



Sha Zukang, Under-Secretary-General of Economic and Social Affairs, moderates a discussion on the state of the world economy at the opening of the Economic and Social Council's 2007 session in Geneva.

A recording of Mr. Sha's statement is available online at <http://webcast.un.org/ramgen/conferences/ecosoc/2007/ecosoc070702am1-eng.rm?start=00:05:02&end=00:19:18> (14 minutes).

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## Feature articles

### ECOSOC charges ahead

*The Council connects the national and international to advance on development goals*

A renewed Economic and Social Council meets this month in Geneva. A Council that is more visible and relevant, with strengthened machinery to monitor implementation of internationally agreed development goals. Achievement of development goals hinges of course on political will at the country level, but the presence of senior government officials at the Council's new Annual Ministerial Review is expected to lend important weight to the UN development agenda. Policy-makers will gather for an open assessment of progress at the national level, and an exchange of views on how best to overcome obstacles. This first Ministerial Review will take place in Geneva on 3 and 4 July with a focus on eradication of poverty and hunger.

The equally new Development Cooperation Forum has been established with the complementary goal of improving aid effectiveness and coherence at the global level. The biennial Forum will be launched this year in Geneva, with the first formal meeting taking place in New York in 2008. Participants will include representatives from developing and developed countries, including bilateral development agencies, UN system organizations, World Bank, IMF, OECD, regional development banks, civil society, and the private sector.

The Ministerial Review and the Forum were added to the Council's mandate at the 2005 World Summit, as elements of a broader UN reform initiative. Delegates at the World Summit made it resoundingly clear that they expected the Council to continue playing a pivotal role in advancing the outcomes of all major UN conferences and summits. "To make sustained advances we must constantly monitor our progress, evaluate obstacles and, when necessary, realign our efforts," said Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon.

### Accent on implementation

The report of the Secretary-General prepared for the Annual Ministerial Review on strengthening efforts to eradicate poverty and hunger will guide the discussions. The report reveals a glass at once half-full and half-empty. On the whole, the results of the last two decades are encouraging. On current trends, it appears likely that the goal of reducing poverty by half by 2015 will be met in all regions except sub-Saharan Africa. Even there, the earlier relentless increase in the number of poor appears to have been halted and the proportion of poor has begun to decline, albeit not rapidly enough.

Progress in reducing hunger is less easy to quantify, according to the report, as no recent comprehensive data exists. But hunger remains a scourge, especially in those areas where there is unrest. Data on the non-income dimensions of poverty, such as access to education and health, suggest that progress has been uneven across and within countries and, in many cases, insufficient to achieve agreed goals. The report calls for an effective operationalization of the global partnership for development, which many see as key to ensuring timely realization of international commitments.

According to the report of the Secretary-General, the overall strategy to achieve the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, seems to be working, although not on the scale required. Implementation efforts should be scaled up, and all social groups included in gains.

### Connecting the national to the international

Once the implementation map has been traced, the Ministerial Review “should concentrate on actions,” underlines Sha Zukang, Under-Secretary General for Economic and Social Affairs. “We need to focus on what works and what does not.” The idea is for policymakers, practitioners and academics to identify successes, failures and lessons learned from past development efforts; to single out strategies that have had a significant effect on poverty reduction, and in overcoming obstacles to the pursuit of national development goals.

The experiences of six countries in implementing national strategies will be discussed. Bangladesh, Barbados, Ethiopia, Ghana, Cambodia and Cape Verde have all volunteered to make a presentation, to be followed in each case by an open dialogue with

the assembled delegates. The voluntary presentations will connect the Council directly to practitioners at the national level for the first time. The shift “from the ivory tower to the ground, to the operational side of development” marks a turning point in the way the Council operates, explains Navid Hanif, Chief of the Policy Coordination Branch in the Office of Economic and Social Council Support and Coordination.

Regional preparations in the run-up to the Review constitute another innovation in the way the Council functions. To enrich the regional perspective, the Secretary-General has suggested in his report that countries consider holding similar regional ministerial reviews, as building blocks of a broader process leading to the annual global event.

### Fewer speeches, more dialogue

Another major change in the way the Council will function from now on is the use of interactive dialogue in place of speeches, which will be scaled back dramatically. On 4 July, for example, two high-level roundtables will take place, in addition to the general debate, as part of the Ministerial Review. The first will deal with ways to end the cycle of food crises by cultivating a home-grown green revolution in Africa. The second, on poverty eradication, will cover issues such as meeting international commitments to the global partnership for development, and bottlenecks that countries experience in formulating and implementing national development strategies.

The Review, in sum, should seek to identify practical measures that can contribute directly to development. This first session is set to conclude with specific commitments to action. In particular, each minister might announce a new initiative that her or his country will undertake to reduce poverty and hunger. In the end, delivering on the UN development agenda requires all countries to implement policies and actions that they have already agreed upon, according to Under-Secretary-General Sha. For example, each donor country should ensure that it fulfils its commitment to raise the level of official development assistance to a specific amount by an announced target date. Each developing country might also be given year-by-year projections of the amount of external assistance that will be made available.

Overall, development partners have made some breakthroughs in fulfilling their agreed responsibilities for reducing poverty, says the

Secretary-General in his report on strengthening efforts to eradicate poverty and hunger. The burden of external debt on developing countries has declined considerably. But, still, total ODA has not increased to the extent promised by G8 countries in the Gleneagles summit of 2005, and much remains to be done to meet commitments in full and on time.

### Civil society brought to the table

The biennial Development Cooperation Forum, which will be launched on 5 July, will review trends and progress in international development cooperation, including strategies, policies and financing, promote greater coherence among the development activities of different development partners and strengthen the links between the UN normative and operational work. The Forum aims to have the voices of people at different levels – governments, NGOs, academia and the private sector, among others – heard in discussions on international development and aid cooperation. Today, “no UN development effort, whether advocacy for a broad cause or support for specific goals, can make real headway without support from civil society,” the Secretary-General stresses.

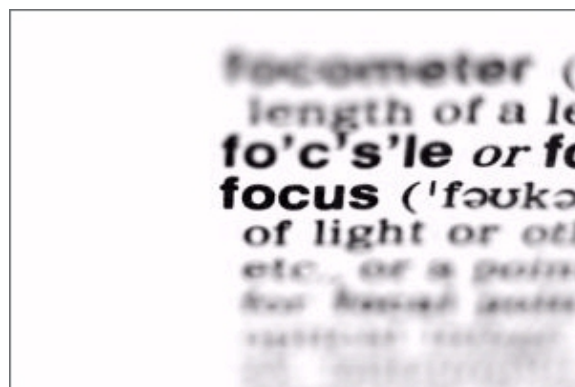
The international development cooperation landscape has expanded substantially in recent years. For example, there are many new actors engaged with the UN at the country level. But “we need to involve all of them at the policy level as well...to engage in a broad-based dialogue on the policy issues affecting development cooperation, whether multilateral, North-South or South-South,” says Secretary-General Ban. The new Forum provides a “unique global platform” to achieve that. “It can bring the discussion on aid and aid effectiveness to a truly multilateral arena,” adds the Secretary-General, involving the private sector and academia in its work and by coordinating the many actors engaged in the development agenda. In addition, the Forum can also strengthen partnerships between donor and developing countries.

### A need for aid coordination

The Forum will be launched during the high-level segment of ECOSOC in Geneva, although the first biennial forum will not kick off until 2008. The official event on 5 July will open with the President of ECOSOC, Ambassador Dalius Čekuolis, and Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, and two high-level roundtable discussions will be held. The first discussion will deal with the role of national aid

coordination and management in promoting greater coherence of development cooperation in countries. For the fragmentation of the international aid system is a hurdle to improve effectiveness of development cooperation.

According to the Secretary-General report on strengthening efforts to eradicate poverty and hunger, the average number of donors per country nearly tripled over the last half century, rising from about 12 in the 1960s to 33 in the period 2001-2005. This proliferation of donors is further exacerbated by the limited capacity of several countries in absorbing development assistance.



South-South cooperation will be the focus of the second roundtable discussion. This form of cooperation has become, over the last years, an important driver of international cooperation for development. In areas such as trade, investment, capital flows and financial and technical cooperation, South-South cooperation has grown considerably. It has coordinated responses to transnational security threats and national disasters such as the avian flu, HIV/AIDS and the 2004 Indian Ocean Tsunami.

Those discussions will lay the groundwork for next year's first biennial Forum in New York, which will spotlight trends in international development cooperation. The Forum process will feed into the follow-up to the Monterrey Conference on Financing for Development unfolding next year in Doha, as well as into the Third High-level Forum on Aid Effectiveness that will take place also in 2008 in Ghana.

### The peace-development nexus

The new functions undertaken by the Council – the Development Cooperation Forum and the Ministerial Review – will be complemented by a new capacity to

respond to humanitarian emergencies when and where they occur. The Council will convene ad hoc meetings on specific humanitarian emergencies at the request of affected Member States, as spelled out in Resolution 61/16 on the strengthening of the Economic and Social Council. These ad hoc meetings are intended to raise awareness and promote the engagement of all stakeholders in support of international relief efforts. This is of course at a strategic, rather than operational, level.

The Council reform process also includes stronger linkages between the Peacebuilding Commission and the Council's ad hoc advisory groups on countries emerging from conflict. As the Council already plays an important role in promoting long-term sustainable development in post-conflict societies, the Assembly – through the resolution on strengthening the Council – called last year on the Peacebuilding Commission to “benefit from the Council's experiences in the area of post-conflict peace building and the success of its ad-hoc advisory groups.” It also reaffirmed “the need to address the special needs of countries emerging from conflict” and assist them in laying the foundations for durable recovery, reintegration and reconstruction. After all, peace and security, as the Secretary-General often reminds us, remain inseparable from the UN Development Agenda.

The new authority vested in the Council by the international community should enable it to serve as a bridge between policy-making and implementation. The Annual Ministerial Review and the Development Cooperation Forum will inject a necessary dose of accountability, outreach and engagement to the work of the Council. The new functions will also help the Council fulfill its Charter mandate to review policy, coordinate global development efforts, and advance the UN development agenda.

*For complete coverage of the Council's 2007 session, including a live webcast, please visit <http://www.un.org/ecosoc/>.*

## Alternatives in national development policy

*DESA policy notes help countries evaluate a range of options when formulating national plans*

Shaping national development strategies is a particular challenge for policy-makers around the world at a time when prevailing economic and

financial rules and the liberalization of trade and capital movements have greatly constrained the room for maneuver countries enjoy for designing and setting policies. A series of policy notes recently launched by DESA is intended to assist decision makers in developing countries to expand their policy space for setting and integrating economic, social and environmental policies. The notes are inspired by a common vision of development that has emerged from the UN conferences and summits of the past two decades: the UN development agenda which aims at sustained and equitable growth, with social inclusion and environmental protection.

So far the notes cover macroeconomic and growth policy, trade policy, investment and technology policy, financing development, social policy, and state-owned enterprise reform. Subsequent policy notes are forthcoming in sustainable development and public finance. The notes seek to provide a range of possible alternatives to the standard policy solutions that have prevailed over the past two decades, rather than to prescribe any single course of action.

### Price stability is not a panacea

The policy note on macroeconomics and growth by Shari Spiegel, and the complementary background note by Jayati Ghosh highlight the importance for economic policy-makers of focusing not only on intermediate goals such as price stability and the balance of payments but on long term goals of maximizing societal well-being in an equitable and sustainable manner. Spiegel's note points out that the goal of economic policy is to maximize long-term societal well-being in an equitable and sustainable manner. Ghosh's note explains that successful macroeconomic management in open developing economies requires pragmatism, within a growth-enhancing framework, and flexibility to deal with the specific requirements of each country's context, and cautions against a dogmatic “one size fits all” approach.

Macroeconomic policy needs to be concerned with real variables such as aggregate growth, productive investment, employment generation and poverty reduction rather than exclusively on financial or monetary variables, such as a target rate of inflation. What is truly important to an economy is the stability of real variables such as output and employment in addition to the stability of financial variables such as the inflation rate.

Both writers point out that while price stability is important for encouraging investment and growth, it is not a sufficient condition for it. There are many cases where low inflation has also been associated with low growth and moderate inflation associated with high growth (Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Israel and Poland). Inflation, however, often called the cruellest tax of all, does weigh heavily on the poorest segments of the population and can lead, over time, to increased inequality of income and wealth. Governments have tended at times, as part of stabilization programmes, to focus on reducing inflation while allowing real variables such as employment and output to decline as well. Both notes advocate countercyclical macroeconomic policies and automatic stabilizers and sound a note of caution about the macroeconomic effects of sudden aid inflows – now often in the form of direct budgetary support. They recommend to both donors and recipients that aid disbursements be judiciously timed and spaced to avoid shocks to the recipient economy.

#### The case for public enterprises

The note on state-owned enterprise reform, by Ha-Joon Chang, argues that market failure and externalities do justify significant public ownership of productive assets, particularly those which provide goods and services to regions and segments of the population which the private sector would not normally address. He explains that there is no theoretical argument for or against state-owned enterprises and that privatization, often promoted by international financial institutions in the past as the preferable solution in most cases, should be seen as one out of many approaches to managing state-owned enterprises. The note enumerates measures, such as organizational reform and increasing competition, which can increase the efficiency of public enterprises where privatization is not chosen as a solution.



The note provides numerous examples of successful and profitable public enterprises in both developing and industrial countries and clarifies that unprofitable public enterprises are hard to privatize, because investors are not usually interested in them. Private investors are often interested only in profitable public enterprises. The note pleads for a case-by-case approach to public enterprises rather than a dogmatic approach of seeking privatization wherever possible. Where societies decide that privatization is the best solution, the note recommends safeguards to prevent the appropriation by self-seeking interest groups of the proceeds from the sale of shares.

#### Promoting inclusive finance

Developing countries need policies that can help transform financial agents and markets into instruments of inclusive growth, argues C.P. Chandrasekhar in the policy note on financial policies. At the same time, ensuring that their operations do not render the financial system fragile and crisis-prone in the long run. The note discusses the concepts of inclusive banking and finance, social banking, and directed lending as beacons to guide the policy maker in setting financial policies, rules and regulations so that more of the population now excluded from financial services can be provided the credit and other services they need to participate in the productive economy.

Overcoming the challenge of providing finance where client densities are low and transaction costs – as well as needs for finance -- are high, such as remote rural areas, requires some element of subsidy to market interest rates so that lending institutions would have an incentive to provide services in such areas. At the same time, to ensure stability of the financial system, governments must implement strict regulations with regard to accounting standards, disclosure norms and governance structures.

#### Social policies: more than an afterthought

Isabel Ortiz recommends ways to overcome the political legacy of the 1980s and 1990s in the policy note on social policies. During those decades, the scope of social policy, forged often at the behest of international financial institutions, focused on the delivery of limited services and safety nets, and proved insufficient to achieve balanced social and economic development. Social policy was considered residual, of secondary importance, deserving less funding, and often centred on mitigating the unintended consequences of economic change, rather

than on seeking to make social inclusion and protection an integral part of the growth strategy.

In contrast, the note calls for national development strategies that accurately diagnose social issues and that are based on a thorough review the effectiveness of current policies. Strategies should propose a set of short, medium and long-term policies to optimize developmental impacts. They should provide for adequate budgetary allocations within the country's fiscal space and own socio-economic priorities. Finally, national development strategies need to provide for effective implementation arrangements and for monitoring mechanisms to ensure that the policies reach the people.

A wide range of instruments may be used to achieve social goals: employment-sensitive macroeconomic and sectoral policies, labour market policies, social pacts, social dialogue, tripartite consultations, social insurance, social assistance for vulnerable groups, schemes to assist vulnerable communities, and well-governed public pension systems. There are no best solutions or 'one-size-fits-all' formulas. The social needs, as well as institutional and fiscal capacities of countries vary over time and they much choose policies appropriate to each instance to achieve their development objectives.

The note addresses the challenges of redistribution of income, employment and decent work, social services, social protection, social inclusion and warns that the roots of conflict and violence lie in social inequities. The goal of policy makers needs to be to integrate macroeconomic and social policy rather than treating social policy as an afterthought.

### Caution on premature liberalization

The note on trade policies by Murray Gibbs shows policy-makers how they can seek space within the existing trade regime to ensure the achievement of human development objectives and the Millennium Development Goals. The note describes the WTO Multilateral Trade Agreements as both intrusive - penetrating deeper into what were previously considered the domain of domestic policy and extensive - covering a range of policy issues extending beyond the previous frontiers of trade policy.

The note warns that unstructured and premature tariff liberalization can result in deindustrialization, increased unemployment, declining economic prospects and opportunities, and aggravated inequalities. It also cautions governments about

focusing exclusively on export growth, which in itself may not necessarily enhance human development and, in fact, may actually exacerbate inequalities, disempower small producers and contribute to environmental unsustainability.

To avoid the deindustrialization that occurred in many countries in the 1990s, the note argues in favour of industrial policy with sequenced and well-timed liberalization, which aims at providing opportunities for people to become more productive, and to eventually compete in world markets. Adequate flexibility in national tariff regimes of poor developing countries, relying on provisions within the existing WTO trade regime, can permit them to emulate the success of more advanced countries through industrial and investment strategies aimed at setting in motion an upward spiral toward economic growth and industrialization.

Finally, the note recommends that developing countries should approach free-trade agreement negotiations with a pro-poor, pro-human development template ensuring that the developed partner respects and provides direct assistance to support the developing partner in achieving human development goals.

### Upgrading technology to raise productivity

The theme of industrial policy is further developed in the policy note on investment and technology policies by Mushtaq Khan. The note makes a strong case in favour of such policies. Market failures such as imperfections in credit, equity and insurance markets as well as externalities explain why markets alone cannot ensure that developing countries will catch up with advanced countries. Following the conventional advice of international financial institutions of the past two decades, it is often assumed that general reforms to improve good governance and the investment climate will indirectly improve the quantity and quality of investment and help to attract better and more productive technologies. The note recognizes that such reforms have merit and are needed in such areas as stability of property rights, but argues that a dedicated investment and technology policy needs be followed to ensure economic development and growth.

Policy-makers should start by investigating how existing technologies and sectors in their countries can be upgraded to improve productivity, create higher wage jobs and create greater employment, they are likely to identify a number of feasible steps they can follow to achieve relatively quick results.

The first step is to identify national priorities for investment and technology policy and the critical constraints and bottlenecks that may be preventing their achievement through a consultative exercise that interacts with other components of the National Development Strategy. The second step in the policy-making process is to identify instruments and policy measures to address the most important constraints and bottlenecks that are preventing the achievement of the investment and technology upgrading goals identified in step one. The third step is to ensure that the policies and instruments discussed in step two can actually be implemented, given the governance and enforcement capacities available.

An important component of investment and technology policies in all high-growth developing countries has been government strategies to make finance available to critical sectors. Successful industrial and technology policies in countries like South Korea and Malaysia have also involved governments sharing some of the risk and uncertainty of learning new technologies.

WTO rules do not prohibit many forms of assistance for technological catching up. The note recommends, therefore, using this policy space through such instruments as fiscal and other incentives for setting up in-firm training schemes, bridging loans to finance learning and supporting targeted infrastructure for sectors involved in learning. One reason why China continues to attract more foreign investment than any other developing country is that infrastructure development can be prioritized in China so as to facilitate rapid investments in critical areas.

The note concludes that success in investment and technology policy has been based on a pragmatic identification of bottlenecks and constraints hindering progress in critical economic sectors, combined with the institutional and political capability to respond to continuing poor performance by changing policies or changing the focus of policies towards other priority sectors.

Together, these policy notes comprise a toolkit for those who shape and decide on policies at the country level. More important than individual policies in the various areas discussed in these notes is the policy mosaic created by all of them together. The ultimate challenge for countries is to put together national development strategies that are integrated and coherent, where macroeconomic, financial, social, investment, trade and public enterprise policies are truly complementary and mutually-reinforcing in practice. This set of notes for the national

development strategies addresses that challenge and offers practical instruments for realizing the United Nations development agenda at the national level.

*To download the policy notes:*

<http://esa.un.org/techcoop/policyNotes.asp>

*For more information on the United Nations Development Agenda:*

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

## Global dialogue on development

### New momentum in the Economic and Social Council

*The Council kicks off its substantive session of 2007 with an expanded mandate to convene a Ministerial Review and a Development Cooperation Forum*

The Economic and Social Council sets in motion this year a fresh process marked by reform. The Council's 2007 substantive session, which unfolds in Geneva from 2 to 27 July, will feature two new functions: the Annual Ministerial Review, which will assess the progress made in implementation of the UN Development Agenda, and the Development Cooperation Forum, which will review trends and progress in international development cooperation. The adoption of Assembly resolution 61/16 on strengthening of the Economic and Social Council in November last year is in response to recommendations made by the world's leading politicians at the 2005 World Summit to place the Council at the centre of efforts to advance the internationally agreed development goals.

While the high-level segment of the Council's substantive session will accommodate this new mandate, the structure of the Council's substantive session is maintained. The 2007 session will open with a high-level segment, from 2 to 5 July, in which the Council will address eradication of poverty and hunger, the thematic focus of the inaugural Ministerial Review. Key note addresses on that topic will be made by Micheline Calmy-Rey, President, Swiss Confederation and Head of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, Gediminas Kirkilas, Prime Minister of Lithuania and H. H. Sheikh Khalifa Bin Salman Al Khalifa, Prime Minister of Bahrain.

The high-level segment will also feature, on 2 July, a high-level policy dialogue with representatives of the international financial and trade institutions on current developments in the world economy. The discussion will be moderated by Sha Zukang, Under-Secretary General of Economic and Social Affairs, and will include panelists such as Supachai Panitchpakdi, Secretary-General of UNCTAD; Pascal Lamy, Director-General of the WTO; Murilo

Portugal, Deputy Managing Director of the IMF, and François Bourguignon, Senior Vice President and Chief Economist of the World Bank.

#### Pro-poor growth: meeting the challenge

A thematic discussion on strengthening efforts at all levels to promote pro-poor sustained economic growth, including through equitable macro-economic policies will follow. The debate will include two parallel roundtables on growth, poverty reduction and equity - emerging paradigm, moderated by Kemal Dervis, Administrator of UNDP, and on coherence and coordination of macroeconomic policies at all levels, moderated by Jomo K.S., Assistant Secretary-General for Economic Development.

During the high-level segment, the Council will also hold a panel discussion on emerging threats to development, which include climate change, desertification and public health issues. This is meant to highlight the impact these threats are having on poverty and hunger eradication and how the international community should tackle them. An Innovation Fair on innovation and transformation for eradication of poverty and hunger will also take place on the margins of the high-level segment.

#### Partnerships against poverty

The first Annual Ministerial Review, from 3 to 4 July, will cast a spotlight on eradication of poverty and hunger, including through the global partnership for development. The Review will feature national voluntary presentations from countries, include parallel roundtables on ending the cycle of food crises and poverty eradication, and close with the Adoption of the Ministerial Declaration.

Several Ministerial roundtable breakfasts will also take place, among them on promoting pro-poor generation of wealth, food security and peace through sustainable forest management, on 4 July, jointly hosted by the UN Forum on Forests and the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa. Another Ministerial breakfast on women's participation in poverty alleviation and sustained economic growth, on 5 July, will be jointly hosted by the International Organization for Migration, UNFPA and DESA's Office of the Special Adviser for Gender Issues.



### Seeking national aid coordination

The official launch of the Development Cooperation Forum on 5 July will be opened by the President of the Council, Amb. Dalius Čekuolis, and Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, and will include parallel roundtables on the role of national aid coordination and management, moderated by Abdoulie Janneh, Executive Secretary of ECA, and South-South and triangular cooperation, moderated by Under-Secretary-General Sha.

Immediately after the high-level segment concludes, on 6 July, the executive secretaries of the regional commissions will participate in a panel discussion with Council members, covering the regional perspective on the themes of the high-level segment.

### Productive and decent work: 2006 follow-up

Between 6 and 10 July, the coordination segment will focus on the role of the UN system in promoting full and productive employment and decent work for all, as a follow-up to the 2006 Ministerial Declaration adopted by the Council. The segment will also consider the progress made in promoting the integrated and coordinated implementation and follow-up to the major UN conferences and summits. Three panel discussions will be held during the segment. Two of them will focus on the theme of the segment, with the introduction of a toolkit and a dialogue on the role of the UN system in the case of Latin America. The third panel will be a dialogue with the chairpersons of the functional commissions.

### Operational activities

The substantive session of the Council of 2007 coincides with the year for the review of the full implementation of [General Assembly resolution 59/250](#) on the triennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities of the UN system. In preparation of this year's policy review, from 10 to 13 July, the Council will assess to what extent and in what ways the UN development system provides efficient and effective support to developing countries to realize their national development priorities and achieve the internationally agreed development goals.

### Effectiveness of needs-based humanitarian assistance

The humanitarian affairs segment will be an important forum for discussing issues related to

fostering coordination of the UN humanitarian system. The theme of the segment this year is on strengthening coordination of UN humanitarian assistance through enhancing the effectiveness of needs-based humanitarian assistance. Two panels will be featured on the use of military assets in natural disaster relief and needs-based humanitarian financing, including the Central Emergency Response Fund.

### General oversight and review

The general segment is the venue for the management and oversight function of the Council. The segment will undertake the follow-up and review of conferences; review the reports of the specialized agencies requested by the Council; and, review and evaluate the annual reports of the United Nations funds and programmes, its subsidiary bodies, including its functional and regional commissions, expert bodies and ad hoc bodies, including the advisory groups for countries emerging from conflict, and take relevant action. A review of the functional commissions serviced by DESA will take place from 23 to 25 July.

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

## Trends and analysis

### Open online forum addresses financing for gender equality

*Groundwork is being laid for next year's Commission on the Status of Women*

World leaders have made numerous pledges on financing for gender equality and the empowerment of women, for example at the Millennium Summit, at the 2002 Monterrey Conference and the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness in 2005. Progress in allocating resources to turn rhetoric into reality has, however, been limited.

The Division for the Advancement of Women is holding an online discussion intended to deepen understanding of the existing mechanisms of financing for gender equality and the empowerment of women at the national, regional and global levels. The discussion, which began on 18 June and will continue through 15 July, seeks to identify good practices and highlight gaps requiring further action. This discussion is part of the preparatory process for next year's Commission on the Status of Women, which will devote its priority theme to financing for gender equality and the empowerment of women. Consideration of the financing for gender equality is timely. Many governments have taken steps to integrate gender perspectives into their national budgets to mirror the differentiated needs of women and men. Yet despite these efforts, resources to back policies that encourage the advancement of women are insufficient.

DESA's online discussion looks at this challenge from different angles. On its first week, the discussion focused on the use of public budgets for promoting gender equality. The second week was dedicated to bilateral and multilateral assistance. The week from 2 to 15 July will be devoted to mobilization of private and public resources for gender equality, and the last week will cover recommendations for future action.

*For more information:*

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

### Elimination of discrimination against women

The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, the human rights treaty body in charge of monitoring implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, will hold its thirty-ninth session in New York from 23 July to 10 August. Under article 18 of the Convention, States parties are requested to report periodically on the legislative, judicial, administrative, and programmatic measures they have taken to put the Convention into practice, and on tangible progress achieved in the elimination of discrimination.

During the upcoming session, the Committee will examine the reports of the following 15 States parties: Belize, Brazil, Cook Islands, Estonia, Guinea, Honduras, Hungary, Indonesia, Jordan, Kenya, Liechtenstein, New Zealand, Norway, Republic of Korea, and Singapore. The Committee consists of 23 independent experts elected for a four-year term and welcomes country-specific information from NGOs in the form of alternative or shadow reports which can be submitted prior to or during the session concerned.

*For more information:*

<http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/cedaw/39sess.htm>

### Recommendations on industrial statistics

*Expert group reviews recommendations and country practices in data collection and dissemination*

The UN has published international recommendations for industrial statistics since the 1950s. The goal is to achieve coherent and uniform measurement of industrial activities for national and international dissemination. With this idea in mind, the second meeting of the expert group on industrial statistics will meet in New York from 16 to 19 July to review, amend, and endorse the latest draft of the International Recommendations for Industrial Statistics, which will be submitted to next year's session of the Statistical Commission. The meeting will also review country practices on collection, compilation and dissemination of industrial statistics.

The International Recommendations for Industrial Statistics were first issued in 1953 and were last revised in 1983. Since then, significant developments have taken place both in the area of the economic accounting – in particular in relation to the 1993 System of National accounts – and in the approach of countries to industrial statistics. A draft of the revised recommendations, prepared by the Statistics Division of DESA and based on an annotated outline agreed in 2005, reflects changes in the approach to industrial statistics since that time. The revision also incorporates new concepts, definitions and terminology that have cropped up in statistical publications and regulations of other international organizations.

*For more information:*

<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/industry/meetings/eg2007/ac129-2.asp>

## Moving ahead in environmental-economic accounting

The second meeting of the Committee of Experts on Environmental-Economic Accounting that takes place between 5 and 6 July in New York will be discussing the programme of work for the elevation of the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting to an international statistical standard. Participants will also address a project management framework for revision of the system, coordination of effort among different groups, and implementation of the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting for Water recently adopted by the Statistical Commission as an interim international statistical standard. All items will be submitted to the 39th session of the Statistical Commission.

The Committee of Experts on Environmental-Economic Accounting provides overall vision, coordination and direction in the field of environmental-economic accounting. It brings to the attention of the DESA Statistics Division and the Statistical Commission new developments that affect the compilation of environmental-economic accounting and work on developing standards as well as information on best practices.

*For more information:*

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

## Distributive trade statistics

Review and endorsement of the provisional draft of International Recommendations on Distributive Trade Statistics is the expected outcome of the second meeting of an expert group on distributive trade statistics, which will be held in from 16 to 19 July in New York. The recommendations will be submitted to the Statistical Commission at its next session for approval. The assembled experts will also review an outline of the Distributive Trade Statistics: Compilers Manual and Indices of Distributive Trade: A Handbook of Good Practices, which addresses data compilation strategies for distributive trade statistics, and provides practical advice on the implementation of recommendations.

*For more information:*

[http://unstats.un.org/unsd/Distributive\\_trade/distributive\\_trade.htm](http://unstats.un.org/unsd/Distributive_trade/distributive_trade.htm)

## Global migration

The first meeting of the Global Forum on Migration and Development, organized by the Government of Belgium, will be held in Brussels from 10 to 11 July. Secretary-General Ban will make an opening statement, while Mr. Sha Zukang, Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, will address the Forum in his capacity as chair of the Global Migration Group. The Brussels meeting marks the start of a new global process designed to enhance the positive impact of migration on development (and vice versa) by adopting a more consistent approach to policy, identifying best practices, exchanging know-how and experience with innovative methods, and establishing links between the various actors.

The governmental discussions will be preceded by a meeting of civil society representatives on 9 July. In connection with the Forum, DESA is also responsible for organizing an online marketplace on international migration and development services.

*For more information:* <http://www.unmigration.org/>

## Technical cooperation

### Towards effective compilation of basic economic statistics

*DESA's Statistics Division assesses data collection practices in eight African countries*

Improving the compilation of basic economic statistics in African countries is the goal of a regional workshop taking place in Pretoria, South Africa, from 23 to 26 July. The Statistics Division in DESA will lead the training in cooperation with the Government of South Africa, in what will be the first exchange of views on practices in the collection of basic economic statistics in Africa. Eight African countries – Ethiopia, Botswana, Ghana, Mauritius, Uganda, Zambia, Tanzania and South Africa – are taking part in the workshop, together with a representative of ECA. The outcome of the discussion will be used to form provisional recommendations, and prepare a technical report on the issues.

The workshop begins with a broad look at the state of economic statistics in Africa, including identification of data series, and a discussion of their relevance to policy-making. Africa's institutional and regulatory frameworks for management of economic statistics will be discussed, before moving, on 24 July, to country presentations on the main problems practitioners face on a daily basis. Recommendations on ways to improve economic surveys will follow.

Three sessions will draw attention to economic censuses and their role in compilation of economic statistics during which DESA will present the results of its recent survey on country practices. The advantages and disadvantages of economic censuses will be presented. Strengthening national statistical infrastructure and interagency cooperation are necessary for more effective data compilation, and discussants will help identify ways to realize such goals. On 26 July, the last day, a roundtable discussion will address the question of how to make basic economic statistics more useful for compilation of national accounts.

*For more information:*

[http://unstats.un.org/unsd/economic\\_stat/Economic\\_Census/pretoria%20workshop.htm](http://unstats.un.org/unsd/economic_stat/Economic_Census/pretoria%20workshop.htm)

### Training on the ABCs of environmental statistics

*Workshop in Ethiopia promotes regional networking*

Close to fifty participants from national statistical offices and environmental ministries from Southern and Eastern African countries will be trained on basic concepts, methods and best practices in environmental statistics from 16 to 20 July in Addis Ababa. A recommended core set of environmental indicators for application at the national and regional levels will also be introduced, covering freshwater resources and their use, marine resources, land use and land degradation, forests, biodiversity, air emissions and air quality, in addition to waste, natural disasters and environmental health.

Networking opportunities are an important part of the workshop, and participants in attendance will be invited to exchange information on the status of national environment statistics during and after the event. The workshop is being organized by the DESA Statistics Division in collaboration with UNEP and ECA.

*For more information:*

[http://unstats.un.org/unsd/environment\\_main.htm](http://unstats.un.org/unsd/environment_main.htm)

### Water statistics and accounts

DESA's Statistics Division in collaboration with the Central Bank of the Dominican Republic is organizing a workshop on water accounting that will take place from 16 to 18 July in Santo Domingo. The objectives of meeting are to give participants an overview of environmental accounting, present the framework and uses of the system of environmental-economic accounts for water, and discuss the conditions under which the system can be best implemented in the region.

The workshop will bring together experts from the National Statistical Offices and the Ministries of Environment and Water Authorities from Latin American and the Caribbean. Participants will share their experiences in the development and implementation of water statistics and accounts. Papers on the state of water statistics and accounting,

water policy, water management or water information needs in countries of the region may be presented.

*For more information:*

[http://unstats.un.org/unsd/environment\\_main.htm](http://unstats.un.org/unsd/environment_main.htm)

## **A prescription to boost people's trust in government**

*World attention drawn to a global cancer of low trust in the agents of State*

The 7th Global Forum ended on 29 June in Vienna having brought together more than 2,000 delegates from over 160 countries including heads of state and government, ministers, parliamentarians, senior officials, civil society representatives and the private sector. The theme of the four-day discussion was building trust in government.

Forum participants agreed that immediate actions must be taken by Member States to broaden areas of social consensus and improve governance and public administration. Acknowledging that there is no single recipe to build trust in government, the declaration says that while principles of democratic governance such as transparency, accountability and citizens' engagement are universal, there is a need to recognize that there is no one size fits all approach.

Key recommendations of the Vienna declaration include: securing legitimacy of government; prioritizing service delivery and access; enabling public-private partnerships; increasing transparency and accountability to combat corruption; improving the access of developing countries to ICTs; supporting effective civil society engagement; focusing on making women's concerns central to implementation; bringing government closer to people; promoting innovations in public sector reform; rebuilding trust in crisis and post conflict countries.

Small panels of ministers in each region should meet informally once or twice a year to review their experiences in dealing with selected issues of trust-building and to make recommendations, participants urged. The same organizations should meet and share information with local administrators of cities and towns, especially in countries with decentralized authority. The participants recommended yearly regional and sub-regional round tables of parliamentarians so that peoples' representatives

around the world can stay connected and aware of each other's innovative practices and institutional designs.

*For more information:*

<http://www.7thglobalforum.org>

## **Expanding e-government in Saint Lucia**

Promoting partnerships among Caribbean countries to encourage the spread of e-government has been a priority for DESA's Division for Public Administration and Development Management for several years. Efforts by Saint Lucia to integrate public services through technology-driven initiatives are a case in point. At the government's request, DESA has produced a feasibility study that analyzes gaps and identifies steps and resources needed to move forward. The study, which will be presented to policy-makers in Castries on 24 July, includes an action plan to bolster the efficiency and effectiveness of public services, transform the way that the government of Saint Lucian interacts with citizens, and facilitate delivery of services that match citizens' needs.

## Publications and websites

### Technical reports



#### Millennium Development Goals Report 2007



The 2007 edition of the Millennium Development Goals Report has just been launched. According to the report, progress towards achieving the MDGs by 2015 remains mixed.

Significant breakthroughs have been made in the area of poverty reduction with the proportion of people living on one dollar a day dropping from 1.25 billion in 1990 to 980 million in 2004. The report estimates that the MDG poverty reduction target will be met for the world as a whole and for most regions, if current trends continue. Progress has been made even in those regions where the challenges are greatest, among them sub-Saharan Africa where the number of desperately poor people has leveled off and the region's poverty rate has fallen by nearly six percentage points since 2000.

Half of the population of the developing world still has no access to basic sanitation, however, and the effects of climate change are already being felt. Progress is hampered because the benefits of economic growth are not being equally shared while in some countries insecurity and instability caused by armed conflict and HIV/AIDS are taking a toll.

More children in developing countries are going to school – with enrolment in primary education rising from 80 percent in 1991 to 88 percent in 2005 – and women's struggle for equal rights has gained ground, as a result of their growing involvement in politics and government, but improvement overall has been slow.

The 2007 MDG report is the most comprehensive global assessment of the Millennium Development Goals to date. It is based on a set of data compiled by an Inter-Agency and Expert Group on MDG Indicators led by DESA. The group comprises over 20 organizations both within and outside the UN system, including regional commissions, UN agencies and programmes, the World Bank and the

Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development.

*For more information:*

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

### Statistical compilations



#### Monthly Bulletin of Statistics and MBS Online

MBS provides monthly statistics on more than 50 indicators from over 200 countries and areas, together with special tables illustrating important economic developments.

Quarterly data for significant world and regional aggregates are included regularly.

**Vol. LXI, no.3, March**  
**2007ST/ESA/STAT/SER.Q/411**

Special features in this issue: Retail price indices relating to living expenditures of United Nations officials; fuel imports, developed economies: unit value and volume indices; value; indicators on fuel imports, developed economies; registration of new motor vehicles; external trade conversion factors; manufactured goods exports: unit value indices, volume indices and value; selected series of world statistics.

**Vol. LXI, no. 4, April 2007**  
**ST/ESA/STAT/SER.Q/412**

Special features 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 and purchasing power of exports, in US dollars.

*For more information:*

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

## Working papers

### **Constraints to Achieving the MDGs through Domestic Resource Mobilization**

This paper focuses on the role of domestic resource mobilization for financing poverty reduction strategies. Policy makers should be aware of important macroeconomic trade-offs associated with MDG strategies financed from tax increases or domestic borrowing. The trade-offs are largely intertemporal: can poor and middle-income countries absorb the initial financing costs in order to achieve expected gains in productivity and human development over time? This calls for a dynamic economy-wide framework to identify the importance of such trade-offs. The paper presents such a framework and illustrates its usefulness in applications for Costa Rica and Ecuador.

### **Regional Social Policy**

Increasingly countries are considering regional policies as a strategy to achieve a fairer globalization. If adequately designed and financed, regional policies may be a complementary tool to foster inclusive development, national equity and social transformation, as well as creating better external collective bargaining positions. This paper presents some recommendations on potential areas, programmes, financing and implementation of regional social policies. Despite the many obstacles, a world of regions each with a strong social dimension could provide an alternative and more effective model of global social governance to redress world asymmetries.

### **A Counter-cyclical Framework for a Development-friendly International Financial Architecture**

The major task of a development-friendly international financial architecture is to mitigate procyclical effects of financial markets and open “policy space” for counter-cyclical macroeconomic policies in the developing world. This paper explores a series of policy instruments for this purpose: counter-cyclical prudential regulatory and supervisory frameworks; market mechanisms that better distribute the risk faced by developing countries through the business cycle; multilateral instruments that encourage more stable private flows; and better provision of counter-cyclical official liquidity. It also suggests that regional

macroeconomic consultation, and common reserve funds or swap arrangements among developing countries can play a role in this regard.

### **Central Banks as Agents of Employment Creation**

Employment creation has dropped off the direct agenda of most central banks. The so-called “global best practice” approach to central banking has not focused on economic growth or employment generation but rather on keeping inflation in the low single digits. However, the policy record shows that employment generation and economic growth are often not by-products of inflation focused central bank policy. This chapter argues that there should be a return to the historical norm of central bank policy in which employment creation and more rapid economic growth join inflation and stabilization more generally as key goals of central bank policy. Supporting this argument, the chapter summarizes major lessons of a multi-country research project undertaken by an international team of economists which show that, within the constraints of contemporary economic conditions, there are viable alternatives to inflation targeting that can focus more on important social, real sector outcomes such as employment generation and poverty reduction.

### **Transforming the Developmental Welfare States in East Asia**

This article attempts to explain changes and continuity in the developmental welfare states in Korea and Taiwan Province of China (hereafter Taiwan) within the East Asian context. It first elaborates two strands of welfare developmentalism (selective vs. inclusive), and establishes that the welfare state in those countries fell into the selective category of developmental welfare states before the Asian economic crisis of 1997. Secondly, this paper argues that the policy reform toward an inclusive welfare state in Korea and Taiwan was triggered by the need for structural reform in the economy. Lastly, this paper argues that the idea of an inclusive developmental welfare state should be explored in the wider context of economic and social development.

### **Developing Countries, Donor Leverage, and Access to Bird Flu Vaccines**

In early 2007, the Indonesian government decided to withhold its bird flu virus samples from WHO’s collaborating centres pending a new global mechanism for virus sharing that had better terms for developing countries. The 60th World Health

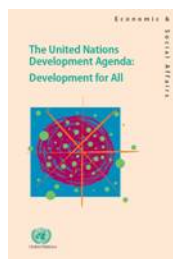
Assembly subsequently resolved to establish an international stockpile of avian flu vaccines, and mandated WHO to formulate mechanisms and guidelines for equitable access to these vaccines. Are there analogous opportunities for study volunteers or donors of biological materials in clinical trials or other research settings to exercise corresponding leverage to advance health equity?

### Modernizing the Informal Sector

The multiplicity of policies proposed to support the informal sector reflects the lack of a common definition. Although they may produce positive effects, these are limited and fail to constitute a comprehensive strategic approach. The different interpretations in the absence of a common definition as well as the strategies emerging from them are reviewed. The identification of informality with illegality and labour precariousness, although conceptually related, is often misleading. Lastly, it explores a strategic option to regulate the informal sector, tracing the different approaches to formalizing informal activities, to facilitate their full integration into the modernization process.

DESA Working Papers can be downloaded from <http://www.un.org/esa/desa/papers/>.

## Outreach material



### The United Nations Development Agenda: Development for All

The historic United Nations conferences and summits held in the past two decades generated an unprecedented global consensus on a shared vision of development.

These remarkable participatory processes, and the array of development goals that were agreed through them, laid the groundwork for the Millennium Summit, at which a series of challenging time-bound goals and targets were adopted. Many were later collated as the Millennium Development Goals, which have succeeded in galvanizing an exceptional momentum to meet the needs of the world's poorest. This title brings together decisions of the major UN conferences held between 1990 and 2005 and draws implications for current and future development strategies.

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

## Websites



### Social Perspective on Development

The DESA Division for Social Policy and Development has just launched a new website with an improved structure, updated design and better navigation. The site provides ready access to reports and resolutions relating to the social perspective on development, as well news and events. The United Nations considers social advancement to be one of the three defining elements of development, together with economic growth and environmental protection.

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



### UN ServiceTrade

UN Service Trade, the UN database covering statistics on international trade in services, is now available to the public. It contains annual detailed trade in services data by EBOPS category and partner country of about 80 countries, from 2000 to 2006.

For more information: <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/servicetrade/default.aspx>



## Comings and goings

### Comings



**Mr. Sha Zukang** has been appointed Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs effective 1 July. Before taking up his position as head of DESA, Mr. Sha was a career diplomat of the People's Republic of China

with substantial experience in multilateral negotiations in a wide range of fields, including trade, labour, human rights, health, arms control, intellectual property and telecommunications.

Among his numerous achievements, Mr. Sha has served as Coordinator of the Like-Minded Group representation to the Commission on Human Rights and the Human Rights Council from 2004 to 2007, Chairman of the Preparatory Committee and Chairman of the Committee of the Whole of UNCTAD XI from 2003 to 2004, President of the 50th session of the Trade and Development Board in 2003, Chairperson of the Government group of the Governing Body of the International Labour Organization from 2002 to 2003, and member of the UN Secretary-General's Advisory Board on Disarmament matters from 1994 to 1999.

Mr. Sha established the Department of Arms Control of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of China and became its first Director-General. He has participated in the negotiation and review of many important international treaties on arms control and disarmament such as Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty, Chemical Weapons Convention, Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention, and Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons. Mr. Sha has also made significant contributions to General Assembly and Security Council resolutions on arms control and international security, and has been a champion of international security cooperation with a view to maintaining international peace and regional stability and security.

Mr. Sha joined the foreign service of China in 1970, and has since had postings in London, Colombo, New Delhi, New York and Geneva. Mr. Sha is a graduate of Nanjing University.

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



**Ms. Ana Cortez** was named Secretary of the Committee on Development Policy effective 1 June. She joined DESA in 1983 working first in the Ocean Economics and Technology

Branch before moving in 1987 to the Development Policy and Analysis Division. Ms. Cortez has been a major contributor to DESA's flagship publications on economic policy including the World Economic and Social Survey, World Economic Situation and Prospects, and Report on the World Social Situation. Her expertise ranges from macroeconomic and structural adjustment policies in Latin America, to international trade, income inequality, poverty and unemployment.



**Mr. Jean-Pierre Gonnot** was appointed Chief of the Social Perspective on Development Branch of the Division for Social Policy and Development on 1 June. He joined the DESA

Population Division in 1991 where he was involved in preparations for the International Conference on Population and Development in Cairo and served as departmental focal point on ageing, later moving to the Division for Social Policy and Development. Since 2003, Mr. Gonnot has served as Chief of the Secretariat for the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. He holds a Ph.D. in history from the University of Lyon.

**Mr. Tan Jian** of China has been appointed Senior Programme Officer in the Office of the Under-Secretary-General effective 1 July. Mr. Tan is a career diplomat whose experience covers a range of fields including political, economic, social, and humanitarian affairs. He joined the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1987. Among other assignments, Mr. Tan was responsible for economic affairs in the international organizations department from 1994-2000, and political affairs in the Permanent Mission of China to the United Nations Office at Geneva from 2001-2007.

*The following staff members were also promoted in June:*

Ms. Cornelia Kaldewei, Economic Affairs Officer, Development Policy and Analysis Division

Mr. Charles Katoanga, Finance Officer, Executive Office

Ms. Chandra Sekhar Yamarthy, Computer Information Systems Assistant, Population Division

Ms. Dolores Vicente, secretary, Division for Social Policy and Development

Mr. Ralph Wahnschafft, Senior Economic Affairs Officer, Division for Sustainable Development

## **Goings**

*The following staff members retired in June:*

Mr. Patrizio Civili, Assistant Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Inter-Agency Affairs

Ms. Rebeca Dain, Administrative Assistant, Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women

Ms. Marie Legrand, Technical Cooperation Assistant, Division for Public Administration and Development Management

Mr. José Antonio Ocampo, Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs

Ms. Constance Reid, Secretary, Division for Public Administration and Development Management

## Calendar

### July

Online discussion on financing for gender equality and the empowerment of women

18 June-15 July

#### **Economic and Social Council**

Substantive session of 2007, Geneva, 2-27 July

Launch of Millennium Development Goals Report 2007

Geneva, 2 July

Second Meeting of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Environmental-Economic Accounting

New York, 5-6 July

DESA/Dominican Republic Regional Workshop on Water Accounting

Santo Domingo, 16-18 July

Expert Group Meeting on Industrial Statistics

New York, 16-19 July

Expert Group Meeting on Distributive Trade Statistics

New York, 16-19 July

DESA/UNEP/ECA Workshop on Environment Statistics

Addis Ababa, 16-20 July

#### **Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women**

39th session, New York, 23 July-10 August

DESA/South Africa Regional Workshop for African Countries on Compilation of Basic Economic Statistics

Pretoria, 23-26 July

DESA/Italy/Saint Lucia Final Steering Committee Meeting to Integrate Saint Lucia's Information Systems

Castries, 24 July

### August

Launch of the World Youth Report 2007

New York, 9 August

International Day of the World's Indigenous People

9 August

United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names

24th session, New York, 20 and 31 August

9th United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names

New York, 21-31 August

### Observances

#### **International Day of Cooperatives**

7 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, cooperative values and principles for corporate social responsibility, highlights the important role cooperatives can play in promoting corporate social responsibility.

*For more information:*

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

*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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