009.html>

#### 2009 World e-Parliament Conference

Washington, DC, 3-5 November

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

#### EGM on 2010 theme of the AMR on the Implementation of the Internationally Agreed Goals and Commitments in regard to Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women

New York, 4-6 November

<http://www.un.org/esa/policy/devplan/index.html>

#### Seminar on Women in Local Authorities' Leadership Positions

Florence, Italy, 5 November

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

#### II Conference of European and African Regional and Local Authorities

Florence, Italy, 6-7 November

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

#### African Water Week

Johannesburg, 9-13 November

[http://www.dwaf.gov.za/dir\\_ws/2aww/](http://www.dwaf.gov.za/dir_ws/2aww/)

#### Second Virtual Meeting of the Oslo Group on Energy Statistics

9-27 November

<http://og.ssb.no/ogwebpage/oghendelser/eventVM2/view?searchterm=None>

#### Expert Group Meeting on the Framework for the Development of Environment Statistics

New York, 10-12 November

<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/environment/fdes.htm>

#### United Nations CensusInfo Regional Workshop

Maputo, Mozambique, 10-13 November

[http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/meetings/wshops/Mozambique\\_10Nov09/default.htm](http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/meetings/wshops/Mozambique_10Nov09/default.htm)

#### The Impact of the Implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action on the Achievement of the MDG

Geneva, 11-13 November

[http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/egm/impact\\_bdpfa/index.html](http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/egm/impact_bdpfa/index.html)

#### Development Cooperation Forum High-Level Symposium

Vienna, 12-13 November

[http://www.un.org/ecosoc/newfunct/pdf/one\\_page\\_DCF\\_HLS\\_Vienna.pdf](http://www.un.org/ecosoc/newfunct/pdf/one_page_DCF_HLS_Vienna.pdf)

#### Multi-stakeholder consultation on external debt

Geneva, 13 November

<http://www.un.org/esa/ffd/msc/externaldebt/Debt%20consultation%20Geneva.pdf>

#### 1st IWA Development Congress (UN-Water)

Mexico City, 15-19 November

<http://www.iwa2009mexico.org/>

#### Expert Group Meeting on "Practical Strategies to Promote Social Integration: Lessons learned from existing policies and practices"

Accra, Ghana, 17-19 November

<http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/sib/egm09.html>

#### 4th UN Inter-Agency Support Group for the CRPD

Geneva, 18-19 November

<http://www.un.org/disabilities/default.asp?id=448>

#### Task Force on Statistics of International Trade in Services

Paris, 19-20 November

<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/tradeserv/TFSITS/meetings-tf.htm>

### **High-level Dialogue on Financing for Development**

New York, 23-24 November

<http://www.un.org/esa/ffd/>

### **Regional Implementation Meetings - Latin America and the Caribbean**

Antigua, Guatemala, 26-27 November

[http://www.un.org/esa/dsd/csd/csd\\_csd18\\_rims.shtml](http://www.un.org/esa/dsd/csd/csd_csd18_rims.shtml)

### **Regional Implementation Meetings - Asia and the Pacific**

Bangkok, 30 November - 1 December

[http://www.un.org/esa/dsd/csd/csd\\_csd18\\_rims.shtml](http://www.un.org/esa/dsd/csd/csd_csd18_rims.shtml)

## **December**

### **United Nations Climate Change Conference**

Copenhagen, 7-18 December

<http://en.cop15.dk/frontpage#>

## **Observances**

### **International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women**

25 November

The General Assembly has designated 25 November as the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, and has invited governments, international organizations and non-governmental organizations to organize activities on that day to raise public awareness of the problem.

This year's observance will take place in the Trusteeship Council Chamber with opening remarks of the Secretary-General. The official ceremony will then be followed by a roundtable discussion on the role of men and boys in ending violence against women.

Furthermore, this November UNIFEM will launch a new platform for action, Say NO–UNiTE to End Violence against Women. It is UNIFEM's contribution to the Secretary-General's campaign to end violence against women involving governments, civil society and the entire UN system. Say NO–UNiTE will count and showcase actions taken by individuals, organizations and governments worldwide to end violence against women.

For more information: <http://endviolence.un.org/>

*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.*

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