



Video

## Climate change: Grave consequences for indigenous peoples

*Elissavet Stamatopoulou, Chief of the Secretariat of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, briefed NGOs on 20 March on climate change, biocultural diversity and livelihoods, the theme of the Forum's upcoming session. "Although indigenous peoples have hardly contributed to climate change," noted Stamatopoulou, "they are bearing some of its gravest consequences."*

<http://webcast.un.org/ramgen/ondemand/specialevents/2008/hq080320am.rm> (110 minutes)

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## Feature articles

### The greening of statistics

*Effective national strategies for dealing with climate change are predicated on integration of economic, social, and environmental data*

The intricate web of geophysical, economic, and social effects of climate change poses a special challenge for public policy-makers. While analysis of public and private activity tends to be sectoral in nature, these sectors interact in complex ways that are difficult to understand and even more difficult to measure. For policy-makers hoping to make sense of the total system, and devise appropriate policy responses, getting the data right is an essential first step.

Yet, worldwide, official statistics related to climate change are often approached in an ad hoc matter. While some national statistical offices are heavily

engaged and provide all official estimates required in the monitoring efforts, others undertake only analytical efforts, principally to investigate the effects of mitigation protocols on the national economy or the impact of climate change in planning scenarios. Many others have no activities at all related to this topic.

For leading statisticians such as Paul Cheung, Director of the DESA Statistics Division, such an ad hoc approach is no longer viable. "The global statistical community is very eager to develop a coherent, integrated data gathering framework to help policy-makers respond to climate change," says Cheung, citing the role of carbon markets in the green economy as a case in point. For the exchange of carbon credits to work efficiently, accurate statistics on the physical phenomena are needed along with data on the economic and social impacts of emissions pricing.

### Moving forward

For three days in April, from the 14th to the 16th, directors of national statistical offices and environmental statisticians will meet in Oslo to explore the role of official statistics in the measurement of the impacts of climate change, and devise a joint plan of action. To signal that green statistics are a cross-cutting challenge for all countries – and not just a question of environmental monitoring – the Oslo conference will be opened by the Norwegian Prime Minister, Jens Stoltenberg, an economist and former head of Norway's finance, trade and energy, and environment ministries.

“The Oslo conference is the first of its kind,” notes Cheung, adding that it is expected to attract over 100 high-level statistical experts from around the world. These leaders in numerical analysis will look at greenhouse gas emission calculations, carbon markets, assessment of adaptation and mitigation strategies, and climate change modelling in support of the next report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.



The first challenge to be addressed is whether the existing sectoral statistics, dealing with such areas as energy, transport, water, air quality, land use, forestry are indeed adequate. A related challenge is defining the role of national statistical offices in the estimation of greenhouse gas emissions and ensuring that the statistics that they collect can be made readily available to the policy-shapers and policy-makers who formulate and implement national strategies for adaptation to and mitigation of climate change.

Statistics underlying the estimation of greenhouse gas emissions encompass and feed primarily on energy statistics, but also on a wide spectrum of statistics on basic activities such as production of industrial commodities, agriculture, forestry, transport, international trade, land use, waste water, wastes, and others. Detailed statistics on physical flows in these activities are needed for development of greenhouse

gas emission inventories. Emissions and removals of greenhouse gases are calculated or estimated on the basis of activity data with the help of emission factors.

### Economic, social and environmental impact assessment

The development of the methods of calculation and estimation and the establishment of the emission factors is usually outside the scope of official statistics. However, as these calculations are based on a large amount of official statistics, and the reliability of the calculations depend on data quality, the national statistical offices need to be involved in the process for them to grasp more fully the special needs for statistics as well as in order to allow the other actors such as environment and energy ministries and research institutes to appreciate more thoroughly the role of statistical standards, classifications and the advantage of their use.

Measurement of the impact of climate change is to a large extent based on sources outside the statistical system. They include meteorological and hydrological information, physical environmental data and data from scientific research. Impact analysis is usually outside official statistics and belongs to the field of modelling. While the driving forces and pressures related to climate change are local, their impact can be felt at different levels, from global through regional and national to local, depending on the type of the impact.

In order to assess the impacts of climate change and the consequent adaptation and mitigation measures, however, this information has to be linked with existing statistics on the population, on human and economic activities and on the environment such as exposure, vulnerability or adaptive capacity. Impacts on the economy, the society and the natural environment have to be assessed. Statistical offices have a role in the integration of the different data sets with official statistics with the objective of describing the vulnerability or adaptive capacity of a country to the impact of climate change.

An important issue for policy makers as well as all public and private decision-makers involved with reacting to climate change is the measurement and assessment of the costs and benefits of policies, measures and instruments for adaptation and mitigation, and the weighing of tradeoffs between alternative courses of action. Monitoring the effectiveness and impacts of these courses of action

is also essential. How official statistics can facilitate assessment of policy alternatives and decision-making as well as impact evaluation of adaptation and mitigation strategies undertaken is an area of concern.

### Monitoring the carbon market

Recent years have seen a tremendous growth in the market for the sale and purchase of carbon permits and various other derivative securities related to carbon caps, the right to emit carbon and the ability to offset carbon emissions by investing in green projects elsewhere, particularly in the developing world. National statistics related to the diverse aspects of carbon have yet to catch up with the measurement needs of this growing market. National statistical offices need to examine the implications of carbon trading for the economy and economic growth with a view to better capturing in official statistics, such variables as the carbon intensity of production.

Economists have long used input-output tables to examine the structure and composition of production, namely what inputs go into a unit of output produced and how a unit of production affects the economy as a whole through backward and forward linkages with other industries and sectors. Input-output tables can be useful in this regard, specifically for the analysis of the many facets of the carbon economy and the measurement of the total carbon impact of specific economic activities.

### Climate change scenario development

By its nature, climate change is a planetary phenomenon, while the gathering of data and statistics is, in the first instance, a national task. Therefore, ensuring that the official statistics related to climate change that are aggregated from national sources are consistent and reliable is a major challenge. The fifth assessment report of the IPCC will need to rely on increasingly more sophisticated scenario building and modelling, drawing, for its inputs, on statistics provided by national statistical offices and other sources on such fields as population, economic growth and income, energy structure and other driving forces in climate change.

There is an urgent need for the integration of statistics to describe and monitor all aspects of climate change, which are manifold and come from multiple sources. Most importantly, frameworks must be developed that integrate statistics related to climate change and link official statistics with other

information. A multi-year initiative of the Statistics Division, with other partners such as the European Commission, IMF and OECD, on a system of national environmental and economic accounts can prove useful for measuring those aspects of climate change related to the economy and the environment.

One of the most important challenges still outstanding is how to integrate social aspects of climate change, such as the displacement of population, changes in income distribution, and health effects, not all of which are covered by current methodologies.

*For more information:*

[http://unstats.un.org/unsd/climate\\_change/](http://unstats.un.org/unsd/climate_change/)



## Shifting populations

*In coming years, governments the world over will need to revisit their development strategies as city dwellers overtake rural inhabitants*

Profound changes in the distribution of world population, and in particular increasing urbanization, offer a number of opportunities that countries should seize while avoiding the negative consequences of urban growth, notes the Secretary-General in a recent report on population and development. According to a recent DESA report, half of the world's population now lives in cities. In 2008, the number of urban dwellers, at 3.4 billion, will equal the number of rural dwellers for the first time in history.

As the world becomes increasingly urban, decisions taken today in cities across the world will shape the economic, social and environmental future of humankind, notes the report. Properly managed, urbanization can help in combating poverty, inequality and environmental degradation, but action

to capitalize on the opportunities it presents and to address the challenges it raises must be prompt and sustained.

Urbanization is a process that is intrinsically related to development, and it must be managed in ways that maximize its potential benefits and prevent its negative consequences. For example, internal migration from rural to urban places permits a reallocation of the labour force to more productive activities and opens new opportunities for migrants. At the same time, notes the report, the improvement of service delivery to the urban poor and to the inhabitants of small cities and rural areas needs to be given priority.

Services that are most conducive to improving the well-being of the populations involved include those related to health delivery, schooling, and access to sanitation and safe drinking water. In deciding the location of public health facilities, authorities should consider their accessibility to poor urban dwellers. The location of such facilities in small towns linked to surrounding rural areas can also improve the accessibility of rural dwellers to health services. This could be important for slowing population growth by giving poor urban dwellers and rural inhabitants better access to family planning. Without sustained reductions in fertility in both urban and rural areas, the urban population in developing countries will grow even faster.

Since HIV prevalence is generally higher in urban than in rural areas, priority should also be given to the provision of adequate information on the prevention of HIV infection and treatment services to urban dwellers and to temporary rural-urban migrants. And, in addressing the needs of the older population, Governments need to take into account that in many areas a higher proportion of the older population lives in rural than in urban areas.

#### Spatial distribution linked to economic opportunity

From now on, virtually the full increase in the urban population is expected to occur in developing countries. Natural increase, that is, the excess of births over deaths, continues to make sizeable contributions to urban population growth, often accounting for 60 percent or more of the growth in developing countries.

Urbanization is pervasive and unavoidable. Yet major disparities remain in the level of urbanization attained by different countries and regions. The

transformative power of urbanization was felt earlier in today's more developed regions, which have reached high levels of urbanization, surpassing 80 percent in Australia, New Zealand and North America. Europe is the least urbanized major area in the developed world, with 72 percent of its population living in urban areas.

Among the less developed regions, Latin America and the Caribbean has an exceptionally high level of urbanization at 78 percent, higher than that of Europe. Africa and Asia, in contrast, remain mostly rural, with 38 percent and 41 percent, respectively, of their populations living in urban areas. Yet half of the urban population in the world lived in Asia in 2007. Europe had the second highest share at 16 percent.

Today's 3.4 billion urban dwellers are distributed unevenly among urban settlements of different size. In discussing urbanization, the focus is often on large cities, cities with more inhabitants than many countries in the world. Naturally, those cities or urban agglomerations tend to be concentrated in populous countries. In 2007, 19 urban agglomerations qualified as megacities, that is, they have at least 10 million inhabitants, the most populous of which, Tokyo, has nearly 36 million inhabitants.

Overall, the spatial distribution of the population is linked to the territorial distribution of economic and social opportunities. Urbanization is shaped by the clustering of productive activity, where firms benefit from proximity to other firms, whether in the same industry or in complementary sectors. Beneficial urbanization depends on the availability and quality of public services, including access to electricity, water, education and health services, transportation and communication.

#### National population programmes

There continues to be a need for poverty reduction strategies to focus on the rural poor in developing countries. Ensuring secure land tenure, improving access to water resources, encouraging investment to enhance agricultural productivity, developing rural infrastructure and facilitating access to credit are measures to consider for the improvement of rural livelihoods. In order to accommodate future urban growth, local authorities need to plan ahead, especially by providing the urban poor with serviced land to build and improve their own housing. In doing so, measures to secure property rights are indispensable.

To increase the effectiveness of policies aimed at improving the lives of urban dwellers, particularly the poor or those living in slums, local authorities should encourage and support the active involvement of civil society organizations representing the relevant groups. Decisions taken today in cities across the world will shape the economic, social and environmental future of humankind. Properly managed, urbanization can help in combating poverty, inequality and environmental degradation, but action to capitalize on the opportunities it presents and to address the challenges it raises must be prompt and sustained.

The scale of ongoing urban growth is unprecedented in history, and has significant economic, social, demographic and environmental implications. The challenge is to move away from the negative stereotypes and the negative policies of the past and promote measures that take into account rapid urban growth and the needs of the urban poor.

A good strategy for policy and programmatic support to ensure that urbanization and internal migration are taken into account in national development frameworks and poverty reduction strategies should encompass policy dialogue, capacity-building, data collection, research and advocacy. Policy dialogue among and within Governments, the United Nations system, NGOs, civil society and the private sector and advocacy are essential to raise awareness among all stakeholders of the importance of formulating proactive policies to plan for urban growth.

Strengthening the national capacity of developing countries to address the challenges of rapid urban growth is essential. UNFPA is assisting in this effort by assisting countries throughout the world in responding to the challenges of rapid urbanization, especially in the areas of policy dialogue, capacity-building, data collection, research and advocacy.

There is an urgent need for reliable and timely data disaggregated by age, sex, socio-economic status and health status for evidence-based policy formulation and programme planning, monitoring and evaluation. There is also a need to encourage and advance culture- and gender-sensitive research to identify emerging issues, provide evidence for effective policies and adopt recommendations. The dissemination of data and research findings and the exchange of experiences, lessons learned and good practices are important components of institutional capacity-building in this area.

Urbanization should be an integral part of national and global efforts to reduce poverty. Good governance and sound urban policies can serve to reduce poverty and gender inequality and to promote sustainable development. Future plans must have an approach that integrates cities and rural areas. Both urban and rural development are necessary, and addressing them in an integrated way will provide the best chance of success.

### Financial flows on the rise

A related report of the Secretary-General on the flow of financial resources for assisting in the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development provides expected levels of donor and domestic expenditures for population activities in developing countries for 2006, and estimates for expenditures in 2007 and projections for 2008.

The report, prepared by UNFPA, says that donor assistance has been increasing steadily over the past few years, reaching \$7.4 billion in 2005. If this trend continues, donor assistance may have reached \$8.1 billion in 2006, \$9.8 billion in 2007 and to \$10.3 billion in 2008. A rough estimate of resources mobilized by developing countries as a group yielded a figure of \$23 billion for 2006. This number is expected to increase to \$25 billion in 2007 and \$27 billion in 2008.

Although provisional figures show that both donors and developing countries are on target and indeed may have surpassed the 2005 goal of \$18.5 billion, this conclusion is misleading, because the resources mobilized do not adequately address current needs, which have escalated considerably since the 1994 Population Conference and now include HIV/AIDS treatment.

Indeed, for many developing countries, the lack of adequate funding remains the chief constraint to the full implementation of the programme of action. The recent increase in the flow of financial resources has been primarily a result of the increase in funding for HIV/AIDS activities. But these increases still do not meet current demands for resources to combat HIV/AIDS or treat those infected, which is higher than anticipated when the targets were set. Funding for family planning, which has been decreasing steadily, did not reach the suggested target of \$11.5 billion in 2005, and is not meeting current needs.

Ensuring sustainable and equitable development in an increasingly urban world will require shifts in policy as well as major investments to ensure that urbanization remains a positive force. For this to occur, population issues must figure prominently as a cross-cutting theme in national development programmes and poverty reduction strategies. The private sector must also play a role in mobilizing resources for population and development in all areas of the Action Programme – family planning, reproductive health, sexually transmitted diseases, HIV/AIDS and basic research and analysis.

The Commission on Population and Development will hold its forty-first session in New York from 7-11 April to discuss population distribution, urbanization, and internal migration, among other issues.

*For more information:*

<http://www.esa/population/cpd/cpd2008/comm2008.htm>

## Global dialogue on development

### Coherence, cooperation, coordination on the Monterrey Consensus

*A special high-level meeting of the ECOSOC with the Bretton Woods institutions, WTO and UNCTAD will unfold in New York on 14 April*

The Economic and Social Council will hold its annual special high-level meeting with the Bretton Woods institutions, the World Trade Organization and UNCTAD in New York on 14 April, the day following the spring meetings, in Washington, of the International Monetary and Financial Committee and the Development Committee. The theme of the consultation is coherence, coordination and cooperation in the context of the implementation of the Monterrey Consensus, a subject that has particular relevance to the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development scheduled for Doha in November.

As in previous years, participants will be encouraged to avoid formal statements, instead truly engaging with one another in a series of multi-stakeholder roundtable discussions on leading issues. Topics to be explored include: (1) New initiatives on financing for development; (2) Supporting development efforts and enhancing the role of middle-income countries, including in the area of trade; (3) Supporting development efforts of the least developed countries, including through trade capacity-building; (4) Building and sustaining solid financial markets: challenges for international cooperation, and; (5) Financing of climate change mitigation and adaptation.

All member and observer states are encouraged to attend, as well as accredited intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations. The meeting will



conclude with a statement by the President of the Council highlighting the main points of discussion and specific proposals or ideas leading to action-oriented results. A comprehensive summary will be issued subsequently as an official document of the Council and the General Assembly.

*For more information:*

<http://www.un.org/esa/ffd/ecosoc/springmeetings/2008/>

### Getting back on track to achieve the MDGs

*General Assembly President convenes debate on achievements, challenges from 1-2 April in New York*

The General Assembly President will convene a thematic debate from 1 to 2 April on the subject of achievements, challenges, and getting back on track to achieve the MDGs by 2015. The debate will focus on the poverty, education and health MDGs, where progress is most urgently required and where experience suggests that positive results have a catalytic effect on the other goals. The discussions over the two days will focus on the most intractable problems, identify lessons learnt and possible additional measures to ensure the attainment of the goals.

The midpoint to achieve the Millennium Development Goals by 2015 offers an opportunity for the international community to redouble efforts achieve its objectives. The situation is critical and calls for urgent action. As the global secretariat for economic and social affairs, DESA plays an important role in tracking and analyzing the UN system response.

The meeting will open with a statement by the President of the General Assembly, the Secretary-General and two Heads of State and Government, following which there will be a panel discussion on poverty and hunger. Two additional panels, on education and on health, will be held in parallel later the first day.

*For more information:*

<http://www.un.org/ga/president/62/ThematicDebates/mdgthematicdebate.shtml>

## Around the world, people on the move

*Spatial distribution remains a top issue for the Commission on Population and Development, which meets in New York in April*

The Commission on Population and Development is set to hold its forty-first session in New York from 7 to 11 April. At the top of the agenda is the Commission's special theme of population distribution, urbanization, internal migration and development – and the many challenges engendered by a population on the move.

All the evidence indicates that people benefit from living in urban areas. Average urban incomes are generally higher than those in rural areas. Urban dwellers also have better access to a variety of services, including education, health, transportation, communications, water supply, sanitation and waste management. Because of economies of scale, it is more efficient and cheaper to provide such services to large and geographically concentrated populations than to populations scattered over large rural areas. Furthermore, access to services tends to be better in larger urban agglomerations than in small cities or towns.

Despite its many positive facets, urbanization is not without its ills. Large cities, in particular, are prone to suffer from environmental contamination stemming from traffic congestion, the concentration of industry and inadequate waste disposal systems. Cities also tend to make demands on land, water and natural resources that are disproportionately great in relation to their land area or their population, whose high average income results in high rates of consumption. Although the concentration of population and economic activity in cities is at the root of these problems, persistent disparities among city dwellers mean that poor people bear the brunt of the negative aspects of urbanization.

Faced with the numerous opportunities and challenges associated with urbanization, many Governments have consistently considered their population's spatial distribution a concern. As of 2007, 85 percent of Governments expressed concern about their pattern of population distribution, a percentage that has changed little since the 1970s. Acting on that concern, many Governments have adopted measures to reduce or reverse rural to urban migration. Most of those measures have had little success, largely because individuals have powerful

incentives to move to areas where the chances of improving their standard of living are high.

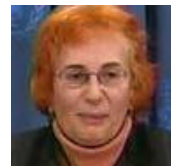
Evidence suggests that urbanization has done more to reduce rural poverty than to reduce urban poverty. Therefore, strategies to improve the living standards of all must combine policies to promote rural development with those to improve the lot of poor urban dwellers by improving service provision, raising their educational levels, improving transportation, improving access to health services and family planning, strengthening the regulation of land use and facilitating the acquisition of land titles.

By gravitating to towns and cities, rural migrants, including the poor, gain access to opportunities unavailable in their communities of origin and are more likely to contribute to economic growth. A faster pace of urbanization, especially if generated by the economic dynamism of urban settlements and supported by the right policies, is therefore likely to reinforce the overall reduction of poverty and should not be hindered.

*Further insights into global population trends can be found in the feature article on shifting populations in this month's issue of DESA News.*

*For more information:*

<http://www.un.org/esa/population/cpd/cpd2008/com2008.htm>



*Hania Zlotnik, Director of the DESA Population Division, briefs the press on 26 February on the results of the 2007 Revision of World Urbanization Prospects*

<http://webcast.un.org/ramgen/onde/mand/pressconference/2008/pc080226am.rm?start=06:00&end=36:41> (30 minutes)

## Elections, appointments

At its resumed organizational for 2008, to be held on 29 and 30 April in New York, the Economic and Social Council will take action on appointments to its subsidiary intergovernmental and expert bodies including the functional commissions, Executive Boards of UNDP/UNFPA and UNICEF, Governing Council of UN-Habitat, Executive Board of the World Food Programme, and others.

*For more information:*

<http://www.un.org/ecosoc/about/subsidiary.shtml>



## Trends and analysis

### State capacity and good governance

*World experts on public administration convene in New York from 14-18 April with an eye on conflict and disaster*

The Committee of Experts on Public Administration is set to meet in New York on 14 April to discuss capacity development in public administration and governance, with a particular focus on post-conflict countries and disaster management situations. In addition to this main theme, the Committee will work on basic United Nations terminology in public administration and governance, and the public administration perspective on sustainable development.

Capacity deficiencies in the public sector – such as overly-centralized policy development processes, inefficient public financial management systems, and bottlenecks in public service delivery – have long been major obstacles to sustainable development and effective governance. This is especially true for countries in crisis and post-conflict situations, where the underlying governance parameters and challenges are very different from those with relatively stable institutions and established policy-making processes.

Capacity development is a process of establishing effective means for setting goals, making decisions and taking action. In governance and public administration, this multifaceted process is not only about designing and developing new systems and institutions. It is also about strategic organization, inclusive planning, and efficient and effective implementation. In improving the performance of public institutions, networking, community empowerment and inter-organizational dialogues can be as powerful as sound policies, technical resources and standard operation procedures.

What are some of the new and innovative approaches of capacity development in public institutions in the developing world and the least developed countries? How can we make capacity development processes better contextualized and more locally owned? These are some of the questions that the Committee will address at its upcoming session.

In a rapidly changing and globalizing world, capacity development must be an integral part of building

more legitimate governance processes and more effective public administrations. In light of this and given that we are half way towards reaching the deadline of 2015 for achieving the Millennium Development Goals, the Committee has decided to deepen its work on capacity building towards sustainable development.

The Committee of Experts on Public Administration provides advice to the Economic and Social Council, drawing on highly experienced practitioners and scholars in public administration and governance from around the world. The Committee is serviced by the DESA Division for Public Administration and Development Management.

For more information: <http://www.unpan.org/cepa-7.asp>

### Indigenous livelihoods, biocultural diversity at risk

*Experts on indigenous issues are gathering in New York on 21 April to discuss climate change and other threats to human creativity and knowledge*

The Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues will convene for its seventh session in New York from 21 April to 2 May on the theme of climate change, biocultural diversity and livelihoods: the stewardship role of indigenous peoples and new challenges. Climate change is considered to be a critical global challenge and recent events have demonstrated the world's growing vulnerability to its effects. For the world's indigenous people, says the Forum secretariat, climate change is already a reality and poses threats and dangers to the survival of their communities.

A loss of human traditions and knowledge could be felt far beyond the world's estimated 300 to 370 million indigenous people. According to UNESCO, the world's languages contain and express the total "pool of ideas" nurtured over time through heritage, local traditions and customs which "is as necessary as the diversity of species and ecosystems for the survival of humanity and of life on our planet."

The Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues is an advisory body to the Economic and Social Council with a mandate to discuss indigenous issues related to economic and social development, culture, the environment, education, health and human rights, all of which will be covered at the April meeting in

addition to dialogue on the special climate change theme. The Forum will also devote time to discussions of the Pacific, indigenous languages, indigenous children and youth, the Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People, urban indigenous people and migration, and customary laws pertaining to indigenous traditional knowledge.

Finally, a number of special events are expected to be held in conjunction with the expert session. Of note, on 23 April, the H.E. Ambassador Robert Hill of Australia will lead a panel discussion on managing indigenous local governments, and the need to balance traditions with emerging challenges. Participatory approaches based on existing indigenous municipal experiences in various countries, local-local information exchange, and capacity-building through mutual cooperation will be considered. The panel has been organized jointly by the DESA Division for Public Administration and Development Management and the Forum secretariat in the Division for Social Policy and Development.

*For more information:*

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

## **Economic diversification in Europe and CIS**

*Integration needs to be accompanied by diversification for sustainable growth in an interlinked world*

A prominent group of experts on economic diversification and integration will meet with UN delegates in Geneva from 2-4 April to consider ways in which economic diversification could enhance gains from integration of economies in transition into the world economy. The meeting, organized jointly by DESA's Development Policy and Analysis Division and ECE, is part of a larger regional effort to foster economic cooperation and will feed into a report currently being prepared for the General Assembly.

The experts will focus on trade flows and their linkages to diversification, foreign direct investment inflows, migration and remittances, institutions, including European Union enlargement and the European Neighbourhood Policy. Strategies for economic diversification in resource-rich countries, diversification through knowledge-based development and special issues related to the low-

income countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States will also be on the table.

The process of integration of the countries with economies in transition in the world economy has been accompanied by growing international linkages through trade, foreign direct investment and labour flows and has contributed to higher economic efficiency, better allocation of resources and higher living standards in these countries. However, their economic performance remains uneven and in some cases dependent on a few low value-added sectors and commodities.

This narrow growth base is a source of vulnerability that undermines future economic prospects. While national circumstances differ, a common challenge is the need to diversify economic activity in order to provide the basis for high and sustainable economic growth. Another common challenge is the establishment of a policy, financial and regulatory environment conducive to knowledge-based development and higher competitiveness. Policy actions are thus required that contribute to increasing the competitiveness of non-traditional, high value-added sectors, thus supporting economic diversification and growth.

The strengthening of linkages with the world economy in a way that supports the development of a wider range of economic activities is a fundamental component of diversification strategies and requires the attraction of the necessary investments and technologies as well as the improvement of national innovation capabilities.

*For more information:*

<http://www.unecce.org/ceci/Welcome.html>

## **Measuring the effects of climate change**

*International conference in Oslo from 14-16 April to focus on harmonization of methods for measuring the effects of climate change on development*

With climate change high on the political agenda at all levels, the global statistical community is pondering how to move from ad hoc approaches to climate adaptation and mitigation data to a coherent international statistical framework. To advance on this front, experts will begin preparing a plan of action in Oslo from 14 to 16 April that can be submitted to the Statistical Commission for review at

its next session, in 2009. The conference is being organized by the DESA Statistics Division, along with the Statistical Office of the European Communities, the World Bank, and Statistics Norway.

*An in-depth discussion of the data behind policy-making is also available in the feature article on the greening of statistics in this month's issue of DESA News.*

*For more information:*

[http://unstats.un.org/unsd/climate\\_change/](http://unstats.un.org/unsd/climate_change/)

## Sustainable urbanization in the information age

Sometime this year, the number of people living in urban areas worldwide will surpass the number living in rural districts with 60 million residents added to the population of developing countries each year. To address some of the big challenges posed by rapid urbanization, the Global Alliance for ICT and Development will hold a two-day conference in New York from 23 to 24 April on sustainable urbanization in the information age.

The first day will be devoted to a wide-ranging discussion on such diverse topics as smart growth and ICT models for urban planning, to climate change and protection of the natural environment. The second day will be devoted to site visits to state-of-the-art examples of environmentally-friendly architecture in New York City.

UN delegates, local authorities, policy-makers, real estate developers, architects, engineers, planners, designers, civil society organizations, the media, ICT experts, and others from the private sector are expected to attend. The public will be able to listen in and contribute ideas through online connections with forum discussions broadcast live on the internet and covered in interactive chat rooms.

Organizing partners include the Center for Architecture, a local nonprofit organization that promotes sustainable urban design, UN-Habitat, the American Institute of Architects, and the City of New York.

*For more information:* <http://www.un-gaid.org/en/node/1346>

## Spotlight on census mapping

Statistical experts meeting in New York from 7 to 10 April will draw on national experiences in geospatial technology and census mapping as international guidelines for representation of geographic information are refined. The gathering is being organized by the DESA Statistics Division specifically to review a draft UN handbook on geographic databases and census mapping that builds on the work of the United States Census Bureau and other agencies going back several decades.

Major technological advances including the widespread availability of personal computers, global positioning systems and low-cost aerial and satellite imagery, have put new tools in the hands of national statistical organizations to collect better – more accurate, timely, and unbiased – information about their populations. The emergence of new technologies is indeed the driving force behind a substantive revision of the handbook, acknowledging the new geospatial applications but also recognizing that adopting such new methods will challenge the leadership of national statistical offices and evince changes in their organizations.

The draft handbook argues that some of the biggest challenges for NSOs are not merely technical but also organizational, institutional and managerial. Most member countries have begun to make use of geographic information science and technology appropriate to the scale and scope of data collection needs. Many countries are discovering that they can leverage the strengths of other government agencies through what it is referred to as national spatial data infrastructures. Institutional issues such as funding, staffing, and project management basics, while not themselves technical, will have a bearing on the success of geospatial census projects.

*For more information:*

[http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/meetings/egm/CensusMapping\\_Handbook\\_EGM08/](http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/meetings/egm/CensusMapping_Handbook_EGM08/)

## **Civil society and sustainable development**

Non-governmental organizations are being invited to attend a half-day forum in New York on 4 April to discuss the role of civil society in promoting sustainable development and shaping a new international aid architecture. Ideas arising out of this event will be used to inform deliberations of the Economic and Social Council in July, and specifically its Annual Ministerial Review on the theme of implementing the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to sustainable development.

The forum is being organized by the DESA Office for Economic and Social Council Support and Coordination in collaboration with the UN Non-Governmental Liaison Service, World Federation of UN Associations, and the Conference of NGOs – also known as CONGO. H. E. Ambassador Antonio Pedro Monteiro Lima, Vice-President of the Council, will deliver the opening statement. Hanifa Mezoui, Chief of the DESA NGO Section, will moderate.

*For more information:*

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

## Technical cooperation

### Counting the informal economy in Southern Africa

The DESA Statistics Division will hold a training workshop in Maseru, Lesotho from 14 to 18 April to improve the capacity of the countries of Southern Africa to measure employment in the formal and informal economies. Participants from national statistical offices and ministries of labour will learn in particular about measurement of women's and men's participation in the labour force through household surveys with an emphasis on employment in the informal sector.

The workshop is being organized jointly with the International Labour Organization, Economic Commission for Africa, and Southern African Development Community as part of a project on strengthening statistical capacity-building in support of the internationally agreed development goals.

*For more information:*

<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/sconcerns/econchar/>

### Mediterranean innovation, European know-how

Dubrovnik will be the site of an intergovernmental meeting on public sector reform from 23 to 25 April as part of a DESA initiative to promote innovation in governance and service delivery throughout the Mediterranean region. The Vice Prime Minister of Croatia, a number of ministers of public administration, and other government officials will discuss reform priorities in their countries and learn about methodologies for the transfer of innovations from several of the project's European partners.

The meeting, which is being organized by DESA's Division for Public Administration and Development Management jointly with the Government of Croatia, is expected to result in suggestions for pilot projects to carry priority innovations forward.

By encouraging the sharing of knowledge and best practices, partner countries benefit from experiences and lessons learned in other areas of the region and

develop cooperation models aimed at stimulating North-South as well as South-South collaboration. This way, the southern countries of the Euro-Mediterranean basin gain a better knowledge of the decisional and administrative procedures, as well as legal framework of the European Union.

Ultimately, the goal of the InnovMed project, and the Dubrovnik meeting, is to promote the progressive harmonization of public administration systems in accordance with the so-called Barcelona process of 1995 through which the European Union supports Mediterranean partners in political, economic and social reforms.

*For more information:*

<http://www.unpan.org/innovmed/>

### African human resource officers join forces

A workshop on professionalizing human resource management in the public service in Africa will be held in Kampala from 7 to 11 April under the auspices of the African Association for Public Administration and Management and the Ministry of Public Service of Uganda. The main objective of the training is to build help African human resource managers enhance professionalism through exchange of ideas and best practices.

DESA is sponsoring the attendance of fifteen human resource managers from the region who will lead a consultation on the role of networks in capacity-building. An expert from the DESA Division for Public Administration and Development Management will also deliver a paper on strategies for attracting and retaining civil service talent. The Institute of Public Administration of Canada will play a similar role.

Workshop participants will be asked to endorse a proposal for a Network of African Public Sector Human Resource Managers to serve as the foundation for continuing exchange among the continent's human resource professionals. The prospective network is seen as an important mechanism for knowledge-sharing, and platform for promoting sound human resource management practices throughout Africa.

*For more information on the African Association for Public Administration:* <http://www.aapam.org/>

## Publications and websites

### Technical reports



#### **Public Enterprises: Unresolved Challenges and New Opportunities**

This publication examines the role of public enterprises in today's economy and performance monitoring, in particular within the context of the Millennium

Development Goals. The report focuses on conceptual issues, theories and models associated with public enterprises, as well as on contemporary approaches to management. A possible public enterprise governance index is presented with a discussion of its potential to support ongoing performance monitoring of public enterprises in several developing countries.

To download:

<http://unpan1.un.org/intradoc/groups/public/documents/un/unpan022073.pdf>

### Statistical compilations



#### **World Population Prospects: The 2006 Revision – Comprehensive Tables**

The 2006 revision of World Population Prospects incorporates the results of the 2000 round of national population censuses and of

specialized surveys carried out in countries around the world. The comprehensive review of past worldwide demographic trends and future prospects presented in the 2006 revision provides the population basis for the assessment of the internationally agreed development goals, including the MDGs. This newly released volume includes comprehensive tables of major demographic indicators for all countries. The data is also available online.

For more information:

<http://www.un.org/esa/population/publications/wpp2006/wpp2006.htm>



#### **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. 1, January 2008

In this issue: Civil aviation traffic (passenger-km, cargo net ton-km); total exports and imports by countries or areas (volume, unit value, terms of trade, purchasing power of exports). Publication symbol ST/ESA/STAT/SER.Q/421.

Vol. LXII, no. 2, February 2008

In this issue: Indices of world industrial production by branches of industry and by regions; producer price indices; earnings in manufacturing, by sex; construction of new buildings; total exports and imports by regions. Publication symbol ST/ESA/STAT/SER.Q/422.

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

### Working papers



#### **Integration of Indigenous Peoples' Perspectives in Country Development Processes: Review of Selected CCAs and UNDAFs, No. 3, January 2008**

The Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues has been making recommendations for mainstreaming and integrating indigenous issues in the UN system since its first session. This review of selected common country assessment and development assistance frameworks is part of the efforts to promote the implementation of the Forum's recommendations, with a view to

identifying challenges faced by indigenous peoples at country level and strengthening the UN system through better consideration of indigenous issues in UN analytical and programmatic instruments at country level in particular.

To download:

<http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii/documents/ccau/ndaf3.pdf>



### **MDG Reports and Indigenous Peoples: A Desk Review, No. 3, February 2008**

This desk review aims to analyze recent achievements and challenges of indigenous peoples by examining available data contained in a diverse selection of Millennium Development Goals country reports. Building upon similar analyses previously undertaken by the Secretariat, a total of ten country reports were reviewed this year from a broad range of countries in which indigenous peoples live. In this volume: Guyana, Kenya, Myanmar, Nepal, Russian Federation, South Africa, Suriname, Thailand, Vietnam, and Zimbabwe.

To download:

<http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii/documents/MDG Reports and IPs 2008.pdf>

## **Websites**



### **UN Commodity Trade Statistics Database (Comtrade)**

The UN Comtrade database has a fresh new face. Comtrade is one of the organization's most expansive information resources with detailed imports and exports statistics reported by statistical authorities of close to 200 countries or areas. It concerns annual trade data from 1962 to the latest year and is considered the most comprehensive trade database available with more than 1 billion records.

To search free of charge: <http://comtrade.un.org/>

## Comings and goings

### Comings

*The following staff member was promoted in March:*

Mr. Keiji Inoue, Economic Affairs Officer,  
Development Policy and Analysis Division

### Goings

*The following staff member retired in March:*

Ms. Tsu-Wei Chang, Social Affairs Officer, Division  
for the Advancement of Women



## Calendar

### April

#### General Assembly

Thematic debate on achieving the Millennium Development Goals by 2015  
New York, 1-2 April

Conference on Integration of the Economies in Transition into the World Economy  
Geneva, 2-4 April

Expert Group Meeting on Climate Change and Indigenous People  
Darwin, 2-4 April

Expert Group Meeting on Geographic Databases and Census Mapping  
New York, 7-10 April

Workshop on Professionalizing Human Resource Management in the African Public Sector  
Kampala, 7-11 April

**Commission on Population and Development**  
41<sup>st</sup> session, New York, 7-11 April

DESA Workshop on Debt, Finance and Emerging Issues in Financial Integration  
New York, 8-9 April

**Special High-level Meeting of the Economic and Social Council with the Bretton Woods Institutions, the World Trade Organization and UNCTAD**  
New York, 14 April

Conference on Climate Change and Official Statistics  
Oslo, 14-16 April

**Committee of Experts on Public Administration**  
7<sup>th</sup> session, New York, 14-18 April

Workshop on Household Surveys and Labour Force Measurement  
Maseru, 14-18 April

Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development  
Preparatory review session on the Monterrey Consensus, New York 15-16 April

**Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues**  
7<sup>th</sup> session, New York, 21 April-2 May

Conference on Sustainable Urbanization in the Information Age  
New York, 23-24 April

Economic and Social Council  
Resumed organizational session for 2008, New York, 29-30 April

### May

Economic and Social Council  
Special event on the MDGs and climate change, New York, 2 May

Workshop on Coordination of Reporting Mechanisms and Data Discrepancies in MDG Monitoring  
Kampala, 5-8 May

**Commission on Sustainable Development**  
16<sup>th</sup> session, New York, 5-16 May

UNCRD International Training Course on Regional Development  
Nagoya, 15 May-25 June

GAID Annual Meeting and Global Forum on Access, Connectivity and Innovative Funding  
Kuala Lumpur, 18-20 May

Workshop on Environment Statistics  
Abuja, 19-23 May

Capacity-Building Workshop on Back Office Management for e/m-Government in the Asia-Pacific Region  
Shanghai, 27-28 May

Workshop for Anglophone African Countries on the Implementation of International Recommendations for Distributive Trade Statistics  
Addis Ababa, 27-30 May

Pan African Conference of Ministers of Local Government on Capacity-building for Decentralized Governance and Poverty Reduction  
Yaoundé, 28-30 May

**Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations**  
Resumed regular session for 2008, New York, 29 May-6 June

*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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