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Bridging the gap from poverty to decent work

More than one billion people in the world live on less than one dollar a day. In total, 2.5 billion struggle to survive on less than two dollars per day. Every year, eleven million children die, most under the age of five and more than six million from completely preventable causes like malaria, diarrhea and pneumonia.

Against this scenario, the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty (17 October) will be commemorated on Monday, 18 October, with the theme "From poverty to decent work: bridging the gap". The Day presents an opportunity to acknowledge the efforts and struggles of people living in poverty, to hear their voices and concerns and to recognize that poor people are at the forefront of the fight against poverty.

Through its resolution 47/196, of 22 December 1992, the General Assembly declared 17 October as the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty and invited all States to devote the Day to presenting and promoting, as appropriate in the national context, concrete activities with regard to the eradication of poverty and destitution. The resolution further invites intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to assist States, at their request, in organizing national activities for the observance of the Day, and requests the Secretary-General to take, within existing resources,

the measures necessary to ensure the success of the Day's observance.

Back in time

The observance of the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty can be traced back to 17 October 1987. On that day, over a hundred thousand people gathered at the Trocadéro in Paris, where the Universal Declaration of Human Rights was signed in 1948, to honour the victims of extreme poverty, violence and hunger. The gathering proclaimed that poverty is a violation of human rights and affirmed the need to come together to ensure that these rights are respected.



These convictions are inscribed in a commemorative stone unveiled on that day. Since then, people of all backgrounds, beliefs and social origins have gathered every year on 17 October to renew their commitment to the eradication of poverty

and to show their solidarity with people living in poverty. Replicas of the commemorative stone have been unveiled around the world and serve as a gathering place to celebrate the Day.

During the implementation of the first Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997-2006), several United Nations summits and conferences resulted in negotiated outcomes focused on national, regional and international efforts for poverty eradication. These include the UN Millennium Declaration, the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development and the 2005 World Summit Outcome.

Despite these commitments to poverty eradication, the progress made in reducing poverty world-wide has been uneven. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has emphasized that “With the right investments and concrete action, we can build upon the gains, fulfil our commitments, and ensure that every man, woman and child has the opportunity to make the most of their potential.”

Expanding decent work opportunities

In December 2007, the General Assembly proclaimed the Second UN Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008-2017) with the theme of “Full employment and decent work for all”, reiterating that eradicating poverty is the greatest global challenge facing the world and a core requirement for sustainable development, especially for developing countries. The proclamation recalls the outcomes of the World Summit for Social Development and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly.

The Second Decade aims at supporting, in an efficient and coordinated manner, the internationally agreed development goals related to poverty eradication, including the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). It stresses the importance of reinforcing the positive trends in poverty reduction in some countries and extending such trends to benefit people worldwide. It further highlights the importance of achieving inclusive growth, including full and productive employment and decent work for all.

According to the International Labour Organization (ILO), the number of workers in vulnerable employment worldwide is estimated to be more than 1.5 billion, equivalent to over half (50.6%) of the world’s working population.

The ILO estimates that the global unemployment rate reached 6.6% in 2009, up 0.9% from 2007. Youth have been disproportionately affected by the global economic and financial crisis and the global youth unemployment rate rose from 11.8% in 2007 to 13.4% in 2009.

The observance this year will share ways in which to promote decent work, taking into account the existing efforts and experiences of people living in poverty, as well as youth, their families and those working in the informal sector.

During the recent MDG Summit, Member States committed themselves to accelerate action against poverty. The Secretary-General reminded the international community that “there is more to do for the mother who watches her children go to bed hungry” and that it must stay true to its “commitment to end the dehumanizing conditions of extreme poverty.”

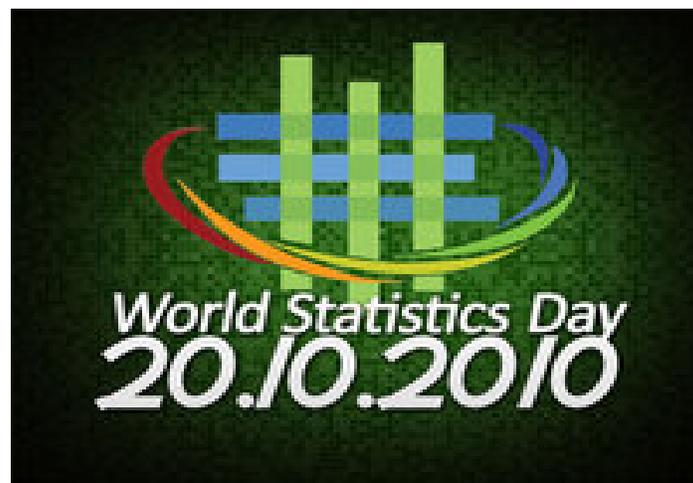
For more information:

<http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/social/intldays/IntlDay/2010.html>

The World celebrates achievements of official statistics

“Let us make this historic World Statistics Day a success by acknowledging and celebrating the role of statistics in the social and economic development of our societies and by dedicating further efforts and resources to strengthening national statistical capacity,” said Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon in a letter to World Leaders in July 2010.

For the first time this 20 October, the observance of World Statistics Day (WSD) will bring the world’s attention to the importance of statistics in decision-making. The United Nations General Assembly designated this day to acknowledge the crucial role of statistics in policy-making, transparency and accountability.



The WSD was established by a resolution of the General Assembly in June this year under the theme “Celebrating the many achievements of official statistics,” acknowledging their importance for national socio-economic development and as a basic pillar of democracy.

The date 20 October 2010 was chosen as the year rounding in '0' has always been an important year in official statistics. In many countries, this is the year when the population and housing

census is conducted. It is also the base year for the trend analysis in economic statistics or in compilation of national accounts or input-output tables. In 2010, some 3 billion people will be counted in some 60 countries. The date, 20-10-2010 brings into focus the importance of this year.

The United Nations resolution asserts that it is essential for countries to count with national statistics capabilities in order to produce reliable and timely statistics and indicators that may serve as the basis for informed decisions based on the core values of service, integrity and professionalism.

The document recognizes the long history of official statistics and the facilitating role played by the United Nations since the creation in 1947 of the Statistical Commission, which was tasked with promoting the development of national statistics and improving their comparability, coordinating the statistical work of specialized agencies, developing central statistical services of the Secretariat, advising the organs of the United Nations on general questions relating to the collection, analysis and dissemination of statistical information and promoting the improvement of statistics and statistical methods generally.

The resolution also highlights the fundamental importance of sustainable national statistical capacity to produce reliable and timely statistics and indicators measuring a country's progress, which are an indispensable basis for informed policy decision making and for monitoring the Millennium Development Goals.

The celebration of the World Statistics Day (WSD) will acknowledge the service provided by the global statistical system at national and international level, and hope to help strengthen the awareness and trust of the public in official statistics. It serves as an advocacy tool to further support the work of statisticians across different settings, cultures, and domains.

A Worldwide Celebration

The first ever World Statistics Day on 20 October 2010 is expected to be celebrated in nearly 100 countries and by 40 international organizations. Special events to mark the Day often include conferences, symposia, round-tables, press conferences and exhibits

Activities at national level will highlight the role of official statistics and the many achievements of the national statistical system. International, regional and subregional organizations will complement national activities with additional events.

The President of Peru, Alan Garcia Pérez, will host a conference to celebrate World Statistics Day in the President's residence Palacio de Gobierno. In Italy, a message from the President of the Republic, Giorgio Napolitano, will be issued to mark the Day.

In Morocco, the King will participate in the observance of the event. Commemorative WSD stamps will be issued in China and Mauritius.

The UK's Royal Statistical Society will launch on 20 October a major statistical literacy campaign to sensitize the public on the benefits of statistics. The International Association for Official Statistics (IAOS) is organizing a special conference in Santiago, Chile to commemorate the WSD.

At the same time, many countries will use WSD to raise public awareness about their censuses, through press events or promotional materials in schools.

The National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) of China and the United Nations will organize at the United Nations Pavilion of the World EXPO Shanghai 2010 a ceremony featuring high-level officials of China.

The United Nations will hold a press launch of major statistical reports. One report will be on the current situation of women worldwide, 15 years after Beijing's World Conference on Women called "World's Women 2010". This publication was released by DESA's Statistical Division and will be launched in New York and Shanghai.

United Nations bodies will organize joint conferences, meetings or receptions to mark World Statistics Day in Geneva, Vienna, Santiago, Washington and Montreal.

For more information:

<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/wsd/Default.aspx>

UN summit confident of achieving MDGs on time if world delivers

video



While expressing deep concern that progress has fallen far short of what is needed, the United Nations Summit on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) held in New York from 20-22 September ended with confidence that with renewed global commitment the targets to slash hunger, poverty, disease and a host of other social ills can still be achieved by 2015.

“This Summit has laid a solid foundation for the progress we need in our quest to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by the internationally agreed deadline of 2015,” said Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon during the closing session of the MDG Summit. “The Summit outcome document sends a clear sign that you remain committed to the goals even in a difficult international environment,” he added.

Video:

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/tv/webcast/2010/09/secretary-general-ban-ki-moon-closing-statement-mdg-debate.html> (5:48 minutes)

Statement: <http://www.un.org/apps/sg/sgstats.asp?nid=4798>

Website: <http://www.un.org/en/mdg/summit2010/index.shtml>

Outcome document:

<http://www.un.org/en/mdg/summit2010/pdf/mdg%20outcome%20document.pdf>

Global Dialogue on Development

Debate on economic growth and development

The Economic and Financial Committee - also known as Second Committee - will begin its work in the morning of 4 October

The first meeting of the Second Committee of the 65th session of the General Assembly took place on 17 September 2010 for the purpose of adopting the programme of work (A/C.2/65/L.1). The Committee is chaired by H.E. Ambassador Enkhsetseg Ochir (Mongolia). The other Bureau members include Vice-Chairpersons, Mr. Erik Lundberg (Finland), Ms. Csilla Wurtz (Hungary) and Mr. Jean Claudy Pierre (Haiti). A Rapporteur remains to be elected from the African Group.

The Bureau also agreed on the following designation of responsibilities for clustered agenda items: (1) Ambassador Ochir (Chair) – General debate; Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly; Programme planning; (2) Mr. Lundberg – Macroeconomic policy questions; agriculture and food security; Financing for development; (3) Ms. Wurtz – Sustainable development; Human settlements; (4) Mr. Pierre – ICT; Globalization and interdependence; Operational activities for development.

The Committee decided to begin its work in the morning of 4 October by discussing its methods of work. In the afternoon of 4 October, the Committee will start its general debate by hearing opening remarks by the Chair and Under Secretary-General Mr. Sha Zukang, followed by a keynote speech by Prof. Robert Shiller of Yale University. The general debate will conclude on 6 October. The Committee has set itself the target date of 23 November for conclusion of its work.

During this session, the Second Committee will deal with issues related to economic growth and development, such as macroeconomic policy questions (including international trade, international financial system, debt and commodities), financing for development, sustainable development, human settlements, globalization and interdependence, poverty eradication, operational activities for development and agriculture development.

The Second Committee will also consider issues related to Groups of Countries in special situations - such as the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs). It will also consider the item on permanent sovereignty of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and of the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan over their natural resources.

As in previous sessions, there are four side events planned to take place during the course of the Second Committee. They cover the topics of poverty, Rio + 20, climate change with a special focus on Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and the Least Developed Countries (LDCs).

For more information: <http://www.un.org/ga/second/index.shtml>

Social development, human rights in the spotlight

The sixty-fifth session of the Social, Humanitarian and Cultural Affairs Committee starts on 4 October in New York and focuses on advancement of women on 11-13 October

The General Assembly allocates to its Third Committee agenda items relating to a range of social, humanitarian affairs and human rights issues that affect peoples all over the world. An important part of the Committee's work focuses on the examination of human rights questions, including reports of the special procedures of the Human Rights Council.

The Committee discusses social development, advancement of women, refugees, human rights, promotion and protection of the rights of children, indigenous issues and the elimination of racism, racial discrimination and xenophobia. The Committee also addresses questions related to the right to self-determination, promotion and protection of human rights, crime prevention and drug control.

Agenda item 28 on Advancement of Women will be taken up on 11-13 October, under the chairmanship of H. E. Mr. Michel Tommo Monthe, Permanent Representative of Cameroon to the United Nations. Three reports were prepared by the Division for the Advancement of Women (now part of UN Women) to facilitate discussions – “Intensification of efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women” (A/65/208), “Trafficking in women and girls” (A/65/209), and “Measures taken and progress achieved in follow-up to the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly” (A/65/204).

For more information: <http://www.un.org/ga/third/index.shtml>

Preparing for the 2011 Annual Ministerial Review

DESA in collaboration with the Government of Thailand, UNESCO and ESCAP is organizing on 22-23 October an

ECOSOC High-Level Regional Meeting on “Education and the achievement of the MDGs” for Asia and the Pacific in Bangkok, Thailand, in preparation for the 2011 Annual Ministerial Review on the theme: “Implementing the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to education”.

The Meeting will be held in the context of the UNESCO-APEID conference (21-23 October) on “Education for Human Resource Development”.

For more information:

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

Maximizing the benefits of international migration

The Second Committee of the General Assembly is scheduled to debate international migration and development on 27 October

The Secretary General’s report on international migration and development (A/65/203) highlights that globally the number of international migrants in 2010 is 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 developed countries and the majority (74 million) originated in developing countries. Although the economic crisis has slowed down the increase in the number of international migrants in developed countries, new migrants have continued to arrive: 12.8 million between 2000 and 2005 and 10.5 million between 2005 and 2010.

While the economic crisis has implied rising unemployment for everyone, unemployment rates among foreign-born workers have risen faster than those among native workers in developed countries, partly because the main employment sectors for migrants — construction, manufacturing and finance — have been particularly affected. Yet, most migrants are staying in their countries of residence and return flows have been moderate.

Despite recent economic difficulties, the international community has continued to pursue strategies that leverage international migration for development, including by lowering the transfer costs of remittances and fostering the involvement of expatriate communities in promoting investment and entrepreneurship in countries of origin.

The report documents the activities of the 14 members of the Global Migration Group (GMG) and other relevant stakeholders to expand their engagement with Member States in order to mainstream international migration into poverty reduction strategies, to protect the rights of all migrants, to combat human trafficking and migrant smuggling, and to build capacities for improving the evidence base for the formulation of policies that maximize the benefits of international migration. The report shows

that at least US\$ 240 million have been allocated to multilateral activities on international migration and development since 2007.

The Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD), a State-led, informal consultative process that emerged from the 2006 High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development has met three times since 2007. Of the 114 recommendations produced by the Forum since 2007, 27 have been followed up by one GMG member and 75 by two or more members. The number of follow-up actions per recommendation increased from 2.4 in 2007 to 2.6 in 2008 and further to 3.9 in 2009, a sign of growing GMG engagement.

With the attention that Member States are giving to international migration, efforts to improve the statistics on international migration are gaining momentum. The availability of databases compiling information on the stocks, flows and characteristics of international migrants has increased and there is great potential for using the results of the 2010 round of population censuses to obtain a global characterization of international migrants that would lay the groundwork for assessing the impact of migration during the second High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development that the General Assembly will hold in 2013.

For more information: www.unmigration.org

High-level review of the Mauritius Strategy of Implementation

On 24-25 September, the 192-member United Nations General Assembly came together to review the progress made in addressing the vulnerabilities of Small Island Developing States in achieving sustainable development through the implementation of the Mauritius Strategy

The event was attended by close to twenty heads or deputy heads of State and Government, heads of many UN agencies and regional commissions, and approximately seventy Major Groups.

Highly vulnerable to climate change, natural disasters, and the vagaries of international finance and trade, Small Island Developing States (SIDS) face unique challenges as they seek to promote economic growth, improve the quality of life, and protect their distinct environments.

The high-level review session provided the international community with an opportunity to discuss the way forward based on the assessment of the progress made, lessons learned and constraints encountered in the implementation of the agenda agreed five years ago in Mauritius.

At the event, countries discussed ways and means of strengthening the resilience of SIDS noting the efforts the small islands have made on their own initiative, while stressing the need for the international community to play an even more critical role in helping the islanders make progress in addressing their vulnerabilities and in supporting their sustainable development efforts through more targeted assistance and partnerships.

The meeting began with a high-level opening session, in the General Assembly Hall, and was followed by two multi-stakeholder roundtables, on “*Reducing Vulnerabilities and Strengthening Resilience of SIDS*” and “*Enhancing International Support for the SIDS*”, and thereafter by an interactive dialogue on cross-regional perspectives led by panelists from the three main SIDS’ regions to ensure cross-regional representation. The interactive dialogue addressed common cross-regional issues and priorities for the way forward.

The highlight of the event came during the closing session, when the General Assembly adopted the Political Declaration. The Declaration acknowledges the commitment demonstrated by SIDS to promote sustainable development over the past five years, and also recognizes the important role that the international community has played in this regard.

However, the Declaration also highlights that many challenges that still affect SIDS. Through the Declaration, both SIDS and the international community commit to continue to work together in addressing these constraints, including in priority areas such as climate change, energy, food security, tourism, biodiversity, and conservation of coastal and marine resources.

In closing, the Declaration also requests the Secretary-General to conduct a comprehensive review and examine ways to enhance the coherence and coordination of the United Nations system’s support for SIDS.

For more information: http://www.sidsnet.org/msi_5/index.shtml

Trends and Analysis

Further improving UN data portal

DESA's Statistics Division will host the Third Data Managers' meeting in New York from 6-8 October

The Meeting will provide an opportunity for data managers from international agencies to update each other on recent developments in data dissemination and identify ways of expanding and improving the UNdata portal further (data.un.org). The meeting will cover several specific topics, including: data quality processes, SDMX, social networking for the statistical community, and the use of API.

For more information:

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

“World e-Parliament Report 2010” and the challenges of new technology

Technology experts gather in e-Parliament Conference from 21-22 October in Midrand, South Africa

The 2010 World e-Parliament Conference, which is being organized by DESA, the Inter-Parliamentary Union, the Parliament of South Africa and the Pan-African Parliament and coordinated by DESA's Global Centre for ICT in Parliament, will be held at the Pan-African Parliament in Midrand, Johannesburg, South Africa.

Apart from discussing the findings of the “World e-Parliament Report 2010”, the conference will focus on issues and challenges of “Governing at a time of technological changes” and emphasize the relationship between parliaments and media in light of the advent of new technologies.

At the Conference, leaders and members of parliaments, secretaries-general, parliamentary staff and officials, experts from international organizations and academics who work and deal with information and communication technologies in legislatures will have the opportunity to analyze good practices, exchange views on latest trends and institutional developments, learn from each other's experiences, network with peers, and build partnerships in an international setting.

For more information:

<http://www.unpan.org/Events/BrowseEventsbyCalendar/tabid/94/mctl/EventDetails/ModuleID/1532/ItemID/1606/language/en-US/Default.aspx?selecteddate=10/20/2010>

Revision of the United Nations Model Double Taxation Convention

In accordance with ECOSOC decision E/2010/L.36 of 23 July 2010, the sixth session of the Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters will be held in Geneva from 18 to 22 October

The main objective of the session will be to complete the revision of the United Nations Model Double Taxation Convention between Developed and Developing Countries, in accordance with the Committee's mandate. The session will also address important issues and proposals in other areas of the work of the Committee, such as for instance "transfer pricing" and capacity building in national tax systems.

For more information:

<http://www.un.org/esa/ffd/tax/sixthsession/index.htm>

Implementing the rights of persons with disabilities

Third Conference of States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities was held from 1-3 September at UN Headquarters in New York, under the theme: “Implementing the Convention through Advancing Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities”

The session began with elections for members of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in accordance with article 34 of the Convention. As the total number of ratifications had passed 80, the membership of the Committee was increased by six to a total of 18 members. Additional elections were held for the six members of the Committee whose term expires in 2010.

Substantive roundtable discussions and an interactive informal session with civil society discussed the implementation of Articles 11, 19 and 24 of the Convention, on issues of inclusion and right to education, living in community and addressing the needs of persons with disabilities in situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies. A session was dedicated to an update on the implementation of the Convention within the UN System.

For the first time, a Civil Society Forum was held on the day prior to the opening of the Convention. The fourth Conference of States Parties to the Convention will be held on 7-9 September 2011.

For more information:

<http://www.un.org/disabilities/default.asp?id=1532>

Global Alliance for ICT and Development received support in Preparatory Meeting

On 1-2 September, the Global Alliance for ICT and Development (GAID) held a Preparatory meeting for the presentation of its ICT for MDGs Project in the context of the High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly

The main purpose of the meeting was to refine and further develop, through an interactive discussion, the design and features of the project in preparation for a forthcoming presentation at the High-level Breakfast on 21 September. The event was attended by over 140 participants from 44 countries representing Governments, UN agencies and other international organizations, the private sector, civil society and academia.

There was overwhelming support for the Project on behalf of the participants. High-level representatives of developing country Governments, the African Union and the League of Arab States highlighted the urgency and practical relevance of this project. Important offers of support and participation were made by many participants, including the Governments of India, Italy and Germany, as well as by the private sector (Microsoft, Telefonica, Intel and others) and major civil society organizations.

Among other important decisions, the meeting agreed on a new name for the Project: 'MDG eNabler'. It was also decided that an advisory committee will be established to help develop methodology and modalities for information processing and coordination of work.

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

Capacity Development

Supporting local governments and leadership

Global Forum on Local Development & Pan African Ministerial Workshop on Leadership Capacity Development will be held from 4-7 October at the Serena Hotel Conference in Kampala, Uganda

The convening of the Global Forum on Local Development is timely and strategic, bringing all the key players to the table to support the growing importance and significance of democratically elected Local Governments and making them champions for the achievement of the MDGs. The Forum is holistic taking into account both rural and local governments; and it strongly recognizes local governments as an important agent in state building, including in fragile post-conflict states.

The United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and the Government of Uganda are organizing the Global Forum. DESA through the Division for Public Administration and Development Management (DPADM) is collaborating with UNCDF in facilitating the organization of the Global Forum and will organize the Pan African Ministerial Workshop on Leadership Capacity Development for Decentralized Governance and Poverty Reduction in Africa.

For more information:

<http://www.unpan.org/Events/BrowseEventsbyCalendar/tabid/94/mctl/EventDetails/ModuleID/1532/ItemID/1607/language/en-US/Default.aspx?selecteddate=10/4/2010>

Sharing knowledge in the dissemination and use of census data

Regional Seminar on Census Data Dissemination and Spatial Analysis will be held in Bangkok from 5-8 October in the context of the 2010 World Programme for Population and Housing Censuses

Organized by DESA's Statistics Division, in cooperation with the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), the seminar will provide a forum for sharing national practices and experiences in the dissemination and use of census data.

The seminar will review emerging trends, innovative approaches and technological tools employed in the dissemination of census data. The seminar is expected to provide a basis for assessing

existing national dissemination strategies as well as technologies used by national statistical offices. It will also aid in taking stock of national capacities and challenges for meeting the increasing requirements of census data users.

Furthermore, the seminar is expected to help in identifying good practices and lessons learned in the dissemination and analysis of census data. The ideas generated by the discussion and the recommendations made by participants will contribute towards the drafting of an international guideline for effective dissemination and utilization of census data.

For more information:

http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/meetings/wshops/Thailand_5Oct10/default.htm

Experts will discuss gender statistics in the Philippines

Global Forum on Gender Statistics will be held from 11-13 October in Manila, followed by the 4th meeting of the Inter-agency and Expert Group on Gender Statistics

The Global Forum is being organized by DESA's Statistics Division in collaboration with the National Statistical Coordination Board of the Philippines. This Forum will be the third in a series of international meetings on gender statistics with the purpose of promoting the advancement of gender statistics among decision makers and all other user groups.

The focus of the 2010 Forum will be on the gender dimensions of health statistics, including measurement of maternal mortality, causes of death and disability, and related methodological advances. National practices in the incorporation of a gender perspective in national statistical systems and in the measurement of women and men's health will be reviewed.

The 4th meeting of the Inter-agency and Expert Group on Gender Statistics is being held following the Global Forum in Manila on 14 October. The objectives of the meeting are to further define priorities for the overall Global Gender Statistics programme, update the group on the work of the three advisory groups (gender statistics and indicators database, gender statistics training activities and curricula, and statistical legislation for gender statistics) and share agency and expert experiences in gender statistics.

For more information:

http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/meetings/wshops/Philippines_Globalforum_Oct2010/default.htm

Kick off of the Project on National Development Indicators for the African region

National experts on development indicators and national data managers from seven African countries will launch the project from 18-20 October in Nairobi

DESA's Statistics Division is organizing a meeting to launch the project on "Improving the Collation, Availability and Dissemination of Development indicators, including MDGs." The meeting will bring together national experts on developments indicators as well as national data managers from the seven African countries covered by the project (Burundi, Kenya, Liberia, Morocco, Rwanda, Uganda and Tanzania).

The experts will review and discuss the following points: (a) Aims and objectives of the project and lessons learnt from the pilot phase and the Asian region; (b) How to improve reporting of development indicators at the country and international level (issues of coordination, availability and frequency of data, agreement on metadata and data discrepancies); (c) Improving dissemination of development indicators (data dissemination policies, current country data dissemination practices, systems and platform for development indicators).

For more information:

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

Improving capacity for LDCs through trade

Least Developed Country (LDC) members of WTO were working in Geneva from 28-29 June, 9-12 August and 23-24 September to strengthen their capacities in making use of the special trade-related support measures

As part of its work on improving the capacity of LDCs in making use of the special support measures available to them, DESA's Development Policy and Analysis Division (DPAD) developed a set of surveys addressed to LDCs and their trading partners. The objective of the trade-related surveys is to gain a better understanding of the international support measures and the extent of their use by the LDCs.

The workshops for LDCs focused on specific capacity-building activities related to the surveys and on enhancing the participants' ability to provide meaningful responses. With the assistance of trade experts and officials from ITC, UNCTAD and WTO, the workshops provided an excellent learning opportunity for all participants through the sharing of experience and approaches taken in collecting the information. In addition to assisting the

participants in finalizing their surveys, the workshops also improved the quality of the responses.

The information gathered from these surveys and the results of another set of surveys addressed to LDCs, OECD DAC members and international organizations about LDC-specific official development assistance, technical cooperation and other forms of assistance will be used as an input to the web-based information portal implemented by DPAD. The portal is dedicated to providing information about the support measures available to LDCs and will provide these countries with increased opportunities for accessing the actual benefits associated with the LDC category.

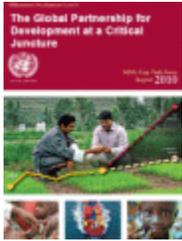
The portal will also contain information about graduation. In this regard, the CDP Unit will also focus its activities in the coming months on a country-specific macroeconomic model framework to assess the likely impact of graduation on countries, and to assist in building capacity and promoting strategies in preparation for a smooth transition and adjustment to the phasing out of advantages associated with LDC status.

For more information:

<http://www.un.org/esa/policy/devplan/ldcproject.html>

Publications and Websites

Technical reports



MDG Gap Task Force Report 2010: The Global Partnership for Development at a Critical Juncture

The report identifies the implementation gaps in the commitments made under MDG 8 and provides recommendations on how to address them, on strengthening the global partnership, and ultimately supporting developing countries in achieving the MDGs.

The main purpose of the Task Force is to systematically track existing international commitments and to identify gaps and obstacles in their fulfilment at the international and country level in the areas of official development assistance, market access (trade), debt relief, access to essential medicines and new technologies.

For more information:

<http://www.un.org/esa/policy/mdggap/index.html>

Population and HIV/AIDS 2010

The wall chart provides, for all countries for which data are available, information on the number of adults and children living with HIV, AIDS deaths, AIDS orphans, the impact of AIDS on life expectancy and on projected population in 2015, and Government measures taken in response to the HIV/AIDS epidemic, including blood screening, information, education and communication (IEC) activities, provision of antiretroviral therapy (ART), antidiscrimination legislation and distribution of condoms. In addition, data on condom use, number of people receiving ART and percentage of HIV-positive pregnant women receiving antiretrovirals to prevent mother-to-child transmission are shown.

To download: <http://www.un.org/esa/population/unpop.htm>

Statistical compilations

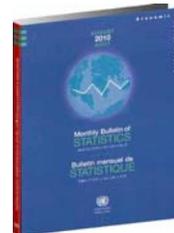
The World's Women 2010: Trends and Statistics

On the occasion of the first-ever World Statistics Day - 20 October 2010 – the Statistics Division will launch The World's Women 2010: Trends and Statistics simultaneously in New York, Shanghai and Bangkok. This publication, in the words of the Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon “is intended to contribute to the stocktaking being done to mark the fifteenth anniversary of the Beijing Conference.

The publication addresses critical aspects of life: population, families, health, education, work, power and decision-making, violence against women, environment and poverty. It finds that progress in ensuring the equal status of women and men has been made in many areas, including school enrolment, health and economic participation. At the same time, it makes clear that much more needs to be done, in particular to close the gender gap in public life and to prevent many forms of violence to which women are subjected.”

For more information:

<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/wsd/Default.aspx>



Monthly Bulletin of Statistics and MBS Online

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

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This month, the following tables, which are featured in the MBS on a quarterly or bimonthly basis, are presented along with the regular recurrent monthly tables: Retail price indices relating to living expenditures of United Nations officials, Earnings in manufacturing activities, by sex and Total exports and imports by regions: volume and unit value indices and terms of trade.

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

Outreach material

White Paper based on the United Nations E-Government Survey

A White Paper, entitled “e-Government success: a Global Benchmark and Segmentation”, with base data extracted from the UN E-Government Survey, was recently published by an international consulting firm - CS Transform. This is in addition to other references to the UN E-Government Survey in several noteworthy publications, including: (i) World Bank: ICT at a Glance; (ii) OECD: Governance as a Glance 2009; (iii) World Economic Forum: Global Information Technology Report 2009-

2010; (iv) European Commission : Europe's Digital Competitiveness Report; (v) The Economist EUI: E readiness rankings 2009: The usage imperative; (vi) Vinnova (the Swedish Governmental Agency for Innovative Systems): eGovernment of Tomorrow: Future scenarios for 2020; (vii) National University of Singapore/Institute of Systems Science: Enterprise Architecture as Platform for Connected Government.

For more information:

<http://www.unpan.org/DPADM/ProductsServices/AdvisoryService/TechnicalProjectHighlights/tabid/817/ModuleID/2097/mctl/DocumentDetails/dn/UNPAN041239/language/en-US/Default.aspx>

Working papers

Impact of the Global Economic Crises on Civil Society Organizations

The food, environmental and economic crises have challenged civil society organizations (CSOs) and the communities they serve. A broad-based survey, initiated by DESA's Division for Social Policy and Development and guided by a Civil Society Steering Committee, was undertaken in 2009 that measured the impact of the crises on the operating capacity of CSOs around the world and their expectations as they look ahead. This study examines the current situation of CSOs as indicated by responses from 640 civil society organizations worldwide. It also asks what strategies they are undertaking to cope with a drop of revenues and how to strengthen social-service delivery capacities of CSOs during crisis periods.

For more information:

http://www.un.org/esa/desa/papers/2010/wp97_2010.pdf

Social Policy in Development: Coherence and Cooperation in the Real World

Research and practice related to social policy and poverty alleviation have left a legacy of a very broad agenda of "things that need to be done", along with important unanswered questions about how to integrate social and economic development. These suggest the fruitfulness of focusing more on the distinctions among countries, in terms of their capacities, generating ideas about priorities and sequences, and working to reduce the agenda. Instead of new big ideas and new paradigms, the development community needs to get better at matching ideas to realities, and at generating contextually grounded processes for taking the next step.

For more information:

http://www.un.org/esa/desa/papers/2010/wp98_2010.pdf

Discussion papers

Monthly Briefing, No. 22 on the World Economic Situation and Prospects

The Briefing highlights that there are increasing signs of a widespread deceleration in the global recovery. These are particularly alarming in the United States and Japan. The pace of economic activity in China has also been cooling notably, although it has been partly engineered by policy measures. Although Germany and a few other European economies have registered a better-than-anticipated growth rate in the past quarter, and the recovering momentum seems to have been maintained so far in other emerging economies such as India and Latin America, many forecasting institutions have recently downgraded their prospects for the world economy, marking up the risk of a "double-dip" recession.

For more information:

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

Websites



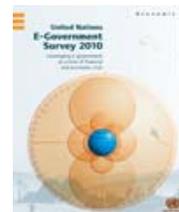
DPADM Publications now available on scribd.com

DESA's Division for Public Administration and Development Management (DPADM) is pleased to announce that its major publications are now available at scribd.com, a popular publishing and reading social network, where users can discover and share informative and original written content on the web and mobile devices for free.

Users can give feedback through comments (scribbles), ratings and other sharing features. This marks the latest development for the Division's publishing and outreach programme, which seeks to share and distribute content through both alternative and traditional media and to create new ways of reaching and interacting with a wider audience for its products.

For more information: <http://www.scribd.com/>

eBooks



E-Government Survey 2010

UN Publications has selected the E-Government Survey 2010 as an eBook, which

will be available for download from both Amazon for Kindle and the Apple iBookstore by the end of September. The E-Government Survey 2010, the flagship report of DPADM, is one of the first books to be selected for availability and joins a small, select group of publications, the MDG Report 2010, World Economic and Social Survey 2010, the Charter of the United Nations, The United Nations & Apartheid 1948-1994 and The United Nations Today, as books available through UN Publications for download to mobile devices.

For more information: <https://unp.un.org/Details.aspx?pid=21041>

Comings and Goings

Comings

The following staff members were promoted in September:

Charles Katoanga, Chief, Budget & Finance Section, Executive Office

Visitacion Icasiano, Documents Management Assistant, Office of the Under-Secretary-General

Adriana Ribeiro, Information Management Assistant, Division for Public Administration and Development Management

Paul Pacheco, Statistics Assistant, Statistics Division

Goings

The following staff members retired in September:

Ricardo Espina, Economic Affairs Officer, Financing for Development office

Calendar

October

Global Forum on Local Development & Pan African Ministerial Workshop on Leadership Capacity Development
Kampala, Uganda 4-7 October
<http://www.unpan.org/Events/BrowseEventsbyCalendar/tabid/94/mctl/EventDetails/ModuleID/1532/ItemID/1607/language/en-US/Default.aspx?selecteddate=10/4/2010>

65th session of the General Assembly

- Second Committee
5 October - December
<http://www.un.org/ga/second/>
- Third Committee
5 October - December
<http://www.un.org/ga/third/>

United Nations Regional Seminar on Census Data Dissemination and Spatial Analysis
Bangkok, Thailand, 5-8 October
http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/meetings/wshops/Thailand_5Oct10/default.htm

Third Data Managers' meeting
New York, 6-8 October
http://unstats.un.org/unsd/newsletter/globalstat_unsd_calendar.htm

Global Forum on Gender Statistics
Manila, 11-13 October
http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/meetings/wshops/Philippines_Globalforum_Oct2010/default.htm

Project on National Development Indicators, including MDGs—Kick off meeting for the African region,
Nairobi, Kenya, 18-20 October
http://unstats.un.org/unsd/newsletter/globalstat_unsd_calendar.htm

Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters
Geneva, 18-22 October
<http://www.un.org/esa/ffd/tax/sixthsession/index.htm>

World e-Parliament Conference 2010
Midrand, South Africa, 21-22 October
<http://www.unpan.org/Events/BrowseEventsbyCalendar/tabid/94/mctl/EventDetails/ModuleID/1532/ItemID/1606/language/en-US/Default.aspx?selecteddate=10/20/2010>

High-Level Regional Meeting on “Education and the achievement of the MDGs
Bangkok, Thailand, 22-23 October
<http://www.un.org/en/ecosoc/newfunct/amr.shtml>

November

Workshop on MDG Monitoring
Tashkent, Uzbekistan, 8-11 November
http://unstats.un.org/unsd/newsletter/globalstat_unsd_calendar.htm

Second Meeting of Expert Group on Energy Statistics
UNHQ, New York, 2-5 November
<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/energy/Workshops/EGM-IRES.htm>

Observances

International Day of Older Persons
7 October
http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/ageing/un_meetings.html

International Day for the Eradication of Poverty
17 October
<http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/social/intldays/IntlDay/index.html>

World Statistics Day
20 October
<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/wsd/Default.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.