



World leaders urged to adopt treaty on indigenous rights – Victoria Tauli-Corpuz, Chairperson of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, and Wilton Littlechild, Member of the Permanent Forum, brief members of the press on 24 May on the outcome of the Forum's latest session held in New York. A recording is available online at <http://webcast.un.org/ramgen/pressconference/pc070524pm.rm> (32 minutes).

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Trust in government

Confidence in government – rooted in transparency, accountability, and effectiveness – is a better predictor of support for national policies than partisanship or ideology.

As governments have seen people's trust slip worldwide over the last decades, it has become apparent that the rulers and the ruled do not always speak the same language. Despite efforts to foster the social contract between the two, enhancing public confidence in political processes and the institutions of government is still a pressing concern. Such is the premise of the 7th Global Forum on Reinventing Government to be hosted for the first time by the United Nations, from 26 to 29 June in Vienna. Conference participants will examine innovative

strategies for improving governance with a view to ensuring the legitimacy and sustainability of democratic systems.

The forum will examine trust in political institutions from different angles, from accountability, transparency and access to information, to participation and inclusion of all sectors of society in the political process. These are seen as the basic components of good governance and prerequisites to democratic legitimacy. About 2,000 participants – among them heads of state, prime ministers, parliamentarians, representatives of international organizations and civil society organizations – are expected to take part in the plenary sessions, workshops and other side meetings that make up this year's conference. DESA's Division for Public Administration and Development Management is organizing the event together with the Government of Austria.

With the 2015 on the horizon, the conference is also being framed as part of the continuing effort to reach the Millennium Development Goals. “Governance and public administration contribute to each of the Millennium Development Goals as they provide a process through which they can be implemented,” says Shabbir Cheema, coordinator of the Forum in the Division for Public Administration and Development Management in DESA. That process stresses strengthening state capacity and improving the quality of governance.

Prosperity and confidence in the State

The achievement of development objectives depends on the capacity of governments to garner wide support and implement public policy effectively, according to an aide-memoire which DESA has prepared for participants. This capacity has a lot to do with the reliability and credibility of policies and institutions.

In the economic sphere, for example, what really matters is that the government itself be credible in its commitment to making changes that remove institutional obstacles to growth, according to the 2006 World Economic and Social Survey. At the same time, “a necessary condition for progress in good governance is the resumption of sustained economic activity that generates the space to improve institutions,” points out José Antonio Ocampo, Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs. “As societies succeed in transforming their economies, so too do governance institutions progress – as an indispensable ingredient to further development and as the outcome of increased demand from domestic constituencies for such improvements.”

Yet when things go wrong, with governments unable to deliver adequate services, with jobs, income and many basic services failing to meet growing public



expectations, incumbents get blamed and lose people’s trust. Two of the forum’s plenary sessions on 26 June will deal precisely with those concerns – one on citizen expectations and trust in the State and another one on building trust through better access and service delivery. Addressing this subject is urgent: More than 50 percent of Latin Americans, for example, are willing to sacrifice a democratic government in exchange for real social and economic progress, according to a 2004 UNDP report on Democracy in Latin America.

Accountability more important than ideology

Dissatisfaction with democracy has certainly proved to go hand in hand with very low levels of confidence in government, as Peri K. Blind, an expert associate in DESA, indicates in her study on building trust in government in the twenty-first century. Blind’s study shows that the level of dissatisfaction with government was found to be 65 percent in Western Europe, 73 percent in Eastern and Central Europe, 60 percent in North America, 61 percent in Africa, 65 percent in Asia Pacific and 69 percent in Latin America in 2005. Furthermore, trust in government by itself has now become an independent predictor of support for government policies, “more important than partisanship or ideology alone,” says Ms. Blind.

Transparency and accountability are the main requisites of trust and good governance, according to the study. At the same time, rule of law, an independent judiciary, free, fair and regular elections coupled with legitimate parliamentary processes, a healthy and engaged civil society, fighting corruption and appearances of corruption, local governance and decentralization as well as e-governance all underpin the transparency and accountability that promote trust in the political system. All of these subjects will be discussed in the plenary sessions and capacity development workshops programmed for the four-day conference.

The best of 2006

A political intervention, stresses Ms. Blind, can only foster trust and encourage good governance if it is transparent, open and built on the principle of accountability – that is, its architects can be held responsible for their actions. Several countries have devised innovative solutions to accountability and other governance problems. The State Oil Fund of Azerbaijan is a case in point. The government of this country has endorsed and implemented the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative, an international

effort that follows from the Lancaster House Conference in London in 2003. The result has been high standards of transparency and accountability in oil and gas revenues.

Since the Oil Fund of Azerbaijan expects to take in more than 150 billion dollars over the next 15 years, a significant portion of government revenue, ensuring financial transparency in the oil industry will be pivotal to promoting investor confidence in the country as a whole. Cooperation in Azerbaijan between the government, extractive industry companies, and civil society, based on a formal memorandum of understanding, has also demonstrated that inclusion of civil society can help validate important government policy and smooth implementation. Azerbaijan is an example of how some government organizations are leading by example improving transparency, accountability and responsiveness in the public sector.

The Lebanese Ministry of Finance has also taken a big leap forward in the delivery of services. The taxpayer services function of the Lebanese Revenue Administration has metamorphosed over the last few years. Manual management of taxpayer records was transformed into an automated function with dedicated offices, redesigned procedures and trained staff. Changes resulted in growing customer satisfaction, a higher rate of voluntary tax compliance, a reduced number of disputes, greater revenues to the Treasury, and enablement of e-taxation.

In Kenya, an extensive system of performance-based contracting has been put in place to address a style of public sector management that emphasized process compliance over results. So far, 4,000 public officials have been trained in the new approach. The change was introduced in a pilot with sixteen state-owned enterprises in 2004. The effect was remarkable and unprecedented. The enterprises involved in the pilot recorded an increase in pretax profits of up to 282 percent over the previous year and 13 percent over the targets. Performance contracts have also proved to encourage responsiveness and accountability.

The achievements of Azerbaijan, Lebanon and Kenya along with those of other ten government organizations will be recognized during the Forum with UN Public Service Awards. All winners have demonstrated an outstanding contribution to government innovation.

Practical solutions to everyday problems

The Forum is a laboratory for new ideas and policy development. It should therefore come as no surprise that restoring trust in government through innovation is at the heart of the first of the seven capacity development workshops featured on 28 June. Innovation shifts the picture “from what the State should do to how it should do it,” in the words of Adriana Alberti, Chief of the Programme for Innovations in Governance in the DESA Division for Public Administration and Development Management.

“Instead of debating what the problems are, government officials wish to move the debate forward to how they should solve the problems they encounter on a daily basis,” Ms. Alberti explains. Sharing practices is useful to inspire people who look for solutions on governance problems while paving the way for the future transfer and adaptation of innovations. That is not, however, the same as embracing a one-size-fits-all solution to governance problems. One of the plenary sessions on 27 June will spotlight the especially challenging cases of crisis and post-conflict countries, which require additional efforts.

Innovation is not a luxury of countries with developed administrative systems. Successful practices have been set in motion in all corners of the globe, as the growing number of applications for the UN Public Services Awards has shown. Some initiatives have been replicated taking the shape of South-North cooperation. An integrated public services system launched by the State of Bahia in Brazil was, for example, recently adopted by Portugal, Mozambique and South Africa.

The Forum’s plenary sessions will be attended by Under-Secretary General for Economic and Social Affairs, Jose Antonio Ocampo, the Executive Secretary of ECA, Abdoulie Janneh, the Director of the UNDP Bureau for Crisis Prevention Recovery, Kathleen Cravero, and Rima Khalaf Hunaidi, Chair of the UN Democracy Fund. Numerous civil society organizations and high-level political leaders will also take part in discussions on methods of boosting public trust and preventing government alienation from citizens.

For full information on the 7th global forum on reinventing government, including a comprehensive agenda and the list of speakers, please visit <http://www.7thglobalforum.org>.



Deepening the intellectual foundations of economic and social affairs

José Antonio Ocampo takes stock of his four-year tenure as Under-Secretary General for Economic and Social Affairs

Mr. José Antonio Ocampo leaves the helm of DESA at the end of June after almost four years of service. When Mr. Ocampo arrived in September 2003 to head the department, he brought with him years of experience as a scholar, Minister of Finance, Planning and Agriculture, and Executive Secretary of ECLAC. Among his main aspirations was to recover the department's former capacity to lead the intellectual debate in economic and social issues. A priority was to support member states achieve their agreed international development goals "by providing analytical inputs, facilitating policy development, extending technical cooperation and ensuring a coordinated UN system approach."

Mr. Ocampo's vision for the department was to serve all member states as a "global think tank on economic and social affairs" just as ECLAC does for the countries of its region. He also set out to unify the department, or to use his words, to turn DESA "from a set of independent republics into a federation." Four years later, Mr. Ocampo's legacy as Under-Secretary General for Economic and Social Affairs includes a decisive impulse to the UN Development agenda – a term he himself coined – and to DESA's analytical and normative role. In his view, DESA has also made long strides towards becoming the "global think tank" that he envisioned. Both the department's publications and the debate at the Economic and Social Council have indeed seen their analytical level rise under Mr. Ocampo's leadership. But he is aware that becoming a global think tank cannot be achieved overnight – "It takes at least ten to 15 years to consolidate that process." The path towards a "DESA federation" is also now shorter, but, as he admits, there is still a long way to go to improve coordination among the department's divisions.

All in all, he feels that there is more that the Department could do, particularly in publishing the outcomes of many excellent substantive forums and meetings for a broader public. Likewise, he recognizes that, under his watch, major progress had

been made in creating an effective multilingual UN website on economic and social affairs, but that more needs to be accomplished in the years to come, particularly in terms of obtaining the buy-in of all UN economic and social entities, so that the site becomes an inclusive UN economic and social portal - a single, jointly-owned entry-point to all their websites and knowledge resources.

Raising DESA's academic profile

One of Mr. Ocampo's main achievements has been to raise the Department's academic profile. Flagship publications such as the World Economic and Social Survey and the World Economic Situation and Prospects have deepened understanding and analysis of issues of current concern in the development debate. So has the Report on the World Social Situation, which broke new ground with the release of its much-acclaimed 2005 edition on The Inequality predicament. Economist Dani Rodrik has praised the World Economic and Social Survey 2006 on diverging growth and development as the best report on this issue produced by an international organization he has ever read.

He has ensured that many good DESA reports, especially those that once had a limited, almost only internal circulation, have gained a broader external audience and are now also the joint product of various divisions. "I will be working to ensure greater collaboration between the secretariats of the functional commissions," Mr. Ocampo had heralded at the beginning of his tenure. Sure enough now, DESA flagship reports such as the World Economic Situation and Prospects and the World Economic and Social Survey include contributions from the regional commissions and UNCTAD.

A decisive step towards UN reform

Under Mr. Ocampo's watch and discreet guidance, a major reform of the Economic and Social Council is underway, with the launch this year of the Annual Ministerial Review and the Development Cooperation Forum. These new functions that global leaders granted the Council at the 2005 World Summit, "must," according to Mr. Ocampo, "enable ECOSOC to serve as a bridge between policy-making and implementation," and serve "to build a culture of accountability at the intergovernmental level as exists in other organizations so that all Member States are encouraged to live up to their commitments."

A champion of ECOSOC reform, Mr. Ocampo views the Council's new functions as pivotal to help the body fulfill its Charter mandate, and become a more effective force for coordination, policy review, and dialogue on development issues. "Coordination within ECOSOC," he stresses, however, "is not an end in itself. It serves to improve the delivery of services to Member States and their peoples."

Complementing the intergovernmental processes, Mr. Ocampo's role as chair of the Executive Committee on Economic and Social Affairs, has helped bolster coordination efforts within the secretariat. Working through 11 thematic clusters ECESA brings together all the department and programme heads in the economic and social areas.

At a time when achieving "coherence" in the UN system is high on the Organization's reform agenda, Mr. Ocampo highlights the many efforts undertaken in building good relations with UNDP and ILO, among other agencies and entities, and his having acted as the "ambassador" of the United Nations regional commissions in New York.

Missions to Bolivia

Mr. Ocampo's role as Under-Secretary General has involved advising the Secretary-General on sensitive matters of political economy. Former Secretary-General Kofi Annan, appointed him as his special envoy for Bolivia between 2004 and 2006. Mr. Ocampo advised the Government of Bolivia as it faced troubling political and economic challenges during those years, and advocated the creation of an Economic and Social Council to institutionalize economic and social dialogue. This Council has now been ratified by the President and is currently under discussion in the Constitutional Assembly.

Mr. Ocampo also assisted the Bolivian Government in the design of its National Development Plan. At the end of 2005, at the request of the newly elected President Evo Morales, he advised the Government on economic and planning policies and coordinated a group of experts to assist in other areas.

An integrated approach to development

At the beginning of his tenure Mr. Ocampo strongly emphasized DESA's mandate of "promoting an integrated approach to economic and social development," and has consistently called for the "integration of social objectives into economic

policy-making, as key to achieving inclusive development."

Among other notable achievements that round out Mr. Ocampo's legacy are his championing the theme of international migration at the intergovernmental level before and after the 2006 summit, his placing regional financial arrangements on the international agenda, shining the spotlight on the challenges of middle-income countries in a March 2007 conference co-hosted with the Government of Spain and a set of six policy notes to advise countries in formulating their national development strategies as called for by the 2005 World Summit.

Any major frustrations? Not really. Mr. Ocampo is glad that "all the processes I began are on track," in particular ECOSOC reform. Yet, he acknowledges that much of the departmental work involving coordination still needs to be consolidated.

Coming home to academia

After his many achievement-filled years in international public service, Mr. Ocampo now returns to academia, where, as he is fond of saying, "his heart has always remained." He is rather unique among civil servants for having combining his senior international duties with a steady flow of acclaimed academic publications, "a very difficult task" as he readily admits. As of July he will be Professor Ocampo at the School for International Public Affairs at Columbia University where he will share his knowledge and experience on development and global economic governance with a new generation of aspiring public servants and doctoral students, and be a fellow of the Committee on Global Thought.

He will regain what he misses most: the pleasure of being a professor as well as having time to read and write freely. "There is an almost paternal relationship between professor and students that is very fulfilling and I will be happy to live it again." He recognizes he will miss the team work in DESA and "the capacity to mobilize a large team's resources." Academic culture, he points out, is by contrast individualistic and composed of many "lone knights", rather than consensual teams.

A comforting prospect for all those who have worked with him is that he is merely moving uptown and that he will, from his new vantage point, continue to deepen, as he has always done, the intellectual foundations of economic and social affairs.

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

Global dialogue on development

High-level meeting in Qatar seeks to finance Millennium Development Goals

Second informal thematic debate to take place in Doha on 17 and 18 June

Identifying practical mechanisms to finance the Millennium Development Goals is the main objective of a second informal thematic debate on this topic to be held in Doha, Qatar on 17 and 18 June. The conference is especially significant given the proximity of 2015, and the compelling need for concerted international action. The event will bring together representatives of governments, the UN system, the private sector and civil society.

A first informal thematic debate on the issue was held by the General Assembly last November under the title partnerships towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals: taking stock, moving forward. The debate helped capture practical measures for development and implementation of national development strategies that emphasized partnerships of UN system, civil society and private sector actors.

A panel discussion on progress and challenges in the implementation of commitments to finance the Millennium Development Goals will take place in the morning of the first day. In the afternoon, there will be another panel discussion on successful efforts in the areas of agriculture, access to primary education, and to water and sanitation. On 18 June, the debate will focus on practical proposals – the do's and don'ts – for scaling up, covering the African green revolution, malaria control, water and sanitation and elimination of school fees.

Doha will also be the site of the official Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus to be held in 2008.

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



Oscar de Rojas, Director of the DESA Financing for Development Office, participates in a briefing for NGOs on financing for development on 17 May. A recording of the session can be found online at

<http://webcast.un.org/ramgen/specialevents/ngo070517.rm>.

Srgjan Kerim of the FYR of Macedonia elected President of General Assembly

The General Assembly elected on 24 May by acclamation, Srgjan Kerim of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia as its President for the 62nd session, scheduled to start in September. Also elected in separate meetings were the chairpersons and other members of the Bureau of the Assembly's Main Committees.

Mr. Kerim said he would discharge his duties in a balanced, considered and forthright manner, with utmost respect for the dignity of every single Member State. He also offered his support for Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon's initiatives to strengthen the Organization's role in peacekeeping and disarmament, revitalize the Secretariat and improve the coherence and effectiveness of the way the United Nations system was managed.

Stressing the importance of effective multilateralism, he said the Assembly must deal as much as possible with substance. Revitalization is, in his view, much more than procedural improvements. He added that in today's complex and fast-changing world, the work of the United Nations was becoming increasingly indispensable. The stronger the cooperation between the principal organs of the United Nations, the better the Organization would be able to meet the hopes and expectations of millions of people around the world, "people whom we exist to serve." "Our cooperation needs to extend to all the major issues before us – from fighting terrorism to bringing the benefits of globalization to all the world's people; from promoting and protecting human rights to strengthening the Organization's overall coherence, and its capacity in peacekeeping

operations, as well as disarmament and non-proliferation.”

He also emphasized the importance of the Millennium Development Goals, saying that achieving those targets, particularly in Africa, was not solely a test of the international community’s ability to deliver on commitments, but it was, above all, a test of its moral obligations and the ethical values that were enshrined in the Charter. “To achieve these and other development goals, we should demand more of ourselves, as well as of this Organization,” he said, stressing the importance of greater system-wide coordination and coherence.

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

No agreement on policy decisions at the Commission on Sustainable Development

But delegates achieve near unanimity on industrial development and air pollution

The Commission on Sustainable Development ended its 15th session on 11 May with a deadlock on the outcome document. Member States were unable to agree on policy decisions on key points on energy and climate change. All the major political groupings accepted the Chairman’s proposed decision text, but Germany – on behalf of the European Union – and Switzerland attending as an observer rejected it because agreement could not be reached on time-bound targets for renewable energy, the integration of energy policies into national planning by 2010, a formal review arrangement for energy issues in the UN and an international agreement on energy efficiency.

States widely acknowledged the need to speed up access to sustainable energy services to the poor, including sustainable rural electrification programmes with an emphasis on least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing states. It was also recognized the need to adopt incentives to boost investment to provide sustainable and improved energy services and infrastructure for the poor, especially for poor women.

On industrial development, the delegates agreed on actions such as fostering domestic environmental

governance, adopting improved environmental management practices and environmentally sound technologies, supporting technological upgrading for sustainable industrial development and, among other things, enhancing efficient and sustainable use by industry of natural resources and energy.

The delegates also agreed that promoting policies to reduce air pollution, the use of ozone depleting substances and improvement of air quality in general is pivotal, in addition to implementing multilateral environmental agreements, ratifying or acceding the Vienna Convention and the Montreal Protocol, and phasing out the use of leaded gasoline, among other things.

Francis D. Nhema, both minister of Environment and Tourism of Zimbabwe and candidate endorsed by the African States Group to serve as the chairman of the Commission’s next session, was elected to the post by a secret vote of 26 in favour and 21 against, with three abstentions. After the vote, the representatives of Germany (on behalf of the European Union) and Canada (also on behalf of Australia and New Zealand) expressed their displeasure over Mr. Nhema’s election to the post.

The 15th session of the Commission on Sustainable Development met this year from 30 April to 11 May in the second of a two-year cycle (review and policy sessions) devoted to the issues of energy for sustainable development, industrial development, air pollution/atmosphere, and climate change. The Commission was established in 1992 to ensure effective follow-up of United Nations Conference on Environment and Development also known as the Earth Summit. It is also responsible for reviewing progress in the implementation of Agenda 21 and the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development; as well as providing policy guidance to follow up the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation at the local, national, regional and international levels.

For more information, including the Chairman’s summary of the session and complete webcast coverage: <http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/>

Civil society interest in UN affairs remains strong

NGO Committee recommends 89 organizations for consultative status with one, Liberty International, under threat of removal

At its 2007 resumed session from 14 to 18 May 2007, the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations had before it 138 applications for consultative status, including applications deferred from previous sessions. Of those applications, the Committee recommended eighty-nine applications for consultative status, and deferred forty-four applications for further consideration at a later date. Consideration of three organizations was closed. The Committee chose not to recommend two organizations.

The Committee had also before it two requests of reclassification of consultative status of which it recommended one. In addition, it reviewed sixty-three quadrennial reports, six of which were deferred from previous sessions. In addition, the Committee recommended six organizations for special consultative status: Inner Trip Reiyukai International, National Children's and Youth Law Centre, Bangladesh Women Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Jamaica Association on Mental Retardation, Microteam Education Apprentissage et Nouvelles Technologies and Maryam Ghasemi Educational Charity Institute. It also granted roster status to European Landowners' Organization.

Acting on a complaint by China, the Committee stripped Liberty International, a United Kingdom-based organization, of its consultative status on the grounds that the organization had severely abused that status by assisting a ranking official from China's Province of Taiwan to gain access to a meeting of the Human Rights Council and advocate Taiwan's membership in the World Health Organization. The voting was that of 13 in favour to three against (Israel, United Kingdom and United States), with two abstentions (Peru and Romania).

The Committee recommended that consultative status not be granted to either the Swedish Federation for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Rights or the Jewish National Fund, and deferred to the next session the applications of Human Rights House Foundation; Federación Estatal de Lesbianas, Gays, Transexuales y Bisexuales; Association Sahel Solidarité Action; Associação Brasileira de Gays, Lésbicas e Transgêneros; Iranian Society of Engineering Design and Assembly; Hudson Institute, Inc.; TRIAL; Civil Resource Development and Documentation Centre Nigeria; Mahabodhi International Meditation Center; and all other remaining new applications and reclassifications.

The report of the Committee, including its recommendations, will be considered by the Economic and Social Council in Geneva in July.

The Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations is a standing committee of the Council with 19 members, whose term of office is four years. Present members are Angola, Burundi, Egypt, Guinea and Sudan (representing African States); China, India, Pakistan and Qatar (from Asian States); Romania and the Russian Federation (from Eastern European States); Dominica, Colombia, Cuba and Peru (in representation of Latin American and Caribbean States), and Israel, Turkey, United States and United Kingdom (representing Western European and other States).

For more information:

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

Trends and analysis

Fragile States, fragile groups

A conference in Helsinki explores economic and social vulnerability

Many of the world's poorest countries and groups are fragile. Fragility in whatever form – be it economic insecurity, political instability, or even weak governance – hinders development. Policy responses for dealing with vulnerability are not always obvious, however. To address the issue, UNU-WIDER and DESA are organizing a conference on fragile States and groups in Helsinki, Finland, from 15 to 16 June. Researchers and practitioners will discuss different concepts and measures of fragility and vulnerability, to analyze causes and consequences of vulnerability, to consider appropriate policy options, and to identify future research directions.

“A country may not be falling apart but have groups that are extremely vulnerable, whether ethnic groups or economically backward groups,” explains Robert Vos, Director of the Development Policy and Analysis Division in DESA. At the same time, he adds, vulnerability or fragility applies to poor farmers that are affected by fluctuations in commodity prices and lack of access to markets. Fragility surfaces in territories dealing with military conflicts, which have a decisive impact on development. Conversely, explains Mr. Vos, some States lack social cohesion and for that reason are politically unstable.

A hundred papers will be presented during the conference, several of them responding to a general call for submissions. The meeting includes two plenary sessions and a number of parallel sessions, which will cover a variety of issues, among them trade and financial shocks, strategies for dealing with economic and social vulnerability, State failure and governance and fragile States. The success of microinsurance mechanisms and social safety nets will also be assessed.

A selection of conference papers are to be used as background notes for the World Economic and Social Survey 2008, a DESA flagship publication which next year will be devoted to economic insecurity.

For more information:

<http://www.un.org/esa/policy/wider.htm>

Free, prior and informed consent urged for projects on indigenous lands

The Permanent Forum also calls upon the General Assembly to adopt a declaration of indigenous rights

The UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues recommended in May that governments adopt, in national legislation, the principle of “free, prior and informed consent” of indigenous peoples regarding potential development projects or other activities carried out on their lands. The Forum approved by consensus eight sets of draft recommendations and three draft decisions, through which Forum experts expressed the strong belief that indigenous peoples’ right to access and manage communal lands and natural resources is central to their collective survival.

The Forum stated that “most local and national indigenous peoples’ movements have emerged from struggles against policies and actions that have undermined and discriminated against their customary land tenure and resource-management systems, expropriated their lands, extracted their resources without their consent and led to their displacement and dispossession from their territories.” In this connection, Permanent Forum Chairperson, Victoria Tauli-Corpuz, acknowledged that, while the issues associated with indigenous lands and natural resources were complex, representatives of tribal and native peoples and their groups during the two-week forum had shown they were not victims. She added that they had not come to New York to complain; rather, they presented sound advice to governments and intergovernmental organizations about how to meet their needs for survival.

The Permanent Forum also strongly urged the General Assembly adopt the Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples before the end of its current session. The Declaration was endorsed by the Human Rights Council some six months but its fate remains unclear. Talks on the Declaration have sputtered in New York in the wake of initial opposition from Australia, Canada and New Zealand. A package of amendments was floated during the Forum’s second week by the Africa Group, yet was roundly rejected by indigenous groups as “unacceptable and inconsistent with international human rights law”.

The Permanent Forum recommended that the Human Rights Council and the Committee on Economic Social and Cultural Rights investigate the possibility of the development and acceptance of general recommendations relating to the right of indigenous peoples to self-determination by securing their access to their ancestral lands, territories and natural resources.

By its text on the status of implementation of the Millennium Development Goals and other targets for economic and social development, environment, health, education, culture and human rights, the Forum expressed its concern that relevant reports presented during the session by many States, as well as poverty reduction strategy papers still did not adequately include and address indigenous peoples, nor did they include the participation of native and tribal peoples. The experts called on States “to rectify this weakness and on United Nations agencies to support their efforts.”

The Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues held its 6th session from 14 to 25 May in New York. The Forum is a 16-member subcommittee of the Economic and Social Council, is mandated chiefly to provide expert advice on indigenous issues to the Council and the United Nations system; raise awareness and promote the integration and coordination of activities relating to indigenous issues with the United Nations system; and prepare and disseminate information on indigenous issues.



Jose Antonio Ocampo, coordinator of the Second Decade of the World's Indigenous People, called for mechanisms to ensure the participation of indigenous peoples in

policy design, implementation and monitoring at the opening of the 6th session on 14 May. A recording of the session is available at <http://webcast.un.org/ramgen/specialevents/se070514am.rm>.

Strengthening national machineries on ageing

Expert group meeting analyzes obstacles and possibilities in developing national policies

An expert group meeting will explore the challenges of developing capacities on ageing policies in countries, from 13 to 15 June in Sliema, Malta as part of the follow-up to the Second World Assembly on Ageing. Governments have been taking a number of actions in recent years to boost their capacity to achieve the objectives of the Madrid International Plan of Action, with an emphasis on strengthening institutions and legislative action.

The meeting has been organized by the DESA Division for Social Policy and Development in cooperation with International Institute on Ageing and UN-Malta, and has two goals: to present and discuss the current national experiences on capacity development in ageing policies, highlighting lessons learned and obstacles encountered in the setting up and the functioning of national machinery on ageing, and to complete work on a guide for national implementation of the Madrid Plan.

For more information:

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

Poverty and hunger eradication in Latin America and the Caribbean

Regional consultation stresses the needs of middle-income countries

Trends and challenges of financing poverty and hunger eradication in Latin America and the Caribbean were at the heart of the discussions of the Latin American and Caribbean Regional Forum that unfolded on 17 and 18 May in Brasilia. The Government of Brazil hosted the event at the Ministry of External Relations with the support of DESA and ECLAC.

Participants discussed traditional and innovative sources of financing to eliminate the scourge of poverty and hunger. Presentations were made by governments and civil society on efforts made to fight poverty. In Latin America, inequality remains pervasive while in the Caribbean, absolute poverty

and vulnerability to natural disaster and climate change were of greatest concern. A strong message calling for addressing the needs of middle-income countries in the existing financing for development framework was launched.

With low levels of external financing, most countries in the region rely on national development strategies and regional frameworks for trade and cooperation, complemented by efforts by civil society and the private sector. Brazil's conditional cash transfer programme, Bolsa Familia, was seen to have played an important part in tackling poverty and is being replicated elsewhere. Trade and commodity pricing were also cited as important to the region's welfare.

Participants expressed interest in engaging more strategically with the Economic and Social Council to promote the region's development goals. The Instituto de Pesquisa Economica Aplicada, a Brazilian research organization, argued that widening the net of social welfare to include more recipients has a greater impact on extreme poverty than rising payouts to existing recipients. Other panelists recommended increasing the availability of inclusive microfinance services to empower the poor to pull themselves out of poverty.

Panelists also called for a more wide-spread use of innovative sources of funding – such as UNITAID's solidarity airline tax and special drawing rights at the IMF. Others recommended growing technical assistance and South-South cooperation, coupled with strengthened tax systems – in particular stopping tax evasion and improving national tax collection. Participants also discussed the motivation of the private sector in developing innovative social programmes that work parallel to government efforts.

A summary report of the meeting will be produced shortly and presented at the Annual Ministerial Review of the Economic and Social Council in July.

Some 90 delegates from 22 countries in the region took part in the meeting, along with UN and related entities, civil society organizations and a private sector organization. Speakers included José Luis Machinea, Executive Secretary of ECLAC, Patrus Ananias, Minister for Social Development and Fight against Hunger of Brazil, and Rommel Acevedo, Secretary-General of the Latin American Association of Financial Institutions for Development.

For more information:
<http://www.un.org/docs/ecosoc/meetings/2007/amr2007/brasil.html>

E-dialogue on the inclusive society

Mapping out practical strategies to promote social integration is the purpose of an e-dialogue being run by the Division for Social Policy and Development in DESA out in collaboration with UNESCO and UN-Habitat. From 23 May to 20 June, registrants will discuss conditions deemed necessary for a society to be inclusive. The goal is to compile current initiatives and approaches in measuring social integration, inclusion and cohesion, while establishing a network of researchers, practitioners, local communities and NGOs in this area. The outcome of the discussion will be used on input to an expert group meeting on this topic in September.

For more information:
http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/inclusive_society/

Economic statistics and policy-making

A work session convened by the Friends of the Chair of the Statistical Commission on Integrated Economic Statistics, jointly organized by the Swiss Federal Statistical Office and DESA's Statistics Division, will be held from 6 to 8 June in Bern, Switzerland. The Friends of the Chair Group, consisting of eleven countries and four international organizations, was established at the request of the Statistical Commission last year to develop a concept paper on the modalities of the integrated approach to economic statistics.

Participants are expected to review policy and other user requirements such as mapping domains of economic statistics to policy needs. National practices and the experience of international organizations in adopting statistical integration frameworks will be discussed, along with the application of economic censuses, business registers and other aspects of data collections programmes. Participating experts will play an important part in developing the outline of the concept paper that will be submitted to the 2008 session of the Statistical Commission.

For more information:
http://www.bfs.admin.ch/bfs/portal/en/index/institutio nen/int_coop/un/integratedecostat.html

Recommendations on tourism statistics

An expert group on tourism statistics will meet from 25 to 28 June in New York to review and endorse the provisional draft of International Recommendations on Tourism Statistics. Once completed, the recommendations will be submitted for approval to the Statistical Commission, most likely at its 38th session in March next year. The assembled experts will also address data compilation strategies to ensure the implementation of the international recommendations.

For more information:

<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/trade/egts/egtsmeeting.htm>

Technical cooperation

Policy notes for policy shapers

National development strategy notes present alternatives to standard policy solutions

The outcome document of the 2005 United Nations World Summit called on countries to prepare national development strategies, taking into account the international development goals agreed in the various UN summits and conferences of the past two decades.

In order to assist countries in this task, DESA commissioned six notes for policy-makers and policy-shapers both in the government and civil society, in major areas relevant to national development strategies: macroeconomic and growth policy, trade policy, investment and technology policy, financing development, social policy, and state-owned enterprise reform. The policy notes, authored by experts in these fields, draw on the experience and dialogues of the United Nations in the economic and social areas, complemented by outside knowledge. The views expressed in the policy notes are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect those of the United Nations.

The NDS policy notes, explains Nikhil Chandavarkar, Chief of the Communications and Information Service of DESA, are intended to provide those at the country level who shape and set policies, with 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.” The notes, says Mr. Chandavarkar, serve to help countries “expand their policy space, their effective room for maneuver” in formulating national economic, social, and environmental policies.

Tailored versions of the notes have been prepared in Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian, and Spanish. Additional translations will be posted as they become available. An electronic discussion board is being used to gather feedback, and is open to all.

For more information:

<http://esaconf.un.org/WB/?boardid=ndsnet>

Improving management of public water utilities

Workshop promotes partnerships among water operators in Latin America and the Caribbean

World leaders committed themselves in the Millennium Declaration to halve by 2015 the proportion of people who are unable to reach or afford drinking water. To that end, many of the water-related meetings and conferences in the last years have stressed the need for capacity-building of public water utilities to meet the development goals on water and sanitation. The workshop on partnerships for improving the performance of water utilities in Latin America and the Caribbean that is taking place in Recife, Brazil, from 11 to 13 June is a significant link in the chain towards the achievement of the goals.

The Division for Sustainable Development in DESA is the organizer of the workshop, which will focus on the following four themes: managing water and sanitation services in urban areas, strengthening institutional governance and accountability, financing water and sanitation services, and promoting partnerships among water operators.

The workshop aims to serve as a forum for sharing knowledge and experiences gained in improving the governance of public water utilities, especially from the regional perspective. As such, it will help foster the technical capacities of water utility managers in developing and implementing institutional and policy reforms that will make these utilities more efficient.

The workshop programme is also intended to strengthen South-South cooperation, especially among water operators. The dialogue between water operators and experts will focus on sharing practices, coupled with finding solutions that will help these utilities to become more responsive to their clients, commercially astute and financially sustainable. In summary, the meeting will be an important step forward towards speeding up the implementation of global water and sanitation agenda.

For more information:

http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/sdissues/water/workshop_lac/index.htm

International economic and social classifications

Latin American and Caribbean workshop discusses measures to encourage cooperation in classifications

As part of the worldwide implementation of the International Standard Industrial Classification and the Central Product Classification, approved by the Statistical Commission last March, DESA's Statistics Division is organizing a workshop on international economic and social classifications for countries in Latin America and the Caribbean. The meeting will take place in Panama City from 4 to 8 June.

The workshop is intended to focus attention on the current revision processes of economic and social classifications and builds upon previous classifications workshops in the region. It will review the current implementation and use of national activity and product classifications and their relationship to International Standard Industrial Classification and the Central Product Classification in the region. It will provide an up-to-date account of the final versions of the revised activity and product classifications as well as information on methodological changes related to the application of the classification.

The workshop will collect additional input from countries in the region on open questions in the International Standard Industrial Classification and the Central Product Classification revision, and will address implementation issues in connection with the revised classifications. Lastly, it will discuss measures to facilitate cooperation in the field of classifications, including coordination of work on regional/sub regional cooperation in classifications.

For more information:

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

Managing conflict in Central America and the Caribbean

A consultation in Santo Domingo from 6 to 8 June seeks to link governance and crisis prevention

How can governance lead to crisis prevention? The subregional consultation on capacity-building for the peaceful management of conflict in Central America and the Caribbean will seek responses to this and other questions, from 6 to 8 June in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic. It will explore the relationship

between conflict management and building sustainable peace and seek to shed light on the special challenges and needs of the subregion.

The consultation will provide a forum for a regional sharing of experiences between governmental and civil society institutions that have the potential to support crisis and conflict prevention. About forty government officials, civil society representatives, experts and practitioners with experience in the strengthening of governance and the management of conflict from Central America and the Caribbean are expected to attend.

Participants will have the opportunity to deepen their knowledge, skills and networks, and ultimately strengthen the capacity of national actors and governance institutions for managing conflict and sustaining peace. An array of case studies will be presented, through which participants will be introduced to the skills-building and institutional-strengthening elements of conflict prevention such as conflict-sensitive development.

A new UN peacebuilding portal for Central America and the Caribbean will be shown as a potential tool for enhancing knowledge-sharing and networking in the region. The portal links peacebuilding NGOs, researchers, multilateral organizations, national, regional and local governments, helping them expand their capacity to respond to social change and conflict situations.

This consultation has been organized by the DESA Division for Public Administration and Development Management in collaboration with UNDP, and with the support of Mission of the Dominican Republic to the United Nations, the Organization of American States and the Association of Caribbean States.

For more information on the peacebuilding portal:

<http://www.peacebuildingportal.org>

Standards of excellence in public administration education

Heads of education to explore challenges faced by public administration schools

A meeting of the heads of schools and officials of public administration and management development along with their regional networks will take place on 25 June in conjunction with the 7th Global Forum on

Reinventing Government in Vienna. The meeting is organized by the Division for Public Administration and Development Management, in close collaboration with the International Association of Schools and Institutes of Administration and other relevant actors.

The purpose of the meeting is to examine the administrative and substantive needs and challenges that public administration schools and institutes are facing, to develop a plan of action and clarify the next steps for regional and subregional cooperation. It will also consider the role of DESA in capacity-building and within the process of implementing the plan of action.

Innovators in governance in the Mediterranean

The Division for Public Administration and Development Management is organizing the Second Meeting of the Network of Innovators in Governance in the Mediterranean Region, which will take place on 25 June in Vienna, Austria, one day before the 7th Global Forum on Reinventing Government on Building Trust in Government convenes. About forty to forty-five participants will take part in this event to discuss the activities for 2007-2008 of the working groups that were established during the Steering Committee of the Network in Rabat in March 2007. The Network of Innovators in Governance in the Mediterranean Region is a DESA-led activity, undertaken within the framework of the Programme for Innovation in Public Administration in the Mediterranean Region, which was launched in June 2006 in Marseille, France.

For more information:

http://www.unpan.org/directory/conference/guest/browseoneconference.asp?conference_id=2063 or www.7thglobalforum.org

7th UNPAN interregional consultative meeting

Eleven institutions have joined the United Nations Public Administration Network in the last three years. Those new members will introduce themselves to the network during the 7th interregional consultative meeting to take place on 25 June in Vienna. Participants will report on various UNPAN activities including those of the Online Regional

Center and Online International Center, on the newly upgraded UNPAN portal.

For more information:

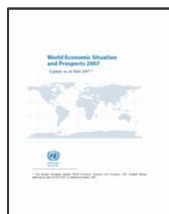
http://www.unpan.org/directory/conference/guest/browseoneconference.asp?conference_id=2026

Funding sought for social development projects in Senegal

The DESA Division for Social Policy and Development supported the finalization by the Ministry of Women, Family and Social Development of Senegal of a ten-year plan for social development during a workshop held in Dakar from 1 to 4 May. This ambitious plan was developed over a one-year period, and will now be submitted to prospective donors who may be interested in some or all of the projects identified by the Ministry as priorities.

Publications and websites

Technical reports



World Economic Situation and Prospects – 2007 Mid-Year Update

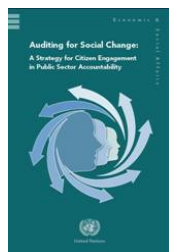
The mid-year update of the 2007 World Economic Situation and Prospects warns that an abrupt unwinding of the large global imbalances could significantly destabilize the global financial markets and depress world economic growth. It also calls on economic and financial policy makers from around the world to devise a financial system that can address unsustainable current-account imbalances and avoid a hard landing of the US dollar.

The report recommends pushing forward the agenda of reform and voice and representation in the IMF more forcefully, so that seats on the Executive Board and votes in the Fund better reflect 21st century realities and enhance the legitimacy of the Fund's mediation role.

The World Economic Situation and Prospects is produced at the beginning of each year by DESA, UNCTAD, and the five United Nations regional commissions.

For more information:

<http://www.un.org/esa/policy/wess/wesp.html>



Auditing for Social Change: A Strategy for Citizen Engagement in Public Sector Accountability

This publication explores how the audit function can be made more open and participatory and how audit can be used as a vital tool for citizen empowerment for promoting transparency. The introductory chapter examines the main challenges of auditing, evaluation and monitoring within the framework of participatory governance and the achievement of the UN Millennium Development Goals. The other chapters impart a thorough discussion on the role of legislative

oversight authorities, civil society, media and other stakeholders in making audit a tool for social change and impact. Additionally, the publication highlights the importance of complementary forms of oversight and scrutiny, such as results-based monitoring and evaluation.

To download:

<http://unpan1.un.org/intradoc/groups/public/documents/UN/UNPAN021950.pdf>



World Economic and Social Survey 2007 – forthcoming

Greater longevity is an indicator of human progress in general. At the same time, increased life expectancy and lower fertility rates are changing

the population structure worldwide: the proportion of older persons is rapidly increasing, a process known as population ageing. The process is inevitable and is already advanced in developed countries and progressing rapidly in developing ones.

The World Economic and Social Survey 2007 analyzes the implications of population ageing for social and economic development around the world, while recognizing that it offers challenges and opportunities. Among the most pressing issues is the prospect of a smaller labour force having to support an increasingly larger older population. Changes in intergenerational relationships may also affect the provision of care and income security for older persons, especially in developing countries where family transfers play a major role.

These are only a few of the many challenges ageing is likely to pose. The Survey argues, however, that these challenges are not insurmountable. Societies everywhere need to put in place the policies required to confront those challenges effectively and to ensure an adequate standard of living for each of their members while respecting the participation and contribution of all. The 2007 Survey will be launched in mid-June.

Statistical compilations



2004 Energy Statistics Yearbook

The 2004 Energy Statistics Yearbook is the forty-eight in an internationally comparable series of commercial energy statistics summarizing world energy trends. Annual data for 215 countries and areas for the period 2001 to 2004 are presented on production, trade and consumption of energy: solids, liquids, gaseous fuels and electricity. Per capita consumption series are also provided for all energy products. Graphs are to introduce major products showing historic trends and/or changes in composition of production and/or consumption of major products. Special tables of interest include international trade tables for coal, crude petroleum and natural gas by partner countries – providing information on direction of trade, selected series of statistics on fuel wood, charcoal and bagasse, refinery distillation capacity and a table on selected energy resources. Publication symbol ST/ESA/STAT/SER.J/48.

For more information:

<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/energy/yearbook/default.htm>



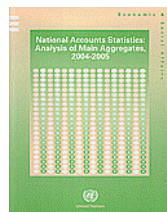
World Statistics Pocketbook 2006

This handy pocketbook provides a compilation of basic international economic, social and environmental indicators for 212 countries and areas worldwide. It covers 57 key indicators in the areas of population, economic activity, agriculture, industry, energy, international trade, transport, communications, gender, education and environment, drawn

from over 20 international statistical sources. The layout provides an easy-to-view comprehensive statistical profile of each country or area and the notes on sources and definition provide a valuable guide for further research by the in-depth user of these statistics.

For more information and to order:

<https://unp.un.org/details.aspx?entry=E07WSB>

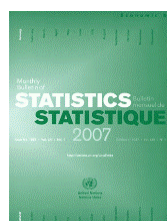


National Accounts Statistics: Analysis of Main Aggregates, 2004-2005

The publication contains detailed national accounts estimates for some 207 countries and areas of the world for the years 1970 to 2004/2005. The national data for each country and area are presented in separate chapters using uniform table headings and classifications recommended in the United Nations System of National Accounts 1993 (SNA 1993). Statistics on national accounts aggregates such as gross domestic product, per capita gross domestic product, shares of gross domestic product by expenditure and by kind of activity, average growth of gross domestic product and components thereof, and implicit price deflators are included. Publication symbol ST/ESA/STAT/SER.X/37.

For more information:

<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/pubs/gesgrid.asp?id=374>

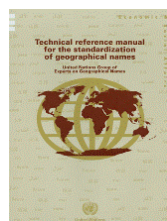


Monthly Bulletin of Statistics and MBS Online

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.

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

Handbook



Technical Reference Manual for the Standardization of Geographical Names

This manual of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names addresses technical issues of national standardization of geographical names and geo-referenced digital databases.

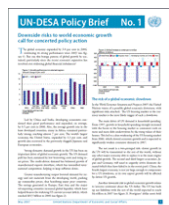
Section one provides details of romanization systems of different languages and scripts, 28 of which have been recommended by the United Nations and 17 of which are under discussion. Section two covers tonypomic data transfer standards and formats,

providing tables of Roman characters used in different languages, and a draft toponymic data exchange standard. Section three tabulates country names in the languages and writing systems used in an official capacity within each country.

The manual is a technical reference for those working with digital data and ISO standards, and forms a partner volume to the Manual for the National Standardization of Geographical Names published in 2006. Symbol ST/ESA/STAT/SER.M/87.

For more information and to order:
<https://unp.un.org/details.aspx?entry=E07018>

Outreach material



UN-DESA Policy Brief on economic issues

The first title in DESA's new series of economic policy notes, entitled Policy Brief, was launched in May. The inaugural issue draws on major

findings of the recent World Economic Situation and Prospects, to highlight the risk of a global economic slowdown and stress the urgent need for internationally coordinated macroeconomic policies. The series will feature synopses of key policy analysis intended to frame issues, inform decisions and guide policy action in the economic, social and environmental arena.

To download:
<http://www.un.org/esa/policy/policybriefs/policybrief1.pdf>

Websites



New Economic and Social Council website – coming soon

The Economic and Social Council will be launching a redesigned website in June that incorporates the Council's new functions – Annual Ministerial Review and Development Cooperation Forum. The new format is consistent with the design of the General Assembly website, and incorporates accessibility standards. The site was a collaborative

effort of the Office for Economic and Social Council Support and Coordination and the Department of Public Information.

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



Free UN data access system – summer 2007

A new United Nations data access system will be launched in summer 2007, replacing the current UN Common Database. It is designed to improve the dissemination of statistics to the widest possible audience and developed to provide an integrated information resource with current, relevant and reliable statistics free of charge to the global community. Subsequent stages of the development of the UN data access system will extend to UN system data as well as to data of national statistical offices – providing the user with a simple single-entry point to global statistics.

For more information:
<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/UNdata/default.htm>

Comings and goings

Goings



Mr. José Antonio Ocampo will leave his post as Under-Secretary-General of Economic and Social Affairs on 30 June. Mr. Ocampo joined the United Nations as Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean in

January 1998, becoming head of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs in New York in September 2003. Mr. Ocampo reflects on his time with the UN in this issue's feature on deepening the intellectual foundations.



Mr. Patrizio Civili, Assistant Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Inter-Agency Affairs, retires on 30 June following a distinguished career spanning some thirty-eight years in the United Nations, devoted largely

to shaping institutional policies and forging consensus at the inter-agency and inter-governmental levels. Building consensus, promoting dialogue and engagement towards positive change is, Mr. Civili says, "my thing." It takes "patience and a certain dose of sense of humour, but it works." He hails the recent strengthening of the Economic and Social Council through the Annual Ministerial Review and Development Cooperation Forum, and sees renewed engagement among all stakeholders – donors large and small, least developed countries and middle income countries to make these new mechanisms succeed.

Mr. Civili joined the United Nations in 1969 at the age of twenty-five, with a laurea degree in comparative constitutional law from the University of Rome, and a graduate degree in Political Science from the University of Washington in Seattle. His first assignment, as a P-1, was in the Office for Inter-Agency Affairs and Coordination, part of Secretary-General U Thant's Executive Office. In 1978, he moved to the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, as Secretary of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee.

He was responsible, from 1979 to 1985, for policy coordination and institutional affairs in the newly-created Office of the Director-General for

Development and International Economic Cooperation. From 1985 to 1986, he was Chief of Office in Economic and Social Affairs. Between 1986 and 1992, he directed the Programme Support and Management Services of UNCTAD, covering technical cooperation, personnel and financial management and conference affairs. From 1992 to 1998, he served as Director in the Executive Office of the Secretary-General first with Mr. Boutros-Ghali and then with Mr. Annan, overseeing economic and social affairs and as Secretary of the Administrative Committee on Coordination, which later became the Chief Executives' Board. He was appointed Assistant Secretary-General in DESA by Mr. Annan in February 1998.

To many, both in the UN Secretariat and in the Specialized Agencies, Mr. Civili has been the face of the CEB Secretariat and the pivotal link between CEB and the Economic and Social Council. He supported the Secretary-General in the transformation of ACC and its extensive machinery into the more agile, inclusive and lighter CEB and in the establishment of a permanent secretariat for the body to ensure continuity and follow-up to initiatives. He sought always to use his long institutional memory "to foster reform and change, not to justify the status quo." He takes satisfaction in what he sees as a renewed sense of commitment to and ownership of CEB on the part of UN system executive heads. He was also a tireless promoter of the UN Staff College, which he terms "the custodian of the principles of multilateralism that bind the UN system and of the basic values of the international civil service."

Looking back on his long and fulfilling career, what matters most to him are the many relationships he has built along the way, the friendships. The United Nations, he concludes with Roman passion and gratitude, has given me "far more than I would have dreamt of as a young man."

Comings

The following staff members were promoted in May:

Ms. Rosanne Greco, Programme Assistant, Division for Public Administration and Development Management

Mr. Kamal Hossain, Information Systems Assistant, Statistics Division

Ms. Madeleine Losch, Staff Assistant, Division for
Public Administration and Development
Management

Ms. Yongyi Min, Statistician, Statistics Division

Ms. Gay Rosenblum-Kumar, Senior Governance and
Public Administration Officer, Division for Public
Administration and Development Management

Ms. Wenyan Yang, Social Affairs Officer, Division
for Social Policy and Development

Calendar

June

DESA/UNESCO/UN-Habitat e-Dialogue on Creating an Inclusive Society: Practical Strategies to Promote Social Integration

23 May-20 June

Workshop on International Economic and Social Classifications

Panama City, 4-8 June

DESA/UNDP Subregional Consultation on Capacity-Building for the Peaceful Management of Conflict in the Central American and Caribbean States

Santo Domingo, 6-8 June

DESA/Switzerland Work Session on Integrated Economic Statistics

Bern, 6-8 June

Capacity Building Workshop on Partnerships for Improving the Performance of Water Utilities in the Latin America and Caribbean Region

Recife, 11-13 June

DESA/International Institute on Ageing/UN-Malta Expert Group Meeting on Policies on Ageing at the National Level: Challenges of Capacity Development

Sliema, 13-15 June

UNU/DESA Conference on Fragile States and Fragile Groups

Helsinki, 15-16 June

Informal Thematic Debate on Financing Development to Achieve the Millennium Development Goals

Doha, 17-18 June

Launch of the World Economic and Social Survey 2007

Geneva, 19 June

Network of Innovators in Governance in the Mediterranean Region

2nd meeting, Vienna, 25 June

7th UNPAN Interregional Consultative Meeting
Vienna, 25 June

United Nations Expert Group Meeting on Tourism Statistics

New York, 25-28 June

7th Global Forum on Reinventing Government

Vienna, 26-29 June

July

Economic and Social Council

Substantive session of 2007, Geneva, 2-17 July

Observances

United Nations Public Service Day

26 June

Countries from all regions of the world will participate by videoconference in a celebration of United Nations Public Service Day to be held in Vienna and New York. The ceremony will take place in Vienna in conjunction with the Seventh Global Forum on Reinventing Government, and simultaneously in Conference Room 4 at United Nations Headquarters. The 2007 United Nations Public Service Awards, considered the most prestigious international recognition of excellence in public service, will be presented as part of the celebration. This year's winners are from Kenya, Singapore, India, Austria, Chile, Azerbaijan, Australia, South Africa, Morocco, Republic of Korea, United Arab Emirates, Lebanon, Switzerland, and Canada. Various cultural performances will also be featured.

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

Inquiries should be addressed to esa@un.org.