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## Feature Articles and Webcast

### Facing the challenge of measuring the unmeasurable

*UN DESA's Statistics Division plays a vital role in collecting and analyzing data from around the world. Leading this work is Professor Paul Cheung, known worldwide for his contributions to the development of official statistics. "Statistics are crucial to economic and social development," he says in an interview for DESA News.*



Professor Cheung, recognized for his pioneering research in the fields of manpower, population and social planning, highlights the importance of statistics and their contributions to global development. "It is clear that without solid information we cannot measure where we are and what needs to be done, with respect to the MDGs or in other domains. If the world cannot get the right numbers, it cannot come out with the right solutions," he says. Professor Cheung moreover gives praise to official statisticians around the globe, spotlighting the fact that this community "has worked steadfastly in the past six decades in building a global statistical system that the world relies on."

**Thanks to the work of the Statistics Division, important data is being collected helping the world to make informed decisions. What do you see as the main challenges in the work gathering and analyzing data from around the world?**

"Indeed, an informed policy debate should be supported and facilitated by timely, consistent and relevant data at all levels. For the international users of data, an important quality dimension has to be added: data have to be comparable across countries. This is achieved by the United Nations Statistical Commission who has the unique mandate to set international statistical standards and methodologies in the various statistical fields. Based on the international standards, countries from all over the world can then produce and submit reliable and comparable data to the United Nations Statistics Division. Just imagine if there was no common standard in the compilation of 'national income' or 'Gross Domestic Product (GDP)'. We would have all kinds of economic data with no common assessment platform.

Since 1946, the United Nations Statistics Division has collected billions of data records from all around the globe. In this context,

I want to pay tribute to the professional community of official statisticians around the globe. This community has worked steadfastly in the past six decades in building a global statistical system that the world relies on. “Service, Professionalism and Integrity” were the key themes of our first World Statistics Day celebrated on 20 October 2010 (twenty-ten-twenty-ten) in which over 140 countries participated with high-level events, involving some heads of states and government. We are proud to be part of this global statistical community and the very existence of this global professional statistical family, which transcends political, economic and cultural differences among countries and works hand-in-hand to build common standards and databases, is perhaps our biggest achievement of all.”

#### What do you think is the most important contribution of statistics in promoting global development?

“In his address on the occasion of the first World Statistics Day, the Secretary-General observed that ‘Statistics permeate modern life. They are the basis for many governmental, business and community decisions.’

Statistics are crucial to economic and social development. They serve as reference points in public debates and contribute to the progress of our nations. They are indispensable to academic research and the development of businesses and the civil society. Statistics ultimately serve everyone in society.

A good example of the contribution of statistics in global development relates to the Millennium Development Goals. When the MDGs were established after the adoption of the Millennium Declaration, specific goals and targets were established and statistical monitoring was urgently required to assess the pace with which the world is progressing towards the MDGs. The member states and international agencies have worked very hard and very closely together to develop and harmonize their statistical tools in order to provide the data for the monitoring. We are happy to report that, as a result of this joint effort, we are able to produce a yearly assessment of the MDG progress. We are now working towards the final assessment of the MDGs when it reaches the target year of 2015.

It is clear that without solid information we cannot measure where we are and what needs to be done, with respect to the MDGs or in other domains. If the world cannot get the right numbers, it cannot come out with the right solutions. This is why we are committed to participate actively in the discussion on the post-2015 development agenda, in order to advise policy decision makers on which targets are actually measurable and for which indicators data can reliably be produced.”

#### What do you hope the 43rd Session of the Statistical Commission will accomplish this year?

“The 43rd session of the Statistical Commission will be held from 28 February to 2 March 2012. We are again looking forward to strong participation from member states. As in past years, we expect about 140 countries to be represented by their experts from

the capital, making the Statistical Commission a truly global forum on official statistics. It has been said before that ‘Official Statistics’ is an area where the United Nations truly works well. The normative work of the Commission over the past 65 years is an important example of how the United Nations Member States can effectively act in unison, especially at times where the ability of the international community to act together in other areas is sometimes limited.

As mentioned before the core business of the United Nations Statistical Commission is to adopt international methodological standards and guidelines in virtually every area of statistics. This year the Commission has again a busy programme with over 30 technical reports to look at. In particular, the Commission will look at the proposals for a new Framework on the Development of Environmental Statistics and for the System of Environmental and Economic Accounting, which are highly relevant in the context of the Rio+20 Summit. This Commission session will also review the lessons learnt from the 2010 census round, where as of 1 January 2012, 180 countries and areas have conducted a census, enumerating 87 per cent of the world population. Censuses have helped countries collect enormous amounts of demographic and social data. Moreover, the Commission will address the issue of how coordination in statistics within the UN System can be improved further. Finally, given its overwhelming success, it is also expected that the Commission will approve a five-year cycle for the celebration of World Statistics Day.”

#### There will be a high-level forum on “Measuring the Unmeasurable: Challenging the Limits of Official Statistics” on 27 February. Can you highlight some examples of the “unmeasurable” and how your division tries to tackle these challenges?

“In order to remain relevant in a rapidly changing world, the statistical community has to continuously examine and push its own boundaries. Phenomena, which are not easily measurable today, may become important tomorrow, so we have to be prepared. In the past years it has become customary to explore ‘cutting edge’ issues in the format of a ‘high level forum’, which allows brainstorming and free-flowing exchange. In these discussions, we have to balance the desire to explore new ideas which may require new measurement tools and the need to preserve the credibility and reputation of official statistics.

This year’s event will focus on issues such as the measurement of happiness, well-being and ecosystem services and other difficult concepts. These are complicated topics with no clear measurement yardsticks. How to take the complex interaction between the environment and the economy into account and how to capture the level of well being in a country, which may include a high degree of subjectivity, will be discussed among the chief statisticians of the world.”

Last year, the Statistics Division arranged many seminars and workshops around the world focusing on a variety of issues

including statistics on the MDGs, energy, environment and on population and housing censuses. Can you describe this type of work?

“Capacity building is a fundamental pillar of the work of our Division. In 2011 alone, more than 2600 official statisticians around the world participated in one of our events (conferences, expert groups, workshops and fellowship programmes). Specifically, over 35 training workshops and seminars were organized in the developing countries to assist the countries to gain the requisite knowledge. In this effort we always work closely with member states and with our partners in the international statistical agencies. To give an example of such cooperation, we launched in 2011 the China International Statistical Training Center which operates in collaboration with ‘UN Statistics’. Through this center, we have organized 8 international training activities. More are being planned.

Through our training activities, we are able to understand the needs of national statistical systems and how they are performing. This will allow us to direct more resources to those countries in need. In 2011, the global statistical community has adopted a Busan Plan of Action on Statistical development at the High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness. In this document, we highlighted the areas that would require greater injection of resources as we bring the global statistical system forward. We will be working with the development partners in implementing this Plan of Action. The UN Statistical Commission will discuss this Plan of Action in its forthcoming session.”

A new UN Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (GGIM) was created and inaugurated last year. Are there any special events or projects that the Committee will focus on during the coming year?

“The resolution of the UN Economic and Social Council to create a UN Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management came at a time when few new bodies are being created. This bold decision reflects the Council’s conviction that promoting greater and wider use of geospatial information globally is essential, especially in a context where we are discussing how to manage the resources on this planet responsibly.

The Committee, which will hold its second formal meeting in August 2012 in New York, is in the process for formulating its priorities and deciding on its work plan for the coming years. The setting of global standards on geospatial information, the evolution of an ethical statement on the production and use of geospatial information, and the pooling of information and platforms are clearly the main issues to be tackled. As new technologies have deeply transformed the availability and accessibility of geospatial information and its potential uses, we are working very closely on these issues with our partners in the international organizations and in the private sector. A second high-level forum on GGIM, to be hosted by the Government of Qatar in Doha, is now planned for 4-6 February 2013. This Forum will bring together all the stakeholders in an inclusive fashion to discuss the priority issues

facing the geospatial information community before they are being formally addressed by the inter-governmental Committee.”

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

Bio of Professor Paul Cheung:

[http://unstats.un.org/unsd/newsletter/unsd\\_director.htm](http://unstats.un.org/unsd/newsletter/unsd_director.htm)

## Making strides towards extreme poverty eradication

*As the global economy remains fragile at the outset of 2012, the need to eradicate extreme poverty is clearer than ever. UN DESA renews its commitment to work with stakeholders to promote sustained, inclusive and equitable growth, and reach the Millennium Development Goal of halving extreme poverty by 2015.*



Heralded at the 1995 World Summit for Social Development, poverty eradication continues to be an overarching objective of national and international development efforts. There has been significant success in recent decades in reducing poverty. In 1980, for example, 1.5 billion people were living below \$1 per day; by 2005, the number had been cut to 850 million.

However, there is still more that needs to be done. Rising income inequality, worsening environmental conditions, poor job creation and weakening social stability all pose serious and ongoing challenges to accelerating poverty eradication. Moreover, the financial crisis, volatility of energy and food prices, climate change and loss of biodiversity has increased vulnerabilities and inequalities, particularly in developing countries.

### **Adopting action-oriented recommendations**

To help address these critical issues and kick-off the development efforts slated for this year, the Commission for Social Development (CSD) will convene in New York for its fiftieth session from 1-10 February, focusing on the priority theme "Poverty Eradication". The Session will be chaired by His Excellency Mr. Jorge Valero (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) with expected participation of 46 Member States and accredited NGOs.

Taking into account poverty's interrelationship with social integration, full employment and decent work for all, the session will complete the biennial cycle by adopting action-oriented policy recommendations on poverty eradication. The work of the Commission is expected to focus on the structural barriers to poverty eradication. This focus is seen as an effective means of ensuring that proposed policy guidance emphasizes inclusive growth, building up the asset base of the poor, and opening up social and economic opportunities for large numbers of people, in particular the most disadvantaged.

### **Creating jobs, reducing inequalities and providing social protection**

In concert with ECOSOC resolution 2010/10, the promotion of macroeconomic and social policies which focus on creating jobs, reducing inequalities and providing social protection, are expected to be part of the discussion. Investing in agriculture, rural development and climate change adaptation and mitigation measures are also elements expected to be addressed in the discussions.

The scale of investment required to eradicate poverty exceeds the capacity of Governments, civil society organizations or the private sector working alone. Discussions in the session are also expected to address truly transformational public-private partnerships in the formulation and implementation of development programmes.

### **Addressing youth poverty and unemployment**

In conjunction with the primary theme, the Commission will also discuss the emergent issue on youth poverty and unemployment, underscored at the World Summit for Social Development and the Twenty-fourth Special Session of the General Assembly. Young people between 15 and 24 years of age, particularly from developing countries, are not only disproportionately affected by unemployment over the past decades, but are now faced with an onslaught of difficulties as a consequence of the financial crisis. Unemployment among disadvantaged youth, young women, indigenous peoples and ethnic minorities perpetuates a vicious cycle of poverty and social exclusion.

### **Poverty eradication is the centerpiece of sustainable development**

The anti-poverty objectives and expected outcomes of the fiftieth session will make a significant contribution towards this year's events dedicated to the International Year of Sustainable Energy, culminating in the UN Conference on Sustainable Development,

Rio+20, in June 2012. In the closing remarks of the 2nd Intersessional Meeting for Rio+20 in December 2011, DESA's Under-Secretary-General and the Secretary-General for Rio+20, Mr. Sha Zukang, encouraged, "Our minimalist ambition at Rio+20 should be to eradicate poverty. This should be a centerpiece of our efforts to achieve sustainable development. To start with, this will require that stability and inclusive growth be restored to the global economy."

For more information:

<http://social.un.org/index/CommissionforSocialDevelopment/Sessions/2012.aspx>

## New ECOSOC President outlines focus for 2012

*“While some nations escape the poverty-trap, many more desperately need help. In 2012, ECOSOC must therefore carve out its niche as the forum for frank, free-flowing discourse on development cooperation,” said H.E. Mr. Miloš Koterec, its newly elected President at the handover ceremony on 10 January in New York.*



Mr. Koterec also gave an overview of what ECOSOC would be focusing on in 2012. “As we look ahead, two other themes will surely compete for the Council’s attention in 2012: sustainable development and the post-2015 development architecture. What have we learned from our past endeavors? At the last Rio summit, we dreamed big. This time around, ambitions may be more modest. If Rio+20 is to make the right impact, it must instead set its sights on changing the terms of debate — from neutralizing human influence on the planet to better managing and mitigating its impact.”

He also discussed ECOSOC’s role in shaping the post-2015 development framework. Influencing requires “visionary thinking: setting, not following the agenda; retaining the best aspects of the Millennium Development Goals, like for example simplicity and time-bound targets while adopting a sharpened focus on outcomes and delivery.” For which he concluded, “the Council is well positioned at the heart of the action.”

For more information:

[Statement by new ECOSOC President Miloš Koterec](#)

[Statement by Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon](#)

[Statement by ECOSOC President for 2011 Lazarous Kapambwe](#)

# Global Dialogue on Development

## Advancing social development worldwide

*The fiftieth session of the Commission for Social Development (CSD) will convene at UN Headquarters in New York on 1-10 February*

CSD is a functional commission of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) of the UN. Since the convening of the World Summit for Social Development in Copenhagen in 1995, it has been the key UN body in charge of the follow-up and implementation of the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action.

During its fiftieth session, the Commission will focus on the priority theme of poverty eradication and, in this context, will also review relevant plans and programmes of action pertaining to the situation of youth, families, older persons, and persons with disabilities.

It will also feature a special event on Financing for Social Development, scheduled for Friday, 3 February at 3:00 pm. The event will highlight effective strategies for mobilizing resources for social development and feature panellists from various regions in the world.

Also under discussion during the current session is the emerging issue related to youth poverty and unemployment. An expert panel has been put in place for 6 February to facilitate an interactive dialogue on this topic.

**The Commission for Social Development (CSD) will consider the following recommendations with respect to its primary theme in accordance with the report of the Secretary-General on poverty eradication prepared for CSD:**

(a) The creation of full and productive employment and decent work for all should be at the centre of policies. Countries are encouraged to implement the principles and objectives of the Global Jobs Pact [...];

(b) Countries with large agricultural sectors should focus on raising smallholder agricultural productivity and output quality in a sustainable manner. Increasing the productivity of smallholder farmers requires enabling their access to fertilizers, high-yielding seeds, infrastructure, information and markets[...];

(c) Recognizing that universal access to basic social protection is necessary to break the cycle of poverty and reduce inequality, Governments may wish to consider implementing national social protection floors consistent with national priorities and circumstances;

(d) In strengthening social protection systems, and reducing intergenerational transmission of poverty, Governments should actively pursue family-focused social transfer programmes, paying particular attention to women, children, the elderly, persons with disabilities and indigenous groups;

(e) Countries must address society-wide patterns of social and economic inequality and discrimination by ensuring that poor women and men have access to land, credit and other productive resources, housing, fair inheritance rights and justice, and that all segments of society participate in decision-making processes;

(f) The international community should support national efforts to eradicate poverty by creating a favorable international environment and ensuring greater coherence among macroeconomic, trade and social policies.

[See the report of the Secretary-General on poverty eradication prepared for CSD](#)

For further information and access to relevant documentation: <http://social.un.org/index/CommissionforSocialDevelopment/Sessions/2012.aspx>

## Highlighting role of cooperatives for communities and youth

*The International Year of Cooperatives (IYC) Secretariat will host two interactive dialogues at UN Headquarters in New York on 1 and 2 February*

The International Year of Cooperatives 2012 is underway, and UN DESA's Division for Social Policy and Development (DSDP) has continued to play its role in the promotion and advocacy of cooperatives as agents for development.

During the month of February, the Division will be using its social media outlets and blog to discuss the contributions of cooperatives to social justice. In addition, the Secretariat is working with cooperative partners to host two interactive dialogues during the Commission for Social Development which opens on 1 February at UN Headquarters in New York.

On 1 February at 1:15 pm, Cynthia Giagnocavo, research Fellow at the University of Almería, Spain will present the case of

Almería's development, and show the pivotal role of cooperatives in developing the social, economic and political well-being of the community.

On 2 February at 1:15 pm, cooperative practitioners from the United States will discuss the advantages of cooperatives as an outlet for youth to secure sustainable livelihoods through entrepreneurship.

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

## Spotlight on economic and financial situation

*ECOSOC will arrange an "Interactive dialogue on the current economic and financial situation" in New York on 7 February*

The global economy faces acute uncertainties and volatility, which present serious concerns to all United Nations Member States. In order to better understand the structural or systemic challenges of the current global economic and financial order and to explore adequate policy responses, the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) will convene a special session to brief Member States on the current economic and financial situation. Distinguished economists are invited to provide their views and perspectives on the present situation and future prospects.

Chaired by ECOSOC President Miloš Koterec and moderated by the Director of UN DESA's Division for Development Policy and Analysis, Rob Vos, the event will feature keynote speakers including 2010 Nobel Laureate in Economics, Professor Peter Diamond. Discussions will focus on three main areas: 1) Unresolved structural fragilities in the global economy; 2) Alternative developmental models for sustained growth and job creation; and 3) Global policy coordination to mitigate uncertainties and reduce risk.

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

## Reflecting on a rapidly changing development context

*ECOSOC will hold a Development Cooperation Forum (DCF) preparatory meeting on "The Changing Context of Development: What does it mean for Cooperation and Global Partnership" on 9 February*

The global partnership for development agreed at major UN conferences, remains the centrepiece of international development cooperation. However, in a changing development landscape, the global partnership itself is evolving as new players with new

approaches to development cooperation and new aid modalities are making an increasingly important contribution to development.

Against this backdrop, ECOSOC will hold this one-day DCF preparatory meeting in New York on "The Changing Context of Development: What does it mean for Cooperation and Global Partnership". The meeting will examine key trends in development cooperation that have emerged in recent years and how they are shaping the future of development cooperation and the institutional arrangements that govern this cooperation.

Two panel discussions will focus on "New dynamics of development cooperation: challenges and opportunities" and "Gearing development cooperation towards sustainable development" respectively.

For more information:

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

## Forests for people comes full circle

*The International Year of Forests, 2011 closing ceremony is being held on 9 February at the United Nations headquarters in New York*



The event is being organized by the United Nations Forum on Forests Secretariat, which was designated as the focal point for the International Year by the General Assembly.

Throughout 2011, over a thousand events have been organized worldwide by member states, international and regional organizations and forest-related stakeholders to amplify the year's theme of "Forests for People". The closing ceremony marks the culmination of these events and stories.

The event will feature an awards ceremony for the five regional winners of the 2011 Forest Heroes Award, recognizing their innovative approach and dedication in nurturing and sustaining our world's forests. Regional winners were selected from the fifteen short-listed finalists announced at Forest Day 5 alongside the UNFCCC COP17 in Durban.

Children and youth have an important role in raising awareness and in inspiring public action for forests, and their contributions will be showcased at the closing ceremony. First place winners of the Universal Postal Union's international letter-writing competition, Charlée Gittens from Barbados and Wang Sa from China, will present their compositions in which they imagine

themselves as trees writing to people and explaining the importance of forest protection and conservation. Winners of the 2011 International Children's Art Contest to "Celebrate the Forests" will be announced as part of the event. Through the contest, children between 5 and 14 years of age were asked to depict their vision of the multifaceted value of forests and the people who depend on them.

Film clips from the first International Forest Film Festival, organized by Jackson Hole Wildlife Film Festival and the UNFF Secretariat, will be interspersed throughout the ceremony offering glimpses of richly diverse forest stories.

The event will also serve as the book launch for *Forests for People* – a co-publication of the UNFF Secretariat and Tudor Rose – that features articles from over 75 authors from 35 countries.

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

## Committee to review 190 new NGO applications

*The 2012 regular session of the Committee on NGOs is taking place in New York from 30 January to 8 February, and on 17 February*

The Committee is tasked with considering applications from NGOs worldwide for consultative status with the objective of enabling NGOs to: (i) contribute to the ECOSOC agenda; (ii) participate more effectively in the work of the ECOSOC including through attendance in meetings, consultations and contributions to the Secretary General's reports; and (iii) disseminate the work of the Council, including at the country level.

To enhance the role of civil society as important partners in development, the work of the Committee is intended to strengthen their participation in the intergovernmental process and thereby facilitate the substantive contribution of civil society to the work of the UN and in the implementation of the UN development agenda.

This year, the Committee will review 190 new applications and 153 deferred applications from organizations seeking consultative status with ECOSOC. It will also review 375 quadrennial reports of organizations already in status.

For more information: <http://csonet.org/content/documents/InfoNote2012RegSession.pdf>

## Rio+20: Accreditation and registration now open

*Accreditation and registration to Rio+20 has started for relevant NGOs and other Major Groups, with a special one-time opportunity for newcomers not yet accredited*

The UN Conference on Sustainable Development, Rio+20, will take place in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil on 20-22 June with the goal of securing renewed political commitment for sustainable development, assessing the progress to date and the remaining gaps in the implementation of the outcomes of the major summits on sustainable development, and addressing new and emerging challenges.

The Conference will focus on two themes: (a) a green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication; and (b) the institutional framework for sustainable development.

Online pre-registration is open to organizations that are currently in consultation with ECOSOC as NGOs, including those on the roster through the list of the Commission on Sustainable Development. Organizations that were accredited to the World Summit on Sustainable Development in 2002 are also eligible to pre-register online immediately. Registration will close on 20 May 2012, and there will be no on-site registration in Rio de Janeiro.

Newcomers and organizations that are NOT yet accredited to the UN and wish to participate in Rio+20 will be offered a one-time opportunity for accreditation to Rio+20. The deadline for receiving new accreditation requests is 20 February. Once organizations have been approved for accreditation, they may begin to pre-register their delegates online until the general deadline of 20 May.

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

## Promoting development of national statistics

*The 43rd session of the Statistical Commission will be held from 28 February to 2 March at UN Headquarters in New York*

Crime statistics, agricultural statistics, environment statistics and energy statistics are some of the issues that will be addressed at the 43rd session of the Statistical Commission.

As in past years, two special seminars will be organized. The first on official statistics will take place on 24 February with the theme: "Counting the 7 Billion: The Future of Population and Housing Census". The High Level Forum will then take place on



27 February focusing on “Measuring the Unmeasurable: Challenging the Limits of Official Statistics”.

The United Nations Statistical Commission, established in 1947, is the apex entity of the global statistical system. It brings together the Chief Statisticians from member states from around the world. It is the highest decision making body for international statistical activities especially the setting of statistical standards, the development of concepts and methods and their implementation at the national and international level.

The Statistical Commission oversees the work of the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD), and is a Functional Commission of the UN Economic and Social Council.

For more information:

[http://unstats.un.org/unsd/statcom/commission\\_43rd\\_session.htm](http://unstats.un.org/unsd/statcom/commission_43rd_session.htm)

## Discussing the Rio+20 zero draft

*An informal meeting in preparation of the UN Conference on Sustainable Development took place at UN Headquarters on 25-27 January, with initial discussions on the zero draft of the Rio+20 outcome document*

Over the course of three days, Member States devoted three sessions to general discussions and comments, and three sessions to informal negotiations on Sections I and II of the zero draft, covering the Preamble/Stage setting and the objective of Renewing Political Commitment to sustainable development. Member States were invited to submit their written comments on those Sections by 23 January.

Likewise, Member States will have until 17 February to submit comments on Sections III, IV and V of the zero draft in time for further negotiations in March. More than 200 delegates from Major Groups were registered to participate in the meeting, and many held stakeholder consultations on the margins of the informal negotiating sessions between Governments.

The High-level Panel on Global Sustainability further briefed delegates on 25 January and UN DESA hosted a series of workshops for Major Groups and other stakeholders on the margins of Member State consultations and negotiations on the zero draft of the Rio+20 outcome document.

Developed for trainers, the workshops were designed to enhance awareness of the themes of sustainable development and build stakeholder capacity to engage with the intergovernmental process. Each workshop was built on previous training and provided participants with the most current information relevant to the Rio+20 process. Workshops will be hosted in New York in January, March and April; in Porto Alegre, Brazil on the margins

of the World Social Forum; and in São Paulo, Brazil in early February.

Check the official Rio+20 website for more details, including the zero draft: <http://www.uncsd2012.org/rio20/index.html>

Towards a new sustainable development architecture DCF Advisory Group Special Event was arranged on 29 November 2011, in conjunction with the Fourth High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness in Busan, Republic of South Korea

With the theme “Rethinking Development: Towards a New Sustainable Development Architecture”, the meeting was held in preparation for the 2012 DCF and as a contribution to the UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20).

The event discussed the implications of the sustainable development agenda for international development cooperation. It also debated the challenges and opportunities for donor and programme countries arising from the concept of sustainable development.

Also, the potential impact of this concept on aid quantity, quality and allocation between countries, regions and sectors was discussed. Participants came from developing and developed countries, civil society, parliamentarians, and international organizations.

For more information:

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

## Wide range of social issues addressed

*Member States call for inclusive and equitable development, the eradication of poverty and respect for human rights during the working session of the Third Committee that took place from 3 October to 23 November 2011*

When the Committee met to discuss social development during the 66th Session of the General Assembly, many issues were put on the table for consideration. The general discussion focused on the role of volunteerism, youth, persons with disabilities, older persons, families, social integration, cooperatives, and MDGs among others.

Seven resolutions were approved and one decision taken with the over arching message that economic and financial recovery and sustainable socio-economic development could not be achieved without the full and effective participation of all groups in society, the elimination of systemic inequality through respect for human rights and the promotion of inclusive social and economic policies.

The draft resolution on policies and programmes involving youth emphasized the importance of addressing youth employment issues and ensuring the full and effective participation of young people in society as a means not only for supporting youth development, but for effecting sustainable development as a whole.

Similarly, the resolutions on ageing, family, persons with disabilities and follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development, emphasised the centrality of the equality of individuals and social inclusion to strong social and economic development at all levels.

Special emphasis was placed on the inclusion of persons with disabilities in social development efforts, and the General Assembly has called for a High level Meeting on the Realization of the Millennium Development Goals and other internationally agreed development goals for person with disabilities. This event will take place on 23 September 2013, before the start of the general debate of the 68th session.

For more information:

<http://social.un.org/index/Home/GAThirdCommittee.aspx>

## Trends and Analysis

### IGF convenes meetings in Geneva

*The Internet Governance Forum (IGF) will hold Open Consultations and a meeting of the Multi-Stakeholder Advisory Group (MAG) on 14-16 February in Geneva, Switzerland*

The meetings will take stock of the Nairobi 2011 IGF annual meeting and focus on discussions on the programme and schedule of the 2012 IGF meeting that will take place in Baku, Azerbaijan. Mr. Elmira Velizadeh, Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Communication and Information Technologies of the Republic of Azerbaijan will chair the meetings.

The MAG currently consists of 55 Members from governments, the private sector and civil society, intergovernmental organisations including representatives from the academic and technical communities.

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

### Employing youth for a better future

*ECOSOC will hold an exclusive event, "Breaking new ground: Partnerships for more and better jobs for young people" on 27 February from 3:00 to 6:00 pm at UN Headquarters in New York*

This event will serve as part of the preparatory process for the ECOSOC's 2012 Annual Ministerial Review (AMR) on "Promoting productive capacity, employment and decent work to eradicate poverty in the context of inclusive, sustainable and equitable economic growth at all levels for achieving the MDGs", and is organized by UN DESA and the International Labour Organization (ILO), in collaboration with the UN Office for Partnerships (UNOP) and the United Nations Global Compact.

The event will seek to strengthen the partnership between governments, the private sector and the philanthropic community in advancing youth employment and decent work. The themes to be explored will include issues affecting policy setting for youth employment and innovations for promoting youth employment. The outcome of the deliberations will be submitted to the Member States during the ECOSOC High-level session in July 2012.

The programme will consist of an opening plenary, to be followed by two leadership dialogues on "Innovations in promoting youth employment" and "Creating a new dynamic for youth at work". The key outcomes of the exclusive event will be to provide increased focus to issues central to the achievement of promoting youth employment and decent work for all, through:

- broadening of the range of stakeholders involved in the work of ECOSOC, as well as increasing the awareness amongst the philanthropic community on the progress made and the challenges faced in achieving MDG 1;
- promoting concrete initiatives by the philanthropic community and initiating new partnerships that would accelerate progress in reaching the targets in MDG 1; and
- expanding multi-stakeholder engagement in the international community's efforts to help advance the achievement of the two priority areas mentioned above.

The event has a number of co-convenors dedicated to strengthening multi-stakeholder partnerships in support of youth employment, including UNDP, UNICEF, UNFPA, the World Bank, Committee Encouraging Corporate Philanthropy, Clinton Global Initiative, Princes Youth Business International, United Nations Foundation, Young Americas Business Trust, Youth Employment Network and the Youth Employment Summit.

For more information:

<http://www.un.org/en/ecosoc/philanthropy1/index.shtml>

### UN DESA and UNU-IIST to collaborate on e-Government

*After a presentation made by Mr. Tomasz Janowski, Senior Research Fellow, UN University – International Institute for Software Technology (UNU-IIST) on 10 January, the Division for Public Administration and Development Management (DPADM) and UNU-IIST agreed to collaborate*

The presentation introduced the concept of electronic governance for sustainable development (EGOV4SD) by systematically mapping the sustainable development (SD) and EGOV domains and presenting examples from around the world on how EGOV is being applied to advance the social, environmental, economic and transitional SD goals.

It explained the fundamental challenges in realizing the transition from EGOV to EGOV4SD and proposed an international research, development, monitoring and education agenda to address such challenges. Haiyan Qian thanked Mr. Janowski for the presentation, noting that the research findings of UNU-IIST were in line with DPADM's work in the context of the UN E-Government Survey 2012: E-Government for Sustainable Development.

The collaboration will focus on: (i) strengthening the UN E-Government Survey platform by providing DPADM data as a benchmarking resource specifically for policy makers to carry out selection which will enable the creation of an instrument to reflect local conditions and priorities, and (ii) developing a

Global Chief Information Officer (CIO) curriculum for the UN Member States based on the joint research of UNDESA/DPADM and UNU-IIST.

For more information:

<http://www.unpan.org/DPADM/Home/BilateralMeetingsInHouseSeminars/tabid/1511/language/en-US/Default.aspx>

## Recognizing important role of e-government

*On 22 December 2011, the General Assembly adopted the resolution A/66/437 on “Information and communications technologies for development”, recognizing the important roles of e-government, enhanced cooperation on public policy issues pertaining to the Internet and the Internet Governance Forum (IGF).*

The resolution mentions UN DESA particularly, taking note of the department’s work in the area of enhanced cooperation on public policy issues pertaining to the Internet (for the first time for this particular topic). The resolution also acknowledges the positive trends of e-government among others (also for the first time) and stresses the important role of governments in the design of their national public policies and in the provision of public services responsive to national needs and priorities through, inter alia, the effective use of information and communication technologies.

In addition, the resolution appreciates the role of the United Nations Group on the Information Society (UNGIS) as an inter-agency mechanism designed to coordinate the United Nations implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS). DESA is currently a Vice-Chair of UNGIS, together with ITU as Chair and UNESCO as another Vice-Chair.

For more information:

<http://unpan1.un.org/intradoc/groups/public/documents/un/unpan048016.pdf>

## WESP 2012: Worldwide launch and live Facebook chat

*The World Economic Situation and Prospects (WESP) 2012 was launched on multi-city locations on 17, 18 and 19 January, followed by a live Facebook chat on 20 January on the world economy*

The world economy is teetering on the brink of another major downturn. As in 2008, economic woes in the major developed economies are weakening economic prospects around the world.

This and other findings were presented as DESA’s flagship report the World Economic Situation and Prospects (WESP) 2012 was launched on 17 January in Addis Ababa, Beijing, Geneva, Johannesburg, Moscow and New Delhi. Regional releases of the report followed in Mexico City on 18 January; and in Bangkok and Beirut on 19 January.

There are multiple concerns, but policymakers throughout Europe and the United States are mainly fixated on reducing large fiscal deficits and public debt. The concerns are serious, and the ongoing sovereign debt crises in the euro zone have been a source of continuous turmoil in financial markets.

Unfortunately, the present policy responses are highly inadequate. Most developed economies have phased out stimulus measures and shifted to fiscal austerity. With unemployment rates remaining very high and financial sectors still clogged, this approach is pulling the plug on the recovery by exacerbating the lack of aggregate demand, further weakening the prospects for jobs recovery and economic development in the longer run.

Bleaker medium and long-term growth prospects would also undermine the financial sustainability of health and pension systems over time, thus achieving precisely the opposite of what policymakers are aiming at through fiscal austerity.

Is there an alternative? Yes. As shown in the WESP 2012, many developed countries have more than adequate fiscal space for additional stimulus. If well targeted at job creation and green growth and adequately coordinated internationally, additional stimulus could quicken the recovery and put the global economy on a more balanced and sustainable growth path.

In conjunction with the launch of the report, the Development Policy and Analysis Division (DPAD) of UN DESA organized a live chat on Facebook to answer questions concerning the risks and opportunities for the world economy, as well as the scope for policy action in the year ahead. The online chat was led by Rob Vos, Director of DPAD, and included economists from the Global Economic Monitoring Unit.

For more information:

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

## Targeting violence against indigenous women and girls

*A three-day expert group meeting was held in New York on the theme “Combating violence against indigenous women and girls: article 22 of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples” on 18-20 January*

Throughout the world, indigenous women and girls are exposed to diverse forms of physical, psychological and sexual violence. This is a significant obstacle to the capacity and potential of indigenous women and girls to exercise their rights to participate fully in society.

This pressing reality, as detailed in the concept note prepared by the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous issues, laid the foundation for the three-day international expert group meeting.

Ms. Daniela Bas, Director of DESA's Division for Social Policy and Development (DSPD) highlighted the fact that this meeting is the "first one addressing the issue of violence against indigenous women and girls." Ms. Bas went on to say that it "shows that the Permanent Forum is addressing an issue that is critical and resonates with governments, indigenous peoples and the UN system."

The Expert Group meeting was attended by experts on indigenous issues, members of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, participants from the UN system, Member States, indigenous peoples and other organizations.

The attendees discussed the way in which the UNPFII should address its mandate under Article 22 of the Declaration which ensures that indigenous women and children enjoy the full protection and guarantees against all forms of violence and discrimination.

During the meeting, the "experts will analyze the human rights enshrined within international standards and policies and will indicate how these respond to the challenge of advancing the rights of indigenous women and girls", said Ms. Chandra Roy-Henriksen, Chief, Secretariat of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues.

The results of the meeting will be reported to the Permanent Forum at its eleventh session in May, to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session starting in September and to the Commission on the Status of Women at its fifty-sixth session beginning on 27 February.

For more information: <http://bit.ly/IndigenousIssues>

## Capacity Development

### Capacity building sessions at UNEP Governing Council

*In an ongoing series of workshops hosted by UN DESA, training will be offered to Major groups on the margins of the 12th Governing Council Session of UNEP in Nairobi on 20-22 February*

Developed for trainers, the workshops are designed to enhance awareness of the themes of sustainable development and build stakeholder capacity to engage with the intergovernmental process. Each workshop builds on previous training and provides participants with the most current information relevant to the Rio+20 process.

Workshops will be hosted in New York in January, March and April; in Porto Alegre, Brazil on the margins of the World Social Forum; and in São Paulo, Brazil in early February.

For more information:  
<http://hqweb.unep.org/Documents.multilingual/Default.asp?DocumentID=75>

### Underscoring the importance of e-government

*Haiyan Qian, the Director of UN DESA's Division for Public Administration Development Management (DPADM) delivered a keynote address at the "International Seminar on e-Government Best Practices" taking place in Bogotá, Colombia on 13-14 December, 2011*

Ms. Qian highlighted the importance of e-government as the foundation for holistic government operations as opposed to a technological add-on, in government relations with citizens and the private sector.

She further pointed out objective indicators and benchmarking policy tools to engage citizens as co-producers in decision-making processes leading to enhanced public service delivery. Noting Colombia's leading position in Latin America and 9th position worldwide in relation to having an online presence and based on the most recent UN e-Government Survey, she acknowledged the high level leadership of the government in harmonizing national development policies with their e-Government Programme.

Columbia's Ministry of Information and Communication Technology organized the seminar and heard Haiyan Qian's

statements via video. DPADM's IRA, Mr. Jonas Rabinovitch added to Haiyan Qian's statements by elaborating on how e-government (including e-infrastructure, e-literacy and e-service) and e-governance (comprised of e-information, e-consultation and e-decision-making) can compliment each other.

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

## Publications and Websites

### Technical reports

#### World Youth Report 2011: youth perspectives on the pursuit of decent work in changing times



The World Youth Report, to be officially released on 6 February, explores the transition of young people from schools and training institutions into the labour market, a phase marking a critical period in the life cycle. The current employment scenario for

young people, worsened by the global economic crisis, poses an urgent challenge with long-term implications for both young people and society as a whole.

For the first time, the 2011 edition of the World Youth Report is largely dedicated to the voices of young people themselves. The report is based on contributions from youth and representatives of youth-led organizations to an e-discussion, in which they shared their own views, experiences and recommendations on preparing for, entering, and remaining active in the workforce. The 2011 edition of the report is also the first to be produced in an interactive website that allows readers to engage on youth employment issues: how young people are experiencing and addressing employment challenges; where and how young people are succeeding in employment; how youth employment interacts with social practices; and what Governments can do to help prepare young people in the transition from education to work.

The report aims to shed light on such complex issues, while bringing the voices of young people themselves into fora where youth issues are discussed and acted upon. The report will be officially launched at a side event to the Commission on Social Development on 6 February, at 1:15-2:30 pm in Conference Room 7 (NLB), bringing together main contributors to the report as well as representatives from Member States, the UN system, youth and the private sector.

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

#### World Economic Situation and Prospects 2012



The report, released on 17 January, is now available online. According to this flagship publication, the global economic growth started to decelerate on a broad front in mid-2011 and is estimated to have averaged 2.8 per cent over the last year. This slowdown is expected to continue into 2012 and 2013. The UN baseline forecast for the growth of world

gross product (WGP) is 2.6 per cent for 2012 and 3.2 per cent for 2013, which is below the pre-crisis pace of global growth.

The report is also available now in [Kindle](#), [Nook](#) and [iBook](#).

### Statistical compilations

#### 2010 Revision of the World Population Prospects Volume II: Demographic Profiles

This report presents the highlights of the results of the 2010 Revision of the official United Nations population estimates and projections prepared by the Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat. The 2010 Revision constitutes the twenty second round of the global population estimates and projections produced by the Population Division since 1951.

The 2010 Revision breaks new ground in the production of population projections. It is the first standard Revision to include projections up to 2100 for all countries and areas of the world. Previous Revisions presented country projections only for the period ending in 2050. In order to extend the projection period to 2100, a new method for the projection of fertility had to be developed. The method used in the 2010 Revision is based on the advances made in projecting fertility since the 2000 Revision, advances that have been combined with a probabilistic approach to yield the future paths of fertility used in producing the medium variant of the 2010 Revision. The standard output of the 2010 Revision does not, however, include fully probabilistic projections. The standard output of the 2010 Revision includes only the usual projection variants and scenarios included in other Revisions of World Population Prospects.

To download:

[http://esa.un.org/unpd/wpp/Documentation/pdf/WPP2010\\_Volume-II\\_Demographic-Profiles.pdf](http://esa.un.org/unpd/wpp/Documentation/pdf/WPP2010_Volume-II_Demographic-Profiles.pdf)

In addition, the Population Division has now made available the country profiles in individual pdf-files for each country and all major regions of the world. The profiles can be found at: [http://esa.un.org/unpd/wpp/Multiple-Figures/multiple-figures\\_1.htm](http://esa.un.org/unpd/wpp/Multiple-Figures/multiple-figures_1.htm)

#### Rural Population, Development and the Environment 2011

The wall chart, prepared by UN DESA's Population Division, presents the latest data available for 15 indicators of rural population, land use, development and environment. It provides estimates at the national, regional and world levels.

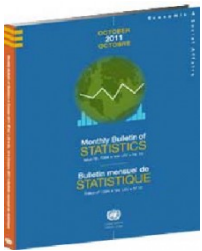
For more information: <http://bit.ly/RuralPopWallChart>

## Urban Population, Development and the Environment 2011

The wall chart, prepared by UN DESA's Population Division, presents the latest data available for 15 indicators of urban population, living conditions in urban settlements and economic development. It provides estimates at the national, regional and world levels.

For more information: <http://bit.ly/UrbanPopWallChart>

## Monthly Bulletin of Statistics and MBS Online



The Monthly Bulletin of Statistics presents current economic and social statistics for more than 200 countries and territories of the world. It contains over 50 tables of monthly and/or bimonthly, quarterly and annual data on a variety of subjects illustrating important economic trends and developments, including population, prices, employment and earnings, energy, manufacturing, transport, construction, international merchandise trade and finance.

Vol. LXV – No. 12, December 2011

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 UN officials; Earnings in non-agricultural activities, by sex; Fuel imports of developed economies; External trade conversion factors; Manufactured goods exports; and Selected series of world statistics..

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

## Outreach material

### Rio+20: Making it Happen

Demographic trends are placing more pressure on water-stressed regions than ever before. With the global population expected to increase by up to 50 per-cent in the next fifty years, sustainable management of water resources will present a significant development challenge. In Volume 2, Issue 24, the Rio+20: Making it Happen newsletter focuses on water, one of the seven priority issues that the Conference will address. Also in this issue, news from the 66th session of the UN General Assembly as it wraps up the work of its main session, important deadlines for Rio+20, and the updated negotiating schedule for the UNCSD.

For more information:

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

## DESA NGO News

The latest issue highlights the 2012 regular session of the Committee on NGOs and its work ahead as well as the five-year action plan outlined by the Secretary-General to build “the future we want”. It also spotlights the fact that 740 ECOSOC NGOs need to submit their quadrennial reports in 2012, and that an updated list of all 3,536 organizations in consultative status was published late last year.

The online monthly newsletter is issued monthly in electronic format to subscribers in English, French and Spanish, providing the most up-to-date information on news and upcoming events of interest to civil society at UN headquarters in New York, Geneva and elsewhere.

For more information: <http://csonet.org/?menu=124>

## Discussion papers

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

The December issue of the Monthly Briefing of the World Economic Situation and Prospects, No. 38, highlights the grim prospects for the world economy in the coming year. The most pressing challenge is the continued jobs crisis and the declining prospects for economic growth, especially among developed countries. In this context, fiscal austerity measures can only hamper recovery by curtailing aggregate demand in the short run with negative effects on employment and incomes.

For more information:

[http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/policy/wesp/wesp\\_mb/wesp\\_mb38.pdf](http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/policy/wesp/wesp_mb/wesp_mb38.pdf)

## Working papers

### Beyond market access: Trade-related measures for the least developed countries. What strategy?

This paper assesses the effectiveness of non-tariff special and differential treatment (SDT) offered exclusively to the least developed countries by WTO agreements. SDTs are inefficient in at least four aspects. First, they are not easily accessed as they require a certain level of institutional capacity. Second, when accessible they either need to be complemented by other policy interventions or are offset by measures taken elsewhere. Third, some do not respond to LDC needs. Fourth, many are too



vaguely defined to provide concrete benefits. Effectiveness can be enhanced by increased LDC ownership and improved policy coherence by trading and development partners.

To download:

<http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/papers/2011/outline.shtml#109>

## Policy briefs

### Can a protracted slowdown be avoided?

UN DESA Policy Brief No. 36, by Oliver Paddison and Rob Vos of DPAD/DESA, states that the world economy is teetering on the brink of another major downturn. As in 2008, economic woes in the major developed economies are weakening economic prospects around the world. There are multiple concerns, but policymakers throughout Europe and the United States are mainly fixated on reducing large fiscal deficits and public debt. The concerns are serious, and the ongoing sovereign debt crises in the euro zone have been a source of continuous turmoil in financial markets.

For more information:

[http://dev.un.org/en/development/desa/policy/publications/policy\\_briefs/policybrief36.pdf](http://dev.un.org/en/development/desa/policy/publications/policy_briefs/policybrief36.pdf)

# Comings and Goings

## Goings



**Ms. Hania Zlotnik**, Director of UN DESA's Population Division, retired at the end of January 2012. A Mexican national, Ms. Zlotnik studied mathematics at the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM) and holds a Ph.D. in Statistics and Demography from Princeton University.

During her long career at the Division, which she joined in 1982, Ms. Zlotnik has worked in all the major areas of population research, serving as Chief of the Mortality and Migration Section (1993-1999), chief of the Population Estimates and Projections Section (1999-2003), and Assistant Director (2003-2005), overseeing work on fertility, mortality and migration. She was appointed Director of the Population Division in February 2005; she is the tenth person to serve as Director of the Division and the first woman to do so.

Ms. Zlotnik has edited or written numerous reports published by the United Nations, including studies of international migration and development, trends in international migration, female migration, population distribution and migration, population estimates and projections, population ageing, and levels and trends of urbanization. Her work has contributed in particular to provide better estimates of international migration worldwide and to the improvement of statistics on international migration.

Ms. Zlotnik has been an active member of several professional associations, serving as Board Member for the Population Association of America from 2001 to 2003 and as Vice-President of the International Union for the Study of Population (IUSSP) from 2001 to 2005.

*The following staff members also retired in January:*

Muhammad A Chaudhry, Chief of Branch, Division for Sustainable Development

Tegest Debebe Haile, Programming Assistant, Statistics Division

## Comings



**Ms. Wenyan Yang** has been appointed Chief of the Social Perspective on Development Branch (SPDB) within the Division for Social Policy and Development (DSPD). Previously Senior Social Affairs Officer in DSPD, she is the Division's focal point supporting the work of the Commission for Social Development and plays a key role in the preparation of the publication Report on World Social Situation.

Previously, as Acting Chief of the Coordination and Outreach Unit, she was responsible for implementing overall outreach and communications activities in the UN Division for the Advancement of Women and for facilitation of the Non-Governmental Organization participation in the UN intergovernmental processes, especially the Commission on the Status of Women and the Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Violence against Women.

She started her UN career as an Economic Affairs Officer in the Macroeconomic and Development Policy Analysis Division, contributing to the major departmental publication World Economic and Social Survey.

Ms. Wenyan is a graduate of Peking University in China and New York University in the US.

# Calendar

## February

### 2012 regular session of the Committee on NGOs

New York, 30 January - 8 February, and on 17 February

<http://csonet.org/content/documents/InfoNote2012RegSession.pdf>

### Commission for Social Development

50<sup>th</sup> Session, New York, 1-10 February

<http://social.un.org/index/CommissionforSocialDevelopment/Sessions/2012.aspx>

### Interactive dialogues on the International Year of Cooperatives 2012

New York, 1-2 February

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

### Interactive dialogue on the current economic and financial situation

New York, 7 February

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

### Development Cooperation Forum (DCF) preparatory meeting on “The Changing Context of Development: What does it mean for Cooperation and Global Partnership”

New York, 9 February

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

### International Year of Forests 2011 closing ceremony

New York, 9 February

<http://www.un.org/forests>

### IGF holds Open Consultations and Multi-Stakeholder Advisory Group (MAG) meeting

Geneva, 14-16 February

<http://www.intgovforum.org/cms/>

### Training offered to Major groups on the margins of the 12th Governing Council Session of UNEP

Nairobi, 20-22 February

<http://hqweb.unep.org/Documents.multilingual/Default.asp?DocumentID=75>

### ECOSOC exclusive event “Breaking new ground: Partnerships for more and better jobs for young people”

New York, 27 February

<http://www.un.org/en/ecosoc/philanthropy1/index.shtml>

### Statistical Commission

43<sup>rd</sup> session, New York, 28 February – 2 March

<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/statcom/commission.htm>

## March

### 3rd Intersessional Meeting of the UN Conference on Sustainable Development

New York, 26-27 March

<http://www.unccd2012.org/rio20/index.php?page=view&type=13&nr=46&menu=25>

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.