



**Looking ahead at the Post-2015 Summit| 70 General Assemblies – 7 decades of commitment| Sustainable development through geospatial information**

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## Feature Articles

### Looking ahead at the Post-2015 Summit

*More than 150 world leaders are expected to attend the UN Sustainable Development Summit from 25-27 September at UN headquarters in New York to formally adopt an ambitious new sustainable development agenda. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has said that the summit “will chart a new era of sustainable development in which poverty will be eradicated, prosperity shared and the core drivers of climate change tackled”.*



The Summit will be the climax of a negotiating process that has spanned more than two years, involved all 193 Member States of the United Nations and has featured the unprecedented participation of major groups of society and other stakeholders. On 2 August, Member States reached agreement on the outcome document for the summit with the title ‘Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development’, which includes 17 new sustainable development goals.

The Secretary-General said that this agreement, to be formally adopted at the summit, “encompasses a universal, transformative and integrated agenda that heralds an historic turning point for our world. This is the people’s agenda, a plan of action for ending poverty in all its dimensions, irreversibly, everywhere and leaving no one behind. It seeks to ensure peace and prosperity and forge partnerships with people and planet at the core. The integrated, interlinked and indivisible 17 sustainable development goals are the people’s goals and demonstrate the scale, universality and ambition of this new agenda.”

#### Six interactive dialogues

The Summit will feature six interactive dialogues with the following themes: Ending poverty and hunger; Tackling inequalities, empowering women and girls and leaving no one behind; Fostering sustainable economic growth, transformation and promoting sustainable consumption and production; Protecting our planet and combatting climate change; Building effective, accountable and inclusive institutions to achieve

sustainable development; Delivering on a revitalised Global Partnership.



It is envisaged that each dialogue will address the three dimensions of sustainable development. There will also be scope to address in each dialogue issues such as gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, prioritising the needs of all vulnerable groups including children, older persons, persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples and migrants and ensuring implementation at all levels.

### Core Elements of the new sustainable development agenda

The new sustainable development agenda to be adopted in September highlights poverty eradication as the overarching goal of the new agenda and has at its core the integration of the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development. The emerging agenda is unique in that it calls for action by all countries, poor, rich and middle-income. Member States pledge that as they embark on this collective journey, no one will be left behind. The “five Ps” — people, planet, prosperity, peace and partnership — capture the broad scope of the agenda.

The 17 goals and 169 targets aim at tackling key systemic barriers to sustainable development such as inequality, unsustainable consumption and production patterns, inadequate infrastructure and lack of decent jobs.

The means of implementation outlined in the outcome document match its ambitious goals and focus on finance, technology and capacity development. In addition to a stand-alone goal on the means of implementation for the new agenda, specific means are tailored to each of the goals.

Member States stressed that the desired transformations will require a departure from “business as usual” and that intensified international cooperation on many fronts will be needed. The agenda calls for a revitalized, global partnership for sustainable development, including for multi-stakeholder partnerships. It also calls for increased capacity-building and better data and statistics to measure sustainable development.

An effective follow-up and review architecture — a core element of the outcome document — will be critical to support the implementation of the new agenda. The High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, set up after the Rio+20 Conference, will serve as the apex for follow-up and review and will thus play a central role. The General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and specialized agencies will also be engaged in reviewing progress in specific areas.



Based on the outcome document, the agenda will include a Technology Facilitation Mechanism to support the new goals, based on multi-stakeholder collaboration between Member States, civil society, business, the scientific community and the United Nations system of agencies. The Mechanism, which was agreed at the Addis Conference in July, will have an inter-agency task team, a forum on science, technology and innovation and an online platform for collaboration.

Read more: [UN Sustainable Development Summit](#)

## 70 General Assemblies – 7 decades of commitment

*Every year in September, the United Nations – and New York City – get ready for the annual invasion of Heads of States, government leaders, NGO’s, academia, and other change makers that flock into town for the UN General Assembly (GA). And as the GA is celebrating its 70th session this year, and the landmark Post-2015 Summit will mark the kick-off of the Sustainable Development Goals, this September is bound to be a historical one.*

The first General Assembly – held in London in 1946 following the establishment of the United Nations – saw 51 countries come together for a grand exchange of thoughts on international politics. Two world wars in four decades had left countries on both sides of the conflict in physical and financial ruin – and political leaders distrustful of each other. The world needed a change of discourse.



This sentiment was reflected in the opening statement by Eduardo Zuleta Angel, Representative of Colombia and Chairman of the first session of the GA:

“Determined to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war which, twice in our lifetime, has brought untold sorrow to mankind, and imbued with an abiding faith in freedom and justice, we have come to this British capital, which bears upon it the deep impress of a heroic majesty; to constitute the General Assembly of the United Nations and to make a genuine and sincere beginning with the application of the San Francisco Charter,” he said.



Zuleta Angel called the GA “the town meeting of the world” and reiterated that this was a place where nations would be able to make their voices heard “in as free and democratic an atmosphere as that which prevailed at San Francisco and London.”

70 years later, the GA has grown into one of the most important platforms for world leaders to debate on global questions on peace and security, development, and international political cooperation. But while the fundamental idea of a global town hall meeting remains, much has changed in its organization and execution in the past 7 decades.

As the number of Member States steadily climbed from 51 to 193 today, the assembly eventually moved to its permanent location in the General Assembly Hall inside the UN headquarters in New York.

With the increase of Member States, the size of operation expanded as well: This anniversary session of the GA and the Post-2015 Summit are expected to draw a record number of

representatives of nations, NGO’s, the private sector and academia to New York. Last year, almost 2500 media accreditations had been issued, and this year that number could possibly double.

The development of modern audio-visual technology have made the meetings increasingly accessible: For those who can’t physically be in the room, all the meetings are broadcast live through the UN webcast page, and covered by UN staff through social media.

Societal changes also placed their marks on the make-up of the GA: halfway through the 20<sup>th</sup> century the meetings were filled with men and smoke. Seven decades later, ashtrays in the GA hall have been removed and no-smoking signs installed instead. And with almost a quarter of parliamentarians being female, the gender balance is – albeit very slowly – starting to even out.



The scope and scale of the GA may have increased, but the fundamental elements of these meetings are still the same as they were in 1946: The President of the General Assembly – a position taken up this year by Denmark’s former parliament speaker Mogens Lykketoft – presents the agenda, after adoption followed by the high level plenary debate featuring presentations from all Member States.

Throughout the years, the GA has seen many milestones and memorable historical events. This year will surely be an addition to that list, and for all the changes the UN has gone through in the past 70 years, the words spoken by the first GA president Zuleta Angel in 1946 still ring as true as ever:

“It will be an arduous and difficult duty, but one which we can and must discharge without delay, for the whole world which waits on our decisions brightly, yet with understandable anxiety, looks to us now to master our problems, and we cannot with impunity again fail mankind.”

Read more: [UN General Assembly](#)

## Sustainable development through geospatial information

*Statisticians, technicians, ministers, geospatial information management authorities, development experts and other stakeholders showcased the vital role of the collection of geographic information for the realization of a sustainable, inclusive world for all, at the Fifth Session of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management, which took place from 3-7 August at the United Nations Headquarters in New York.*



“The monitoring of the Millennium Development Goals over the past 15 years taught us that data are an indispensable element of the development agenda.” Mr. Wu Hongbo, Under-Secretary General for Economic and Social Affairs said during the meetings, emphasizing the importance of geospatial information in the opening of this year’s session. “Knowing where people and things are, and their relationship to each other, is essential for informed decision-making, and to measure and monitor the outcome.”

Throughout the conference, delegates focused on the finance, governance, common principles, policies, methods, mechanisms and standards behind the collection of geospatial information.

The committee of experts further aimed to finalize the guidelines to assist Member States in implementing and adopting international geospatial standards and best practices. They addressed geospatial issues that are closely related to sustainable development and the post-2015 agenda.



Geospatial information is a crucial part of the foundation for development work, as it provides us with important information about where social, environmental and economic conditions occur. It shows

development experts detailed information about everything from droughts to rising sea levels, from growing population numbers to declining agricultural yields, and from urbanization patterns to immunization trends.

“While the challenges before us are numerous, so are the opportunities to make a real difference to global development,” Wu said. “This committee of experts, and geospatial information, has a valuable role to play.”

The global importance of geographic information gathering was universally recognized earlier this year, when the first Geospatial resolution was adopted by the General Assembly.

This year’s session saw more than 290 participants come together in New York, showing a growing awareness for the need of geospatial information, as well as a wider reach of the UN initiative on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM).

UN-GGIM aims at playing a leading role in setting the agenda for the collecting and processing of global geospatial information and promoting its use to address key global challenges. It consists of experts designated by member states, with specific knowledge drawn from the interrelated fields of surveying, geography, cartography and mapping, remote sensing, land/sea and geographic information systems and environmental protection. It also comprises observers, who are experts from international organizations. The committee has been up and running for five years, with conference sessions taking place each year.



In the previous session, which took place in August 2014, the Committee reached the consensus that the understanding of geographic and geospatial information in sustainable development, particularly at the policy

and decision-making levels, needed to be enhanced. Since then, a multitude of accomplishments have been made, among which

the formulation of the first geospatial resolution adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in February this year. “This landmark resolution recognizes the global importance of location and positioning for many areas of development.” Wu said in his opening statement at this year’s session.

This year, the committee moved towards the formulation of more operable solutions to the problems to realize sustainable development; a more hands-on approach to preparing the international community to adopt and successfully implement the Sustainable Development agenda in September this year.

Read more: [United Nations initiative on Global Geospatial Information Management \(UN-GGIM\)](#)

# Global Dialogue on Development

## United Nations General Assembly



*The seventieth session of the General Assembly will convene at United Nations Headquarters on Tuesday, 15 September, and the general debate – featuring statements by Heads of State and Government and other country representatives – will open*

*on Monday, 28 September. The United Nations summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda will be held from 25 to 27 September in New York, and convened as a high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly.*

The General Assembly is the main deliberative, policymaking and representative organ of the United Nations. Comprising all 193 Member States of the United Nations, it provides a unique forum for multilateral discussion of the full spectrum of international issues covered by the UN Charter. The Assembly meets in regular session intensively from September to December each year, and thereafter as required.

### Second and Third Committees

The Economic and Financial Committee (Second Committee) and the Social, Humanitarian and Cultural Committee (Third Committee) will discuss the items on the agenda related to economic questions and social and humanitarian issues, respectively. The Committees seek where possible to harmonize the various approaches of States, and present their recommendations, usually in the form of draft resolutions and decisions, to a plenary meeting of the Assembly for its consideration.

Both the Second and Third Committees will convene in October.

For more information, see: [UN General Assembly](#)

## Changing the game for persons with disabilities in global development planning



*Despite being the world's largest minority – 15 per cent of the global population – people living with disabilities are often invisible in global development policy and programming. Even the highly successful and unifying*

*set of global developmental objectives, the UN Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), omitted any direct reference to the one billion persons who live with a disability – of which over 80% live in developing countries.*

Many countries still continue to face challenges in developing and implementing effective measures to reduce poverty and inequality. This is in part due to the chronic levels of poverty, lack of national capacities and resources, as well as a lack of data and statistics. The international community has strongly voiced concern over growing inequalities and exclusion faced by persons with disabilities. They have drawn global attention to the obstacles and barriers to achieving development objectives for persons with disabilities.

A lack of disability data and statistics means that the situation and number of persons with disabilities are not clear to policy-makers and others responsible for development planning. The need for accurate data has been emphasized by and pursued by the United Nations for over three decades.

As the target date for achieving the MDGs comes to an end this year, the new set of sustainable development goals (SDGs) and related targets that will replace the MDGs was agreed to by UN Member States on 1 August 2015. The document: “[Transforming Our World: The 2030 agenda for global action](#)”, includes seventeen goals and related targets, of which seven targets explicitly refer to disability or persons with disabilities. These targets call for equal access to education and employment; accessible schools, transport, public and green spaces; enhanced political, social and economic participation of persons with disabilities as well as for more data disaggregated by disability. Other proposed SDG targets, either by their universal nature that calls for achievement for all, or by their references to vulnerable persons, also cover persons with disabilities. In some target areas, persons with disabilities have historically been at a disadvantage, and now disaggregating data by disability will be a leap forward in addressing such inequalities.

It is encouraging to note that more data collection initiatives are adopting international recommendations and thus producing globally comparable data

Increasingly, during the last decade, more data and information on disability have been collected by Governments, UN agencies and others, worldwide. For example, 98 countries have collected data on disability in their last censuses. UN agencies such as the ILO, UNICEF, UNFPA and WHO, have produced or are producing disability modules for statistical surveys, while some have also collected disability data. Furthermore, the [Washington Group on Disability Statistics](#) has endorsed disability-related questions suitable for use in censuses and statistical surveys worldwide.

It is encouraging to note that more data collection initiatives are adopting international recommendations and thus producing globally comparable data. Thirty per percent of those national censuses, as well as the WHO, ILO and UNICEF surveys are using comparable methods of collecting data on disability. The data tools are now already available to monitor, review and follow up the achievement of the SDG targets relevant for persons with disabilities.

This new convergence of political will and an increasing availability of disability data to help achieve the SDGs, presents a historic opportunity for the global community to leave no one behind, including individuals with disabilities.

Read more: [UN Enable](#)

## Trends and Analysis

### Not just any internship: interning at the United Nations



*My name is Haodan, currently a Public Information intern in the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) at the United Nations. It was a long journey that brought me here, to this internship. It took a lot of reflecting, on who I am,*

*where my passion lies in, what I am good at and how I can and want contribute to the world.*

Since childhood, I have been dreaming of making the world a better place by eliminating inequality and injustice. Driven by this belief, I studied hard and accumulated experience in the public field. But the route to the UN truly began with a friend's casual remark about an internship opportunity at the UN: "Why not try to realize your dream on a global level?" she said.

Enlightened by her words, I submitted the online application. After months of waiting, I eventually secured this precious opportunity and started this wonderful, unforgettable trip.

#### A hard day's work, but great experience

DESA works closely with governments and stakeholders to help countries around the world meet their economic, social and environmental goals. Interns here are always busy and work in different areas. In our department, I am responsible for communication. Every day, when I arrive at the office at 9 am, the first thing to do is open different UN-related websites and social media platforms to browse world news or upcoming events related to the department's work, then draft Facebook and Twitter posts based on them. Before leaving the office at 5 pm I publish or schedule all of the posts. Occasionally, I get a special assignment: supporting the communication team by writing stories on important UN events.

For me, every day is similar but different: I am doing the same work at the office, but the content I come across is different every day. The time I get a new topic to work on is also the time I start learning.

Sometimes interns get to attend different kinds of meetings hosted at the UN, from small-scale meetings within the division to large-scale international meetings involving all Member States. Melanie is an intern working on drought management in West Asia and North Africa. She particularly appreciates the opportunities of being present in the meetings. "Attending meetings is interesting. I could feel the 'UN atmosphere' and that was a great experience," she said.

#### Intercultural environment, interesting network

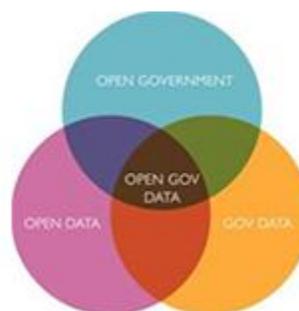
Working in this unique environment, the network of UN interns is no longer limited to people from the same country. We become "international people" – this is not only reflected through us getting accustomed to different English accents, but also in building friendships with a group of cool young people from all over the world.

Sarabeth, a former intern for water management at DESA, is now a consultant. "I really enjoy working with people from different backgrounds. They are interesting. I want to make friends and stay connected with them." When I asked why this is so important to her, she said: "I learned a lot from them, like culture, experience... everyone has their stories."

An internship at DESA is not just an internship – in the process we gain experience that's probably better than what you would gain in most organizations, and a network cooler than anywhere else.

More information: [UN internship programme](#)

### Open Government Data for Sustainable Development



*Opening up government data is fundamentally about more efficient use of public resources and improving service delivery for citizens. The effects of open data utilization are potentially far reaching for sustainable development*

*with a positive impact on innovation, transparency, accountability, participatory governance and economic growth. Open Government Data (OGD) can help countries improve development programmes and track progress, prevent corruption and improve aid effectiveness. The benefits of open data and improved access to public information gain greater visibility and relevance today in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.*

The development account project on “Strengthening of Capacities of Developing Countries to Provide Access to Information for Sustainable Development through Open Government Data (OGD)”, was approved in the summer of 2014, and is being implemented by DESA through its Division for Public Administration and Development Management (DPADM). It focuses on four developing countries: Bangladesh, Nepal, Panama and Uruguay. The project aims to support the needs for increased awareness of OGD requirements among government officials and other stakeholders while addressing capacities needed for developing action plans for implementing OGD initiatives. DPADM is working in close collaboration with relevant government agencies in host countries, as well as the UN regional commissions in Latin America and Caribbean (ECLAC), Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), and UNDP country offices.

Through eight national and two regional level capacity building events, DPADM aims at assisting target countries with the development of policy frameworks and understanding demands of technical infrastructure required for implementing OGD initiatives, particularly in thematic areas relevant to the achievement of the sustainable development goals. It will strive to strengthen the open data community in each target country and stimulate south-south knowledge transfer on OGD by bringing together OGD-beginners with more OGD-advanced countries during regional workshops. The workshops are targeting high and mid-level government authorities, relevant public servants, as well as the broader OGD ecosystem and key stakeholders in each country. They offer opportunities for questions and answers after experts’ presentations to allow for a broader understanding on specific OGD topics.

The first national capacity development sensitization workshop on open data delivered within this project was held in [Montevideo, Uruguay, on 12-14 May](#). It was followed by the second workshop in [Panama City, Panama, on 28-30 July](#). The third event is scheduled for [23-25 August in Dhaka, Bangladesh](#), and the fourth one on [1-3 September in Kathmandu, Nepal](#).

After the first round of OGD sensitization workshops, DPADM will organize substantive trainings on key topics for OGD success in each of the 4 intervention countries. Dates for the workshops are confirmed for Uruguay (28 September – 2 October) and Panama (19-23 October), and will be soon discussed with the governments of Bangladesh and Nepal.

The success of this initiative is linked to partnership with UN national and regional offices as well as national partners. In particular, in Uruguay, DPADM is partnering with the Agencia para el Desarrollo del Gobierno de Gestión Electrónica y la Sociedad de la Información y del Conocimiento ([AGESIC](#)) of the Government of Uruguay.

In Panama, DPADM is partnering with the [Autoridad Nacional de Transparencia y Acceso a la Información](#) (ANTAI), in

collaboration with the [Autoridad Nacional para la Innovación Gubernamental](#) (AIG) of the Government of Panama.

In Bangladesh, DPADM is partnering with the [Access to Information Programme](#) of the Prime Minister’s office of the Government of Bangladesh

In Nepal, DPADM is partnering with the [National Information Commission](#).

More information: [Division for Public Administration and Development Management \(DPADM\)](#)

## SDMX Global Conference 2015: SDMX In Action



*The 5th SDMX (Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange) Global Conference will be held from 28 to 30 September 2015 at the United Nations Conference Centre in Bangkok. This year’s conference is hosted jointly by the DESA’s Statistics Division (UNSD) and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN ESCAP), with the theme “SDMX In Action”.*

Topics for this year’s event include; SDMX and the global data revolution; Applying SDMX to improve statistical business processes; Governance of SDMX structures; SDMX infrastructure and tools; and SDMX and global standardisation.

For more information: [UN Statistics Division](#)

## Capacity development

### Promoting integrated economic statistics for sound policy and decision-making



*DESA's Statistics Division is co-organizing an international Workshop on Economic Census, Business Registers and Integrated Economic Statistics together with the National Institute of Statistics and Geography of Mexico (INEGI). The event*

*will be held in Aguascalientes, Mexico, from 29 September to 1 October, and is part of DESA's Statistics Division's efforts to promote integrated economic statistics programmes, which will provide governments, researchers, academics, the private sector and the general public with consistent and comprehensive information needed for sound policy and decision-making.*

All national statistics offices in Latin America have been invited to participate, as well as experts from Canada and the United States. The objective of the workshop is to share experiences and knowledge in these areas. Among the specific topics to be discussed are major innovations in collecting and disseminating economic census information; using census results for updating the business register; the challenges and opportunities of maintaining micro-level business statistics; the role of the (statistical) business register in the modernization of statistical production; and linking the business register with international trade statistics. INEGI will also share the first results of the recent Mexican economic census.

More information: [International Workshop on the Business Register, Economic Census and Integrated Economic Statistics](#)

### Improving civil registration and vital statistics systems in Asia and the Pacific



*DESA's Statistics Division is conducting the Sub-regional Workshop on Applying Principles and Recommendations for a Vital Statistics System for Implementing the Regional*

*Action Framework for Civil registration and Vital Statistics in Asia, from 15-18 September in Istanbul, Turkey targeting countries in Central Asian region.*

This workshop is organised in cooperation with the Turkish Statistical Institute (TurkStat), the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), and UNESCAP with the contribution from WHO. The purpose of the workshop is to present the revised international statistical standards for civil registration and vital statistics and put them in context of the regional initiatives for improving these systems in Asia and the Pacific; provide an opportunity for participating statisticians and civil registrars to exchange national practices and establish channels for exchanging experiences in the regional settings; and present good practical from countries in the sub-region.

More info: [Global Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Group](#)

### Using data to understand entrepreneurship from a gender perspective



*The Evidence and Data for Gender Equality (EDGE) project staff will participate in the training of enumerators on the methodology for measuring individual level asset ownership and entrepreneurship from a gender perspective.*

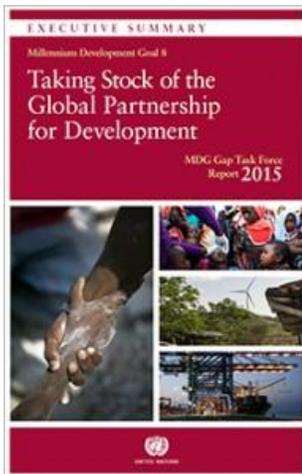
Two training events are jointly organised by the EDGE Project and the Asian Development Bank (ADB). The first one will be held in collaboration with the Philippines Statistics Authority (PSA) from 7 – 9 September in the Philippines. A second training will be organized in collaboration with the Mongolia National Statistics Office (NSO Mongolia) from 11-15 September in Ulan Bator, Mongolia.

The PSA and NSO Mongolia have volunteered to conduct pilot surveys for EDGE data collection with financial assistance from the ADB. Findings of these pilot surveys are expected to inform the international methodological guidelines to be developed by the EDGE initiative on measuring individual level asset ownership and entrepreneurship from a gender perspective.

More information: [Evidence and Data for Gender Equality](#)

## Publications and Websites

### Technical reports



#### MDG Gap Task Force Report 2015: Taking Stock of the Global Partnership for Development

The 2015 Report continues to monitor the five core domains of the Global Partnership for Development, namely, official development assistance (ODA), market access (trade), debt sustainability, access to affordable essential medicines and access to new technologies, as prescribed by MDG 8. This year marks the last of the series of this monitoring process

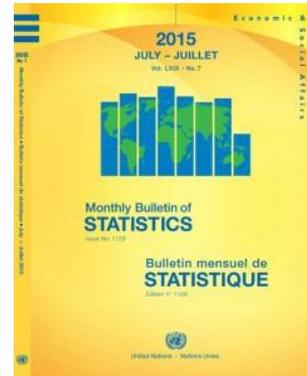
with a closing report tracking 15 years of the global partnership for development.

As has been reported throughout the monitoring process, there have been significant positive developments pointing to an effective international partnership in the five domains, but several deficits in development cooperation have continuously highlighted the need for a rejuvenation of the global partnership for development.

The full 2015 report will be launched in New York mid-September 2015 while the Executive Summary has been released for presentation at a side-event to the Third International Conference on Financing for Development on 14 July 2015, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

- [For more information](#)

### Statistical compilations



#### Monthly Bulletin of Statistics and MBS Online

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

developments, including population, prices, employment and earnings, energy, manufacturing, transport, construction, international merchandise trade and finance.

Vol. LXIX – No. 7 July 2015

In addition to the regular recurrent monthly tables, this issue includes quarterly and annual tables: Civil aviation traffic: passenger km and cargo net ton km; Total exports and imports by countries or areas: volume, unit value, terms of trade and purchasing power of exports, in US dollars; World exports by provenance and destination.

- [For more information](#)

### Outreach material

#### Enable Newsletter

Prepared by the Secretariat for the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (SCRPD) within UN DESA's Division for Social Policy and Development, June-July issue is now available. The newsletter provides news from UN Headquarters and UN agencies and other news of relevance for the work to advance the rights of persons with disabilities.

- [Read full issue](#)

## DESA NGO News

Published by UN DESA's NGO Branch, the latest issue is available online providing the most up-to-date information on news and upcoming events of interest to civil society at UN headquarters in New York, Geneva and elsewhere.

- [Read full issue](#)

## Discussion papers

### Monthly Briefing on the World Economic Situation and Prospects No. 81

Prepared by UN DESA's Development Policy and Analysis Division, the August issue is available online with the following summary:

- Decline in capital inflows to emerging markets accelerates.
- Sluggish investment in developed economies threatens future growth.
- Greece and its creditors agree on conditions for new bailout programme.<sup>f</sup>
- Chinese stock markets remain volatile in July.

- [To download](#)

## Background papers

### Supporting LDCs' Transformation: How can ODA Contribute to the Istanbul Programme of Action in the Post-2015 Era?

Many intergovernmental processes, including the Istanbul Programme of Action, the post-2015 Development Agenda and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, call for a significant increase in ODA toward LDCs. However, even if the commitments were fulfilled, their effectiveness could be minimal if no significant changes are made in the way in which donors allocate and provide ODA. LDCs are among countries with higher levels of aid-dependency, proliferation of donors and aid fragmentation. The purpose of this paper is to discuss the role that ODA can play in the development process of LDCs and the way in which aid should be allocated among countries.

- [To download](#)

## Comings and Goings

### Comings

*The following staff members were promoted in August:*

Diana Alarcon Gonzalez, Chief of Unit, Development Policy and Analysis Division

Geraldine Hirschhorn, Administrative Assistant, Executive Office

Mi-Lin Cok, Budget Assistant, Capacity Development Office

### Goings

*The following staff member retired in August:*

David O'Connor, Chief of Branch, Division for Sustainable Development

# Calendar

## September

### **Sub-regional Workshop on Applying Principles and Recommendations for a Vital Statistics System**

15-18 September, Istanbul

### **UN Sustainable Development Summit 2015**

25-27 September, New York

### **70<sup>th</sup> Session of the United Nations General Assembly**

25 September, New York

### **SDMX Global Conference 2015: SDMX in Action**

28- 30 September, Bangkok, Thailand

### **National Substantive Training on Open Government Data for Sustainable Development**

28 September, Uruguay

### **International Workshop on the Business Register, Economic Census and Integrated Economic Statistics**

29 September – 1 October, Mexico

### **Launch of the MDG Gap Task Force Report 2015: Taking Stock of the Global Partnership for Development**

Mid-September, New York

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