



## Video

### Declaration on public health challenges adopted

*At the end of the four-day High-level Segment of the Economic and Social Council, delegates adopted by consensus a ministerial declaration on 9 July, calling for global cooperation to tackle public health challenges in the face of interrelated food, economic and climate crises, which are stalling efforts to reach development targets. Sha Zukang, Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, called the Declaration a comprehensive text, noting that a follow-up meeting will be held next year to gauge how much of an impact this document has in changing public health systems.*

<http://webcast.un.org/ramgen/ondemand/conferences/ecosoc/2009/ecosoc090709closing-eng.rm?start=00:16:32&end=00:22:38> (6 minutes)

## Inside this issue

### Disability pact provides road map to improve lives of millions

People with disabilities suffer some of the worst violations of their human rights, but a groundbreaking United Nations treaty that entered into force last year provides a road map to improve this situation, p. 1

### Countries to boost efforts to meet aid commitments

More than halfway to the 2015 deadline to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), major advances in the fight against poverty and hunger have begun to slow or even reverse as a result of the global economic and food crises, says the MDG Report 2009, launched by the Secretary-General in Geneva on 6 July, p. 3

Global dialogue on development, p. 6

Trends and analysis, p. 13

Capacity Development, p. 15

Publications and websites, p. 16

Comings and goings, p. 18

Calendar, p. 19

## Feature articles

### Disability pact provides road map to improve lives of millions

*People with disabilities suffer some of the worst violations of their human rights, but a groundbreaking United Nations treaty that entered*

*into force last year provides a road map to improve this situation*

The UN treaty, which entered into force May last year, is the culmination of years of global efforts to ensure that the rights of the world's estimated 650 million persons with disabilities are guaranteed and protected. It asserts the rights to education, health, work, adequate living conditions, freedom of movement, freedom from exploitation and equal recognition before the law for persons with disabilities.

The treaty also addresses the need for persons with disabilities to have access to public transport, buildings and other facilities and recognizes their capacity to make decisions for themselves. In addition, the Convention's Optional Protocol allows individuals to petition an international expert body with grievances.

Eighty per cent of persons with disabilities – more than 400 million people – live in poor countries, the least equipped to address their needs. All over the world, persons with disabilities continue to face barriers to their participation in society and are more likely to have lower standards of living.



When immediate family members are included, the number of people affected by disabilities exceeds one billion. This is particularly important, as disabilities are a contributing factor for poverty, reduced access to education and health, exclusion and discrimination for both persons with disabilities and their families.

### Ratification of the Convention

States that ratify the Convention are legally bound to treat persons with disabilities not just as victims or members of a minority, but as subjects of the law with clearly defined rights. They will have to adapt their domestic legislation to the standards set forth in the treaty.

The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its Optional Protocol entered into force on 3 May 2008. Since then, 62 Governments have ratified and 142 have signed the Convention, while the Optional Protocol to the Convention has been signed by 85 countries and ratified by 40.

Article 33 of the convention explains that States must set up national focal points within governments in order to monitor implementation of the Convention. States must also set up some sort of independent

monitoring mechanisms – which usually takes the form of an independent national human rights institution.

The full participation of civil society, in particular persons with disabilities and their representative organizations is essential in the national monitoring and implementation process. International monitoring is achieved via the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Conference of States Parties.

### Conference of States Parties

States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities gathered for the first time on 31 October and 3 November 2008 in New York.

At this first meeting States Parties formally established the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and elected its members. The Conference also considered matters related to the Convention, and held a panel discussion on “The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities as a human rights instrument and a tool for achieving the Millennium Development Goals”. The Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities membership comprises of 12 independent experts tasked to monitor the implementation of the Convention.

The States Parties to the Convention will convene their second conference at United Nations Headquarters from 2-4 September 2009. The participants in the Conference will discuss legislative measures to implement the Convention and will also include a high level segment, as well as interactive dialogues on the on-going work of the United Nations system for the implementation of the Convention. Non-governmental organizations will participate along with Governments in an informal session on emerging issues related to the global economic crisis, poverty and the implementation of the Convention.

### Disability is a socially created problem

The Convention moves beyond the question of access to the physical environment, to broader issues of equality and elimination of legal and social barriers to participation, social opportunities, health, education, employment and personal development.

The treaty views disability as a result of the interaction between an inaccessible environment and a person, rather than an inherent attribute of an individual. It replaces the old “medical model” of

disability by a social and human rights model based on the fact that it is society that “disables” persons with disabilities from participating fully in society and exercising their human rights as citizens.

This approach reflects the social perspective taken by the International Classification of Functioning of WHO, which sees disability as a universal human experience and not a concern of a minority as every human being can suffer from a health loss and experience some disability during their lifespan.

### The Convention sets global standards on disability rights

The global population of persons with disabilities is increasing, says WHO. Population growth, medical advances and the ageing of the world population all contribute to this increase. In countries with life expectancies over 70 years, individuals spend on average about 8 years, or 11.5 per cent of their life span, living with disabilities.

Many countries still do not have laws on disability. According to the Inter-Parliamentary Union, only one third of countries have anti-discrimination and other disability-specific laws. The Convention will prompt governments to create legislation or improve current laws to bring them up to the standards it sets.

The Convention has many other advantages. It provides accepted global legal standards on disability rights; clarifies the content of human rights principles and their application to the situation of persons with disabilities; provides an authoritative and global reference point for domestic laws and policies; provides effective mechanisms for monitoring, including supervision by a body of experts and reporting on implementation by governments and NGOs; provides a standard of assessment and achievement; and establishes a framework for international cooperation. It also helps to educate public opinion as countries consider ratification.

The treaty recognizes reproductive health rights and is the first universal human rights treaty that mentions sexual and reproductive health. Studies show that persons with disabilities are up to three times more likely to be victims of physical and sexual abuse, and are at greater risk of contracting HIV/AIDS.

Organizations of persons with disabilities fully participated in the negotiations and had a significant impact on the drafting of the Convention. The treaty provides for the creation of national independent structures responsible for its implementation and

monitoring. Persons with disabilities and representatives of disability organizations are to be members of such bodies.

### Persons with disabilities are empowered

For countries ratifying the Optional Protocol to the Convention, a body of experts will be able to consider complaints from individuals or groups on inadequate implementation of the treaty, once all national recourse procedures have been exhausted.

The Convention gives persons with disabilities a powerful tool. “The mere existence of the Convention gives persons with disabilities and their organizations the ability to say to their governments, ‘You have accepted these obligations’, and insist that they be met;” said Don MacKay, the Chairman of the committee that drafted the treaty.

But to realize the rights enshrined in the Convention, a fundamental change of attitude is necessary. “Disability,” says the Convention, “results from the interaction between persons with impairments and attitudinal and environmental barriers that hinder their full and effective participation in society.” Changing attitudes towards persons with disabilities will be necessary to make the objectives of the Convention a reality.

“It is all a matter of breaking down negative perceptions,” said Chris Sullivan, a Merrill Lynch Vice-President who was born hearing-impaired. “You have to look at the person and not at the disability. That requires a tremendous change of perception in everyone.”

*Source: UN News Center, Press Releases, Backgrounder*

*For more information:*

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

## Countries to boost efforts to meet aid commitments

*More than halfway to the 2015 deadline to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), major advances in the fight against poverty and hunger have begun to slow or even reverse as a result of the global economic and food crises, says the MDG Report 2009, launched by the Secretary-General in Geneva on 6 July.*

“This year’s MDG Report delivers a message that should not surprise us but which we must take to

heart: the current economic environment makes achieving the goals even more difficult,” Mr. Ban told the high-level segment of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).

The Secretary-General noted that higher food prices in 2008 have reversed the nearly two-decade trend in reducing the proportion of people who suffer from hunger in the developing world. In addition, momentum to reduce overall poverty in the developing world is slowing; tens of millions of people have been pushed into joblessness and greater vulnerability; and some countries stand to miss their poverty reduction goals.

Further, the target for eliminating gender disparities in primary and secondary education by 2005 has already been missed. Meanwhile, 1.4 billion people must gain access to improved sanitation by 2015 in order to achieve the sanitation target.



Major gains in the fight against extreme poverty are likely to stall, indicators show, although data are not yet available to reveal the full impact of the recent economic downturn. In 2009, an estimated 55 million to 90 million more people will be living in extreme poverty than anticipated before the crisis.

At the same time, the report does show some progress. Fewer people today are dying of AIDS and many countries are implementing proven strategies to combat malaria and measles, two major killers of children.

#### Comprehensiveness of report

The MDG report, which presents the yearly assessment of global progress towards the MDGs, is prepared by the Statistics Division of DESA. The UN Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, Sha Zukang, described the report as the most comprehensive global MDG assessment to date.

It is based, he said, on a set of data prepared by over 20 organizations both within and outside the United Nations system, including the World Bank and the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).

#### Globally, the picture is mixed

Gains in the eradication of hunger since the early 1990s—when the proportion of hungry people decreased from 20 per cent in 1990-92 to 16 per cent in 2004-06—were reversed in 2008, largely due to higher food prices. A decrease in international food prices in the second half of 2008 has since failed to translate into more affordable food for most people around the world.

In the period 1990 to 2005, the number of people living on less than \$1.25 a day decreased from 1.8 billion to 1.4 billion (prior to the economic crisis and higher food prices). But major gains in the fight against extreme poverty are likely to stall, indicators show, although data are not yet available to reveal the full impact of the recent economic downturn.

More than one-quarter of children in developing regions are underweight for their age, and the meagre progress on child nutrition from 1990 to 2007 is insufficient to meet the 2015 target. This will likely be eroded further by high food prices and economic turmoil.

Global unemployment in 2009 could reach 6.1 to 7.0 per cent for men and 6.5 to 7.4 per cent for women, many of whom remain trapped in insecure – often unpaid– jobs, holding back progress towards gender equality.

Furthermore, the report suggests that many global gains were due to a dramatic fall in poverty rates in East Asia. Elsewhere, progress has been slower. Sub-Saharan Africa counted 100 million more extremely poor people in 2005 than in 1990, and the poverty rate remained above 50 per cent.

The ability of countries themselves to finance development programmes may also be in jeopardy. Export revenues of developing countries fell in the last quarter of 2008, as the financial meltdown in high-income economies began to trickle down. The debt service to export ratio of developing countries is likely to deteriorate further, especially for those countries that enjoyed increased export revenues for the last several years.

At the 2005 Group of Eight summit at Gleneagles and at the General Assembly World Summit later that

year, donors committed to increasing their aid. The majority of these commitments remain in force, but as the global economy contracts in 2009, as anticipated, the absolute amount of such commitments would diminish, since most are expressed as a percentage of national income. For many developing countries, lower levels of aid would not only impede further progress, but could reverse some of the gains already made, says the MDG Report.

### Major advances before the economic crisis

The report portrays remarkable advances that many countries and regions had made before the economic landscape changed so radically in 2008. In the developing world, enrolment in primary education reached 88 per cent in 2007, up from 83 per cent in 2000. In sub-Saharan Africa and Southern Asia, enrolment increased by 15 percentage points and 11 percentage points, respectively, from 2000 to 2007.

Deaths in children under five declined steadily worldwide — to around 9 million in 2007, down from 12.6 million in 1990, despite population growth. Although child mortality rates remain highest in sub-Saharan Africa, there have been remarkable improvements in key interventions, including the distribution of insecticide-treated bed nets to reduce the toll of malaria — a major killer of children. As a result of ‘second chance’ immunizations, dramatic progress is also being made in the fight against measles.

Worldwide, the number of people newly infected with HIV peaked in 1996 and has since declined, to 2.7 million in 2007. The estimated number of AIDS deaths also appears to have peaked, in 2005, at 2.2 million, and has since declined to 2 million in 2007, partly due to increased access to antiretroviral drugs in poorer countries. Still, the number of people living with HIV worldwide — estimated at 33 million in 2007 — continues to grow, largely because people infected with the virus are surviving longer.

### Challenges

The report calls on governments and all stakeholders to revitalize efforts to provide productive and decent employment for all, including women and young people. It points out that employment opportunities for women in Southern Asia, Northern Africa and Western Asia remain extremely low.

The target of eliminating gender disparities in primary and secondary education by 2005 has already been missed. The report urges governments to

intensify efforts to get all children into school, especially those living in rural communities, and eliminate inequalities in education based on gender and ethnicity.

Greater political will must be mustered to reduce maternal mortality, especially in sub-Saharan Africa and Southern Asia, according to the report. Rapid acceleration of progress is needed to bring improved sanitation — toilets or latrines — to the 1.4 billion people still lacking, or the 2015 sanitation target will be missed. And slum improvements are barely keeping pace with the rapid growth of developing country cities.

*Source: UN News Center, MDG Press Releases*

*For more information:*

<http://mdgs.un.org/unsd/mdg/Default.aspx>

## Global dialogue on development

### Submitting communications on the status of women

*Individuals, NGOs, groups or networks have until 14 August to submit complaints, appeals or petitions to the Commission on the Status of Women*

These communications should contain information relating to alleged violations of human rights that affect the status of women. The Governments concerned will have an opportunity to respond confidentially in writing to the allegations made, and the Commission on the Status of Women will consider these communications and any replies thereto in a closed meeting during its next session in March 2010.

The aim of the procedure is to identify emerging trends and patterns of injustice and discriminatory practices against women for purposes of policy formulation and development of strategies for the promotion of gender equality.

*For more information:*

[http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/csw/communications\\_procedure.html](http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/csw/communications_procedure.html)

### Call for Major Groups' inputs for the reports of CSD-18

*Major Groups are encouraged to provide substantive contributions by 17 August*

The 18<sup>th</sup> session of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD-18) will take place in New York on 3-14 May 2010 and review the state of implementation of goals and targets for Transport, Chemicals, Waste Management, Mining and the 10 Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption & Production Patterns.

The CSD Secretariat welcomes inputs from major groups' organizations that will contribute to the CSD-18 review process. Major groups are encouraged to make substantive contributions in the form of:

1. Brief written inputs to the Secretary-General's state of implementation reports, focusing on best practices and lessons learned in implementation. Deadline for submissions: 17 August 2009

2. The Major Groups' Discussion Papers, one from each of the nine major groups summarizing their sector's progress in relation to the thematic areas, identifying obstacles and constraints to implementation and new challenges to be met by major groups to expedite implementation. These papers are compiled through a consultative process undertaken by the CSD- 18 major groups organizing partners and used in interactive discussions. Deadline for submission: 30 November 2009

3. Case studies and examples of best practices, which can be submitted through the CSD Secretariat's website

*For more information:*

[http://www.un.org/esa/dsd/dsd\\_aofw\\_mg/mg\\_pdfs/mg\\_csd18\\_call\\_sg\\_repo.pdf](http://www.un.org/esa/dsd/dsd_aofw_mg/mg_pdfs/mg_csd18_call_sg_repo.pdf)

### Global cooperation fundamental for achieving public health challenges

*Ministerial Declaration adopted by consensus at ECOSOC's high-level segment from 6-9 July in Geneva calls for global cooperation to tackle public health challenges in the face of interrelated food, economic and climate crises*

The Declaration expresses concern that the financial and economic crises are "undermining and slowing or reversing the development gains of developing countries". Cooperation is also vital "to meet emerging, new and unforeseen threats and epidemics," including the A (H1N1) influenza virus and other potential pandemics. In spite of some progress made in the past decade in boosting global health, the Declaration points out that there are implementation gaps. "In particular, we are deeply concerned that maternal health remains one of the largest health inequities in the world" and thus, the ministers "call on all states to renew their commitment to prevent and eliminate child and maternal mortality and morbidity."

Over the course of the four days, more than 500 participants representing governments, multilateral organizations, aid agencies, civil society, private

sector and academia discussed how the world, in the face of the global financial and economic crisis, can maintain and accelerate its commitments to global public health and ensure that the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) are achieved.

In her introductory remarks, ECOSOC's President Sylvie Lucas said that multilateral approaches and international cooperation have the greatest potential for success, stressing that there is a unique opportunity to maximize multi-stakeholder participation in promoting collaborative action on the global health agenda through the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).

Ambassador Lucas also called on governments to take a leadership role in developing effective health systems, and that more sustained investments are needed to support the health agenda.

She also said that the growing challenge of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) needs to be given high priority, stressing that NCDs and injuries cause 60% of the deaths globally. In terms of the fight against neglected tropical diseases (NTDs), she noted that modest investment would have an enormous effect and take a heavy burden of the shoulders of the most vulnerable, especially in developing countries.

Addressing the meeting, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said that Health is the foundation for peace and prosperity, urging that investments in health are investments in society. "They save lives and benefit economies through improved productivity. Prevention efforts can avoid huge future expense".

Mr. Ban mentioned that he is especially concerned about maternal health, noting that this is the goal where there has been least progress. "Maternal health care is a barometer of how well a health system functions. If women have access to hospitals, clinics or trained community health workers, they are less likely to die in childbirth. These same facilities in turn reduce the burden of illness and deaths from other causes".

### Annual Ministerial Review

ECOSOC also organized during its High-level Segment, the 2009 Annual Ministerial Review, where national voluntary presentations were made by Bolivia, China, Jamaica, Japan, Mali, Sri Lanka and Sudan. The presentations highlighted the challenges they are facing and each presentation generated active discussion and engaged the Council.

Some presentations generate proposals, for example, Jamaica proposed to hold a special session of the General Assembly on Non-Communicable Diseases and revise the MDG-6 targets to include on such diseases. This idea was also picked up by other countries in the General Debate. Barbados and Guyana proposed that there should be a UN General Assembly Special Session (UNGASS) on NCDs. Oman and Qatar suggested that an official indicator on deaths from NCDs be added to MDG 6 during the upcoming 2010 MDG Review process. Furthermore, Guyana proposed that an additional MDG should be developed to address the issue of affordability and accessibility to diagnostics and medicines for NCDs.

### High-level policy dialogue

The high-level segment also held the high-level policy dialogue with the international financial and trade institutions on current developments in the world economy, special event on Africa and LDCs, and two thematic roundtables: "Social trends and emerging challenges and their impact on public health: renewing our commitment to the vulnerable in a time of crisis" and "Trends in aid and aid effectiveness in the health sector".

In the thematic roundtables, participants discussed the challenging issues of financial and economic crisis; the public development aid for health; Non-communicable diseases, and the diseases related to climate change; Microfinance as a platform for health; Human resource challenges in healthcare; Migration and demographics.

Also present at the meeting, Mr. Sha Zukang, Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, said that while the financial and economic crisis poses many challenges, it should also be seen as an opportunity to reform health systems, and to rethink the direction and nature of financing for health care. "Hence developing an agenda for health financing means not only more money for health, but also more health for the money".

### Innovation Fair

During the four-day segment, ECOSOC organized its 2009 Innovation Fair, where Member States, civil society and UN system representatives discovered at first hand some of the innovative projects and products that can have a positive impact on the achievement of the health-related MDGs.

### Coordination segment

During this segment, held from 10-14 July, focused on the theme of "the role of the United Nations

system in implementing the 2008 Ministerial Declaration on the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to sustainable development.” Through the general debate and the four panels organized during the segment, Member States engaged in active discussions with national policy-makers, chairpersons of the functional commissions and the governing bodies of UN organizations, as well as executive heads of UN organizations.

Delegations expressed concerns on the negative impact by the global economic and financial crisis that may create a setback in the achievement of the MDGs, and noted that the UN must make more progress in coordinating early and collective responses. Efforts by the UN system to improve its coordination, particularly in adaptation policies to climate change and mitigation, were welcomed but there was a strong call for further strengthening this mechanism. In addition, various efforts by the UN system to respond to the crises were welcomed. Many delegations called for the Economic and Social Council to give top priority to the developing countries, in particular the poorest and the most vulnerable ones, in order to help them by mobilizing adequate and sustainable resources, transferring technologies and building capacity.

#### Operational activities segment

The 2009 operational activities segment, held from 15-17 July, once again attested to the important role of the Council in the coordination and monitoring of UN operational activities for development in line with the guidance of the General Assembly provided through its comprehensive policy reviews. Through three panels, two dialogue sessions as well as the general debate of the segment, Member States engaged in in-depth discussions with national policy-makers, executive heads of UN organizations as well as UN country teams on a range of important issues with a view of addressing the most imminent as well as longer-term challenges in promoting the implementation of General Assembly resolution 62/208.

Building on its review of system-wide progress in implementing the 2007 Triennial Comprehensive Policy Review (TCPR), the Council adopted a resolution which recognizes the advances of the UN development system in this regard, while encouraging UN system organizations to speed up implementation in several areas. In particular, the Council called on the UN development system to continue broadening system-wide support to the resident coordinator system, while underscoring the

importance of strengthening its management and accountability.

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

## Partnerships and health for LDCs

*2009 Special Ministerial Breakfast Roundtable on Africa and the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) was held in Geneva during the ECOSOC summit on 7-8 July*

During the ECOSOC High-level Segment, the Global Alliance for ICT and Development (GAID) together with UNOPS, OSAA and OHRLLS organized two events: a special Ministerial breakfast roundtable on digital health and development in Africa and the least developed countries (LDCs) on 7 July and a special event on Africa and the least developed countries on 8 July.

Special attention was given to Africa and the LDCs, since these areas are far off track in meeting internationally agreed upon goals on reducing child mortality, improving maternal health and combating infectious disease (MDGs 4, 5 and 6). Participants noted that the world has the knowledge and means to address global health issues and that new technologies and innovative applications are transforming communication and access to information. This is changing the development landscape by improving prospects for the most disadvantaged groups, including women, youth, disabled and the rural poor, of getting connected to and taking advantage of the health information and services.

For more information:

<http://www.un.org/ecosoc/julyhls/index.shtml>

## Impact of financial and economic crisis on development

*UN summit of world leaders in New York from 24-26 June adopted outcome document on the causes, impacts and responses to the current crisis*

By its resolution 63/303 of 9 July 2009, the General Assembly endorsed the Outcome of the Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and Its



Impact on Development, held in New York from 24 to 30 June 2009. The 59-paragraph document sets forth a global consensus on the causes, impacts and responses to the current crisis; prioritizes the prompt, decisive and coordinated actions that are required; and defines a clear role for the United Nations.

From this perspective, the Conference represents a milestone in an ongoing and concerted engagement by all States Members of the United Nations to address the causes of the crisis, mitigate its impact on development and devise mechanisms to help preventing similar crises in the future. Salient features of the conference outcome are summarized below.

### *Causes, impacts and responses to the crisis*

It is recognized that the drivers of the current financial and economic crisis are complex and multifaceted. This crisis is connected to multiple, interrelated global crises and challenges, such as increased food insecurity, volatile energy and commodity prices and climate change. Many of its main causes are linked to systemic fragilities and imbalances of the global economy. Major underlying factors included inconsistent and inefficiently coordinated macroeconomic policies and inadequate structural reforms.

Failures in regulation, supervision and monitoring of the financial sector were compounded by over-reliance on market self-regulation, overall lack of transparency, financial integrity and irresponsible behaviour, such as excessive risk-taking, inflated asset prices, reckless leveraging and unsustainably high levels of consumption. Financial regulators, policymakers and institutions failed to appreciate the full measure of risks in the financial system or address the extent of the growing economic vulnerabilities and their cross-border linkages.

It is acknowledged that developing countries, which did not cause the crisis, are nonetheless severely affected by it. The crisis has produced or exacerbated serious, wide-ranging yet differentiated impacts across the globe. These include: rapid increase in unemployment, poverty and hunger; deceleration of growth and economic contraction; negative effects on trade and payment balances; dwindling levels of foreign direct investment; large and volatile movements in exchange rates; growing budget deficits, falling tax revenues and reduction of fiscal space; contraction of world trade; increased volatility and falling prices of primary commodities; declining remittances to developing countries; sharply reduced revenues from tourism; massive reversal of private

capital inflows; reduced access to credit and trade financing; lower public confidence in financial institutions; decreased ability to maintain social safety nets and provide social services, such as health and education; increased infant and maternal mortality; and collapse of housing markets. As a result, the crisis threatens to have calamitous human and development consequences and further endangers the achievement of national development objectives, as well as internationally agreed development goals, including the MDGs.

While developed countries and emerging economies have already taken action to stabilize financial markets and restore confidence in the financial sector, strong and urgent actions are needed to counter the impact of the crisis on the most vulnerable populations and recover lost ground in the progress towards the MDGs. An adequate share of additional resources will need to be made available to developing countries, especially the LDCs.

In the spirit of renewed multilateralism, Member States commit themselves to a comprehensive global response aimed at inter alia: promoting economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all; safeguarding economic, development and social gains; ensuring long-term debt sustainability; providing sufficient resources to developing countries without unwarranted conditionalities; revitalizing open trade and investment; and fostering an inclusive, green and sustainable development. Also, they call for strengthening the role of the UN development system; reforming the international financial and economic system and architecture; fostering good governance at all levels; and addressing the human and social impacts of the crisis.

### *Lines of action*

The challenge is to ensure that actions in response to the crisis are commensurate with its scale, depth and urgency, adequately financed, promptly implemented and appropriately coordinated internationally. In this context, the outcome document breaks new ground in a range of substantive areas.

### *Making the stimulus work for all*

While a number of developed and emerging market economies have implemented stimulus packages, the majority of developing countries lack fiscal space to implement countercyclical measures to combat the effects of the crisis and spur recovery. Therefore, developing countries will need a larger share of any additional resources – both short-term liquidity and

long-term development financing. To this end, G20 countries are called upon to follow through with their commitment to make available an additional \$1.1 trillion programme aimed at revitalizing the world economy and further consider addressing the financial needs of developing countries, especially low-income countries.

Developing countries facing an acute and severe shortage of foreign reserves because of the fallout of the crisis, which is affecting their balance-of-payment situation, should not be denied the right to use trade defence measures, in accordance with WTO rules. In addition, they should be able to impose temporary capital restrictions and seek agreements on temporary debt standstills between debtors and creditors, in order to help mitigate the adverse impacts of the crisis and stabilize macroeconomic development.

In view of the recent improvement of the IMF lending framework, there is a need for further streamlining of conditionalities. Developing countries must have the necessary flexibility to implement countercyclical measures and pursue timely, tailored and targeted responses to the crisis. New and ongoing programmes should not contain unwarranted conditionalities. Multilateral development banks are called upon to move forward on flexible, concessional, fast-disbursing and front-loaded assistance designed to assist developing countries facing financing gaps.

It is recognized that domestic policy space, especially in the areas of trade, investment and international development, is now often framed by international regimes, disciplines, commitments and global market considerations, which have presented challenges to many developing countries seeking to fashion a national response to the crisis. Therefore, those countries have called for opportunities to exercise greater policy flexibility within the scope of these constraints as a necessary component to recover from the crisis and to address specific national concerns. It is for each country to evaluate the trade-off between the benefits of accepting international rules and constraints posed by the loss of policy space.

### *Containing the effects of the crisis and improving future global resilience*

Apart from the economic and financial sectors, there is a need to address the human and social impacts of the crisis. Short-term mitigation measures should take into account long-term goals, especially those related to poverty eradication, sustainable development, gender equality, health, education and sustained

economic growth. Closer cooperation and strong partnership between the UN development system, regional development banks and the World Bank are required to mobilize and provide additional resources for social protection, food security and human development through all sources and channels of development finance. The current economic situation calls for strengthening the ability of the United Nations to fulfil its development mandate, given its unique role as an inclusive forum to fashion appropriate responses to the crisis and mitigate its impact on developing countries.

In the area of international trade, the impacts of the crisis include the loss of export revenue, diminishing access to trade finance, reductions in export-oriented and infrastructure investment, as well as lower fiscal revenues and balance-of-payment problems. Therefore, Member States undertake to resist all protectionist tendencies and rectify any protectionist measures already taken and to contribute to monitoring efforts of WTO. In accordance with existing development-oriented commitments, they reiterate their call for an early, ambitious, successful and balanced conclusion to the Doha Round of multilateral trade negotiations. In addition, they resolve to resist unfair and discriminatory treatment of migrant workers and the imposition of unreasonable restrictions on labour migration.

An effective response to the crisis requires timely implementation of existing aid commitments. There is an urgent need for all donors to deliver on their commitments towards achieving the established ODA targets, in order to substantially boost the resources available to push forward the international development agenda and to assist developing countries to more effectively respond to the crisis in accordance with their national strategies. In addition, the conference outcome emphasizes the importance of ongoing efforts to improve aid effectiveness, to pursue South-South and triangular cooperation, to explore new voluntary and innovative sources of development finance and to promote green economy initiatives.

The outcome document calls upon States to redouble efforts to honour their commitments regarding debt relief and stress the responsibility of all debtors and creditors on the issue of debt sustainability. To mitigate the negative effects of the crisis on the indebtedness of developing countries and to avoid a new debt crisis, donors and financial institutions should consider increasing grants and concessional loans as the preferred modalities of financial support. In addition, there is a need to explore enhanced

approaches to the restructuring of sovereign debt based on existing frameworks and principles, as well as a more structured framework for international cooperation in this area.

Recognizing the potential of expanded special drawing rights (SDRs) to help increase global liquidity in response to the crisis, the conference outcome calls for early implementation of the new general SDR allocation of \$250 billion, as agreed at the London G20 Summit, and for keeping under review the allocation of SDRs for development purposes. In addition, it acknowledges the call by many States for a more efficient global reserve system, including the possible function of SDRs in any such system and the complementary roles to be played by various regional arrangements.

#### *Improving regulation and monitoring*

The current crisis has revealed many deficiencies in national and international financial regulation and supervision. Member States recognize the critical need for expanding the scope and enhancing the effectiveness of regulation and supervision of all major financial centres, instruments and actors, including financial institutions, credit rating agencies and hedge funds. They call for effective, credible and enforceable regulations at all levels to ensure the needed transparency and oversight of the financial system. Each country should adequately regulate its financial markets, institutions and instruments, consistent with its development priorities and international commitments. Relevant international institutions should improve their ability to provide early warning of macroeconomic and financial risks and the actions needed to address them.

All tax jurisdictions and financial centres should comply with standards of transparency and regulation. Member States reiterate the need to promote international cooperation in tax matters, including within the United Nations, through inter alia double taxation agreements and exchange of information. Measures to enhance regulation, supervision and transparency in the formal and informal financial system should include steps to curb illicit financial flows in all countries.

#### *Reforming the international financial and economic system and architecture*

This crisis has added new impetus to ongoing international discussions on the reform of the international financial system and architecture. There is consensus on the need for continued reform and

modernization of the international financial institutions to better enable them to respond to the current challenges and needs of Member States. In particular, there is an urgent need to further reform the governance of the Bretton Woods institutions, on the basis of fair and equitable representation of developing countries, in order to increase the credibility and accountability of these institutions. The heads and senior leadership of the international financial institutions, particularly the Bretton Woods institutions, should be appointed through open, transparent and merit-based selection processes, with due regard to gender equality and geographical representation.

In this context, Member States call for an expeditious completion of the reform process of the World Bank's governance and of an accelerated road map for further reforms on voice and participation of developing countries, with a view to reaching agreement by April 2010. They also call for inclusive consultations on further reforms to improve the responsiveness and adaptability of the World Bank. Similarly, they recognize the need to undertake, as a matter of priority, a comprehensive and fast-tracked reform of IMF. Based on current trends, the next quota review is expected to result in an increase in the quota shares of dynamic economies, particularly the share of emerging market and developing countries as a whole, to be completed by January 2011. Furthermore, Member States welcome the expansion of the membership in the Financial Stability Board and the Basel Committee on Banking Supervision and encourage the major standard-setting bodies to enhance the representation of developing countries.

#### *The way forward*

The outcome document requests the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, as well as the UN funds, programmes and specialized agencies, to take full advantage of their advocacy role to promote recovery and development of the developing countries, especially the most vulnerable among them. In particular, it calls for enhancing the coherence and coordination of policies and actions between the United Nations, international financial institutions and relevant regional organizations; further development of the UN development system's comprehensive crisis response in support of national development strategies; and strengthening international cooperation in the area of international migration and development.

The General Assembly is invited to establish an ad hoc open-ended working group to follow up on the issues contained in the outcome document and to submit a progress report before the end of its 64<sup>th</sup> session. In the case of ECOSOC, the conference outcome reiterates its two previous mandates, namely: to recommend a strengthened and more effective and inclusive intergovernmental process to carry out the financing for development follow-up; and to examine the strengthening of institutional arrangements to promote international cooperation in tax matters.

In addition, ECOSOC is requested: to consider the promotion and enhancement of a coordinated response of the UN development system in the conference follow-up; review the implementation of the agreements between the United Nations and the Bretton Woods institutions in collaboration with these institutions; and make recommendations to the General Assembly regarding the possible establishment of an ad hoc panel of experts on the world economic and financial crisis and its impact on development.

*For more information:*

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

## Trends and analysis

### Cartography for the Americas

*Experts on cartography to meet from 10-14 August in New York to discuss disaster prevention and management*

Taking note of the success of the regional cartographic conferences held in the region of Asia and the Pacific since 1955 and the region of Africa since 1963, and recognizing the need to hold similar conferences in other regions in which they have not yet been held, the Economic and Social Council, at its fifty-sixth session, from 22 April to 17 May 1974, adopted resolution 1839 (LVI) which "Requests the Secretary-General to make the necessary arrangements to convene the First United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for the Americas during the first quarter of 1976". The first meeting of the committee was held in 1976 to stimulate surveying and mapping of national territories and study the problem and advise upon the means of its implementation.

The ninth United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for the Americas (UNRCC-A) will be held in New York from 10-14 August on the theme "Building Geospatial Infrastructure in Support of Disaster Prevention and Management". UNRCC-A is convened every four years.

*For more information:*

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

### Transport for sustainable development

*Analysis of trends, issues and policy option will be the focus of a meeting from 27-28 August in New York*

The United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) was established in 1992 to periodically review progress in the implementation of the commitments and goals articulated in Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21, the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation (JPOI), and to develop further global consensus on sustainable development in the various sectors.

The review and policy debate of the Commission focuses each time on a thematic cluster of selected topics. At its up-coming 18th session to be held in New York in May 2010, the Commission will review the progress in implementation with regard to the thematic cluster including transport, chemicals, waste management, mining, and the 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production. The review session will focus on the analysis of trends, issues and policy options. It will identify success stories, best practices, achievements as well as essential barriers and constraints faced in implementation. The review session will be followed by a policy debate in the following year (CSD-19, May 2011).

As a part of the secretariat's preparations for this global review and policy debate on the topic of transport for sustainable development, the Division for Sustainable Development is convening an Expert Group Meeting (EGM) on Transport for Sustainable Development from 27-28 August in New York with a view to initiate an open dialogue and a global information exchange with international experts to share their specialist expertise on selected aspects of transport for sustainable development, including the various economic, social and environmental aspects.

The review is expected to include, globalization, transport and their inter-linkages; land transport infrastructure and lack of access to transport services, in particular in developing countries; transport and air quality, public health, safety and climate change concerns; transport technologies, their development and their transfer to developing countries; and integrated planning for sustainable transport development.

The review of emerging trends, issues and policy options will assess the status of transport in the context of volatile energy prices, unfolding impacts of the financial and economic crisis, and the growing urgency of enhancing a global transition towards low-carbon transport systems. The presentations and deliberations of the invited experts will inform the secretariat in its preparation of the background information materials for the CSD sessions.

*For more information:*

[http://www.un.org/esa/dsd/susdevtopics/sdt\\_tran\\_egm0809.shtml](http://www.un.org/esa/dsd/susdevtopics/sdt_tran_egm0809.shtml)

## Promoting environmental indicators

*Statisticians and environmental experts from Europe and Asia will meet in Geneva from 31 August – 2 September*

Environmental indicators are a key tool for environmental assessment, reporting and policymaking. The Sixth Ministerial Conference on Environment for Europe in Belgrade, 2007, endorsed the UNECE Recommendations on environmental indicators and indicator-based assessments and invited the countries of Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia, South-Eastern Europe and other interested countries to implement the Guidelines for the Application of Environmental Indicators prepared by the Working Group on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment in close cooperation with the European Environment Agency and other international organizations.

To promote the implementation of these recommendations, a joint meeting will be organized by DESA's Statistics Division and the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) on Environmental Indicators from 31 August – 2 September in Geneva.

The meeting will bring together statisticians and environmental experts from the countries of the Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia (EECCA) region and South-Eastern Europe as well as from other European countries and international/regional organizations.

The objectives of the meeting are to discuss priorities and modalities of cooperation on methodological issues of environmental indicators in 2009-2010; review in detail selected indicators covered by the UNECE Indicator Guidelines to provide practical recommendations on the use of statistical classifications, data collection methods and procedures for the production of indicators; exchange information on international developments related to environmental indicators that may be important but are currently not included in the Guidelines and provide references to available guidance materials; and initiate discussions on modern presentation formats and tools for effective dissemination of environmental indicators including the use of modern information technologies.

*For more information:*

<http://unece.org/stats/documents/2009.05.environ.htm>

## ICT and innovation for education

*Online discussion in preparation for the annual meetings of the Global Alliance for ICT and Development (GAID) and Global Forum*

In preparation for the annual meetings of GAID and the Global Forum on ICT and Innovation for Education from 2-4 September in Monterrey, Mexico, GAID has launched online discussions on themes that the Alliance may address in the coming year: financial and economic crisis and poverty eradication; health and education; climate change; gender; network development and outreach.

The results of these discussions will be presented at the Strategy Council meeting on 2 September. GAID aims at developing an agenda for action in each of the themes listed above, in order to align its work with the broader UN Development Agenda and address emerging issues.

The annual meetings will be jointly organized by GAID, the Government of Mexico, Indigo Brainmedia and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean. The event in Monterrey will bring together the ICT and development communities for a focused dialogue on emerging issues and challenges with an emphasis on innovation in education. The meetings are also intended to foster cooperation among governments, private sector and civil society. 500 to 600 policymakers, business leaders, and innovators in the field of information and communication technologies for development from around the world are expected to attend.

*For more information:* <http://www.un-gaid.org/tabid/1027/Default.aspx>

## Capacity Development

### Census evaluation and post enumeration surveys

*Regional Workshop on the 2010 World Programme for Population and Housing Censuses will be held in Asunción, Paraguay from 3-7 August*

The workshop, organized by the Statistics Division in collaboration with the Paraguay Dirección General de Estadística, Encuestas y Censos, will present an overview of the various methods of evaluating censuses with a focus on the post enumeration survey (PES) methodology. More specifically, the workshop will cover elements of the PES with regard to planning and implementation, frames and sample design, methodologies for evaluating content and coverage errors, matching procedures, imputation of missing values, and tabulation and dual system of estimation.

The workshop will also offer the possibility to the participants to present and discuss the experience of their countries on different aspects of census evaluation and the post enumeration survey. 13 countries from Latin America will participate in this event as well as experts from the US Census Bureau and the Australian Bureau of Statistics.

For more information:

[http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/meetings/wshops/Paraguay\\_3Aug09/default.htm](http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/meetings/wshops/Paraguay_3Aug09/default.htm)

### 2009 Bahrain International e-Government Forum

*DESA's Division for Public Administration & Development Management (DPADM) supported Bahrain's e-Government strategy*

At the request of the Government of Bahrain, DPADM's Inter-regional Adviser, Richard Kerby participated in the 2009 International e-Government Forum in Manama from 11-16 July to provide support in the implementation of the country's national e-Government strategy. The e-Government Authority of Bahrain developed this strategy for the country in hopes that it will make it the e-government leader in the Gulf Cooperative Council. The result of the DPADM mission was a draft project document

funded by UNDP-Bahrain and the Kingdom of Bahrain, which will be finalized in August of 2009.

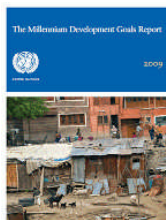
This project seeks to build upon existing outputs from a UNDP initiative to establish an e-training system in the country to support a nationwide creation of knowledge workers. The advisory support provided by DPADM through its review of the e-government strategy and capacity building, also compliments the work of the e-Government Authority in support of the Kingdom's Vision 2030 plan.

Among other things, the project will result in the development of an e-government centre of excellence, to build capacity, generate Arabic content, and improve the search capability for Arabic language content on the web.

For more information: <http://www.egovforum.bh/>

## Publications and websites

### Technical reports



#### Millennium Development Goals Report 2009

The report was launched in Geneva by the Secretary-General on 6 July and presents the yearly assessment of global progress towards the MDGs. It is prepared by the Statistics Division of DESA on the basis of inputs provided by the members of the Inter-agency and Expert Group on MDG Indicators. Less than six years away from the 2015 deadline to achieve the MDGs, the report warns that despite many successes, overall progress has been too slow for most of the targets to be met by 2015. Major advances in the fight against poverty and hunger have begun to slow or even reverse as a result of the global economic and food crises. The Report is also available in French and Spanish and will soon become available in the other UN official languages.

*For more information:*

<http://mdgs.un.org/unsd/mdg/Default.aspx>

*To download:*

[http://mdgs.un.org/unsd/mdg/Resources/Static/Products/Progress2009/MDG\\_Report\\_2009\\_En.pdf](http://mdgs.un.org/unsd/mdg/Resources/Static/Products/Progress2009/MDG_Report_2009_En.pdf)

### 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. 6, June 2009

Quarterly and bimonthly tables included in this issue: Retail price indices relating to living expenditures of United Nations officials; Fuel imports of developed economies (unit value indices, volume indices and value); Indicators on fuel imports of developed economies; Registration of new motor vehicles; External trade conversion factors; Manufactured goods exports (unit value indices, volume indices and value); Selected series of world statistics.

*For more information:*

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

### Discussion papers

#### Policy Brief No. 18: Climate Change and Technology Transfer: The Need for a Regional Perspective

The international negotiations on climate change actions, including mechanisms for the efficient and equitable transfer of technologies for mitigation and adaptation, are currently being deliberated under the auspices of the UNFCCC Bali Road Map and are at a crucial stage. The discussions stress the need for countries to move effectively from emission and impact assessments to project and programme implementation. This brief suggests that it is essential to incorporate a regional perspective on technology transfers and that regional technology innovation centres be established to tailor technology development and adaptation better to regional and country needs.

*For more information:*

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

*To download:*

<http://www.un.org/esa/policy/policybriefs/policybrief18.pdf>

#### World Economic Situation and Prospects – Monthly Briefing, July 2009

This 10<sup>th</sup> issue states that the recent United Nations conference on the global financial and economic crisis proposed a comprehensive set of actions to mitigate the immediate impact of the crisis and to formulate adequate medium- and long-term responses. Unemployment is rising rapidly across the globe, posing a key risk for a sustained recovery of the world economy. The contraction in world trade is slowing but import demand in developed economies remains weak as policymakers focus on domestic issues.



*For more information:*

[http://www.un.org/esa/policy/publications/dpad\\_wes\\_pmbn.html](http://www.un.org/esa/policy/publications/dpad_wes_pmbn.html)

## **Working papers**

### **Working Paper on Governance, Growth and Poverty Reduction**

Poverty reduction is a function of economic growth, income distribution and distribution changes. Governance can impact both growth and income distribution. The dominant market-enhancing governance paradigm seeks to enhance the efficiency of markets through ‘good governance’ reforms, ostensibly to trigger or sustain growth. ‘Pro-poor’ good governance reforms purport to enhance the scale and efficiency of service delivery to the poor. The good governance approach to enhancing growth is disputed. Neither theory nor evidence strongly support the plausibility of significantly reducing poverty through the good governance agenda. Alternative governance approaches for addressing poverty are contrasted favourably with the currently dominant paradigm.

*For more information:*

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

*To download:*

[http://www.un.org/esa/desa/papers/2009/wp75\\_2009.pdf](http://www.un.org/esa/desa/papers/2009/wp75_2009.pdf)

### **Working Paper on Infrastructure finance in developing countries—the potential of sub-sovereign bonds**

This paper sets out to explore the potential of sub-sovereign bonds in financing infrastructure in developing countries. Taking into account the historical experience of the US, it develops a supply and demand side framework for analysis of the market for sub-sovereign bonded debt in developing countries and applies this framework to Mexico, India and South Africa. Finally, it draws lessons for countries seeking to promote markets for sub-sovereign bonds. Evidence suggests that the regulatory environment, a diversified financial sector and increased capacity for debt support and management matter most for the development of the sub-sovereign bond market.

*For more information:*

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

*To download:*

[http://www.un.org/esa/desa/papers/2009/wp76\\_2009.pdf](http://www.un.org/esa/desa/papers/2009/wp76_2009.pdf)

### **Working Paper on “Should Financial Flows Be Regulated? Yes”**

As the international financial crisis spreads, some governments are using “unconventional tools” of monetary and financial policy to protect themselves. Should policies to control international capital flows be part of the government “toolkit” in these difficult times? This essay answers: YES. It describes the economic arguments for and against using capital controls, prudential regulations and other “capital management techniques” to manage international financial flows, presents empirical evidence on their impacts, and describes the variety of policies that many countries have successfully applied to enhance macroeconomic and financial stability, create policy space, and achieve other national development goals.

*For more information:*

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

*To download:*

[http://www.un.org/esa/desa/papers/2009/wp77\\_2009.pdf](http://www.un.org/esa/desa/papers/2009/wp77_2009.pdf)

### **Working Paper on the Impact of Remittances on Economic Insecurity**

This paper illustrates that cross-country generalizations about the impact of remittances on economic security are useful only up to a certain point; beyond that their effect can be influenced by the interplay of various factors relating to the motivations and characteristics of migrants, economic/social/political conditions in the country of origin, immigration policies and conditions in the host country, and the size and concentrations of the remittances. The policy implications outlined in the paper include the need for caution and retrospection in certain instances as well as action and international collaboration in other areas.

*For more information:*

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

*To download:*

[http://www.un.org/esa/desa/papers/2009/wp78\\_2009.pdf](http://www.un.org/esa/desa/papers/2009/wp78_2009.pdf)

## Comings and goings

Ms. Denise Quiroga, Programme Assistant, Statistics Division

### Comings



**Ms. Kaiko Osaki Tomita** was appointed Chief, Demographic and Social Statistics Branch, Statistics Division of DESA on 16 June. Her long career at the UN started in 1988 at the Fertility and Family Studies Section of the Population

Division. She moved later to the Mortality and Migration Section of the Division and served as Chief of the Migration Section. Prior to her new appointment, she was Chief of the Social Policy and Population Section, Social Development Division of UNESCAP from 2005-2009, where she was responsible for planning, coordinating and overseeing the management of the regional programme on population and key social development issues such as youth, ageing, family and disability.

Ms. Tomita holds a M.A. in Demography from Georgetown University, and a Ph.D. in Sociology from Fordham University. She has written and published widely in the field of international migration, especially on migration trends, migration statistics, remittances, and the multilateral cooperation mechanisms.

*The following staff members were promoted in July:*

Ms. Maria Lehtinen, Economic Affairs Officer, Office for ECOSOC Support and Coordination

Mr. Amson Sibanda, Social Affairs Officer, Division for Social Policy and Development

Ms. Caroline Lombardo, Programme Officer, Office of the Under-Secretary General

Ms. Joanna Labos, Statistics Assistant, Statistics Division

Mr. Phyo Ba Kyu, Statistics Assistant, Statistics Division

### Goings

*The following staff members retired in July:*

Ms. Colleen Louis, Administrative Assistant, Executive Office

## Calendar

### August

#### **Workshop on the 2010 World Programme on Population and Housing Census**

Asuncion, Paraguay, 3-7 August

[http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/meetings/wshops/Paraguay\\_3Aug09/default.htm](http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/meetings/wshops/Paraguay_3Aug09/default.htm)

#### **9th UN Regional Cartographic Conference for the Americas**

New York, 10-14 August

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

#### **Transport for Sustainable Development: Analysis of trends, issues & policy options**

Expert Group Meeting, New York, 27-28 August

[http://www.un.org/esa/dsd/susdevtopics/sdt\\_tran\\_egm0809.shtml](http://www.un.org/esa/dsd/susdevtopics/sdt_tran_egm0809.shtml)

#### **Joint UNSD/UNECE Meeting on Environmental Indicators**

Geneva, 31 August – 2 September

<http://unece.org/stats/documents/2009.05.envIRON.htm>

### September

#### **Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities**

Conference of the State Parties, New York, 2-4 September

<http://www.un.org/disabilities/default.asp?id=1479>

#### **Annual Meetings of GAID and Global Forum on ICT and Innovation for Education**

Monterrey, 2-4 September

<http://www.un-gaid.org/tabid/1027/Default.aspx>

#### **General Assembly**

64<sup>th</sup> session, New York, 15 September-December

<http://www.un.org/ga/64/agenda/agenda.shtml>

### Observances

#### **International Day of the World's Indigenous People**

10 August

The day will be observed at the United Nations Headquarters on Monday 10 August from 2 - 5 pm. The event will be organized by the Secretariat of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues in cooperation with the NGO Committee on the International Decade of the World's Indigenous Peoples and the New York office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. The theme of the observance at UN Headquarters will be indigenous peoples and HIV/AIDS.

Events will include messages from the United Nations Secretary General, the Under-Secretary General for Economic and Social Affairs and the Chairperson of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, performances by indigenous artists, and a panel discussion related to HIV/AIDS.

For more information:

<http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii/en/news.html>

#### **International Youth Day**

12 August

The theme for the International Youth Day 2009 on “Sustainability: Our Challenge, Our Future” encourages us to work with and for youth to achieve truly sustainable development. It encourages all of us, including young people, to look at how our economic, environmental and social attitudes and behaviours work together to ensure that the generations of today and tomorrow can live happy, healthy and comfortable lives. The United Nations Programme on Youth (UNPY) will be hosting two events at headquarters in commemoration of International Youth Day 2009.

From 4-14 August, delegates, staff and visitors to the UN conference room area will be able to view a photo exhibition, hosted in collaboration with the Shoot Nations annual photography competition. The exhibition will explore the challenge of sustainability through the varied lenses of young women and young men around the world. They show how each gender experiences economic, environmental and social life, and their varied reflections on the challenge ahead.

On 12 August, UNPY, in collaboration with DPI, Discovery Education and UNEP-Region of North America, will be hosting a commemorative panel discussion on the theme of the day. Around 200 inner-city youth will see presentations from the

winners of the "We Can Save the World Challenge", Planet Green and the UNEP RONA youth network. The event will also feature performances by New York-based NGO, Directions for Our Youth. The event will be held in Conference Room 3 from 10.00 a.m. to 12.00 p.m.

For more information:

<http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unyin/iyouthday.htm>

*DESA News is an insider's look at the United Nations in the area of economic and social development policy. The newsletter is produced by the Communications and Information Management Service of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs in collaboration with DESA Divisions. Prior to January 2007, DESA News was issued every other month. It is now issued monthly.*

*Inquiries should be addressed to [esa@un.org](mailto:esa@un.org).*