



Video

Development cooperation: Inclusive participation and broad ownership

Assistant Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Inter-agency Affairs, Thomas Stelzer, said that the Development Cooperation Forum would have a special niche in both form – through its inclusive participation and broad ownership – and function, adding that all stakeholders should take full advantage of the rich set of views and perspectives on offer. The first session of the DCF got underway in New York on 30 June.

<http://webcast.un.org/ramgen/ondemand/conferences/ecosoc/2008/ecosoc080630pm.rm> (8 minutes)

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A major achievement of the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development was to bring balance to the triangle of economic, social and environmental development policy and to treat the three dimensions together. Sustainable development means taking an integrated approach to the achievement of all eight Millennium Development Goals, including goal

seven of environmental sustainability. On 2 and 3 July, the Annual Ministerial Review of the Economic and Social Council will focus on three aspects of sustainable development – progress towards the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, integration of MDG number seven on environmental sustainability with the other goals, and consensus-building at the national level.

DESA Under-Secretary-General Sha Zukang describes the Annual Ministerial Review as “the development implementation ‘ARM’ of the United Nations, where “A” stands for accountability “R” for review and renewal of commitments, and “M” for mobilizing and maintaining the momentum.” He adds that the AMR needs to “lay the foundation for promoting accountability, ensuring review and renewal of commitments, and mobilizing and

maintaining the momentum for timely realization of the UN development agenda.”

At this year’s AMR, ministers from four developing countries, Chile, Kazakhstan, Tanzania and Lao People’s Democratic Republic and four industrial countries Belgium, Finland, Luxembourg and the United Kingdom will provide an assessment, through voluntary presentations, of their progress towards the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the millennium development goals, particularly as regards sustainable development. The presentations will be based on their respective national development strategy or policies and their implementation. The available national reports and official public information about these countries reveal numerous lessons learned and good practices that are of interest to all development practitioners.

Chile: strong economic performance

A developing economy now applying for membership in the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, Chile remains a strong economic performer. Exemplary macroeconomic management continues to deliver robust public finances and low, albeit recently rising, inflation. Chile has become the first country in Latin America to halve extreme poverty. Chile’s anti-poverty gains are the result of a series of structural and social reforms that led to a consensus among citizens and a wide cross-section of political sectors in favour of increased social spending, with much of it aimed at the poorest of the poor.

Such reforms have been made possible by steady increases in Chile’s per-capita income, which more than doubled between 1990 and 2005. Chile is an emerging donor and facilitator of triangular cooperation. Persistent challenges in Chile include gender inequalities, low average incomes, and an exchange rate that has not favoured value-added in exports.

Environmental policy innovations in Chile include a law on mining royalties which imposes a levy on copper mining operations to feed a national fund to finance science and technology and research to contribute to the diversification of the economy away from extraction, preparing for the time when the copper deposits are depleted. Remaining environmental challenges include strengthening environmental institutions to allow enforcement of legislation, protecting forest and marine areas and

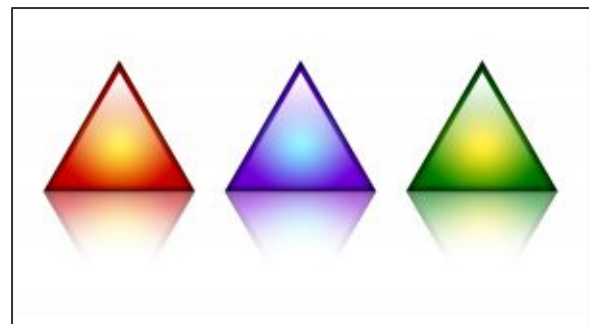
their biodiversity, and promoting efficient energy use.

Tanzania: focus on agriculture and forestry

Tanzania’s Vision 2025 plan describes a society free from abject poverty by the year 2025 and a middle-income semi-industrialized economy with high productivity agriculture that manages its natural resources sustainably, particularly its biodiversity. Tanzania has achieved average growth rates of 7 percent in recent years, close to the 8 percent recommended for achieving the MDGs.

Tanzania is particularly concerned with its dwindling forest cover and growing use of wood fuel. The country launched a national tree planting campaign, with 83 million trees planted in 2002 and an additional 48 million in 2003. Tanzania has passed several exemplary environmental laws and regulations. However, enforcement of regulations, particularly on forestry, remains a major challenge. The country is on track to meet its water and sanitation MDGs by 2015, but needs still to ensure full community participation in water and sanitation projects. The government has improved the urban environment by increasing the security of urban land tenure, raising awareness about land rights and creating mortgageable land rights.

As a favoured partner of donors for decades, Tanzania has accumulated six lessons from its long and deep aid relationships. National ownership of projects needs to be ensured. Defining and utilizing policy space takes time and should involve a wide array of national actors. Firmness in sticking to established objectives and benchmarks needs to be balanced with flexibility in the implementation of programmes. Donors should be required to practice a measure of self coordination so as not to overburden national authorities. Finally, national authorities need to build a clear exit strategy for assistance to avoid aid dependence.



Lao People's Democratic Republic: empty forest syndrome

Development plans in Lao PDR have stressed poverty eradication, health, education, gender equity and sustainable development. Fuelled by strong economic growth, the country has made swift strides towards the MDGs. Poverty declined from 46 percent in 1992 to 28.7 percent in 2006. Literacy has doubled over the same period from 31 to 58 percent. Under-five infant mortality fell from 170 to 98 per 1000 live births from 1995 to 2005. Lao PDR is on track to meet the first MDG of halving poverty by 2015 but is concerned with maintaining high economic growth which is what permits poverty alleviation.

Lao PDR recognizes as its greatest environmental challenge avoiding the disappearance of all forests by 2070, in the absence of countervailing policies and measures. Widespread use of fuel wood, unsustainable logging and slash-and-burn farming have led to the dwindling of the forest cover from 70 percent in 1942 to 64 percent in 1960s and 42 percent in 2002. The country suffers from empty forest syndrome, where wildlife is disappearing wherever forests are exploited. Lack of access to many forested areas of the country has served to protect them.

Among the successful sustainable development approaches are a comprehensive Environmental Protection Law (1999) and a subsequent Implementation Decree (2002). The Environmental Protection Law includes guidelines for the protection, damage mitigation and restoration of the environment and guidelines for environmental management and monitoring. An amended Forest Law (2007) foresees sustainable forest management and a Wildlife Law provides for biodiversity conservation. The body of environmental legislation is now quite extensive, but a remaining challenge is implementation and enforcement. Capacity building for implementation and enforcement is the main focus of future government efforts in sustainable development. Since 2006, Lao PDR has brought about a tree planting boom, through major foreign direct investment in sustainable forestry, and some 146,000 ha have now been reforested.

Kazakhstan: rural development

Rural development and water and sanitation are among Kazakhstan's most acute sustainable development challenges. The majority of Kazakhstan's poor live in rural areas. Many rural settlements have practically become isolated

communities, lacking access to adequate health, education or cultural services and public transportation to other settlements. Kazakhstan now seeks to achieve by 2020 a significant improvement in the lives of its rural population. Migration from rural territories is leading to the growth of slums around large cities. The State Programme on Development of Rural Territories for 2004-2010 is a response to the rural development crisis and aims to create adequate living conditions for the rural population through the optimization of rural settlements. Once fully implemented, the programme is expected to reduce significantly further migration from rural to urban areas.

Ensuring access to safe drinking water and sanitation is a pressing need. Only 48.1 percent of people in Kazakhstan had access to sewerage in 2004, including 73.7 percent in the cities and 4.3 percent in rural areas. Compared to 1999 (73.9 percent and 10.4 percent, respectively), the situation seems to be worsening, especially in rural areas. Weak environmental management and lack of investment in water and sanitary systems has allowed many sources of water to become polluted. Accordingly, the Drinking Water program for 2002-2010, the State Programme on Development of Rural Territories for 2004-2010, and a number of regional programs that envisage construction and repair of water supply structures have been developed. The Drinking Water program addresses such issues as restoration and enhancement of water supply systems, improvement of water quality, rational use of drinking water, development of new and alternative water sources and water supply options, reorganization of water extraction and supply management.

Belgium: regular sustainable development plans

Since UNCED in 1992, Belgium has produced four five-year federal sustainable development plans. The plans were prepared by the Federal Planning Bureau and then submitted to the Federal Council for Sustainable Development, which has the involvement of all central and sectoral ministries, and then to the parliament for its approval. Every two years, the implementation of the sustainable development plan is evaluated in an interim report.

Belgium's exemplary 1999 law on development cooperation makes sustainable development the priority objective of its official development assistance. Aid focuses on five sectors – basic health, education and training, agriculture and food security, basic infrastructure, and prevention of conflict - with a respect for human rights and basic freedoms.

Belgium has increased ODA from 0.46 percent of its gross national income in 1990 to 0.53 percent in 2005.

The 2005 peer review of Belgian cooperation by the Development Assistance Committee of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development recognized that Belgium has, since 2001, introduced administrative reforms and taken measures enabling it to adapt to the new international context regarding development cooperation. Success stories include the creation of a legal framework to allocate 0.7 percent of gross national income to ODA by 2010 and better geographical concentration of aid. The peer review concluded that Belgium should consolidate the reforms achieved and develop a more strategic approach to the different aid players and ensure sufficient human resources to service its growing development cooperation programmes.

Finland: increasing emphasis on environment

Finland's development cooperation policy is based on sustainable development goals, the MDGs and takes into account partner country national objectives as well as other internationally-agreed development goals. In 2007, Finland's ODA represented 0.40 percent of its gross national income. The government's goal is to reach 0.51 percent by 2010 and 0.7 percent by 2015. Finland had once previously reached the 0.7 percent goal in 1991 but tight fiscal policies ahead of its European Union entry had led to cuts in subsequent aid budgets.

In response to MDG number eight, international partnerships for development, and to the Monterrey Consensus, Finland's Development Policy Programme stresses comprehensive finance for development, including partnerships for development and private sector investment. Finland has established a high-profile multistakeholder commission for sustainable development and systematic policy work to promote all dimensions of sustainability. Finland's success in promoting sustainability at home and in its partnerships abroad is the strong multi-stakeholder process, involving civil society, the private sector and numerous other interest groups.

The 2007 OECD/DAC peer review showed Finland to be a committed development co-operation actor that works closely with the EU, the Nordic and other like-minded countries and generally adheres to international best practice. Finland has clearly defined priorities in its new development policy with an increased focus on environment and climate change, crisis prevention and support for peace

processes. It is also a keen proponent of policy coherence for development; is making progress in concentrating its aid and is committed to the aid effectiveness agenda including through country ownership, alignment, harmonisation, division of labour and joint donor efforts. It has an active policy on multilateral development agencies.

Among challenges that the peer review identified included making progress towards its 0.7 percent of GNI commitment, making sure its policy coherence for development and aid effectiveness policies bring real results, and ensuring that development policy-related activities are properly resourced and efficiently organised.

United Kingdom: golden age of aid growth

The UK is committed to sustainable development through its development cooperation programme, helping countries balance economic, social and environmental objectives. The 2005 sustainable development strategy sets out the country's key commitments in international cooperation for sustainable development and poverty eradication. The UK's 2006 Third White Paper on development cooperation also places sustainable development at the centre of policies and priorities for 2006-2011. UK aid programmes focus on direct contributions to environmental management, tackling underlying factors and facing climate change. The UK's ODA has nearly doubled from 0.24 percent of GNI in 1990 to 0.47 percent in 2005. The UK has committed to reach the 0.7 percent target by 2013.

The 2006 OECD/DAC peer review shows that its coherent and well organized approach to development co-operation has permitted the UK to make good progress, including substantial movement towards the target of 0.7 percent, a sharper focus on poverty, a stronger framework for efforts of government-wide policy coherence, a proactive collaboration with other donors and improved operational guidelines, headquarters-field relationships, and systems of monitoring and evaluation. The UK aid programme has gone through a "golden age" of growth and achievement since 1997.

As remaining challenges, the peer review recognized the need to consolidate those achievements and prepare for the next growth phase, when performance scrutiny will intensify, both domestically and internationally. Other challenges identified included developing a more comprehensive roadmap over time on how ODA increases will be spent, including the

geographic priorities, the set of delivery instruments, the balance between main areas for intervention, as well as between bilateral and multilateral channels.

Luxembourg: ODA at 0.9 percent of GNI

Luxembourg's development cooperation policy concentrates geographically on ten countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America and sectorally on infrastructure in education, health, and water and sanitation. In so doing, the country seeks synergies between its bilateral and multilateral assistance. The 2008 OECD/DAC peer review shows that Luxembourg is a generous and committed donor. Its aid rose from 0.31 percent in 1990 to 0.90 percent of GNI in 2007, making Luxembourg the third most generous donor in percentage terms. Every year since 2000 Luxembourg has achieved a ratio of at least 0.7 percent. It has also promoted international efforts to strengthen the quality and increase the volume of aid. Luxembourg has improved the management of its aid programme, with an efficient use of financial and human resources.

Luxembourg has opened regional offices in five priority countries and is translating its international commitments into practice. Its second generation of multi-year co-operation programmes with ten priority countries makes aid more predictable. Luxembourg's ambitious programme is coherent and well structured. Aid allocations are concentrated and aligned to the expressed needs of a few priority least developed countries. It also works with a small number of multilateral organisations which share Luxembourg's aid objectives. Its record in implementing humanitarian assistance is exemplary in many respects and follows the lines of internationally agreed principles.

Luxembourg's developing country partners appreciate the open and flexible manner in which it engages in policy dialogue and implements its aid programme. The peer review recognized some of the Grand Duchy's continuing challenges in implementing its aid effectiveness agenda: making further use of partner country administrative systems, co-operating in new ways with other donors, ensuring the necessary human resources and expertise for development cooperation and enhancing the Development Co-operation Directorate as a learning organization.

Solidarity transfer in a shared world

The 2008 AMR is the first of its kind involving on an equal footing developing and industrial countries and

symbolizes the global partnership for development enshrined in the international development goals. The AMR brings out the dual responsibility of developed and developing countries in realizing sustainable development. It recalls the interconnectedness of all countries and the importance of development aid as a solidarity transfer mechanism in a shared world.

The four industrial countries are active, committed and, in different ways, innovative donors. All four have made significant strides towards the 0.7 percent of GNI goal, have concentrated their aid geographically and sectorally and are making sustainable development a unifying theme for development cooperation, guided by multistakeholder consultations as well as by sustainable development strategies for their own economies. Finland reaffirms the importance of partner country national development objectives and the broader international development goals in addition to the MDGs in guiding its aid programmes. They are all faced with the challenge of ensuring adequate human resources and structures to handle their growing aid programmes.

The four developing countries, representing four major regions of the South, present several innovative policies for sustainable development. Their experience reveals that strong growth is essential to meeting the poverty MDG, social investment rather than assistance should be undertaken, and that beyond robust environmental legislation, effective capacity must be built for implementing and enforcing environmental objectives. Tanzania's experience highlights the importance of national ownership, donor self-coordination, and concrete exit strategies to prevent aid dependence. This AMR shows that both developed and developing countries share a common responsibility for global sustainable development, and that their roles and responsibilities, while different, are highly complementary.

For more information:

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

Help from forests on global warming

Costa Rica, India, Congo basin offer lessons on reducing emissions from deforestation and ecosystem degradation

As climate change moves to the top of the global agenda, world attention is returning to the role forests play in moderating atmospheric conditions. Perspectives on forests vary among different groups of countries. Mega-diverse developing countries – those with large tropical forests and the bulk of the world’s flora and fauna – see forests on their sovereign territory as a source of livelihoods for current and future generations. Industrialized countries, meanwhile, rely on raw materials and biodiversity from forests for production while using forests as carbon sinks to offset greenhouse gas emissions. The forest product industry is a source of economic growth and employment with trade in this sector on the order of \$270 billion.

With its universal membership and equal voice for all countries, the United Nations serves as the ideal neutral space to bring about consensus among all countries on the sensitive subjects of sustainable forest management and climate change. DESA lends analytical and normative support to this consensus building through its secretariat of the United Nations Forum on Forests. The adoption of the comprehensive non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests in April 2007 represents a landmark in the Secretariat’s work and the crowning of some fifteen years of negotiations. It was the first time states have agreed to an international instrument for sustainable forest management. Forum Chair, Hans Hoogeveen, hailed the agreement as an outstanding achievement and said it ushered in a new chapter in



forest management. In Mr. Hoogeveen’s words, the livelihoods of over a billion of the world’s poor are at stake: “We have only one planet to share, and we must ensure its health and sustainability.”

The new agreement, although not legally binding, sets a standard in sustainable forest management that is expected to have a major impact on international cooperation and national action to reduce deforestation, prevent forest degradation, promote sustainable livelihoods and reduce poverty for all forest-dependent peoples. For years countries debated whether to negotiate a formal treaty or a non-legally binding instrument on forest management. But many developing countries with significant forest cover objected to any action that would compromise their sovereignty or control over their natural resources.

The resulting agreement is considered a reflection of a strong international commitment to promote on the ground implementation of sustainable forest management through a new, more holistic approach that brings all stakeholders together. In addition, the agreement is expected to reinforce practical measures at the country-level to integrate forests more closely with other government policies. The challenge is enormous as only some 12 percent of the world’s tropical forests are under sustainable forest management.

Another area of disagreement that has long plagued forest negotiations concerns a financing mechanism to mobilize funding for sustainable forest management. The agreement calls on countries to adopt, by 2009, a voluntary global financing mechanism for forest management.

The current challenge – as countries work towards achieving a new 2012 climate framework in Copenhagen in 2009 – is to ensure that forests are part of the climate change governance equation in such a way that respects the interests of all stakeholders, particularly those of countries that are home to the forests, but also the interests of future generations of all mankind who will depend on the biodiversity and carbon sink capabilities of the world’s forests in order to survive. Forests are both a sovereign national resource as well as a global public good. Reconciling their dual nature to the satisfaction of all countries is a task that only the United Nations can address. Countries with significant forests are keenly conscious of and often refer to the dual role of forests. Alongside their commitment to the livelihoods of their forest populations, they are also conscious of the trust for all humankind inherent in the carbon sinks that tropical forests represent.

A magnificent storehouse of carbon

Seen as a global public good, forests are a magnificent storehouse for carbon. Trees are made up largely of carbon. Felling them releases the carbon into the atmosphere particularly if they are burned. Additionally, as the cut organic matter decays it slowly releases more carbon. Conversely, growing new trees captures carbon. The world's forests and forest soils store more than one trillion tons of carbon – twice the amount found in the atmosphere. Current estimates of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and the Food and Agriculture Organization reveal that 13 million hectares of the world's forests are lost to deforestation every year, which contribute some 5.8 billion tons of carbon dioxide per year – between 17 and 20 percent of total greenhouse emissions.

The IPCC also concluded that reducing or preventing deforestation is the mitigation option with the largest and most immediate carbon stock impact in the short term per hectare and per year globally as the release of carbon as emissions into the atmosphere is prevented. The methodologies to measure the carbon cycle from forests are still being perfected and there are still significant uncertainties in the measurement of carbon stocks and flows.

To address these methodological challenges, a workshop in Tokyo held from 25 to 27 June, was devoted to reducing emissions from deforestation and ecosystem degradation. The event was organized by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change secretariat, which through its Executive Secretary, Yvo de Boer, reports to DESA Under-Secretary-General Sha Zukang. Methodological issues addressed at the workshop included demonstration of reductions in emissions from deforestation, reference emissions levels, estimation and demonstration of reductions in emissions from forest degradation, and implications of national and subnational approaches and related displacement of emissions. Participants also shared best practices and lessons learned in emissions reduction policies from around the world that can lead to better management of the carbon cycle from forests through combined global and national actions.

Lessons from Costa Rica, India, Congo

Methodologies for measuring emissions reduction range from the simplest and least expensive, which merely rely on the approximate data for countries from the IPCC studies, to more sophisticated systems involving elaborate ground monitoring, surveys and

high definition remote sensing and computer models. Successful policies for emissions reduction include a historical analysis of the drivers of deforestation and active measures to counteract them.

The experience of Costa Rica in achieving emissions reduction is particularly remarkable. Forest cover had declined from 75 percent of total land area in 1940 to 21 percent by 1987. A series of policy measures in the 1990s, particularly following the United Nations Conference on the Environment and Development in 1992, led to the regrowth of forest cover to an impressive 51 percent by 2005. Costa Rica achieved this through a national timber production policy, a policy to promote ecotourism, a programme of payment for forestry services, decreasing cattle ranching. Six lessons emerge from the Costa Rican experience: the importance of a strong institutional and enforcement mechanism, monitoring and transparency, the need for long-term financing mechanism, basing investment priorities on scientific studies and clear national policy, the need for international finance to contribute to global goals, and the need for finance for maintaining current carbon stocks as well as for unmet demand for forest services.

India pioneered in 1987 a fully operational system for monitoring forest cover using high-definition satellite data plus physical verification and measurement called “ground truthing” – the first of its kind in the world. The country also has developed an innovative and more accurate approach to estimating carbon stocks including biomass carbon and soil organic carbon through a comprehensive forest-related emissions reduction mechanism. Using these methodologies, India has successfully estimated its stored forest carbon stocks at 8.7 billion tons of carbon in 2005 and projects these to rise to 9.75 billion tons in 2030. By a series of policies, the corresponding land area forested has increased from a little over 63 million hectares in 1997 to slightly below 68 million in 2005. By 2030, India estimates that its total forest area will increase to just under 75 million hectares.

The countries of the Congo basin are home to the second lung of the world, the largest tropical forest after the Amazon covering 200 million hectares, 20 percent of the world's tropical forests and 45 percent of African forests. Based on the more approximate IPCC data, rather than a comprehensive measurement system, the current total stored above-ground carbon stock of the Congo subregion – excluding soil organic carbon – is some 9 billion tons. The armed conflicts of the region place the fauna and flora of

these forests at serious risk. Various private investors, therefore, propose to invest in a more robust carbon cycle monitoring system to assist countries of the Congo basin in combating emissions. The enforcement of existing forestry laws will be the remaining challenge, particularly in the large conflict areas that lie outside government control.

Moving forward

The results of the Tokyo workshop will feed into the preparatory process leading up to the new climate agreement at the 16th Conference of Parties of UNFCCC in Copenhagen in December 2009. Additionally, in April 2009, the eighth meeting of the Forum will inform this process by focusing on forests in a changing environment, forests and climate change, reversing the loss of forest cover, preventing forest degradation and biodiversity conservation. In examining the means of implementation for sustainable forest management, the Forum is expected to decide on a voluntary global financial mechanism or a portfolio approach to financing or a forest financing framework.

Sustainable forest management, including reducing emissions from deforestation and destruction of forests, has a significant contribution to make to slow global warming. As Sha Zukang points out, slowing global warming will call for an integrated approach involving afforestation and reforestation, re-vegetation, increased soil carbon capture, water and soil conservation, biodiversity preservation, and environmental protection. “Only by acting in partnership can we achieve synergetic results of all three Rio Conventions – the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, Convention on Biological Diversity and UN Convention to Combat Desertification.”

At the same time, the renewed focus on forestry and land use changes in climate talks should, of course, not detract from global and national efforts, particularly in developed nations, aimed at controlling the bulk of carbon emissions that emerge from industrial and other processes that only the adoption of more sustainable consumption and production patterns as foreseen in Agenda 21, the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, the Kyoto Protocol and other sustainable development instruments can bring about.

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

Global dialogue on development

ECOSOC opens high-level segment on theme of achieving sustainable development

Rising commodity prices, deepening income disparities, climate change 'serious threats to our efforts to lift people out of poverty,' says Council President Léo Mérorès

With soaring commodity prices and the onset of global warming threatening to undo hard-won progress made to alleviate poverty in the developing world, the President of the Economic and Social Council on 30 June urged national Governments and the United Nations system to collaborate on integrated approaches to development that placed sustainability at the core of coherent economic growth strategies.

Council President Léo Mérorès, of Haiti, said that the 54-member body, which opened the high-level segment of its annual substantive session in New York today, was meeting as recent global prosperity and economic growth was being pressured by rising food and oil prices, deeper income disparities, and increased competition for resources. "We are facing serious threats to our efforts to lift people out of poverty," he said, adding that those challenges were further compounded by climate change and the more frequent and more intense storms, floods and droughts that came with it.

This year's Annual Ministerial Review, which traditionally kicks off the Council's month-long session, would contribute to promoting collective solutions, including strengthening governance and global cooperation, increasing financial assistance and promoting technology transfer, he said. The two-day Review would also bolster current efforts to better integrate the three elements of sustainable development – economic growth, social development and environmental protection – because, he said: "It seems that if development is not sustainable, it will not be attainable."

He also said that with uncertainty growing about the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, the Council's Development Cooperation Forum,

which held its first biennial meeting today, was envisioned as a United Nations forum for ensuring coherence in cooperation towards attaining globally agreed development targets. The Forum was uniquely placed to bring together a wide range of development actors and, therefore, had the potential to be a leading venue for inclusive global dialogue and policy review on key development issues.

Under-Secretary-General of Economic and Social Affairs Sha Zukang, who delivered a message on behalf of the United Nations Secretary-General, noted that this was "a critical juncture" in the implementation of the United Nations development agenda. The fragile state of the major developed market economies, and broader economic turbulence were slowing global economic growth, while rising food and energy prices were hitting the poor and vulnerable especially hard.

Urgent collective action was needed, particularly to address global economic imbalances and widespread scepticism about globalization, which many felt was leaving behind the most vulnerable and increasing economic insecurity among the middle classes. "No social or economic order is secure if it fails to benefit the majority of those who live under it," he said, adding that: "This session of ECOSOC should give new impetus to the realization of our long-standing goal of achieving economic growth, social development and environmental protection in an integrated and balanced manner, which is the key to the prosperity of humankind."

The opening session also featured keynote addresses by Rajendra K. Pachauri, Chairman of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, the Nobel-prize winning group of scientists tasked with studying human activity's effects on the environment; and Lord Stern of Brentford, economist and author of the Stern Review on the Economics of Climate Change, the groundbreaking 2006 report that assessed the effect of climate change and global warming on the world economy.

"We're all in this together," said Lord Stern, outlining the key elements of a global framework to tackle climate change. The targets of such a framework would include worldwide cuts in emissions by 50 per cent by 2050, with rich countries cutting at least 80 per cent. Developing countries should take on targets by, at latest, 2020, as rich countries demonstrated low-carbon growth, lived up to funding agreements, and shared technologies.

He cautioned that any new deal must not “be like a WTO deal where nobody does anything until everybody agreed on everything. We don’t have that kind time.” There was a need to accelerate public policy design, and research and technology development, and to generate the political will to put policies into action, especially towards low carbon growth. The new framework for action required each individual country to start acting now, with the understanding that other countries would come along. The effort depended on global political leadership and would involve the largest collaborative effort the world had ever seen.

The Council also held a high-level policy dialogue with international financial and trade institutions on current developments in the world economy that featured statements from: Supachai Panitchpakdi, Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development; Murilo Portugal, Deputy Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund; Justin Lin, Senior Vice-President and Chief Economist of the World Bank; Valentine Rugwabiza, Deputy Director-General of the World Trade Organization; Ricardo French-Davis, Chairman of the Committee for Development Policy; Achim Steiner, Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme; and Mr. Sha.

Ms. Rugwabiza said that, while the WTO’s Doha Development round could not provide immediate solutions to many problems, its successful conclusion could form part of the midterm solutions to help put the world back on the path of economic growth. But, differences would have to be bridged, and every attempt be made to push the limits of political will and to strive for the adoption of the modalities in agriculture and non-agricultural goods by the end of next month.

Indeed, Mr. Panitchpakdi cautioned that, although the world was now standing at the threshold of a breakthrough for this round of negotiations, a breakthrough had to be made by July or a crucial window would close.

Based on DPI news release ECOSOC/6346; for more information: <http://www.un.org/ecosoc/>



Lord Stern of Brentford, author of the *Stern Review on the Economics of Climate Change*, presented a keynote address to the high-level segment of the Council on 30 June. Complete video coverage is available online at

<http://www.un.org/webcast/ecosoc/hls/>.

Civil society, business sector hearings on financing for development

Interactive discussions with civil society and the business sector were held on 18 June in New York as part of preparations for Doha review conference

In preparation for the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus to be held in Doha from 29 November to 2 December, two half-day hearings were held on 18 June in New York, the first in the morning with civil society and the second in the afternoon with the business sector.

The hearings took the form of a series of panel presentations followed by a debate on the six thematic areas of the Monterrey Consensus, as well as new challenges and cross-cutting issues. The President of the General Assembly, Srgjan Kerim, opened the session. Ambassadors Maged Abdelaziz of Egypt and Johan Lovald of Norway served as Co-Chairs.

Civil society input

On the domestic front, participants discussed impediments for effective financial resource mobilization in developing countries such as low national saving rates, high inflation and inefficient financial systems. In particular, detrimental effects of corruption were highlighted. The UN was asked to support initiatives to return looted assets to the nations of their origin. Networking of civil society organizations was advocated as a key means of raising grassroots awareness of critical issues in financing for development.

With regard to mobilizing international resources for development, a proposal was presented to introduce a currency transaction tax at the rate of 0.005 percent to raise funds for development. This minuscule tax would have no negative effect on financial markets but would generate enormous annual revenue. Research had shown that it was technically feasible. The introduction of the tax was therefore mostly a question of mobilizing sufficient political will. It was recommended that the UN should administer and disburse these extra funds.

As for international trade, participants expressed their dissatisfaction with the current state of trade negotiations at the bilateral, regional and multilateral levels. There were calls for urgent measures to reduce

agricultural vulnerabilities and enhance food security of developing countries. It was proposed to impose a moratorium on the EU-APC Economic Partnership Agreements and to redesign “aid for trade” schemes, in order to enhance ownership thereof by developing countries.

Regarding international financial and technical cooperation for development, it was noted that official development assistance had declined in 2006 and 2007. Moreover, 70 percent of foreign aid in 2004-2005 was funneled to debt relief and not actual development aid. Speakers called for increased donor accountability, transparent monitoring of development targets, national ownership and elimination of conditionalities for aid. The donor community should pay special attention to the development needs of post-conflict nations. South-South cooperation could enhance aid predictability and strengthen mutual accountability.

Participants noted positive developments resulting from recent debt relief initiatives, such as the MDRI. However, debt relief had fallen short of its intended objectives and many countries were still facing unsustainable debt burdens. The Norwegian government was commended for cancelling illegitimate debt arising from flawed lending processes. More responsible financing and impartial processes for evaluation of debt disputes were needed. A view was expressed that using loans as funding mechanisms to combat the current food and climate crises would lead to unsustainable debt of developing countries. There were also renewed calls for orderly debt workout mechanisms.

In addressing systemic issues, speakers reiterated the need for increased voice and participation of developing countries in economic decision-making and norm-setting. There was a need for appropriate regulations of the international financial system and institutional arrangements that could provide sufficient international official liquidity during crises. It was suggested that developing countries should promote regional financial institutions.

Concerning gender perspectives in financing for development, speakers encouraged deeper dialogue on such issues as women’s wages, unpaid labor, gender-sensitive taxation schemes and the household sharing of financial risks. There were calls for participatory and gender responsive budgets and the development of gender-sensitive indicators, as well as tools and methodologies for the evaluation of the quality and development effectiveness of aid. The international community should support and

strengthen women’s involvement in multi-stakeholder oversight processes at all levels.

On another cross-cutting issue, the meeting addressed financing of climate change adaptation and mitigation. It was stressed that the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change should serve as the main framework for the international response to climate change. In addition, there was a request for the establishment of various funds to support developing countries suffering from climate change, including an adaptation fund, a mitigation fund, a technology fund and a risk insurance fund.

Business sector perspectives

Regarding trade and investment contributions to development financing, it was noted that there had been a rapid rise in foreign direct investment and other transfers of wealth to the developing world. Trade and investment were the largest sources of funding for development. Increased policy priority was given to seeking a global solution to climate change and addressing hunger, high energy and commodity prices. Developing countries were urged to resist protectionist impulses and national governments were encouraged to find the necessary political will to improve the domestic investment climate. Regarding the spending of ODA funds, there was a reiteration of the need to engage regional and national institutions and not just governments. There was a proposal to consider the possibility of refocusing aid to the most urgent areas such as energy and food production.

It was reported that microfinance had largely been a success story in development, improving the lives of millions. Microcredit was moving from the services sector to insurance and housing finance. Further applications included the Grameen Bank’s telecom subsidiary offering mobile banking and the World Bank’s credit linked notes. Concerns were expressed about the shortage of microfinance services despite the huge demand. There was a need to promote collaboration between governments and civil society organizations as well as stronger coordination between banks. Participants expressed optimism that the microfinance industry would replicate successful business models beyond local and national boundaries and that platforms would be leveraged to address broader development issues.

It was noted that the business sector had increased its role in development and was actively engaged in public-private partnerships. To increase consistency, coherence and cooperation between the business

sector, governments and civil society, there was a call to “deliver as one.” The business sector had a responsibility not only to seek profits, but to create value and protect the planet. Moreover, there was a need to move from dependency creating aid to self-creating entrepreneurship. Finally, it was proposed to create a sustainable development council, with inputs from all relevant parties.

There were repeated calls on the business sector and governments to promote responsible private investment for sustainable development. To facilitate private flows of capital, developing countries needed to put in place liberal trade regimes, strong rule of law, sound macroeconomic policies, data transparency, institutional and market infrastructure and financial regulation and supervision. Participants highlighted the e-Standards Forum website, which monitored countries’ adaptation of best practice standards. It was also reiterated that private enterprises should promote ethical and conduct corporate social responsibility.

The role of domestic financial institutions in poverty alleviation and sustainable development was demonstrated by the Nigerian Bank of Industry. Developing countries were encouraged to look internally for financial resource mobilization and formulate a coherent response to their development needs. When the capacity of the domestic financial sector was insufficient, the challenge of external resource mobilization prevailed.

Many participants stressed the need for developing countries to build attractive platforms for investments by providing enabling environments with transparency and accountability. Speakers emphasized the importance of dealing with underlying factual reasons for low investment, instead of engaging in financial engineering to solve the problem. There were suggestions to tackle the problem of illicit capital flows and arrange a better flow of information between investors and recipients.

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

Trends and analysis

Carbon taxes: bad for the poor?

Finance experts met in New York on 17 June asking whether carbon taxes would constitute a threat to the world's poor and whether other mechanisms might be more equitable

In preparation for the Doha review conference on financing for development scheduled for November this year, DESA's Financing for Development Office and the Friedrich Ebert Foundation held a joint workshop on 17 June in New York on the subject of carbon taxes and their potential impact on the world's poor. Among the participants were Tariq Banuri, Senior Fellow at the Stockholm Environment Institute, Michael Keen of the IMF Fiscal Affairs Department, and Gilbert Metcalf, Professor of Economics at Tufts University in the United States. The workshop was chaired by Ambassador Byron Blake of Antigua and Barbuda.

Some experts have argued that carbon taxes could result in a stable price for emissions, provide for great flexibility in the face of changing economic conditions, create revenues for development and enhance efficiency and equity. However, carbon taxes may also have the undesired side-effect of redistributing income from the poor to the rich. Expenditure on energy, particularly for heating and cooking, weighs more heavily in low-income budgets, so that higher energy prices can in effect redistribute income in disfavour of the poor.

Participants discussed how the regressive impact of carbon taxation might be tackled in order to enhance political acceptability of such an instrument. The speakers also addressed the overall developmental implications of environmental policies, concluding that unless marked progress is made by the international community in meeting the internationally agreed development goals, it is unlikely that the required levels of mitigation and adaptation will be achieved. Financing of climate change adaptation and mitigation efforts is also expected to an important point of discussion at the UN climate change conference to be held in Copenhagen in late 2009.

For more information:

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

Women and men meet online to discuss shared responsibility

DESA's Division for the Advancement of Women will host an open, online forum on sharing of responsibilities starting 7 July

An online discussion on equal sharing of responsibilities between women and men will run from 7 July to 1 August with the support of DESA's Division for the Advancement of Women. The consultation is part of the preparatory process for the 2009 session of the Commission on the Status of Women which has as its theme the equal sharing of responsibilities between women and men, including caregiving in the context of HIV/AIDS.

Traditional gender roles and stereotypes often narrowly define the division of labour between women and men, as well as between girls and boys, in the domestic sphere. The HIV/AIDS pandemic has compounded the care responsibilities of women and girls. The online discussion will contribute to a more comprehensive understanding of the causes and consequences of these inequalities and the strategies required to address them.

Each of the first three weeks of the discussion will be devoted to a specific theme. Week one will cover gender stereotypes and the sharing of responsibility in the private sphere. In the second week, participants will turn their attention to the effects of unequal responsibilities on women's participation in the public sphere. Finally, in week three, caregiving and HIV/AIDS will be the subject of debate and reflection.

In addition to discussing achievements and remaining gaps and challenges, examples of concrete experiences, lessons learned and good practices, including policy interventions to promote a more equal sharing of responsibilities between women and men, will be highlighted. All stakeholders – policy makers, researchers, activists and individuals – are encouraged to share ideas and experiences to provide input to the work of the Commission and further development of global policy in this area.

For more information:

<http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/forum/forum-daw-equalsharing.htm>

Quality assurance in international statistical data

Inter-agency conference in Rome on 7 and 8 July to promote best practices in data collection and dissemination

DESA Statistics Division is co-hosting a conference – together with FAO, ILO, OECD, Eurostat and ECB – on data quality for international organizations on 7 and 8 July in Rome under the auspices of the inter-agency Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities. The purpose of the conference is to provide statistical experts from international or supra-national organizations with a forum to discuss specific data quality issues related to their work and exchange experiences regarding the various quality mechanisms developed for improving the collection and dissemination of international data.

This year's meeting will build on the extensive work in the field of data quality assessment that has recently been undertaken by CCSA under the leadership of Eurostat which led to the preparation of guidelines for the Implementation of Quality Assurance Frameworks for International Organizations Compiling Statistics. Topics include quality assessment, peer reviews, country support, data accessibility, best practices in imputation and estimation, and international comparability.

For more information:

<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/accsub/CDQIO-2008.htm>

Industrial statistics update

Experts gather in New York starting 15 July to review industrial classification standard

The DESA Statistics Division will host a meeting of the United Nations Expert Group on Industrial Statistics from 15 to 17 July in New York. The meeting will consider a revised handbook to the index numbers of industrial production, discuss technical cooperation on industrial statistics – including coordination, regional approach, and volunteers for specific areas – and review a prototype

of a new knowledge platform on economic statistics developed by DESA.

The Statistics Division collects and compiles indices of industrial production based on responses to periodic questionnaires sent to national statistical offices. The indices are compiled according to the International Standard Industrial Classification of all Economic Activities, Rev.3 categories, at the 2-digit level, for mining and quarrying, manufacturing and gas, water and electricity. The data is then disseminated through the UN Monthly Bulletin of Statistics, the United Nations Statistical Yearbook, and the World Statistics Pocket Book. The UN is the only international organization to publish aggregated data for the index numbers at world levels as well as by economic and geographical grouping.

For more information:

<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/industry/meetings/eg2008/ac158-2.asp>

Aiming for excellence in public administration education

Taking advantage of the annual conference of the International Association of Schools and Institutes of Administration in Africa, DESA is organizing a workshop on strengthening capacity of institutes of public administration and management development institutes through standards of excellence in public administration education and training in Kampala from 14 to 18 July. The theme of this year's conference of IASIA is enhancing efficiency, effectiveness and equity in public service delivery.

The workshop is being organized in collaboration with the International Association of Schools and Institutes of Administration, the African Training and Research Center in Administration for Development, the Uganda Management Institute, and the African Management Development Institutes Network. Its main objective is to present the results of recent surveys and studies on educational excellence and explore modalities for the implementation of relevant standards.

For more information:

<http://www.iiasiisa.be/schools/aeconf/kampala/kampala-index.php>

Promotion of national economic and social councils

Experts meet in Vienna on 24 and 25 July to advance public participation in policy-making

Economic and social councils are an emerging mechanism for multi-stakeholder decision-making at the national level that can contribute significantly to participatory policy-making. To promote knowledge sharing and innovation in this area, DESA's Division for Public Administration and Development Management is holding an expert group meeting in Vienna on 24 and 25 July.

Presidents and senior officials from such councils worldwide will discuss key issues in civic participation, and the role that councils can play. At the same time, DPADM will launch a new technical assistance project on enhancing the role of national economic and social councils for inclusive socio-economic policy development, intended to help African countries strengthen participatory decision-making and mainstream the concerns of the poor and disadvantaged in national policies. The potential contributions of the United Nations, European Economic and Social Committee, and International Association of Economic and Social Councils and Similar Institutions will also be considered.

The meeting is part of a larger DPADM initiative to disseminate information on economic and social councils as an instrument of civic engagement in policy development, and to advance best practice in public participation through capacity-building, advisory services and training.

For more information:

<http://www.unpan.org/Regions/Global/Events/Conferences/tabid/458/mctl/EventDetails/ModuleID/1510/ItemID/980/Default.aspx>

Auditors opine on public accountability mechanisms

DESA's Division of Public Administration and Development in partnership with the International Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions will hold a panel on public accountability and good governance on 14 July in New York as part of high-level segment

of the Economic and Social Council. Public accountability means that governors are answerable to the governed for their actions and omissions. When government representatives perform well, they warrant the support of the public. When they do not, they owe citizens explanations and compensations. Public accountability, as such, makes sure that there is a continual, transparent and interactive process of correction and repair with an eye on citizen satisfaction.

To ensure public accountability, governments around the world have established supreme audit institutions to achieve the objectives of a coherent and vertically integrated and horizontally responsible governance approach. As overseers of the public purse, auditors have unified their voices under the auspices of the International Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions, which promotes continuous improvements in the modus operandi of audit institutions worldwide.

What are some of the new and innovative tools and mechanisms of public accountability in governance? How can we make public accountability processes more effective and efficient to make sure that they culminate in sustainable development, including the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals? How can governance actors, including the civil society, effectively participate in the process of anti-corruption initiatives and people-centered development? These are some of the questions that the experts will attempt to answer on 14 July.

Council President Léo Mérorès, DESA Under-Secretary-General Sha Zukang, and UN Special Adviser on Gender Issues Rachel Mayanja will preside. Panelists include Sidney Sokhona, Minister-in-Charge of Relations with Parliament and Civil Society of Mauritania, Jorge Hage, Minister of the Office of the General Comptroller of Brazil, Josef Moser, Secretary-General of the International Organization of Supreme Audits Institutions and President of the Austrian Court of Audit, Jonathan Paris, Senior Adviser at MBI International and Partners, and Adil Khan, former head of the Socioeconomic Governance and Management Branch in DPADM.

For more information:

<http://www.unpan.org/Events/Conferences/tabid/94/mctl/EventDetails/ModuleID/1532/ItemID/982/Default.aspx>

ICT for economic, social – and business – development

GAID and AIT Global are holding their 20th conference in New York starting 10 July on technology's hidden, innovative potential

The Global Alliance for ICT and Development, together with AIT Global, will hold a conference on sustainable, economic and social development on 10 and 11 July in New York. The event, intended to explore the hidden, innovative potential of ICT will bring technology experts together with senior executives from the private and public sectors, key decision-makers and officials from the United Nations system, academics, and civil society representatives. Some 400 participants are expected.

Attendees will examine the benefits of information and communication technologies for the United Nations, governments, civil society and private sector, and will feature objective tutorials, expert panels, and opportunities for discussions on ICT for development issues, including ICT for sustainable development, ICT management techniques, information security, and Green ICT.

Speakers include Jerry MacArthur Hultin, President of Polytechnic University and former Under-Secretary of the United States Navy, Greg Garcia, Assistant Secretary of Cybersecurity and Communications from the United States Department of Homeland Security, and Andrew McKeon, Assistant District Manager of Al Gore's Climate Project, among many others.

For more information: <http://www.un-gaid.org/en/node/2412>

Pan-American conference of mayors and local authorities

The fourteenth Inter-American Conference of Mayors and Local Authorities on building productive, efficient, and equitable municipalities was held in Miami from 16-19 June with the participation of DESA. The conference was organized by Miami-Dade County and Florida International University. About 600 mayors and other representatives of local

authorities were in attendance from across Latin America.

In a keynote address to the plenary, Jonas Rabinovitch, Senior Adviser in DESA's Division for Public Administration and Development Management, noted: "Cities are much more than the mere economic externality of a problem. In fact, there is a close relationship between urbanization and economic success." According to Rabinovitch, when half of humankind becomes urban, the only way to make cities deliberately work for people is by integrating urbanization with appropriate civic engagement, people-centered policies and modernization of governance and public administration processes.

Technical cooperation

Improvement of statistical systems in South Asia

A DESA workshop for heads of statistical offices will be held in Colombo on 21 July with a view to improving development measures

Recognizing the importance of high quality data to social and economic policy-making, DESA's Statistics Division has recently launched a project in South Asia to improve official statistics. The initiative kicks off with a workshop on the organization of national statistical systems and user-producer relations, to be held in Colombo from 21 to 24 July.

Leading statisticians from Afghanistan, Bhutan, Bangladesh, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka – the countries that are expected to benefit most directly from DESA expertise – will explore the main challenges facing national statistical offices while working with the event organizers to shape eventual solutions. The meeting has been arranged in collaboration with the Sri Lankan Department of Census and Statistics.

The overall objective of the project is to strengthen the capacity of national statistical systems in South Asia to better meet their statistical needs and improve the production of benchmark statistics for national development planning and monitoring. Inter-regional cooperation is a central theme with the establishment of a platform for communication and data exchange a central goal. It is expected that this DESA initiative will expand access to freely accessible websites while providing policy-makers and the public-at-large with increasingly reliable measures of development.

For more information:

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

Dominican Republic to prepare water accounts

The DESA Statistics Division, with the support of the Government of the Dominican Republic, the National Water Commission of Mexico, and ECLAC will conduct a workshop on water accounting in Santo

Domingo from 14 to 18. The workshop will bring together experts from the Department of Environment, Central Bank, National Statistics Office and other stakeholders in order to prepare water accounts for the Dominican Republic.

Participants will focus on the implementation on the standard tables from the system for environmental-economic accounting for water, the relevant international statistical standard. Particular attention will be paid to the physical supply and use tables, hybrid account and asset account of the SEEAW. The SEEAW is a conceptual framework for the organization of physical and economic information related to water using concepts, definitions and classifications consistent to those of the System of National Accounts.

For more information:

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

Publications and websites

Technical report



World Economic and Social Situation 2008: Overcoming Economic Insecurity

Economic insecurity arises from the exposure of individuals, communities and countries to adverse events, and from their inability to cope with and recover from the downside losses. The attention brought to the presence of heightened economic risks and compounded threats has often been met with the response that the forces behind them are autonomous and irresistible, and beyond our collective control. This flagship report from DESA argues that a strong social contract is needed to provide predictability and stability for individuals, households and communities and, at the national level, that space is needed for conducting effective macroeconomic and social policy.

For more information and to download:
<http://www.un.org/esa/policy/wess/>

Statistical compilations



National Accounts Statistics 2006: Main Aggregates and Detailed Tables

The forty-eighth issue of National Accounts Statistics: Main Aggregates and Detailed Tables shows detailed national accounts estimates for most of the world's countries and areas for the reporting years 1995 to 2006. The national data for each country and area are presented in separate chapters using uniform table headings and classifications recommended in the United Nations System of National Accounts. A summary of the conceptual framework of the SNA and definitions of important terms are also included in this publication. Other statistical information covered includes gross domestic product, national income, savings, private and government consumption, and transactions of institutional sectors.

For more information:

<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/nationalaccount/nasp.asp>



Monthly Bulletin of Statistics and MBS Online

MBS provides 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. LXII, no. 3, March 2008

In this issue: Retail price indices relating to living expenditures of United Nations officials; fuel imports, developed economies; registration of new motor vehicles; external trade conversion factors; manufactured goods exports ; selected series of world statistics. Publication symbol ST/ESA/STAT/SER.Q/423.

Vol. LXII, no. 4, April 2008

In this issue: Civil aviation traffic; total exports and imports by countries or areas. Publication symbol ST/ESA/STAT/SER.Q/424.

For more information: <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/mbs>

Directory



iGuide: ICTD Resources in Silicon Valley and the San Francisco Bay Area

Published by the Global Alliance for ICT and Development, the iGUIDE is the first-ever comprehensive resource directory of local information and communication technologies and development initiatives. Its easy-to-use listings of vital information about ICT for development organizations and their founders will serve as a valuable resource for practitioners, not only in Silicon Valley and the San Francisco Bay area, but

also internationally. The iGUIDE provides a blueprint for replication in other areas of the world where ICT is of growing importance in meeting the challenges of the Millennium Development Goals.

To order: <https://unp.un.org/details.aspx?pid=18046>

Websites

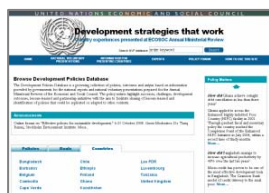


UN-NGO-IRENE – Best Practices Network

The DESA Office for Economic and Social Council Support and Coordination has recently launched a best practices site for the informal regional network of UN affiliated NGOs (Irene). The website allows organizations in consultative status with the Council to share success stories and take an active part in reviewing and rating projects. Photo galleries and map-based presentation of project locations are featured.

To browse:

<http://www.un.org/esa/coordination/ngo/irene>



ECOSOC Development Policies Database

The Economic and Social Council development policies database is a growing collection of policies, outcomes and analysis based on information provided by governments for the national reports and national voluntary presentations prepared for the annual ministerial reviews of the Council. The policy entries highlight successes, challenges, development outcomes, lessons-learned and partnership initiatives with the aim to facilitate sharing of lessons-learned and identification of policies that could be replicated or adapted to other contexts.

To browse:

<http://www.un.org/ecosoc/newfunc/amr/nationalpolicies/>

Comings and goings

Comings



Mr. Oscar de Rojas, Director of the DESA Financing for Development Office, has been appointed as the Executive Secretary of the Follow-Up International Conference to Review the Implementation of the

Monterrey Consensus, which will be held in Doha from 29 November to 2 December. Mr. de Rojas joined DESA in 1999 as head of the financing for development programme bringing 27 years' of Venezuelan foreign service expertise with him. Among his main achievements is the organization of the first International Conference on Financing for Development held in Monterrey in 2002.

Mr. de Rojas is an economist by training and has considerable experience in international economic and financial issues, including as Chairman of the General Assembly Second Committee during its 52nd session in 1997-1998. He had held senior-level posts in his country's diplomatic missions in New York, Geneva and Paris up to the level of ambassador, as well as in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Caracas.

The following staff member was promoted in June:

Ms. Menbere Desselegne, Administrative Assistant, Technical Cooperation Management Service

Goings

The following staff members retired in June:

Mrs. Leena Chary, Secretary, Development Policy and Analysis Division

Ms. Anne Rogers, Senior Economic Affairs Officer, Division for Sustainable Development

Calendar

July

Economic and Social Council

Substantive session for 2008, New York 30 June-25 July

Conference on Data Quality for International Organizations
Rome, 7-8 July

Online Discussion on Women and Men: Equal Sharing of Responsibilities
7 July-1 August

Workshop on National Water Accounting
Santo Domingo, 14-18 July

Expert Group Meeting on Industrial Statistics
New York, 15-17 July

Workshop on the Organization of National Statistical Systems and User-Producer Relations
Colombo, 21-24 July

Expert Group Meeting on Economic and Social Councils
Vienna, 24-25 July

August

International Day of the World's Indigenous People
9 August

International Youth Day
12 August

Workshop on Manufacturing Statistics
Santiago, 19-22 August

Observances

International Day of Cooperatives

5 July

The International Day of Cooperatives is celebrated on the first Saturday of July to increase awareness of cooperatives, highlight the complementary nature of the objectives of the United Nations and the international co-operative movement, and underscore the contribution of the movement to the resolution of global issues. The International Day helps strengthen and extend partnerships between the international cooperative movement and other actors, including governments, at local, national and international levels. This year's theme is confronting climate change through cooperative enterprise.

For more information:

<http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/social/intldays/IntlCoops/>

World Population Day

11 July

In 1968, world leaders proclaimed that individuals have a basic human right to determine freely and responsibly the number and timing of their children. Forty years later, modern contraception remains out of reach for hundreds of millions of women, men and young people. This year's World Population Day reaffirms the right of people to plan their families. It encourages activities, events and information that will help make this right real – especially for those who often have the hardest time getting the information and services they need to plan their families, such as marginalized populations and young people.

For more information: <http://www.unfpa.org/wpd/>

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.