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## Feature Articles and Webcast

### Eradicating poverty, the greatest global challenge

*During the Copenhagen World Summit for Social Development in 1995, leaders from across the globe recognized poverty eradication as an ethical, political and economic imperative and identified it as one of the three pillars of social development. Since then, the world has come together to eliminate poverty. As a major step towards this objective, the Millennium Declaration set the target of halving the proportion of people living on less than \$1.25 a day between 1990 and 2015.*

There has been some success in reducing global poverty levels. World Bank data show that the number of people living on less than \$1.25 a day in developing countries declined from 1.9 billion to 1.4 billion between 1981 and 2005 and the proportion of people living in extreme poverty dropped from 52.0 to 25.7 per cent during the same period.

Furthermore, at the High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals, held in New York last year, it was predicted that, at the global level, the target would be met. Nonetheless, in some regions the likelihood of achieving the expected objectives will not be feasible.

### Beyond income poverty

The absolute number of people living in poverty has gone up in several regions including Sub-Saharan and Northern Africa, Latin America, the Middle East and Central Asia totaling 1 billion people who are living in extreme poverty. In fact, today's poverty situation is even more serious if we consider its wider definition.



In one of DESA's flagship publications, *Rethinking Poverty: Report on the World Social Situation 2010*, it was highlighted that poverty is not simply a lack of adequate income. In short, poverty is the deprivation of one's ability to live as a free and dignified human being with the full potential to achieve one's desired goals in life.

The report further explains that the poverty line approach limits the field of vision to individuals and households below the prescribed poverty line, ignoring the fact that there is a large share of the population above the poverty line who are highly vulnerable to poverty. Many households enter and exit poverty as defined by a poverty line as their circumstances and fortunes fluctuate, such fluctuations being a hallmark of deprivation.

In response to the flaws of the monetary based approach, several new measures and approaches are being considered. For example, The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) launched a new poverty index that takes into consideration deprivations in health care, education and living standards.

The index highlights that the number of people living in multidimensional poverty considerably exceeds those who live on \$1.25 a day or less. The new index estimates that about 1.7 billion people live in multi-dimensional poverty while 1.3 billion are suffering from income poverty. This shows that even though countries might have succeeded at reducing income poverty, they are still unable to ensure access to education, health care and food.

While these approaches are presenting more complex data and provide alternative points of entry for developing a framework for a social analysis of deprivation, they all have features that tend to significantly limit their usefulness for this purpose. As a result, the 2010 DESA report stresses that there is the need for more research and reflection to develop a wider analytical framework that incorporates the social exclusion approach to poverty reduction efforts.

### **Emerging challenges**

Reducing poverty requires sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth. Unfortunately, recent economic changes have failed to enable the right environment for this growth to happen. In fact, in many low-income countries, the slow rate of economic growth constitutes the main challenge to poverty reduction. Without an adequate rate of economic growth to raise the average level of income, opportunities for redistribution and fiscal space for social policy are limited.

Moreover, the economic crisis led to an increase of unemployment rates across the globe. The International Labour Organization (ILO) estimated that globally the number of jobless persons is estimated to have reached 210 million in mid-2010, up from 178 million in 2007. High unemployment levels directly affect income and social integration. Adequately remunerated jobs provide income security, access to social protection, better health and educational status and, ultimately, a way out of poverty. Even though the current economic situation has slightly improved, lack of job recovery continues to hinder poverty reduction.

Today, people living in poverty are not only left out of the job market and of the economic growth process, but they are also often

excluded from social and political opportunities, a situation that further increases inequalities at every socio-economic level. Furthermore, poverty and inequality are often passed on from one generation to the next, and the deprivations children suffer at birth and throughout childhood often lead to an adulthood constrained by similar circumstances. Children in families at the lower end of the income distribution scale tend to have poorer health, shorter life expectancy and less education translating into lower income in adulthood.

Additionally, countries affected by conflict, weather-related disasters and other impacts of climate change are even less likely to experience economic growth. For example, it has been estimated that civil war reduces economic growth by at least 2 per cent a year, and thus, a seven-year war could reduce a country's wealth by 16 per cent. Also, the effects of climate change are impacting the less fortunate at a greater rate than those living in developed nations.

People living in poverty, especially in marginal environments and areas with low agricultural productivity, depend directly on genetic, species and ecosystem diversity to support their livelihoods. If these natural resources become scarce due to changes in climate, they will be unable to satisfy their basic needs reducing their chances of getting out of poverty.

Evidently, policies and measures that were considered effective to eliminate poverty a few years ago do not necessarily take into consideration the impacts that the aforementioned challenges are having on poverty. With less than five years remaining before the target date of 2015, there is the imminent need to create an effective response plan based on national and international renewed efforts that consider poverty as a multi-dimensional issue.

### **Uniting efforts to eliminate poverty**

Despite advances in poverty reduction, the global community continues to recognize that eradicating poverty is the greatest global challenge that the world faces today, and a core requirement to achieve sustainable development. As a consequence, in December 2007 the General Assembly proclaimed the Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008-2017).

This second decade aims at supporting the internationally agreed development goals related to poverty eradication and stresses the importance of reinforcing the positive results that some countries have achieved with regard to poverty reduction while it recognizes poverty as a multi-dimensional issue; in 2008, the General Assembly decided "full employment and decent work for all" as a theme for the decade. To achieve the expected objectives of this decade, the UN called for a more coherent and integrated UN system-wide response and is working closely with social partners, NGOs, civil society, and other actors in order to

support national governments to implement internationally agreed development goals.

Continuing with the efforts to make the decade an important element to aid the process of poverty eradication, the United Nations Economic and Social Council decided that the priority theme of the Commission for Social Development for the 2011-2012 review and policy cycle would be poverty eradication taking into consideration its relationship with social integration and, full employment and decent work for all.

During the forty-ninth session of the Commission for Social Development, taking place from 9 to 18 February 2011, Member States will gather to evaluate and assess the implementation process of the Copenhagen World Summit for Social Development and other further initiatives adopted since then and provide the necessary recommendations. The commission is also intended to review and consider issues affecting the most vulnerable groups including persons with disabilities, youth and older persons, and discuss emerging challenges with a special emphasis on social protection.

The Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty and the forty-ninth session of the Commission for Social Development are important UN led actions to reiterate the urgency of eliminating worldwide poverty. However, to win the battle against poverty, all relevant stakeholders, including member states, civil society and non-governmental organizations must come together and take definite actions.

For more information:

<http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/csocd/2011.html>

Photo:

[http://www.unmultimedia.org/photo/detail.jsp?id=204/204595&key=0&query=eradication+of+poverty+AND+category:Field+coverage"&sf="](http://www.unmultimedia.org/photo/detail.jsp?id=204/204595&key=0&query=eradication+of+poverty+AND+category:Field+coverage)

## Measuring global trade – getting the right numbers?

*In today's global economy, no nation is self-sufficient. They rely on one another to complete a wide range of international transactions including selling, buying or exchanging of goods and services. Global trading has become a key pillar of today's economy and its fluctuations can impact national and international policies and processes. As a result, having the right numbers on global trade has become a decisive need for the world's economic growth and development.*

Recognizing the need to discuss the best ways to meet the ever rising information demand of global trade statistics of different

stakeholders and to adapt to the changes in the global landscape, key policy makers, economists and statisticians will convene from 2 to 4 of February in Geneva at the Global Forum on Trade Statistics.

### The importance of global trade statistics

Growth and setbacks shown in international trade statistics will be accompanied by corresponding changes in economic growth, economic and social development, and employment levels. Decision makers, therefore, rely upon this trade information to set policies and make informed decisions. In fact, based on trade data projections, business leaders change market strategies, political decision makers modify their agenda, and nations re-negotiate multilateral agreements.



In the last forty years, the world has witnessed changes in almost every socio-economic aspect. Developing countries, such as China, Brazil and India, have become major superpowers leading to a change in global production, consumption and investment. The digital revolution is virtually erasing national boundaries, facilitating information and knowledge exchange among countries, people and communities. Trade statistics reflect these developments in the transaction of goods and services, evidencing some of the most important changes in modern history.

### Changes and trends

Today, it's very common for business operations related to production of goods or delivery of services to move to lower wage countries across the globe in order to reduce costs. Such business models have led to the creation of the global value chain research, which explains global manufacturing from the chain of the various business operations. The new concept has gained attention and importance in recent years.

Such research shows that business decisions are not only influenced by the objective of lowering production costs, but also by, for instance, moving the assembly of the final product closer to the consumer market. Due to the emergence of the global value chains, a particular issue affecting statistical data compilation arose, namely a significant increase of international transactions of intermediate goods, such as product parts. Inside current global chains, unfinished products may cross several borders several times during the production process inflating, to a certain extent, the volume of international recorded transactions.

This resulted in a higher volatility of the observed global trade. In other words, in times of economic growth, trade was increasing two or three times as fast as GDP, while during the last economic crisis, global trade contracted by about 12.5% whereas the global level of GDP decreased only by about 2.5%.

The recent global economic crisis led to a significant decline in imports by developed countries. With the value chain-dominated production structure, changes in orders and inventories spread rapidly from one market to another, also affecting the developing countries.

In fact, the crisis was a clear testament of the global nature of production and services delivery. For instance, according to the publication “Global Value Chains in a Post-Crisis World” the fall in U.S. demand for Japanese final goods was accompanied by a significant drop in demand for intermediate goods in China and South-East Asia.

These changes and developments have created a world economy that is integrated, interdependent, and specialized where tracking inputs, outputs, exports and imports is becoming more challenging.

The international trade data shows the huge increase of trade in intermediate goods, yet it does not give information over the business practices and underlying strategic decisions as the link to the enterprise statistics is mostly missing. A few countries have started linking trade and business statistics including the Netherlands, Italy, Canada and Austria and can serve as models for other countries to apply these practices.

### **Towards a trade information system**

The international statistical community recognized the need to adjust both international merchandise trade statistics (IMTS) and statistics of international trade in services (SITS), and adopted new international recommendations during the UN Statistical Commission at its 41st session in 2010. These new recommendations (IMTS 2010 and SITS 2010) encompass robust elements that aim at providing more information on trade transactions, such as the better utilization of customs procedure codes and the separate recording of special transactions.

IMTS 2010 also mentions the application of trade by enterprise characteristics which would allow examining the impact of globalization on businesses and recommends countries to integrate their trade register with their business register and to take steps towards an integrated system of economics statistics for data compilation and analysis.

The ultimate objective of the Global Forum on Trade Statistics is to stress the importance of implementing the 2010 recommendations and establish a shared vision that enhances the current national statistical systems on three different fronts including institutional arrangements, statistical data production, and data dissemination and analysis.

To achieve the new vision by 2020, countries must overcome some challenges such as the tendency by national institutes to preserve the status quo, the lack of adequate resources to develop or upgrade the required business registers and enterprise surveys, and the confidentiality issue of micro-level business data.

For more information:

[http://unstats.un.org/unsd/trade/s\\_geneva2011/geneva2011.htm](http://unstats.un.org/unsd/trade/s_geneva2011/geneva2011.htm)



## Zambian envoy elected to ECOSOC for 2011

video



H.E. Lazarous Kapambwe, Permanent Representative of Zambia to the UN was elected on 18 January to serve as the next President of the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).

“I represent the region that is lagging behind the most in terms of development in all socio-economic sectors and I pledge to do my best to ensure that Africa’s challenges as well as all other regions are tackled in the best way possible by the Council,” Mr. Kapambwe told ECOSOC.

Video: <http://www.unmultimedia.org/tv/webcast/2011/01/ecosoc-meeting-election-of-the-president-and-other-members-of-the-bureau-for-2011.html> (53:03 minutes)

News story:

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=37304&Cr=social&Cr1=council>

ECOSOC website: <http://www.un.org/en/ecosoc/president/>

# Global Dialogue on Development

## Celebrating forest for the people

*Launch of the International Year of Forests 2011 will be held on 2 February in the UN General Assembly Hall, part of the High-level Segment of the 9th session of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF9)*

The President of the General Assembly, H.E. Mr. Joseph Deiss, will preside over the ceremony and the programme will open with a video message from Secretary-General Ban Ki Moon. The ceremony will also feature an array of international speakers, from government ministers to Nobel laureates and other members of the international forest community including Under-Secretary General Mr. Sha Zukang, Nobel laureate Elinor Ostrom, Nobel Peace laureate Wangari Maathai, renowned filmmaker Yann Arthus-Bertrand, and Felix Finbeiner, founder of Plant the Planet.

Communicating forest stories through the medium of film is a major component of the International Year. At the ceremony, Mr. Arthus-Bertrand will premiere his film "Forest", a 7-minute short film made especially for the International Year of Forests. Also, clips from winning films of the International Forest Film Festival will be shown as part of the program.

In addition to the ceremony, celebrations will continue throughout the day. The Croatian government is holding a photo exhibit entitled "Through the Eye of the Forester" in the General Assembly lobby, and the Turkish government will host a photo exhibit on forests in their cultural centre in New York. Finally, on the evening of 2 February, the United States government and MillionTrees New York are hosting a reception at David Rubenstein Atrium at Lincoln Center in New York.

### We depend on forests

At least 1.6 billion people directly depend on forests for their livelihoods and the majority of them are poor and live in and around forests. It is estimated that approximately 60 million people, mainly from indigenous and local communities, reside in forests. According to FAO data, the annual value of wood harvested from forests is more than \$100 billion, and globally, more than 60 million people are employed by forest-based industries (wood, pulp and paper and other processing plants).

"Forests are the intersection of all aspects of human life – forest history, at its core, is about the changing relationships between people and forests," said the Director of the UN Forum on Forests Secretariat, Jan McAlpine during the opening segment. "At this

session of the Forum, we must listen to these lessons from our natural history, and incorporate the voices of the people into forest policies to build a sustainable future for both forests and people."

Activities in celebration of the Year cover a wide range of public events from tree-plantings to concerts, and field trips to art competitions.

For more information: <http://www.un.org/en/events/iyof2011/>

## Measuring global trade - Do we have the right numbers?

*The Global Forum on Trade Statistics, to be held in Geneva from 2 to 4 February, will gather policy makers, statisticians and other experts in the field to discuss the best mechanisms to measure trade statistics right*

The Global Forum on Trade Statistics, organized jointly by DESA's Statistics Division and the Statistical Office of the European Communities (Eurostat) in collaboration with the World Trade Organization (WTO), aims to answer the question "Measuring Global Trade Do we have the right numbers?"

This questions has become even more crucial in today's global economy as nations depend on one another more than ever before, and thus, getting the numbers right on international trade becomes a key element for decision makers from across the world.

For more information:

[http://unstats.un.org/unsd/trade/s\\_geneva2011/geneva2011.htm](http://unstats.un.org/unsd/trade/s_geneva2011/geneva2011.htm)

## Finding the path to eradicate poverty

*This year's session of the Commission for Social Development, to be held in New York from 9-18 February in New York, will explore the most pressing issues concerning poverty*

In addition to the priority theme and in accordance with the General Assembly resolution 55/46 on the implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly entitled "World Summit for Social Development and beyond: achieving social development for all in a globalizing world", the Commission will undertake a regular assessment of the

implementation of the Copenhagen commitments and the further initiatives adopted in Geneva.

The session is also intended to include the review of relevant United Nations plans and programmes of action pertaining to the situation of social groups: persons with disabilities, youth, ageing, and the family.

In its resolution 2006/18, the Economic and Social Council decided to include the agenda item entitled “Emerging issues” in the programme of work of the Commission. The members of the Bureau, in consultation with their respective regional groups, agreed that the theme for discussion under this agenda item during the forty-ninth session would be social protection.

### Second Decade for Eradication of Poverty

This year’s session is part of the celebration of the Second Decade for Eradication of Poverty, which was proclaimed in December 2007 by the General Assembly. The proclamation recalls the outcomes of the World Summit for Social Development and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly.

The second Decade aims at supporting, in an efficient and coordinated manner, the internationally agreed development goals related to poverty eradication, including the Millennium Development Goals. It stresses the importance of reinforcing the positive trends in poverty reduction in some countries and extend such trends to benefit people worldwide.

The proclamation recognizes the importance of mobilizing financial resources for development at national and international levels and acknowledges that sustained economic growth, supported by rising productivity and a favourable environment, including private investment and entrepreneurship is vital for rising living standards.

During the celebration of the decade, particular focus is given to employment and decent work, including youth employment, working poor, social protection, in particular to vulnerable and disadvantaged groups in the light of the current global crises, support for sustainable enterprises, gender equality, standards and rights at work, and social dialogue.

In implementing these activities the UN system will work closely with social partners, NGOs, civil society, and other actors in order to support national governments to implement internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, related to eradication of poverty.

#### Civil society important players for social development

The Civil Society Forum, to be held in New York on 8 February, will take place one day before the opening of the 49th Session of the Commission on Social Development. The outcome of the

Forum, which is presented in the format of a declaration, will be read during the first meeting of the session. The participation of civil society has been recognized as a key element for poverty eradication, and so, this year’s forum will constitute an important step for enhancing cooperation among all relevant stakeholders.

For more information:

<http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/csocd/2011.html>,  
[www.un.org/esa/socdev/csocd/2011/side-events.pdf](http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/csocd/2011/side-events.pdf),  
[www.un.org/esa/socdev/ngo/csocdinforote2011.html](http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/ngo/csocdinforote2011.html)

## ECOSOC prepares its engine

*The Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) will hold its 2011 organizational session from 15-18 February considering mostly procedural decisions related to the dates and focus of its upcoming meetings*

The Council will also hear a report of the Chairman of its Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti. As part of the session, a number of briefings will be organized including on the world economic situation and prospects, the world food crisis and follow-up to the General Assembly resolution 64/289 on System-Wide Coherence.

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

## Setting new statistical standards for implementation

*From 22 to 25 February, Chief Statisticians from member states around the world gather in New York during the forty-second session of the Statistical Commission*

The United Nations Statistical Commission, overseeing the work of DESA’s Statistics Division, is the highest decision making body for international statistical activities, in particular for the setting of statistical standards, the development of concepts and methods and their implementation at the national and international level.

The Commission promotes the development of national statistics and the improvement of their comparability, coordinates the statistical work of specialized agencies, develops the central statistical services of the Secretariat and advises the organs of the United Nations on general questions relating to the collection, analysis and dissemination of statistical information.

The Statistical Commission considers special issues of concern in international statistical development, methodological issues, coordination and integration of international statistical programmes, support of technical cooperation activities in statistics and organizational matters.

This year, the commission will have before it a report of the Secretary-General describing the activities undertaken by the statistical community to mark the first World Statistics Day which celebrated the many achievements of official statistics and the core values of service, integrity and professionalism. The Commission is invited to comment on the relevance and effectiveness of the activities and the proposed options for future celebrations of World Statistics Day.

The General Assembly designated 20 October as World Statistics Day to recognize the vital role that the production of reliable and timely statistics and indicators plays in society. These facts and figures provide an important tool for assessing different situations and needs. Statistics data allow issues to become visible, thus making the identification of needs and the implementation of solutions possible.

In addition, the Commission will consider, among others, gender statistics, including violence against women, energy statistics, economic and MDG monitoring indicators as well as statistics of human development.

The four day meeting will also discuss statistical capacity-building, statistics for development, the population and housing censuses, health, education, agriculture and tourism statistics as well as the coordination of statistical activities. It will also bring up standards on data and metadata exchange as well as global geospatial information management.

DESA's Statistics Division will also organize again an informal briefing session for those delegates who participate in the Statistical Commission for the first time. This session will take place on 21 February, from 12:00 to 1:00 pm in UN DC-2 Building Room 2330. The purpose of this informal briefing is not only to inform new members about the functioning of the Commission procedures, but also to offer a first opportunity for networking with other Commission participants.

For more information:

[http://unstats.un.org/unsd/statcom/commission\\_42nd\\_session.htm](http://unstats.un.org/unsd/statcom/commission_42nd_session.htm)

Calendar of side events:

[http://unstats.un.org/unsd/statcom/SideEvents\\_2011.htm](http://unstats.un.org/unsd/statcom/SideEvents_2011.htm)

## How can we count on the philanthropic community to support education

*ECOSOC will convene a special event on "Partnering with the philanthropic community to promote education for all" on 28 February in New York*

The special meeting, which will count on the participation from Member States, the United Nations, Non-governmental organizations and the corporate, philanthropic and academic communities, will aim to gain the support of philanthropic institutions to achieve Education For All, review progress, identify gaps and explore collaborative opportunities in advancing progress in education around the world.

The event is also expected to make substantive contributions to the 2011 ECOSOC Annual Ministerial Review (AMR) on "implementing the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to education."

The meeting will include an opening plenary session followed by two panel discussions on: Staying the course: Enabling access for both girls and boys to complete primary education and promoting education and training for tomorrow's economy. As the titles clearly state, the key objective of the special event is to increase focus on issues central to the achievement of education for all.

### Expecting definite results

The expected outcome of the discussion is three-fold. First, it is hoped to broaden the range of stakeholders involved in the work of ECOSOC, and to increase the awareness among the philanthropic community on the progress made and the challenges faced in achieving the internationally agreed goals and commitments on education.

Participants will explore ways to promote concrete initiatives by the philanthropic community and initiate new partnerships that would accelerate progress in reaching the international goals and targets related to education.

Finally, the meeting will serve as the setting to expand multi-stakeholder engagement in the international community's efforts to help advance the progress in the area of education.

### Receiving support

Announcements of contributions by the private sector/philanthropic community to educational programs around the world will be made on the day of the event. A social media



campaign has been launched to gather questions from the public-at-large, to be posed at the event.

All are invited to watch a public service announcement produced by the United Nations Department of Public Information, and to submit questions online.

The event will be broadcast live via the United Nations Webcast and on the main page of the special event.

For more information:

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

## Advancing on sustainable development

*Intergovernmental Preparatory Meeting for the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD-19), to be held in New York from 28 February - 4 March, will negotiate policy options related to the thematic cluster for the CSD 18-19 cycle*

The themes for the CSD 18-19 cycle are transport, chemicals, waste management, mining and the Ten-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns. During the preparatory meeting, each of the different themes will be further discussed in order to prepare solid recommendation for the next meeting of the commission, which will take place from 2 to 13 May in New York.

The meeting will include different thematic segments that are aimed at discussing policy options to address barriers and constraints taking into account lessons learned and best practices. Each of the segments will include panel and interactive discussions. On the last day of the meeting, two multi-stakeholder dialogues will be held. The first will focus on an open dialogue on “advancing the implementation of sustainable development”, and the second will open the floor to explore the “Expectations of CSD-19 within the context of Rio+20.”

### Pre-registration for CSD-19 is now open

Pre-registration of accredited Major Groups' to the 19<sup>th</sup> session of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD-19) is now open. This meeting will take place from 2-13 May 2011 at UN Headquarters in New York.

For more information:

[http://www.un.org/esa/dsd/csd/csd19\\_ipm.shtml](http://www.un.org/esa/dsd/csd/csd19_ipm.shtml)

To pre-register: <http://esango.un.org/irene/?section=8&type=8>

## Discussing sustainable patterns of consumption and production

*Member States, Major Groups, and UN Agencies met in Panama from 13-14 January to discuss potential programs to be included in the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on SCP (10YFP) to support regional and national initiatives, the structure the 10YFP could take, and the possible visions and objectives it could serve*

The meeting was chaired by the Chief Administrator of the Environment Agency of Panama, and was attended by over 110 participants, mainly governments. The Chair of the 19th Session of the Commission on Sustainable Development, the Minister of Environment of Romania also presided. It also served to provide an informal setting prior to the Intergovernmental Preparatory Meeting beginning on 28 February for Member States and Major Groups to consider the shape of the 10YFP, which they might be willing to endorse at CSD-19.

Among the aspects that were considered during the meeting were the vision and goals of the framework, the functions to be performed, the elements of the framework to deliver those functions, the criteria for programmes to add in the 10YFP and its overall structure.

The discussions on the 10YFP must now move to the formal CSD process, where governments will begin to define their negotiating positions. The Panama Intersessional was particularly useful in bringing many developing country representatives up to speed on the issues for deliberation and decision at CSD-19 if a 10YFP is to be endorsed and launched.

For more information:

[http://www.un.org/esa/dsd/dsd\\_aofw\\_scpp/scpp\\_index.shtml](http://www.un.org/esa/dsd/dsd_aofw_scpp/scpp_index.shtml)

## UNCSD Bureau Meetings

*9th and 10th Bureau Meetings of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (UNCSD) were held in New York last month*

The 9th Bureau Meeting of UNCSD was held on 7 January and Mr. Georgios Kostakos, Officer-in-Charge of the Secretariat of the High-level Panel on Global Sustainability, briefed on the background, composition and proposed plan of work of the Secretary-General's High-level Panel on Global Sustainability.

At the meeting, Conference Secretary-General Sha Zukang introduced the two Executive Coordinators, Ms. Elizabeth

Thompson of Barbados and Mr. Brice Lalonde of France. Both Executive Coordinators expressed their enthusiasm at being part of the process and indicated their readiness to support the intergovernmental preparations.

Although several countries have made pledges, the Secretariat shared its concerns on the lack of financial contributions to the Trust Fund. The amount received so far was only US \$45,000. In fact, it was noted that lack of funds has already started to affect the planned preparatory activities.

During the Bureau's tenth meeting, held on 11 January, participants discussed the organization and results of the first Intersessional Meeting, including feedback it had received from its constituencies. A proposal was also made to have an action-oriented roadmap for one green economy.

On the institutional framework for sustainable development, proposals ranged from strengthening the CSD and UNEP, to establishing a Sustainable Development Council, and to creating a UN umbrella body on sustainable development.

The tentative date for the next bureau meeting is scheduled for 16 February 2011.

For more information: <http://www.uncsd2012.org/>

## **Securing renewed political commitment for sustainable development**

*At the First Intersessional Meeting of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (UNCSD), which took place in New York from 10 -11 January, key participants met to discuss the overarching themes of Rio+20*

The purpose of this meeting was to advance the understanding of the subject matter of the conference. The panelists, Member States, UN system and Major groups engaged in lively and interactive discussions expressing their views on benefits, challenges and concerns regarding the objective and the themes of UNCSD 2012.

The intersessional meeting also served as a space to assess the progress to date and discuss the remaining gaps in the implementation of the outcomes of the major summits on sustainable development, and address new and emerging issues. The meeting also discussed the two themes of the Conference - a green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication and institutional framework for sustainable development.

For more information: <http://www.uncsd2012.org/>

## Trends and Analysis

### Formulating policy messages on education

*ECOSOC e-discussion on “Education: Closing the Gap” will be held from 1 February to 4 March*

As part of the preparatory process for the ECOSOC 2011 Annual Ministerial Review, DESA will launch an e-discussion in collaboration with the United Nations Development Group (UNDG), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).

The e-discussion is an open, multi-stakeholder forum for practitioners, academic experts and policy-makers to share new ideas and formulate critical policy messages to the UN intergovernmental decision-making process regarding the education related to MDGs and IADGs.

This year, expert moderators will facilitate a global discussion on quality, access quality in education, access to education and innovation in education. The outcome of the discussion will feed directly into the Global Preparatory Meeting (April 2011) and the Annual Ministerial Review of education being held in Geneva during the Substantive Session of ECOSOC (July 2011).

For more information:

<http://www.un.org/en/ecosoc/newfunct/amredis2011.shtml>

### Expressing ideas on education

*ECOSOC Facebook e-discussion on “Building a future for today’s youth: improving access to education” will be held from 16 February to 16 March*

DESA and the Department of Public Information will organize another e-discussion to be hosted on the Facebook page of the United Nations Academic Impact. The purpose of the moderated online discussion is to provide a platform for people to express their hopes and dreams for education for all for themselves, their family and community.

The outcome of the Facebook e-discussion will be shared by the moderators of the e-discussion from each region (Japan for Asia; Ecuador for Latin America and the Caribbean; Lebanon for the

Middle East and Western Asia and South Africa for Africa) with the Economic and Social Council on 5 April 2011 during a Global Preparatory Meeting in New York, for the 2011 Annual Ministerial Review on the theme of achieving education goals.

For more information:

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

### Activities on international migration and development

*Ninth Coordination Meeting on International Migration will be held from 17-18 February in New York*

The meeting, organized by DESA's Population Division, is being held in response to General Assembly Resolution 58/208 of 13 February 2004, which requests the Secretary-General to continue convening meetings to coordinate international migration activities.

The meeting has the following three objectives: (a) to examine the development of indicators that measure the contribution of international migration to countries of origin and destination; (b) to exchange information on recent initiatives to build capacities on international migration and development, and (c) to discuss the contribution of United Nations agencies, funds and programmes and other relevant organizations to the Global Forum on Migration and Development as well as to the informal thematic debate on international migration and development which will be organized by the President of the General Assembly on 19 May 2011.

By providing participants with the opportunity to present their activities, the meeting will contribute to greater coherence of the United Nations and other international organizations in responding to the growing demand from Member States to support and develop activities on international migration and development.

The outcome of the meeting will contribute to the preparation of the report of the Secretary-General on international migration and development for the sixty-seventh session of the General Assembly.

For more information:

<http://www.un.org/esa/population/migration/index.html>

## Developing national aid policies

*Regional Workshop on Mutual Accountability for Eastern and Southern Africa was held on 24-25 January*

DESA's Office for ECOSOC Support and Coordination (OESC) helped to organize a regional workshop on mutual accountability in development cooperation, together with UNDP. Bringing together senior officials of government agencies responsible for aid management, parliamentarians and civil society organizations, the event aims at discussing how to develop national aid policies and ensure balanced and open mutual accountability fora where progress on aid effectiveness is being discussed. National stakeholders are invited to develop concrete recommendations based on their national experiences.

Key messages will feed into the preparations for the fourth High-level Forum on Aid Effectiveness in Busan and the 2012 Development Cooperation Forum (DCF). They will also contribute to the evaluation report the DCF will prepare on this occasion based on a comprehensive mutual accountability survey in up to 90 United Nations Member States.

This workshop is the first of a series of events aimed at deepening the understanding and improving mechanisms on mutual accountability, co-organized by UNDP and national governments, with analytical inputs from OESC. The mutual accountability survey is available on the DCF website in English, French and Spanish.

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

## Strengthening system-wide reporting on funding flows to the UN system

*Expert Group meeting held in Geneva from 20-21 January had a particular focus on operational activities for development*

A two-day expert group meeting was organized by DESA in cooperation with the Chief Executive Board for Coordination (CEB) Secretariat. The meeting, which brought together heads and other senior-level personnel of budget and finance offices from across the UN system as well as OECD, discussed how to further streamline and strengthen system-wide reporting on funding flows to the UN system. The participants examined the current strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and challenges of system-wide reporting on funding for the UN system and developed strategic priorities to enhance such reporting going forward.

The expert meeting reviewed how to foster effective synergy, complementarities and convergence between key system-wide

reporting instruments, which include DESA's annual report on funding for UN system-wide operational activities for development, the CEB's report on the budgetary and financial situation of the organizations of the UN system and the UN system-wide comprehensive financial statistics database and reporting system which is in its early stages of development.

This task is made more complex as there are several new initiatives within the UN system aimed at increased harmonization of financial reporting across entities, such as the adoption of International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS), which will impact any coordination effort on system-wide reporting.

There has been increasing demand from donors and programme countries for enhanced system-wide reporting as it is expected that this would improve transparency, governance, coherence and coordination of the UN development system.

For more information:

[http://www.un.org/esa/coordination/dcpb\\_stat.htm](http://www.un.org/esa/coordination/dcpb_stat.htm)

## Significant increase in Public Service Awards nominations

*United Nations Public Service Awards Call for Nominations closed on 15 January with a 44.4 per cent increase over 2010*

Two new categories were created this year in partnership with UNODC and with UN Women. Eight new countries were nominated, including Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Dominica, Somalia, Tajikistan, Trinidad and Tobago, and Ukraine.

This year DESA's Division for Public Administration and Development Management (DPADM) held for the first time a series of informative sessions for representatives of Permanent Missions to the United Nations, to brief them on the programme and encourage them to notify their governments to increase nominations and participation.

The United Nations Public Service Awards is the most prestigious international recognition of excellence in public service. It rewards the creative achievements and contributions of public service institutions that lead to a more effective and responsive public administration in countries worldwide.

Through an annual competition, the UN Public Service Awards promotes the role, professionalism and visibility of public service. It is held every year on 23 June, United Nations Public Service Day. This year's Awards Ceremony and Forum will be held in Tanzania.



For more information: <https://www.unpan.org/unpsa>

## **Indigenous peoples' rights to forests**

*The annual meeting was held in New York from 12-14 January to identify possible ways forward*

The meeting was attended by 7 indigenous, 4 Members of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues as well as 20 Member States as observers, 30-40 representatives of indigenous peoples' organizations and some 20 colleagues from the UN System, including the Secretariat of the Forum on Forests.

The meeting provided an opportunity to exchange information on issues regarding indigenous peoples and forests, including the impact of large-scale development, conservation projects and climate change mitigation measures in forests on indigenous peoples' livelihoods. The meeting also analyzed cultural practices and resource management systems, highlighted good practices models of forest management and identified gaps and challenges as well as possible ways forward.

For more information:  
[http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii/en/EGM\\_IPF.html](http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii/en/EGM_IPF.html)

## Capacity Development

### Supporting developing countries to prepare for Rio+20

*DESA and UNDP team up to support national preparations for the UN Conference for Sustainable Development (UNCSD – Rio+20)*

The main objective of the project is to assist selected developing countries to prepare for and contribute effectively to the UNCSD process based on their expression of demand and their particular needs.

The project should enable developing countries to participate effectively in formal and informal preparatory meetings of the UNCSD, including preparatory committees, intersessionals, regional meetings, and expert meetings, with preparation of technical inputs, responses to questionnaires, mobilization of national stakeholders, and identification of opportunities for national action.

At the same time, the project will include a more in-depth analysis and synthesis of experiences in up to 10 countries where green economy concepts and institutional reform for sustainable development are beginning to take root.

For more information: <http://tinyurl.com/4ps8e6b>

### Accountability and prevention of corruption

*Cooperation between DESA's Division for Public Administration and Development Management (DPADM) and the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) initiated for 2011*

DPADM will produce by the end of 2011 a publication on innovative practices for Governments to enhance accountability (including social accountability) in order to better advance towards the Millennium Development Goals. The publication will also address how improved accountability helps prevent corruption.

To prepare this publication, DPADM will carry out several meetings, some of these in cooperation with UNODC, which acts as Secretariat to the UN Convention against Corruption. To kick-start cooperation, a representative from DPADM attended the first meeting of the interim open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on the Prevention of Corruption in Vienna, from 13 to 15 December 2010 and made two presentations: one on citizen

engagement and e-government in the fight against corruption, and another on the United Nations Public Service Awards (UNPSA) in the category of fighting corruption.

Moreover, in bilateral conversations with UNODC, it was agreed that DPADM will organize a meeting of experts and practitioners on accountability and prevention of corruption, back-to-back with the global conference UNODC will host in Morocco in October 2011, namely, the Fourth Session of the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption.

For more information: <http://www.unpan.org/unpsa>

### Partnering for expanding e-governance

*DPADM welcomes the World e-Governments Organizations of Cities and Local Governments (WeGO) as its newest United Nations Public Administration Network (UNPAN) Partner Organization*

In order to further expand UNPAN and strengthen the Division's work in the area of local e-government, DPADM welcomed the World e-Governments Organizations of Cities and Local Governments (WeGO) as its 32nd UNPAN Partner Organization. Based in Seoul, Republic of Korea, WeGO is a worldwide association of e-governments that aims to share the practices of world e-governments, develop joint projects on e-governments, and bridge the digital divide between and among cities.

For more information: <http://www.unpan.org/>

### Regional knowledge networks project

*DESA's Office for ECOSOC Support and Coordination (OESC) will commence implementation of the Development Account project "Strengthening Regional Knowledge Networks to Promote the Effective Implementation of the United Nations Development Agenda and to Assess Progress"*

The project aims to contribute strengthening the capacity of government officials/experts responsible for the formulation of national development strategies (NDS) and to increase knowledge sharing among policy-makers, development experts, and DESA divisions on development strategies that work. The project highlights the importance of coordinating efforts of

DESA divisions in supporting NDS and making available the knowledge generated by the Department to policy makers.

The project will be implemented with similar projects managed by other DESA divisions that support NDS. With this in view, representatives of those projects will participate in the Steering Committee that will guide the implementation of the Regional Knowledge Networks (RKNs). The RKNs will be established in conjunction with four Regional Commissions that will be the main partners in executing the project.

For more information:

[http://www.un.org/esa/devaccount/projects/proposed\\_projects.html](http://www.un.org/esa/devaccount/projects/proposed_projects.html)

## Publications and Websites

### Statistical compilations



#### Monthly Bulletin of Statistics and MBS Online

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

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

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

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

### Working papers

#### Economic Integration, Inequality and Growth: Latin America vs. the European economies in transition

This paper presents a simple theoretical framework to explain variations in income inequality over time and between countries. It also analyses the factors responsible for the widespread rise in inequality during the neo-liberal reforms of 1980-2000 in the fields of trade, foreign direct investment (FDI) and capital flows, and the rise in migration. Finally, it compares the decline in inequality observed in most of Latin America over 2000-2008 with the steady increase of inequality in many European transition economies

during this period despite their return to robust growth. The paper argues that such divergence is explained by differences in policies.

For more information:

<http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/papers/2011/index.shtml>

### Discussion papers

#### Monthly Briefing on the World Economic Situation and Prospects

The Monthly Briefing No. 27 states that a further slowdown in global economic growth is expected and that developing economies continue to lead the recovery. There are major downside risks for a gloomier outlook, including too early moves to fiscal austerity, further exchange rate volatility and a renewed widening of the global imbalances

For more information:

[http://www.un.org/esa/policy/publications/dpad\\_wespmbn.html](http://www.un.org/esa/policy/publications/dpad_wespmbn.html)

### Meeting records

#### Preliminary Synthesis Report on “Best Practices and Lessons Learned on the Objective and Themes of the Conference”

The report was made available at the First Intersessional Meeting for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (UNCSD – Rio+20) held on 10-11 January in New York. More than 100 member States, Major Groups’ organizations, and United Nations system entities responded to the five-part questionnaire that was proposed by the first Preparatory Committee of UNCSD in May 2010, soliciting their views and requesting information pertaining to the objectives and themes of the Conference.

This report is a reflection of these responses, examining growth in political commitment to sustainable development and evaluating progress in implementation since the 1992 Rio Earth Summit; identifying new and emerging challenges; and offering opinions and suggestions that will set the foundation for future discussions and actions on the themes of a green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication (GESDPE) and the institutional framework for sustainable development. The results will continue to evolve as additional responses are compiled and synthesized as part of the UNCSD preparatory process.

For more information: <http://tinyurl.com/48xld7b>



## Objective and Themes of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development

The advanced unedited copy of the Secretary-General's Report highlights that despite two decades of progress since countries first laid out a blueprint for sustainable development at the 1992 Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, the use of the planet's natural resources continue to damage crucial ecosystems.

It examines the two themes of UNCED — green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication (GESDPE), and the institutional framework for sustainable development (IFSD) — in relation to the objective of renewed political commitment to sustainable development, reviewing progress and implementation gaps and addressing new and emerging challenges.

The starting point is the recognition that sustainable development, with each of its three pillars reinforced and mutually reinforcing, has been the overarching goal of the international community since Rio 1992. Thus, the question posed here is how a focus on GESDPE and IFSD can help accelerate progress on the sustainable development agenda.

For more information: <http://tinyurl.com/4jnz86z>

## Outreach Material

### Rio20: Making it Happen

The latest issue of the biweekly e-newsletter on the UN Conference on Sustainable Development (UNCSD) Secretariat keeps readers abreast of the preparatory work and focuses on the preliminary synthesis report, intergovernmental meetings, inter-agency news and on regional updates.

For more information: [http://www.uncsd2012.org/files/newsletter-pdf/Newsletter-Volume2-Issue1Rio20Making-it-happen-January%202011rev1\\_1.pdf](http://www.uncsd2012.org/files/newsletter-pdf/Newsletter-Volume2-Issue1Rio20Making-it-happen-January%202011rev1_1.pdf)

## e-Publications



### Contribution of the United Nations to the Improvement of Public Administration: A 60-Year History

This publication is now available on Amazon Kindle, iBookstore and Barnes & Noble Nook platform. This is the second E-Book of DESA's Division for Public Administration & Development Management, following the October 2010 release of the E-Book edition of the flagship publication "United Nations E-Government Survey 2010". Both titles will soon be available on the Sony platform, as well.

iBooks:

<http://itunes.apple.com/us/book/the-united-nations-contribution/id411689579?mt=11>

Amazon Kindle:

<http://www.amazon.com/dp/B004GXB3KS>

Barnes&Noble Nook:

<http://search.barnesandnoble.com/books/product.aspx?ean=2940012032751>

## Websites



### Redesigned website of DESA's Development Policy and Analysis Division

The newly launched site includes news, events and recent publications and features its flagships the World Economic Situation and Prospects and the World Economic and Social Survey, the Committee for Policy Development, Project LINK and other initiatives.

To browse:

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

# Comings and Goings

## Comings

*The following staff members were promoted in January:*

Erik Gopel, Editorial Assistant, Population Division

Benedicte Niviere, Staff Assistant, Division for Public  
Administration and Development Management

Maria Angela Parra, Economic Affairs Officer, Financing for  
Development office

# Calendar

## February

### ECOSOC e-discussion on “Education: Closing the Gap”

1 February - 4 March

<http://www.un.org/en/ecosoc/newfunct/amredis2011.shtml>

### Global Forum on Trade Statistics

Geneva, 2- 4 February

[http://unstats.un.org/unsd/trade/s\\_geneva2011/geneva2011.htm](http://unstats.un.org/unsd/trade/s_geneva2011/geneva2011.htm)

### High-level Segment of UNFF9 and launch of the International Year of Forests

New York, 2-4 February

[www.un.org/forests](http://www.un.org/forests)

### Civil Society Forum

New York, 8 February

[www.un.org/esa/socdev/ngo/csocdinfo2011.html](http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/ngo/csocdinfo2011.html)

### 49th session of the Commission for Social Development

New York, 9-18 February

<http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/csocd/2011.html>

### 2011 ECOSOC organizational session

New York, 15-18 February

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

### ECOSOC e-discussion on “Building a future for today’s youth: improving access to education”

16 February -16 March

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

### 9th Coordination Meeting on International Migration

New York, 17 - 18 February

<http://www.un.org/esa/population/migration/index.html>

### 42nd session of the Statistical Commission

New York, 22-25 February

[http://unstats.un.org/unsd/statcom/commission\\_42nd\\_session.htm](http://unstats.un.org/unsd/statcom/commission_42nd_session.htm)

### Special event of ECOSOC on “Partnering with the philanthropic community to promote education for all”

New York, 28 February

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

### Intergovernmental Preparatory Meeting for CSD-19

New York, 28 February - 4 March

[http://www.un.org/esa/dsd/csd/csd\\_csd19\\_ipm.shtml](http://www.un.org/esa/dsd/csd/csd_csd19_ipm.shtml)

## March

### Second meeting of the Preparatory Committee on Rio+20

New York, 7-8 March

[http://www.unctad.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=category&id=72&Itemid=123](http://www.unctad.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=category&id=72&Itemid=123)

### ECOSOC Regional preparatory meeting on “Education and the Millennium Development Goals”

Jomtien, Thailand, 24 March

<http://www.un.org/en/ecosoc/newfunct/amr2011thailand.shtml>

### Special high-level meeting of ECOSOC with BWIs, WTO and UNCTAD

New York, March

<http://www.un.org/esa/ffd/>

DESA News is an insider's look at the United Nations in the area of economic and social development policy. The newsletter is produced by the Communications and Information Management Service of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs in collaboration with DESA Divisions. DESA News is issued every month. Please click [here](#) to send inquiries.