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Breakthrough FFD3 outcome sets positive tone for global change

The world marked a momentous event in international development in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, last month, as Governments adopted a new global framework for financing sustainable development. The Addis Ababa Action Agenda was adopted at the Third International Conference on Financing for Development (FFD3), held on 13-16 July in the Ethiopian capital. It establishes a strong foundation to support the implementation of future development efforts.

The Addis Ababa Conference was the first in a series of landmark events leading up to the adoption of a new development agenda and a universal agreement on climate change by the end of this year.

Turning needs into investment opportunities

“Financing needs for sustainable development are high, but the challenges are surmountable,” said UN secretary-General Ban Ki-moon at the opening of the Conference. “The Addis Ababa Action agenda will help to turn these needs into investment opportunities.”



Watch the video: <http://bit.ly/1eHibW8>



At FFD3, governments agreed on a package of over 100 concrete measures that draw upon all sources of finance, technology, innovation, trade and data and that

will support the implementation of a new set of Sustainable Development Goals to be adopted at a UN Summit in New York in September.

“This framework is a basis both for financing sustainable development and for developing sustainable finance,” said Mr

Wu Hongbo, UN DESA's Under-Secretary-General and Conference Secretary-General.

Collaborating on the formation of breakthrough commitments

Through plenary meetings, round tables, bilateral meetings and almost 200 side events, the various stakeholders in international development – Governments, financial and trade institutions, civil society and business sector entities – got the opportunity to collaborate on the formation of breakthrough commitments and goals across the development spectrum.

As part of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, countries committed to a new social compact to provide social protection and essential public services for all; a global infrastructure forum to bridge the infrastructure gap; an 'LDC package' to support the poorest countries; a Technology Facilitation Mechanism to advance to the SDGs; enhanced international tax cooperation to assist in raising resources domestically; and mainstreaming women's empowerment into financing for development.

"The more funding we leverage — the more strategically we invest each dollar — means more children we will educate, more patients we will treat, and more vital services we will provide," said Jim Yong Kim, President of the World Bank Group.

Measures to lift millions out of poverty



Throughout the week, stakeholders from developed and developing countries alike weighed in on the measures that Member States could and should take to lift millions out of poverty, ensure a sustainable future for our planet and make sure that nobody is left behind.

Ethiopian Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn acknowledged the relative success that the Millennium Development Goals — that were adopted in 2000 and will expire this year — has had within the African region.

"We are in a very different world to the one by which the MDGs were drawn up," Desalegn said. "Much has been achieved; now, we need to build on that success. And we will need to make radical breakthroughs, too — because a business as usual approach will not

take us anywhere near achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

The adoption of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda was one of those historical breakthroughs, an agreement by stakeholders across the board setting the world on a renewed pathway to sustainability and prosperity for all.

Making Addis a turning point for development

"The target date for the realization of the SDGs may seem far and yet close, depending the perspective," said Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, President of the Republic of Liberia, in her address during the plenary meeting. "What is certain is that the world has the resources and capacity to achieve every goal. We have an opportunity to make Addis Ababa a turning point in the scope and character of global framework for development cooperation. Indeed many of the measures incorporated [...] are long sought after goals."



The weeklong gathering was attended by 24 Heads of State and Government and Deputies, and more than one hundred Ministers of Finance, Foreign Affairs and

Development Cooperation and Deputies, as well as other high ranking Government officials from 174 countries.

Many heads of UN agencies and senior representatives of international organizations attended as well. In addition, more than 600 civil society organizations and networks and more than 400 business representatives took part in the Conference.

"This has been a historic Conference and a historic success — held on African soil, and delivering an outcome document that meets the high expectations of people around the world," said Mr. Wu.

As the world sets sail onward to the two other events that will shape 2015 into a year of global change — the adoption of the Post 2015 development agenda in New York in September, and the United Nations Conference on climate change in Paris, in December — the international community can look back on the FFD3 Conference and the signing of the outcome document, as a first milestone to realize a sustainable future for all.

For more information:

[Third International Conference on Financing for Development Storify on FFD3](#)

World population projected to reach 9.7 billion by 2050

The current world population of 7.3 billion is expected to reach 8.5 billion by 2030, 9.7 billion in 2050 and 11.2 billion in 2100, according to the “World Population Prospects: The 2015 Revision”, launched on 29 July. “Understanding the demographic changes [...], as well as the challenges and opportunities that they present for achieving sustainable development, is key to the design and implementation of the new development agenda,” said Wu Hongbo, UN DESA’s Under-Secretary-General.



Watch video from press conference: <http://bit.ly/1OFE7xi>

Most of the projected increase in the world’s population can be attributed to a short list of high-fertility countries, mainly in Africa, or countries with already large populations.

During 2015-2050, half of the world’s population growth is expected to be concentrated in nine countries: India, Nigeria, Pakistan, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America (USA), Indonesia and Uganda, listed according to the size of their contribution to the total growth.

Shifts in the current population rankings

China and India remain the two largest countries in the world, each with more than 1 billion people, representing 19 and 18 % of the world’s population, respectively. But by 2022, the population of India is expected to surpass that of China.



Currently, among the ten largest countries in the world,

one is in Africa (Nigeria), five are in Asia (Bangladesh, China, India, Indonesia, and Pakistan), two are in Latin America (Brazil and Mexico), one is in Northern America (USA), and one is in Europe (Russian Federation).

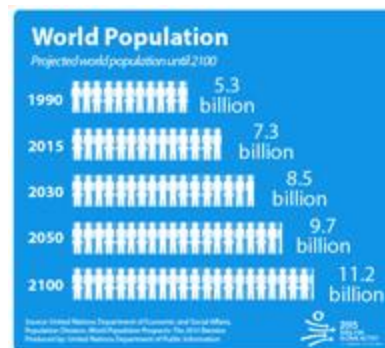
Of these, Nigeria’s population, currently the seventh largest in the world, is growing the most rapidly. Consequently, the population of Nigeria is projected to surpass that of the United States by about 2050, at which point it would become the third largest country in the world. By 2050, six countries are expected to exceed 300 million: China, India, Indonesia, Nigeria, Pakistan, and the USA.

Growing population in Africa

With the highest rate of population growth, Africa is expected to account for more than half of the world’s population growth between 2015 and 2050.

During this period, the populations of 28 African countries are projected to more than double, and by 2100, ten African countries are projected to have increased by at least a factor of five: Angola, Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo, Malawi, Mali, Niger, Somalia, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia.

“The concentration of population growth in the poorest countries presents its own set of challenges, making it more difficult to eradicate poverty and inequality, to combat hunger and malnutrition, and to expand educational enrolment and health systems, all of which are crucial to the success of the new sustainable development agenda,” said John Wilmoth, Director of UN DESA’s Population Division.



While there is always some degree of uncertainty surrounding any projection, the large number of young people in Africa, who will reach adulthood in the coming years and start having children of their own, ensures that the region will play a central role in shaping the size and

distribution of the world’s population over the coming decades. Slower world population growth due to lower fertility rates. Future population growth is highly dependent on the path that future fertility will take, as relatively small changes in fertility behaviour, when projected over decades, can generate large differences in total population.

In recent years, fertility has declined in virtually all areas of the world, even in Africa where fertility levels remain the highest of any major area.

Ageing population growing rapidly

The slowdown in population growth, due to the overall reduction in fertility, causes the proportion of older persons to increase over time. Globally the number of persons aged 60 or above is expected to more than double by 2050 and more than triple by 2100.

A significant ageing of the population in the next several decades is projected for most regions of the world, starting with Europe where 34 % of the population is projected to be over 60 years old by 2050. In Latin America and the Caribbean and in Asia, the population will be transformed from having 11% to 12% of people over 60 years old today to more than 25% by 2050.

Africa has the youngest age distribution of any major area, but it is also projected to age rapidly, with the population aged 60 years or over rising from 5% today to 9% by 2050.

Higher life expectancy and the contribution of the MDGs

Life expectancy at birth has increased significantly in the least developed countries in recent years. The six-year average gain in life expectancy among the poorest countries, from 56 years in 2000-2005 to 62 years in 2010-2015, is roughly double the increase recorded for the rest of the world.

While significant differences in life expectancy across major areas and income groups are projected to continue, they are expected to diminish significantly by 2045-2050.



Progress in reducing under-five mortality, one of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) targets, has been very significant and wide-reaching in recent years.

Between 2000-2005 and 2010-2015, under-

five mortality fell by more than 30% in 86 countries, of which 13 countries saw a decline of more than 50%. In the same time period, the rate decreased by more than 20% in 156 countries.

Young population creates opportunity to capture demographic dividend

Populations in many regions are still young. In Africa, children under age 15 account for 41% of the population in 2015 and young persons aged 15 to 24 account for a further 19%.

Latin America and the Caribbean and Asia, which have seen greater declines in fertility, have smaller percentages of children (26 and 24 %, respectively) and similar percentages of youth (17 and 16%, respectively). In total, these three regions are home to 1.7 billion children and 1.1 billion young persons in 2015.

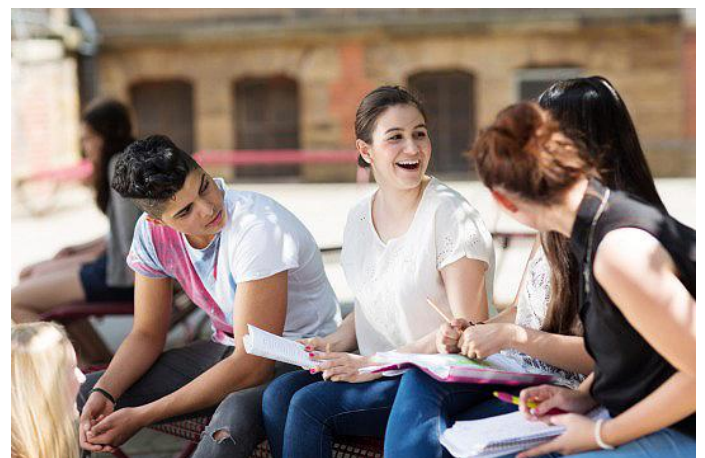
These children and young people are future workers and parents, who can help to build a brighter future for their countries. Providing them with health care, education and employment opportunities, particularly in the poorest countries and groups, will be a critical focus of the new sustainable development agenda.

The 2015 Revision of World Population Prospects is the 24th round of official UN population estimates and projections that have been prepared by UN DESA's Population Division.

For more information: [World Population Prospects: 2015 Revision](#)

Youth day puts civic engagement front and center

Youth civic engagement, a main goal of the United Nations System-Wide Action Plan on Youth, seeks to promote young people's effective inclusive participation at all levels in society. There has been recent increasing attention and policy and programming focus on this issue by governments, UN entities, regional and multilateral organizations, CSOs, youth and researchers. This is also why the International Youth Day (IYD) celebrations will put this theme center stage this year.



Since the global financial and economic crisis of 2008/2009, young people have been progressively vocal and demonstrative of their demand and need for change. Youth-led protests and demonstrations have been largely driven by young people

demanding a greater say in governance structures, employment and economic life, and societies more generally.

At the same time, with staggering youth unemployment figures, young people are being faced with the reality of leading a life with few job opportunities, increased vulnerability to poverty, and an education that does not adequately equip them for the ever changing demands of today's labour market. Studies also show that youth participation remains limited in formal political processes and public institutions, with lower voter turnout among 18-25-year-olds.

Youth participation critical for achieving new development agenda

By 2030, the target date for the new proposed sustainable development goals, the number of youth is projected to have grown by about 7 per cent, to nearly 1.3 billion.

"The world now has the largest generation of young people in history," said UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon as he addressed a high-level event on the demographic dividend and youth employment earlier this summer.

"I place great hopes in their power to shape our future. They are part of the first generation that can end poverty and the last that can avoid the worst impacts of climate change," he said, also underscoring the necessity for the active involvement of youth in the global efforts to achieve sustainable development.

#YouthDay campaign

UN DESA, through the Focal Point on Youth, and the Inter-Agency Network on Youth Development, promotes a multi-dimensional approach to addressing the challenges young people face to have a full and effective participation in their social life and in decision-making while promoting social inclusion to enable all young people to achieve their aspirations and goals.



The Inter-Agency Network on Youth Development, led by the co-chairs UN DESA and UNDP, is running an [online campaign](#) in the lead up to International Youth Day on 12 August. With the overarching aim of promoting youth

participation at the political and public levels, leading to young people being able to fulfill their aspirations in life and contribute to society, the campaign provides a space for youth to share their stories and ideas on civic engagement activities.

Throughout the campaign, young people have been asked to submit photos and/or messages illustrating how they can get

involved in their societies. Selected entries will be participating in the #YouthDay competition on the [UN4Youth](#) Facebook account. The winning photo will be the entry with the most Facebook "likes" and it will be showcased at the International Youth Day event at UN headquarters. It may also be used for the World Youth Report 2015 on Youth Civic Engagement.

Celebrating International Youth Day at UN Headquarters

Taking place in the ECOSOC Chamber at UN Headquarters from 10 am to 1 pm on 12 August, the IYD event is being organized by the Inter-agency Network on Youth Development and is co-sponsored by the Permanent Mission of Portugal and the Permanent Mission of the Dominican Republic. It will bring together young people, youth organizations, Member State representatives, civil society, and UN entities to discuss the issue of youth civic engagement in particular looking at new and emerging issues and approaches to social and political engagement in different parts of the world.

Following opening remarks by the Secretary-General and high-level representatives, the event will highlight both traditional and emerging forms of civic engagement in the form of panel discussions. The first panel will bring new insights into the participation of young people in local and national political process and in the second panel, panelists will discuss the power of youth as global citizens.

The event will also highlight the upcoming 2015 World Youth Report, which will be focusing on the issue of economic, political and social participation of youth, responding to the increased concern and policy focus placed on the issue in recent years. In providing such an analysis, a strong link to youth engagement in the shaping and future implementation of the sustainable development goals (SDGs) at both the national and global levels will be highlighted.

If you do not hold a UN grounds pass and wish to join the event, please RSVP [here](#).

Call for worldwide commemoration

Running until August 12, the Inter-agency Network on Youth Development #YouthDay campaign is still encouraging young people to organize events to celebrate International Youth Day.

The IYD [toolkit](#) gives some ideas on what to do to commemorate the Day. Young people and UN entities are also encouraged to send their plans to youth@un.org, so they can be mapped on the IYD [Map of Events](#). Efforts are needed to raise awareness about the benefits of youth civic engagement to the individual as well as to society.

For more information:

International Youth Day 2015

Send inquiries to youth@un.org

System-Wide Action Plan on Youth

Engage in the [#YouthDay](#) campaign via social media:

<http://www.twitter.com/UN4Youth>

<http://www.twitter.com/UNDP4Youth>

<http://www.facebook.com/UN4Youth>

<http://www.Instagram.com/UN4Youth>

Global Dialogue on Development

Ensuring indigenous peoples' health and well-being



The observance of the International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples will take place on Monday 10 August in the ECOSOC Chamber, from 3:00 pm to 6:00 pm at United Nations Headquarters in New York.

As part of the commemoration, the Secretariat of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, the Department of Public Information and the NGO Committee on the International Decade of the World's Indigenous Peoples are organizing an event that will bring together indigenous peoples organizations, UN agencies, Member States and the general public.

This year the theme will be on "Post 2015 Agenda: Ensuring indigenous peoples health and well-being".

To register for this event please send an email to Mr. Nicolas Magnien at magnien@un.org and Mr. Arturo Requesens at requesens@un.org indicating full name and organization affiliation. You will receive an email confirming your registration. The deadline to register to attend the International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples is Tuesday 4 August 2015.

For more information: [International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples](#)

Reflections on the Global Sustainable Development Report

Following the launch of the Global Sustainable Development Report 2015 Edition in June, Member State representatives, scientists and UN officials reflect on its findings and usefulness for policymakers in a newly released video.

The need for scientific understanding of key issues, reliable data in the poorest countries, and effective means to convey scientific findings to decision-makers present major challenges to the implementation of the sustainable development agenda that countries are expected to adopt this September, according to the 2015 Global Sustainable Development Report (GSDR).

The GSDR, an intergovernmentally-mandated report on the science-policy interface for sustainable development, was presented to UN Member States at the High Level Political Forum on 30 June. The Forum is a new body expected to be tasked with monitoring the implementation of the new sustainable development agenda, anchored by 17 proposed Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

"The successful implementation of the new sustainable development agenda requires a strong scientific foundation that is understood by policymakers," • said Wu Hongbo, UN DESA's Under-Secretary-General. "This report shows us how we must sharpen our collective scientific understanding [...] and presentation so that we can make informed decisions that improve people's lives."

The 2015 Global Sustainable Development Report provides a survey of scientific findings on a range of pressing sustainable development issues that includes oceans and livelihoods, disaster risk reduction, industrialization, and use of "big data" in Africa.

A number of Member State representatives, members of the scientific community and UN officials shared their views on the Global Sustainable Development Report with UN DESA.

Lucilla Spini, Head of Science Programmes, International Council for Science (ICSU), noted the diversity of views reflected in the report. "What I think is really important is [...] the great amount of contributors, in terms of organizations and individuals, that have contributed to this report from all over the world."

Annika Lindblom, Director for International Sustainable Development in the Ministry of Environment of Finland, highlighted the importance of the nexus approach featured in the GSDR. "What we thought was particularly valuable was this integrated approach, this nexus thinking [...] creating linkages between different thematic areas and challenges like water and human development."

Andalib Elias, Counsellor at the Permanent Mission of Bangladesh to United Nations, said that the "GSDR is very important for the policy makers, particularly for countries like Bangladesh, because the areas that were touched upon in the report — the science-policy interface, the critical importance of disaster risk reduction, and the relationships between economic growth and sustainable consumption and production — all these

will help the policy makers in all countries to take learned and educated decisions.”

Maria Ivanova of the UN Secretary General’s Scientific Advisory Board commended the report for focusing on certain groups of countries whose situations need to be addressed in a special way, such as Small Island Developing States and Landlocked Developing Countries.

For more information: [Global Sustainable Development Report, 2015 edition](#)

Financing sustainable transport



On the occasion of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, the Secretary-General’s High-Level Advisory Group on Sustainable Transport issued a Position Paper on Financing Sustainable Transport.

The paper highlights that transport plays “an essential role in countries’ economic growth, competitiveness, balanced and livable spatial development, access to water and energy, and food security”, and that it is also critical for social inclusion and improved quality of life. Ensuring adequate and better targeted funding and innovative financing for sustainable transport will be critical to deliver on this potential.

The High-level Advisory Group welcomes the Addis Ababa outcome and its call for enhanced action in the least developed countries, land-locked developing countries, small island developing States, and countries in conflict and post-conflict countries, as well as on the specific challenges facing middle-income countries.

The advisory group recognizes that mobility solutions to support sustainable development exist in both developed and developing countries, and that they “require a shift towards a mobility paradigm focused on people, environment and climate rather than individual vehicle use”. Fossil fuel consumption and dependency in transport systems should be reduced and subsidies eventually eliminated, the paper advises. This is seen as a prerequisite to reducing greenhouse gas emissions at the scale required to meet the 2°C scenario. Sustainable transport systems would also enable us to meet adaptation and pollution targets.

The group points out that while global transport investments are estimated at 1-2 trillion US dollars per year, less than 40 percent is invested in developing countries, “where both connectivity needs and opportunities to avoid locking into an unsustainable development path are the greatest”. Investments in sustainable transport will need to be fostered by the public sector. Investments in improving the energy efficiency of urban transportation could ultimately lead to a savings of up to 70 trillion US dollars.

Private financing is crucial as well. There is substantial capital and liquidity and yet the world is facing a growing mismatch between financing needs—particularly for long-term infrastructure—and available financing, a gap particularly acute in lower-income countries. The paper suggests transparent enabling frameworks, incentives and adequate risk-sharing mechanisms to tap into available global liquidity.

The ongoing efforts of the world’s eight largest Multilateral Development Banks to fund more safe and sustainable transport is commended, as are the pledges made to the Green Climate Fund (GCF), and the GCF’s efforts to begin financing projects as soon as possible, though transport financing from climate funds has thus far been extremely limited.

Other dedicated financing mechanisms will be needed to ensure rapid action at scale on road safety. More than 1.5 million people lose their lives every year due to traffic accidents and transport-induced air pollution, of which 92 percent are in developing countries. Road safety has emerged as a global public cause.

For more information: [Secretary-General’s High-level Advisory Group on Sustainable Transport](#)

Official opening of ECOSOC’s 2016 session



The Economic and Social Council’s 2015 Organizational Session was held on 24 July at UN Headquarters in New York, officially opening the 2016 session of ECOSOC.

The event included the handover of the Council Presidency from H.E. Martin Sajdik (Austria), who led ECOSOC during an extended 18-month presidency, to the newly elected President, H.E. Oh Joon (Republic of Korea). In his parting statement, Ambassador

Sajdik spoke of the importance of ensuring that ECOSOC's discussions and decisions on global development resonate to the communities and stakeholders who will be central to the successful implementation of the new development agenda.

The new President, Ambassador Oh Joon, welcomed the newly elected ECOSOC Bureau Members: H.E. Maria Cristina Perceval (Argentina), H.E. Vladimir Drobnjak (Croatia), H.E. Paul Seger (Switzerland), and H.E. Frederick Musiiwa Makamure Shava (Zimbabwe). He also outlined priorities for the 2016 session, which will have as the main theme, "Implementing the post-2015 development agenda: Moving from commitments to results".

He expressed his desire to continue to enhance the Council's relevance during this historic time of transition from the MDGs to the post-2015 development agenda, including through focusing special attention on the issue of inequality.

Another priority is support to the implementation of the new development agenda and the establishment of an effective follow-up and review mechanism through the High-level Political Forum alongside the coordinating role of ECOSOC. This will be complemented by further harmonization of the ECOSOC system, particularly its subsidiary bodies and related work programmes. The Council will also build on its successes in mobilizing partnerships to support a renewed global partnership for the post-2015 agenda.

For more information: [United Nations Economic and Social Council \(UN ECOSOC\)](#)

HLPF adopts declaration of commitment to ambitious people-centred post-2015 agenda



The High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development closed its eight-day annual session on 8 July with the adoption of a declaration that committed ministers from around the world to establishing a "strong, universal, ambitious,

inclusive and people-centred" post-2015 development agenda that completes the unfinished business of the Millennium Development Goals and responds to new challenges.

Through the text, Forum ministers welcomed what had been achieved through the Millennium Development Goals, which had

set out a common vision and contributed to "significant and substantial advances" in several areas.

They requested the President of the Economic and Social Council to issue summaries of discussions in the Forum and in the Council's high-level segment, running until 10 July, to the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, which convened from 13 to 16 July in Addis Ababa.

"Our meeting was convened under a heightened mindfulness of the forthcoming post-2015 development agenda," said Council Vice-President Mohamed Khaled Khiari (Tunisia) in closing remarks, the most ambitious one yet at the United Nations. Delegates had covered much ground, with substantive and practical deliberations on how to make the Forum fit for supporting implementation of the new agenda.

Throughout the session, he said, debates had shown that the Forum could be what Heads of State and Government attending the 2012 Rio+20 Conference had envisioned: one that provided leadership and political guidance, brought enhanced coherence to the institutional framework for sustainable development, served as the apex of follow-up and review of the new agenda, and offered a strengthened science-policy interface.

"We will need to continue these discussions so we can hit the ground running," he said, noting that several participants had suggested elaborating a road map to prepare the Forum for delivering on its role as soon as the agenda was adopted.

Managing the transition from MDGs to SDGs

The declaration capped a day that featured the Forum's adoption of its 2015 report, as well as two panel discussions. In the first — on "Reviewing and monitoring progress: What have we learned and how can it advance implementation?" — delegates weighed how national reviews to be conducted by the Forum starting in 2016 could best advance implementation of the sustainable development goals, with many advocating that existing review mechanisms be used to maximize impact.

The second, on "Realizing the sustainable development goals: Matching ambitions with commensurate means of implementation — resources, technology and capacities", focused on financing, trade, debt sustainability and capacity-building as ways to advance the new agenda.

The Forum's programme dovetailed with that of the Council's high-level segment, which was held in parallel meetings under the main theme of "Managing the transition from the Millennium Development Goals to the sustainable development goals: what it will take". The segment featured continued general debate on how to prepare the Forum for peak performance in 2016 and the start of two-day deliberations in the

Annual Ministerial Review, the Council body established in 2007 to assess the Millennium Development Goals.

During the Council's general debate, speakers highlighted steps to make a successful transition to the new agenda, with some advocating a "fresh look" at the Forum's sessions. It should focus, they said, on its key mandates, such as identifying best practices, new trends and challenges, and strengthening the science-policy interface. Conversations must be broad in scope, engaging the civil society, business and scientific communities.

Several delegations welcomed the 2015 edition of the Global Sustainable Development Report as a way to drive substantive discussion, with Egypt's delegate cautioning that it should not be used as a monitoring tool.



Twitter chat puts spotlight on new sustainable development agenda

Just following the HLPF, UN DESA's Assistant Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Inter-Agency Affairs,

Thomas Gass, invited the online community to join him in a Twitter chat on 10 July, focusing on the new proposed sustainable development goals (SDGs) and how we can turn our vision for 2030 into reality.

The event saw great engagement from the online audience, which used #SDGsChat to engage with Mr. Gass on a number of topics related to the SDGs. Mr. Gass enjoyed receiving some 150 questions and comments on a number of issues including on youth involvement, food security, industrialization, inequality and the role of governments, civil society, the private sector and ordinary citizens in this joint global effort for an inclusive and sustainable future that leaves no one behind.

"I want to make sure that people know why their leaders are coming to New York in September," said Thomas Gass. "It is not for the photo-op, but to promise to the people that the SDGs vision is for them."

For more information:

[High-level Political Forum on sustainable development \(HLPF\)](#)

[Storify on Twitter chat with Thomas Gass on the SDGs](#)

Exploring what it will take to transition to new development agenda



The Economic and Social Council High-level Segment (HLS) was convened on 6 to 10 July at UN Headquarters in New York. The event included the High-level Political Forum (HLPF) Ministerial Segment (6-8 July) and the final ECOSOC Annual Ministerial Review (AMR) and other HLS events (8-10 July).

The 2015 ECOSOC main theme, which was also the theme of the AMR, was "Managing the transition from the Millennium Development Goals to the sustainable development goals (SDGs): What it will take".

The Council adopted a joint ministerial declaration of the HLS and HLPF that looked forward to the new agenda and requested the President of ECOSOC to prepare [summaries](#) of the discussions as a contribution to the Third International Conference on Financing for Development and the on-going inter-governmental negotiations on the post-2015 UN development agenda.

The event featured four AMR [National Voluntary Presentations](#) by Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Philippines and Zambia, which emphasized the imperative of mutually reinforcing actions at the national, regional and global levels for successfully transitioning from the MDGs to the SDGs.

Dialogues took place with representatives of the international financial and trade institutions (IMF, UNCTAD, World Bank Group, WTO), as well as with the Executive Secretaries of the UN regional commissions. The importance of inclusive growth for the achievement of the SDGs was underscored, with some concerns about the implications of the low rate of both global growth and international trade for realizing the new agenda. The widening divergence in growth rates between various regions highlights the need for greater policy coordination at all levels.

Progress in the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action (2011-2020) (IPoA) was reviewed, introduced by a keynote address by H.E. Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, President of Liberia. The unfinished MDG agenda for LDCs should be integrated into the post-2015 development agenda, complementing the IPoA, with greater emphasis on aid-for-

trade, trade facilitation, capacity and institution building and technology for development.

UN Secretary-General Mr. Ban Ki-moon delivered a closing statement, stating that the occasion marked “the end of the review of the MDGs in ECOSOC. But it also lays the foundation for the transition to the SDGs — an ambitious and universal agenda” for which the Council will need to promote policy integration and mobilize a wide range of actors.

For more information: [ECOSOC High-level Segment](#)

Trends and Analysis

Using geospatial information to address global challenges



UN DESA's Statistics Division is organizing the Fifth Session of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM), to be held in New York on 5-7 August.

As a formal inter-governmental mechanism, UN-GGIM is playing a leading role in setting the agenda and direction for the development of global geospatial information and in promoting its use to address key global challenges.

It is expected that the meeting of senior executives from national geospatial information authorities and geospatial experts will augur for a very important visioning and strategic event, which recognizes the critical role of geospatial information management and the need for strengthened collaboration and joined initiatives, to advance the development and use of geospatial data and tools to support global sustainability.

The United Nations Committee of Experts on GGIM welcomes the participation of Member States and relevant international organisations to its Fifth Session as it continues to move forward in fulfilling its mandate to enhance collaboration and support the use of geospatial information to promote sustainable development globally. The formal Committee Session, convened from 5-7 August 2015, will be preceded by a number of related side events from 3 to 4 August.

For more information:

[United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management \(UN-GGIM\)](#)

[VIDEO: Everything that happens, happens somewhere](#)

Challenge calls for creative visualizations of development data



The final Millennium Development Goals Report was released earlier this summer presenting the latest data on the progress of these global development goals over the last 15 years. To explore the achievements made

and to dive deeper into the wealth of MDG data, the #WSD2015 Data Visualization Challenge competition has been launched by UN DESA's Statistics Division in collaboration with Unite Ideas. Deadline for submissions is 20 September.

Taking place in the lead up to the upcoming celebration later this fall around World Statistics Day 2015, the contest invites students, data scientists, data journalists, graphic designers, and the public at large to put their data analysis and visualization skills to the test and contribute to answer relevant development policy questions by building an infographic or dynamic visualization, featuring the latest data from the 2015 MDG report.

Participants have a unique opportunity to delve into the latest MDG database, combing through development statistics data that have been the cornerstone of the development agenda over the last 15 years, to create visualizations and directly answer pressing policy questions.

The winner of the #WSD2015 Data Visualisation Challenge will be announced and showcased during World Statistics Day 2015, on 20 October. A selection of the best visualizations will also be showcased on the websites of UN DESA's Statistics Division, Unite Ideas and related platforms worldwide.

The #WSD2015 Data Visualisation Challenge reflects UN DESA's continued support to World Statistics Day under the guidance of the UN Statistical Commission, following the General Assembly's invitation to Member States, members of specialized agencies, organizations of the United Nations system and other international and regional organizations, as well as civil society to observe the day.

This second World Statistics Day was officially adopted by resolution of the United Nations General Assembly on 3 June 2015. This year, the day will be celebrated under the theme "Better data. Better lives." The #WSD2015 Data Visualization Challenge allows everyone the chance to actively participate in

this historic statistics celebration and showcase creative and unique visualizations featuring the latest development data.

Sound analysis and effective communication of high-quality data are an indispensable basis for informed policy making and for monitoring development efforts at all levels. As the world comes closer to the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda, everyone can help make this historic World Statistics Day 2015 a success by contributing their knowledge and skills to make the best possible use of data and statistics to inform the creation and monitoring policies for sustainable development.

For more information: [#WSD2015 Data Visualization Challenge](#)

Milestone parade to promote rights of persons with disabilities in NYC



On Sunday 12 June, New York City celebrated its first-ever Disability Pride Parade to recognize the 25th anniversary of the Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA).

Team United Nations joined the thousands of people who came out in support of persons with disabilities and their abilities, as well as to help raise awareness about the struggles they continue to face in their societies.

The milestone Parade included prominent speakers and live entertainment, as well as performances. Speakers include the Mayor of New York City Bill de Blasio, Commissioner Victor Calise of the Mayor's Office for Persons with Disabilities and former Senator Tom Harkin, an original sponsor of the ADA and a strong supporter of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

Along with the US speakers was Ambassador Oh Joon from the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Korea to the UN, who is also the President of ECOSOC and President of the Conference of States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Daniela Bas, Director of UN DESA's Division for Social Policy and Development, was a lively and active participant in the group leading the parade. The Division houses the UN Secretariat for the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

The multi-stakeholder Team United Nations was made up of delegates from Member States, staff from UN agencies and representatives of civil society organizations, including organizations of persons with disabilities. Members of the Team were visible in and around the Parade wearing blue UN T-shirts

and carrying a large banner that read "Equality – Inclusion – Empowerment: UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities" as they walked down Broadway to Union Square.

In his speech, Ambassador Joon said "...the most significant contribution of the Convention is that it highlights the 'rights-based approach' to disability'. We must guarantee the equal rights of persons with disabilities to their physical environment and to information, not on the basis of favor or charity. We must make sure we 'leave no one behind.'"

It was a time for people with disabilities to show pride their abilities and the way lived as full citizens of their societies who were just as capable as anyone. The Parade worked to raise awareness about the issues of concern to persons with disabilities in New York City – from high unemployment numbers to low availability of accessible transportation and from charity and pity to addressing stigma and discrimination, as well as the removal of barriers to the full and equal participation of persons with disabilities in the lives of their societies.

During the parade, Daniela Bas noted: "Here in New York City – the city that also hosts the United Nations Headquarters – we are celebrating a very important issue that promotes equality and full participation of persons with disabilities in the everyday life". The Mayor of New York City declared the month of July as "Disability Pride Month".

For more information: [United Nations Enable](#)

Capacity development

Supporting capacity-building efforts for effective public service delivery



An international conference titled “Support to Developing Capacities for Effective Governance, Public Administration and Service Delivery in Developing Countries for Sustainable Development”

will take place in Kampala, Uganda on 24 – 28 August.

Effective implementation of the post-2015 development agenda including the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) requires effective, accountable, and equitable delivery of public services. It calls for changes in the traditional “silo” mind-set, adoption of new methods of work and a renewed emphasis on coordination capabilities.

For many developing economies, especially in Africa, policy implementation and provision of public goods and services remains a major challenge. There is critical need for creativity and innovation, working across sectors and disciplines, including application of modern Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) to improve the delivery of services by public sector institutions in developing countries.

There is equally important need for governments to develop institutional and human resource capacities, including leadership in public service to enable these countries to anticipate, formulate, and implement integrated public policies and strategies that can lead to effective and coordinated delivery of public services. Institutional and human resource capacity development, including leadership capacity building, will be a critical component of the process of implementing the post- 2015 agenda and achievement of SDGs.

In this connection, UN DESA’s Division for Public Administration and Development Management (DPADM) responded to the request of the Government of Uganda to jointly organize an international conference titled “Support to Developing Capacities for Effective Governance, Public Administration and Service Delivery in Developing Countries for Sustainable Development”.

The objective of the event is to enhance knowledge and awareness of political leadership, senior public service leaders and other governance actors in developing countries of Africa, Asia and Latin America on the critical role of integrated and coordinated strategic public policy formulation, decision making and implementation, as well as monitoring and evaluation for effective delivery of equitable public services.

The deliberations during the conference will evolve around the following five main substantive themes and their connection to the post-2015 development agenda:

- Public service reform
- Performance management, monitoring and evaluation;
- Globalization, regional and national strategies and partnerships;
- E-government in and for the public service; and
- Anti-corruption strategies.

DPADM will sponsor participants from 43 developing countries and the target group will comprise of ministers responsible for public service; senior public servants from ministries of public service and local governments; human resource managers in the public sector; representatives of management development institutions, especially those involved in capacity building; and some winners of the United Nations Public Service Awards.

The inclusion of a number of developing countries outside of the African Continent will enable this high-level event to enrich its experience-sharing component and the impact of its capacity-development segment.

For more information:

[Support to Developing Capacities for Effective Governance, Public Administration and Service Delivery](#)

Evidence and data for gender equality



The Evidence and Data for Gender Equality (EDGE) project staff will participate, as resource persons, in the training of enumerators on the EDGE module for data collection on the individual level asset ownership and

entrepreneurship from a gender perspective, being organized in collaboration with (i) Georgia National Statistics Office (Geostat) and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) during 2 – 6 August 2015 at Tbilisi, Georgia; and (ii) South Africa National Statistics Office (Stat SA) and the African Development Bank (AfDB) during 11-15 August 2015 at Port Shepstone (KwaZulu Natal), South Africa.

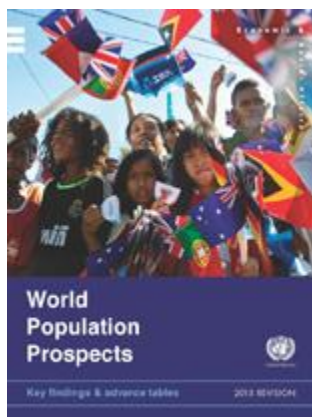
The Geostat and Stat SA have volunteered to conduct pilot surveys for EDGE data collection with financial assistance from the ADB and the AfDB respectively.

Findings of these pilot surveys are expected to inform the international methodological guidelines to be developed by the EDGE initiative on measuring individual level asset ownership and entrepreneurship from a gender perspective.

For more information: [Evidence and Data for Gender Equality \(EDGE\)](#)

Publications and Websites

Technical reports



World Population Prospects: 2015 Revision

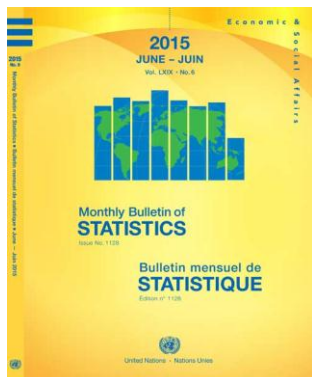
Published by UN DESA's Population Division, the 2015 Revision of World Population Prospects reveals that the global population is projected to reach 9.7 billion by 2050. This latest revision represents the twenty-fourth round of official United Nations population estimates and projections. Its main results are presented in a series of

Excel files displaying key demographic indicators for each development group, income group, major area, region and country for selected periods or dates within 1950-2100.

This comprehensive review of worldwide demographic trends and future prospects is essential for assessing the degree of progress made in achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and to guide policies aimed at achieving the new post-2015 development agenda, which Member States will adopt this September.

- [For more information](#)

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 bimonthly, quarterly and annual data on a variety of subjects illustrating

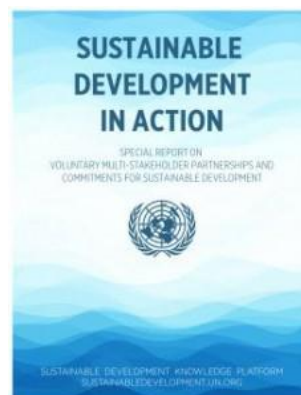
important economic trends and developments, including population, prices, employment and earnings, energy, manufacturing, transport, construction, international merchandise trade and finance.

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In addition to the regular recurrent monthly tables, this issue includes quarterly and bi-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; External trade conversion factors; Manufactured goods exports: unit value indices, volume indices and value; Selected series of world statistics

- [For more information](#)

Outreach material



2015 Special Edition of the SD in Action Report – Special Report on Voluntary Multi-Stakeholder Partnerships and Commitments for Sustainable Development:

This 2015 edition of the SD in Action Report reviews a numbers of action networks and multi-stakeholder partnerships with a particular focus on how knowledge and expertise is

aggregated, managed and ultimately shared, in order to identify trends and challenges in this area, and to inform and prepare all stakeholders and partners as the world transitions into the post-2015 development era.

The online newsletter is published by UN DESA's Division for Sustainable Development and it aims to feature the work carried out by Member States, United Nations system, Major Groups and other relevant stakeholders in implementing sustainable development and leading the way to the Future We Want.

- [Read full issue](#)

Youth Flash Newsletter

The July issue is now available online featuring an article on “Uniting Youth for Climate Change” by Yugratna Srivastava, an undergraduate student of Electronics and Communications Engineering at the Indian Institute of Information Technology in Allahabad. The newsletter is a service of the Division for Social Policy and Development (DSPD) Focal Point on Youth to help 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 organizations all over the world.

- [Read full issue](#)

DESA NGO News

Published by UN DESA’s NGO Branch, the latest issue is available online providing stories including on the General Assembly’s preparatory process for the overall review of the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, and the NGO Committee’s adoption of the report of its 2015 Resumed session. The newsletter provides the most up-to-date information on news and upcoming events of interest to civil society at UN headquarters in New York, Geneva and elsewhere.

- [Read full issue](#)

Discussion papers

Monthly Briefing on the World Economic Situation and Prospects No. 80

Prepared by UN DESA’s Development Policy and Analysis Division, the July issue is available online with the following summary:

- Greek voters reject bailout proposal
- Several new EU members and South-Eastern European nations face risks of spillover effects from the Greek debt crisis
- India and other South Asian economies register strong economic growth

- [To download](#)

Working papers

Will Inequality Lead China to the Middle Income Trap?

China has departed from the East Asian model of development by letting inequality rise to a high level, which is contributing to China’s current problems of macroeconomic imbalance, declining efficiency of capital, and rising social tensions. If inequality persists, China may get caught in the “inequality-trap,” which may then lead it to the “middle income trap (MIT).” Fortunately, China still has the levers to pull to reduce inequality and avoid MIT. Measures along both the “wage route” and the “redistributive route” can be adopted for this purpose. In addition, China may pursue the “cooperative route” to more equitable distribution.

- [To download](#)

Background papers

Committee for Development Policy (CDP) Background paper on Managing Labour Mobility: A Missing Pillar of Global Governance

The increasing problems associated with international migration call for nations to manage migratory flows in a more realistic way both at national and international levels. However, global initiatives undertaken to date in this field have seen very limited success. This paper adopts a political economy approach for identifying the interests of affected social groups with a view towards building feasible policy responses. A dual proposal for global governance of migration is suggested, based on a combination between the establishment of universal minimum standards and the promotion of bilateral and regional interaction driven by problem-solving goals.

- [To download](#)

Comings and Goings

Comings

The following staff members were promoted in July:

Ursula Germann, Senior Programme Officer, Office of the Under-Secretary-General

Cassandra Price Taveras, Programme Assistant, Office for ECOSOC Support and Coordination

Harumi Shibata Salazar, Statistician, Statistics Division

Thomas Spoorenberg, Population Affairs Officer, Population Division

Goings

The following staff members retired in July:

Rosa Ahmed, Technical Co-operation Assistant, Division for Social Policy and Development

Joan De Angelis, Administrative Assistant, Executive Office

Alphonse Mekolo, Adviser, Division for Public Administration and Development Management

Calendar

August

[Fifth Session of the United Nations Committee of Experts on
Global Geospatial Information Management \(UN-GGIM\)](#)
5-7 August, New York

[International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples](#)
10 August

[International Youth Day 2015](#)
12 August

[Capacity Development workshop on "Support to Developing
Capacities for Effective Governance, Public Administration and
Service Delivery in Developing Countries for Sustainable
Development"](#)
24-28 August, Kampala, Uganda