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Protecting human rights of older persons

The world's population aged 60 or older is expected to double by 2050, to a record of 21 per cent – representing two billion people. Member States are expressing concerns about the status of older persons revolving around their social and economic situation, their participation in development and their relationship to human rights.

There is a call for increasing the visibility on the world agenda on the issue of human rights protection for older persons. In December 2010, the General Assembly established an open ended working group open to all Members States of the UN with the purpose of strengthening the protection of the human rights for older persons and identifying possible gaps and how best to address them, including more instruments and measures (resolution A/RES/65/182).

Furthermore, the aim is to perceive older persons as active members of society and not only recipients of charity and welfare. It should also be noted that at age 80, women outnumber men by two to one, and are the most vulnerable, facing more social stereotypes, participating less in society and benefiting from fewer available opportunities.

While there is a prevailing culture aimed at youth, older people have gone through a progressive exclusion and marginalization. This has led us to a situation, where there is no specific instrument which relates to the human rights of older people. What exists

refers to the universal human rights treaties that do not include older people as a specific segment of society.

Another important gap to be covered with respect to the rights for older persons, refers to the social security coverage. This would worsen in the future if no action is taken; estimates predict an increase of the percentage of older persons living in less developed countries from 63% to 78% by 2050.



Consensus on concerns, but not on the response

Its first working session concluded on 21 April 2011, following a four-day series of panel presentations and discussions on the current situation of the human rights for older persons. Expert panelists from different backgrounds, experiences and origins, analyzed the existing international and regional human rights framework and mechanisms, offering information about recent developments and identifying a number of gaps in the protection systems.

The session showed agreement among Member States, NGOs, UN agencies, intergovernmental organizations and independent experts about the specific human rights challenges faced by men and women as they grow older, pointing out that there is no specific instrument devoted to this segment of the population and few existing instruments have explicit references to age.

Concerns were raised about the age discrimination, neglect and violence, and in response, the empowerment of older persons was observed as a central dimension in constructing their human rights and their participation in development.

Some delegations, experts and NGOs stressed the importance of a dedicated binding instrument that would offer effective protection to older persons, including immediate obligations with regard to non-discrimination and guarantees of non-retrogression of all protected rights.

As a conclusion, there were several proposals in response to the voice of concern around the rights of older persons; including a new international convention on the human rights of older persons and a special rapporteur to study and report on the situation of older persons. Other measures mentioned were effective monitoring of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing (MIPAA), more effective implementation of existing instruments, strengthening national data collection, desegregation and update and improving national monitoring mechanisms.

Addressing more specific issues and rights

The second working session will take place in New York on 1-4 August and will focus on more specific issues and rights. There will be panel discussions and interactive dialogues on the following topics that appear consistently and repeatedly around the world: discrimination and multiple discrimination, right to health, violence and abuse, social protection, age and social exclusion.

In addition, there will be several side events organized by NGOs on topics such as “Disability Rights, Access to Palliative Care, and Lessons from the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities process”; “The right to health: in conversation with older people”; and “violence against the elderly”.

For more information:

<http://social.un.org/ageing-working-group/secondsession.shtml>

Education for all at top of ECOSOC's agenda

Gathering world leaders, UN agencies and a record number of participants representing civil society and the private sector from around the globe, the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)

has worked hard for the past month focusing on some of the most pressing challenges facing the world today.



“The world is in danger of sleepwalking through one of the greatest injustices of our times. Despite all the promises to the world’s children – the pledges made and targets set by the international community – today nearly 70 million children are denied a place at school,” said Gordon Brown, Former Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, at the opening of ECOSOC’s High-level segment taking place in Geneva on 4-8 July.

He continued: “So for me it is absolutely essential that we build on recent successes of getting many more millions of children into school through smart aid and debt relief. And it’s essential too that national governments do their bit to make sure that all children, rich and poor alike, have a chance at getting an education, just as Western Cape Province has done so successfully in South Africa”.

The high-level segment was chaired by the President of the Council Lazarus Kapambwe, Permanent Representative of Zambia. Numerous ministers, together with other high-level officials, prominent speakers, several heads of UN agencies and over 1,400 participants from civil society and the private sector attended the meeting.

It focused on the Annual Ministerial Review (AMR) with the theme “Implementing the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to education”. The 2011 AMR emphasized the catalytic effect of education on the broader development agenda, including poverty reduction and the Millennium Development Goals. The meeting also offered an occasion to galvanize political support for the fundamental role of education in support of sustainable development for the upcoming Rio+20 Conference.

Ministerial Declaration adopted

The 2011 ECOSOC Ministerial Declaration was adopted, addressing educational access, quality, funding, partnerships and

the challenges in achieving the internationally agreed education objectives, as well as issues related to secondary and tertiary education, information technology and lifelong learning. While not specifically reflected in the Declaration, several speakers expressed strong support for establishing a global fund for education to mobilize resources, and strengthen the global partnership to accelerate progress towards the 2015 education goals, with a specific focus on educational access, equity and quality.

“The Declaration is a model document in other ways, too. It navigates the considerable education challenges of the moment, while casting a thoughtful eye to emerging issues on the horizon – areas like secondary and tertiary education, information technology and lifelong learning,” stated Sha Zukang, Under-Secretary-General of DESA.

National presentations, innovation fair and panel discussions

National voluntary presentations were given by the Ministers of Education from 10 countries, offering country-based information on success factors in working to achieve education for all, quality education and other education objectives. Several high-level interactive panel discussions were held on a broad range of education, economic and social development issues.

An Innovation Fair ran throughout the week, offering a wealth of information on practical initiatives to advance education and development. The UN postal administration also launched the second series of six ECOSOC stamps on the theme “Education for All”. A series of Ministerial roundtable breakfasts and side-events also took place.

Discussions on achievements on gender issues

The Coordination Segment on 11-14 July focused on two main themes: the follow-up to last year’s Ministerial Declaration on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women and the follow-up to the Conference on Financing for Development.

The Council heard for the first time the views of the whole UN system on progress achieved in the gender field, a year after the decision by the General Assembly to establish UN Women. A panel discussion, moderated by the Executive Director of UN Women Michele Bachelet, discussed the leadership role that UN Women is called to play in promoting coordination, coherence and accountability of the UN system in this field, which does not relieve other entities of their commitments to gender equality goals. Another panel discussion focused on combating gender-based stereotypes that contribute to perpetuate discriminations in all spheres of society.

The Council adopted two resolutions: one on the mechanisms to promote system wide gender mainstreaming; and a second resolution focusing on progress made by the system in the 8 cross-

cutting issues identified by the Council in its 2010 Ministerial Declaration.

Global economic governance in the focus

On Financing for Development, the discussions focused on global economic governance, particularly the role and effectiveness of the UN system and the need to forge institutional linkages between the G20 and the UN. The Council also addressed the specific needs of Least Developed Countries and considered how financial support mechanisms and South-South cooperation can contribute to tackling the development challenges of these countries.

In addition, in a resolution entitled “Recovering from the World Financial and Economic Crisis: A Global Jobs Pact”, the Council encouraged the full use of the Global Jobs Pact as a framework for enhanced and coherent policy measures in the area of decent work. It also requested the Secretary-General to report on the implementation of the Pact by the UN system to the ECOSOC AMR of 2012, which will be devoted to productive capacities, inclusive growth and employment.

Moreover, the Council discussed the annual overview report of the UN system Chief Executive Board for Coordination (CEB) and it also had a special meeting to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the adoption of the UN Declaration on the right to development. This meeting provided an opportunity for the Council to interact with the human rights pillar of the UN, as both the High Commissioner for Human Rights and the President of the Human Rights Council took part – an unprecedented encounter in the history of ECOSOC. The discussions showed how much the development and the human rights agenda are interconnected and called for advancing them both in a collaborative manner.

Call for implementation of Management and Accountability System

In the 2011 Operational Activities segment on 14-18 July, Member States and UN representatives focused on expectations for the 2012 quadrennial comprehensive policy review (QCPR) of the General Assembly; progress in strengthening the UN Resident Coordinator system; and ways to strengthen the architecture of funds and programmes through the definition of “critical mass” of core resources. The Executive Heads of the funds and programmes also discussed future challenges and opportunities facing their entities.

Member States adopted a resolution calling for immediate action by UN entities to implement the Management and Accountability System of the Resident Coordinator system; strengthening of links between UNDAFs and agency-specific programming documents; and review of existing funding modalities in support of the Resident Coordinator system. It also

provides guidance to the Secretariat for preparations for the 2012 QCPR of the GA.

The latest DESA report on funding of UN operational activities for development provides detailed analysis of core and non-core contributions and expenditures for the year 2009, as well as long-term trends. Moreover, the report provides for the first time an analysis of country programmable resources of the UN development system. Prior to the 2011 Operational Activities Segment of ECOSOC, DESA released a funding update on estimated core and non-core contributions for the year 2010.

Reaffirming the importance of humanitarian principles and coordination

"Working in partnership to strengthen coordination of humanitarian assistance in a changing world" was the theme of the Humanitarian Affairs segment on 19-21 July. It consisted of two panels, one on ensuring that the humanitarian financing system is predictable, effective, accountable, flexible and adequate to meet the evolving needs and challenges for the delivery of humanitarian assistance, and the other on strengthening resilience, preparedness and capacities for humanitarian response.

Twelve side-events were organized by humanitarian and development partners. The Council also decided to hold a special meeting on the humanitarian situation in the Horn of Africa. The main outcome was the adoption by consensus of a resolution which reaffirmed the importance of humanitarian principles and humanitarian coordination. It also made considerable progress within the normative field, reaffirming the opportunities from continually engaging in inter-governmental discussions.

Other issues of significance include the addition of language on commemorating 20 years of General Assembly resolution 46/182, calling for the ERC "to lead" efforts to strengthen coordination, encouragement to Member States to cooperate with OCHA, a reference to safe access to fuel and firewood and other basic humanitarian services, a revised paragraph on improving funding and several references on working with local and national levels in preparedness and response.

Meeting the needs and challenges of assistance delivery

As in previous years, OCHA/PDSB organized two formal panel discussions and coordinated several informal side events, which were well attended and featured presentations by high-level government officials, UN agencies, the International Red Cross/Red Crescent Movement, the private sector, academia and NGOs.

The first panel on "Preparing for the future – predictable, effective, flexible and adequate humanitarian financing and its accountable use to meet the evolving needs and challenges for the delivery of humanitarian assistance" stressed the need to systematically fund

preparedness measures and better address the transition from emergency relief to recovery and development. However, more emphasis should be put on mobilizing new and innovative resources and to promote effective, predictable, flexible and adequate funding through enhanced partnerships and strengthened mechanisms.

At the session on "Strengthening resilience, preparedness and capacities for humanitarian response", participants converged that more needs to be done to improve support to regional, national and local partners in improving their preparedness enabling them to respond to humanitarian needs. While this needs the buy-in of national and local government, partnerships need to be built at the international level to support these efforts – including with UNDP, the World Bank, regional organizations, the private sector as well as individuals.

Member States and the UN pledges assistance to Horn of Africa

Due to the growing humanitarian emergency in the Horn of Africa, the Emergency Relief Coordinator and the ECOSOC Vice-President for Humanitarian Affairs decided to hold an ad-hoc special event. After the presentations, appeals for solidarity and urges for swift action to address the humanitarian needs in the region were made by Valerie Amos, Cheik Diarra (Special Advisor on Africa), Antonio Guterres and Kristalina Georgieva (EU Commissioner). Member States and UN agencies expressed solidarity and commitment and offered assistance to those affected by the crisis.

Please note that this article was written when the General segment was still in session, why it has not been covered in this story. For more information on this segment including reports: <http://www.un.org/en/ecosoc/julyhls/g2011.shtml>

For more information:

High-level Segment:

<http://www.un.org/en/ecosoc/julyhls/index11.shtml>

2011 Annual Ministerial Review:

<http://www.un.org/en/ecosoc/newfunct/amr2011.shtml>

ECOSOC Ministerial Declaration:

http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=E/2011/L.28

National Voluntary Presentations:

<http://www.un.org/en/ecosoc/newfunct/amrnational2011.shtml>

ECOSOC Innovation Fair:

<http://www.un.org/en/ecosoc/innovfair2011/index.shtml>

United Nations postal administration:

<http://unstamps.un.org/unpa/index.html?index=0>

Coordination Segment:

<http://www.un.org/en/ecosoc/julyhls/cs2011.shtml>

Operational Activities Segment:

<http://www.un.org/en/ecosoc/julyhls/oa2011.shtml>

Humanitarian Affairs Segment:

<http://www.un.org/en/ecosoc/julyhls/has2011.shtml>

General Segment:

<http://www.un.org/en/ecosoc/julyhls/gs2011.shtml>

UN news story:

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=39140&Cr=youth&Cr1=>

For more information: <http://social.un.org/youthyear/high-level-meeting.html>

Urge to invest more in young people

video



“The Facebook generation is showing a growing resolve to change our world – and a capacity to make things happen. They are bringing their energy and courage to some of the most difficult issues we face,” said the UN Secretary-General at the opening of the High-level Meeting on Youth on 25 July.

With the theme “Youth: Dialogue and Mutual Understanding”, the meeting was held as part of the International Year of Youth. It is expected to result in a call for strategies to give young people everywhere a real chance to find decent work and urge countries to take effective measures to protect young people from terrorism.

Video: <http://www.unmultimedia.org/tv/webcast/2011/07/un-forum-on-youth-opens-amid-calls-for-improved-dialogue-mutual-understanding.html>

Global Dialogue on Development

Celebrating indigenous cultures, stories and design

The International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples will be commemorated in New York on 9 August

In cooperation with the United Nations Department of Public Information/DPI and the NGO Committee on the International Decade of the World's Indigenous Peoples, the Secretariat of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (SPFII) is organizing the celebration of the International day of the World's Indigenous Peoples.

The event will take place on Tuesday, 9 August at the UN Headquarters in New York, from 2:30 pm to 6:00 pm at the ECOSOC Chamber. The theme of the year will be "Indigenous designs: celebrating stories and cultures, crafting our own future".

The event will include the screening of a short video on the theme and an interactive dialogue to reflect this issue will be hosted. The dialogue is aimed at providing different perspectives on: the spiritual dimension of designs in traditional wear as a way of expressing identity, art, intellectual knowledge and culture.

It will also deal with the threat of appropriation of indigenous cultures and need of cultural preservation and revitalization; examples of good practices of businesses taking inspiration from indigenous peoples' cultures and customs with emphasis on the nature and extent of involvement of indigenous peoples in this process. The focus will be on indigenous peoples' rights and challenges in terms of ownership of their cultures, identities and traditions, intellectual property rights, and related economic development opportunities.

Previously, two Permanent Forum members, Edward John and Valmaine Toki, and SPFII staff attended the annual session of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in Geneva on 11 - 15 July. Particular focus of this year's session was on indigenous peoples and the right to participate in decision-making. In connection with the indigenous fellowship programme hosted by OHCHR, SPFII also conducted a training session on 19 July in Geneva.

The Small Grants Programme for the Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous Peoples of the United Nations Trust Fund on Indigenous Issues opened its 2012 call for proposals on 1 July. It will end on 1 September. Projects focusing on indigenous peoples and education, health, environment, culture, human rights and social and economic development are accepted.

For more information:

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

Further information and application forms:

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

Call to inspire youth initiatives

Change Your World 2011 Campaign in support of the International Youth Day 2011 will take place on 12 August

Each year, International Youth Day (IYD) is assigned a theme; a conceptual slogan that communicates the scope, direction, and objectives of the year's youth initiatives and also provides a unifying banner under which individuals can draw inspiration to take action. This year's International Youth Day will represent the culmination of the International Year of Youth (IYY) - designated by the UN to comprise the 12-month period between IYD 2010 and IYD 2011 - and the 25th Anniversary of the first International Year of Youth.

"Change Our World" has been chosen as the theme for IYD 2011 as it not only expresses the level of impact that young people strive to achieve, but also reflects the notion of a global community that is a core principle of the United Nations. It is meant to be a call to inspire youth initiatives at all levels with the idea that efforts at the local level can have a global impact.

Youth are well attuned to modern forms of communication that have the capacity to connect people from all over the world with ease, and at an unprecedented speed. UNPY encourages the use of social media and networking tools as platforms for raising awareness and promoting activities, empowering youth, and enabling them to quite literally change our world.

It should be stressed that "Change Our World" is a call for continual, long lasting progress in areas of societal development that concern youth. Therefore, while the support of the private sector, governments, and civil society organizations is important, what's most necessary is that young people be actively involved and that they claim ownership of this positive effort.

On 11 August, the UN Programme on Youth is holding the International Year of Youth (IYY) Culmination Celebration, which will take the form of a panel discussion focusing on amazing girls and women who are changing the world. It will be hosted by UNPY, Monique Coleman, Youth Champion and Allykatzz.

Celebrate International Youth Day by participating in the Change Your World 2011 contest on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Change-Your-World-2011/125839670832352>

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

Dialogue defines key drivers in reforming sustainable development institutions

Delegates from more than 90 member States, 30 international agencies and major groups gathered for a High Level Dialogue in Solo, Indonesia on 19-21 July

The dialogue was arranged to discuss reforms of the institutional framework for sustainable development and it helped define two key drivers in reforming sustainable development institutions: Integration and Implementation. The event featured a number of experts in sustainable development governance at international, national and local levels who were invited to present on the thematic areas of each session to start the discussions.

Each of the five sessions was co-chaired by representatives from developed and developing countries. The three-day dialogue ended with the “Solo Message”, which will feed into the Rio+20 process. The Message reflects the convergence of views discussed and focuses on two main points: (i) to integrate the economic, social and environmental pillars; (ii) to effectively implement the political commitments for sustainable development.

In particular, the Solo Message calls for an organization at the international level that enhances the integration of the three pillars – economic, social and environmental. Various options were discussed, ranging from an enhanced mandate for ECOSOC to establishing a sustainable development council. Many participants were also of the view that the environmental pillar needs to be reinforced to become balanced with the other two pillars. Strengthening UNEP will be essential in this process.

There is also a strong emphasis in the Message on the need to renew political commitment and translate it into implementation. Sustainable development governance at the local, national and regional levels needs to be reviewed and supported. At the national level, various options were discussed for more integrated support for national strategies, including the UN’s *Delivering as One*. In addition, the Solo Message called for innovative and additional financing to enable implementation of capacity building and technology transfer.

For more information:

<http://www.uncsd2012.org/rio20/index.php?page=view&nr=201&type=13&menu=23>

ECOSOC discusses global economic governance and follow-up to Istanbul

Two panel discussions on “Global economic governance and development: Enhancing the coherence and consistency of the international monetary, financial and trading systems” and “Building on Istanbul: Financial support for the development efforts of LDCs, including South-South and triangular cooperation” were held under the Financing for Development agenda item at the ECOSOC coordination segment in Geneva on 11 and 12 July

Role of UN in global economic governance to be strengthened

The panel on global economic governance focused on the existing governance framework and ways to improve it. Following the financial and economic crisis, global economic governance is currently at the centre of attention, as the moderator, Mr. Sha Zukang, DESA’s Under-Secretary-General, pointed out. The current system was put in place more than 60 years ago and has become increasingly fragmented and inconsistent. In order to adequately respond to today’s challenges, a number of key issues need to be addressed, Mr. Sha said.

The UN as the only truly universal body must play a stronger role in global economic governance. UN institutions and procedures for coordination and policy-making should therefore be enhanced. Governance reforms should also be continued at the Bretton Woods institutions. Regional arrangements need to be more closely integrated in global governance. Better linkages should be developed between the informal G-20 process and existing multilateral structures. Moreover, in view of the Rio+20 process, governance for sustainable development is crucial.

Panelists supported the call for a strengthening of global economic governance. In particular the exchange rate system, global economic and financial imbalances, policy coordination and surveillance need to be addressed to improve modalities for the integration of developing countries in the world economy, said Mr. Petko Draganov, UNCTAD Deputy Secretary-General. Reforming financial regulation, in particular with regard to systemic risks, was stressed as a key action area by Mr. Andrew Cornford of the Observatoire de la Finance.

On behalf of the G-20 presidency, Mr. Christian Masset, Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of France, reaffirmed that global governance is a high priority on the G-20 agenda. Long-term issues such as the emergence of new economies and food and agriculture security will need to be effectively addressed by the governance mechanism. Improving global economic governance will be a gradual process that requires

dialogue between informal and formal mechanisms. Countries stressed the need for an inclusive and transparent governance framework. In terms of the institutional set-up, an enhanced ECOSOC was considered well-placed to act as a hub for economic policy coordination in the UN system.

After Istanbul – mobilizing resources for LDCs

The Istanbul conference on the Least Developed Countries held in May was a major event to assess progress of LDCs and to adopt new measures and strategies. Building on the Istanbul Programme of Action, the panel discussed perspectives for resource mobilization for LDCs. Additional resources for LDCs are needed, involving official development assistance, but also other sources of financing such as foreign direct investment and remittances, said the moderator, Mr. Cheikh Sidi Diarra, USG and High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States.

Another challenge faced by LDCs is to ensure that growing trade and financial linkages lead to structural change and growth in those countries. In the future, climate change adaptation and mitigation will require significant financing. Climate change financing is gaining traction, but only a small part of it is dedicated to LDCs. South-South and triangular cooperation is also important to further LDC development, said Mr. Diarra.

Panelists pointed to some major impediments faced by LDCs: limited productive capacities; infrastructure gaps; lack of human and social development; and prevalence of conflict or post-conflict situations. Mr. Gyan Chandra Acharya, Permanent Representative of Nepal, mentioned the financial crisis and rising food prices as additional challenges for LDCs. Extensive national effort and strong international partnerships are necessary to see more LDCs graduate. Mobilizing domestic and external financial resources and using them effectively is crucial. In addition, governments' capacities and institutions need to be enhanced.

Mr. Jeffrey D. Lewis, the World Bank, emphasized that aid flows continue to fall short of international commitments. However, the number of donors is increasing. It is also important not to limit debt relief to official debt, but also to tackle private commercial debt of LDCs. Mr. Jean-Marie Paugam, ITC Deputy Executive Director, stressed the importance of aid for trade.

Mr. Vicente Yu from the South Centre underscored the importance of international development cooperation. In particular fulfilling ODA commitments and establishing counter-cyclical facilities are vital. Countries supported the Istanbul agenda and the need to provide targeted and effective support to LDCs. In addition, private sector development, enhancing productive capacities and technology transfer were emphasized as means to achieve progress in LDCs.

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

Excellence in public service acknowledged

UN Public Service Day was celebrated on 20-23 June in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

The United Nations Public Service Awards was celebrated at the Mlimani City Conference Centre on 23 June, concluding the UN and Africa Public Service Forum, taking place on 20-23 June. The Forum, under the theme “Transformative Leadership in Public Administration and Innovation in Governance: Creating a Better Life for All” featured four capacity-building workshops that focused on challenges, trends, innovative practices and capacity development tools for improved public governance. Over five hundred attendees participated from sixty countries.

The Forum was organized jointly by DESA's Division for Public Administration and Development Management, the African Union Commission, and the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania, with the assistance of UN-Women and the UN Office on Drugs and Crime.

The Opening Ceremony was attended by the Prime Minister of Tanzania, Honourable Mizengo P. Pinda; the Minister of State, President's Office, Public Service Management, of Tanzania, Honourable Hawa Ghasia; the Chairperson of the Pan Africa Conference of Ministers of Public Service and Minister of State for Public Service, Kenya, Honourable Dalmas Otieno Anyango; and Head, Division of Governance, Democracy and Human Rights, Department of Political Affairs of the African Union, Honourable Dr. Mamadou Dia.

The Closing Ceremony was attended by the Vice President of the Republic of Tanzania, His Excellency Dr. Mohamed Gharib Bilal, who handed out the awards together with the UNDP Resident Coordinator in Tanzania, Mr. Alberic Kacou, and who officially closed the Forum.

Thirty-six public organizations from 22 countries were awarded with the most prestigious recognition of excellence in public service on 23 June, United Nations Public Service Day. Of this total, 20 awards were first place winners and 16 awards were second place winners.

The United Nations Public Service Awards programme, coordinated by DPADM, introduced two new categories in 2011, “Preventing and Combating Corruption in the Public Service” and “Promoting Gender-Responsive Delivery of Public Services”. The programme received 299 nominations this year, marking a 44 per cent increase from the 207 nominations submitted for 2010 and the 81 nominations submitted at the inception of the awards programme in 2003.

The nominations came from 57 UN Member States, with seven participating for the first time. Although the Latin America and

the Caribbean region doubled its share of the nominations, the region with the highest participation continues to be Asia and the Pacific.

The Republic of Korea won the most awards, seven in total, of which two were first place and five were second place winners, followed by Oman with a total of four awards, three of which are first place and one second place.

The winners are from the following countries in 1st place and 2nd place, respectively:

First place winners: Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Egypt, India , Mexico, Oman, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Slovakia, South Africa, Tanzania, Thailand

Second place winners: Dominica, Egypt, Netherlands, Oman, Peru, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, Saudi Arabia, Thailand, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates.

The event recognized the vital importance of the United Nations Public Service Awards and Africa Public Service Day Awards along with other international, regional and national public governance reform strategies, towards the replication and transfer of good and innovative practices among the United Nations and African Union Member States, acknowledging, with appreciation, the positive outcomes of these since 2003. It also recognized the need for governments to commit themselves firmly to good governance with deliberate focus on the formulation and implementation of pro-poor policies to foster equitable societies where all individuals have equal opportunity.

For more information:

<http://www.unpan.org/DPADM/Home/tabid/420/language/en-US/Default.aspx>

Trends and Analysis

Improving public accountability

UN/INTOSAI 21st Interregional Symposium on “Effective practices of cooperation between SAIs and citizens to enhance public accountability” was held on 13-15 July in Vienna

The event was organized by DESA’s Division for Public Administration and Development Management (DPADM) and the International Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions (INTOSAI) and concluded with a reaffirmation of the importance of the independence of SAIs.

The symposium examined concrete criteria of audit processes and institutions such as the publication of audit reports in the media, participation of citizens in inter-institutional advisory bodies or councils, and procedural steps to citizen-initiated audits. Representatives of SAIs from eighteen countries in the developed and developing world as well as of INTOSAI and the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) participated.

For more information:

<http://www.unpan.org/2011UN-INTOSAI-Symposium>

“Engaging Citizens to Enhance Public Service Delivery and Strengthen Accountability”

The workshop, organized by DESA’s Division for Public Administration and Development Management (DPADM), took place in Vienna on 11-13 July

At the workshop, forty-four experts, including members of the Committee of Experts on Public Administration (CEPA), and practitioners concluded that innovative and more diversified understandings of civil society and grassroots formations must be compiled and examined towards defining the growing role of social accountability processes in the developmental sectors encompassed by the Millennium Development Goals. The workshop aimed to enhance knowledge and build a shared understanding of what participatory approaches and mechanisms work better than others and under what conditions.

For more information:

<http://www.unpan.org/DPADM/Home/tabid/420/language/en-US/Default.aspx>

Enhancing service delivery

Expert Group Meeting on “Citizens Engagement to Enhance Public Service Delivery” was arranged in Vienna on 7-8 July

Recommendations were made for the undertaking of a comprehensive analysis focusing on the newly emerging collaboration models among states, citizens, non-governmental organizations and the private sector during the meeting organized by DPADM.

These recommendations were reached as a result of the lack of empirically grounded comparative research and evaluations on the relationship between citizen engagement and service delivery, particularly on the tangible steps of transparency and accountability initiatives towards improving effective and citizen-centered public service delivery.

The objective of the meeting was to take stock of the diverse and innovative participatory approaches implemented across the world to strengthen public sector accountability and prevent corruption in public service delivery towards the achievement of the MDGs. It was attended by forty experts, including members of the Committee of Experts on Public Administration (CEPA), from twenty countries and eight international organizations.

For more information: <http://www.unpan.org/2011EGM-CE>

Capacity Development

Censuses help achieve Millennium Goals and improve people's lives

Interview with Keiko Osaki Tomita, Chief, Demographic and Social Statistics Branch, UN Statistics Division, DESA

Can you please briefly present yourself?

"I am a demographer from Japan. I now lead the area of demographic and social statistics in the UN Statistics Division, DESA, here in New York. This includes a programme to support censuses held in practically every country."

Why is the UN Statistics Division involved in censuses?

"The importance of population census as a procedure to systematically acquire and record information about the members of a population has long been recognized. Since the end of the 19th century, all countries in the world have been encouraged to conduct censuses. Since the 1950s, the Statistics Division has promoted population censuses as the secretariat to the decennial World Programme on Population and Housing Censuses, under the authority of the UN Statistical Commission."

What is your office actually doing?

"The Statistics Division has played a central role in supporting national census taking, especially for developing countries. Our office coordinates work on setting standards and methods, for instance, through publishing Principles and Recommendations for the Population and Housing Censuses. We provide technical assistance to enhance national statistical capacity to undertake censuses through arranging thematic seminars and workshops or by providing advice. We also compile and disseminate census results from countries or areas on-line as well as in print."

Are there countries where there is no census at all? Which ones?

"The current 2010 World Programme on Population and Housing Censuses, adopted in 2005 by the UN Statistical Commission, spans from 2005 to 2014. An overwhelming majority of countries or areas in the world have committed to conduct a census at least once during this period. However, six countries have not yet indicated when they would carry out a census: Iraq, Lebanon, Myanmar, Somalia, Uzbekistan and Western Sahara. Still, this represents a significant improvement over the 2000 round, when 27 countries did not conduct a census."

How many censuses are scheduled this year and how many people have been counted so far in the 2010 world programme?

"Since the beginning of the current census round in 2005, 155 countries and areas have already conducted a census (by 1 July). This year, 2011, is one of the peak years of the 2010 round, with 69 countries conducting censuses, enumerating an estimated 2.3

billion people (33 % of the world population). It is expected that by the end of the round in 2014, almost 99 % of the world's total population will have been enumerated."

Why is it so important that everyone be counted?

"The data collected by census help a nation, region or community make major decisions for the future. Censuses are a comprehensive source of statistical information for economic and social development planning and for administrative purposes. For example, the results of a census are used to distribute and allocate government funds for education, health services and delineating electoral districts. Census data can also be used for academic research or business marketing."

Are censuses playing a role to achieve the Millennium Development Goals by 2015?

"Some MDG indicators, such as literacy rate and unemployment rate of youth, can be computed from census data, hence allowing governments to measure and monitor the progress made in a comparable manner. Also, note that the denominator for most MDG indicators is the total population figure, which can be produced by population census."

What new developments do you observe in nowadays' censuses?

"The main innovations of the 2010 round of censuses are the use of new methods to obtain data and modern technology. While most countries still conduct their census in a traditional manner, an increasing number of countries are producing census data by using registers either alone or in combination with other data collection mechanisms. We also witness that many countries have adopted new technologies such as mobile devices, geospatial information systems and the Internet in phases of a census operation. According to a recent survey, more than 30 countries or areas are providing an option for Internet-based self-enumeration. New technologies contribute to improving the completeness, timeliness and quality of census results."

Are censuses somewhat reflecting the changes in people's lifestyle?

"People have become more migratory and, in urban areas, a growing number of individuals live alone in a single household. Such changes in lifestyles sometimes make difficult for census enumerators to identify and reach out respondents. It is said that there has been a growing concern about privacy and confidentiality of the information collected, which might have affected the response rate of censuses. Changes in lifestyles, coupled with the growing cost for census, have led several Governments to look into other options for enumeration, such as the use of internet."

What message would you like to convey in this week during which World Population Day is celebrated (11 July)?

"I am pleased that the World Population Day this year focuses

on population's size and growth. At a time when the world's population is expected to reach the seven billion mark, it is important to reflect on the challenges that the sheer size of population poses on Earth, and to reassess how to cope with or maximize people's power. Population and Housing Censuses reveal key population data, ranging from the size, growth, age structure, poverty to the spatial distribution of a population. Such information increasingly becomes critical to plan the future and improve people's lives. Let me also emphasize these important words from Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon's message for the Day: 'Promoting the Millennium Development Goals fosters prosperity and peace. And protecting our planet safeguards the natural resources that sustain us all.'

Samples of upcoming censuses:

Suriname: 1 August
Botswana: 22 August
Namibia: 28 August
Uruguay: 1 September
Pakistan: 12 September
Estonia: 18 September
Hungary: 1 October
South Africa: 10 October
Romania: 22 October
Austria: 31 October
Spain 1: November
Sweden: 31 December

For more information:

http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/sources/census/2010_PHC/default.htm

Principles and Recommendations for the Population and Housing Censuses:

<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/sources/census/docs/P&R%20Rev2.pdf>

Publications and Websites

Statistical compilations



Monthly Bulletin of Statistics and MBS Online

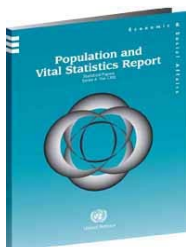
The Monthly Bulletin of Statistics presents current economic and social statistics for more than 200 countries and territories of the world. It contains over 50 tables of monthly and/or annual and quarterly data on a variety of subjects

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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This month, the following tables, which are featured in the MBS on a quarterly or bimonthly basis, are presented along with the regular recurrent monthly tables: Retail price indices relating to living expenditures of United Nations officials; Earnings in non-agricultural activities, by sex; Fuel imports, developed economies: unit value and volume indices; value; Indicators on fuel imports, developed economies; Registration of new motor vehicles; External trade conversion factors; Manufactured goods exports: unit value indices, volume indices and value; and Selected series of world statistics.

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



Population and Vital Statistics

The Population and Vital Statistics Report, Series A, Vol. LXIII, contains the data available to the Statistics Division of DESA as of 1 January 2011. This publication includes data for countries or areas on population size (total, male, and female) from the latest

available census, and the number and rate of vital events (live births, deaths, and infant deaths) for the latest available year.

These data are presented as reported by national statistical authorities to the Demographic Yearbook of the Statistics Division of DESA. In addition, this publication includes the estimated mid-year population by major area and region for years 2008 and 2009, prepared by the Population Division of DESA and presented in World Population Prospects: The 2008 Revision.

For more information:

<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/products/vitstats/default.htm>



National Accounts Statistics: Analysis of Main Aggregates, 2009, Parts I, II, III, IV and V

This publication contains in the form of analytical tables a summary of the principal national accounting aggregates based on official national accounts data for more than 200 countries and areas of the world for the years 1970 to 2009. It also contains a section on the estimation methods used for compiling the data. It is prepared by the Statistics Division of the Department for Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat with the generous co-operation of national statistical offices and serves as a valuable source of information on the economic situation of countries and areas.

The tables of the publication include analysis of data on gross domestic product (GDP) by different structural components. The types of analysis presented are classified into the four major categories listed below:

- Analysis of the level of total and per capita GDP
- Analysis of the percentage shares of GDP by type of expenditure and gross value added by kind of economic activity
- Analysis of economic development expressed in term of real growth of GDP and its components by type of expenditure and gross value added by kind of economic activity
- Analysis of price development reflected by implicit price deflators of GDP

The time-series data can also be downloaded via the following links:

<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/snaama/selQuick.asp>
<http://data.un.org/Explorer.aspx?d=SNAAMA>



2009 International Trade Statistics Yearbook, Vol. I

The 2009 International Trade Statistics Yearbook, Volume I - Trade by Country provides an overview of the international merchandise trade in 2009 and detailed information on the trade performance for

numerous countries up to the year 2009. Overall, data for a total of 174 countries (or areas) are shown with the 2009 detailed data on imports and exports by commodity and trading partner provided for 88 countries (areas). This represents approximately 70% of world trade of 2009.

Beginning with the 2008 edition the International Trade Statistics Yearbook is published in a redesigned format in respect to the presentation of data for individual countries (Volume I) as well as trade in a particular commodity (Volume II). The goal is to provide a more analytical and condensed view of trade by using graphs, overview tables and descriptive text. For more detailed data users are requested to go directly to UN Comtrade (see link below) which is the source of the information presented in the yearbook and which is continuously updated. The 2009 ITSY, Volume II - Trade by commodity will be, as previously, completed by end of December as more complete data is required for showing detailed information of trade by commodity

For more information: <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/default.htm>
UN Comtrade: <http://comtrade.un.org/db/default.aspx>

Discussion papers

Monthly Briefing on the World Economic Situation and Prospects

The July issue highlights that the prospects for continued global economic recovery are at risk amidst concerns over sovereign debt sustainability in Europe and the United States, and the negative consequences that possible defaults could inflict on global demand and financial stability.

The briefing also reports that oil and other primary commodity prices remain elevated, keeping up headline inflation, particularly in developing economies. It further notes that growth is beginning to moderate in some developing regions which had experienced robust performance in 2010 on the back of internal efforts to contain inflationary pressures and a receding global demand.

For more information:
<http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/policy/index.shtml>

Working papers

Macroeconomic Policy for Growth and Poverty Reduction: An Application to Post-Conflict and Resource-Rich Countries

A fundamental shift in macroeconomic policy thinking is taking place. This shift opens a space for implementing policies that promote growth and reduce poverty in developing countries. In this

paper, policies for post-conflict and resource-rich economies are outlined. Fiscal policy would focus on revenue mobilization, scaling-up public investment, and preventing over-heating. Monetary policies would revive the financial sector, prevent inflationary pressures and stimulate private sector investment. Exchange rate policies should focus on achieving slow depreciation and maintaining international competitiveness. These policies should not be considered in isolation from each other, but in coordination.

For more information:
http://www.un.org/esa/desa/papers/2011/wp108_2011.pdf

Outreach material

Rio+20: Making it Happen

The latest issue of the newsletter highlights the link between education and sustainable development and it also features the Rio+20 Bureau meeting with the Executive Committee on Economic and Social Affairs that took place on 7 July. It also draws attention to a Brief related to the Institutional Framework for Sustainable Development on "Lessons from the Peer Review Mechanism" and to the Pacific region's Rio+20 preparatory meeting that was held on 22 July in Samoa.

View full issue at:
<http://www.uncsd2012.org/rio20/index.php?menu=40>

United Nations Youth Flash

The newsletter is a service of the United Nations Programme on Youth to keep the public informed about the work of the UN on youth issues. It is prepared with input from UN offices, agencies, funds and programmes, and from youth organisations around the world.

For more information:
<http://social.un.org/index/Youth/Youthflash.aspx>

United Nations Enable Newsletter

The June issue is now available online. ENABLE Newsletter is prepared by the Secretariat for the Convention on the Rights of persons with Disabilities (SCRPD) at DSPD/DESA, with input from UN offices, agencies, funds and programmes, and civil society.

For more information:
<http://www.un.org/disabilities/default.asp?PID=312>



Worldwide launch of “UN Innovations in Public Governance” App

The UN's latest mobile application and DESA's first, “UN Innovations in Public Governance”, was launched on 23 June at the UN Public Service

Awards Ceremony in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, published by the Division for Public Administration and Development Management (DPADM) with UN Publications.

The free application, available worldwide for iPhone, iPod Touch, and iPad, lets users easily explore the entire archive of 145 UN Public Service Awards-Winning Initiatives -- including the just-announced 2011 winners -- filtering by Subject, Category, Region, Country and Year, and learn about each initiative from content that is optimized for a mobile platform. The case studies describe innovative practices by describing the problem that led to an innovation; the solution that was designed and implemented; the actors and steps involved in the innovation process; and lessons learned. The app is an inspirational and powerful tool to understand how public institutions around the world solve difficult governance challenges.

Together with the app, UN Publications and DPADM are publishing DPADM's eBook Good Practices and Innovations in Public Governance 2003-2011. This project is the third collaboration between UN Publications and DPADM since September, following the publication of the United Nations E-Government Survey 2010 and the United Nations Contribution to the Improvement of Public Administration – A 60-Year History. The eBooks are available on multiple platforms, including Amazon Kindle, Barnes & Noble Nook, Sony eReader, and Apple iPhone and iPad.

To download the app for free:

<http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/un-innovations-in-public-governance/id443218537?mt=8#>

Publications in other languages:

The following publications are now available in other languages:

- Tourism Satellite Account: Recommended Methodological Framework 2008, ST/ESA/STAT/SER.F/80/Rev.1 (Arabic)
- International Recommendations for Industrial Statistics 2008, ST/ESA/STAT/SER.M/90 (Spanish, Arabic)

Websites

Update of the MDG website

The MDG website has been updated and now includes the latest annual Millennium Development Goals Report 2011. The report, which presents the yearly assessment of global progress towards the MDGs, shows that although significant strides have been made, reaching all the MDGs by 2015 remains challenging because progress has failed to reach the most vulnerable.

For more information:

[http://unstats.un.org/unsd/mdg/Resources/Static/Products/Progress2011/11-31339\(E\)MDGReport2011_BookLR.pdf](http://unstats.un.org/unsd/mdg/Resources/Static/Products/Progress2011/11-31339(E)MDGReport2011_BookLR.pdf)

Press materials: <http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/news.shtml>

MDG Progress Chart 2011

Most of the targets included in the Millennium Development Goals framework are to be achieved by 2015 – promising clear and measurable improvements from standards prevailing in 1990. The MDGs break down into 21 quantifiable targets that are measured by 60 indicators. The MDG Progress Chart 2011 presents an assessment of progress as of June 2011 towards selected key targets relating to each Goal.

To browse:

[http://unstats.un.org/unsd/mdg/Resources/Static/Products/Progress2011/11-31330\(E\)MDGReport2011_ProgressChartLR.pdf](http://unstats.un.org/unsd/mdg/Resources/Static/Products/Progress2011/11-31330(E)MDGReport2011_ProgressChartLR.pdf)

Comings and Goings

Goings



Mr. Donald Lee retired on 31 July 2011 as Chief of the Social Perspectives on Development Branch in the Division for Social Policy and Development of DESA, a position he held with distinction, where he led the team for the DESA flagship *Report on the World Social Situation*, and provided substantive support to the Commission for Social Development and its Bureau.

He began his career in the UN with ESCAP and moved to DESA to work on finance and trade issues in the Division for Sustainable Development. He later joined the Division for Social Policy and Development to head its work on poverty and employment – development issues that have defined his major contributions in the UN. He helped establish the Youth Employment Network in 2001 and was until his retirement a member of its Steering Committee.

Mr. Lee also had stints as head of the Secretariat of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, and the Communications and Information Management Service (CIMS). In CIMS, he spearheaded a major redesign of the DESA website, with an emphasis on ensuring accessibility for persons with disabilities.

He was the focal point in DESA for the International Year of Microcredit 2005 and a member of its Coordinating Committee. At his retirement, he was the co-Chair of the Coordinating Committee for the International Year of Cooperatives 2012 and Chair of the Committee for the Promotion and Advancement of Cooperatives (COPAC). He relished the challenge of unusual assignments and was Coordinator of side events for the High-level event on MDGs in 2008, and the MDG Summit in 2010.

In recognition of his contribution to poverty issues and the observance of the UN international day for the eradication of poverty, he was invited to join the *International Committee for October 17th* which actively promotes the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty.



Mr. Yacob Zewoldi retired on 31 July 2011 as Chief of the Demographic Statistics Section in the Statistics Division of DESA, a position he held since 2010. His retirement marks 25 years of dedicated service to DESA's Statistics Division and to the Statistics Division of UNECA, in particular in the area of population and housing censuses.

Mr. Zewoldi has an extensive career in public service, both at national and international levels, working on projects and assignments on population and housing censuses; sample surveys; demographic and social statistics; and statistical capacity building.

Mr. Zewoldi has also served as Chief of the Statistical and Geographic Conferences Unit for three years where he coordinated the preparatory activities for the UN Statistical Commission and headed the Secretariats for the following: UN Group of Experts on Geographical Names; UN Regional Cartographic Conference for the Americas; and the UN Regional Cartographic Conference for Asia and the Pacific.

Mr. Zewoldi holds a BSc in Statistics and a MSc in Demography. He has also completed a UN sponsored one-year program at the Office of Population Research, Princeton University in 2003.

He will be remembered mostly for his many contributions in advancing the principles and recommendations for population and housing censuses under the 2000 and the 2010 round of the World Population and Housing Censuses Programme.

Additional staff members who retired in July:

Jones Joscelyn, Research Assistant, Office for ECOSOC Support and Coordination

Valerian Monteiro, Desktop Publishing Assistant, Development Policy and Analysis Division

Comings

The following staff members were promoted in July:

Candace Charbonne, Secretary, Division for Public Administration and Development Management

Awet Segid, Statistics Assistant, Statistics Division

Maria Cynthia Sicangco, Meetings Services Assistant, Office for ECOSOC Support and Coordination

Catheryn Tajon, Staff Assistant, Statistics Division

Isabel Tanedo, Team Assistant, Executive Office

Calendar

August

Second Session of the Open-ended Working Group on Ageing

New York, 1-4 August

<http://social.un.org/ageing-working-group/secondsession.shtml>

The International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples

New York, 9 August

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

Change Your World 2011 Campaign in support of the International Youth Day 2011

12 August

<http://social.un.org/youthyear/>

September

Fourth session of the Conference of States Parties

7-9 September

<http://www.un.org/disabilities/default.asp?id=1571>

General Assembly, 66th session

New York, 13 September - 31 December

<http://www.un.org/en/ga/>

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.