

Geena Davis joins hangout to empower young women through technology | Watch live event marking Rio+20 anniversary | Awards to celebrate excellence in public service

Global dialogue on development: A renewed global partnership for post-2015 development, Environmental-economics takes centre stage, A collective vision of sustainable development

Trends and analysis: Strategies towards environmental-economic accounting, UN Public Service Forum up close

Capacity development: Innovative approaches to data dissemination

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

Feature Articles

Geena Davis joins hangout to empower young women through technology

Around the globe, women are less likely than men to have access to technology. This is a gap that exists in developing and developed countries alike. With an aim to address this issue and propose ways to empower young women, ECOSOC and ITU are hosting a Google+ Hangout on 6 June featuring Academy Award-winning actress and ITU Special Envoy for Women and Girls in ICT, Ms. Geena Davis.



This year, the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) is putting a spotlight on “Science, technology and innovation, and the potential of culture, for promoting sustainable development and achieving the MDGs”, as part of its Annual Ministerial Review (AMR) taking place during the Council’s annual meeting in Geneva this July.

Ahead of this major event, the Council is making every effort to bring the voices of youth into the important discussions and decisions to take place in Geneva, through its major online campaign “Innovate Your Future”, featured on Facebook, Twitter and Thunderclap. The campaign seeks worldwide support to help empower youth and shape future innovators.

Turning the spotlight on women and girls

As part of this campaign, ECOSOC is teaming up with the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), to host a Google+ Hangout on 6 June at 2pm EDT (6pm GMT), featuring Ms. Geena Davis, founder of the Geena Davis Institute on Gender in Media, the only research-based organization working within the media and entertainment industry to engage, educate, and influence the need for gender balance, reducing stereotyping and creating a wide variety of female characters for entertainment targeting children.

Moderated by Gary Fowlie, Head of the liaison office of ITU in New York, the Hangout “Innovate Your Future: Empower Young Women through Technology”, will gather a number of prominent panelists for a live discussion on the [UN Google+ platform](#), highlighting the potential of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) in advancing gender

equality and in contributing to bridging the digital divide between women and men.

In her capacity as Special Envoy and through her pioneering work at the Geena Davis Institute on Gender in Media, Ms. Davis has become a powerful global voice on the importance of gender equality in media and the empowering potential of technology for women and girls.

“The stark gender inequality in media aimed at children is of significant importance to our discussion on women and girls in ICTs, as TV and movies can yield enormous influence on young children as they are developing their idea of their role in society, and thinking about career choices,” Ms. Davis said in her acceptance speech as she was awarded the 2012 ITU World Telecommunication and Information Society Award last year.

Ms. Davis also underscored the opportunities to empower women and girls using ICTs. “Improving media images is just one facet of empowering women and girls. Real and significant change in the status of women and girls is already underway and I believe ICT will lead the way toward equality,” she said. In her capacity as Special Envoy, Ms. Davis is also promoting the ITU Tech Needs Girls campaign, a three-year initiative seeking to raise global awareness of the role ICTs can play in empowering women.

Spurring gender equality in ICTs

Other panelists who will join Ms. Davis on 6 June include Mr. Ahmad Alhendawi, the UN Secretary-General’s Envoy on Youth; Ms. Doreen Bogdan, Chief Strategic Planning and Membership, ITU; Ms. Stacy Martinet, Chief Marketing Officer, Mashable; and Ms. Blair Christie, Senior Vice-President, Government Affairs & Global Corporate Communications of Cisco.

In addition to discussing the role of media, other topics for the live hangout will include the promotion of female participation in the ICT sector, establishing access through better infrastructure and the vital role of education, tapping into the potentials within this field.

“Women’s access to ICTs and particularly broadband must be made a key pillar of the post-2015 global development agenda,” Dr. Hamadou I. Touré, ITU Secretary-General and co-Vice Chair of the Commission, said as a new target was adopted by the UN Broadband Commission to get more women connected to ICTs, mandating ‘gender equality in broadband access by the year 2020’.

Dr. Touré pointed to figures from ITU and other agencies showing a clear ‘gender gap’ in access to technology. “We need to redress that imbalance to ensure that all people are empowered to take control of their own destinies through ICTs,” he said.

For more information:

[Google+ Hangout “Innovate Your Future: Empower Young Women through Technology” \(6 June, 2pm EDT\)](#)

[Share ideas and questions with ECOSOC on Facebook ahead of this hangout](#)

[Show support for youth worldwide on Thunderclap](#)

[ECOSOC’s Innovate Your Future Campaign](#)

[Geena Davis Institute on Gender in Media](#)

[ITU – ITU \(International Telecommunication Union\)](#)

[UN Google+ page](#)

Watch live event marking Rio+20 anniversary

Last year, people from across the globe came together at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20). They decided on a broad range of measures to achieve a more sustainable future. One year later, the momentum for action remains strong. Tune in for a live Google+ hangout on 13 June with DESA’s Under-Secretary-General Wu Hongbo, to mark the one year anniversary of this milestone event.



Rio+20 was the largest UN conference ever, bringing together 50,000 people representing governments, civil society, media and academia. The Conference adopted the historic outcome document -The Future We Want. Over 1300 voluntary commitments were made since the Rio+20 Conference took place.

Celebrating the one year anniversary, DESA’s Under-Secretary-General Mr. Wu Hongbo is bringing together a high-level panel of participants involved in realizing the commitments made, in facilitating the intergovernmental discussions on sustainable development goals and in ensuring an inclusive process involving all nine major groups.

Mr. Wu encourages everyone to “Find out what actions have been taken since Rio+20”. He invites the online community to

watch the live event on 13 June at 11 am EDT and to submit questions in advance using the Twitter hashtag #SDinAction. The event will offer valuable insights into the work currently carried out to ensure a successful path towards the future we want.

Taking place on the UN Google+ page, the event will be moderated by Mr. Nikhil Seth, Director of DESA's Division for Sustainable Development and former Head of the Rio+20 Secretariat. It will feature panelists including representatives who are actively involved in the General Assembly's Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals, as well as representatives from the Major Groups.

Sustainable development goals

One of the main results of Rio+20 was the agreement to develop a set of sustainable development goals (SDGs). The conference did not elaborate on specific goals, but stated that the SDGs should be limited in number, action-oriented, concise, easy to communicate, aspirational, global in nature and universally applicable.

The inter-governmental Open Working Group mandated to submit a proposal for sustainable development goals for consideration and appropriate action to the 68th Session of the General Assembly was established in January of this year and is co-chaired by the Permanent Representatives of Kenya and Hungary. With representatives from the Open Working Group participating in the hangout, it will offer an update on where we are in the discussions on these goals.

"The SDGs have the potential for accelerating and continuing the work begun with the MDGs. They will also take into account the long-term sustainability of poverty eradication and development outcomes, in all countries across the world," said Mr. Wu, as the working group met earlier this spring.

Ensuring an inclusive process towards the future we want

Since the first Earth Summit in 1992, it was recognized that sustainable development could not be achieved by governments alone. Reflected in the outcome document from that event, "Agenda 21", the need to harness expertise and capacity from all sectors of society and all types of people was underscored.

There are today nine major groups representing children and youth; business and industry; farmers; indigenous peoples; local authorities; NGOs; the scientific and technological community; women and workers and trade unions. Side by side with UN agencies, Member States and other international stakeholders, they are working to ensure that we stay on course towards a more sustainable future.

"We have embarked on a historic journey. It will not be easy. In fact, if there is something we can already agree on, it is that this journey will be arduous. Difficult as it is, we will reach our shared destination. We owe this to our children and grandchildren. We have the historic responsibility and the opportunity to contribute to

a better world for them. Let us seize that opportunity," concluded Mr. Wu as he addressed the open working group earlier this spring.

Be sure to watch the hangout event on 13 June at 11 am EDT and listen to the live discussion with Mr. Wu and the representatives from the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals, as well as from the Major Groups.

Get engaged. Get involved. And be inspired. Join the debate and make changes happen.

For more information:

[One year after Rio+20 – Google+ Hangout on 13 June](#)

[UN Google+ page](#)

[UN Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform](#)

[General Assembly's Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals](#)

[Major groups](#)

[Rio+20 Outcome document "The Future We Want"](#)

Awards to celebrate excellence in public service

Hundreds of participants are expected to witness the most prestigious international recognition of innovation in public service at the United Nations Public Service Forum, Day and Awards Ceremony, to be held in Manama, Kingdom of Bahrain, from 24 to 27 June.



To have a strong, efficient, and professional public service is one of the key factors in the development process. One way to promote good practices is to recognize initiatives behind innovation, improvement and implementation of groundbreaking projects in the delivery of public services.

Since 2003, the United Nations Public Service Awards, given each year on 23 June, the day designated by the General Assembly as United Nations Public Service Day to "celebrate

the value and virtue of service to the community”, have recognized and promoted the role, professionalism and visibility of public administration and fostered improvements in public administration worldwide.

Nominations are open to public organizations of all kinds, including governments and public-private partnerships, in delivering public services. It rewards the creative achievements and contributions of public service institutions that lead to a more effective and responsive public administration in countries worldwide.

Highlights from 2012

Last year, several initiatives were honored. Among them were the New York 311 initiative and a law that was approved in India to make requests from citizens to local authorities clearer and faster.

The 311 initiative consisted of a telephone number to guide people to get their demands solved. The initiative has had a direct impact on reducing the time needed for solutions and has reduced waste of state capacity when wrongly contacted. Saadia Chaudry, Call Center Director, said that “when citizens don’t know what agency to call to get help, they call us, and in some cases 311 talks to the agencies for them”.

The Public Service Delivery Management Act, enacted by the Government of Madhya Pradesh, India, provides that public services should be delivered within a certain time frame, and when this does not happen, administrative personnel are fined and citizens can contact higher authorities to get their problem solved. It has had a positive impact on reducing time for delivering public services and made the system more transparent and accountable.

The 2013 Awards

This year, the award puts a spotlight on five categories:

1. Preventing and combating corruption in the public service
2. Improving the delivery of public services,
3. Fostering participation in public policy decision-making through innovative mechanisms
4. Promoting whole-of-government approaches in the information age
5. Promoting gender-responsive delivery of public services.

In each of these categories initiatives are awarded by region: Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Europe and North America, Latin America and the Caribbean, and Western Asia.

The initiatives that have won this year’s awards have been recently announced, and among them there are projects to increase transparency in the decision-making process in Moldova, to provide children in Peru with ID cards and the creation of a Government Contact Centre in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates.

Each year the winners of the UN Public Service Awards are selected from the finalists in each category and region by the United Nations Committee of Experts on Public Administration,

and this year will be recognized for their achievements on the last day of the Forum at the Awards Ceremony. The event will take place in Manama, Kingdom of Bahrain, from 24 to 27 June. The Forum, which this year will focus on the theme of “Transformative e-Government and Innovation: Creating a Better Future for All”, is organized by DESA’s Division for Public Administration and Development Management (DPADM) and the Government of the Kingdom of Bahrain, in partnership with UN-WOMEN and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UN-ESCWA).

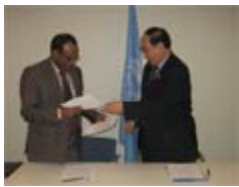
For more information:

[United Nations Public Service Forum](#)

Global Dialogue on Development

A renewed global partnership for post-2015 development

The Development Cooperation Forum is launching a dialogue on a renewed global partnership beyond 2015 with stakeholders in a High-Level Symposium in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on 6-7 June



The world has changed significantly since the adoption of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in 2000. Many challenges that require truly global responses, such as climate change, environmental degradation, demographic

dynamics and rising inequalities among countries have become only more pressing. The development landscape has also changed. Southern economies are playing a larger role in development cooperation, as are other actors, including the private sector, philanthropic organizations, civil society organizations and local authorities.

A new development landscape

South-South Cooperation, which has existed for around six decades, is increasing in prominence. Driven by the principles of solidarity and the promotion of self-reliance and self-help, Southern partners in development have formed important cooperation with other countries in their own regions and beyond. They provide financial contributions, technical assistance, capacity building, skill and personnel exchange and technological transfer.

At the sub-national level, local constituencies and parliamentarians play an important role in implementing a global development agenda and monitoring its implementation. Parliamentarians serve an important role as independent oversight and accountability bodies to advance progress on the MDGs and other internationally agreed development goals and will surely do so in relation to the post-2015 development agenda.

Non-governmental actors, such as civil society organizations, academia and think tanks, the private sector and philanthropic organizations are also increasingly active in development cooperation. They provide substantial support in terms of financial resources, awareness raising and mobilization of people, as well as personnel contributions. A large amount of philanthropic organizations these days stems from developing countries. Civil society organizations, especially those in developing countries, can help to reach people on the ground or those that are most vulnerable and hardest to reach.

The global partnership for development in the post-2015 era will have not only find ways of addressing the new challenges and completing any unfinished business of the MDGs; it must also reflect the many actors engaged in development cooperation and their comparative strengths. Engaging these actors in the post-2015 development agenda will make a significant contribution to achieving it.

Launching a dialogue on a renewed global partnership for development

With its multi-stakeholder nature and global convening power, the Development Cooperation Forum (DCF) fosters global dialogue and policy review on international development cooperation. As a key function of the Economic and Social Council, the DCF serves to improve the coherence and effectiveness of development cooperation, in producing policy guidance and practical recommendations. Preparations are in full swing for the fourth DCF, to be held in New York in July 2014.

The 2013 DCF Ethiopia High-Level Symposium

As discussions on a post-2015 development agenda accelerate, the DCF is supporting the process by advancing the dialogue on the future of development cooperation in the post-2015 setting, with active participation from the different stakeholders.

With this objective, the DCF is organizing this High-Level Symposium on 6 – 7 June in partnership with the Government of Ethiopia. The symposium will give participants the opportunity to engage on the potential role, principles and strategic priorities of a renewed global partnership for development, as well as its key features and working practices. The symposium will also consider what could be the role of enhanced monitoring and accountability to underpin such a partnership.

“The outcomes of this symposium will directly contribute to the deliberations on the post-2015 UN development agenda and provide important recommendations for the 2014 ECOSOC DCF” said DESA’s Under-Secretary-General Wu Hongbo. “The findings will also be relevant for the Open Working Group when discussing a global partnership for sustainable development in December 2013.”

The symposium will engage senior representatives from developing and developed countries, parliamentarians, civil society, the private sector and international organizations to discuss their experiences with the current global partnership and expectations for how it should work in the post-2015 setting.

A number of pre-meetings and side events will allow stakeholders to further deepen these discussions. They will include events for civil society, least developed countries, members of parliament, members of the Steering Committee of the Global partnership for effective development cooperation and the DCF Advisory Group. A meeting of Directors-General of Southern partners in development cooperation will also be

convened jointly by DESA and Ethiopia on the afternoon on 7 June.

For more information:

[2013 Ethiopia High-Level Symposium on “A renewed global partnership for development for a post-2015 era”](#)

Environmental-economics takes centre stage

DESA’s Statistics Division will hold an International Conference on the Global Implementation Programme for the SEEA in New York on 19-21 June



The United Nations Statistical Commission at its 44th Session adopted the implementation strategy for the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA) Central Framework and urged the UN Committee of Experts

on Environmental-Economic Accounting (UNCEEA) to agree on a medium-term programme of work for the implementation of the SEEA.

DESA’s Statistics Division, in collaboration with CBD, EEA, Eurostat, FAO, IMF, OECD, UNDP, UNEP and the World Bank, is organizing a high-level International Conference “Global Implementation Programme for the SEEA” in the context of the post-2015 development agenda and broader measures of progress.

The overall objectives are to facilitate the implementation and outreach of the SEEA, supporting statistics at the country level and to improve the scope, quality and detail of environmental-economic accounts. The Conference will provide a forum for various stakeholders to discuss the SEEA implementation strategy and its links to policies. The outcome of the Conference will be used to formulate recommendations that will be presented to the UNCEEA and subsequently to the United Nations Statistical Commission at its next session in 2014.

For more information:

[Calendar of Events of DESA’s Statistics Division](#)

A collective vision of sustainable development

In collaboration with the Permanent Mission of Austria to the United Nations, DESA’s Division for Public Administration and Development Management (DPADM) organized a high-level Panel on Safeguarding Financing for Sustainable Development in New York on May 28



As a follow-up to the 22nd UN/INTOSAI Symposium in Vienna in March 2013, the objective of this High-level Panel was to bring to the attention of Member States

the challenges and potential safeguards in ensuring economic, efficient and effective use of financing for sustainable development at the national and local levels, particularly in view of anticipated new and innovative sources of funding.

Mr. Wu, DESA’s Under-Secretary-General, made an opening statement on the issue of financing for sustainable development, from both the “sourcing” and “spending” angles. He emphasized the importance of thinking through the financial management cycle in its entirety in order to assure all the varying financial stakeholders of a workable regulatory, implementation and accountability framework.

“Such assurance will give the traditional, emerging and new donors the confidence to participate in public-private partnerships and multi-stakeholder consortia for financing the needed large and small initiatives that will translate the collective vision of sustainable development, as expressed in Rio last year, into reality,” Mr. Wu said.

The Panel highlighted that Supreme Audit Institutions play a key role which is conducive to the implementation of national and international development goals and priorities since they are endowed with powers to demand information on the expenditure of public resources and performance of public institutions to hold governments to account. Their experience and audit-based knowledge can provide valuable advice for safeguarding financing for sustainable development.

For more information:

[Panel on Safeguarding Financing for Sustainable Development](#)

Working group underlines human-centred vision

The intergovernmental Open Working Group (OWG) on sustainable development goals (SDGs) held its third session on 22-24 May at UN Headquarters in New York



The session focused on food security and nutrition, sustainable agriculture, desertification, land degradation, drought and water and sanitation.

The co-chairs of the OWG, the Permanent Representatives of Kenya and Hungary, stressed that “we need a common vision going forward.” They outlined this vision as “transformative change for sustainable poverty eradication and universal human development, respecting human dignity and protecting our planet, mother Earth, living in harmony with nature for the well-being and happiness of present and future generations.”

Elaborating on the key aspects of this vision, the co-chairs highlighted that it requires transformative change in which the SDGs build on but also deepen and go beyond the MDGs, surpassing business-as-usual and achieving poverty eradication

that is sustainable. They underlined that this vision is human-centred, and also emphasised that in order to make poverty eradication and human development irreversible, the three dimensions of sustainable development need to be addressed in a balanced manner.

For more information:
[ECOSOC Integration Meeting](#)

The third session of the OWG featured a combination of keynote addresses, panel discussions and interactive debates. The first hour of each of the three days was dedicated to meetings between the co-chairs and representatives of Major Groups and other stakeholders. The co-chairs described these conversations as very constructive and said that many of the concerns and proposals raised at these meetings were reiterated by Member States.

A small number of side events were also held. The concluding remarks by the co-chairs that outline the main points made during the session can be found on the [Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform](#). Statements, presentations and recordings from the session are also available on the platform.

For more information:
[Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform](#)

With an aim to achieve sustainable development

The Office for ECOSOC Support and Coordination organized the ECOSOC Integration Meeting on “Achieving sustainable development: Integrating the social, economic and environmental dimensions” on 13 May



The meeting gathered high-level representatives of Governments, UN system, Major Groups, civil society and the private sector to examine how integration of the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable

development can lead to triple-win solutions in the energy and agriculture sectors. In this regard, participants made recommendations for policy convergence and scaling up initiatives for sustainable development.

The discussions demonstrated that high-level political engagement and involvement of key stakeholders were key to successful integration. Strengthening the science-policy interface was considered essential for promoting sustainable development.

The overwhelming business case for sustainable development was acknowledged. Many Member States praised the meeting and stressed ECOSOC's key role as a platform for dialogue on sustainable development among Governments, UN system, development actors, civil society, academia and the business sector. The need for an intergovernmental committee on sustainable development, that brings together the science community, the private sector and other key stakeholders, was emphasized.

Trends and Analysis

Strategies towards environmental-economic accounting

The Eighth Meeting of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Environmental-Economic Accounting (UNCEEA) will be held in New York on 20-21 June



The United Nations Committee of Experts on Environmental-Economic Accounting (UNCEEA) is composed of representatives from national statistical offices and international agencies, and provides strategic vision and direction to environmental-economic accounting and related statistics.

The Eighth UNCEEA meeting will discuss proposals leading to a medium-term programme of work for the UNCEEA, which would envisage two main streams of work: one focusing on the implementation of the SEEA Central Framework and the process to advance its research agenda; the second focusing on the testing and experimentation of the SEEA Experimental Ecosystem Accounting and advancing the related research agenda.

The meeting will also discuss the role of the UNCEEA in the process of the post-2015 development agenda, the SEEA communication strategy, emerging issues related to the SEEA, and be informed on the international initiatives on indicators and progress made in SEEA Agriculture and environment statistics.

For more information:

[Events Calendar of DESA's Statistics Division](#)

UN Public Service Forum up close

The United Nations Public Service Forum, Day and Awards Ceremony will take place in Manama, the Kingdom of Bahrain on 24-27 June



Focusing on the theme of “Transformative e-Government and Innovation: Creating a Better Future for All”, the Forum is organized by DESA’s Division for Public

Administration and Development Management (DPADM) in partnership with the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women), and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UN ESCWA), in collaboration with the hosting Government of the Kingdom of Bahrain.

Within the theme of the forum, a number of workshops will be arranged as outlined below.

“Fostering Participation in the Context of The Post-2015 Development Agenda”

This workshop is jointly organized by DESA and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) and it will explore the challenges, trends, innovative practices, and capacity development tools to foster participatory governance with a particular focus on the Arab region.

The goal of the workshop is to enhance knowledge and build a shared understanding among governance actors of what strategies, practices and tools Member States can adopt to conduct a self-assessment with respect to the engagement of citizen in managing development in their respective countries.

These tools will also assist in fostering participation to accelerate the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and meet the challenges of sustainable development in the post 2015 context including disparities and inequalities, extreme poverty, food security, governance and climate change. To this end, the UN Secretariat has developed a citizen engagement self-assessment questionnaire (CESAQ) that will be shared with Workshop participants.

Expert Group Meeting on the “Transformative Power of e-Government: Innovative Ideas and Practical Tools for the Post-2015 Development Agenda”

The e-Government Branch of DESA’s Division for Public Administration and Development Management (DPADM) is organizing an Expert Group Meeting on the “Transformative Power of e-Government: Innovative Ideas and Practical Tools for the Post-2015 Development Agenda”.

The purpose of the meeting, gathering some 15 experts from around the world, is to provide a forum for discussion to allow them to provide recommendations for DPADM on the formulation of a e-government self-assessment Toolkit.

The purpose of the Toolkit is to help Member States (a) self-identify the steps they need to take to enhance their e-government and hence to transform their government so as that it is more efficient, effective, transparent and open, accountable, participatory and citizen-centric, and (b) provide guidance on how to effectively design and implement an e-governance strategy and roadmap to promote economic, social and sustainable development through progress in key e-governance areas.

“Promoting Collaborative eGovernance through Innovation and ICTs”

The UN Capacity Development Workshop on “Promoting

Collaborative eGovernance through Innovation and ICTs” will aim to provide a platform for senior level official from Arab region and across the world, to discuss trends and challenges in e-government of 21st century.

Through an integrated approach of academic overview and in practice implementation, coupled with sharing of experiences and in depth discussions, it will aim to provide guidance on how the government can be enabled to tackle the issues and provide better public services to their citizens through collaborative governance systems in an open and participatory manner.

The main objectives will be to (i) share experiences and lessons learned, (ii) debate emerging issues of e-government development as defined in our flagship publication of UN e-government Survey 2012 focused on whole of government approach (iii) discuss the institutional framework models (iv) provide recommendations on institutional capacity building for e-government officials to respond to an ever changing and challenging environment of innovations in technology.

In this regard, the workshop will focus on two inter-linking issues: (i) the challenges and opportunities of whole of government collaborative approaches and (ii) the challenges of public administration across the world to increase their level of interoperability by leveraging on new technologies and innovation.

“Transforming public service delivery to advance gender equality”

In a context where austerity measures, conflict and development challenges of various natures threaten to stall or reverse progress on gender equality, it is critical to safeguard investment in gender equality, enhance efforts in promoting gender-responsive service delivery, and strengthen accountability and capacity for gender equality commitments.

The UN Women workshop on “Transforming public service delivery to advance gender equality” will provide a platform for dialogue and experience sharing among civil servants. Over a 2-day meeting representatives of Finance Ministries, planning ministries, sector ministries, local governments and civil society organizations will examine good practices, gaps and challenges in women’s access to public services and make recommendations for the way forward.

Capacity-Building Workshop “Transfer and adaptation of innovative practices for improved public service delivery in LDCs”

The Public Administration Capacity Building Branch of DESA is organizing, within the framework of the 2013 United Nations Public Service Forum, a capacity-building workshop on “Transfer and adaptation of innovative practices for improved public service delivery in LDCs”.

The workshop brings together some 25 -30 trainees from interested least developed countries and will offer a platform for selected public sector managers to increase awareness of the innovations available for important areas of service delivery.

Specifically, the workshop will serve as a working space for networking and for exchanging ideas, knowledge and strategies on the ways to design and implement efficient, equitable and responsive delivery systems. It is expected to make recommendations, what specific innovations are to be transferred and adapted, as well as what countries would participate in the subsequent practitioner-to-practitioner knowledge transfer workshops.

For more information:

[United Nations Public Service Forum](#)

Public administration plays crucial role for development beyond 2015

The 12th session of the UN Committee of Experts on Public Administration was held at UN Headquarters from 15 to 19 April



At UN Headquarters recently, DESA’s Under-Secretary-General Wu Hongbo highlighted the crucial role of public administration in reaching the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the post 2015

development agenda. “We want to acknowledge the significant task of public administration, which is vital for sustainable development”, Mr. Wu said.

His statement to the 12th Session of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Public Administration (CEPA), which took place on 15 to 19 April, on the theme “The role of responsive and accountable public governance in achieving the Millennium Development Goals and the post-2015 development agenda”, highlighted the relevance of challenges facing public administration, especially in the creation of a favorable environment to foster economic growth, social cohesion and environmental protection – the three pillars of sustainable development.

He also acknowledged the work of the 24 experts of the Committee, who had gathered from more than 20 countries to participate in the session. Mr. Wu said that DESA wanted to highlight the efforts of those serving in the UN Public Service, and “looks forward to further collaboration in building pathways to reach the internationally agreed development goals”.

Opening the Committee’s session a few days earlier, ECOSOC President Néstor Osorio also underscored the importance of a citizen-centric approach and the vital role of public administration in these efforts. He emphasized the possibilities brought on by rapid technological advancements. “We are given

an opportunity to listen to people and to partner in sustainable development on an unprecedented scale,” he said, mentioning initiatives promoting e-participation, e-governance and e-services. “Governments are increasing efficiency and transparency by providing more information online, simplifying administrative procedures, and streamlining bureaucratic functions. As of today, some 25 per cent of the 193 United Nations Member States have embarked on Open Government Data initiatives,” Mr. Osorio said.

Established by the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), CEPA is responsible for supporting the work of ECOSOC concerning the promotion and development of public administration and governance among Member States, in advancing the United Nations Development Agenda. Meeting once a year, it also provides guidance to DESA’s Division of Public Administration and Development Management (DPADM), through an annual review of its work programme.

For more information:

[The 12th session of the UN Committee of Experts on Public Administration](#)

Capacity development

Innovative approaches to data dissemination

DESA's Statistics Division is organizing a Regional Workshop on Data Dissemination and Communication on 5-7 June in Rio de Janeiro



The Workshop is part of a global series held on data dissemination and communication, organized as part of a United Nations Development Account project. The purpose of the overall project is to provide a forum for sharing national practices and experiences in the dissemination of statistical data and metadata. The Workshop will review emerging trends, innovative approaches and technological tools employed in the dissemination of data.

The Workshop is expected to provide a basis for assessing existing national dissemination strategies as well as technologies used by National Statistical Offices. It will also aid in taking stock of national capacities and challenges for meeting the increasing requirements of users. Furthermore, the Workshop is expected to help in identifying good practices and lessons learned in the dissemination and communication of data. The ideas generated by the discussion and the recommendations made by participants during all workshops will contribute towards the drafting of a technical report and/or the creation of a knowledge base on the UNSD website dedicated to the topic of effective dissemination of data.

For more information:

[United Nations Regional Workshop on Data Dissemination and Communication](#)

Publications and Websites

Technical reports

World Economic Situation and Prospects as of mid-2013



Global economic activity is projected to slowly gain momentum, but growth will continue to be below potential and employment gains will remain weak, according to the mid-year update of the World Economic Situation and Prospects. The update notes that since late 2012, new policy initiatives in major developed economies have reduced systemic risks and helped

stabilize consumer, business and investor confidence, but with very limited improvement on economic growth.

“The main priority for policy makers worldwide should be to support a robust and balanced global recovery, with a focus on promoting job creation,” said Shamshad Akhtar, DESA’s Assistant Secretary-General for Economic Development.

Global growth has been revised slightly downward from the forecasts presented in the WESP in December 2012. Growth of world gross product (WGP) is now projected at 2.3 per cent in 2013, the same pace as in 2012, before gradually strengthening to 3.1 per cent in 2014, supported by an expected pickup in activity in the United States.

For more information: [World Economic Situation and Prospects as of mid-2013](#)

To download: [World Economic Situation and Prospects as of mid-2013](#)

Statistical compilations

Monthly Bulletin of Statistics and MBS Online



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

energy, manufacturing, transport, construction, international merchandise trade and finance.

Vol. LXVII – No. 4, April 2013

In addition to the regular recurrent monthly tables, this issue includes the quarterly and bimonthly tables: Retail price indices relating to living expenditures of United Nations officials; Total exports and imports by countries or areas: volume, unit value, terms of trade and purchasing power of exports, in US dollars. For more information: [Monthly Bulletin of Statistics and MBS Online](#)

Population and Vital Statistics Report 2013



DESA’s Statistics Division issued the Population and Vital Statistics report in a hard copy. This report, in this format, is published once a year, while the electronic version is updated every two weeks at the UNSD website. It presents data on total, female and male population counts from the most recent population census, population estimates and number and rates of vital events – births,

deaths and infant deaths – for all the countries of the world. These data are presented as reported by national statistical authorities to the United Nations Demographic Yearbook.

Outreach material

DESA NGO News

The May issue is now available online highlighting among others the High Level Meeting of the General Assembly on human trafficking. The monthly newsletter is published by DESA’s NGO Branch, 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.

Read full issue: [DESA NGO News](#)

Sustainable Development in Action – Issue 5, Volume 1

The latest issue is now available featuring the Third Interactive Dialogue of the General Assembly on Harmony with Nature that took place at UN Headquarters on Monday 22 April. Published by DESA’s Division for Sustainable Development, the newsletter aims to highlight the work carried out by Member States, the UN, Major Groups and other relevant stakeholders in implementing sustainable development and leading the way to the Future We Want.

Read full issue: [Sustainable Development in Action – Issue 5, Volume 1](#)

Enable Newsletter

Prepared by the Secretariat for the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (SCRPD) within DESA's Division for Social Policy and Development, the April issue is now available. It features information about the upcoming 6th session of the Conference of States Parties (COSP6) to be held from 17 to 19 July under the theme of "Ensuring adequate standard of living: empowerment and participation of persons with disabilities within the framework of the CRPD". The newsletter features input from UN offices, agencies, funds and programmes, and civil society.

Read full issue: [Enable Newsletter](#)

Discussion papers

Monthly Briefing on the World Economic Situation and Prospects No. 54

Published by DESA's Development Policy and Analysis Division, the May issue states that the global economy continued to expand at a subdued pace in the first quarter of 2013. The euro area is still in a recession and the recovery has been feeble in most other developed countries. In addition, many emerging economies, including Brazil, China, India and the Russian Federation, are growing below pre-crisis levels and exhibiting major difficulties. The weak global demand is affecting the performance of trade and the evolution of world market prices for primary commodities.

Read full issue: [Monthly Briefing on the World Economic Situation and Prospects No. 54](#)

Comings and Goings

Comings

The following staff members were promoted in May:

Candace Charbonne, Information Systems Assistant, Division for Public Administration and Development Management

Mary Lee Kortez, Editorial Assistant, Development Policy and Analysis Division

Madeleine Losch, Programme Assistant, Division for Public Administration and Development Management

Krishnan Sharma, Senior Economic Affairs Officer, Financing for Development office

Deniz Susar, Governance & Public Administration Officer, Division for Public Administration and Development Management

Goings

The following staff members retired in May:

Yao N'goran, Social Affairs Officer, Division for Social Policy and Development

Babukutty Simon, Research Assistant, Division for Sustainable Development

Calendar

June

United Nations Regional Workshop on Data Dissemination and Communication

5-7 June, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

http://unstats.un.org/unsd/newsletter/globalstat_unsd_calendar.htm

2013 Ethiopia High-Level Symposium on “A renewed global partnership for development for a post-2015 era” - 6 to 7 June 2013

6-7 June, Addis Ababa

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

“Innovate Your Future: Empower Young Women through Technology” Google+ Hangout

6 June

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

Google+ hangout with DESA’s Under-Secretary-General Wu Hongbo, to mark the one year anniversary of RIO+20

13 June

<http://bit.ly/RioHangout>

International Conference “Global Implementation Programme for the SEEA”

19-21 June, New York

http://unstats.un.org/unsd/newsletter/globalstat_unsd_calendar.htm

Eighth Meeting of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Environmental-Economic Accounting (UNCEEA)

20-21 June, New York

http://unstats.un.org/unsd/newsletter/globalstat_unsd_calendar.htm

The United Nations Public Service Forum, Day and Awards Ceremony

24-27 June, Manama, the Kingdom of Bahrain

<http://www.unpan.org/2013unpsa>

July

ECOSOC 2013 Substantive Session

1-25 July, Geneva

<http://www.un.org/en/ecosoc/about/substantive.shtml>

Sixth session of the Conference of States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

17-19 July, New York

<http://www.un.org/disabilities/default.asp?id=1606>

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.