



Promise of technology for persons with disabilities | Ebola: A threat to sustainable development| Investing in sustainable transportation

Global dialogue on development: Preparations begin for the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, Second Committee continues economic and financial review, Third Committee approves draft resolution on World Youth Skills Day

Trends and analysis: Evaluations of 2015 UN Public Service Awards begin, Role of cooperatives for sustainable development, Evidence and data for gender equality

Capacity development: Measuring citizen engagement for development management, Policies on youth development in Sub-Saharan Africa, Policies on youth development in Sub-Saharan Africa

[Publications and websites](#) | [Comings and goings](#) | [Calendar](#)

Feature Articles

Promise of technology for persons with disabilities

Technology advances have changed the way people live. But not all people have benefitted equally, due to limited accessibility, social and economic barriers. To discuss the promises of new technology for persons with disabilities and other topics related to the upcoming International Day of Persons with Disabilities on 3 December, DESA News met with Daniela Bas, Director of UN DESA's Division for Social Policy and Development.

Throughout human history, new and changing technologies have impacted on the way people live. Today, it is built in to nearly every part of daily living, from work, consumer goods, to recreational activities and social interactions. Information and communications technologies have also dramatically increased connectivity between people and their access to information, further helping to raise living standards.



Watch the interview on YouTube <http://bit.ly/1A0dQTT>

For the 1 billion people living with some form of disability around the world, technological advances that could enhance inclusion, such as Apps on smart phones, interactive whiteboards in the classroom and 3-dimensional films can be a challenge to access. In spite of being the world's largest minority group, persons with disabilities have remained largely invisible in mainstream development frameworks and its processes. The UN General Assembly continues to reiterate accessibility as a means and a goal for inclusive, sustainable development and as key for empowering and including all persons in the future development efforts.

“A lot has been achieved,” said Daniela Bas, as she described the situation across the globe for persons with disabilities. “I would say that we have to encourage people with disabilities themselves and the remaining part of the society, be it that we are talking about governments that decide about social policies, be it that we talk about other groups of the civil society, of academia,” Ms. Bas said, emphasizing that the situation for persons with disabilities still needs to be improved.

Citing the UN Secretary-General, Daniela Bas also underscored the role of new technologies in moving towards a society where no one is left behind, a topic which will also be highlighted during the upcoming celebrations on 3 December. “There are going to be so many events and panel discussions with people from governments, NGOs, the private sector, to showcase what they are doing by using new technologies to enable everybody to be able,” Ms. Bas explained.

Accessibility and its benefits to us all

What do we mean by accessibility? Think of an App on a Smartphone. It is likely that the App has certain design characteristics, such as an attractive visual layout, state-of-the-art features and touch-screen elements, which deliver an appealing and sought after service. Now imagine a person with a visual impairment – an individual who may struggle to access this App, to appreciate its visual layout and its interactive features. While being advanced in its features, the App world, and certainly other technological advances, may not cater to all persons in society.

Accessibility is best defined as flexibility to accommodate each user’s needs and preferences. While the design of accessible technologies ought to cater for all individuals in society, it is important to note that the accessibility of such information and communications technologies does not automatically diminish the opportunities for others to enjoy the ease and flexibility of using such goods or services. Accessibility should therefore be identified as a set of global public goods, which are not defined to benefit a particular group in society, but rather, to be accessible to all on a local, national and global level.

The improvements to physical and service infrastructure that come with a focus on accessibility also encourage a more multigenerational focus in development planning. In time, the youth population of today will have inevitably matured. Imagine the European population: by 2050 the number of people over 65 will be 3 times what it was in 2003, and the over 80 age group will be 5 times greater in number. Accessibility is an important aspect of realising the rights of the world’s ageing population; with age, the chances of acquiring a permanent or temporary disability increases. A focus on accessibility can therefore ensure that all are able to participate fully in society well into the older years.

Realizing the rights of persons with disabilities often requires policy interventions and the implementation of measures to remove

barriers and provide reasonable accommodation in order to ensure their equal access and full participation.

Sustainable and inclusive development

In recent years, there has been increasing recognition that development paths would not exclude the participation of persons with disabilities in economic, social or political life. This is key for an inclusive, equitable and sustainable future for all, and the repositioning of accessibility as an integral development goal would secure such inclusion.

The concept of universal design is not a matter of style, but rather an orientation to design. It is based on the premise that design processes must be inclusive, produce equitable benefits and be appropriate to all groups in society, regardless of economical, social, cultural or physical feature. With this in mind, performance standards and technical requirements for accessibility should produce results for persons with disabilities and non-disabled persons alike.

UN Member States have recognized increasingly that ensuring accessibility for, and inclusion of, persons with disabilities is important for achieving internationally agreed development goals, such as the Millennium Development Goals.

Indeed, technology can be used as a tool to impact on the achievement and outcome of the post-2015 development agenda for persons with disabilities, and for people everywhere. The post-2015 development agenda can be used to promote the impact and benefits of assistive technology, accessible information and communications technology, technological adaptations and other policy and programmatic measures to improve the well-being and inclusion of persons with disabilities in society and development.

During the High-Level meeting on Disability and Development in 2013, UN DESA’s Under-Secretary-General Mr. Wu Hongbo made a call for all stakeholders to implement more disability-inclusive national development strategies, to ensure that development takes into account the needs of persons with disabilities.



International Day highlights promises of technology

The annual observance of the International Day of Persons with

Disabilities on 3 December will further showcase the promises of new technologies as it will be celebrated under the theme “Sustainable Development: The promise of technology”.

During the day, panel discussions will be held at the UN Headquarters, one of which will identify key issues and trends with regard to technology and how the post-2015 development agenda can promote an inclusive path to development. The day will work to harness the power of technology to promote inclusion and accessibility, with a view to help realize the full and equal participation of persons with disabilities in society to achieve sustainable development for all.

“Let’s unite the different skills we have, to find solutions, to make society accessible to everybody,” Ms. Bas said encouragingly ahead of the international day. “Leave the ‘dis’ at home and bring the ability,” Ms. Bas concluded.

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

Ebola: A threat to sustainable development

The current Ebola outbreak is considered the largest one ever recorded with a total of 15,935 cases reported as of 23 November 2014. During the 69th Session of the General Assembly, many heads of States have called for a global response to tackle the outbreak. As part of these efforts, the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) will hold a special meeting on “Ebola: A threat to Sustainable Development” on 5 December.



5,689 people have died and cases of the Ebola virus disease (EVD) have been reported in Guinea, Liberia, Mali, Sierra Leone, Spain, the US and in the previously affected countries Nigeria and Senegal. The most affected countries – Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone – are also among the poorest in the world, with healthcare

systems that are not equipped to handle a health crisis of this magnitude.

These countries with fragile economies are now faced with increasing fiscal deficits as a result of increased expenditure on health, security and social protection coupled with revenue reduction due to decreased economic activities. According to IMF and World Bank estimates, the short-term fiscal impact of the Ebola outbreak is US\$ 113 million (5.1 per cent of GDP) for Liberia, US\$95 million (2.1 per cent of GDP) in Sierra Leone and US\$120 million (1.8 per cent) in Guinea. These countries may also face borrowing constraints depending on the duration and spread of the epidemic.

Responding to a complex emergency

During the 69th Session of the General Assembly, many heads of States have called for a global response to tackle the crisis. In a historic resolution, the Security Council also emphasized the role of relevant United Nations System entities, in particular the United Nations General Assembly, ECOSOC, and the Peacebuilding Commission, in supporting the national, regional and international efforts to respond to the Ebola outbreak. In September, the Secretary-General also established the first-ever UN emergency health mission, the Mission for Ebola Emergency Response (UNMEER) to respond to the emergency.

“As [the Security] Council has emphasized, Ebola is not just an urgent public health crisis. It is a complex emergency. Ebola and the fear and stigma it creates has affected health provisions, education, food security, trade and economic well-being,” said the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General on Ebola, Dr. David Nabarro, as he briefed the Security Council on 21 November, urging the international community to maintain its critical response.

Like the case with the economic impact of Ebola, it is equally, if not more difficult to quantify and make projections on its immense social impacts. In Sierra Leone, schools have been closed since June jeopardizing the gains made in children’s education. The closure of schools is expected to impact malnutrition in the country since school feeding programmes have been effective in providing nourishment to children. In addition, people’s livelihoods and food production are disrupted, and businesses are closing in the most affected countries.

Examining consequences for sustainable development

As the international community continues to elaborate on a post-2015 development agenda, the Ebola outbreak is a stark reminder that our policy choices and actions at all levels have economic, social and environmental implications. The chronology of the Ebola outbreaks also raises questions about the environmental dimensions in the emergence of infectious diseases that are transmitted from wild animals to humans, as deforestation and land use continue to bring people closer to

wildlife. National policies and resource allocations that do not prioritize the health sector can furthermore make countries vulnerable to such outbreaks.

As the United Nations, affected countries' governments, Pan-African institutions and the international community increase their efforts to respond to the Ebola outbreak, ECOSOC will now further examine the economic, social and environmental dimensions of the Ebola virus disease (EVD) and identify solutions for a multi-sectoral response.

Taking place on 5 December, ECOSOC's special meeting will be an opportunity to elaborate on the economic and social impact of Ebola in affected countries, their neighboring countries and the rest of the world. The event aims to explore policies and mechanisms needed to address the multidimensional nature of the Ebola outbreak and propose appropriate short, medium and long-term solutions to prevent future outbreaks.

“Even as we focus on the immediate threats, it is not too soon to start working on recovery,” UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said in his remarks to media following the meeting of the Chief Executives of the United Nations system on Ebola on 21 November. He warned that “the consequences of Ebola will long outlast the outbreak” and appealed to the international community to stay engaged.

Photo courtesy of UNICEF

For more information:

[ECOSOC Special Meeting on Ebola](#)

[UN system's Global Ebola Response](#)

Investing in sustainable transportation

With trillions of dollars expected to be invested in transport infrastructure and air pollutants and greenhouse gas emissions rising, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon tasked his High-level Advisory Group on Sustainable Transport with finding viable solutions to promote public health and safety, environmental protection and economic growth through sustainable transport.



Comprised of Government, civil society and private sector leaders, the Advisory Group will work with Governments, transport providers, businesses, financial institutions, civil society and others to promote and accelerate the implementation of sustainable transport.

“The opportunities for sustainable transport are profound and we must take action,” Mr. Ban said as he met with a number of the Group’s members. “Transport is vital for everyone, and with the right mix of solutions sustainable transport will help us to realize a better future by helping to reduce poverty while protecting the planet and driving economic growth.”

Mr. Ban requested that the Group ensure the close alignment of transport with inclusive and equitable growth, social development, and environmental protection.

Transport main source of air pollutants

The establishment of the Group reflects the importance of sustainable transport for addressing major global challenges. Transport accounts for more than one-quarter of greenhouse gas emissions, and is projected to grow to one-third by 2050. Transport is the main source of air pollutants, which lead to seven million premature deaths every year.

Population growth and urbanization are projected to add 2.5 billion people to the world's urban population by 2050, with nearly 90 per cent of the increase concentrated in Asia and Africa. Poor and vulnerable groups need transport accessibility to get to jobs, schools, health care facilities and other public services. The Group aims to make sure that the transport dimension is recognized when Governments devise strategies on fighting poverty.

Safe and efficient maritime transport is the backbone of world trade, with 90 per cent of goods shipped by sea routes. Moreover, transport is one of the few growth sectors, estimated to attract trillions of US dollars in infrastructure investment in the coming decades. Exploring how these investments can result in sustainable infrastructure is one of the issues that will be discussed by the Group.

Unlocking potential for sustainable transportation

“The outcome document of the Rio+20 Conference, entitled The Future We Want, recognized that transport and mobility are essential preconditions for sustainable development,” said Under-Secretary-General Wu Hongbo as he addressed the Advisory Group. Mr. Wu encouraged the Group to keep in mind the negotiations on a post 2015 development agenda, which will include Sustainable Development Goals and targets related to transport, as well as the United Nations Climate Change Conference in December 2015 in Paris, France.

The Advisory Group held its first meeting on 17 November, and agreed to its priority areas and work plan for its three-year term. Among other things, the Group will look for practical ways to unlock the potential of sustainable transport to contribute to poverty alleviation, sustainable growth and sustainable urbanization. It was noted that to realize this goal, all modes of transport must be considered, including aviation, marine, ferry, rail and road.

The Group agreed to address a whole range of issues essential to transport, including access, accessibility, affordability, efficiency, climate and environmental impacts, public health and safety. It also decided to look at cross-cutting issues such as education, gender, finance, technology transfer, and capacity building.

To accomplish its goals, the Group will provide a global message and recommendations on sustainable transport. It will launch a “Global Transport Outlook Report” by July 2016 to provide analytical support for these recommendations and help mobilize action and initiatives in support of sustainable transport on the global, regional, local and sector levels, with a particular focus on urbanization.

The Group will support the organization of the Global Sustainable Transport Conference that will be convened by the Secretary-General towards the end of 2016. It will promote the integration of sustainable transport in relevant intergovernmental processes,

including by making recommendations on the formulation and implementation of the post-2015 development agenda.

Members of the Secretary-General's High-Level Advisory Group on Sustainable Transport

- Olof Persson (Sweden), Chief Executive Officer of the Volvo Group, Co-Chair
- Carolina Tohá (Chile), Mayor of Santiago, Chile, Co-Chair
- Frank Appel (Germany), Chief Executive Officer of Deutsche Post DHL.
- Milica Bajic-Brkovic (Serbia), President of the International Society of City and Regional Planners.
- Morten Engelstoft (Denmark), CEO of Services & Other Shipping
- Alain Flausch (Belgium), Secretary-General of the International Association of Public Transport (UITP)
- Maty Mint Hamady (Mauritania), Mayor of Nouakchott
- Patrick Ho (Hong Kong, China), Deputy Chairman and Secretary-General of China Energy Fund Committee
- Victor Kiryanov (Russian Federation), Deputy Minister of Interior of the Russian Federation.
- Jean Pierre Loubinoux (France), Director-General of the International Union of Railways
- Tanya Müller García (Mexico), Secretary of Environment of Mexico City and Vice-President of the World Green Infrastructure Network
- Len Roueche (Canada), Chief Executive Officer of Interferry

For more information:

[Secretary-General's High-level Advisory Group on Sustainable Transport](#)

Global Dialogue on Development

Preparations begin for the Third International Conference on Financing for Development



Paving the way for the Conference in Addis Ababa in July next year, a series of substantive sessions exploring a range of topics including the global context, domestic and public finance as well as private finance, took place in New York on 10-13

November. Preparations will continue on 9-12 December taking aim at an enabling environment and systemic issues.

“Over the last two years, governments, civil society actors, the private sector, and other stakeholders have shown enthusiasm for a renewed global development agenda which is ambitious,” said Helen Clark, UNDP Administrator, in her keynote address at the first session to prepare for the Third International Conference on Financing for Development.

“The next agenda is expected to be broader and transformational. It is likely to aim to eradicate poverty, not just lift some out of it; demand transformations in countries at all income levels to ensure that our planet’s natural limits are respected; aspire to have peaceful and inclusive societies governed by the rule of law everywhere,” Ms. Clark continued, underlining how the world community needs to think in different ways about development finance.

Since the adoption of the Millennium Declaration in 2000 and the Monterrey Consensus in 2002, the global landscape has changed considerably. Global economic strength is spread amongst more countries. Innovations have opened both new opportunities and challenges. At the same time, the financial crisis has revealed global vulnerabilities and the shortcomings of the international financial system.

Alexander Trepelkov, Director of UN DESA’s Financing for Development Office (FfDO), highlighted the importance of next year’s conference for future development. “An ambitious and transformative post-2015 agenda will need to be supported by a

comprehensive financing framework to provide its means of implementation,” said Mr. Trepelkov, pointing to the opportunities that the conference will provide to forge a consensus on a new global partnership for sustainable development.

The substantive sessions in November, chaired by the two co-facilitators of the preparatory process of the Conference, Ambassador Talbot of Guyana and Ambassador Pedersen of Norway, also devoted day-long meetings examining the topics of domestic public finance, international public finance and private finance. They saw a large number of high-level participants sharing their expertise and experience, including representatives from Ministries of Finance, the World Bank, International Monetary Fund, UNCTAD, UNEP, UN Global Compact, McKinsey Global Institute, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), EURODAD, Tax Justice Network Africa, the OECD, Aviva and the World Council of Credit Unions, among many others.

Organized by UN DESA’s Financing for Development Office, the second and final round of substantive informal sessions will take place on 9-12 December. The overall theme will be “Enabling environment, systemic issues, follow-up process and learning from partnerships”. Participants will discuss various topics, such as the international monetary and financial system, international tax cooperation, debt crisis prevention and resolution, trade, governance and the Financing for Development follow-up process.

To watch these informal sessions via UN Web TV, access presentations, statements and background information, visit the website of UN DESA’s Financing for Development Office via the link provided below.

For more information:

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

Second Committee continues economic and financial review



The General Assembly's Second Committee continues its review of issues relating to economic growth and development. Some 40 draft resolution texts are being considered for adoption in the Committee and it is expected that it will

conclude its work shortly after the Thanksgiving holiday. As of 21 November, some 24 draft resolutions are still being negotiated.

The Chairman of the Committee, Ambassador Sebastiano Cardi (Italy), emphasizing the need to speed up consultations on draft texts, has encouraged facilitators of ongoing consultations to continue their work to reach agreements on these texts. It is expected that consideration of a number of draft resolutions, including some on active topics such as financing for development, Agenda 21 follow-up, and debt restructuring will be decided upon by the Committee in early December.

The Committee opened its general debate on 7 October with a keynote address by Professor Janet C. Gornick, Professor of Political Science and Sociology, City University of New York, addressing issues on the topic of "High and Rising Inequality: Causes and Consequences." Professor Gornick addressed the Committee at a crucial moment of change in orientation of the UN development agenda. Recently, the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) has included a stand-alone goal to directly address national and global inequality, as part of its proposals to the General Assembly for a post-2015 development agenda.

Ebola outbreak and MDGs among wide range of topics addressed during general debate

During the general debate, held from 7 to 9 October, a total of 94 interventions covered a wide range of topics. The Chair expressed the Committee's solidarity with and support for the countries affected by the Ebola virus and recognized and commended the many aid workers engaged in combatting the epidemic. Many countries acknowledged the progress in achieving the MDGs, yet also expressed disappointment that the MDGs had not been met in full, stating that the unfinished business of the MDGs must be completed.

Countries unanimously emphasized the importance of the post-2015 development agenda for the work of the Committee. Most stated that the agenda should have poverty eradication and

sustainable development at its core. Many underscored the issue of inequality. Several stressed the inclusion of particular issues, such as technology transfer, empowerment of women, climate change, oceans and seas and affordable energy. Many delegations stated that the basis for formulating the post-2015 agenda should be the report of the Open Working Group.

Others called for a stronger global partnership for development and an ambitious outcome for the Third International Conference on Financing for Development. Several emphasized South-South and triangular cooperation as important complements to North-South cooperation. The principle of common but differentiated responsibilities was recognized by many speakers as a foundation for international cooperation.

Debt restructuring and sustainability were mentioned by many as a continuing challenge, with some stressing a need for regulation. The negative risks of vulture funds were also highlighted.

Calling for climate action

Many countries called for action on climate change and commended the Secretary-General for the Climate Summit, which added impetus to the ongoing negotiations under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) process. Many called for a new legally binding agreement, with several emphasizing common but differentiated responsibilities. The vulnerabilities of SIDS were emphasized, including as a factor to that should be considered in concessional financing.

Many countries emphasized that special focus must be given to countries in special situations. The SAMOA Pathway and its follow-up were emphasized by many, as was African development, and the concerns of the LDCs and LLDCs.

Side events provide platform for debate

Throughout its review of the various agenda items, the Committee also held a number of side events and joint meetings with the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) as part of its programme of work. Many of these debates provided useful insights that will facilitate the negotiations on a post-2015 development agenda, expected to be adopted by the General Assembly in September next year.

On 24 October, a debate on investment promotion for foreign direct investment in least developed countries (LDCs) [video] highlighted that FDI had played a catalytic role in building and strengthening productive capacity in these countries. LDCs had made strong efforts over the years to attract increased FDI flows and enhance the benefits for their economies. Yet, the total share of global FDI to LDCs remained modest; therefore, speakers at

this event explored ways and means to attract and retain increased investments in LDCs.

On 30 October, a joint meeting of the Second Committee and ECOSOC on a renewed global partnership for development [\[video\]](#) highlighted that a unified and universal post-2015 development agenda must be supported by a renewed global partnership for development to mobilize the unprecedented financial resources and other means of implementation that are necessary. The event emphasized that both private and public financing from domestic and international sources were needed, and should be effectively utilized to fill the large needs for support.

On 31 October, an event on accountability and monitoring the post-2015 development agenda [\[video\]](#) explored practical ways in which progress in implementation of a universal agenda, reinforced by the international community's commitment to poverty eradication and sustainable development, could be measured within and between countries and entities. Speakers debated how an appropriate monitoring and accountability framework could be conceived to support the new development agenda.

On 4 November, the Committee heard speakers in a side event on New Instruments of Social Finance [\[video\]](#). Several speakers explored how these instruments could contribute to the achievement of the SDGs in both industrialized and developing countries. Sharing experiences to date, speakers from philanthropy, the private sector, banking and trade unions engaged in a discussion, exploring what changes in public policy would be needed to scale up its adoption and effectiveness in delivering sustainable development outcomes.

Finally, on 14 November, a side event on e-government for sustainable development in Small Island Developing States (SIDS) [\[video\]](#) discussed the implementation of the policy recommendations from the outcome document of the third SIDS Conference, especially on supporting e-government development and enhancing capacity building of SIDS countries in delivering citizen-centric services to address multiple challenges in pursuing sustainable development.

For more information:
[Second Committee of the UN General Assembly](#)

Third Committee approves draft resolution on World Youth Skills Day



The Third Committee of the General Assembly recently approved a draft resolution on designating 15 July as a World Youth Skills Day. Since the Committee opened its session on 7 October, when it was stated that development must centre on people and the realization of social rights, it has addressed a number of social, humanitarian and cultural issues related to UN DESA's work.

Youth unemployment remains at high levels, estimated globally at 74.5 million in 2013, with the majority of unemployed youth living in developing countries.

Recognizing that fostering the acquisition of skills by young people would enhance their ability to make informed life and work choices and empower them to gain access to changing labour markets, the General Assembly would, by the terms of the draft text, invite all Member States and international, regional and United Nations system organizations to commemorate World Youth Skills Day in an appropriate manner.

The Committee, acting without a vote, approved this text on World Youth Skills Day on 13 November. Earlier in the fall and as the Committee began its session, some 28 Youth Delegates, representing 21 countries, took the floor to share some of the issues that concern them and their peers worldwide.

World Summit for Social Development turns 20

At the World Summit for Social Development in Copenhagen in 1995 the international community prioritized putting people at the centre of social development and committed to eradicating poverty, supporting full and productive employment, and promoting social integration, among other social goals.

Approaching the 20th anniversary of the Summit in 2015, delegations stressed that the core objectives of the Summit remained as valid today as they were in 1995, highlighting the continuing challenge of realizing inclusive development. Several delegations encouraged Member States, regional organizations, and civil society organizations to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Summit.

Many delegations stressed that the post-2015 sustainable development agenda should uphold the vision of the World Summit for Social Development by focusing on people-centred development, poverty eradication, full employment and decent work, social inclusion, tackling inequality, investing in human capital and addressing the needs – and protecting the rights – of women, persons with disabilities, older persons, youth and other disadvantaged social groups.

They highlighted in particular the centrality of poverty eradication to the post-2015 agenda. Additionally, delegations underscored the need to ensure that it gives adequate attention to the three dimensions of sustainable development, which requires strengthening the social development pillar. Political will, honouring aid commitments and finding new sources of financing will be essential to speeding up the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals by 2015 as well as implementing a new development agenda.

For more information:

[Third Committee of the UN General Assembly](#)

Enhancing access to and security of ICTs beyond 2015



On 18 November, UN DESA's Division for Public Administration and Development Management (DPADM) together with the Office for ECOSOC Support and Coordination (OESC) and the International Telecommunications Union

(ITU) held a Special Event on "Implementing the Post-2015 Development Agenda: Enhancing access to and security of ICTs".

The event was chaired by Ambassador Oh Joon, the Council's Vice-President, and moderated by Ambassador Jānis Kārklīņš in his capacity as Chair of the Multi-stakeholder Advisory Group, Internet Governance Forum (IGF).

The panellists included Wu Hongbo, UN DESA's Under-Secretary-General; Hamadoun Touré, Secretary-General of ITU; Lynn St. Amour, President and Chief Executive Officer, Internet Matters; and Rima Qureshi, Chief Strategy Officer, Ericsson Group. Among the areas of focus were the impact of access to and security of ICTs on sustainable development, rethinking personal

data and strengthening the trust of citizens online and the roles of multilateral organizations in building trust and security.

In his opening statement, Ambassador Oh stressed the importance of ICTs to achieving the three dimensions of sustainable development, while spotlighting the need to build confidence in security in an atmosphere where people expose themselves to data risks and privacy insecurity. Ambassador Karklins pointed to the increasing complexity of issues related to the vast expansion of the Internet, and noted how United Nations bodies, including the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly, had engaged with these issues.

Mr. Wu stressed the link between the new development agenda and ICTs and emphasized that there are both opportunities and challenges that the international community face to derive the full potential benefits from ICTs for the post-2015 development agenda. He also described ICTs application in commercial contexts as well as in humanitarian situations, and underlined the importance of data security as access increases especially considering first time Internet users from the developing world. It is vital to reduce or eliminate the factors inhibiting online interactions, he stated, noting that the estimated cost of cyber crime to the global economy is \$400 billion annually.

"In the coming years, billions of devices will be connected to the "Internet of Things", creating a digital network of virtually everything. For example, some private sector companies are helping to develop systems to enable communities directly affected by Ebola to fight it in Sierra Leone. Citizens can use SMS or voice calls that are location-specific to report Ebola-related issues to government, health agencies and others for tracking the disease", Mr. Wu said.

Ms. Qureshi described Ericsson's involvement in several technology-enabled projects that benefit people, business and society. Underscoring ways in which technology contributed to sustainable development, she highlighted a few examples, including remote schools, mobile health care, connected cars, smart meters, connected dams, and connected waste.

Ms. St. Amour said that approximately 3 billion people were online today, and multi-stakeholder self-governing networks were transforming the way the international community addressed global problems. While access was improving, there was a long way to go to ensure no one was left behind.

Mr. Touré focused his comments on what had been done to implement the outcome of the World Summit on the Information Society and on the newly agreed Connect 2020 vision designed by the ITU. Achievements were reviewed during the World Summit, notably efforts to improve online security through the global information society of 2007 and the Child Online Protection initiative of 2008.

An interactive dialogue followed the panellists' presentations with representatives of Iran, Azerbaijan, Brazil and Germany commenting. The representatives asked questions about the potential impact of ICTs on environmental sustainability and on trust and security online. There were also questions about the private sector's collection of personal data as commercial enterprises were only accountable to their shareholders, the speakers pointed out. Also considered was the benefit to development of new partnerships and cooperation in that field.

Ambassador Karklins concluded the event by summarizing some of the main conclusions and recommendations, including the need for ICTs to be widely included in the sustainable development goals, the importance of being sure that lessons learned from the WSIS outcomes inform the post-2015 development agenda, the need to preserve the free and open nature of the Internet, the importance of education when it comes to cybersecurity and building citizen's trust online, sharing best practices amongst all stakeholders and cooperative public-private partnerships.

For more information:

[Implementing the Post-2015 Development Agenda: Enhancing access to and security of ICTs](#)

ICT and e-government for sustainable development in SIDS



How can information and communications technology (ICT) and e-government help to address the challenges that Small Island Developing States (SIDS) face? This question was at the core of a special event of the UN General Assembly's Second

Committee on 14 November, organized by UN DESA's Division of Public Administration and Development Management.

Mr. Wu Hongbo, UN DESA's Under-Secretary-General pointed out that SIDS remain a special case for sustainable development in view of their unique vulnerabilities. With human settlements dispersed over large geographical areas, the costs for goods, services, and infrastructure are higher. Dependency on imports and uncertain sectors makes many SIDS vulnerable to economic crises and growing trade imbalances. Susceptibility to natural disasters poses additional obstacles.

Promoting virtual bridges for e-government development

"Technology creates virtual bridges that nullify physical distance, mitigate the impact of geographical isolation, and permit travel in more than one direction," remarked Ambassador Sebastiano Cardi, Chair of the UN General Assembly's Second Committee. Tuisugaletaua Sofara Aveau, Minister of Communication and Information Technology of Samoa, pointed to the importance of improved telecommunications infrastructure in SIDS. He highlighted the developmental progress and increase in government efficiency owing to enhanced connectivity, both through local initiatives and through his country's connection to submarine high-speed fiberoptic cables.

Infrastructure provision emerged as an area where openness to public-private partnerships rather than exclusive reliance on state monopolies has brought significant advances for development. Technical connections, however, are only the first step on a path that also includes changes in mindset: With capable networks in place, e-government ultimately impacts the way in which government operates, and its relationships with other stakeholders, said Ambassador of Papua New Guinea Robert Guba Aisi.

Effective e-government does not mean electronic reproduction of offline practices, but fostering a culture of innovation in government and administration to catch up with ever-advancing technology. Unprecedented levels of citizen participation, as well as transparency of government actions, can also contribute to better, more inclusive governance – from routine decision-making to disaster management procedures.

Opportunities for learning and training multiply in all subject areas when physical presence is no longer a requirement. Furthermore, facilitated data-gathering and knowledge-sharing helps to improve the information flow between developing countries and their development partners throughout the world, a point jointly accentuated by Ms. Rowena Bethel, Director of the National Insurance Board of the Bahamas, and Professor Young Bum Lee of Konkuk University in Seoul, Korea.

Responding to the SAMOA Pathway: The road ahead

Referring to the SAMOA Pathway Call for Action, the outcome document of the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States, which the General Assembly had adopted the same morning, Mr. Wu underscored the role of good governance in stable partnerships for sustainable development. In line with the global consensus reached at the Rio+20 conference, he emphasized the need for effective, transparent, accountable, and democratic institutions at all levels.

Panel members agreed that e-government can provide the tools for building such institutions in order to help alleviate poverty and improve livelihood, especially by reaching out to the most disadvantaged groups and people living in vulnerable situations, to ensure that nobody is left behind.

Thus, the challenges that SIDS face, which may seem remote to many at first sight, are in fact local instantiations of global issues. As such, they can only be addressed through joint international efforts for sustainable development, and technology can serve as a powerful enabler in such a transformation.

As Ms. Tishka Francis, Vice-Chair of the Second Committee, summarized in her closing remarks: “Building bridges of steel and stone between SIDS and the rest of the world is usually not feasible. But in the 21st century, bridges no longer need to be constructed from steel and stone. Virtual bridges have the potential to unite us all in our effort to face our common but differentiated responsibilities if there is a strong collective vision of the future we want.”

Fostering cooperation and knowledge-sharing on innovative practices in the area of e-government, both among SIDS and with other countries, can help turn development challenges into opportunities. As panel members highlighted, there is a need for champions of innovation everywhere, strong political commitment, leadership, and a shared vision if we wish to achieve sustainable development for all.

For more information:

[“ICT and E-Government in SIDS: Responding to the SAMOA Pathway Call for Action”](#)

[International Year of Small Island Developing States](#)

[SIDS Action Platform](#)

Trends and Analysis

Evaluations of 2015 UN Public Service Awards begin



The call for nominations for the 2015 United Nations Public Service Awards (UNPSA) closed on 19 November after being extended from the original 31 October deadline. The UNPSA Team has now started the initial pre-screening of submissions to determine

which initiatives meet the basic criteria for each category of the 2015 UNPSA.

The categories for the current cycle are i) Improving the Delivery of Public Services, ii) Fostering Participation in Policy-Making Decisions through Innovative Mechanisms, iii) Promoting whole-of-Government Approaches in the Information Age, and iv) Promoting Gender Responsive Delivery of Public Services.

Following the completion of the screening process, initiatives will be taken to the next rounds of evaluation which include substantive reviews with support of the staff of UN DESA's Division for Public Administration and Development Management (DPADM) for the first three categories. For the last category, Gender Responsive Delivery of Public Services, DPADM collaborates with UN Women colleagues who will support with the reviews in that category.

The overall process of substantively evaluating UNPSA initiatives is estimated to take up to five months. Starting in December 2014, after the pre-screening process has been completed, the initiatives will be processed in two different rounds by DPADM and UN Women before being handed over to the United Nations Committee of Experts on Public Administration (CEPA) for final review. CEPA will then endorse and decide on the final winners for the 2015 UNPSA.

As the pre-screening starts, initial numbers indicate that the UNPSA Programme has received 846 nominations coming from all the five regions of the world and in all categories. The majority of the nominations were received in English. Submissions are also distributed across all four UNPSA categories, with Category 1 (Improving the Delivery of Public Service) being the dominant category. Numerous countries which were underrepresented last year are participating in the 2015 UNPSA Programme.

For more information: [UN Public Service Awards](#)

Role of cooperatives for sustainable development



UN DESA's Division for Social Policy and Development (DSPD), in collaboration with UN Habitat, will hold an Expert Group Meeting and Capacity-building Workshop on The Role of Cooperatives in Sustainable Development:

Contributions, Challenges and Strategies on 8–10 December in Nairobi, Kenya.

The meeting will provide the opportunity for participants to exchange ideas on how cooperatives can help to build sustainable societies and how lessons learned in this regard can benefit the implementation process of the post-2015 development.

The expert analysis generated by the meeting will become part of the report of the United Nations Secretary-General in 2015, which will discuss the role and potential of cooperatives in achieving social, economic, and environmental development. The meeting will also serve as a capacity-building exercise for participating cooperative leaders and trainers in Africa.

For more information:

[UN DESA's Division for Social Policy and Development \(DSPD\)](#)

Evidence and data for gender equality



UN DESA's Statistics Division and UN Women in collaboration with the Kitakyushu Forum on Asian Women, are organizing a Midterm Review Technical Meeting of the Evidence and Data for Gender Equality (EDGE) initiative on 3-5 December at

Kitakyushu, Japan.

The meeting will bring together national statisticians, regional commissions and partner agencies to take stock of progress made by the EDGE initiative on measuring individual level asset ownership and entrepreneurship from a gender perspective.

The key objectives of the meeting are to promote the integration of a gender perspective into national statistical systems with the aim of improving the availability and quality of gender statistics, including statistics on the “emerging issues” of asset ownership and entrepreneurship; update participants on the progress made by the EDGE initiative to advance methodological development on measuring asset ownership and entrepreneurship from a gender perspective; and receive feedback from national statisticians on the feasibility of implementing the recommendation(s) made by the EDGE Methodological Survey Experiment with regards to whom in the household should be interviewed about the ownership, control and valuation of assets at the individual level.

The event further seeks to receive feedback from national statisticians on the applicability and feasibility of the methodology proposed under the EDGE project to measure entrepreneurship from a gender perspective; and to ensure that country implementation plans are in place for piloting data collection on asset ownership and control under the EDGE initiative during 2015.

For more information:

[UN DESA's Statistics Division](#)

Capacity development

Measuring citizen engagement for development management



Senior government officials from the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region will meet in Cairo, Egypt, on 19 and 20 December at a Capacity Development Workshop on Implementing the Citizen Engagement Self-Assessment Questionnaire (CESAQ).

(CESAQ).

Findings from the self-assessment will be shared during the 14th Annual General Conference organized by the Arab Administrative Development Organization (ARADO) – League of Arab States.

Achieving inclusive economic, social, sustainable, and peaceful development is dependent on active public participation and on engaging communities and citizens in policy-making processes. This derives from a growing recognition that the involvement of all stakeholders in the design and implementation of public policies that would impact their lives is beneficial. It also considerably reduces risks associated with the lack of trust and dialogue between government and citizens as evidenced from recent events the world over, including the MENA region.

The UN Committee of Experts on Public Administration (CEPA) noted in its 2012 report to the UN Economic and Social Council that the needs in the Arab region were daunting, particularly in light of the transition after the 2011 uprisings. The Committee emphasized the need for the United Nations Secretariat to provide sustained support to countries in the region.

As a response to this recommendation, UN DESA's Division for Public Administration and Development Management (DPADM) started developing CESAQ. This tool helps governments to assess whether they have measures in place aimed at engaging citizens more directly in the national planning and programme management, as well as their functioning. These measures can progressively assist governments to promote the engagement of citizens in policy design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation to better address sustainable development challenges.

Towards a tailor-made tool for the Arab Region

DPADM has been collaborating with the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) since 2013 to refine CESAQ and test the Arabic version of the questionnaire.

The 14th Annual General Conference of ARADO – Arab League to be held in Cairo on 17-19 December, will include as a side event, the workshop on “Implementing the Citizen Engagement Self-Assessment Questionnaire (CESAQ) in the MENA Region.”

The aim of the workshop is to present an opportunity for providing guidance on the implementation of the CESAQ tool, while conducting its requirements in a controlled examination environment, resulting in strengthening the capacity of leaders in the public sector to assess regulatory, organizational frameworks and channels/modalities for engaging citizens.

The workshop is expected to serve as the initial stage into finalizing the tool for deployment in the MENA region. The participants will examine further capacity development requirements and support needed from the UN and other international and regional organizations.

The first day of the workshop will include a presentation of each component of CESAQ, as well as question and answer sessions and preparations for implementing the self-assessment. The second day will consist of group work on self-assessing preparedness for citizen engagement and participation in the MENA region. Participants will recommend follow-up actions on deploying CESAQ in the region. Workshop rapporteurs are expected to share findings of the self-assessment exercise during the ARADO 14th Annual General Conference.

The workshop is organized by DPADM in collaboration with ESCWA and ARADO.

For more information:

[Capacity Development Workshop on Implementing the Citizen Engagement Self-Assessment Questionnaire.](#)

Policies on youth development in Sub-Saharan Africa



UN DESA's Division for Social Policy and Development, in collaboration with UN Habitat, UNESCO and the Commonwealth Secretariat, will hold a technical workshop on "Evidence-based Policies on Youth Development in Sub-

Saharan Africa" on 3-5 December in Nairobi, Kenya.

The workshop aims to strengthen the capacity of participants to formulate, monitor and evaluate evidence-based policies on youth using quantitative approaches and localization of internationally agreed indicators. Capacity to apply participatory processes with youth organisations will also be enhanced.

Participants in the workshop are expected to join from government ministries, relevant public institutions, and civil society and youth-led organizations.

For more information:

[UN DESA's Division for Social Policy and Development](#)

Improving vital statistics systems



Within the framework of the International Programme for Accelerating the Improvement of Vital Statistics and Civil Registration Systems, the UN DESA's Statistics Division, in collaboration with the United Nations

Economic Commission for Africa (UN-ECA), is organizing a Workshop on the Principles and Recommendations for a Vital Statistics System, Rev. 3, for English-speaking African countries.

The workshop will be hosted by UN-ECA in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from 2 to 5 December. Its main purpose is to provide guidance to countries on the implementation of the new revision of the UN recommendations for the collection and compilation of vital statistics at national level through civil registration and other

sources such as population censuses, sample surveys, population registers, and health records, at the same time providing full overview of contemporary international statistical standards and requirements.

At the same time, the event will offer an opportunity for statisticians, on the one side, and civil registrars, on the other, to directly interact and exchange experiences and practices using national civil registration and vital statistics systems as a framework.

For more information: [UN DESA's Statistics Division](#)

Measuring progress towards achieving a green economy



UN DESA's Statistics Division is organizing the first regional workshop within the UN Development Account project "Supporting Developing Countries Measure Progress Towards Achieving a Green Economy" led by

the division in collaboration with UNEP, UNIDO, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP). It will take place in the ECLAC regional headquarters in Santiago, Chile on 2-5 December.

Recognizing the importance of high quality statistics and their effective use in promoting evidence-based socio-economic policies and achieving internationally agreed goals, the project aims to enhance the national statistical systems' capacity of its pilot countries to produce good quality, timely and reliable statistics and indicators to inform about progress towards achieving a green economy in the context of sustainable development.

This workshop will serve as an opportunity to strengthen national data production and coordinate efforts for improving underlying environment, energy, agricultural and other statistics, as it will bring together practitioners from the communities of statisticians and policy makers that use and produce such indicators. Moreover, the workshop is important given the current policy context and the emergence of the sustainable development goals in the context of the post 2015 development agenda, as well as national efforts to move towards sustainable development around the world.

Key elements of the workshop will include: a review of potential indicators, suitable for developing countries, that can be used to inform on green economy and sustainable development issues; the sharing of experiences from the assessment exercise in the four pilot countries of the Latin American region; and a more detailed discussion of technical issues in selected areas of statistics that are relevant for the compilation of indicators informing on green economy issues. The workshop will also discuss future steps, in particular priorities for the direct technical assistance to the pilot countries that will take place in the next phase of this project.

A similar workshop will take place in January 2015, for the Asia Pacific region at ESCAP's headquarters in Bangkok.

For more information:

[Supporting developing countries measure progress towards achieving a green economy](#)

Integrating a gender perspective when producing statistics



UN DESA's Statistics Division, in collaboration with the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UNESCWA) and the Jordan Department of Statistics, is organizing a workshop on Integrating a Gender Perspective in the Production of statistics, in Amman, Jordan, from 1 to 4 December.

The workshop aims to train national statisticians on producing gender statistics from available data sources; using data from population censuses for gender analysis; and ways to produce, disseminate and communicate gender statistics to properly inform policies.

The workshop will also foster exchange of national experiences among participating countries.

For more information:

[UN DESA's Statistics Division](#)

Publications and Websites

Technical reports

Pre-release of the World Economic Situation and Prospects (WESP) 2015

The first chapter on global economic outlook of the WESP 2015 will be launched on 10 December in New York. A joint product of UN DESA, UNCTAD and the five United Nations regional commissions, this publication provides an overview of recent global economic performance and short-term prospects for the world economy and of some key global economic policy and development issues. One of its purposes is to serve as a point of reference for discussions on economic, social and related issues taking place in various United Nations entities during the year.

- [More information](#)

Statistical compilations

Monthly Bulletin of Statistics and MBS Online



construction, international merchandise trade and finance.

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,

Vol. LXVIII – No. 10, October 2014

In addition to the regular recurrent monthly tables, this issue includes quarterly and annual tables: Retail price indices relating to living expenditures of United Nations officials; Civil aviation traffic: passenger-km and cargo net ton-km; and Total exports and imports by countries or areas: volume, unit value, terms of trade and purchasing power of exports, in US dollars.

- [For more information](#)

2011 Energy Balances and Electricity Profiles



The publication provides energy balances for 141 countries for the period 2008-2011 and electricity profiles for 221 countries for the period 2006-2011. The energy balances are snapshots of the annual energy flows in each country showing energy production, trade, transformation and consumption of energy products. They are presented in a common unit – Terajoules. The electricity profiles provide detailed information for each country on the production, trade and consumption of electricity, net installed capacity and thermal power plant input and efficiency.

The publication is bi-lingual (English and French) and will soon be available in printed and electronic (PDF format) versions.

- [For more information](#)

2011 Industrial Commodity Statistics Yearbook

The 2011 Industrial Commodity Statistics Yearbook has been finalized by the UN Statistics Division. The Yearbook includes value and volume data from 2002 to 2011 for about 200 countries and areas comprising about 600 products. The data cover products produced by mining, manufacturing, electricity and gas units (i.e. units classified in section B, C, or D in ISIC Rev.4). The products reported have been selected based on their overall importance in the world economy, and are collected on the basis of production sold.

In this edition of the Yearbook, about 30,000 value and volume data have been added or updated as compared to the 2010 Yearbook.

The data from the Yearbook, as well as older data back to 1995, are available for browsing or downloading from the [UNdata website](#).

Issued in Translation

The following publications have been translated into French and Spanish:

- **Guidelines on Integrated Economic Statistics**, French, ST/ESA/STAT/SER.F/108, Sales: 12.XVII.7

- **World's Women 2010: Trends and Statistics**, Spanish, ST/ESA/STAT/SER.K/19, Sales: 10.XVII.11

Outreach material

Enable Newsletter

Prepared by the Secretariat for the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (SCRPD) within UN DESA's Division for Social Policy and Development, the October issue is now available. The newsletter features input from UN offices, agencies, funds and programmes, and civil society.

- [Read full issue](#)

Sustainable Development in Action, Volume 2, Issue 10

The November issue of Sustainable Development in Action, published by UN DESA's Division for Sustainable Development, is available online featuring topics related to the Global Sustainable Development Report, the negotiations of the General Assembly on the post-2015 development agenda, a sustainable development quiz and more. The newsletter 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](#)

DESA NGO News

The latest issue provides updates on the booklet "Working with ECOSOC – an NGO Guide to Consultative Status," which is now available in French, it informs about pre-registration for CSW59 being open through 27 January 2015 and about a deadline approaching for requests to make oral statements at the Fifty-Third Session of the Commission for Social Development. The newsletter is published by UN DESA's NGO Branch.

- [Read full issue](#)

Working Papers

Recent Downturn in Emerging Economies and Macroeconomic Implications for Sustainable Development: A case of India

The paper discusses the progress of the Indian economy and its policies since the broad-based structural reforms initiated in 1991 with a special focus on the recent downturn following the global financial crisis. The paper is structured into two parts where the first discusses the major economic and social achievements of India since 1991. It identifies the causes of the recent downturn, and the policy responses to revive the economy. In the second part, the paper outlines the major challenges India is facing and the policies and reforms that need to be implemented to achieve sustainable development.

- [To download](#)

Absorbing innovative financial flows: Looking at Asia

This paper explores the scope for Innovative Development Finance (IDF) to compensate for declining Official Development Assistance (ODA) and/or to enhance the efficiency of ODA. It shows that IDF has not helped much to increase the volume of aid. With regard to efficiency, the role of IDF-related mechanisms remains controversial. Instead, it may be more productive to focus on other resources available to Asia. The paper points to two such resources, namely the surpluses accumulated in the form of reserves, Sovereign Wealth Funds (SWFs), etc. and the migrant remittances. Efficient utilization of these two sources can vastly change the development finance landscape in Asia.

- [To download](#)

Discussion papers

Monthly Briefing on the World Economic Situation and Prospects No. 72

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

- Sharp decline of oil prices and renewed volatility in financial markets
- Low inflation in Europe remains a concern
- Diverging monetary policies in developed economies

- [To download](#)

Comings and Goings

Comings

The following staff members were promoted in November:

Maria Corduta Guran, Senior Staff Assistant, Office of the Under-Secretary-General

Carol A. Pollack, Social Affairs Officer, Division for Social Policy and Development

Goings

The following staff members retired in November:

Robert C. Altshuler, Senior Economic Affairs Officer, Development Policy and Analysis Division

Imelda Sta. Maria, Administrative Assistant, Executive Office

Calendar

December

Workshop on Integrating a Gender Perspective in the Production of statistics

1-4 December, Amman, Jordan

Workshop on the Principles and Recommendations for a Vital Statistics System, Rev. 3

2-5 December, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Regional Workshop for countries in Latin America and the Caribbean “Supporting Developing Countries Measure Progress Towards Achieving a Green Economy”

2-5 December, Santiago, Chile

International Day of Persons with Disabilities

3 December

Midterm Review Technical Meeting of the Evidence and Data for Gender Equality (EDGE) initiative

3-5 December, Kitakyushu, Japan

Technical workshop on “Evidence- based Policies on Youth Development in Sub-Saharan Africa”

3-5 December, Nairobi, Kenya

ECOSOC Special Meeting on Ebola

5 December, New York

Expert Group Meeting and Capacity-building Workshop on The Role of Cooperatives in Sustainable Development: Contributions, Challenges and Strategies

8–10 December, Nairobi, Kenya

Capacity Development Workshop on Implementing the Citizen Engagement Self-Assessment Questionnaire (CESAQ)

19-20 December, Cairo, Egypt

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 Communication Section/SPCS 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.