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Video

Opportunity to avoid catastrophic climate change is in our hands

Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon voiced optimism that negotiations for an ambitious new climate change agreement are on the “right track”, after he wrapped up the largest-ever high-level gathering on climate change on 22 September. Mr. Ban also warned that momentum must be maintained in the run-up to December’s conference in Copenhagen to ensure success.

Mr. Ban said he felt a “sense of optimism, urgency and hope” to emerge from the summit, which drew some 100 heads of State and government, that governments are determined to ‘seal a deal’ in Copenhagen.

<http://webcast.un.org/ramgen/ondemand/specialevents/2009/ga090922pm1.rm?start=00:26:28&end=00:42:44> (16 minutes)

Inside this issue

Children and families speak out against poverty

Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon recognizes that "eradicating extreme poverty continues to be one of the main challenges of our time, and is a major concern of the international community, p. 1

Gauging the progress of the global partnership for development

In words of the Deputy Secretary-General Asha-Rose Migiro, “the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) are more than a set of targets; they are a solemn promise to the world’s poorest and most vulnerable, p. 4

Global dialogue on development, p. 7

Trends and analysis, p. 10

Capacity Development, p. 13

Publications and websites, p. 15

Comings and goings, p. 17

Calendar, p. 18

Feature articles

Children and families speak out against poverty

Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon recognizes that "eradicating extreme poverty continues to be one of the main challenges of our time, and is a major concern of the international community. Ending this scourge will require the combined efforts of all,

governments, civil society organizations and the private sector, in the context of a stronger and more effective global partnership for development.”

As it is stated in General Assembly resolution 47/196 of March 1993, the eradication of poverty and destitution in all countries, in particular in developing countries, became one of the priorities of development for the 1990s. This priority has assumed greater importance since world leaders adopted the United Nations Millennium Declaration in September

2000, committing their nations to a new global partnership to reduce extreme poverty with the Millennium Development Goals.

International Day for the Eradication of Poverty

On 19 October, when the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty will be celebrated at the United Nations Headquarters in New York, children and families will have the opportunity to speak out against poverty. The participation of people living in poverty and the recognition of their efforts to eradicate poverty has been the focus of the Day's celebration since its very beginning.

The International Day for the Eradication of Poverty is celebrated all over the world on 17 October. This year, however, as 17 October falls on a Saturday and as World Food Day is celebrated on 16 October, the observance at the United Nations Headquarters in New York will take place on 19 October.



In proclaiming the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty, the General Assembly invites "all States to devote that Day to presenting and promoting, as appropriate in the national context, concrete activities with regard to the eradication of poverty and destitution". It also invites intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to assist States, at their request, in organizing national activities for the observance of the International Day, noting that such activities will take into account those undertaken each year by certain non-governmental organizations.

This year, in recognition of the 20th anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the protagonists of the celebration will be children and their families living in poverty and the event will be focused on the need to fulfill children's rights in partnership with them and in keeping with the

Convention. Despite efforts in recent years to eradicate poverty, the progress achieved world-wide has been uneven. Although some regions experienced reduced levels of poverty, in many countries it has been on the rise, especially among women and children.

The Convention on the Rights of the Child was adopted in 1989 to ensure that the world recognizes that children have their own rights which must be protected. The Convention lays out the basic rights of all children, which are: the right to survival; the right to develop to the fullest; the right to protection from harmful influences, abuse and exploitation; and the right to participate fully in family, cultural and social life.

The Convention has four core principles: non-discrimination; devotion to the best interests of the child; the right to life, survival and development; and respect for the views of the child. Extreme poverty prevents children from seeing their rights realized. It leads often to broken families, abuse and exploitation and other difficulties for surviving and developing.

Stand Up Against Poverty

Since 2005, millions of people mobilize around the world during three days in October under the slogan "Stand up – Take Action" to show their support for the fight against poverty during the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty. The initiative is coordinated by the United Nations Millennium Campaign and Global Call to Action Against Poverty (GCAP), to support citizens' efforts to end poverty. This year's global event will be held between 16 and 18 October.

The initiative is supported in more than 100 countries from both hemispheres and by a wide range of partners at the international and local levels to mobilize people towards the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. The 2009 events aim at demanding that world leaders do not use the financial crisis as an excuse for breaking the promise they made in 2000.

"In rich and poor countries, at concerts and sporting events, in universities and in houses of worship, millions of people showed that they will not remain seated in the face of poverty and broken promises to end it" said Salil Shetty, Director of the UN Millennium Campaign.

Millions of people living in poverty

Poverty is not only a lack of income and productive resources to ensure sustainable livelihoods. It is much more. It is hunger and malnutrition, limited access to education and other basic services, social discrimination and exclusion, the lack of participation in decision-making.

Poverty means also having to walk more than one mile everyday simply to collect water and firewood, or suffering from diseases that were eradicated from rich countries decades ago. It means that, today, nearly 2.6 billion people in the world live on less than \$2 dollars a day and 1.4 billion try to survive on just \$1.25 dollar a day.

In 2007, according to UNICEF, approximately 9.2 million children under the age of five died from causes that were largely preventable, such as malaria and malnutrition. In the same year, 72 million children worldwide were denied education. Currently, 75 million children are out of school and 776 million adults, predominantly women, do not have basic literacy skills. In some less developed nations, children in the poorest 20 per cent of the population are three times less likely to be enrolled in primary school than those in the wealthiest 20 per cent.

United Nations initiatives to end poverty

For the General Assembly, eradicating poverty is the greatest global challenge facing the world and a basic requirement for sustainable development. Consequently, it proclaimed, in December 1995, the First United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997-2006), with the theme "Eradicating poverty is an ethical, social, political and economic imperative of humankind."

In 2000, after years of conferences and summits, world leaders came together at United Nations Headquarters in New York to adopt the United Nations Millennium Declaration, committing their nations to a new global partnership to reduce extreme poverty. They set out eight targets with a deadline of 2015, named the Millennium Development Goals.

The first of these Goals aims to eradicate extreme poverty and hunger, and has three principal objectives: to halve, between 1990 and 2010, the proportion of people whose income is less than \$1 a day, to achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all, including woman and young people and to halve, between 1990 and 2010, the proportion of people who suffer from hunger.

Ten years after the end of the First United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty, in December 2007, the Second United Nations Decade for Eradication of Poverty (2008-2017) was proclaimed. It aims at supporting the development of goals related to poverty eradication, including the Millennium Development Goals. It was a recognition of the importance of mobilizing financial resources for development at national and international levels. The proclamation also recognizes that sustained economic growth, supported by rising productivity and a favorable environment, including private investment and entrepreneurship is vital for rising living standards.

Art, another way to involve children in the fight against poverty

Over 12,000 children from all over the world participated in 2006 in the International Children's Art Competition in the 20th anniversary of the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty. The competition was organized by DESA in collaboration with the Department of Public Information (DPI) and the United Nations Postal Administration, to celebrate the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty and the First United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty.

The children were invited to design a United Nations stamp on the theme "We can end poverty". Through children's pictures it was demonstrated that poverty is a multidimensional phenomenon and a variety of actions can lead to its eradication. They conveyed that richer countries and individuals should help those in need.

The children drew solidarity, cooperation and fairness as key values indispensable for ending poverty. Many children pointed to the existence of inequality and divisions in the world and suggest greater sharing and unity. Many gave emphasis to the importance of love and compassion. Numerous pictures showed the significance of education for poverty eradication.

Several children from developing countries showed the importance of small-scale agriculture for self-sufficiency. Many thought that employment, urbanization and the promotion of technology can help end poverty. Children from countries in conflict stressed that the world needs peace and security to end poverty.

For more information:

<http://www.standagainstopoverty.org>,

<http://www.endpoverty2015.org>,

<http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/social/art/>,

<http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/social/intldays/IntlDay/2009intlday.html>,

<http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/index.shtml>

Gauging the progress of the global partnership for development

In words of the Deputy Secretary-General Asha-Rose Migiro, “the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) are more than a set of targets; they are a solemn promise to the world’s poorest and most vulnerable. Noting that better economic times helped to strengthen the global partnership for development, the international community must show that it “can also work together in bad times – when the poor, the sick and the vulnerable need us most.”

Despite visible efforts, important gaps remain in delivering the global commitments called for by the eighth MDG: “Develop a Global Partnership for Development”. In order to improve the monitoring of global commitments, the Secretary-General of the United Nations created in 2007 the MDG Gap Task Force to track the international commitments and their realization at the international and country level on official development assistance, market access, debt relief and access to essential medicines and technology.



The Task Force integrates more than 20 UN agencies, including participation from the World Bank and the IMF, as well as the OECD and WTO. The United Nations Development Programme and the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA)

of the United Nations Secretariat are the lead agencies in coordinating the work of the Task Force.

As a result of this inter-agency coordinated action, two annual reports have been published so far. The 2009 report, entitled *Strengthening the Global Partnership for Development in a Time of Crisis*, was launched on 16 September at a press conference in New York by the Deputy Secretary-General, together with Mr. Jomo Kwame Sundaram, Assistant Secretary-General for Economic Development, DESA and Mr. Olav Kjørven, Director of the Bureau for Development Policy at UNDP and Mr. Rob Vos, Director of the Development Policy and Analysis Division of DESA.

As the Secretary-General wrote in the preface of the Report “the challenge now is to ensure that those resources are delivered and this report identifies what needs to be done. It demonstrates how to deal with existing and emerging gaps between commitment to and achievement of MDG 8, which is to develop a global partnership for development. Above all, it underlines the importance of a full and accelerated delivery on all commitments, which is crucial to our efforts to build a more secure and prosperous world for all”.

Some encouraging signs

The report, although showing many gaps in the achievement of MDG 8, projects some encouraging signs. Donor countries have increased aid flows and reaffirmed pledges to further increase them. However, a country-by-country account of how those aid increases would be delivered each year still needed.

In spite of that increase, to meet 2010 targets agreed at the 2005 Group of Eight (G-8) Summit at Gleneagles, Scotland, global aid would need to increase by \$35 billion annually from the present levels, of which \$20 billion would need to be earmarked for Africa.

Further, debt relief under the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative (HIPC) and the Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative have helped many developing countries to devote resources to health, education and social services, but more support is needed.

Trade barriers set up in response to the global financial crisis have to be unwound and the Doha Round of multilateral trade talks should be concluded on terms that support development.

While highlighting progress in increasing access to information and communications technologies, the report urged that more needs to be done to prevent the global crisis from undoing past gains. In particular, ensuring that climate change technologies are affordable would be critical to talks at the United Nations Conference on Climate Change in Copenhagen this December.

Strengthening the global partnership for development

Mr. Jomo, speaking on behalf of Under-Secretary General Sha Zukang, stressed the importance of monitoring progress in delivering on and strengthening the global partnership for development, Goal 8, quantitatively and qualitatively.

For example, total net aid from countries in the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development's Development Assistance Committee amounted to only 0.3 per cent of their combined gross national income in 2008—while the United Nations target is 0.7 per cent.

Mr. Jomo claimed that enormous efforts will be needed to fill that gap. In addition, active trade policies were also badly needed in the face of protectionist trends and an alarming 20 per cent fall in global trade from April 2008 to April 2009.

More efforts are also needed in helping developing countries to manage their external debt. By the first quarter of 2009, 35 of 40 eligible countries had qualified for debt relief under the HIPC initiative. Nevertheless, Mr. Jomo said, as the financial crisis had made their prospects uncertain, the international community should broaden its efforts.

Furthermore, the international community should also ensure affordable access to generic medicines, as people living in developing countries were paying three to six times international reference prices.

Although progress has been made in increasing access to information and communication technologies, those living in developing countries, were paying ten times more for internet services than those living in developed countries. As Mr. Jomo said, the private sector should work with public telecommunication companies and regulators to address that issue.

Mr. Vos added that there was concern with limited progress made under the Paris and Accra Declarations to harmonize and improve the quality of

the delivery of aid. While it was true that donor countries had not fully disbursed aid commitments, aid would not be effectively delivered if national programmes were not in place.

Effort makes progress possible

Mr. Kjørven, Director of the Bureau for Development Policy at the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), recalled that the nine years before the global economic crisis had seen “encouraging achievements” towards reaching the Goals.

As an example, Mr. Kjørven said that the number of people living in extreme poverty had fallen from 1.8 billion in 1990 to 1.4 billion in 2005. In sub-Saharan Africa, school enrolment increased by 15 percentage points from 2000 to 2007. In addition, despite population growth, deaths of children under 5 years old had dropped worldwide, from 12.6 million in 1990 to 9 million in 2007.

Mr. Kjørven said that these examples showed that progress was possible in the face of seemingly intractable challenges. He added that now, donors at the upcoming Group of 20 meeting must help prevent catastrophic reversal in human development and follow through on MDG commitments. Mr. Kjørven asked for a “broader perspective than just fixing the global financial system per se” and noted that one has to have “a view to human development and the significant risks and reversals that are now occurring”.

Duty free and quota-free access to exports

Asked about the Governments' commitments to give duty-free, quota-free access to 97 per cent of developing country exports, Mr. Jomo said that the outstanding issues included non-agriculture market access, as developing countries wanted to retain provisions that allowed them to protect domestic markets, particularly in order to ensure food security.

While the original request was for a 100 per cent access, the commitment made in 2005 was to increase market access from an average of 80 per cent to 97 per cent. It was feared that the 3 per cent excluded might be in areas where least developed countries could be the most competitive. “This is at the root of the problem”, Mr. Jomo said, adding that the list of outstanding issues had been reduced.

For more information:

http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/pdf/MDG_Gap_%20Task_Force_%20Report_2009.pdf,
<http://www.un.org/esa/policy/mdggap/>.

Global dialogue on development

Debating for economic and financial development

The Economic and Financial Committee of the General Assembly starts on 5 October in New York to deal with issues related to economic growth, development, MDGs, climate change and agriculture

The first meeting of the Economic and Financial Committee - also known as the Second Committee - took place on 17 September 2009, chaired by the H.E. Ambassador Park In-kook of the Republic of Korea. The Committee elected its members of the Bureau and adopted the programme of work. The Bureau members elected comprises of Vice-Chairpersons, Mr. Mohamed Cherif Diallo (Guinea), Mr. Carlos Enrique García González (El Salvador) and Mr. Dragan Mičić (Serbia), and Rapporteur, Ms. Denise McQuade (Ireland).

The General Debate of the Second Committee will begin to tackle its programme of work for the sixty-fourth session on 5 October. During this session, the Second Committee will deal with issues related to economic growth and development, such as macroeconomic policy questions (including international trade, international financial system, debt and commodities), financing for development, sustainable development, human settlements, poverty eradication, globalization and interdependence, operational activities for development, and information and communication technologies for development.

As in previous sessions, a series of special events are planned to take place during the course of the Second Committee. Nine events will cover the topic of: Millennium Development Goals, climate change, global financial and economic crisis, agriculture and food security, and water. There will be other events organized by Member States on topics such as legal empowerment of the poor; global social protection and the role of the private sector in tackling the global crisis.

The Second Committee will also consider issues related to Groups of Countries in special situations - such as the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and

Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs). It will also consider the item on permanent sovereignty of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and of the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan over their natural resources.

In addition, two reports of the Secretary-General on advancement of women were prepared for the Second Committee and will be considered on 22 October under agenda item 58 (b) *Eradication of poverty and other development issues: women in development*. The reports are “Integrating a gender perspective into national development strategies” (A/64/162 and Corr.1) and “The World Survey on the Role of Women in Development: Women's control over economic resources and access to financial resources, including microfinance” (A/64/93).

DESA's Division for the Advancement of Women will also launch, on 26 October, the “World Survey on the Role of Women in Development: Women's control over economic resources and access to financial resources, including microfinance.” The World Survey is one of DESA's flagship publications and provides, at five-yearly intervals, an in-depth analysis of development issues affecting women. As the main report on women in development will be presented to the Second Committee, the publication provides critical input for enhanced attention to gender perspectives in regard to economic and development issues. This report also addresses the impact of the current economic and financial crisis on women's access to economic and financial resources.

For more information:

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

Working for social and human rights issues

The sixty-fourth session of the Social, Humanitarian and Cultural Affairs Committee starts on 5 October in New York and focuses on advancement of women on 12-14 October

The General Assembly allocates to its Third Committee agenda items relating to a range of social, humanitarian affairs and human rights issues that affect peoples all over the world. An important part of the Committee's work focuses on the examination of human rights questions, including reports of the special procedures of the Human Rights Council.

The Committee discusses advancement of women, the protection of children, indigenous issues, the treatment of refugees, the promotion of fundamental freedoms through the elimination of racism and racial discrimination, and the promotion of the right to self-determination. The Committee also addresses important social development questions such as youth, family, ageing, persons with disabilities, crime prevention, criminal justice, and drug control.

Agenda item 64 on Advancement of Women will be taken up on 12-14 October under the chairmanship of H.E. Mr. Normans Penke, the Permanent Representative of Latvia to the United Nations. Four reports were prepared by DESA's Division for the Advancement of Women to facilitate discussions - "Intensification of efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women" (A/64/151), "Violence against women migrant workers" (A/64/152), "Improvement of the situation of women in rural areas" (A/64/190), and "Measures taken and progress achieved in follow-up to the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly" (A/64/218).

For more information:

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

<http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/documents/ga64.htm>

Roadmap for technology in the context of climate change mitigation

A high level conference on Climate Change will take place on 22-23 October in New Delhi to promote international technology development and transfer

In the context of the Bali Action Plan for enhancement of long term cooperation for implementation of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Government of India and DESA are jointly organizing a High-level Conference on Climate Change: Technology Development and Transfer in New Delhi on 22-23 October.

The conference will bring together governments, experts, industry representatives and civil society to help formulate a roadmap for technology in the context of climate change mitigation and adaptation to support the UNFCCC process. The Conference will also seek to advance understanding on key

actions needed to accelerate technology development and transfer in all countries in accordance with their national needs. It will also throw light on technology scenarios, institutional and business models of development and deployment, and mechanisms to promote technology transfer to developing countries and to enhance the scope for cooperation on research and development.

The Delhi Conference will advance the discussions initiated at the Beijing High-level Conference on Climate Change: Technology Development and Technology Transfer, co-organized by the Chinese Government and the DESA on 7-8 November 2008.

The Beijing Conference took stock of the clean technologies, the barriers to transfer and the potential for technology collaboration. Participants also presented case studies. The conference clearly recognized the need for new and innovative mechanisms of international co-operation, particularly in research, development, deployment and transfer of climate-related technologies.

For more information:

http://www.un.org/esa/dsd/dsd_aofw_cc/cc_conf1009.shtml

http://www.un.org/esa/dsd/dsd_aofw_cc/cc_conf1108.shtml

Young people speak out at the General Assembly

At the 64th session of the General Assembly, young people will have the opportunity to debate youth issues

Over twenty UN Member States from all regions will include one or more youth delegates in their official delegations at the 64th session of the General Assembly to give them the opportunity to engage in the General Assembly debate on issues related to youth.

The youth delegates will deliver a statement to the Third Committee on behalf of the young people they represent. Additionally, youth representatives may participate in the general work of their Missions by attending a range of meetings and informal negotiations, in particular those related to youth policies.

This year, youth delegates from several countries are also organizing side events during the General

Assembly on Climate Justice and on Youth in Armed Conflicts. These topics are among the greatest concerns of youth in their countries and will therefore be given extra attention in the side events.

Although most youth delegates will only be 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/>

Rights and dignity of persons with disabilities

The second session of the Conference of States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities was held from 2-4 September in New York

During this year's session, participants discussed legislative measures to implement the Convention. Two roundtables were held, one on accessibility and reasonable accommodation and the other on equal recognition before the law, access to justice and supported decision-making. The session also included an interactive segment on the on-going work

of the United Nations system and its support for the implementation of the Convention.

Non-governmental organizations also participated along with Governments in an informal session on the global economic crisis, poverty and the implementation of the Convention. Among the documents circulated during the Conference was a compilation of legislative measures adopted by Member States to implement the Convention prepared by the Secretariat for the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (SCRPD/DESA). During the session, several related side-events were also conducted by Governments, UN system organizations and civil society.

Disability issues will also be discussed this month at the 64th Session of the General Assembly. The Assembly will have before it the recently released Reports of the Secretary-General on the Status of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Optional Protocol (A/64/128) and on Realizing the Millennium Development Goals for Persons with Disabilities (A/64/180).

For more information:

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

Trends and analysis

Implementing sustainable development in regions

Regional Implementation Meetings (RIMs) will take place from 4-6 October in Cairo, and from 27-30 October in Addis Ababa

Organized by the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) and the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), in collaboration with DESA's Division for Sustainable Development, the RIMs 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 collaboration with other regional and sub-regional organizations, as well as the regional offices of funds, programmes and international finance and trade institutions and other bodies of the United Nations system.

The Regional Implementation Meetings will contribute to the advancement of the implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and JPOI. The meeting 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

Discussing the relationship between population ageing and social protection systems

The Population Division of DESA, in collaboration with the Population Division of ECLAC will hold an

Expert Group Meeting on Population Ageing, International Transfers and Social Protection

The meeting, held at ECLAC, Santiago de Chile, on 20 and 21 October, will bring together specialists from various regions of the world to discuss the relationship between population ageing and social protection systems, in particular the role played by intergenerational reallocations in different parts of the world. The impact of the present financial and economic crisis on economic security over the life cycle, especially in old age, will also be addressed.

The Expert Group Meeting will hold expert consultations, including standing expert bodies, for the Economic and Social Council, among them the Committee of Experts on Public Administration, Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters, and Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues.

For more information:

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

Discussing global MDG monitoring

Sixteenth Inter-Agency and Expert Group Meeting on MDG Indicators will take place in Geneva from 20 to 22 October

This Inter-Agency and Expert Group meeting is part of the yearly consultation with both national experts and international agencies to review and discuss issues related to the global Millennium Development Goals (MDG) monitoring, including the production of the MDG global monitoring outputs, reporting systems on MDG indicators, country capacity building as well as the coordination of technical cooperation activities in countries.

For more information:

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

Exchanging data and metadata on MDG Indicators

Expert Group Meeting on SDMX for MDG Indicators will be held in Geneva on 23 October

DESA's Statistics Division is organizing an Expert Group Meeting on Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) for Millennium Development Goals (MDG) Indicators. The meeting, hosted by the International Labour Organization, will share experiences on the use of the SDMX standards for the exchange of data and metadata on MDG Indicators.

The SDMX is a platform for data and metadata exchange that will greatly facilitate the exchange of MDG data among countries and between countries and international agencies. The event will also be an opportunity to review, with national and international experts, the necessary steps to implement the SDMX platform at the national level, including identifying key areas in which international agencies could provide technical assistance.

For more information:

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

Geographic information and responses to climate change

Eighteenth United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for Asia and the Pacific (UNRCC-AP) will take place in Bangkok from 26 to 29 October

In February 1948, the Economic and Social Council recommended that Governments of Member States stimulate surveying and mapping of their national territories and that the Secretary-General of the United Nations take appropriate action to further such efforts. A Committee of Experts on Cartography was appointed by the Secretary General to study the problem and advise upon the means of its implementation. The first meeting of the committee of experts on cartography was held in 1955.

The theme of this eighteenth conference is "Spatial Enablement and the Response to Climate Change and the Millennium Development Goals". It will bring together specialists from Asia and the Pacific and other parts of the world, and provide an opportunity to review and assess how well geographic information can be used in dealing with critical

issues such as spatial enablement and responses to climate change. It would also give an opportunity to identify the impediments and barriers that still exist, with a view to suggesting appropriate solutions in order to overcome them.

For more information:

<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/METHODS/CARTOG/unrcap.htm>

Opening nominations for 2010 Public Service Awards

In continuing efforts to promote and support innovations in public service delivery worldwide, the United Nations is calling for nominations to its 2010 Public Service Awards

The 7th annual United Nations Public Service Awards (UNPSA) is opened to local or national public organizations, and to public-private partnerships involved in essential service delivery to citizens. "The United Nations has long recognized that effective governance and efficient public administration are central to the global development agenda and particularly in achieving the Millennium Development Goals," said the Secretary-General, Mr. Ban Ki-moon while addressing the 2009 Awards finalists and winners. He reminded them that public services can be delivered more efficiently, effectively and equitably all over the world. "The ingredients are simple: commitment, hard work, innovation, talent and technological know-how", he added.

Contestant from public institutions cannot nominate themselves. Instead, interested institutions will have to be nominated by Governments and civil society organizations for their achievements and performance. Nominations can be made online until 31 December 2009. The 2010 UNPSA Awards are given in 4 categories: improving the delivery of public services, improving accountability and transparency, fostering participation in decision-making process through innovative mechanisms, advancing knowledge management in government.

For more information: at

www.unpan.org/applyunpsa2010

Better and more affordable access to ICT

Over 500 specialists from the field of ICT for Education joined forces for the UNDESA-GAID Annual Meetings as well as the “Global Forum 2009: ICT & Innovation for Education”

The conference, which took place in Monterrey, Mexico, from 2 to 4 September, was jointly organized by the Monterrey Institute of Technology, the Government of Mexico, Indigo Brainmedia, and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), with partners including the Intel Corporation, the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), the Cisneros Foundation, Ericsson, Siemens, Francophonie, and NComputing.

The main aspects that were being discussed, in order to integrate ICT (Information and Communication Technologies) successfully into the education systems across the globe, were to provide better and more affordable access to ICT; to train teachers to use ICT effectively in the classrooms; to integrate ICT into the policies at all levels; and to monitor and evaluate the process made in order to take advantage of already learned lessons.

Participants of the Global Forum, such as Ministers, policy-makers, CEOs and senior business leaders, academics, civil society and youth leaders from around the world, engaged in an active dialogue about ICT access, connectivity, content development and education. Under the umbrella of UNDESA-GAID (UNDESA Global Alliance for ICT and Development) they took part in interactive, multi-stakeholder panel discussions, workshops and brainstorming sessions, showcased their ICT-for-development projects, and had the opportunity to network for possible future collaboration.

A highlight of the conference was the launch of the UNDESA-GAID Global Partnership “Monterrey Consensus on Education in the Digital Age”, an initiative for the achievement of the MDGs through ICT integration and innovations in education. The purpose of this document is to present a framework for Education for All in the Digital Age, and to reflect the dynamics of cultural, social and institutional changes. It also takes into consideration the principles of sustainability in environmental, social, economic and cultural contexts, and the readiness of each particular country. It should be a

blueprint for tangible impact for any developing country.

Mr. Sha Zukang, Under-Secretary-General of DESA, participated in the conference, and indicated that UNDESA-GAID is at a turning point. There are strong expectations that through its growing networks, the Alliance can increasingly focus on actions and results, and can make tangible impact by helping advance the UN Development Agenda through the use of ICT as a strategic tool. In concrete, UNDESA-GAID will prepare a matrix relating to all eight MDGs and catalogue specific ICT actions that can contribute to achieving them.

Additionally, going forward, UNDESA-GAID calls for global and regional partners from the field of ICT for education, to organize a series of workshops during the upcoming year. Their purpose will be to help form new joint ventures, to improve capacity building for program development, and to progress in the implementation of programs into the Ministries of Education and the Ministries of ICT in developing countries. During these forums participants will share best practices, case studies, resources, and insights that they have come across. Furthermore partners are encouraged to get actively involved in the planning, funding and launching of programs in participating countries.

For more information: www.un-gaid.org

Capacity Development

Helping to disseminate census data

Workshop on CensusInfo in the context of the 2010 World Programme for Population and Housing Censuses will take place from 12-15 October in Georgetown, Guyana

DESA's Statistics Division, in partnership with UNICEF and UNFPA, 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, organized by DESA's Statistics Division and CARICOM Secretariat, 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/wshops/Guyana_Oct2009/default.htm

Delivering as one

Inter-governmental Meeting of "Programme Country Pilots" on Delivering as one: Exchange of Experiences, Lessons Learned, and Approaches to Country-led Evaluations from 19 to 21 October.

The meeting, which will take place in Kigali, hosted by the Government of the Republic of Rwanda with support from the United Nations, will bring together the eight programme country pilots on 'Delivering as One' as well as a few countries with similar experiences, to share important insights on progress in the implementation of the "Delivering as One" initiative, in line with the General Assembly's resolutions on operational activities for development.

The objectives of the meeting are to provide an opportunity for the governments of the programme country pilots to further exchange experiences and lessons learned from their "Delivering as One" initiatives and deepen their reflection, building on the meeting held in Maputo, Mozambique, in May 2008 and to discuss approaches to country-led evaluations.

The meeting is expected to produce a "Statement of outcome and recommendations on the way forward" on "Delivering as One" and will be attended by the Deputy Secretary-General who will deliver a statement at the opening session.

For more information:
<http://www.un.org/events/panel/>

Managing and disseminating data in Africa

A Regional Workshop on Data Management will be held in Kampala from 26 to 30 October

The workshop will bring together representatives from National Statistical Offices (NSOs), sub-regional, regional, and international organizations with special interest in data management and dissemination in Africa. The main purposes of the workshop are to provide a forum for exchange of information on the emerging issues in statistical data management and dissemination; promote the use of statistical databases and dissemination of data on the web; and share experiences and best practices in statistical data management and data dissemination in the countries and sub-regional organizations.

The workshop is organized by the African Centre for Statistics (ACS), with the support of the DESA's Statistics Division, the African Development Bank (AfDB), and the African Union Commission (AUC), in close collaboration with the Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century (PARIS21) and the Uganda Bureau of Statistics (UBOS).

For more information:

<http://knowledge.uneca.org/about-ecas-km-initiative/statistical-development/news-updates/regional-workshop-on-data-management-and-dissemination-october-26-30-2009-kampala-uganda>,

organized on the implementation of the Charter to an on-line format, thereby making it available to all civil servants around the globe.

For more information:

<http://unpan1.un.org/intradoc/groups/public/documents/un-dpadm/unpan035826.pdf>

Methods and systems of evaluation in civil service

A workshop on the Implementation of a System for Management and Evaluation of the Performance of the Public Service took place in Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia, between 7 and 10 September

DESA's Division for Public Administration and Development Management (DPADM) held a training seminar for high level officials from the Ministries of Public Administration of Latin America titled "United Nations Workshop on the Implementation of a System for Management and Evaluation of the Performance of the Public Service". The workshop was held from 7 to 10 September in Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia, in cooperation with the Spanish Agency for International Cooperation and Development (AECID) and the Ministry of Public Administration of Spain.

The event was attended by 32 participants from Latin America, most of them responsible for the civil service in their countries (ministers, vice-ministers and directors of the civil service). Thirteen countries made presentations on the methods and systems of evaluation in their respective civil services.

Evaluation of performance of the civil service has been identified as a key element in the implementation of the principles contained in the Ibero-American Charter of Public Service. This training workshop is part of a series of trainings being organized and conducted by DPADM in an effort to strengthen the civil service in the region through the Charter. This effort sets an example and is an inspiration to other regions of the world. DPADM is committed to converting all trainings

Publications and websites

Technical reports



MDG Gap Task Force Report 2009

The 2009 Report of the Secretary-General's MDG Gap Task Force, "Strengthening the Global Partnership for Development in a Time of Crisis," launched on 16

September, warns that, with less than six years to go until 2015, the international community is far behind in meeting the Eighth Millennium Development Goal and its agreed targets on Official Development Assistance (ODA), Access to Markets, Debt Sustainability, Access to Affordable Essential Medicines and Access to new Technologies. It argues that the commitments to fight global poverty are more important than ever as the confluence of economic, food and climate crises and an influenza pandemic threaten to destroy some hard-won gains previously made in the global partnership.

The Taskforce estimates, inter alia, that OECD donors are falling short by \$35 billion per year on the 2005 pledge on annual aid flows made by the Group of Eight in Gleneagles. Of the required increase, \$20 billion per year should go to Africa. The report equally signals remaining shortfalls in meeting the targets in the other areas related to MDG8, as well as inequities across countries in benefits from the global partnership for development. The Task Force brings together more than 20 UN agencies, including the World Bank and IMF, as well as WTO and the OECD.

For more information:

<http://www.un.org/esa/policy/mdggap/>



Sustainable Urbanization in the Information Age

This book talks about sustainable urbanization as the key consideration in environmental planning and management to improve living conditions for the 2.5 billion poor in the world. It examines policies and

actions that might provide new, more effective responses to poverty, social justice, environmental degradation and other challenges as humans increasingly congregate in urban agglomerations.

It also examines the experiences how the private sector and civil society can contribute to achieving sustainable urbanization. The book contains views of representatives of cities from all over the world in dealing with sustainable urbanization and information communication technologies.

To order: <https://unp.un.org/Details.aspx?pid=19675>

Statistical compilations



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. 9, September 2009

Quarterly and bimonthly tables included in this issue:
Fuel imports, developed economies: unit value and volume indices; value — Importations de produits énergétiques, pays à économies développées: indices de volume et valeur

Indicators on fuel imports, developed economies — Indicateurs des importations de produits énergétiques, pays à économies développées
Registration of new motor vehicles —

Immatriculations de véhicules automobiles neufs
External trade conversion factors — Facteurs de conversion pour le commerce extérieur

Manufactured goods exports: unit value indices, volume indices and value — Exportations des produits manufacturés: indices de valeur unitaire, indices de volume et valeur

Exports by commodity classes and by regions: developed economies — Exportations par classes de marchandises et par régions: pays à économies développées

Selected series of world statistics — Séries principales de statistiques mondiales.

For more information:

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

Discussion papers

12th Monthly Briefing on the World Economic Situation and Prospects

The September 2009 issue highlights that the global economy shows tentative sign of recovery, but substantial risks and uncertainties remain. If employment growth and private investment demand do not pick up strongly before the effects of fiscal stimuli fade out, the world economy may face a double-dip recession.

Global trade activity could recede again as final consumer demand remains sluggish. Fiscal stimulus measures have been a major factor for the stabilization or expansion of aggregate demand across the globe, especially in a number of large developing countries. In addition, a major food crisis is imminent in East Africa.

For more information:

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

UN-DESA Policy Briefs

UN-DESA Policy Briefs feature synopses of key policy analysis intended to frame issues, inform decisions and guide policy action in the economic, social and environmental arena. The following new UN-DESA Policy Briefs are now available:

- Technology Transfer and Climate Change: Beyond TRIPS
- Multidimensional Climate Threats Require New Approaches and More Resources for Adaptation Challenge
- Climate Justice: Sharing the Burden
- Financing mitigation and adaptation by developing countries
- Stronger industrial policies needed to face the climate and development challenges
- Climate Change and the Energy Challenge

For more information:

<http://www.un.org/esa/policy/policybriefs/>

Websites



Women, gender equality and climate change

A new online feature on women, gender equality and climate change was launched by Women Watch, to

coincide with the Summit on Climate Change on 22 September and to mark the Global Climate Week. The new feature showcases the work of the entire United Nations system on gender equality and climate change and provides comprehensive information for advocacy, research and programming for Governments, NGOs, United Nations entities, global and regional bodies, the academia, women's groups and networks and interested individuals.

Illustrating the need for gender-sensitive responses to climate change, and for involving women as agents of change and decision-makers, the webpage offers a downloadable sheet with key facts, issues and recommendations. It also provides comprehensive information on all relevant global UN commitments, resolutions and other intergovernmental outcomes, United Nations publications, events, and other resources on United Nations websites.

The WomenWatch online feature was developed by DESA's Division for the Advancement of Women in close collaboration with the UN Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality (IANWGE) Task Force on Gender Equality and Climate Change, an initiative co-chaired by UNDP and UNESCO.

To browse:

http://www.un.org/womenwatch/feature/climate_change/

Comings and goings

Goings

Ms. Catherine Peluso, Executive Officer for DESA, OHRLLS and OSAA, retired on 30 September after a long and distinguished career with the Organization.

She joined the United Nations in 1978 as a G-3 with the Field Operations Division and subsequently worked in different Departments including the Department of Management, Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) and DESA. During her career, she spent two years in Nairobi as the Associate Administrative Officer for the United Nations Human Settlements Programme and worked in the area of peacekeeping operations for 13 years.

She has served successively as Executive Officer in two departments, DPKO and DESA as well as two Offices, Office of the Special Advisor on Africa (OSAA) and Office of the High Representative for the Least Development Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (OHRLLS), thus working closely with nine Under-Secretaries-General.

With her dedication to the ideals of the organization, her rich knowledge of the UN administration system, experienced advice and open door policy to staff and management alike, she has made invaluable contribution to the successful implementation of the programme of work of the Department.

The following staff members also retired in September:

Carl Gray, Economic Affairs Officer, Development Policy and Analysis Division

Friedda Radovic, Technical Co-operation Assistant, Division for Sustainable Development

Comings

The following staff members were promoted in September:

Mahendra Joshi, Senior Programme Officer, Secretariat of the United Nations Forum on Forests

Awet Segid, Statistics Assistant, Statistics Division

Tenzin Dharlo, Human Resources Assistant, Executive Office

Mary Lee Kortez, Editorial Assistant, Statistics Division

Clarence Lio, Statistics Assistant, Statistics Division

Kebebush O Welkema, Statistics Assistant, Statistics Division

Silvia Schwarz, Secretary, Division for Public Administration and Development Management

Calendar

October

CSD-18 Regional Implementation Meeting for Western Asia

Cairo, 4-6 October

http://www.un.org/esa/dsd/csd/csd_csd18_rims.shtml

Regional Workshop on CensusInfo

Georgetown, Guyana, 12-15 October

http://unstats.un.org/unsd/newsletter/globalstat_unsd_calendar.htm#12-15Oct_2009

General Assembly

64th 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/>

Delivering as one: Exchange of Experiences, Lessons Learned, and Approaches to Country-led Evaluations

Kigali, 19-21 October

Expert Group Meeting on Population Ageing, Intergenerational Transfers and Social Protection

Santiago, 20-21 October

Sixteenth Inter-Agency and Expert Group Meeting on the MDG Indicators

Geneva, 20-22 October

http://unstats.un.org/unsd/newsletter/globalstat_unsd_calendar.htm#20-22Oct_2009

High-level Conference on Climate Change: Technology Development and Transfer

New Delhi, 22-23 October

http://www.un.org/esa/dsd/dsd_aofw_cc/cc_conf1009.shtml

Expert Group Meeting on Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange for MDG Indicators

Geneva, 23 October

Regional Workshop on Data Management

Kampala, 26-30 October

The Eighteenth United Nations Regional Cartographic conference for Asia and the Pacific (UNRCC-AP)

Bangkok, 26-29 October

<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/METHODS/CARTOG/unrccap.htm>

CSD-18 Regional Implementation Meeting for Africa RIM

Addis Ababa, 26-30 October

http://www.un.org/esa/dsd/csd/csd_csd18_rims.shtml

November

CSD 18 Regional Implementation Meeting - Latin America and the Caribbean RIM

Santiago, Chile, 17-18 November

http://www.un.org/esa/dsd/csd/csd_csd18_rims.shtml

High-Level Dialogue on Financing for Development

New York, 23-24 November

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

Observances

International Day of Older Persons

1 October

“Celebrating the 10th Anniversary of the International Year of Older Persons: Towards a Society for All Ages”, is the theme of the international day this year.

The day, commemorated around the world, recognizes the contributions of older persons, examines issues that affect their lives and highlights the role of older persons in economic and social development.

For more information:

http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/ageing/un_meetings.html

International Day for the Eradication of Poverty

19 October

This year, in recognition of the upcoming 20th anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the 2009 observance of the International Day

focuses on the plight of children and families living in poverty and the need to fulfill children's rights in partnership with them and in keeping with the Convention.

This year's observance highlights the role of the convention in securing children's rights, in particular the right to survival and full development, the right to protection from abuse and exploitation and the right to participation in family, cultural and social life. Participation also means that children have the right to express their opinions and have those opinions heard and acted upon when appropriate.

The observance will present an opportunity for children to speak out against poverty and dialogue with others. We will hear from children, young people, parents, and people working with them on their actions to implement policies which strengthen both children and their families in tackling poverty and exclusion.

The 2009 observance will take place on Monday, 19 October at United Nations Headquarters in New York, as the official day on 17 October falls on a Saturday.

For more information:

<http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/social/intldays/IntlDay/2009intlday.html>

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.

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