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Education: Quality, access and innovation

Education is a fundamental factor in achieving success and growth in different aspects of life. Education equips people with the knowledge to achieve all of the Millennium Development Goals by providing the skills to increase income, create employment opportunities, reduce hunger and poverty and enhance socio-economic development.

In the case of women, educating women and girls has proven to lead to higher earnings, improved child and family health and reduced fertility rates.

In 2000, world leaders adopted the United Nations Millennium Declaration where the second Millennium Development Goal (MDG-2) is to "Achieve Universal Primary Education," ensuring that children across the globe will be able to complete a full course of primary schooling by 2015.

In an effort to improve education, the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) will follow the six goals of "Education for All" of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). These goals are: (1) expand early childhood care and education, (2) provide free and compulsory primary education for all, (3) promote learning and life skills for

young people and adults, (4) increase adult literacy by 50 per cent, (5) achieve gender parity by 2005, gender equality by 2015 and (6) improve the quality of education.



The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) has prioritized the issue of equal access to education, empowerment of women through girls' education and gender equality, education in emergencies and post-crisis education, early childhood development and school readiness and enhancing quality in primary and secondary education. To reach these goals, UNICEF has been working on a series of initiatives, including back on track education, back to school campaigns, child-friendly schools, school readiness, essential learning, learning plus and life skills based education.

Importance of Education

Education provides people with the ability to access tools that improves people's lives. According to the Millennium Development Goals Report 2010, poverty and unequal access to schooling does not stop the high adolescent birth rates. In fact, unequal access to education jeopardizes the health and opportunities for social and economic advancement for girls and women.

The report also notes the social progress made from education. In particular, contraceptive use is four times higher among women with a secondary education than among those with no education. For women in the poorest households and among those with no education, negligible progress was seen over the last decade.

Children who receive early childhood care and education are more likely to develop basic cognitive and language skills, and be better socially and emotionally equipped. A proper education broadens opportunities for young people and helps develop the skills necessary to stimulate sustainable economic development.

Problems with Education

Some of the education implementation problems across the globe are due to the limited access to education, high drop out rates, grade repetition and poor quality of education. Today, at least 72 million children of school age are still denied the right to education due to financial, social or other challenges, including high fertility rates, HIV/AIDS and armed conflict.

In a report by UNESCO, titled "Education for All—Global Monitoring Report 2010: Reaching the Marginalized", the publication estimated that achieving MDG-2 of universal primary education and goals of "education for all" across 46 low-income countries by 2015 would require an additional \$24 billion per year in addition to the estimated existing national spending on basic education of \$12 billion in 2007.

There is a fear that progress made in past 10 years will stall or be reversed as a consequence of the slower economic growth. In fact, many of the world's poorest countries are not on track to meet the 2015 education targets.

In countries in which accessibility is not a problem, quality of the education available still remains a challenge. Of the students enrolled in school, millions drop out or leave school without having gained the most basic literacy and numeracy skills due to poor quality of education. To ensure schooling is useful, it is necessary to enforce proper infrastructure and a relevant curriculum.

Teachers are necessary to facilitate learning and education; therefore it is vital to make sure there is not a shortage of teachers. Furthermore, a shortage of teachers can be a major barrier to delivering education. To further ensure quality, teachers need to be well trained and motivated.

Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon elaborates on the importance to financing "Education for All" stating, that "aid for education produces great returns for poverty reduction, economic growth, child survival and democracy."

For example, the abolition of primary school fees in Burundi resulted in a threefold increase in primary-school enrolment since 1999, reaching 99 percent in 2008.

Looking to the future

This year's theme of the High-level Segment (HLS) of the ECOSOC Substantive Session in Geneva is education. The 2011 Annual Ministerial Review (AMR) will focus on the theme of "Implementing the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to education". The theme aims to bring governments and civil society together to assess progress and challenges to ensure the MDG-2 is met by 2015.

To prepare for the 2011 AMR, ECOSOC is hosting events on the national, regional and global level. The activities include a philanthropy meeting on "partnering with the philanthropic community to promote education for all", global preparatory meetings, regional preparatory meetings for Asia and the Pacific as well as the Arab region, national workshops and two e-discussions.

The e-discussions focus on "Building a future for today's youth: improving access to education" and on "Education: Closing the Gap." The e-discussion on closing the gap will provide an open multi-stakeholder forum for academia, policy-makers and practitioners to discuss the achievement of education and learning for all. The forum also offers stakeholders a venue to formulate concrete, actionable recommendations for consideration by the ECOSOC AMR.

The e-discussion on improving access to education is organized by DESA and the United Nations Academic Impact (UNAI) on Facebook. It intends to provide a platform for the youth to express themselves, mobilize governments and the international community, demonstrate a link between education and the MDGs, and highlight the role of UNAI and its member institutions.

ECOSOC hopes to finalize the session with a Ministerial Declaration on "Implementing the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to education".

For more information:

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

International migration and development

More people live outside their country of birth today than at any time in history. In 2010, the number of international migrants was estimated at 214 million, up from 195 million in 2005. Females account for 49 per cent of the total. Six out of every 10 international migrants (128 million) reside in a developed country, and the majority of those (74 million) come from a developing country.



Impact of the economic crisis

The recent economic and financial crisis reduced, but not halted, the growth in the number of international migrants. In developed countries, the number of international migrants increased by 10.5 million from 2005 to 2010, down from 12.8 million from 2000 to 2005. In developing countries, the number of international migrants almost doubled from 2000-2005 (4.0 million) to 2005-2010 (8.2 million) partially as a result of the increase in the number of refugees.

Migrant workers have been hard hit by rising levels of unemployment, partially because they are concentrated in economic sectors, such as construction, manufacturing and tourism, that have been seriously affected by the economic downturn. Despite rapidly rising levels of unemployment among migrants, the arrival of new migrants has continued. Large-scale returns of migrants have not taken place, because the majority of migrants are well integrated in their countries of residence.

In 2009, remittances to low- and middle-income countries fell for the first time since 1980 reaching \$316 billion dollars; \$20 billion less than in 2008. Yet, remittances have been more resilient to the effects of the crisis than other types of financial flows.

An increasing number of Governments of both countries of origin and countries of destination of international migrants are

committed to finding effective ways of leveraging the beneficial aspects of international migration for development. In 2010, multilateral projects on international migration and development totalled some 250 million US dollars. Policies to maximize the developmental impacts of international migration range from lowering the transfer costs of remittances and leveraging remittances for development to encouraging expatriate communities to invest in their home countries, lowering the costs of migration and promoting circular migration.

Protecting the rights of migrants

The recent financial and economic crises have contributed to a resurgence of xenophobia and thus underscored the importance of taking effective measures to protect the rights of all migrants. By June 2010, 82 Member States had ratified at least one of the three international instruments relative to migrant workers, namely, the 1990 International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, the 1949 International Labour Organization (ILO) Convention concerning Migration for Employment (Revised) (No. 97) or the 1975 ILO Convention concerning Migration in Abusive Conditions and the Promotion of Equality of Opportunity and Treatment of Migrant Workers (Supplementary Provisions) (No. 143). Combined, those Member States hosted 32 per cent (69 million) of all international migrants worldwide.

International migration and development at the United Nations

The issue of international migration and development remains high on the agenda of the United Nations. In 2006, the General Assembly convened the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development, the first high-level event at the United Nations exclusively devoted to international migration. Participants recognised that international migration, development and human rights were intrinsically interconnected and that international migration, supported by appropriate policies, could be a positive force for development in both countries of origin and destination.

Since the High-level Dialogue, activities of the United Nations system that seek to maximize the opportunities of international migration for development and to limit its negative impacts have multiplied. In 2006, the Secretary-General established the Global Migration Group (GMG), which aims to coordinate the work of 14 United Nations entities, the World Bank and the International Organization for Migration (IOM). The GMG has been tasked to promote the wider application of all relevant international and regional instruments and norms relating to international migration, and to encourage the adoption of more coherent, comprehensive and better coordinated approaches to the issue of international migration.

As follow-up to the 2006 High-level Dialogue, the General Assembly decided in 2008 to organize an informal thematic debate on international migration and development in 2011 and to hold a second High-level Dialogue on international migration and development in 2013.

The 2006 High-level Dialogue also established the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD), an informal, state-led, voluntary and non-binding process providing a platform for Governments to share good practices and lessons learnt. The Global Forum is linked to the United Nations through the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on International Migration and Development. The Global Forum, which has held four annual meetings since 2007, has attracted delegates from over 150 Member States and numerous observers from the United Nations and other international organizations.

Improving the evidence base: data on migrant stocks by age and sex

In response to the growing demand for policy-relevant data on international migration, the Population Division has produced, for the first time, estimates of the number of international migrants by age and sex, for every country in the world. The publication *International Migrants by Age*, *Population Facts*, No. 2010/6 provides some highlights of these estimates.

For more information: www.unmigration.org

UN launches year-long celebration of vital role of world's forests

video



Recognizing the role that forests play in everything from mitigating climate change to providing wood, medicines and livelihoods for people worldwide, the United Nations kicked off on

2 February a year-long celebration to raise awareness of the value of this important resource.

In his speech at the launch ceremony, Sha Zukang, the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, noted that political interest in forests has been rising, and stressed that that interest should be translated into action. "We have to make sure that the billions of dollars pledged towards forests and climate change financing is actually released and applied to sustainable forest management," Mr. Sha said.

Video: <http://www.unmultimedia.org/tv/webcast/2011/02/mr-sha-zukang-forests-2011.html> (5:59 minutes)

Full coverage:

<http://www.un.org/en/events/iyof2011/videos.shtml>

Website: <http://www.un.org/en/events/iyof2011/index.shtml>

Global Dialogue on Development

Preparing policy options on sustainable development

Intergovernmental Preparatory Meeting for the 19th session of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD-19) will be held from 28 February - 4 March in New York

The Intergovernmental Preparatory Meeting (IPM) will prepare for the policy-year session of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD), which will negotiate policy options related to the thematic cluster for the CSD 18-19 cycle: transport, chemicals, waste management, mining and the Ten-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns.

The IPM will include a Small Island Development States (SIDS) Special Day, consisting of interactive discussions to outline innovative policy options to support the sustainable development of SIDS, and addressing viable solutions for reducing the vulnerabilities of SIDS and for strengthening the sustainable management of chemicals, waste (hazardous and solid), mining and transport, and implementing sustainable consumption and production (SCP).

For more information:

http://www.un.org/esa/dsd/csd/csd_csd19.shtml

On the road to Rio 2012

Second Meeting of the Preparatory Committee on Rio 2012 will take place from 7-8 March in New York

The UN General Assembly, in December 2009, adopted a resolution calling for a UN Conference on Sustainable Development (UNCSD) to be convened in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in 2012 (Rio 2012). The resolution established the dates for the preparatory committees leading to the event, and indicates the focus of the event: a green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication; and the institutional framework for sustainable development.

The Second Preparatory Committee will be held immediately after the conclusion of the Intergovernmental Preparatory Meeting (28 February – 4 March) for the 19th session of the Commission to discuss further the substantive themes of Rio 2012 and will

For more information:

<http://www.uncsd2012.org/rio20/index.php?page=view&nr=28&type=13&menu=23>

Preparing a blueprint for a low-carbon, sustainable future

The President of the General Assembly will host an Interactive Dialogue with the High-level Panel on Global Sustainability on 16 March in New York

On 9 August 2010, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon launched the High-level Panel on Global Sustainability (GSP) to “reflect on and formulate a new vision for sustainable growth and prosperity, along with mechanisms for achieving it”, in light of the growing strain placed on our planet by climate change, biodiversity loss, food insecurity and other interlinked challenges.

Co-chaired by H.E. Mrs. Tarja Halonen, President of Finland, and H.E. Mr. Jacob Zuma, President of South Africa, the Global Sustainability Panel (GSP) consists of 22 authoritative world figures who work together to produce a comprehensive blue print for a low-carbon, sustainable future. The Panel held its second meeting in Cape Town, South Africa, from 24-25 February.

Their final report will be issued at the end of 2011 and feed into relevant intergovernmental discussions such as the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio 2012).

For more information:

<http://www.un.org/en/ga/president/65/initiatives/gsp.shtml>

Development Policy Committee to focus on education, LDCs and migration

The Thirteenth session of the Committee for Development Policy will be held on 21-25 March in New York

The Committee for Development Policy (CDP) is a subsidiary body of the Economic and Social Council and provides inputs and independent advice to the Council on emerging cross-sectoral development issues and on international cooperation for development, focusing on medium- and long-term aspects. The Committee is also responsible for reviewing the status of least developed countries (LDCs) and for monitoring their progress after graduation from the category.

In this year’s session the Committee will prepare for the 2011 Annual Ministerial Review on the Internationally Agreed Goals and Commitments in regard to Education and examine ways in

which the links between education, especially higher education, and strategies of human resource development can be strengthened in developing countries. Issues to be discussed include, among other things, the identification, delivery and financing of types of education necessary for skill development, the problem of unemployment among workers with tertiary education and the brain drain of highly skilled professionals.

Regarding the UN development agenda beyond 2015 (Resolution A/65/L.1), the Committee will consider possible strengthening of the UN development agenda beyond 2015 by examining emerging alternative development models and assessing their effectiveness in improving human wellbeing and addressing food insecurity, trade and financial flows, climate crises and growing inequality. This is part of a larger research programme whose main conclusions and recommendations are expected to be forwarded to ECOSOC in 2012.

At its plenary session in 2010, the CDP decided to assess whether climate change and conflict constitute structural impediments for the development of the least developed countries (LDCs) and should therefore be taken into account in identifying LDCs. Furthermore, and in preparation for the 2012 triennial review of the list of LDCs, the Committee will review the criteria used for the identification of LDCs and examine whether there is a need to introduce further refinements to the indicators.

In terms of international migration in times of crisis, the Committee will examine impacts of the current economic crisis on global flows of migrant workers and make recommendations on how to address its negative consequences in both host and sending countries for the benefit of all.

For more information:

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

Universal primary education as a tool to eradicate poverty

Asia–Pacific Regional meeting on the theme “Education and the Millennium Development Goals” will be held on 24 March in Jomtien, Thailand

In conjunction with the 10th High-Level Meeting on Education for All (EFA), the meeting will be co-hosted by the Government of Thailand and DESA, in cooperation with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), and the United Nations Economic Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP).

The meeting is part of the preparatory process for the 2011 Annual Ministerial Review (AMR) on “Implementing the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to education”.

A broad cross section of regional stakeholders will gather to discuss trends, challenges, and policies and programmes on education in Asia and the Pacific and their impact on the achievement of the Millennium development Goals (MDGs).

Panelists and experts will examine approaches to use universal primary education as a powerful driver to eradicate poverty, reduce child and maternal mortality, promote gender equality, and ensure sustainable development. A special session will also showcase best practices and new initiatives from across the region.

For more information:

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

ECOSOC decided on dates and topics of its forthcoming meetings

The Economic and Social Council held its 2011 organizational session from 15-18 February in New York

During the session, the Council adopted a number of decisions pertaining to the dates of its forthcoming meetings, contained in document E/2011/L.1. The Council decided that its 2011 High-level Spring Meeting with the BWIs, WTO and UNCTAD will be held from 10-11 March 2011.

The Council also decided that its substantive session for 2011 will be held from 4-29 July in Geneva, as follows: high-level segment, from 4 to 8 July (a.m.); the dialogue with the Executive Secretaries of the Regional Commissions, on 8 July (p.m.); the coordination segment, from 11 – 14 July (a.m.), the operational activities segment, from 14 July (p.m.) to 18 July (a.m.), the humanitarian affairs segment from 19-21 July; the general segment, from 22-28 July; and the closing of the session on 29 July.

The Council also decided that the 2011 operational activities segment will be devoted to the progress on and implementation of General Assembly resolutions 62/208 and relevant follow-up resolutions of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council.

The Council also adopted decision E/2011/L.2 appointing the United States representative to the Council and the Permanent Representative of the Bahamas to its Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti.

The Council decided to postpone decisions pertaining to the themes of its 2011 humanitarian affairs segment; and the item on regional cooperation, to a later date.

During the session, the Council heard a number of briefings, including on progress in implementing General Assembly resolution 64/289 on system-wide coherence by the Deputy Secretary-General, the Executive Director of UN-Women, and the Deputy Executive Director of UNFPA.

On the “World Economic Situation and Prospects 2011” a briefing was held by the Director, Development Policy and Analysis Division, DESA and on the global food prices by FAO, WFP, IFAD and the coordinator of the UN system’s High Level Task Force on the Global Food Security Crisis. Regarding the UN System Chief Executives Board (CEB), the audience was informed by the Assistant Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Inter-Agency Affairs, DESA.

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

Debt relief and market access to address poverty

Commission for Social Development concluded its 49th session held in New York from 9-18 February

The Commission for Social Development wrapped up its 49th session by approving without a vote five draft resolutions calling for wide-ranging steps, from support for the New Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD) and the upcoming review of the action plan on ageing to improving the lot of youth, persons with disabilities and families.

Three of the five texts recommended specific action by the Economic and Social Council. By the terms of the resolution on the social dimensions of NEPAD, the Council, concerned that Africa is the only continent not on track to achieve any of the Millennium Development Goals by 2015 and deeply concerned how the recent economic, food and energy crises and climate change may hinder Africa’s social development objectives, would urge continued support of measures such as debt relief, improved market access, official development assistance (ODA) and technology transfer to address poverty eradication and sustainable development.

Further to that text, the Economic and Social Council would encourage all development partners to implement the principles of aid effectiveness and NEPAD into their development assistance programmes, and encourage the international community to support African countries in addressing climate change through

financial and technological resources and capacity-building to support adaptation and mitigation.

The Council would also encourage African countries and their development partners to put people at the centre of Government development action and to secure core investment spending in health, education and social safety nets.

A draft on preparation for and observance of the twentieth anniversary of the International Year of the Family would have the Economic and Social Council urge Governments to view 2014 as a target year for national policies and strategies to improve the well-being of families. The Council would ask the Commission to consider several themes to guide preparation of the Year, including family poverty and social exclusion, ensuring work-family balance, and advancing social integration and intergenerational solidarity, and to review preparations as part of its multi-year programme of work until 2014.

By a text on further promotion of equalization of opportunities by, for and with persons with disabilities and mainstreaming disability in the development agenda, approved as orally revised, the Council would call upon Governments and United Nations bodies and agencies to include disability issues and persons with disabilities as they reviewed progress towards achieving the Millennium targets and expedite efforts to include in their assessment the extent to which persons with disabilities would be able to benefit from efforts to achieve the Goals. The Council would also call upon Member States to enable persons with disabilities to participate as agents and beneficiaries of development.

While welcoming the Special Rapporteur’s work on disability and noting his report, the Council would ask the Special Rapporteur to boost awareness of the Convention on the Rights of Persons With Disabilities, the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons, and the Standard Rules; and promote the mainstreaming of disability issues in development programmes and strategies at the national, regional and international levels.

It also asked the Special Rapporteur to contribute to the preparation of the high-level meeting of the sixty-seventh session of the General Assembly and incorporate the priorities of the international community in strengthening efforts to ensure accessibility for and inclusion of persons with disabilities in all aspects of development efforts. It expressed its concern at the insufficient resources for the Special Rapporteur and asked him to submit an annual report on his activities in implementing the present resolution at the Commission’s fiftieth session.

With regard to the resolution, the European Union regretted that compromises could not have been achieved in all aspects of the text. It believed attention should be paid to all vulnerable groups, such as women and girls, and supported the inclusion of

references to gender perspective in the text. It also favoured the extension of the Special Rapporteur's mandate until 2014.

By a fourth text, on policies and programmes involving youth, the Commission urged Member States to work with youth-led organizations and stakeholders to implement the World Programme of Action for Youth as well as consider including youth representatives in their delegations at relevant discussions of United Nations bodies.

It called upon Member States to promote the well-being of youth by developing effective national policies and programmes that addressed youth poverty and unemployment, and support the creation and functioning of independent youth councils and junior parliaments. It also called on donors to contribute to the United Nations Youth Fund to expedite implementation of the action programme.

Further to that text, the Commission asked the Secretary-General to strengthen the United Nations Programme on Youth within existing resources of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, so as to meet the increased demands of the programme to support, evaluate and review youth development.

By a fifth draft, on modalities for the second review and appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002, the Commission endorsed the timeline for carrying out the second review of the Madrid Plan of Action and invited Member States to identify actions they had taken since the first review, with the aim of presenting the information to the regional commissions in 2012.

It encouraged those commissions to keep aiding the review and appraisal process through several activities, such as promoting the networking and sharing of experiences and helping Governments gather and analyse information. It asked the United Nations system to keep supporting Member States by providing technical assistance for capacity-building.

It also asked the Secretary-General to submit a report to the Commission's fiftieth session that would analyse the preliminary findings of the second review and appraisal exercise as it identified prevalent and emerging issues, and to submit a report to the Commission's fifty-first session, to be held in 2013, that would envelope the conclusion of the second review and appraisal process.

Also during the meeting, the Commission adopted the draft report of its forty-ninth session and the provisional agenda of its fiftieth session. It took note of the Secretary-General's report on implementation of the resolution on promoting social integration; his report on poverty eradication; the Secretariat's note on emerging issues: social protection; the Secretary-General's note transmitting the report of the Board of the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development; as well as his note on the nomination of members of the UNRISD Board.

After closing the session, the Commission opened its fiftieth session to elect its Bureau, re-electing by acclamation Jorge Valero Briceño as Chair, and Olisa Cifligu (Albania), Susanne Fries-Gaier (Germany), Eduardo Menez (Philippines) and Najla Abdelrahman (Sudan) as Vice-Chairs.

For more information:

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

Adoption of forest resolution and launch of Forest 2011

9th session of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF9) was held from 24 January – 4 February in New York

Government delegates, members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF), and representatives from intergovernmental organizations and major groups gathered at the 9th session of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF9) from 24 January – 4 February in New York. During the High-level Ministerial Segment, the International Year of Forests (Forests 2011) was launched at the General Assembly Hall; four Ministerial roundtables were held, as well as a dialogue with the Collaborative Partnership on Forests.



The main theme of the session was forests for people, livelihoods and poverty eradication. This included issues of community-based forest management, social development and indigenous and other local and forest-dependent communities, as well as social and cultural aspects. The session also assessed progress made on the implementation of the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests and towards the achievement of the four global objectives on forests.

The key outcomes from the session were the adoption of the resolution on Forests for People, Livelihoods and Poverty Eradication and the Ministerial Declaration.

The resolution captured essential elements to achieving sustainable development, including recognizing the sustainable management of all types of forests as a critical means to eradicate poverty, significantly reduce deforestation, halt the loss of forest biodiversity and land and resource degradation, improve food security, and access to safe drinking water and affordable energy, including development of sustainable alternative energy sources and improved energy efficiency and productive agricultural land. The resolution also called for particular consideration for local livelihoods.

Ministers considered the International Year of Forests, as a landmark opportunity to raise awareness and strengthen political commitment and action worldwide, and agreed to transmit the Declaration to the Rio+20 Conference as the contribution of the UNFF.

They recognized that forests are crucial for sustainable development and the achievement of the IADGs including the MDGs, and have significant contribution in addressing the global challenges related to food security and agriculture, energy, water, mitigation of and adaptation to climate change, combating desertification and land degradation, conservation of biodiversity, watershed protection and disaster risk reduction. They stressed the need to reverse current deforestation trend that causes 13 million hectares of forest loss each year.

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

Launch of the International Year of Forests (Forests 2011)

The International Year of Forests was officially launched, as part of the High level Segment, on the morning of 2 February in the General Assembly hall in New York. The event was extremely well attended, with between 500-600 attendees from Member States, major groups, Collaborative Partnership on Forests members, and other major stakeholders.

The ceremony was presided over by H.E. Mr Joseph Deiss, President of the 65th session of the United Nations General Assembly. High-level speakers were interspersed with film clips from the winning films of the International Forest Film festival comprised the ceremony.

A video message from Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon opened the ceremony, recognizing the importance of the International Year of Forests and the role that forests play in the environment, the global economy and the well-being of people all over the world.

Speaking as an official emissary of President Paul Kagame, H.E. Mr. Stanislas Kamanzi, Minister of Environment and Lands, Rwanda, announced his country's border-to-border landscape restoration initiative (long term target by 2035, forest restoration action plan by 2015).



The ceremony also featured the premiere of two films. The first was a short animated Public Service Announcement, showcasing the importance of forests in our daily lives. The second film premiered at the

ceremony was a short film by International Filmmaker Yann Arthus-Bertrand, titled "Of Forests and Men," narrated by UN Goodwill Ambassador Edward Norton. The films are now available on the official Forests 2011 website.

The ceremony closed with "Felix & Friends", a Plant-for-the-Planet Children's Initiative, presented by Plant-for-the-Planet's 13-year-old founder Mr. Felix Finkbeiner. The initiative called everyone, both children and adults, to commit to planting 1 trillion trees worldwide, or 150 trees per person. Mr. Finkbeiner was joined at the podium by H.E. Mr. Deiss at the end to perform the "Stop Talking, Start Planting" message.

For more information: www.un.org/forests
General Assembly President H. E. Mr. Joseph Deiss: [Webcast](#)
Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon: [Video message](#)
[Short animated Public Service Announcement](#)
International Filmmaker Yann Arthus-Bertrand: [Short film](#)
Plant-for-the-Planet Children's Initiative: [Felix & Friends](#)

International Year of Forests Activities

In addition to the launch ceremony, International Year of Forests events took place throughout the two week session of the ninth session of UNFF9.

In an outreach effort directed to both everyone on the UN grounds and the greater New York City area, the Forests 2011 logo was projected onto the side of the Secretariat building on the night of 3 February, the second day of the high level ministerial segment. The logo was projected throughout the night, visible even from Queens.

All 11 winners of the International Forest Film Festival were screened at the North Lawn Building during the second week of UNFF9. Some directors of the winning films also attended their screenings to introduce their films and provide a brief question-and-answer session afterwards. Short clips of the winning films are now available on the Forest Film Festival website.



The International Year of Forests team also organized a video message program for the second day of the High Level ministerial segment. Working in coordination with the Department of Public Information and UNTV, ministers

and high-level members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests gave short video messages on the International Year of Forests. These messages will be edited and then posted on the Forests 2011 website.

Member states also held their own celebrations for the International Year of Forests. The United States Forestry Service held a reception at the David Rubenstein Atrium at Lincoln Center, both Croatia and Turkey held photo exhibitions.

For more information: www.forestfilmfestival.org

Financial support for Major Groups for Rio 2012

DESA was awarded a €350,000 grant by the European Commission for supporting Major Groups and global civil society preparation and engagement for Rio 2012. The grant will ensure informed, enhanced and broadened participation of civil society representatives, including the private sector, in the Rio 2012 preparatory process and the Conference itself.

For more information: uncsd2012@un.org

Trends and Analysis

Comprehensive and comparable manufacturing statistics for Latin America

Workshop on Manufacturing Statistics will take place from 15-17 March in Santiago, Chile

This workshop, organized by DESA's Statistics Division, in collaboration with Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and the Instituto Brasileiro de Geografia e Estatística (IBGE), continues the programme for the development of comprehensive and comparable manufacturing statistics in the Latin American region, initiated 2007.

The main purpose of this workshop is to discuss issues of data processing, including validation and imputation, as well as the compilation of production indices and related topics.

For more information:
<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/industry/meetings/eclac2011/ac229-2.asp>

Discussing key findings of Secretary-General's reports on education

Expert Group Meeting to review the two draft reports of the Secretary-General for the 2011 high-level segment of ECOSOC on the theme of education is planned for 18 March in New York

The first Secretary-General's report, for the Annual Ministerial Review, will examine progress made in the implementation of the education-related goals and put forward policy recommendations for their acceleration.

The second report of the Secretary-General, for the thematic discussion, will provide an in-depth analysis of the impact of current global and national trends on education.

The discussions will focus on the key findings and recommendations of the two draft reports. The expectation is that the diverse group of experts, including some members of the Committee on Development Policy (CDP), will highlight how policies in other sectors are impacting education outcomes.

The Expert Group Meeting will draw on the valuable recent work of the CDP on the impact of the multiple crises on development.

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

Increased participation in the 2011 Public Service Awards

Nominations for the United Nations Public Service Awards (UNPSA) Programme grew by 44 per cent this year and were received from 58 UN Member States, with 7 participating for the first time

UNPSA is the most prestigious international recognition of excellence in public service. It rewards the creative achievements and contributions of public service institutions that lead to a more effective and responsive public administration in countries worldwide. Through an annual competition, the UNPSA promotes the role, professionalism and visibility of public service. It is held every year on 23 June, the United Nations Public Service Day. This year's Awards Ceremony and Forum will be held in from 20-23 June in Tanzania.

For this year's round, the region with the highest participation continues to be Asia and the Pacific. Latin America and the Caribbean doubled its share of the nominations submitted to 12 per cent from 2010.

With two new categories "Promoting gender responsive delivery of public services" and "Preventing and combating corruption in the public service" added in association with UN- Women and UNODC respectively, the UNPSA becomes even more relevant to addressing important public sector issues in its role of identifying and showcasing innovations and best practices. The Division is looking forward to growing levels of participation in these categories and will continue working together with the other UN organizations in outreach programmes to address this.

Early February, DESA's Division for Public Administration and Development Management (DPADM) completed the first two phases in the nomination evaluation process for identifying award winners. In the first phase 82 per cent of the cases were approved and 65 per cent in the second. The Division is preparing for the final evaluation by a Sub-group of the Committee of Experts in Public Administration in April and will continue to provide updates on this in the future.

For more information: www.unpan.org/unpsa
 Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/United-Nations-Public-Service-Day-Awards-and-Forum/176763315694365>

Twitter:

http://twitter.com/UNPSAwards?utm_campaign=newfollow20100823&utm_content=profile&utm_medium=email&utm_source=follow

Measuring the impact of international migration

Ninth coordination meeting on international migration was held in New York from 17-18 February

DESA's Population Division convened the Ninth Coordination Meeting on International Migration in New York from 17 to 18 February 2011. The meeting had the following objectives: (a) to examine the development of indicators that measure the contribution of international migration to countries of origin and destination; (b) to exchange information on recent initiatives to build capacities on international migration and development, and (c) to discuss the contribution of United Nations agencies, funds and programmes and other relevant organizations to the Global Forum on Migration and Development as well as to the informal thematic debate on international migration and development which will be organized by the President of the General Assembly on 19 May 2011.

The meeting, which is the only system-wide event where intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations share information in a systematic way on their activities related to the various aspects of international migration, was attended by some 100 participants, including representatives of agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system, other intergovernmental organizations, as well as representatives of Member States, academia, civil society and the private sector.

The Global Forum on Migration and Development

The 2010 and 2011 chairs of the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD), Mr. Julian Ventura Valero, Under-Secretary for North America of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mexico and Mr. Eduard Gnesa, Special Ambassador for International Cooperation in Migration of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs of Switzerland, gave presentations on the past and forthcoming Global Forum meetings.

The Global Forum is an informal, state-led, voluntary and non-binding process providing a platform for discussion among Governments and linked to the United Nations through the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on International Migration and Development. The theme of the 2010 Global Forum was "Partnership for Migration and Human Development-Shared Responsibility" and the 2011 Global Forum's theme is "Taking

action on Migration and Development". For more information on the Global Forum, see <http://gfmd.org/>.

Report of the Secretary-General on international migration and development

Ms. Hania Zlotnik, Director of the Population Division/ DESA highlighted selected findings of the report of the Secretary-General, focusing on the impact of the recent financial and economic crisis on international migration. While countries of origin had been affected by the decline in remittances and in opportunities for labour migration, they had continued to pursue strategies to leverage the benefits of international migration for development. Another development had been the rise in activities on international migration and development undertaken by the United Nations system and other relevant international organizations. Crucially, the United Nations system had also increased its activities to ensure that the rights of all migrants were safeguarded.

The informal thematic debate on international migration and development, organized by the President of the General Assembly

The Head of Policy Issues in the Office of the President of the General Assembly, Ms. Heidi Schroderus-Fox, provided an overview of the preparatory activities for the Informal Thematic Debate on International Migration and Development, to be held in New York on 19 May 2011. The debate, convened at the request of the General Assembly (see A/RES/63/225), would advance States' general understanding of the positive impact of migration on development for countries of origin, transit and destination. The discussion would also contribute to the wider, ongoing dialogue on international migration and development, including the General Assembly's 2013 High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development.

Coordination in the area of international migration and development: capacity-building and training

Ms. Michele Klein-Solomon, Permanent Observer for the International Organization for Migration (IOM) to the United Nations presented some of the main features of the Global Migration Group's (GMG) handbook *Mainstreaming Migration into Development Planning: A Handbook for Policy-makers and Practitioners*.

Mr. Laurent de Boeck, Director of the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) Observatory on Migration discussed the work-plan of the observatory for the following two years, which would centre on South-South migration and its impact on human development and on enhancing research capacities in the South.

Measuring the impact of international migration

Professor Delgado-Wise of the Autonomous University of Zacatecas and Laura Chappell of the Institute for Public Policy Research presented two different, but in many respects complementary, strategies for designing a system of indicators to examine migration and development. The discussion addressed the myths that often characterize the discourse on the linkages between migration and development and called for improved methods and theoretical models to bridge the gap between evidence and public opinions.

Mr. Patrick Simon, Director of Research at the Institut National d'Études Démographiques (INED) and Mr. David Khoudour-Castéras, Economist at the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), delivered presentations on the complexity of developing measures and benchmarks for monitoring the integration of migrants. Among the key challenges identified were the lack of a harmonized definition and time frame for monitoring and evaluating integration processes, and the need to take into account country-specificities in identifying the target groups for integration policies.

For more information: www.unmigration.org

Capacity Development

Focusing on development goals in Africa

Workshop on “Managing Economic and Social Councils (ESCs) as a Driving Force of the National Dialogue on Economic and Social Policies” will be held in Nairobi from 7 - 8 March

On the basis of their partnership, DESA and the International Association of Economic and Social Councils and Similar Institutions (AICESIS) have organized several actions that have been undertaken to strengthen the role of ESCs in Africa (survey; conference on ICTs, Paris, December 17-18 2009; conference on ESCs for inclusive development, Ouagadougou, June 1-3 2010).

During the last AICESIS Board meeting (Tunis, December 2-3, 2010), it was agreed that a capacity building workshop for staff of 4 Economic and Social Councils in Africa will be organized. DESA, AICESIS, National Economic Social Council of Kenya and UNDP have partnered to organize the capacity building workshop in Nairobi. The workshop will focus on management development in face of the challenge to achieve Internationally Agreed Development Goals, including the Millennium Development Goals. Participants will come from Benin, Guinea, Kenya and South Africa.

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

Promoting professionalism in Africa’s public service

Workshop on “Promoting Professionalism in the Public Service: Strengthening the Role of Human Resource Managers in the Public Sector for the implementation of the African Charter on the Values and Principles of Public Service and the Administration” will be held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from 14-18 March

The capacity building workshop will be organized by DESA’s Division for Public Administration and Development Management, in collaboration with the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa and the Ministry of Civil Service of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia.

This is a follow-up to the two previous capacity building workshops on human resource management in the public sector in Africa that were organized by the Division. The Africa Public

Sector Human Resource Managers’ Network (APS-HRMnet) was launched during the first workshop on “Capacity Building for Human Resource Development Policy and Strategy in the Public Service in Africa”, which was held at Arusha, Tanzania, from 23 to 27 February 2009.

The second workshop on “Strengthening Human Resource Capacities for the Achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and Africa’s Development” was held in Cotonou, Republic of Benin from 12 to 16 April 2010 followed by an Expert Group Meeting on “Human Resource Management Policy in the Public Sector in Africa” held in Durban, South Africa, from 15-19 November 2010.

The main objective of the current workshop is to contribute to the development of capacity for professionalism in Africa’s public services and more specifically to: (a) provide a platform for African Ministers responsible for public service, human resource managers in the public sector, and experts in human resource management, to discuss how professionalism can be promoted and sustained in the public service on the continent. (b) bring to the attention of human resource managers the challenges and obstacles in the implementation of the “African Charter on the Values and Principles of Public Service and the Administration”; and (c) discuss strategies for the domestication of the key provisions of the Charter in the codes, standards and regulations at the national level in order to promote professionalism in the public service.

For more information:

<http://unpan1.un.org/intradoc/groups/public/documents/un-dpadm/unpan044035.pdf>

Analysis and dissemination of census data

Seminar on the in-depth analysis of Ethiopia’s 2007 population and housing census will take place in Addis Ababa from 14-18 March 2011

In many countries, the voluminous data collected through censuses is only partially analysed and disseminated, and often late, resulting in its underutilization. To address this challenge, DESA’s Statistics Division in collaboration with the Italian Government has initiated a project to strengthen national capacity to analyse, present and disseminate census data in selected developing countries, Ethiopia being one.

Based on a needs assessment mission launched by the Statistics Division, the Central Statistical Authority (CSA) of Ethiopia has identified four areas for in-depth analysis: Fertility, mortality,

housing, and the situation of the elderly. The national seminar is preparatory work for the preparation of monographs on the identified topics and in the process build capacity among CSA's census analyses teams tasked with the preparation of analytical reports through on-the-job knowledge transfer. The final outputs are expected to be useful for effective development planning and monitoring population and socio-economic trends.

For more information:

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

Students to collect data for the e-Government Survey

Partnership between DESA's Division for Public Administration and Development Management (DPADM) and the Cornell University

A partnership between DPADM and the Cornell Institute on Public Affairs (CIPA), Cornell University (United States), was finally established to engage CIPA graduate students in the data collection for the new edition of the UN e-Government Survey. Beginning in February 2011, CIPA students, based on a for-credit, project-based agreement, will assist in carrying out survey of national e-government facilities and capacities of the 192 Member States, including translation services, literature reviews, best practices research and other related quantitative and qualitative research.

The next edition of the UN e-Government Survey is due to be completed by the end of 2011. This legal agreement was made possible through the assistance of the Executive Office of DESA and the Office of Legal Affairs (OLA).

For more information:

http://www.unpan.org/egovkb/global_reports/08report.htm

Recognition of DESA's e-government work

DESA's Division for Public Administration and Development Management (DPADM) presented its e-government work at the Fulbright Academy on 24-25 January in Washington DC

DPADM was invited to attend a workshop organized by the Fulbright Academy, an international educational exchange programme for students, scholars, teachers, professionals, scientists, artists and others interested in science and technology innovation.

During this workshop on digitalization of libraries, DPADM presented its work on e-government including the UN E-Government Survey, Compendium of Innovative E-Government Practices, Knowledge Base on E-Government Survey and the United Nations Public Administration Country Studies. The participants expressed interest in contributing case studies of their own countries to DPADM for inclusion in the upcoming new edition of the Compendium of Innovative E-Government Practices.

The High-Level Regional Meeting brought together regional practitioners and experts to identify integrated approaches and concrete policy measures that the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) can promote in the context of the Annual Ministerial Review (AMR), and more particularly on the role education can play in contributing to the realization of all the MDGs. The key policy recommendations put forward during the discussions will be reflected in a summary report to be presented at the AMR ECOSOC session next July.

The objective of the AMR is to assess progress made on different aspects of the United Nations Development Agenda, including the Millennium Development Goals. The AMR was mandated by the 2005 World Summit and has been held during the Council's High-level Segment since 2007. In 2011, the AMR will focus on Education.

For more information:

http://www.unpan.org/egovkb/global_reports/08report.htm

Publications and Websites

Technical reports



Men in Families and Family Policy in a Changing World

In keeping with the objectives of the International Year of the Family, and based on existing research, the current publication aims to promote the knowledge of trends affecting families and increase awareness of family issues among Governments as well as in the private sector. It is also hoped that the study will stimulate efforts to develop family-oriented policies focusing attention upon the rights and responsibilities of all family members.

Promoting knowledge of the economic, social and demographic processes affecting families and their members is indispensable to design appropriate course of action to assist families in fulfilling their numerous functions. These overall considerations have guided the preparations of the current publication, which addresses the issue of the evolving roles of men in families and the corresponding need to develop social policies supporting these new roles for the benefit of families.

For more information:

<http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/family/publications.html>

Statistical compilations



Monthly Bulletin of Statistics and MBS Online

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

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This month, the following tables, which are featured in the MBS on a quarterly basis, are presented along with the regular recurrent monthly tables: Civil aviation traffic: passenger km and cargo net ton km; 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: <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/mbs>



Tourism Satellite Account: Recommended Methodological Framework 2008

The recommendations included in the publication represent an update of a common conceptual framework for the design of the tourism satellite account that had been initially set up in 2000 by an Inter-secretariat Working Group convened by DESA's Statistics Division, with the participation of the Statistical Office of the European Communities (Eurostat), the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO).

The purpose of a Tourism Satellite Account is to analyze in detail all the aspects of demand for goods and services associated with the activity of visitors; to observe the operational interface with the supply of such goods and services within the economy; and to describe how this supply interacts with other economic activities. The publication provides an updated framework for constructing a Tourism Satellite Account. It permits greater internal consistency of tourism statistics with the rest of the statistical system of a country, as well as increased international comparability of these data.

For more information:

<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/pubs/gesgrid.asp?id=434>

Publications under preparation

Women at the front-line of public service delivery

This joint publication was finalized during a meeting with DESA's Division for Public Administration and Development Management (DPADM), UN WOMEN and a team of researchers from Columbia University on 10 February 2011. The objective of the meeting was to define what public administration cases with a gender component would be included in the publication. The good practices are chosen among the nominees of the past editions of the United Nations Public Service Awards. 27 cases were presented and discussed,

and an additional 69 presented and reviewed. Overall, 600 cases were reviewed.

To facilitate the preparation of the selected case studies, it was decided that DPADM would provide the research team with the supporting documentation submitted by government institutions from around the world. Phone interviews would also be conducted to gather additional information pertaining to each case, especially its sustainability. The publication will be available in June 2011.

Outreach material

Rio 2012: Making it Happen

This newsletter, produced by DESA's Division for Sustainable Development and dedicated to the UN Conference on Sustainable Development, announces in this edition the date of the Conference (4-6 June 2012), and the newsletter's name change from Rio20: Making it Happen to Rio 2012: Making it Happen.

This issue also highlights the second meeting of the Secretary-General's High-level Panel on Global Sustainability, the launch of the International Year of Forests and the General Assembly's debate on risk reduction.

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

Natural Resources Forum, a United Nations Sustainable Development Journal

DESA's Division for Sustainable Development is pleased to announce that the February 2011 issue is now published on-line:

Link to February issue:

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/narf.2011.35.issue-1/issuetoc>

Link to all on-line content:

[http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/journal/10.1111/\(ISSN\)1477-8947](http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/journal/10.1111/(ISSN)1477-8947)

To learn more about the National Resources Forum, please visit:

www.wileyonlinelibrary.com/journal/nrf

Advancing the Global Statistical System

The latest version of the brochure of DESA's Statistics Division provides a summary compilation of the Divisions major work areas and accomplishments.

For more information:

http://unstats.un.org/unsd/statcom/brochures/UNSD_Brochure.pdf

Discussion papers

Monthly Briefing on the World Economic Situation and Prospects

This briefing highlights the challenges and risks associated with the increase in international food prices, as well as in the prices of other primary commodities. It also points out that the pace of the recovery in developed countries is not strong enough to substantially reduce the unemployment rates. While growth in developing countries continues to be robust, the pace is moderating in some regions.

For more information:

http://www.un.org/esa/policy/publications/dpad_wespmbn.html

Websites



Statistics Division National Accounts Section

The website of DESA's National Accounts Section was modernized and updated to improve the accessibility of information about the System of National Accounts 2008, Knowledge Base for economic statistics, national accounts databases, activities related to implementation and research of the 2008 SNA and publications. Its structure contains information not only about the activities undertaken by the Section but also about related work done under the purview of the Intersecretariat Working Group on National Accounts (ISWGNA), the governing body mandated to maintain and implement the System of National Accounts.

To browse:

<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/nationalaccount/default.asp>



Bringing knowledge management to the service of SIDS

A new and improved SIDSnet (Small Island Developing States Network) will soon become available, and will include exciting features and cutting-edge technology that will enhance stakeholders' user experience and capacity development opportunities.

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

Publications in other languages

The following publications are now available in other languages:

- International Merchandise Trade Statistics: Supplement to the Compilers Manual (Arabic)
- Handbook on Population and Housing Census Editing, Revision 1 (French)
- Measuring the Economically Active in Population Censuses: A Handbook (Chinese, French, Russian, Spanish)
- Handbook on Geospatial Infrastructure in Support of Census Activities (Chinese)
- International Recommendations for Tourism Statistics 2008 (Spanish)
- International Recommendations for Industrial Statistics 2008 (Chinese, Russian)

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

Citations

2010 E-Government Survey cited in the Global Information Technology Report

The E-Participation Index from the 2010 E-Government Survey has been analyzed and cited in the Global Information Technology Report 2009-2010.

To view the analysis of the E-Participation Index from this report and/or view the entire report, please go to:
<http://www.networkedreadiness.com/gitr/main/analysis/showdatatable.cfm?vno=9.23>

Comings and Goings

Comings

The following staff members were promoted in February:

Ingo Pitterle, Economic Affairs Officer, Development Policy and Analysis Division

Luis Prugue, Programme Assistant, Division for Public Administration and Development Management

Marta Roig, Social Affairs Officer, Division for Social Policy and Development

Goings

The following staff member retired in February:

Lourdes Ma. Regina Beplat, Meetings Services Assistant, Office for ECOSOC Support and Coordination

Calendar

March

Intergovernmental Preparatory Meeting for the 19th session of the Commission on Sustainable Development, (CSD-19)

New York, 28 February - 4 March

http://www.un.org/esa/dsd/csd/csd_csd19.shtml

Capacity building workshop “Managing ESCs as a Driving Force of the National Dialogue on Economic and Social Policies”

Nairobi, Kenya, 7-8 March

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

Second Meeting of the Preparatory Committee on Rio 2012

New York, 7-8 March

http://www.uncsd2012.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=category&id=72&Itemid=123

Capacity building workshop on Promoting Professionalism in the Public Service

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 14-18 March

<http://unpan1.un.org/intradoc/groups/public/documents/un-dpadm/unpan044035.pdf>

Seminar on the in-depth analysis of Ethiopia's 2007 population and housing census

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 14-18 March

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

Workshop on Manufacturing Statistics for ECLAC countries

Santiago, Chile, 15-17 March

<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/industry/meetings/eclac2011/ac229-2.asp>

General Assembly Interactive Dialogue with the High-level Panel on Global Sustainability

New York, 16 March

<http://www.un.org/en/ga/president/65/initiatives/index.shtml>

Expert Group Meeting to review the two draft reports of the Secretary-General for the 2011 high-level segment of ECOSOC on the theme of education

New York, 18 March

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

13th session of the Committee for Development Policy

New York, 21-25 March

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

Asia-Pacific Annual Ministerial Review Regional Meeting

Jomtien, Thailand, 24 March

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

April

United Nations Committee of Experts on Public Administration - 10th Session

New York, 4-8 April

<http://www.unpan.org/cepa.asp>

United Nations Commission on Population and Development - 44th Session

New York, 11-15 April

<http://www.un.org/esa/population/cpd/cpd2011/cpd44.htm>

Observances

World Water Day

22 March

The international observance of World Water Day is an initiative that grew out of the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) in Rio de Janeiro. The General Assembly declared 22 March as World Day for Water to promote awareness of the extent to which water resource development contributes to economic productivity and social well-being.

The objective of World Water Day 2011 is to focus international attention on the impact of rapid urban population growth, industrialization and uncertainties caused by climate change, conflicts and natural disasters on urban water systems.

This year theme, Water for cities: responding to the urban challenge, aims to spotlight and encourage governments, organizations, communities, and individuals to actively engage in addressing the defy of urban water management.

For more information: website:

<http://www.worldwaterday2011.org/>

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.