



## Video

### 'One-stop-shop' on violence against women

*A new database on the extent and consequences of all forms of violence against women and means to combat it was launched today by Deputy Secretary-General Asha-Rose Migiro. "This is the first global 'one-stop-shop' for information on measures undertaken by Member States to address violence against women in terms of legal, policy and institutional frameworks," she said.*

<http://webcast.un.org/ramgen/ondemand/specialevents/2009/se090305pm1.rm?start=00:04:30&end=00:09:00> (5 minutes)

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## Feature articles

### Forests and climate change

*Climate change poses a serious threat to forests and to the millions who depend on them for their livelihoods, food, water and shelter*

Forests cover about 30 per cent of the world's land area and contribute to the livelihoods of at least 1.6 billion people. Some 60 million people, mainly indigenous communities, live within forests, and another 350 million people are highly dependent on them. It is estimated that the annual value of international trade in forest products is approximately \$327 billion in 2004, which represents 3.7 % of the global trade values in all commodity products.

In 2007, the "Non-Legally Binding Instrument on All Types of Forests" (forest instrument) was adopted by the UN Forum on Forests, and subsequently by the UN General Assembly. In this historic forest instrument Member States recognized the important contributions that forests can make to addressing climate change. The forest instrument aims to foster international cooperation and national action to reduce deforestation, prevent forest degradation, promote sustainable livelihoods and reduce poverty for all forest dependent peoples. The implementation of this instrument also enhances the contribution of forests to the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

*"Forests were a forgotten sector in the climate change discussions, until the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) took it up as a far*

*more important target of opportunity. The Stern and Eliasch reports pointed out, in no uncertain terms, the clear benefits of tackling climate change through forests,” states Jan L. McAlpine, Director of DESA’s UN Forum on Forests Secretariat.*



### Impact of climate change

The fourth assessment report of the IPCC projected that if current trends continue unabated, global temperature will have increased by 1.8 to 4°C by the end of this century, affecting most severely the planet’s poorest and most vulnerable and disadvantaged people. Reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, and ensuring the sustainable management and conservation of forests can contribute significantly to mitigating climate change.

The impact of climate change on forests can be negative or positive, under specific circumstances. The most significant effects of climate change upon forests can be seen through changes in their physiology, structure, species composition and health, largely resulting from changes in temperature and rainfall. As a consequence the important environmental services that forests provide are also at risk. One of the most publicized examples of the effects of climate change on forests is the catastrophic mountain pine beetle infestation in Canada, owing to increased temperatures, which has devastated large expanses of forests there. In the period from 1997 to 2007, an estimated 13 million hectares, or 130,000 km<sup>2</sup>, were destroyed by this pest outbreak in Western Canada.

On the other hand, global warming due to climate change can also have positive effects on forest ecosystems, for example by providing longer growing seasons, especially in temperate and boreal regions, leading to faster growth. However, unpredictable changes in composition of flora and

fauna and other environmental factors should not be underestimated.

*“It is very clear that forest-based mitigation and adaptation activities must take place simultaneously”, says Jan L. McAlpine.*

### Deforestation and forest degradation

Forests have been recently receiving greater attention, not only because of their role in mitigating and adapting to climate change, but also because of growing concerns about carbon emissions resulting from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries, where emissions are considerable and increasing. Deforestation is causing 35 per cent of emissions in developing countries, and in the least developed countries the figure is as high as 65 per cent.

Globally, forest ecosystems in 2005 contained 638 billion tons of carbon, half of it (321 billion tons) in forest biomass and dead wood. The amount of carbon in forests is greater than the amount of carbon currently in the atmosphere.

*“Any strategy to address climate change through forests must take into account the whole spectrum of values and benefits that forests provide”, says Ms. McAlpine.*

### Bali Action Plan

The *Bali Action Plan*, adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in December 2007, established the Ad Hoc Working Group on Long-Term Cooperative Action under the Convention to conduct a long-term cooperative action process that will address mitigation action by considering policy approaches and positive incentives on issues relating to reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries (REDD); and the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks in developing countries.

The fifteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the Framework Convention on Climate Change, to be held in December 2009, is expected to reach agreement on issues relating to REDD, which will have a long-term impact on forest management and financial flows to forests in the future.

*“We are talking real money for forests for the first time in a long time. Even before Copenhagen, donor countries have already pledged billions towards*

*reducing carbon emissions from forests,” states Ms. McAlpine*

Forests provide great opportunities for adaptation to climate change by increasing resilience of people and ecosystems and they will also be a major mitigation option over the next 30 to 40 years. However, for forests to effectively contribute to climate change solutions and to promote sustainability, countries and the international community will need to address a far broader set of issues than climate change alone, including critical governance issues affecting forests, tenure rights, tenure, access to land, land-use planning, benefit-sharing, institutional and cross-sectoral coordination and law enforcement issues.

*Ms. McAlpine states further that “by narrowly focusing only on the carbon stock values of forests, actions being taken in an effort to solve the enormous challenge of climate change have the potential to create distortions not only in achieving sustainable forest management, including through aggravating conflicts in land management, the livelihoods of indigenous forest-dependent peoples but in the end, jeopardize the very achievement of our goals for mitigating and adapting to climate change.”*

#### Climate Change: the UN system “Delivering as One”

The UN Environment Programme (UNEP), the UN Development Programme (UNDP) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN (FAO) recently launched the UN Collaborative Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries (UN-REDD), which will work with countries in the development of national strategies to build monitoring, reporting and verification capacity. UN-REDD is initiating quick-start actions for pilot projects in six developing countries - two each in Africa, Asia and Latin America.

To foster coordination and cooperation on forest issues, in 2001 the UN Forum on Forests founded the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF), comprising 14 major forest-related international organizations, institutions and convention secretariats. The CPF’s home is in the UNFF Secretariat, and chaired by the Assistant Director-General of FAO. The CPF recently released a Strategic Framework for Forests and Climate Change, which makes clear that intersectoral collaboration, economic incentives and the provision of alternative livelihoods are essential for reducing deforestation and forest degradation.

*“DESA is uniquely poised to address the full range of economic, social and environmental aspects of climate change,” says Ms. McAlpine.*

A DESA Climate Change Working Group (CCWG) was recently established by Under-Secretary-General Mr. Sha Zukang, to make the connections between the issues DESA works on, and leverage the department’s contributions to climate change. The CCWG is co-chaired by Mr. Tariq Banuri, Director of DESA Division for Sustainable Development and Ms. Jan McAlpine, Director of the UNFF Secretariat.

As part of its work, two DESA policy briefs have been developed on “Forests, Climate Change, REDD” and “Financing Forests and Climate Change” by the UNFF Secretariat. Two other working groups established by Mr. Sha, one on the financial crisis and the other on the millennium development goals, also provided opportunities to address sustainable forest management contributions to a broader set of issues.

The best opportunity for the UN Forum on Forests and its member States to contribute to the global climate change agenda is through the framework of sustainable forest management, as a key aspect of the implementation of the forest instrument – agreed to by all 192 member States in 2007. Sustainable forest management has a contribution to make to biodiversity, to people and livelihoods, to economies, to water and to a myriad of benefits essential to the world we live in. In this context, the outcome of forests in a changing environment and financing for sustainable forest management at the upcoming 8<sup>th</sup> session of the Forum will contribute substantively to the ongoing climate change discussions.

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

*For more information on the CPF:*

<http://www.fao.org/forestry/cpf/en/>

*For more information on the UN-REDD Programme:*

<http://www.un-redd.net/>

## People shaping public services

*Capacity-building in public service needs to take into account personnel leadership, institutions, structures, systems, procedures and processes*

Achieving national development objectives and the internationally agreed development agenda, including the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs),



requires that countries have the capacity to produce and provide public services in the right quantity and quality and to ensure fair, just, affordable and equitable access to them for all. This is the critical function of human resources in the public service in every country.

Public service traditions vary around the world, depending upon historical tradition and the system of law that has come to prevail, and upon the levels of literacy and development. In a general way, many of the challenges are related to issues of globalization, rapid technological changes, unprecedented demand for democratization, decentralization, transparency and accountability, conflict and crisis. Therefore, in order to develop the requisite human resources in the public sector to address the current and future development challenges that confront them, countries must be clear on which human resources in terms of knowledge, skills, attitudes, networks and technological know-how they need and the management regimes through which such human resources can be managed.



The public service must attract and retain a fair share of the best talent as strategic for improvements in the delivery of public services, which remains as a critical strategic issue, since a number of sensitive questions need to be addressed. For instance, what talent does the current and future public service need, given the country's development priorities and global development agenda, including the MDGs? While the latter remains a critical strategic issue, the current situation in many developing countries presents human resources management dilemmas and challenges including global competition for talent which contributes to brain drain, human resources management demand-side policies that often go contrary to the real needs and gender discriminatory practices, restricting for example women's access to education.

### Selection and recruitment innovations in the public service

Selection and recruitment processes become critical steps for maintaining a high-quality workforce on which all other human resources strategies will depend. Even though, some innovations and changes are being applied in this respect, problems of selection and recruitment are more acute in developing countries where the talent needed in the public service may not be abundant. While in such countries high unemployment makes applications for unskilled positions abundant, the search for high and middle-level policy, strategic, professional and technical positions on which effective management of the development and service delivery process depends is a daunting one.

The public service will have to reshape recruitment and selection strategies from a "one size fits all" regimented process to one that is a hybrid of position-specific and career-specific. Holding hiring authorities accountable for the application of good practice rather than control through inflexible rules can best accomplish this goal.

### Promoting equality and valuing diversity

As the human resources management regimes change and innovate to meet the challenges posed by the need to develop, there must be commitment to improve the delivery of public service for all. Policies and practices of the public service must reflect the needs and experiences of all the people it serves. For this, promoting and valuing diversity is central in innovations needed to mould the society of the future with a workforce composed of the brightest, most talented rainbow of all people.

### Leadership and human resources capacity development

One of the most critical elements of the human capacity in the public service is leadership because it is the engine that inspires and gives direction in the delivery of public services. Modern leadership needs to embrace mastery over change management and the handling of emergencies or crises to ensure that no segment of the population or area of a country is left behind to achieve the national and international development agenda. This calls for leadership capacity assessment before designing any leadership capacity development programmes and activities.

Given the diversity of political-administrative cultures and the great variety of societal environments, the leadership of each country has to be open-minded and look at all of the potential

solutions to their own problems. In design, planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of leadership development programmes in the immediate, short-, medium- or long-term, organizers should adopt a participatory approach, involving the beneficiaries and target groups of such programmes to make them congruent with the needs.

#### People matter: civic engagement, transparency, accountability in public service

It is true that public servants need to have adequate capacities and competences to produce and deliver services to the people. However, another enabling factor needed in the process is the trust in Government, regarded as internal trust among the various institutions and employees of Government and as external trust between the Government and the people it serves. But trust also needs to be perceived in terms of the trust the international community has in the Government in question. All these perspectives of trust are critical in the performance and legitimacy of public sector institutions.

Civic engagement and participation play important roles in transparency, accountability and strengthening trust in Government. There are principles and enablers vital to successful operations in civic engagement and capacity-building to this end. But there are also challenges that hobble civic engagement processes which need to be addressed.

Mainstreaming engaged and participatory governance in the public service contains a triple challenge to capacity-building. First, the public servants, including senior political and technical leaders, must develop the requisite knowledge, skills and attitudes to operate within an environment where engagement and participation of the citizens in public service is the norm.

Secondly, the citizens themselves, accustomed to being passive recipients, have gotten to learn how to engage with public servants to demand transparency, accountability and effectiveness in the delivery of goods and services in the public services. Lastly, institutions, systems, processes and practices of the public service need to be reviewed and readjusted both in structure and human behaviour to support engaged and participatory delivery of goods and services.

#### Serving the information age

The public service needs to change in terms of the way it engages the people and how it masters information and communications technology to

support and facilitate effectiveness, efficiency, transparency, networking, knowledge management and sustainable improvement in the delivery of the public service. A shift that requires a deep change in bureaucracy for transforming Government into an interconnected, modernized organism that is able to develop with the changing world and changing technologies.

Governments all over the world are recognizing the power of new technologies for imparting such capacity-building and training in the public sector. One conduit for integration of Information and Communications Technology ( ICT)-based human capacity-building in the public sector is e-learning (or online learning), which can be defined as the use of ICT to acquire information, knowledge and skills. For the public sector, e-learning means employing information technology to access, gather, analyse and utilize information and knowledge to improve organizational performance and public service delivery, which can also open up a vista of global and regional development, best practices and a vast multitude of knowledge which resides in the virtual arena.

Employing e-learning for human capacity-building can contribute to an improvement in the efficiency of the workforce and better delivery of services. In doing so, public servants can become more creative in developing innovative ways of deploying resources and improving the quality of public service delivery.

Notwithstanding, all of the foregoing benefits of e-learning, there is a strong and urgent need to support the development of enabling ICT infrastructures and networks that are appropriate for each context. It is unfortunate that the poorest countries and areas in the world that most urgently need help in achieving the MDGs are disadvantaged by the technological divide and have less opportunity to benefit from e-learning.

*For more information:*

<http://www.unpan.org/DPADM/CEPA/8thSession/tabid/835/language/en-US/Default.aspx>

## Global dialogue on development

### Emphasizing human rights in development

*42<sup>nd</sup> session of the Commission on Population and Development discusses development goals from 30 March to 3 April in New York*

The year 2015 is fast approaching – the year by which 189 United Nations Member States pledged, during the 2000 Millennium Summit, to have significantly helped the world's poorest countries. It is in this setting that the Commission on Population and Development gathers for its 42<sup>nd</sup> session.

Carrying on the task of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), where a Programme of Action for development was adopted, the Commission will work on this year's theme on "The contribution of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development to the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals".

The Commission considers the interrelationships between population, sustained economic growth and sustainable development, advances in education, economic status and empowerment of women. While the past two decades saw advances in areas concerning increased use of contraception, decreased maternal mortality, implemented sustainable development plans and projects and enhanced educational programmes, much remains to be accomplished. Intensified efforts in population and development activities are thus needed in the coming years, as early stabilization of the world population would make the achievement of sustainable development possible.

It is critical to ensure the success of the ICPD Programme of Action in this regard. The Programme of Action offers a set of objectives which focuses on the needs of individual women and men, rather than on achieving demographic targets. Because it recognizes that respect for human rights and development, the recommendations it provides would have positive impacts on people's well-being, and ultimately lead to development.

*For more information:*

<http://www.un.org/esa/population/cpd/cpd2009/com2009.htm>

### Sustainable management of the world's forests

*Government delegates, members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, and representatives from intergovernmental organizations and major groups will come together at the 8<sup>th</sup> session of the UN Forum on Forests from 20 April – 1 May in New York*

Discussions will focus on two particularly challenging sets of forest issues: Forests in a Changing Environment and Means of Implementation for Sustainable Forest Management. The first theme covers issues such as desertification, forest degradation, climate change and biodiversity; while the second includes a decision by the Forum on a voluntary global financial mechanism/portfolio approach/forest financing framework.

UNFF8 will build on the highly successful negotiations from the last Forum in 2007, which resulted in the first international non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests, a comprehensive agreement informally referred to as the "forest instrument". This instrument was adopted by the General Assembly in December 2007.

The UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) Resolution 2007/40 called for the eighth session of the Forum to develop and consider for adoption, a voluntary global financial mechanism/portfolio approach/forest financing framework to support the implementation of sustainable forest management, the achievement of the global objectives on forests and the implementation of the forest instrument. This mechanism/approach/framework is aimed at mobilizing significantly increased, new and additional financial resources for the implementation of the forest instrument and promoting sustainable forest management.

In November 2008, the UN Forum on Forests convened an open-ended ad hoc expert group (AHEG) to develop proposals for the development of a voluntary global financial mechanism/portfolio approach/global financing framework in Vienna, Austria. While two key concepts emerged from the AHEG in support of a distinct dedicated fund and a facilitative mechanism; the expert group recognized the need for more discussion on the issue. In this

regard, informal consultations were held in Rome from 12-13 March at the FAO Headquarters, to further the work of the UNFF expert group, expand on the understanding on options for forest financing and facilitate and advance consensus at UNFF8.

*For more information on UNFF8:*

<http://www.un.org/esa/forests/session.html>

*Documents on UNFF8:*

<http://www.un.org/esa/forests/session-documents.html>

*UNFF Ad hoc expert group:*

<http://www.un.org/esa/forests/adhoc-SFMfinance.html>

*UNFF Informal consultations:*

<http://www.un.org/esa/forests/consultations-SFMfinance.html>

## Impact of financial and economic crisis on development

*Special high-level meeting of the Economic and Social Council with the Bretton Woods institutions, the World Trade Organization and the UNCTAD will unfold in New York on 27 April*

Under the overall theme of “Coherence, coordination and cooperation in the context of the implementation of the Monterrey Consensus and the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development,” the Note by the Secretary-General will serve as a background document for the meeting and tackle two issues: (1) Addressing the impact of the global financial and economic crisis on development, including issues related to the international financial and monetary architecture and global governance structures and (2) Strengthening the intergovernmental inclusive process to carry out the Financing for Development follow-up.

The Note reveals how both of these topics - chosen by ECOSOC President Amb. Sylvie Lucas - are intrinsically related as the world community searches for mechanisms to elevate the level of multilateral cooperation to respond effectively to global crisis. The Note elicited interest and cooperation on the part of the staff of major stakeholders of the Monterrey process – the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, the World Trade Organization, and UNCTAD – who contributed to the writing of the report.

In discussing the implications of the financial crisis, the Note highlights its systemic, which portends to a

possible prolonged period of instability and distress. By the end of 2008, most advanced economies were for the first time since World War II simultaneously in recession. Total world economic growth is expected to be zero or worse in 2009, which implies that per capita income will decline by at least one per cent, a loss that would be borne disproportionately by the world’s poor. While the crisis originated in the developed countries, it will have the severest impact on developing countries whose recent growth patterns have depended heavily on trade and financial flows from industrial economies.

The Note warns that if the current economic crisis brings to a halt progress on internationally agreed development goals and poverty eradication, the prospects for a vibrant and peaceful international community would be at risk.

The financial crisis will have long-term implications for developing countries in all areas covered by the Monterrey Consensus and Doha Declaration – in domestic resource mobilization, international private capital flows, international trade, official development assistance, external debt, and systemic issues.

The discussion of the financial crisis is divided into three key sections: the global community’s immediate response to the crisis (entitled “Promoting cooperation in tackling the global financial and economic turmoil”), the long-term challenges in addressing the deficiencies in global policies exposed by the crisis (entitled “Learning from the crisis and reforming global economic governance”) and the implications for global community in strengthening multilateral economic cooperation (entitled “Enhanced global governance and cooperation as the critical ingredient in crisis response and system reform”).

In its final part, the Note serves as a discussion point for the 27 April meeting in New York. It presents a synthesis of various proposals, criteria and objectives, building on both the Rio Group and SG’s suggestions, as well as on ideas from other stakeholders. Should this be accepted by Member States, this combined proposal would replace the current mechanism and process of follow-up of the Financing for Development Process.

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



## Promoting health literacy

*Asia-Pacific Regional Ministerial Meeting from 29-30 April in China will be held in the run up to the 2009 AMR*

The Annual Ministerial Review (AMR) is a function of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) mandated by Heads of State and Government at the 2005 World Summit. Its purpose is to assess progress made towards the Millennium Development Goals and the implementation of the other goals and targets agreed at the major UN conferences and summits over the past 15 years, which, together, constitute the United Nations Development Agenda (UNDA).

The 2009 AMR, held during the high-level segment of the annual session of ECOSOC (6-9 July 2009) in Geneva, will focus on "Implementing the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to global public health". It will provide an opportunity to assess the state of implementation of the UNDA and explore key challenges in achieving the international goals and commitments in the area of global public health.

In preparation, national and regional meetings, as well as a global preparatory meeting will be held in the run up to the 2009 AMR. The Asia-Pacific Regional Ministerial Meeting on "Promoting Health Literacy", held from 29-30 April in Beijing, China, will discuss topics in the area of health literacy, including the key factors of health literacy and how they can be strengthened - individually as well as structurally.

During three panel discussions participants will discuss how multisectoral actions can be promoted and how the media, new communication technologies and empowerment can help improving health literacy. The question on how to build capacities to achieve health outcomes among patients will also be addressed and best practices and new initiatives showcased.

The Ministerial Meeting will be hosted and organized by the Chinese government in cooperation with DESA, the World Health Organization (WHO), and the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP).

*For more information:*

<http://www.un.org/ecosoc/newfunct/amrregional2009.shtml>

## Equal sharing of responsibilities

*Commission on the Status of Women adopted agreed conclusions on its priority theme at its 53<sup>rd</sup> session from 2-13 March in New York*

This year, the Commission considered "The equal sharing of responsibilities between women and men, including caregiving in the context of HIV/AIDS" as the priority theme. A number of interactive events related to the priority theme were held, including a high-level round table and interactive expert panels on key policy initiatives and on capacity-building in mainstreaming a gender perspective in the development, implementation and evaluation of national policies and programmes.

The Commission also evaluated progress in the implementation of its previously-agreed conclusions on "Equal participation of women and men in decision-making processes at all levels," through an interactive dialogue and considered as the emerging issue "The gender perspectives of the financial crisis," through an interactive expert panel discussion. An expert panel on "Implementing the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to global public health: a gender perspective," was held to provide input to the 2009 ECOSOC Annual Ministerial Review.

During the general discussion, over 130 speakers representing Member States, Permanent Observers, regional groups, UN entities and other intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) made statements.

The Commission adopted agreed conclusions on the priority theme. They provide a set of policy recommendations on a broad range of areas where action is required to address the equal sharing of responsibilities, including labour and social policies, the provision of services and infrastructure, the elimination of gender stereotypes, data collection and research; and international cooperation.

The Commission recognized that gender inequality and discrimination, including stereotypical perceptions of men and women, contribute to the continuing imbalance in the division of labour between women and men. It noted the need for men and boys to take responsibility and work in partnership with women and girls. The Commission



expressed its deep concern over the negative impact of the global economic and financial crisis.

The agreed conclusions called for measures to reconcile caregiving and professional life, and to ensure men's equal responsibilities for household work. Such measures include the design and implementation of family-friendly policies and services such as quality care services and access to maternity, paternity, parental and other forms of leave. Other forms of support called for include social protection measures such as health insurance and child and family allowances.

The agreed conclusions include measures to reduce the burden of care on households through the provision of public infrastructure, including clean water supply, sanitation, energy, telecommunications and affordable housing programmes. The Commission also called for strengthened efforts to protect the rights and ensure decent work conditions for all domestic workers, including women migrant domestic workers.

The Commission also adopted a resolution on "Future organization and methods of work of the Commission" that included a new multi-year programme of work for 2010 to 2014 and a resolution on "Preparations for the fifty-fourth session of the Commission on the Status of Women" on the modalities for the commemoration of the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action in 2010. The Commission also adopted a resolution on the future work of the Working Group on Communications on "Working Group on Communications on the Status of Women",

Approximately 300 parallel events were organized by UN entities, Permanent Missions, and NGOs. 1,993 civil society members representing 323 NGOs were present during the session.

Immediately following the closure of the fifty-third session, the Commission opened its fifty-fourth session to elect its new Bureau. By acclamation, it elected Ambassador Armen Martirosyan (Armenia) of the Eastern European Group of States as the Chairperson for both the fifty-fourth and fifty-fifth sessions. The Commission also elected Ms. Leysa Sow (Senegal) of the African Group; Mr. Roberto Storaci (Italy) of the Western European and other States Group; and Mr. Takashi Ashiki (Japan) of the Asian States Group. The Commission agreed that, upon nomination of a candidate by the Latin American and Caribbean States Group, it would elect

that candidate post-facto at its second meeting in 2010.

*For more information:*

<http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/csw/53sess.htm>

## Trends and analysis

### Human factor in capacity building

*Committee of Experts on Public Administration to examine the role of the human factor in achieving the UN Development Agenda at its eighth session from 30 March - 3 April in New York*

In the human factor lies the key to sustainable development. Skilled and qualified civil servants in the public sector are indispensable for the creation of an enabling public administration, which then can effectively engender and maintain talent. At the same time, only a capable and competent public sector, which takes accountability and transparency as its core values, can pursue the public good genuinely and resourcefully.

Against this backdrop, the eighth session of the Committee of Experts on Public Administration will focus on the main theme of human factor in capacity building and development. The Committee supports the work of the Economic and Social Council and the Secretariat concerning the promotion and development of public administration and governance among Member States in connection with the United Nations Development Agenda. The session opened on 30 March with a welcome address by the President of the Economic and Social Council, the Honorable Madame Sylvie Lucas, followed by the opening statement of the Assistant Secretary General for Economic Development, Mr. Jomo Kwame Sundaram. The Committee will finalize its session on 3 April 2009.

Some of the sub-themes covered during this session are human resources management, accountability, transparency and citizen trust in government and serving in the Information age. The Committee will also review the United Nations Programme on Public Administration and Finance, take stock of past achievements and plan for challenges ahead.

The Committee will also finalize its work on the online compendium of basic UN terminology in governance and public administration. Its purpose is to identify the most important and frequently used terminology in governance and public administration to promote clarity in discussions among Member States.

This year the Committee will also examine the theme of the Council's upcoming Annual Ministerial Review— Implementing the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to global public health— from the perspective of public administration.

For more information:

<http://www.unpan.org/DPADM/CEPA/8thSession/tabid/835/language/en-US/Default.aspx>

### Mainstreaming disability in MDGs

*Experts will review policy frameworks, resources and tools for mainstreaming disability in the implementation of the MDGs from 14-16 April in Geneva*

The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) will not be achieved if their policies, programmes, monitoring and evaluation do not include persons with disabilities. While persons with disabilities make up ten per cent of the world's population, disability is associated with twenty per cent of global poverty according to the World Bank's findings. Currently, there are no references to persons with disabilities either in the MDGs themselves or in the accompanying body of guidelines and policies, programmes and conferences that are part of the on-going MDG efforts. In addition, the new revisions of the MDGs currently in process do not include persons with disabilities.

The international community needs urgently to act to mainstream disability in the MDG processes. This requires policy makers and technical experts specifically tasked with the programming, monitoring and evaluation of current MDG programmes to begin to consider disability so that the next phase of the implementation of the MDGs will include disability as an important component of its core mission.

The Expert Group Meeting on "Mainstreaming Disability in MDG Policies, Processes and Mechanisms: Development for All", organized by DESA's Secretariat for the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in collaboration with the World Health Organization in Geneva from 14-16 April, will review existing policy frameworks, resources, mechanisms and tools for mainstreaming disability in the implementation of the MDGs. It will also provide policy recommendations that will link

the MDG processes with other internationally agreed development goals.

The outcome of the meeting will be a “roadmap” to include disability issues in the planning, monitoring and evaluation of all MDG-related plans, programmes and policies in international development currently in operation or in the planning stage. It will also review the on-going international, national and regional efforts in mainstreaming disability and empowerment of persons with disabilities in developmental contexts. Furthermore, it will identify emerging issues and trends concerning the advancement of the rights of persons with disabilities in the broad human rights-development framework.

*For more information:*

<http://www.un.org/disabilities/default.asp?id=1470>

## **Sustainable land management in Africa**

*From 16-17 April in Gothenburg, Sweden, experts will identify possibilities to scale up sustainable land management and agricultural practices*

Most economies in Africa are agro-based. The agricultural sector directly affects economic growth, poverty alleviation and social welfare in this region. Increasing productivity in Sub-Saharan agriculture is widely recognized as a key driver of regional development. Reducing land degradation threats and promoting Sustainable Land Management (SLM) and Sustainable Agricultural (SA) practices that are suited to the agro-ecological conditions and other resources farmers are endowed with has been recognized as a necessary requirement for achieving a sustainable African green revolution.

Over the last decades, knowledge about SLM and SA practices has been accumulated steadily. In particular, a number of initiatives have been undertaken to collect data on successful practices, including data on soil conditions, agro-climatic conditions and biodiversity conditions. These data are deemed to be relevant to the determination of success or failure of land management and agricultural practices.

The Expert Group Meeting on “Sustainable Land Management & Agricultural Practices in Africa”, held in Gothenburg, Sweden from 16-17 April, will identify possibilities and constraints to scale up successful SLM and SA practices based on the

adoption of research literature. The meeting will also discuss approaches to categorize what SLM and SA practices work where and for whom and how learning from best practices could be institutionalized into a knowledge management framework that could guide interventions and extension. Participants will also work towards establishing an informal institutional network between various actors active in this area and discuss how to design and implement such frameworks at the country level.

The expected output of the meeting is an updated research and extension agenda on sustainable agriculture for the participating organizations, a greater consensus on a methodology to increase investment in SLM and SA and to establish a partnership platform.

*For more information:*

[http://www.un.org/esa/dsd/susdevtopics/sdt\\_agri\\_eg\\_m0409.shtml](http://www.un.org/esa/dsd/susdevtopics/sdt_agri_eg_m0409.shtml)

## **Revising environmental-economic accounting**

*14<sup>th</sup> meeting of the London Group will discuss key topics of the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA) in Canberra from 28 April – 1 May*

The London Group on Environmental Accounting is a city group created in 1993 to allow practitioners to share their experience of developing and implementing environmental accounts linked to the economic accounts of the System of National Accounts.

The Group has played over the years a leading role in advancing the methodologies on environmental-economic accounting and in providing a forum for sharing national and international expertise in the field. The most notable accomplishments of the London Group have been its contribution to the Handbook of National Accounting: Integrated Environmental and Economic Accounting 2003 (SEEA-2003) and, more recently, to the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting for Water (SEEA-W), which was adopted at the thirty-eighth session of the UN Statistical Commission as an international statistical standard.

Given its expertise and leading role in environmental-economic accounting, the London Group has accepted the request of the UN Committee of Experts on Environmental-Economic Accounting (UNCEEAA) to develop a list of issues for the research agenda of the revision of the SEEA-2003 and solve significant number of those issues as part of its programme of work.

The 14th meeting of the London Group in Canberra from 28 April – 1 May will discuss topics in the list of issues for Volume 1 of the revised SEEA. The agenda include, among others, the classification of physical flows, land use/land cover classification, emission permits, accounting for carbon in forest and soil, natural resource management and expenditure accounts, definition and use of environmental taxes and subsidies and the environmental goods and services industry.

For more information:

<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/envaccounting/londongroup>

## From global public health to LDCs

*Committee for Development Policy (CDP) held its 11<sup>th</sup> session from 9-13 March in New York to address the 2009 AMR theme on Global Public Health, the financial crisis, climate change and LDCs*

The Committee addressed the 2009 Annual Ministerial Review (AMR) theme on Global Public Health with special emphasis on how to reduce health inequalities through strengthened global health partnerships. The CDPs review of global partnerships for health in support of the MDGs primary recommendation was that the issue of inequality in health outcomes and services should be a predominant consideration, including inequality according to income group, gender, race, ethnicity and geography. Inequalities, which are often severe between and within countries, are of fundamental importance as they determine the health of the poorest and disadvantaged.

The Global Financial Crisis and the need to provide low-income countries with better access to compensatory financing was also top on the agenda. A most urgent international measure is the enhancement of compensatory finance designed to deal with the most severe consequences of trade and financial shocks which affect developing countries.

Although in late 2008 the IMF slightly reformed its external shocks facility to compensate low-income countries for trade shocks, in response to criticisms that it was too small and had excessively high conditionality, these measures are not sufficient. What is desirable and urgent is a much larger scale of compensatory financing, ideally equal to the size of the external shock. Because the shock is external, there should be no conditionality attached.

Climate change and sustainable development focused on recommendations for appropriate financing mechanisms for climate change mitigation and adaptation. The Committee considered international funding activities in adaptation, mitigation and technology development. Among the various topics under review, the Committee examined the prospect of a set of new financial mechanisms to broaden the scope of climate change-related activities.

The triennial review of the list of Least Developed Countries (LDCs), recommended Equatorial Guinea to graduate from the list. Kiribati was no longer found eligible for graduation. The Committee did not recommend either Tuvalu or Vanuatu for graduation at the present review. As both countries have been found eligible they will be considered for graduation at the next triennial review.

The Expert Group identified two countries eligible for inclusion: Papua New Guinea, and Zimbabwe. After being notified of the findings, both countries informed the CDP of their wish not to be considered for inclusion into the list of LDCs (as happened after the 2006 review).

For more information:

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

## Preparing for World Expo 2010

*UN focal points met in Geneva from 26-27 March to coordinate the participation at the World Expo*

DESA's Division for Public Administration and Development Management attended a coordination meeting of United Nations Agencies Focal Points participating in the United Nations Pavilion at the World Expo 2010 in Shanghai. The Government of China has invited the United Nations to present its work at the Shanghai Expo within its own integrated pavilion of 3,000 square meters. The pavilion will feature one consolidated exposition of the United



Nations, including interactive installations, as well as engaging presentations, motivated speakers debates and cultural performances. UNHABITAT was entrusted to coordinate the participation of United Nations agencies at the World Expo 2010. The meeting of focal points will take place in Geneva from 26 to 27 March 2009.

The meeting will enable all agencies participating in the Pavilion to be fully briefed by the team coordinating the event and by its Chinese counterparts. Each of these teams will provide detailed information, guidance and advice on the participation of each agency. Furthermore, this meeting represents a good opportunity to preliminary register each agency and their time slot within the six-month Expo calendar, and each focal point will be fully briefed on all the necessary details and formalities guiding participation at the UN Pavilion. The outcome of this meeting will allow United Nations Agencies to formulate a comprehensive participation strategy including financial resources needed to the success of it's involvement at the World Expo.

*For more information:* <http://en.expo2010china.com/>

## Technical cooperation

### Reviewing merchandise trade statistics

*Workshop for developing countries from 31 March – 3 April in Bogotá, Colombia, to receive feedback on the International Merchandise Trade Statistics (IMTS) revision process*

At its thirty-ninth session (26 - 29 February 2008), the Statistical Commission endorsed the initiative and strategy of DESA's Statistics Division to revise the existing recommendations for international merchandise trade statistics and requested that the draft revised recommendations be submitted to the Commission for adoption at its forty-first session in 2010. One key element of the revision strategy is a worldwide consultation process with national trade statistics compilers.

Therefore, DESA's Statistics Division in cooperation with the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (UN/ECLAC) and the Departamento Administrativo Nacional de Estadística (DANE) of Colombia, organizes a workshop for developing countries on the IMTS. This workshop is part of a special effort to inform and receive feedback from developing countries on the IMTS revision process. The focus of the workshop will be on the concepts and definitions for international merchandise trade statistics as contained in International Merchandise Trade Statistics, Revision 2 (IMTS, Rev.2), and their application in countries.

For more information:

[http://unstats.un.org/unsd/trade/WS%20Colombia09/WS%20COLOMBIA09\\_workshop\\_imts\\_trade.htm](http://unstats.un.org/unsd/trade/WS%20Colombia09/WS%20COLOMBIA09_workshop_imts_trade.htm)

## Publications and websites

### Technical reports



#### **World Population and Prospects: The 2008 Revision**

This publication covers the official UN estimations and projections of population for all countries of the world for the period 1950-2050. The 2008 Revision reveals that the world population is projected to reach 7 billion early in 2012, up from the current 6.8 billion, and surpass 9 billion people by 2050. Most of the additional 2.3 billion people will enlarge the population of developing countries, which is projected to rise from 5.6 billion in 2009 to 7.9 billion in 2050, and will be distributed among the population aged 15-59 (1.2 billion) and 60 or over (1.1 billion) because the number of children under age 15 in developing countries will decrease.

In contrast, the population of the more developed regions is expected to change minimally, passing from 1.23 billion to 1.28 billion, and would have declined to 1.15 billion were it not for the projected net migration from developing to developed countries, which is projected to average 2.4 million persons annually from 2009 to 2050.

*For more information:*

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

#### **International Migration Report 2006: A Global Assessment**

More people live outside their country of birth today than at any time in history, and the numbers of people who move across international borders are expected to continue to rise in the future. In the past years, international migration has moved to the forefront of the international agenda.

The report discusses major trends in the international migrant stock in the world and international migration policies since the 1990s, includes the resolutions on international migration and development, adopted by the General Assembly in 2003, 2004 and 2005, as well as the corresponding

reports of the Secretary-General on international migration and development. It also presents international migration profiles for the world as a whole as well as for all major areas and regions, special country groupings and individual countries.

*For more information:*

<http://www.un.org/esa/population/publications/2006/MigrationRep/report.htm>

### Statistical compilations



#### **Monthly Bulletin of Statistics and MBS Online**

The Monthly Bulletin of Statistics 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. 2, February 2009**

Indices of world industrial production by branches of industry and by regions; Producer price indices; Retail price indices relating to living expenditures of United Nations officials; Earnings in manufacturing, by sex; Construction of new buildings; Total exports and imports by regions: volume and unit value indices and terms of trade. Publication symbol is ST/ESA/STAT/SER.Q/434.

*For more information:*

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

### Discussion papers

#### **Monthly Briefing on the World Economic Situation and Prospects**

The March issue of this briefing states that the global financial markets remain highly volatile and that global imbalances are unwinding in disorderly fashion, heightening the risk of exchange rate volatility. Unemployment is increasing worldwide at an alarming pace and many countries see their fiscal positions to deteriorate significantly.

To download:

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

### **Working Paper on Climate Change Integration: Towards Operationalization**

The climate change debate raises the issue of often identified, but as yet little explored, requirement to incorporate climate policy into other policy sectors, often termed climate “mainstreaming” or climate policy integration (CPI). This paper explores the imperative for CPI, the state of current understanding, and proposals for implementation at the crucial national policy scale. The paper draws on the longer-standing field of environmental policy integration, noting that literature’s scant coverage of climate issues but its greater focus on policy and administrative structures and processes, and concludes that more attention needs to be given to these implementation mechanisms for CPI.

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

More specifically, the publicly accessible and searchable database ensures easy access to comprehensive and up-to-date information on all forms of violence against women, as well as actions taken to address such violence. It also strengthens the knowledge base for effective policy responses to prevent and address violence against women, through exchange of experiences and of promising practices in addressing violence against women. The database contributes to further collection, availability, use and dissemination of data on violence against women, as well as the analysis of trends in addressing violence against women.

To browse:

<http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/vaw/index.htm>

## **Websites**



### **Secretary-General's Database on violence against women**

In December 2006, the General Assembly of the

United Nations adopted a comprehensive resolution calling for an intensification of efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women and requesting the Secretary-General to establish a coordinated database on the extent, nature and consequences of all forms of violence against women, and on the impact and effectiveness of policies and programmes for, including best practices in, combating such violence.

On 5 March, during the 53<sup>rd</sup> session of the Commission on the Status of Women, the database was launched by Deputy Secretary-General Dr. Asha-Rose Migiro, hailing it as a first global “one stop shop” for information on legal, policy and institutional measures by member states to address violence against women. She states further that this database will give critical impetus for action in the framework of the “UNiTE to end violence against women” campaign.



## Comings and goings

### Comings

*The following staff members were promoted in March:*

Ms. Christine Harrop, Associate Social Affairs Officer, Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and the Advancement of Women

Ms. Maria Melissa Paca, Statistical Assistant, Statistics Division

### Goings

*The following staff members retired in March:*

Ms. Carol Anne Louis, Human Resources Assistant, Technical Cooperation and Management Service

## Calendar

### April

#### **Commission on Population and Development**

42<sup>nd</sup> session, New York, 30 March-3 April  
<http://www.un.org/esa/population/cpd/cpd2009/com2009.htm>

#### **Committee of Experts on Public Administration**

8<sup>th</sup> session, New York, 30 March-3 April  
<http://www.unpan.org/DPADM/CEPA/8thSession/tabid/835/Default.aspx>

#### **Revision of the Recommendations for International Merchandise Trade Statistics**

Workshop for Developing Countries, Bogota, Colombia, 31 March – 3 April  
[http://unstats.un.org/unsd/trade/WS%20Colombia09/WS%20COLOMBIA09\\_workshop\\_imts\\_trade.htm](http://unstats.un.org/unsd/trade/WS%20Colombia09/WS%20COLOMBIA09_workshop_imts_trade.htm)

#### **Mainstreaming Disability in MDG Policies, Processes and Mechanisms: Development for All**

Expert Group Meeting, Geneva, 14-16 April  
<http://www.un.org/disabilities/default.asp?id=1470>

#### **Family policy in a changing world: Promoting social protection and intergenerational solidarity**

Expert Group Meeting, Doha, 14-16 April  
<http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/events.html>

#### **Sustainable Land Management & Agricultural Practices in Africa**

Expert Group Meeting, Gothenburg, Sweden, 16-17 April  
[http://www.un.org/esa/dsd/susdevtopics/sdt\\_agri\\_egm0409.shtml](http://www.un.org/esa/dsd/susdevtopics/sdt_agri_egm0409.shtml)

#### **United Nations Forum on Forests**

8<sup>th</sup> session, New York, 20 April-1 May  
<http://www.un.org/esa/forests/session.html>

#### **Special High-level Meeting of the Economic and Social Council with the Bretton Woods Institutions, the World Trade Organization and UNCTAD**

New York, 27 April  
<http://www.un.org/ecosoc/>

#### **14th meeting of the London Group on Environmental Accounting**

Canberra, 28 April – 1 May

<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/envaccounting/londongroup/meeting14.asp>

### Economic and Social Council

Regional Ministerial Meeting on the Annual Ministerial Review, Beijing, 29-30 April  
<http://www.un.org/ecosoc/newfunct/amrregional2009.shtml>

### May

#### **Commission on Sustainable Development**

17<sup>th</sup> session, New York, 4-15 May  
[http://www.un.org/esa/dsd/csd/csd\\_csd17.shtml](http://www.un.org/esa/dsd/csd/csd_csd17.shtml)

#### **Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations**

Resumed regular session for 2009, 18-27 May  
<http://www.un.org/esa/coordination/ngo/>

#### **United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues**

8<sup>th</sup> session, New York, 18-27 May  
[http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii/en/session\\_eighth.html](http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii/en/session_eighth.html)

### Observances

#### **World Autism Awareness Day**

2 April

Autism is a complex brain disorder that affects people on all continents. It inhibits a person's ability to communicate and develop social relationships, and is often accompanied by extreme behavioural challenges.

The United Nations marks World Autism Awareness Day on 2 April, to highlight the need to help improve the lives of children and adults who suffer from this disorder. The United Nations General Assembly unanimously declared 2 April as World Autism Awareness Day in November 2007.

“On this day, the United Nations reaffirms its commitment to the rights and well-being of people with disabilities -- a commitment rooted in our fundamental principle of universal human rights for all,” United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said in a statement marking the day in 2008.

*For more information:*

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

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

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