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Face-to-face with sustainable development challenges

Small Island Developing States (SIDS) around the world face unique challenges in the context of sustainable development, including vulnerabilities to climate change such as a rise in sea-levels. “If we don’t address climate change, islands may not exist,” said the Foreign Minister of the Republic of Seychelles, Mr. Jean-Paul Adam, in an exclusive interview with DESA’s Division for Sustainable Development.

Discussing different challenges that SIDS face to implement sustainable development, the opportunities that partnerships bring and the upcoming international conference on sustainable development of SIDS in 2014, Jean-Paul Adam, the world’s youngest foreign minister when appointed in 2010, shared his views and hopes for a sustainable future.

“One of the biggest challenges is first of all the scale of islands,” Mr. Adam said, pointing to the fact that everything is smaller and that international institutions often are designed for larger communities. As an example, Mr. Adam highlighted that it is the measurement of the GDP per capita that determines development assistance. Since SIDS often show high GDP rates, they will not be able to benefit from development assistance.



“We don’t have economies of scale, we can’t decide to build half a runway just because we are a small country,” he explained, underscoring that this is a big challenge due to the higher costs involved for infrastructure projects. “And then you have climate change, which is happening at the same time. This is existential for islands,” Mr. Adam said, describing countries in the Pacific and Indian Ocean, badly affected by rising sea-levels.

“We also need to think about the acidification of the ocean and the effect that this has on fish stocks and what this means for food security,” he said. The Seychelles supplies 20% of all tuna on the European market. With climate change and acidification of oceans, these stocks will be affected. Mr. Adam also underscored the importance of a healthy environment for tourism, which is an important source of income for many small

island developing states. “We are being affected by things that are outside of our control, and this affects us in a fundamental way,” Mr. Adam said, adding “if we don’t address climate change, islands may not exist”.

In addition to the issues raised by Mr. Adam, other challenges that SIDS face include difficulties in benefitting from trade liberalization and globalization; heavy dependence on coastal and marine resources for livelihood; heavy dependence on tourism; energy dependence and access issue; the limited freshwater resources; limited land resulting in land degradation and vulnerable biodiversity resources. The Seychelles also has to tackle the problem with piracy, which affects their tourism.

Role of partnerships in supporting SIDS efforts

Talking about how partnerships among different stakeholders can serve as an effective mechanism to support the efforts of SIDS, Mr. Adam described a number of initiatives launched and ways to support SIDS. “There are a lot of things that can be done that doesn’t actually cost that much more money, but it is simply more about effective targeting of certain resources. Resources that often already exists,” he said.

Mr. Adam also described the role of the Seychelles as co-chairs of the Global Island Partnership together with Grenada and Palau and its work linking up different concerns of islands, the creation of protected marine areas as well as a debt for adaptation swaps initiative. “Islands can get rid of some of their debts in turn for climate change adaptation,” he explained.

DESA is also working to help facilitate knowledge-sharing and partnerships between SIDS. One way of doing this is through the creation of the SIDS Network (SIDSNet), which is operated by the department.

Hopes for upcoming international Conference on sustainable development of SIDS in 2014

Addressing the 2014 SIDS Conference, which is envisioned to be a landmark conference to advance significant support for Small Island Developing States, Mr. Adam shared his country’s expectations, also taking into account what has been advanced from the Mauritius Conference in 2005 and Rio+20 in June this year.

“I think that islands do share a certain amount of frustration with the pace of support that is available to them under the international system, because there are so many issues that have been flagged, not only since 2005, but since Barbados,” he explained, pointing to a relatively limited amount of practical progress and a lack of concrete measures.

Although Mr. Adams recognized that the global awareness has improved when it comes to the situation of small islands, he also underscored the importance of implementing commitments made at earlier conferences. “We need to have the green fund operational and we need islands to be able to benefit from this by 2014,” he said, referring to the UNFCCC, the Green Climate Fund, which

was launched in 2011 to assist developing countries to combat climate change.

Small islands with big ideas

Mr. Adam also put spotlight on some of the renewable energy initiatives. He highlighted the SIDS DOC and its benefits for starting some initial projects within renewable energy. “It is clear that the energy-mix that exists currently is not sustainable for the climate,” he said. He added, “islands use very, very tiny amounts of energy compared to what the world needs. Why not use islands in a way as laboratories for developing renewable energy economies?”

“We are small islands but we must have big ideas,” he said, sharing plans of small islands states in making a few of them 100% renewable energy economies. “That’s achievable in just a few years,” Mr. Adam explained. “The UN Conference on Trade and Development did study that showed that islands are 12 times more vulnerable to the volatility of the energy prices than other types of countries,” he added.

“There is a real economic argument to invest in renewable energies in these islands,” he said also describing that the technology is still in some ways experimental and very expensive. “Once the technology is in place, you have something that is sustainable for the long-term.” Mr. Adam also underscored that these initiatives do not need to be investments in terms of grants, but can also be private sector investments.

“There needs to be the right mechanisms established that can be replicated in developing countries,” Mr. Adam emphasized. “Look at the islands as the place to try some of these things. It is easier to start small and go big,” he said encouragingly.

SIDS and the sustainability challenges they face are currently in focus at the meetings of the General Assembly’s Second Committee. The world community is thereby moving closer to fulfilling commitments made and realizing a sustainable and secure future for the small island developing states across the globe.

[LINK TO VIDEO INTERVIEW WITH MR. JEAN-PAUL ADAM](#)

For more information:

[Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform – Small Island Development States](#)

[The Small Island Developing States Network \(SIDSnet\)](#)

[Climate Change Adaptation in Grenada: Water Resources, Coastal Ecosystems and Renewable Energy](#)

[Partnerships for Sustainable Development](#)

Join chat on global development agenda beyond 2015

Watch out for a livechat on DESA's Facebook page on the post-2015 development agenda on 27 November from 9:00 to 11:00 am. This event offers a unique opportunity for the online community to share opinions, questions and concerns about the post-2015 process. Join the discussion and contribute to an ambitious development agenda!



With only three years left to 2015, it is time to discuss what will happen after the final target date for the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Outlining a new development agenda requires an open and inclusive process – one that involves all stakeholders from across the globe and all spheres of life.

“Only a truly global conversation can help to keep the momentum of the MDGs beyond 2015 and to ensure that the agenda really addresses the concerns of the people. Let your voice be heard in the process of formulating a new development agenda beyond 2015,” said Mr. Selim Jahan, Director of the Poverty Division, Bureau of Development Policy at the United Nations Development Programme.

Organized by the UN System Task Team on the Post-2015 UN Development Agenda, the event will feature the core team behind the report “Realizing the Future We Want for All”, offering civil society organizations, NGOs and other stakeholders as well as the online community, a unique opportunity to discuss some of the key recommendations made in the report.

It stresses among other things the important role of the MDGs in advancing the development agenda and in improving the lives of people around the globe. Any post-2015 development agenda must therefore build on the lessons learned from the MDGs. At the same time, the new agenda also needs to respond to emerging and pressing challenges while keeping a focus on human development. As outlined in the report, these include issues such as deepening inequalities, shifting demographics, the knowledge gap, peace and

security issues, governance and accountability deficits at the global, regional and an increasing environmental footprint.

“Business as usual is not an option. These challenges cannot be properly addressed if we would continue along trodden development pathways. We need deep transformative changes if we want to realize a future that can truly be shared by all and is sustainable for next generations. We do need a bold vision for the global post-2015 development agenda. It will be challenging, but without it there may be no future for most of us” explains Mr. Rob Vos, Director of the Division of Development Policy Analysis at the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, one of the key messages of the report.

Moving forward, the report recommends that any new development agenda beyond 2015 should build on the values and principles outlined in the Millennium Declaration, which is as relevant today as it was in 2000. It should also build on the three fundamental principles: respect for human rights, equality and sustainability.

Join Rob Vos and other members of the UN System Task Team on 27 November from 9:00 to 11:00 am on DESA's Facebook page. Let your voice be heard and take part in the conversation on the global development agenda beyond 2015!

For further information make sure to check [DESA's Facebookpage](#) or [DESA's website](#).

For background information, have a look at the [UN System Task Team website](#) and their [report](#) with recommendations on the post-2015 development agenda.

Building a future free of hunger

Nearly 870 million people around the globe suffer from chronic malnutrition. To address the challenges of food security and to secure a future free of hunger, the UN Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly's Second Committee, in collaboration with FAO, IFAD and WFP, will be organizing a special joint meeting on "Food security and nutrition: Scaling up the global response".



Taking place at UN Headquarters in New York, the special joint meeting will bring together experts and representatives of Governments from around the world providing a unique opportunity to discuss food security and nutrition and to identify steps to build a future free of hunger. The event aims to promote coordinated international action and to address both the immediate issue of high food prices and long-term issues of production, trade and consumption of food.

"I wish to emphasize the need to focus global political and policy attention on the plight of the more than one billion of the world's citizens that struggle with acute hunger and malnutrition," said the Chair of the Second Committee, George Wilfred Talbot of Guyana, in an address before the Committee. He also encouraged ministerial level participation adding "it is imperative that the global response to the crisis be scaled up as a matter of urgency."

Addressing challenges of food insecurity and malnutrition

Recent natural emergencies around the world have devastated crops and contributed to a recent spike in food prices. At the same time, 22 countries, mostly in Africa, are in a protracted food crisis, and in the Sahel, drought threatens millions of people with hunger.

The most recent assessment by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) indicates that prices remain high and are expected to remain volatile. This situation puts pressure on the poor, most of whom spend over half of their income on food.

According to the World Bank, the 2011 food price increases pushed 50 million people into poverty, undermining progress to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

Extreme weather and climate-related disasters can also have detrimental impacts on nutrition. Empirical evidence shows that children born during a drought are likelier to suffer from malnourishment. These events underline the need for Member States to take urgent and effective action to tackle the root causes of high food prices, hunger and malnutrition.

At the Special ECOSOC Ministerial Meeting in September, ECOSOC President Miloš Koterec also focused on the effect of rising food prices on the prevalence of hunger. "Income inequality has been increasing dramatically in much of the rich world," he said. "Food prices have climbed by tens of percentage points in recent years, after a century of steady decline. For the world's poorest, this can make the difference between feeding a child or sending her to school."

Engaging the online community

Ahead of the special joint meeting on food security and nutrition, people with access to Facebook and Twitter have been invited to post questions for the experts and government officials who will participate in the gathering. The aim of the 'Building a Future Free of Hunger' campaign is to give the widest possible audience a chance to shape the conversation at the meeting. During the event, which will be broadcast live via UN Webcast, participants will answer selected questions from the online community.

The overall campaign is part of the UN's continuing efforts to build a future free of hunger, address the underlying causes of food insecurity, and build momentum to scale up the global response.

At a recent event honouring the latest winner of the World Food Prize, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon also stressed that innovative approaches and technologies as well as a strong political will from countries are essential to combat hunger. He also highlighted a number of UN initiatives including the Movement to Scale Up Nutrition and the Zero Hunger Challenge, aiming to ensure access to food, end childhood stunting and double the productivity and income of smallholder farmers.

"In our world of plenty, no one should live in hunger. No child should have his growth stunted by malnutrition. No child should have her opportunity for a better life curtailed even before she is born, because her mother was undernourished," Ban Ki-moon said.

Kindly note that the meeting was originally scheduled to take place on 1 November, but had to be postponed due to the impact of hurricane Sandy. Please make sure to check back on this website for updates regarding the new date for the

meeting: UN Economic and Social Council website on Special Meeting on Food Security and Nutrition

[LINK TO VIDEO – HELP BUILD A FUTURE FREE OF HUNGER](#)

For more information:

[UN Economic and Social Council website on Special Meeting on Food Security and Nutrition](#)

[Online forum on Facebook – Building a Future Free of Hunger](#)

[The Second Committee of the UN General Assembly](#)

Global Dialogue on Development

Cooperatives year comes full circle

The International Year of Cooperatives celebrated under the theme “Cooperative enterprises build a better world” will culminate on 19-20 November with a closing ceremony featuring a short film festival



Over one billion people are members of cooperatives, a serious enterprise model that puts people at the heart of all business. Owned and controlled by the members they serve, they are great tools for empowering people. It is also estimated that cooperatives account for more

than 100 million jobs around the world.

“Cooperatives empower their members and strengthen communities. They promote food security and enhance opportunities for small agricultural producers. They are better tuned to local needs and better positioned to serve as engines of local growth. By pooling resources, they improve access to information, finance and technology. And their underlying values of self-help, equality and solidarity offer a compass in challenging economic times,” said Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon earlier this year when the International Day of Cooperatives was celebrated.

Intended to raise public awareness of how cooperatives contribute to poverty reduction, employment generation and social integration, the International Year of Cooperatives was launched on 31 October 2011. The year also sought to promote growth and the creation of cooperatives worldwide and to encourage individuals, communities and governments to acknowledge the role cooperatives play in helping to achieve internationally agreed upon development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

As the year comes full circle, closing events will be held on 19-20 November featuring a short film festival on 20 November. Filmmakers from around the world have been invited to submit their contributions showcasing cooperatives and encouraging support and development of cooperative enterprises by individuals and their communities. The winners and the films selected will soon be revealed.

For more information:

[International Year of Cooperatives 2012](#)

[International Year of Cooperatives Short Film Festival](#)

Food security, migration and ICTs

The UN General Assembly’s Second and Third Committees will continue their sessions in November focusing on economic and financial issues and on social, humanitarian and cultural matters respectively

The Economic and Financial Committee (Second Committee) opened its session on 8 October featuring a keynote address by James Robinson, David Florence Professor of Government at Harvard University, who highlighted his book, “Why Nations Fail: The Origins of Power, Prosperity and Poverty”, emphasizing the relationship between politics and economic institutions. While long-run economic growth was driven by new ways of producing things, including innovation and technical growth, society also needed to be organized in such a way as to harness the talents, energy and skills of its people, he said. “Societies that fail, fail to use these attributes,” Professor Robinson added.

The Second Committee has during the month of October arranged a number of side events including a panel discussion on “Conceptualizing a set of sustainable development goals” on 16 October; an event focusing on “Sovereign debt crises and restructurings: lessons learnt and proposals for debt resolution mechanisms” on 25 October; and a discussion on “Countries with special needs / Middle income countries” on 31 October.

At the end of October and beginning of November, sustainable development will be at the top of the agenda, followed by topics including agriculture development and food security, poverty eradication, the permanent sovereignty of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory and ICTs.

Upcoming special events in November include:

- Special joint meeting of the Second Committee and the Economic and Social Council on “Food security and nutrition: scaling up the global response”;
- Discussion on “Entrepreneurship for development”;
- Discussion on “Migration and development”;
- Panel discussion on “Science, technology and innovation: a new development paradigm”

The Social, Humanitarian and Cultural Committee (Third Committee) also opened its session on 8 October. DESA’s Under-Secretary-General Wu Hongbo addressed the Committee highlighting achievements made and challenges remaining as the world community approaches the target date for the Millennium Development Goals.

“We must tackle rising inequalities and address the impact on vulnerable groups,” Mr. Wu said. He also pointed to the dire situation of unemployment around the globe, saying “the global jobs crisis has hit youth the hardest. Young women and men

represent 40 per cent of the 200 million jobless people worldwide. They are nearly three times more likely than adults to be jobless.”

As in previous sessions, an important part of the work of the Committee will focus on the examination of human rights questions. It also discusses the advancement of women, the protection of children, indigenous issues, the treatment of refugees, the promotion of fundamental freedoms through the elimination of racism and racial discrimination, and the right to self-determination. The Committee also addresses important social development questions such as issues related to youth, family, ageing, persons with disabilities, crime prevention, criminal justice, and international drug control.

For more information:

[Economic and Financial Committee \(Second Committee\)](#)

[Social, Humanitarian and Cultural Committee \(Third Committee\)](#)

Voices of youth at the UN General Assembly

As the UN General Assembly's Third Committee opened its session on 8 October, voices and concerns of young people from across the globe were conveyed



With commitment and a huge amount of enthusiasm, UN Youth Delegates took the stage to deliver messages on education, employment and other issues of importance to youth.

“This is one of the best moments in my life, because I represent youth at a crucial time,” said Caesar Suarez from Mexico. He also underscored the importance of youth participation, and making the voices of youth heard. “Look to the youth and let us participate in a responsible and democratic way,” he said.

As some 30 Youth Delegates had gathered in New York, DESA's Division for Social Policy and Development, which oversees the UN Youth Delegate Programme on behalf of the UN, took the opportunity to bring them together for a briefing. The commitment of the UN and the Secretary-General's pledge to prioritize youth issues were highlighted, along with the action plan being prepared and efforts to involve young people in the post-2015 development agenda.

Some of the representatives shared what it feels like to represent their country at the UN and also what key messages they conveyed to the Third Committee, which deals with social, humanitarian and cultural issues.

“We are so happy to be here. This is the first time that Kenya has youth representatives. We represent over 70 per cent of the Kenyan population,” said Rebecca Ndombi. Sharing some of the key points in her statement, Rebecca said, “I spoke about how education needs to be taken as an important step, and how more investments need to be made in order to educate and empower the youth of Kenya.” Rebecca also highlighted the role of ICTs as a very effective tool, as well as the importance of showcasing positive examples.

Gladwell Kahara, also representing Kenya, spoke about youth unemployment and about the importance of reaching out to young people, teaching them how to protect themselves from becoming infected with HIV and AIDS. Paula Lascano from Mexico also addressed unemployment and the importance of youth participation. She also highlighted her country's commitment to people with disabilities.

“For me it was important to say something that I really, really believed in. Therefore I chose to speak about anti-racism, migration and the situation for people that had to leave their countries,” said Sweden's youth delegate Milischia Rezai.

Panyarak Roque from Thailand shared his views about being a youth delegate, the honor it entails but also the responsibility that comes with this role. “One of the things we do as youth delegates, is to try to actually represent young people and to make sure that the youth delegation programmes at the UN are not only tokenistic programmes, but also have actual results and actual representation,” he said.

After participating in the Third Committee's working session and in youth-focused side events, some of the delegates will leave UN Headquarters to return home at the end of October. But many will be back again early next year, making sure that the voices of youth are being heard as the Commission for Social Development opens its 51st session on 6 February 2013.

For more information:

[DESA/Division for Social Policy and Development/Youth](#)

[UN Youth Delegate Programme](#)

[Social, Humanitarian and Cultural Committee \(Third Committee\) of the UN General Assembly](#)

“Human life dependent on ‘planetary boundaries’ that should not be crossed”

This statement was given by one of the panelists in the Second Committee Special Event “Conceptualizing a set of sustainable development goals” which was arranged on 16 October



Human life on earth would depend on the formulation of a set of sustainable development goals built on an ambitious vision, Kate Raworth, Senior Researcher for Oxfam GB, told the Second Committee (Economic and Financial) on 16 October as it held a panel discussion on this topic.

One of four panellists in the discussion, Ms. Raworth described nine “planetary boundaries” in areas including land use, chemical pollution, climate change and ozone depletion, emphasizing that in order to maintain the planet, they should not be crossed.

Noting that three of the boundaries had already been crossed, with others under major stress regionally or locally, Ms. Raworth underscored that they were designed not “to protect tree frogs or polar bears”, but humanity, and not as part of an environmentalist agenda, but as part of a humanist one. With “choppy waters” ahead, she said, there was an “extraordinary chance” to develop a real plan to deal with future development.

But that was only half the challenge, she said, describing an inner limit of resource use within which people lacked adequate access to water, energy, jobs, income and gender equality, among other things. “Every human being must have the resources to meet their human rights,” she stressed, calling for a balance between resource use and resource limitation that would exist in a “safe space for humanity.” The current imbalance amounted to an “indictment of the path to development we have followed to date”, she said, adding, however, that the challenges could be met.

Also featured as panellists in the discussion led by the Second Committee Chair George Wilfred Talbot of Guyana, and moderated by Andrew Revkin, Senior Fellow at Pace University’s Academy for Applied Environmental Studies, were Mootaz Ahmadein Khalil, Permanent Representative of Egypt; Manish Bapna, Executive Vice-President and Managing Director, World Resources Institute; and Charles Kenny, Senior Fellow, Centre for Global Development. Shamshad Akhtar, Assistant Secretary-General for Economic Development in the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, also participated in the event, discussing the process for moving forward.

Mr. Bapna, echoing calls for a set of forward-looking Sustainable Development Goals, said they must tackle today’s problems rather than those of yesterday. Also emphasizing that the Sustainable Development Goals must be multidimensional, he said that, unlike

the Millennium Development Goals, they needed to focus on sustainability and to make clear the links connecting the three pillars of sustainable development. Moreover, the Millennium Goals asked very little of high-income countries, he pointed out, calling for Goals that would focus explicitly on “global collective action problems” such as climate change and food supply.

The process of conceptualizing a set of Sustainable Development Goals must be open and inclusive, unlike the process that had come up with the Millennium Development Goals, Mr. Bapna stressed, pointing out that the poor had not been consulted to determine how they defined poverty and what must be done to induce change. Fortunately, some organizations were beginning to reach out to the poor, he said, adding that it was important to acknowledging shortcomings in the Millennium Development Goals in formulating the new set of targets. However, it was crucial not to lose sight of good decisions, he said, urging the Committee to “build on the good decisions and learn from the bad decisions so as to not repeat them”.

Source: UN Department of Public Information.

For the complete summary of the meeting:
[General Assembly GA/EF/3341 \(Department of Public Information/News and Media Division\)](#)

Trends and Analysis

Mapping earth for sustainable development

The Nineteenth United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for Asia and the Pacific (UNRCC-AP) is held at the ESCAP facilities in Bangkok on 29 October – 1 November

DESA's Statistics Division is organizing the event titled "UN-GGIM Vision for Asia and the Pacific Region". The main subject themes to be discussed are the geodetic reference framework for sustainable development; data sharing and integration for disaster management; and place-based information management for economic growth.

This is the first regional conference after the establishment of the global mechanism of Global Geospatial Information Management (GGIM), which will lead the region to discuss its new role as the GGIM-Asia/Pacific arm. Strong guidance from Member States on this GGIM vision for the region is expected.

For more information:

[United Nations Regional Cartographic Conferences](#)

[United Nations Initiative on Global Geospatial Information Management \(GGIM\)](#)

Internet governance for development

Governments, business and civil society will examine IG4D at the seventh annual meeting of the Internet Governance Forum (IGF), to be held on 6-9 November in Baku, Azerbaijan

Over 1,500 delegates from over 100 countries, representing Governments, the private sector, civil society, the Internet community, international organizations and the media are expected to convene to examine cross-border Internet governance challenges. DESA's Under-Secretary-General Wu Hongbo, will open the Forum.

This year's meeting will have as its main theme: 'Internet Governance for Sustainable Human, Economic and Social Development.' Internet governance for development (IG4D) is high on the agenda of the IGF 2012 meeting. Delegates will look at examples of global Internet governance issues with particular relevance to development, and how Internet governance can be integrated into development approaches, at the national and international levels.

Debates will focus on issues such as diffusion and use of IPv6 (critical Internet resources) and how innovative policies for access and diversity can ensure the potential of the Internet to become a

reality for all. Other workshops will look at the issues of Security, Openness and Privacy – a uniquely IGF perspective which links these core policy concerns.

An important focus of the IGF this year will be on capacity building in the field of Internet governance. Participants will also discuss the possibility for the IGF to include well structured and coordinated capacity building events meant to attract and inform new stakeholders, especially from developing countries.

Dialogue that informs policy

The Internet Governance Forum (IGF) is not a decision-making body, but rather a space for dialogue where all participants are equal in discussions on public policy issues relating to the Internet. While there is no negotiated outcome, the IGF informs and inspires those with policy-making power in both the public and private sectors. DESA manages the IGF Secretariat, located in Geneva.

The Internet Governance Forum is an outcome of the Tunis phase of the World Summit on the Information Society, which took place in 2005. In the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society, Governments asked the United Nations Secretary-General to convene a new forum for policy dialogue to discuss issues related to key elements of Internet governance in order to foster the Internet's sustainability, robustness, security, stability and development. The IGF's initial mandate was for five years, this was renewed for a further five years by United Nations General Assembly in 2010.

The IGF is also a space that gives developing countries the same opportunity as wealthier nations to engage in the debate on Internet governance and to facilitate their participation in existing institutions and arrangements. Ultimately, according to the Tunis Agenda, the involvement of all stakeholders, from developed as well as developing countries, is necessary for the future advancement of the Internet.

Six previous meetings of the Forum have been held, in Athens, Greece (2006); Rio de Janeiro, Brazil (2007); Hyderabad, India (2008); Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt (2009); Vilnius, Lithuania (2010) and Nairobi, Kenya (2011).

For more information:

[Internet Governance Forum \(IGF\)](#)

Capacity development

Discussing outcome of environment statistics pilot testing

Expert Group Meeting on the Framework for the Development of Environment Statistics will be held on 5-7 November in New York

The United Nations Statistical Commission, at its 41st session, endorsed a work programme and the establishment of an Expert Group for the revision of the Framework for the Development of Environment Statistics (FDES). After two years of intensive work the revised Framework, including a Core Set of Environment Statistics, has been submitted for pilot testing and global consultation.

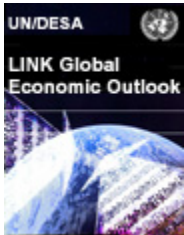
The revised FDES is a multipurpose conceptual and statistical framework that is comprehensive and integrative in nature. It provides an organizing structure to guide the collection and compilation of environment statistics and to synthesize data from various subject areas and sources. It is broad and holistic in nature, covering the issues and aspects of the environment that are relevant for analysis, policy and decision making.

The revised FDES together with a plan for its implementation, is expected to be submitted to the forty fourth session of the Statistical Commission for approval in February 2013. DESA's Statistics Division is organizing this meeting to discuss the outcome of the pilot testing and the global consultation and develop a plan how to move the implementation of the FDES forward.

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

Publications and Websites

Technical reports



LINK Global Economic Outlook

Four years after the eruption of the global financial crisis, the world economy is still in a precarious situation. Growth has weakened considerably during 2012 and the prospects for the next two years continue to be challenging, fraught with a number of uncertainties and risks slanted towards the downside. The report proposes a different policy approach, moving away from the current emphasis on fiscal austerity to focus on short and long-term measures to stimulate jobs growth.

Read the full report:

http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/policy/proj_link/documents/linkreportfall2012.pdf

Websites

Launch of the redesigned version of the Support Measures Portal for Least Developed Countries

The new interactive platform compiles and catalogues information about LDC-specific international support measures provided by development partners. It allows users to learn about what the measures are, who the main suppliers are, and how they can access to these resources. Users can also participate in discussions, make comments, present views, ask questions and highlight their own experience.

To access the portal: <http://esango.un.org/ldcportal/>

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.

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In addition to regular monthly tables, this issue includes the following quarterly and annual tables:

- 12a. Earnings in non-agricultural activities, by sex.
- 18. Fuel imports, developed economies: unit value and volume indices; value.
- 19. Indicators on fuel imports, developed economies.
- 37. External trade conversion factors.
- 39. Manufactured goods exports: unit value indices, volume indices and value.
- 41. Exports by commodity classes and by regions: developed economies.
- 51. Selected series of world statistics.

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

Outreach material

DESA NGO News

The October issue is now available online highlighting the post-2015 development agenda and featuring a brief FAQ sheet on this process. It also features information on procedures of relevance for civil society organizations and NGOs requesting ground passes in New York, as well as the work sessions of the Second and Third Committees. The online 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.

To access the issue:

<http://csonet.org/content/documents/oct.html>

Social Development Link Newsletter

Published monthly by the Civil Society and Outreach Unit of the Division for Social Policy and Development (DSPD), the latest issue is now available. It aims to provide a sharp and synthetic summary of major activities carried out by DSPD. It also serves as a link between DSPD and its major partners, from civil society actors to social development practitioners and scholars.

View full issue at:

<http://social.un.org/index/Newsletters/SDLNewsletter/October2012.aspx>

Youth Flash Newsletter

The latest issue of Youth Flash is now available online, highlighting among other things the 2nd International Youth Leadership Academy (IYLA) and how 29 committed young people traveled to attend the event in Istanbul. The newsletter is

a service of the UN Programme on Youth to keep the public informed about the work of the UN on youth issues. It is prepared with input from UN offices, agencies, funds and programmes, and from youth organizations around the world.

View the full issue at:

<http://social.un.org/index/Youth/YouthFlashNewsletter/2012/October.aspx>

Enable Newsletter

The September-October issue is now available. ENABLE Newsletter is prepared by the Secretariat for the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (SCRPD) within DESA's Division for Social Policy and Development, with input from UN offices, agencies, funds and programmes, and civil society. It highlights among other things how many and which countries have ratified the convention.

View full issue at: <http://www.un.org/disabilities/>

SPFII on Twitter

As part of on-going online outreach efforts, the Secretariat of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues is now on Twitter. For updates, follow [@UN4Indigenous](https://twitter.com/UN4Indigenous).

Meeting records

Adoption of the Resolution on the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples in 2014

The sixty-sixth session of the UN General Assembly adopted the Draft Resolution A/66/L.61, which was orally amended and agreed upon, on the Organization of the High-level Plenary Meeting of the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly, to be known as the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples.

For details: social.un.org/index/IndigenousPeoples/WorldConference.aspx

Discussion papers

Monthly Briefing on the World Economic Situation and Prospects

Published by DESA's Development Policy and Analysis Division, the latest October briefing puts spotlight on stalling economic activity in developed countries which has caused the growth of world trade to slow significantly, continued economic uncertainty in the eurozone and the enactment of significant reforms by the Government of India.

To download:

http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/policy/wesp/wesp_mb/wesp_mb48.pdf

Comings and Goings

Comings



Mr. Hazem Fahmy assumed the position as Chief of the Multistakeholder Engagement & Outreach Branch at DESA's Financing for Development Office (FfDO) in October. Mr. Fahmy started his career in 1987 at the Egyptian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and has served at the Egyptian Mission to the EU,

in the Egyptian Foreign Minister's Cabinet and at the Egyptian Permanent Mission to the UN.

During his term at the UN he was elected Vice President for Africa on the Executive Board of UNDP (2001), and Vice Chairman for Africa on the Bureau overseeing the preparatory process of the International Conference on Financing for Development (Monterrey 2002), as well as the "Rapporteur General" for the Conference.

Mr. Fahmy is currently a Minister Plenipotentiary at the Egyptian Foreign Service seconded to the United Nations' Secretariat. In addition to his appointment with FfDO in 2003, he has also worked on UN reform issues at the Executive Office of the Secretary-General between January 2006 and January 2007, before returning back to FfDO.

Hazem Fahmy holds a B.A. in Economics from the American University in Cairo (1986), a Masters in Public Administration from Harvard University (1990), a Masters of Philosophy in Economics from the New School University (2007) and a PHD in Economics from the New School University (2011).

The following staff members were also promoted in October:

Adriana Alberti, Sr. Governance & Public Administration Officer, Division for Public Administration and Development Management

Bertha Bravo-Hernandez, Programme Assistant, Division for Social Policy and Development

Aimee Gao, Information Systems Assistant, Communications and Information Management Service

Goings

The following staff member retired in October:

Jean Collison-Morris, Finance & Budget Assistant, Executive Office

Calendar

November

General Assembly, 67th session

New York, 18 September - December

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

- **Second Committee, 8 October – December**
<http://www.un.org/en/ga/second/index.shtml>
- **Third Committee, 8 October – December**
<http://www.un.org/en/ga/third/index.shtml>

Nineteenth United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for Asia and the Pacific (UNRCC-AP)

Bangkok, 29 October – 1 November

<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/RCC/unrccap19.html>

Special Joint Meeting of the ECOSOC and the Second Committee on "Food security and nutrition: Scaling up the global response"

New York, 1 November

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

NOTE! Meeting postponed due to impact of Hurricane Sandy

Internet Governance Forum (IGF)

Baku, Azerbaijan, 6-9 November

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

Facebook livechat on development agenda beyond 2015

Online, 20 November (9-11 am EST)

<http://www.facebook.com/joinundesadev>

Closing events for the International Year of Cooperatives

New York, 19-20 November

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

Expert Group Meeting on the Framework for the Development of Environment Statistics

New York, 5-7 November

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

December

International Day of Persons with Disabilities

3 December

<http://www.un.org/disabilities/default.asp?id=111>

Human Rights Day

10 December

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Day2011/Pages/HRD2011.aspx>

International Human Solidarity Day

20 December

<http://social.un.org/index/InternationalDays/InternationalHumanSolidarityDay.aspx>

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.