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International Year of Youth: their year, their voice

The International Year of Youth, commencing on the United Nations annual Day of Youth, 12 August 2010, celebrates and focuses on the importance of youth around the world. The contributions of youth to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) are fundamental for success and Youth Conferences with the United Nations reflect the role youth play in achieving development. Youth are the future of the UN, and the future of all development. Events surrounding this year aim to make young people more visible in the international development agenda.

In efforts to capture the energy, imagination and initiative of the world's youth in overcoming the challenges facing humankind, from enhancing peace to boosting economic development, the United Nations proclaimed the International Year of Youth, which will commence on the 2010 International Day of Youth on 12 August under the theme "Dialogue and Mutual Understanding." The theme was chosen by the General Assembly out of appreciation for the value of dialogue among youth from different cultures as well as among different generations.

"Young people are the most important capital in the world's history to change the future of humanity," emphasize International Year of Youth campaign workers.

"On International Youth Day, let us renew our pledge to support young people in their development," urged Secretary-General Ban

Ki-Moon at the 2009 Youth Day Celebration. "They deserve our full commitment -- full access to education, adequate healthcare, employment opportunities, financial services and full participation in public life," he said.



The year is designed to encourage young people to dedicate themselves to fostering progress, including the attainment of the UN Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), which seek to improve the livelihoods of all humanity by slashing extreme poverty and hunger, decreasing maternal and infant mortality, improving access to education and health care, along with other more specific goals, by 2015.

Youth and the MDGs

Population statistics indicate that currently, 1.7 billion people — more than one-fourth of the world's six billion people — are between the ages of 10 and 24, making this group of young

people the largest ever to be entering adulthood and the largest underrepresented segment of the world's population.

In an on-line consultation with more than 350 youth about development, most of the respondents said that they knew little or nothing about the MDGs. They also stressed that they do not have access to adequate resources for implementation and requested tools including internet access, access and training to information communication technologies (ICTs), business training and civic education, information sharing, and especially encouragement, funding and resources from government and institutions.

The International Year of Youth, and the theme to promote dialogue among youth and with the world, draws attention towards these needs. With only five years before the deadline set by the international community to achieve the development goals agreed in the year 2000, and such a large global young people population, it is recognized that a youth-oriented focus on these goals is required and essential for the efforts to be effective and progressive on a long term basis. Youth are the future.

Celebrations at the United Nations and around the world

The 2010 International Youth Day on 12 August will be celebrated at United Nations headquarters in New York with the global launch event of the International Year of Youth, where a photo exhibit entitled "Visual Voices – Youth perspectives on Global Issues" will be inaugurated in the UN visitors lobby, to be opened to the public until early September 2010.

The UN Inter-Agency Network on Youth Development is coordinating the activities for the Year, with DESA's UN Programme on Youth leading this effort, striving to increase the effectiveness by strengthening collaboration and exchange among all UN entities working on youth. The UN Framework Approach for the International Year of Youth was adopted in February 2010 to provide a concrete framework for the efforts and to set strategic objectives. The Framework identifies the need to create awareness by increasing commitment and investment in youth; mobilize and engage youth by increasing youth participation and partnerships; and connecting and building bridges to increase intercultural understanding among youth.

The UN Programme on Youth is also providing activities for young people to get involved, including consultations on Facebook, where young people already contributed nearly 500 suggestions for the Year's slogan "**Our Year. Our Voice**". Each month, online consultations on topics related to the Year are held and contributions are included in the UN Programme on Youth's monthly electronic newsletter "Youth Flash".

Around the world, celebrations will continue to take place, including the 5th World Youth Congress in Turkey, the first Youth

Olympic Games in Singapore and the World Youth Conference in Mexico. Local and regional level events are also being organized by young people as an opportunity for discussion and reflections regarding the role young people play in achieving development with special emphasis on the MDGs.

The International Year is about advancing the full and effective participation of youth in all aspects of society. All sectors of society are encouraged to work in partnership with youth and youth organizations to better understand their needs and concerns and to recognize the contributions that they can make to society.

The progress achieved during this year will lay the foundation for further work in youth development, including the implementation of the World Programme of Action for Youth and the achievement of the MDGs.

For more information:

Year of Youth website: <http://social.un.org/youthyear/>

To subscribe to the free e-newsletter "Youth Flash", please visit: www.un.org/esa/socdev/unyin/flash.htm.

To become a Facebook friend of the UN Programme on Youth, please visit: www.facebook.com/UNyouth

A calendar of youth events is available at:

www.social.un.org/iyyevents

Research paper:

<http://www.equip123.net/equip3/docs/YAC/YouthandMDGs.pdf>

Investing in women and girls: a key to achieve the MDGs

In the framework of the 2010 Substantive Session, the Ministerial Declaration was adopted at the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) High-Level Segment on 2 July, calling for greater investment in women and girls in order to strengthen and advance gender equality and women empowerment. Under this premise, the 54 member Council supported the creation of the United Nations Entity for Women.



The new entity called UNWomen will focus on two key roles, said Asha-Rose Migiro, Deputy Secretary-General. “First, to support inter-governmental bodies in their formulation of policies, global standards and norms; and second, to help Member States to implement these standards, standing ready to provide suitable technical and financial support to those countries that request it, as well as forging effective partnerships with civil society”.

UNWomen will fuse the four agencies and offices currently related to women and girls worldwide: the UN Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), the Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues, the Division for the Advancement of Women (DAW), and the UN International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (UN-INSTRAW). The body is the result of years of negotiations and will be based in New York, set to become operational in January 2011.

Apart from the High Level Segment, the ECOSOC Members also took part in the Dialogue of Regional Commissions and in the Coordination, Operational Activities, Humanitarian Affairs and General Segments during the Substantive Session from 28 June to 23 July.

Coordination Segment

Under Secretary-General of DESA Mr. Sha Zukang remarked that “the discussions, which built on the debates from the Council last year, emphasized the need to coordinate UN system-wide efforts on global public health. The health-related MDGs cannot be achieved by the 2015-target date without concerted action by all stakeholders”.

A panel on “Operationalizing the United Nations system’s short and long-term responses to the economic and financial crisis: Progress towards implementing the Social Protection Initiative and the Global Jobs Pact”. The panel focused its discussion on two of the Joint Crisis Initiatives being carried out by the CEB, namely the social protection initiative and the Global Jobs Pact.

The Council adopted a resolution on the follow-up to last year’s Ministerial Declaration on Global Public Health. Main highlights of the resolution included the need to place gender equality at the centre of the response to global health goals, and the importance for the UN system to continue coordinated action to respond to communicable diseases. The meetings also highlighted the ravaging effects of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) and the Council welcomed the decision of the General Assembly to convene a high-level meeting on NCDs in 2011.

Operational Activities Segment

The Operational Activities Segment represented a successful attempt to reinforce the synergy between policy dialogue and country-level realities. The strong representation of experts from

capitals greatly enriched the Council’s work and once again attested to the continued commitment of Member States to the 2007 General Assembly Triennial Comprehensive Policy Review (TCPR) of UN system’s operational activities.

The panel discussions and general debate revealed important achievements made by the UN development system in pursuing coherence, efficiency and effectiveness in its operational activities and showcased innovative approaches, including the “Delivering as One” pilot at country level. But there continues to be many challenges. The quality and quantity of funding for operational activities for development, as well as the fragmented architecture of funding, remain important issues.

With the conclusion of the GA’s consultations on system-wide coherence, there was strong expectation that the Council and GA would follow-up on the newly adopted GA resolution 64/289 on system wide coherence. The Council adopted the outcome, calling for further measures to ensure the quality of the work of the UN development system at country-level, the use of national expertise and capacities, and continued pursuit of efficiency.

Humanitarian Affairs Segment

The Humanitarian Affairs segment consisted of two panels, one on strengthening preparedness for humanitarian emergencies and the other about the challenges of conducting humanitarian operations in unsafe environments, with the case of Haiti, and a general debate. The main outcome was the adoption of a resolution which addressed issues related to operating in high-risk environments, vulnerability and global challenges, humanitarian leadership capacity, needs-assessments, education in emergencies, and emergency rules and procedures.

General Segment

The General Segment concluded the Session and reviewed the reports of its subsidiary bodies and other UN entities working in the economic and social fields, including the Council’s functional commissions, regional commissions, expert and ad hoc bodies. During the segment there was also a briefing on cybersecurity and a panel on Small Island Developing States (SIDS).

During the Joint Special Event organized by ECOSOC and the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC), Deputy Secretary-General Ms. Asha-Rose Migiro said that fostering economic development in countries emerging from conflict can only help to promote political and social stability, stressing the strong ties between poverty eradication and security. The President of ECOSOC, Mr. Hamidon Ali, added that more than half of the 34 countries farthest away from reaching the MDGs are either in the midst of or are emerging from conflict.

For more information:

<http://www.un.org/en/ecosoc/substantivesession/>

UN Women entity to accelerate empowerment of women

video



On 2 July, the General Assembly voted unanimously to create a dynamic new entity to merge four United Nations offices focusing on gender equality.

“I welcome what will be an historic move by the General Assembly today in establishing UN Women, an entity designed to accelerate progress in meeting the needs of women and girls worldwide,” said the Deputy Secretary-General. “UN Women will give women and girls the strong, unified voice they deserve on the world stage. This is a positive and exciting moment for all the UN family and, I believe, for the world,” she added.

Video:

<http://webcast.un.org/ramgen/ondemand/pressconference/2010/pc100702am1.rm> (38 minutes)

Press Release: <http://www.unwomen.org/2010/07/un-creates-new-structure-for-empowerment-of-women/>

UN Women website: <http://www.unwomen.org/>

Global Dialogue on Development

Celebrating indigenous filmmaking on International Day

The event will be held on 9 August in New York and is organized by the Secretariat of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues in cooperation with the NGO Committee on the International Decade of the World's Indigenous Peoples

The theme of the observance at UN Headquarters will be “Celebrating Indigenous Filmmaking.” The event will take place from 2 - 5 pm in Conference Room 1 and compulsory registrations need to be submitted by 6 August, through an email with full name to indigenous_un@un.org. Holders of valid UN grounds passes do not need to register.

The programme of the event is not yet ready but will include messages from the Secretary General, the Under-Secretary General for Economic and Social Affairs and the Chairperson of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues. In addition, there will also be a screening of films made by indigenous filmmakers and a question and answer session with an indigenous film maker will take place.

For more information: <http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii/index.html>

International Year of Youth: Dialogue and mutual understanding

The International Year of Youth will begin on the United Nations International Day of Youth, 12 August 2010 and continue until 11 August 2011

The General Assembly adopted resolution 64/134 in December 2009, proclaiming the Year beginning on 12 August as the International Year of Youth. Under the theme “Dialogue and Mutual Understanding,” the Year aims to promote the ideals of peace, respect for human rights and solidarity across generations, cultures, religions and civilizations.

The Year calls upon Governments, the United Nations system, and civil society to recognize the contributions that youth make to society and to address the challenges they face. It encourages young people to dedicate themselves to fostering progress, including the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), and to devote their energy, enthusiasm and creativity to the promotion of inter-generational and cultural understanding.

On this year’s annual International Youth Day, 12 August 2010, the United Nations will launch the International Year of Youth at UN Headquarters in New York. It is a collaborative event organized by UN entities working in the field of youth and will consist of presentations by high-level Government and UN officials, youth leaders and activists as well as performances by young artists committed to the ideals of the UN and the empowerment of young people towards positive social change.

UN offices around the world will hold events on 12 August to demonstrate the UN system’s commitment to youth development, signifying the global spirit of the Year by showcasing youth contributions to development and promoting the implementation of the World Programme of Action for Youth.

For more information: <http://social.un.org/youthyear/>

Development to help nations consolidate peace

In the frame of the General Segment of the ECOSOC Substantive Session 2010 in New York, a Joint Special Event took place on 19 July 2010 about MDGs in countries emerging from conflict

Deputy Secretary-General Asha-Rose Migiro told the audience at the event hosted by the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) on 19 July that “the devastating effects of conflict on development are evident... It is not surprising that the majority of countries lagging furthest behind in achieving the MDGs are countries emerging from conflict”. She noted that reaching a particular development objective could lead to tackling inequalities that trigger conflicts.

Maternal mortality rates in countries affected by violence is typically very high, while infant and child mortality rates also increase during conflict and very low life expectancy rates persist years after the end of fighting. However, the good news is that many countries are moving forward, including some of the poorest, which demonstrates that the MDGs are achievable when appropriate policies, prudent planning, good governance and adequate resources are underpinned by political commitment.

Ambassador Peter Wittig of Germany, the Chair of the PBC, told the forum that there was an obvious interdependence between the MDGs and peacebuilding. “Many of the areas most commonly identified as peacebuilding priorities by post-conflict governments are a crucial foundation for progress towards the MDGs”, he said. As well as the issues of safety and security, there are others like restoring core government functions at the national and subnational levels; supporting economic

revitalization and creating employment for young people and former combatants; and rehabilitation of basic infrastructure.

Panelists, consisting of the Minister of Economic Affairs of Liberia, high level representatives from UNDP and the World Bank as well as a professor for development studies underlined that more needs to be done to systematically mainstream security concerns into development strategies, and vice versa.

They stressed that countries emerging from conflict faced risks that stretched beyond their capacity to deal with them, including drug trafficking. Consistent ODA was crucial for complementing national budgets and mobilizing resources from other actors was necessary. The UN system entities working on the ground need countries emerging from conflict to do more to use MDG-based strategies to successfully foster peacebuilding.

The outcome of the discussion will be submitted to member states and aims at contributing to the preparatory process of the high-level MDG Summit scheduled for September. The meeting also aimed at strengthening the cooperation of ECOSOC and the PBC in the area of development in post-conflict countries and was the 2nd joint event of the two bodies.

Many member states welcomed this increased cooperation and suggested that the subjects of youth employment and the delivery of key services such as health and education in post-conflict countries were themes that could be addressed in future joint events.

For more information:

<http://esango.un.org/irene/ecosoc.html?page=viewContent&nr=10402&type=8§ion=8>

Cooperation for continued MDG progress

AICESIS and UN used the General Assembly of AICESIS to strengthen cooperation with DESA at the meetings on 6 and 7 July at UN Headquarters in New York

The International Association of Economic and Social Councils (AICESIS) held its General Assembly at the UN Headquarters. The Secretary-General of the United Nations Ban Ki-moon stated in his speech that he encourages AICESIS to continue the cooperation with DESA. He said that the exchange of letters of July 2009 between AICESIS and the USG of DESA, Mr. Sha, formed an excellent basis on which to work on participative governance and to enhance the role of ESC in Africa.

In addition, the Secretary-General underscored the necessity that Economic and Social Councils (ESC) help to achieve the MDGs. While governments and even he himself are often bound to role and other requirements, ESC can express opinions and proposals

more often and he hopes that ESC will use this opportunity to help advance further towards the MDGs.

While some countries seem to be satisfied with AICESIS as a political network, others have higher expectations and proposed a more intensive and targeted cooperation. For UNDESA, both the political dialogue with AICESIS and all its members and a stronger result oriented technical cooperation are useful and, thus, the relationship will continue, although with emphasis on results for better development management.

Ongoing technical cooperation between DESA and AIECIS include: (1) A first stage of a knowledge base which consists of ESC profiles was jointly developed by DESA and AICESIS and its printout was distributed to participants. (2) The regional workshop for Africa in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, aimed at capacity building and knowledge sharing among ESC.

DESA and AIECIS are making in the preparation of development of a management tool for ESC in Africa, training of ESC staff in Africa on knowledge management, and DESA contribution to an AICESIS/ILO seminar on the employment pact in Africa.

After the meeting of AICESIS, the Director and staff from DESA met on 8 July with a delegation of the Economic and Social Council of Brazil to explore future cooperation.

For more information:

<http://www.aicesis.org/spip.php?page=index&lang=en>

Global public health and financing for development

Highlights of the 2010 Coordination Segment held on 6-8 July 2010 during the ECOSOC Substantive Session in New York

At its 2010 Coordination Segment, ECOSOC focused on two main substantive areas--the follow-up to its 2009 Ministerial Declaration on "Implementing the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to global public health" and the follow-up to the International Conference on Financing for Development.

Within the context of the follow-up to its 2009 Ministerial Declaration, two panel discussions were held, on "Towards a United Nations comprehensive policy response to global health challenges" and on "Coordinating efforts for achieving the health-related MDGs".

The first panel took stock of efforts undertaken by the UN system in follow-up to the Ministerial Declaration, considered progress achieved and discussed gaps and challenges that

remained and which needed to be addressed in order to ensure a further coordinated, collaborative and multi-sectoral response by the system as a whole. Panelists included the executive heads of UNICEF, UNFPA and UNAIDS, as well as the Deputy Director-General of WHO.

The second panel examined how efforts undertaken by stakeholders, including the UN system and health alliances could be better coordinated to achieve the health-related MDGs by their 2015 target date. Represented on that panel were the heads of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, and the GAVI Alliance, WHO, the World Bank and the Special Advisor to the UN Secretary-General on Innovative Financing for Development. The Personal Representative of the Prime Minister of Canada for the G-8 and G-20 Summits served as discussant.

Under the financing for development agenda item, the Council considered the President's Summary of the special high-level meeting of the Council with the Bretton Woods Institutions, the WTO and UNCTAD, held in April 2010, as well as a report of the Secretary-General entitled "Recovering from the Crisis: a Global Jobs Pact". Two panel discussions were also held, on "South-South Cooperation and Financing for Development: Investment, Trade and Technology Transfer", and "Global Economic Governance".

For more information: <http://www.un.org/en/ecosoc/julyhls/cs2010.shtml>

ICTs to help empower women with disabilities

The Ministerial Roundtable Breakfast on "The Role of Information and Communication Technologies in Empowering Women with Disabilities" took place during the ECOSOC High-Level Segment on 1 July

The roundtable was organized by Global Initiative for Inclusive Information and Communication Technologies (G3ict) and the Executive Coordinator of the Global Alliance on ICT and Development (GAID) spoke at the opening while a representative of DESA's Division for Public Administration and Development Management (DPADM) made a presentation on the role of ICTs in empowering women with disabilities. A representative of DESA's Division on Social Policy and Development (DSPD) chaired one of the panels.

In consideration of the theme of this year's Annual Ministerial Review segment is on "Implementing the Internationally Agreed Goals and Commitments in regard to Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women." the roundtable discussion focused on topics including the role of accessible Internet resources for work, health, education and social networking, how accessible mobile phones change the lives of women with disabilities, breaking

disabled women's isolation using ICTs, Accessible workplaces and accessible financial services, as well as Success stories, pending issues, and new solutions offered by industry and service providers.

A White Paper, by the G3ict, a flagship partnership initiative of GAID, will be published summarizing the presentations and conclusions reached during the exchanges among participants.

For more information: <http://www.un-gaid.org/Newsevents/Events/tabid/865/mctl/EventDetails/ModuleID/2249/ItemID/1567/Default.aspx?selecteddate=6/28/2010>

Discussing aid commitments and effectiveness

Second Development Cooperation Forum (DCF) of ECOSOC took place on 29 -30 June with a considerable participation of Ministers, Vice-Ministers, Permanent Secretaries and Director-Generals

The level of engagement of Member States from South and North was among the salient features of this year's DCF, with a large number of Ministers, Vice-Ministers, Permanent Secretaries and Director-Generals present. Non-executive stakeholders were represented in this truly multi-stakeholder forum through the Inter-Parliamentary Union; NGOs such as CIVICUS, ActionAid, ITUC and others and the Organization of United Cities and Local Governments.

The debates confirmed the deep concern that aid commitments are not being met, although several speakers reiterated their government's commitments to increase aid. Considerable attention was paid to the catalytic role of aid in increasing other sources of development finance. It was underscored that all policies of developed countries need to be coherent with development objectives. Alignment with developing countries' national development strategies was seen as critical in ensuring policy coherence. There was a concern that a greater share of aid should go to countries with the greatest development needs and financing gaps.

Several speakers encouraged to engage more countries and stakeholders in processes on aid effectiveness and mutual accountability. Better use of country systems, more aid predictability and reporting of aid on budget, require more balanced aid relationships with more robust government systems to process aid monies. It was felt that the aid effectiveness agenda should be broadened to include concerns such as conditionality or flexibility to combat exogenous shocks. On South-South cooperation, a number of positive experiences were shared.

In addition, some speakers pointed to the role of the DCF to continue addressing issues such as policy coherence, trends in development cooperation and mutual accountability, among others.

The key messages of this second DCF will inform the negotiation process of the MDG Summit's outcome document. DESA will also launch an "International Development Cooperation Report" during the MDG Summit that will draw together the analysis produced for the 2010 DCF, with a particular focus on the views of various stakeholders and independent analysts. The report, which will place a focus on accountability and transparency, will in itself be a tool for accountability. Its launch will reinforce the position of the DCF as a key forum for analysis of accountability and transparency in development cooperation.

For more information:

<http://www.un.org/en/ecosoc/DCF/index.shtml>

For more information:

<http://www.unpan.org/Events/PublicServiceDayAwards/2010UnitedNationsPublicServiceDay/tabid/1217/language/en-US/Default.aspx>

Excellence in Public Service rewarded

United Nations 2010 Public Service Day & Awards took place in Barcelona, Spain from 21 – 23 June and 23 winners were recognized for their public services

Government officials from over 70 countries gathered for the United Nations Public Service Awards Ceremony and Forum. The Forum focused on key public administration thematic areas, including transparency and accountability, innovation in public service delivery, citizen engagement and e-government development. Participants shared best practices, including how technologies and innovations are being applied around the world to help meet internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). An expert group meeting on the delivery of services in crisis situations was also held during the Forum and brought together experts and practitioners.

The Awards were presented at the end of the three-day international meeting on the role of public service in achieving the MDGs. The parallel capacity development workshops resulted in a set of recommendations on how to promote innovation in government, which was presented to a ministerial round table. Over 15 ministers discussed how to strengthen governance and public administration to promote development and achieve the MDGs.

In total, 23 winners — from Albania, Australia, Bahrain, Brazil, Canada, Germany, Japan, India, Italy, Republic of Korea, Lebanon, Oman, Saudi Arabia, Tanzania and Tunisia — received a Public Service Award. The event resulted in a better understanding of how government leadership can be more effective in pursuing the MDGs and in increased knowledge of innovative solutions to complex governance challenges, particularly in crisis situations.

Trends and Analysis

Exchanging information on civil registration and vital statistics

Conference of African Ministers Responsible for Civil Registration will be held from 13-14 August in Addis Ababa

The Conference will be preceded by a preparatory meeting of experts from 9-11 August. The theme of the Conference is "Towards Improved Civil Status Information for Efficient Public Administration and Generation of Statistics for National Development and MDG Monitoring in Africa".

The Conference is expected to achieve: the creation of a high-level regional platform for exchanging information on civil registration and vital statistics; enhanced awareness and commitment of African governments in the development of these systems; and endorsing resolutions and recommendations that would lead and govern African civil registration and vital statistics systems for the coming years.

DESA's Statistics Division will participate on several levels; the Director will deliver a keynote address at the Conference and resource persons will support the ECA in substantive issues and by delivering key presentations on international standards for developing civil registration and vital statistics systems at both the preparatory meeting and the Conference.

For more information:

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

Designing MDG Electronic Centre

Preparatory meeting for the presentation of the MDG Electronic Center in the context of the High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly, will be held by GAID on 1-2 September

The principal objective of the preparatory meeting is to finalize, through an interactive discussion and exchange of ideas and suggestions among high-level representatives of all relevant stakeholders, the design and features of the eCenter in preparation for a presentation of a fully operational version to Member States in the context of the High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly on 20-22 September this year.

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

Engaging citizens for MDG progress

Workshop on "Citizens' Engagement in Development Management for Advancing towards the MDGs" took place in Barcelona, Spain from 21 and 22 June

As part of a number of activities co-organized by DPADM and the Government of Catalonia to celebrate this year's Public Service Day the workshop developed the following concrete outputs: the publication of a report; a publication on guidelines for local and national governments to promote citizens engagement; an on-line training course on engagement of women in development matters; a global knowledge base on practices, legislation and institutions for citizens engagement and a battery of innovative tools based on ICT applications to facilitate the engagement of citizens. Finally, through conversations with participants from different countries, possibilities for future technical cooperation projects to be funded externally were explored.

The workshop gathered an average of 75 participants from 23 countries of Africa, Asia-Pacific, Europe and Latin America. Through presentations from experts and practitioners, and group discussions, participants discussed the potential of open government practices to include diverse modalities of participation of citizens in public policies and services for achieving the MDGs.

A large variety of national contexts were referred to, ranging from advanced countries in which the focus is on citizens engagement for its contribution to widening people's rights and deepening democracy, to developing countries in which citizens engagement can help government design and implement policies and deliver services in ways that are more people-centered, responsive, inclusive, equitable, efficient and sustainable.

Country and sub-national experiences were revisited from Argentina, Catalonia, Jordan, Kenya and Russia. Winners of the 2010 UN Public Service Awards in the category of engaging citizens in public development affairs presented their respective innovations, from Brazil, Italy, Japan and Lebanon. In addition, a number of ICT-tools to facilitate citizens' engagement were presented by participants from Australia, Brazil, Colombia and Venezuela.

For more information:

<http://www.unpan.org/Events/BrowseEventsbyCalendar/tabid/94/mctl/EventDetails/ModuleID/1532/ItemID/1542/language/en-US/Default.aspx?selecteddate=6/21/2010>

Networks for national development

International Conference on Good Governance for National Development was held in Seoul on 17-18 June 2010

The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), UNPOG and UNDESA jointly

sponsored this two-day workshop on good governance for national development. Mr. Aquaro presented UNDESA's views on the key linkages between e-government and public governance. The results of the UN e-Government Survey 2010 and the UN Public Administration Knowledge Space were also presented.

In addition, there were several keynote addresses from the former Prime Minister of the Republic of Korea, the Secretary of the National Economic and Development Authority of the Philippines and various practitioners and specialist on the theme of the conference. All spoke on the importance of leadership and structure as a foundation of good governance for national development.

Two special workshops were part of this conference: (i) ICT Access and e-Government for Achieving the MDGs and (ii) the Development of the e-Cities Network in Asia and the Pacific. The first workshop discussed the global and regional perspectives of e-government and the MDGs in Asia and the Pacific and identified the challenges that still exist as barriers for achieving the MDGs and how to develop a "Way Forward" for tackling these challenges.

The e-Cities Network workshop looked at ways cities could develop a substantive network that would showcase best practices and lessons learned at the local level and also looked at the possibility of expanding networks within Asia and the Pacific, counting on the support of associations of national cities from various countries.

After the e-Cities workshop, discussions were held to connect e-Cities Network to UN-PAKS. A course of action was agreed to concretely explore the development and utilization of e-cities as a strategic mechanism to disseminate UN-PAKS to citizens and vice-versa. It was agreed that more work needed to be done to materialize these promising possibilities.

For more information: <http://www.egnc.gov.bn/Pages/default.aspx>

Capacity Development

Strengthening IT skills in national statistical offices

Advanced Training Workshop in SAS software applications will be held in Pretoria from 2-6 August

This five-day intensive course, organized by DESA's Statistics Division in close collaboration with Statistics South Africa in the context of the UN/DESA Development Account project for SADC member states, aims at strengthening IT skills in the National statistical offices as well as providing all SADC member states with a common understanding of IT related data editing issues which creates the possibility that the NSOs find common software solutions in the future.

For more information:

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

Editing population and housing census data

Workshop on the 2010 World Programme on Population and Housing Censuses: Census Editing, for Countries in the Caribbean Region will be held in Castries, Saint Lucia from 23-28 August

DESA's Statistics Division in collaboration with the CARICOM Secretariat, is organizing a Regional Workshop for countries in the region on census editing in the context of the 2010 World Programme for Population and Housing Censuses.

The purpose of the workshop is to develop capacities of CARICOM national statistical offices (NSOs) with the techniques and procedures used in editing population and housing census data. The Workshop will cover elements of edit specifications and implementing the specifications in CSPro. The Workshop will also offer the possibility to the participants to present and discuss the experience of their countries on different aspects of census editing.

The workshop will be very hands-on, using the common core census questionnaire shared by many CARICOM member countries and sample data from some countries. Participants will be trained well enough to implement standard census edits at the workshop and be able to customize them after they return home.

For more information:

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

Government partnerships to promote innovation

Capacity building workshop on "Promoting Innovation in Public Service Delivery for Achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)" was held 21 – 23 June in Barcelona, Spain

Organized by DESA's Division for Public Administration and Development Management (DPADM) and the Government of Catalonia as part of the Public Service Awards Celebrations, over 80 people from 22 countries from around the world participated in the workshop which took place as part of the Public Service Awards Ceremonies and Celebrations.

As a result of the Capacity Building Workshop, government officials have created partnerships to continue sharing knowledge about innovation in government. The discussions and recommendations from the workshop were included in the Barcelona Declaration which was read prior to the Ministerial Round Table.

For more information:

<http://www.unpan.org/Events/Conferences/tabid/458/mctl/EventDetails/ModuleID/1510/ItemID/1541/Default.aspx>

e-Government development necessary to promote transparency

Capacity building workshop on "Advancing e-Government Development and Knowledge Management" was held in Barcelona from 21-23 June in line with the Public Service Day and Awards

On the occasion of the World Public Service Day and Awards, DPADM organized in co-operation with the Government of Spain and Catalonia this workshop to explore policies, strategies, best practices and tools to promote e-government and knowledge management in government with a particular focus on the achievement of the MDGs.

Winners of the inaugural UN e-Government Survey Special Awards 2010 presented cases from Australia, Bahrain, Japan, Oman, Republic of Korea, Singapore, Spain, and Tunisia, among others. Regional presentations about e-government challenges and solutions in Africa, Asia, Europe and Latin America were also featured and discussed.

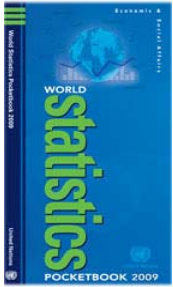
The break-out session focused on the UN e-Government Survey, with an emphasis on how to advance e-government and knowledge management to facilitate the provision of public services. The workshop also provided time for discussions on innovative approaches, methodologies, and technologies in these critical areas.

Key lessons learned were incorporated into a set of recommendations, reflected in the Barcelona Declaration. Among them were the issue of considering e-government not as an additional technological option but as a duty of the state to promote engagement, transparency and accountability, which was defended by various government representatives.

For more information: http://www.unpan.org/2010unpsa#Link_3

Publications and Websites

Statistical compilations



World Statistics Pocketbook

The United Nations World Statistics Pocketbook 2009 is an authoritative and comprehensive compilation of over 50 key statistical indicators in convenient country profile format. This edition presents available data from 216 countries and areas, from over 20 international statistical sources, generally for the years 2000, 2005 and 2008.

The topics covered include: balance of payments, communication, education and culture, environment, health, industrial production, international trade, labour force, largest urban agglomeration, national accounts, population, refugees, surface area, United Nations membership, etc. The notes on the sources and definitions of the indicators are provided to help users perform further research on the statistics.

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



Monthly Bulletin of Statistics and MBS Online

The Monthly Bulletin of Statistics presents current economic and social statistics for more than 200 countries and territories of the world.

It contains over 50 tables of monthly and/or annual and quarterly data on a variety of subjects illustrating important economic trends and developments, including population, prices, employment and earnings, energy, manufacturing, transport, construction, international merchandise trade and finance.

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Quarterly and bimonthly features in this issue:

- 8. Retail price indices relating to living expenditures of United Nations officials
- 12a. Earnings in non-agricultural activities, by sex (new)

- 18. Fuel imports, developed economies: unit value and volume indices; value
- 19. Indicators on fuel imports, developed economies
- 30. Registration of new motor vehicles
- 37. External trade conversion factors
- 39. Manufactured goods exports: unit value indices, volume indices and value
- 51. Selected series of world statistics

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

Demographic Yearbook 2007

This Yearbook is the fifty-ninth in a series published by the United Nations since 1948. It contains general tables including a world summary of selected demographic statistics, statistics on the size, distribution and trends in national populations, natality, foetal mortality, infant and maternal mortality, general mortality, nuptiality and divorce. Data are shown by urban/rural residence, up to and including 2007 data, as available.

In addition, the volume provides technical notes, a synoptic table, a historical index and a listing of the issues of the Yearbook published to date. This and all the previous issues of the Demographic Yearbook contain data on a wide range of topics that make it possible to conduct various in-depth analysis and international comparisons.

For more information:

<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/products/dyb/dybcens.htm>

National Accounts Statistics: Analysis of Main Aggregates, 2008

This thirty-ninth issue of this publication presents a series of analytical national accounts tables from more than 200 countries and areas in the world. It has been prepared by the Statistics Division in cooperation with the national statistical offices. The publication offers, in the form of analytical tables, a summary of the principal national accounts aggregates as provided by countries and supplemented with estimates prepared by the Statistics Division. The tables of the publication include analysis of data on Gross Domestic Product (GDP) by different structural components, for example, by type of expenditure, kind of economic activity, major area, region and country as well as per capita and as growth rates.

For more information:

<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/pubs/gesgrid.asp?id=422>

UN COMTRADE: Free download of trade data

UN Comtrade was established in the early 1960s. For almost fifty years, it has provided a wealth of trade information to policy makers, business community, research institutions and the general public. It stores standardized official annual trade statistics reported by countries and reflecting international merchandise flows detailed by commodity and partner country with coverage reaching up to 99 percent of world merchandise trade.

With immediate effect, DESA's Statistics Division is pleased to announce that free unlimited access will be available for all users through free downloading services. For technical reasons, a download limit of 50,000 data records per query is currently necessary. Registered institutional users from developing countries will be provided with special arrangements on the free access to and unrestricted use of trade data.

For more information:

http://unstats.un.org/unsd/comtrade_announcement.htm

Comings and Goings

Comings



Mr. Donald Lee was appointed Chief of the Social Perspective on Development Branch in the Division for Social Policy and Development, DESA, effective 1 August 2010. With this move, he returns to the Division for Social Policy and Development where he had earlier served as Chief of the Poverty

Eradication and Employment Section from 2000 to 2007.

Currently, Mr. Lee is Officer-in-Charge of the Communications and Information Management Services (CIMS), a position he has held since July 2009. He has served as Secretary of the Executive Committee for Economic and Social Affairs since June 2007, and was also a member of the Strategic Planning Unit in DESA when it was launched in late 2009.

Mr. Lee joined the United Nations in 1991 as a Transnational Corporations Officer in the UNCTAD/ESCAP Joint Unit on Transnational Corporations. He later served as an Economic Affairs Officer with ESCAP in Bangkok, until he moved to New York in 1997 to join the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development (now the Division for Sustainable Development) in time for the preparations for the Rio+5 Summit. Mr. Lee has an MSc and PhD in Economics from University College London. He is married with two daughters.

The following staff members were promoted in July:

Matthias Bruckner, Economic Affairs Officer, Development Policy and Analysis Division

Vilma Frani, Staff Assistant, Statistics Division

Anke Green, Social Affairs Officer, Division for Social Policy and Development

Justine Jacques, Staff Assistant, Division for the Advancement of Women

Doris Schmitz -Meiners, Economic Affairs Officer, Office for ECOSOC Support and Coordination

Silvia Schwarz, Public Information Assistant, Division for Public Administration and Development Management

Thu Rein Win, Statistics Assistant, Statistics Division

Wai-Lan Wu, Administrative Assistant, Statistics Division

Maria Marchione-Novoa, Research Assistant, Office for ECOSOC Support and Coordination

Goings



Ms. Elsa Stamatopoulou left the United Nations on 31 July 2010 as Chief of the Secretariat of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, in DESA's Division for Social Policy and Development, a position she held with distinction since the establishment of the Secretariat of the Forum in 2003. Her departure marks 31 years of service at the United Nations (Vienna, Geneva and New York) of which some 23 were dedicated to the human rights field. Indigenous issues were part of her portfolio since 1983.

Ms. Stamatopoulou's academic background in law, international law, criminal justice and political science and her rich experience, including in international normative frameworks, institution-building, the rights of indigenous peoples, cultural rights, rights of children, rights of women, human rights and development, human rights learning, development and marginalized groups, private sector issues, and inter-agency inter-governmental cooperation as well as cooperation with civil society equipped her with a keen understanding of the potential and avenues for impacting on public policies to improve the lives of indigenous peoples around the world. She worked tirelessly to serve the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues and support its mandate as a cornerstone in this field.



Mr. Vladimir Markhonko retired on 31 July 2010 as Chief of DESA's Trade Statistics Branch, a position he held with distinction since 2003. His retirement marks many years of dedicated service to the Statistics Division and, in particular, to the field of international trade statistics.

With a PhD in Economics from Belarus State University and his experience as an associate professor there, he started his United Nations career in New York in 1982. During his twenty eight years of service many UN methodological publications and technical reports were prepared under his direct guidance and supervision in the areas of international trade, distributive trade, tourism and energy statistics.

He will be remembered mostly for his many contributions in advancing the recommendations for international merchandise trade statistics. As a fitting conclusion, the newly revised

recommendations in this area were adopted by the UN Statistical Commission at its most recent session in February this year.

The following staff members retired in July:

Theresa Chu, Programming Assistant, Communications and Information Management Service

Julitha Kiswaga, Documents Management Assistant, Office of the Under-Secretary-General

Calendar

August

Advanced Training Workshop in SAS software applications
Pretoria, 2-6 August

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

International Day of the World's Indigenous People
9 August

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

International Year of Youth
12 August

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

Conference of African Ministers Responsible for Civil Registration
Addis Ababa, 13-14 August

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

Workshop on the 2010 World Programme on Population and
Housing Censuses: Census Editing, for Countries in the
Caribbean Region

Castries, Saint Lucia, 23-28 August

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

September

General Assembly, sixty-fifth session

New York, 14 September - 31 December

<http://esango.un.org/irene/desa.html?page=viewContent&nr=7862&type=8>

MDG Summit 2010 - High-level Plenary Meeting of the General
Assembly

New York, 20-22 September

<http://esango.un.org/irene/desa.html?page=viewContent&nr=7362&type=8§ion=8>

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. DESA News is issued every month. Please click [here](#) to send inquiries.



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