



Video

Top executives and philanthropy leaders to promote gender equality

The United Nations launched a new effort today to expand its partnership with the private sector and philanthropies in the battle for complete gender equality and the empowerment of women.

“To the private sector, we look to you to exercise even more leadership for gender equality starting from the top,” Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon told a special event at UN Headquarters, attended by some 300 representatives of foundations, private companies, academia and civil society organizations.

[http://webcast.un.org/ramgen/ondemand/specialevents/2010/se100222pm1.rm?start=00:08:58&end=00:16:28\(7 minutes\)](http://webcast.un.org/ramgen/ondemand/specialevents/2010/se100222pm1.rm?start=00:08:58&end=00:16:28(7 minutes))

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Equal rights & equal opportunities for women

It has been 15 years since Governments from around the world adopted The Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action in 1995. Among the 12 critical areas of concern specified in the Platform, much has been achieved. However, many issues such as gender stereotypes, unequal responsibilities and violence

against women still stand in the way of full gender equality and global empowerment of women.

Beginning of this month, the Commission on the Status of Women will undertake a fifteen-year review of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. Countries both large and small will be able to share their experiences and good practices on the topic of women's rights. The review is seen as an important step in overcoming the remaining obstacles and new challenges faced by

women, including those related to the Millennium Development Goals.

The Platform for Action covered 12 critical areas of concern: poverty, education and training, health, violence against women, armed conflict, the economy, power and decision-making, institutional mechanisms, human rights, media, the environment, and the girl child. All area will be discussed at the review and a number of issues have been identified which are affecting the progress of the Beijing Platform for Action.

Gender stereotypes

Negative gender stereotypes continue to lie at the heart of many challenges and violations of rights faced by women, including violence against women and lack of access to education. In all countries gender stereotyping remains a major obstacle to gender equality. The prevalence of negative gender stereotypes based on societal beliefs and attitudes affects women and constrains their opportunities and choices.



Stereotypical assumptions about women in the labour market, for example, have led to occupational segregation and a gender wage gap in many countries.

Combating such stereotypes requires States to adopt a range of strategies, from revising school curricula, to holding training programmes which dispel stereotypes on women's leadership abilities, to instigating awareness-raising campaigns for the general public on women's rights.

Unequal responsibilities

It has become increasingly apparent that women are far more likely than men to be living in poverty. Women's unequal access to economic and financial resources has a negative impact on their well-being

and a ripple effect on their families and the economic growth of their communities.

Women continue to be responsible for most domestic and caregiving work in many countries. This unequal sharing of responsibilities has a negative impact on educational and employment choices, and limits women's involvement in public life.

The role of men and boys

Limited involvement by men and boys in the promotion of women's rights has continued to restrain gender equality. Building support for social change can only be achieved when men and boys are actively engaged, for instance, in measures to eliminate violence against women and overcome stereotypes.

Furthermore, the provision of positive male role models serves to instill in both men and boys the respect for women's and girls' rights and the ability to challenge stereotypical behavior.

Violence against women

Over the last decade, violence against women has become a priority issue at global, national and regional levels. A growing number of States have strengthened and adopted comprehensive legal, policy, and institutional frameworks to end violence against women and girls. Despite these advances, violence against women is arguably a global pandemic. The problem remains universal, with women and girls affected by violence in every region and every country.

Implementation and challenges

Multiple global crises, including the economic and financial crisis, the food and energy crises and the challenge of climate change have had an adverse impact on the achievement of internationally-agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, and have raised doubts about current approaches to development. It is, therefore, an opportune time to rethink and modify policy approaches, strategies and actions to ensure a more equitable, gender-sensitive and sustainable pattern of growth and development.

Although the link between the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals is increasingly recognized at a policymaking level, further work is needed to translate this awareness into concrete action.

Recent evidence demonstrates that progress for women and girls under the Goals, as well as overall progress in implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action, has been very uneven and has produced inadequate results, including in areas of poverty reduction, provision of full employment and decent work, education, including literacy, and maternal health.

For more information, please refer:

<http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/beijing15/index.html>

Sustainable developments for small island states

Small Island Developing States (SIDS) share economic difficulties and development imperatives with other developing countries. However, as small island states, they also have their own unique vulnerabilities and characteristics, which make their pursuit of sustainable development particularly complex.

Forty-three SIDS and territories all through the world are monitored by DESA, in terms of their sustainable development. Such development should be seen in relation to both the needs and aspirations of human beings, and their responsibility towards present and future generations.



Status quo of Small Island Developing States

Small Island Developing States are low lying, remote and small in land area and population (usually less than 1.5 million). These countries are often categorized by three regions: the AIMS (Africa, Indian Ocean, Mediterranean and South China Sea), the Caribbean, and the Pacific.

SIDS are confronted with many challenges, like small population, limited resources, remoteness, susceptibility to natural disasters, vulnerability to external shocks, and excessive dependence on international trade, all of which have the potential to hinder the sustainable development of these States.

In addition, the growth and development of SIDS are also stymied by high transportation and communication costs, disproportionately expensive public administration and infrastructure due to their small size, and little to no opportunity to create economies of scale.

“By almost any conceivable measure, Small Island Developing States are among the world’s hotspots in terms of sustainable development. SIDS’ vulnerability was most recently demonstrated by the impacts of the global financial, food and fuel crises, as well as devastating earthquakes, a tsunami, floods and tropical storms. Unfortunately, greater resilience due to improved economic and governance capacities has in many cases been more than offset by greater exposure to natural and man-made shocks, including those related to climate change,” said Alexander Roehrl, Sustainable Development Officer.

However, small islands also have many valuable resources, including high levels of endemism and biodiversity. The wealth of local eco-systems acts as a magnet for tourists, and it is no surprise that tourism is the main source of income for many SIDS. Unfortunately, the relatively small number of the various species that populate these islands puts them at risk of extinction, and increases their need for protection.

“Tourism is the main source of national income for many SIDS, which makes them highly reliant on international tourism trends and on the global economic situation. However, if not closely regulated, expanding tourism infrastructures can negatively affect local eco systems, which are among the main tourist attractions in the first place. Undoubtedly, one of the question for SIDS is to maintain tourism revenues without depleting local eco-systems, while at the same time diversifying their sources of national income in order to reduce their vulnerability to exogenous factors, such as tourism trends,” said Alexander Voccia, Associate Expert in Sustainable Development.

Sustainable development for SIDS

Due to their small size, development and environment are closely interrelated and interdependent for SIDS. Recent human history

contains examples of entire islands rendered uninhabitable through environmental destruction owing to external causes. Thus, it is generally agreed that environmental consequences of ill-conceived development can have catastrophic effects. The efforts currently underway in Haiti are a clear example of the importance of taking into account long-term development perspectives – even in the face of sudden catastrophes.

“While the immediate disaster relief and humanitarian assistance continue by well-placed UN agencies after the devastating earthquake that struck Haiti a month ago, and where over two-hundred thousand people are estimated to have lost their lives, it is important to plan to meet the medium- to long-term sustainable development challenges that Haiti will be facing.

This is where DESA could make the most significant contributions. The DESA Haiti Task Force is preparing coordinated responses in this regard and DESA’s Division for Sustainable Development is also working with UNCRD’s Disaster Management Office in Kobe (Japan) to see how their preventive and post-earthquake information and capacity building advisory and activities could be applied,” said Hiroko Morita-Lou, Chief of the SIDS Unit.

Unsustainable development threatens not only the livelihood of people but also the islands themselves and the cultures they nurture. Climate change, climate variability and sea level rise are issues of grave concern. Similarly, the biological resources on which SIDS depend are threatened by the large-scale exploitation of marine and terrestrial living resources.

While the wealth of natural resources available to SIDS is well recognized, the short and long-term challenge for SIDS is to ensure that these resources are used in a sustainable way for the well-being of present and future generations. Development initiatives for SIDS should be seen in relation to both the needs and aspirations of human beings, and their responsibility towards present and future generations.

Sharing a common aspiration for economic development and improved living standards, SIDS are determined that the pursuit of material benefits should not undermine social, religious and cultural values or cause any permanent harm to either their people or their land and marine resources, which have sustained island life for many centuries.

These unique development challenges, as well as a framework for overcoming them, are reflected in the internationally agreed development goals for SIDS.

The Barbados Programme of Action (BPoA) and Mauritius Strategy of Implementation (MSI) and further actions

Adopted during the first Global Conference on Sustainable Development of SIDS in Barbados in 1994, the BPoA represents a basis for action in 14 agreed priority areas and defines a number of issues related to environmental, social and economic development planning that should be focused upon by SIDS with the cooperation and assistance of the international community.

In 2005, The International Meeting to Review the Implementation of BPoA for the Sustainable Development of SIDS was convened in Mauritius. The meeting was concluded with the adoption of a pro-active Strategy to further implement this programme of action, called Mauritius Strategy of Implementation (MSI), and of a political declaration, i.e., ‘The Mauritius Declaration’. The MSI sets forth actions and strategies in 19 priority areas.

This year, member States will undertake a five-year review of the MSI. In February, the Pacific Regional MSI+5 Meeting was convened in Vanuatu. This month, the AIMS Regional Meeting in Maldives and Caribbean Regional Meeting in Grenada will take place.

For more information, please refer to:

http://www.un.org/esa/dsd/dsd_aofw_sids/sids_milem_ajomeetmsi5.shtml

Global dialogue on development

Beijing's Unfinished Agenda: The Way Forward

15-year review of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (1995) and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly (2000) will be undertaken at this year's Commission on the Status of Women from 1-12 March in New York

Government officials, representatives of civil society and the media, as well as the private sector will assess what has been achieved since the historic Fourth World Conference on Women, held in 1995 in Beijing, share experiences and good practices, with a view to overcoming remaining obstacles and new challenges, and contribute to shaping a gender perspective towards the full realization of the MDGs.

Since the Beijing Conference, progress has been made in a number of areas, most significantly in education. For example, over the last decade, access to education has increased globally for girls at all levels, particularly in primary education. In 2007, there were 96 girls for each 100 boys enrolled in first grade, compared with 92 girls in 1999.

On the other hand, illiteracy remains a serious constraint for women, who, for the last 20 years, have accounted for nearly two thirds of the currently 776 million illiterate adults in the world. It is particularly prevalent among women who are older, poor, disabled, from ethnic minorities or from rural areas.

Little progress has been made on reducing maternal mortality rates. Every year, 536,000 women and girls die as a result of complications during pregnancy, childbirth or following delivery, the overwhelming majority in developing countries. Most of these deaths are preventable.

While gender-sensitive legislation and policies have addressed inequalities and discrimination against women, overall progress in implementation remains uneven. Disparities exist between regions and within countries. Global averages also hide differences among women based on location, economic status, ethnicity, age, disability and other factors.

It is not enough to adopt laws and policies; they have to be effectively implemented. Measures that help ensure successful implementation of laws and policies include training public officials and raising women's awareness of their legal rights, as well as allocating adequate resources for implementation. The share of budgets and of development assistance specifically dedicated to gender equality and women's empowerment, through both gender mainstreaming and women-targeted activities, should be increased.

To accelerate progress in implementation, strengthened efforts are needed to address persistent gaps and challenges and emerging obstacles, as well as to build on achievements, lessons learned and good practices in implementation in relation to all critical areas of concern in the Platform for Action.

Furthermore, across all critical areas, the importance of increasing the participation of women in decision-making processes is emphasized, both as a right in itself and as a means to ensure the incorporation of gender perspectives and to facilitate positive outcomes in decision-making processes at all levels.

Political will and leadership are critical for generating determined action for gender equality and empowerment of women and for progress in development, peace, security and human rights. Only then will States be able to finish the agenda to which they committed 15 years ago in Beijing, achieve the Millennium Development Goals and respond effectively to global crises.

For more information:

<http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/beijing15/index.html>

Promoting social integration

48th session of the Commission for Social Development was held in New York from 3-12 February, adopting the first time a resolution on social integration

This year was the policy session in the two-year cycle of the Commission's work on the priority theme of "Social Integration", with ten ministers in attendance. The Commission held a high-level panel discussion on the theme in addition to its general debate. It also reviewed relevant United Nations plans and

programmes of action pertaining to the situation of social groups.

Under the agenda item “emerging issues”, the Commission considered policy responses on employment and the social consequences of the financial and economic crisis, including its gender dimension. It also held a high-level panel discussion to commemorate the 15th anniversary of the World Summit for Social Development.

The Commission adopted four resolutions by consensus: methods of work; ageing; social integration and; mainstreaming disability in the development agenda by 12 February and resumed on 19 February to conclude its work, including the adoption of a resolution on the social dimensions of NEPAD.

It is the first time since the World Summit for Social Development that a resolution on social integration, one of the three pillars of social development, was adopted, setting the course to further advance social integration. The Commission also decided that the priority theme of its next two-year cycle will be “poverty eradication”, and that the officers elected to the bureau of the Commission will serve for a term of office of two years to enhance the effectiveness of the work of the Commission.

For more information:

<http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/csd/2010.html>

Launching consultations on system-wide coherence

General Assembly held its first informal session of its 64th session on 4 February, providing an opportunity for Member States to express their expectations about the priorities and outcomes of the consultative process

Prior to the session, H.E. Mrs. Tiina Intelmann, Permanent Representative of Estonia and H.E. Mr. Ghazi Jomaa Permanent Representative of Egypt have been appointed to facilitate the informal consultations.

In opening the consultations, the President of the General Assembly highlighted the importance of system-wide coherence and invited all Member States to engage in an open, transparent and constructive manner in the consultations towards concrete outcomes. The Secretary-General presented

his two recent reports with actionable proposals to improve the governance and funding of UN operational activities for development as well as modalities to establish the composite gender entity.

Member States thanked the Secretary-General for the substantive work of the Secretariat in support of the consultative process, while expressing the expectation to see progress on all areas of work within the current legislative session. A number of Member States encouraged the Secretary-General to start consultations on the candidate for the Under-Secretary-General leading the composite gender entity.

In follow-up to the first informal consultations, Member States met on 12 February to discuss the workplan as well as the linkages between governance and funding. The Co-Chairs informed that further informal consultations will be conducted in five clusters, namely governance, funding, gender, independent evaluation of “Delivering as One” and system-wide evaluation. There was a strong sense of urgency to move forward on the issue of funding, based on updated and disaggregated analysis of the financing of UN operational activities for development.

In the upcoming 3 months, the Assembly plans to hold a series of plenary informal consultations, drawing on the outcome of the substantive work undertaken by smaller inter-governmental working groups, with a view to achieving significant consensus on most of the areas by May 2010.

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

Trends and analysis

Setting priorities to implement the Mauritius Strategy

AIMS and Caribbean Regional Meeting on Mauritius Strategy of Implementation +5 will be held on 9-10 March in Male, Maldives and on 16-17 March in St. George, Grenada respectively

After the first regional meeting, held in Vanuatu on 8-9 February, two more meetings will be held in preparation for the two-day high-level review of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (SIDS), to be conducted at the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly.

The purpose of these meetings will be to provide a forum for SIDS in the Caribbean and AIMS (African, Indian Ocean, Mediterranean and South China Seas) regions to evaluate continuing national and regional challenges in implementing the Mauritius Strategy as outlined in the respective national assessment reports. The meetings will also assess recent trends and discuss common priorities for action and prepare a regional synthesis report. This report will outline priorities, emerging issues and future areas for further addressing the vulnerabilities of SIDS.

The AIMS and Caribbean regional review meetings will be attended by representatives of SIDS governments in the respective regions, UN agencies active in the regions, representatives of relevant non-UN regional and international organizations, and representatives of relevant Major Groups.

The Caribbean review meeting will be characterized by a one-day technical meeting followed by a ministerial segment on the second day. Following the completion of the Mauritius +5 meeting, ECLAC will host the Twenty-Third Session of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (CDCC). The CDCC will undertake an assessment of current development trends for the Caribbean and define ECLAC's strategic role in support of regional integration and national development aspirations.

The regional synthesis reports of these two meetings, as well as the report from the Pacific review meeting

that was held in Vanuatu in February, will serve as inputs to the SIDS interregional meeting that will take place on 8 May 2010.

The purpose of the interregional meeting will be to review the outcomes of the three MSI regional meetings, prior to these being presented during 'SIDS Day' at the 18th Session of the Commission on Sustainable Development. SIDS Day will act as the preparatory committee for the high-level review of the Mauritius Strategy in September 2010.

For more information:

http://www.un.org/esa/dsd/dsd_aofw_sids/sids_milem_aioeetmsi5.shtml

Supporting Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States

12th session of the Committee for Development Policy will be held in New York from 22-26 March to discuss the 2010 Annual Ministerial Review and review the status of LDCs

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

The 24 members of the Committee are nominated by the United Nations Secretary-General in their personal capacity, and are appointed by the Council for a period of three years. Membership is geared to reflect a wide range of development experience as well as geographical and gender balance.

The twelfth session this year will discuss the 2010 Annual Ministerial Review on implementing the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to gender equality and the empowerment of women. The Committee will also focus on LDC-specific support measures, which will be used as an input to the ongoing preparations for the Fourth United Nations Conference on Least Developed Countries.

The Committee will address the Council's request to consider the findings of the Secretary General's report (A/64/278) on the implementation of the Mauritius Strategy and submit its independent views and perspectives on the United Nations' support for Small Island Developing States (SIDS).

In addition, the Committee will monitor the recent socio-economic development progress of those countries earmarked for graduation from the list of LDCs (Maldives and Samoa).

The CDP will also examine the financial aspects of addressing climate change, focusing on the coherence and consistency of the financing architecture for adaptation to climate change as an input to the 2010 Development Cooperation Forum on Policy coherence and financial architecture for climate change.

For more information:

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

Focusing on sustainable consumption and production, transportation and mining

Thematic Seminar Series from January to April will help to prepare for the upcoming Commission on Sustainable Development in May 2010

The CSD Secretariat has launched a new and innovative Thematic Seminar Series to present scientific and technical information on the current issues under consideration this year at the CSD - transport, chemicals, waste management, mining, and the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production.

The CSD Thematic Seminar Series features presentations by technical experts, video documentaries highlighting challenges and successes, and interactive discussions. It is designed to inform all CSD participants on the latest research, data, and case studies that will underpin the discussions during the upcoming Review Session this spring.

The briefings are taking place from January through April, from 10 am until 1 pm. The remaining themes, dates and locations are about Sustainable

Consumption and Production on 23 March, Transportation on 13 April and Mining later in April.

For more information:

http://www.un.org/esa/dsd/csd/csd_csd18_seminar_series.shtml

Preparing for the Committee of Experts on Public Administration

The Committee will meet on the theme "Challenges to and Opportunities for Public Administration in the Context of Financial and Economic Crisis" in the following month

The preparations for the 2010 CEPA meeting (19-23 April in New York) are well underway. In consultation with CEPA members, since the last CEPA session in 2009, DESA's Division for Public Administration & Development Management (DPADM) has now identified key topics for discussion during the upcoming session.

The topics will include enhanced public governance for fast and coordinated policy response, citizen-centered public service delivery, transparency and responsive accountability as well as social and financial protection for priority vulnerable groups.

DPADM is also undertaking preparatory work for the establishment of the new bureau of the Committee, as well as working on the statement for the Under-Secretary-General, the President of ECOSOC and the Chair of CEPA.

For more information:

<http://www.unpan.org/DPADM/CEPA/9thSession/tabid/1136/language/en-US/Default.aspx>

Identifying ICT solutions for MDGs advancement

Global Alliance for ICT and Development met with the Secretary-General and held its Steering Committee Meeting on 8 February

On 8 February, Mr. Sha Zukang, USG of DESA and Mr. Talal Abu-Ghazaleh, Chairman of the Global Alliance for ICT and Development (GAID) met with

the Secretary-General, Mr. Ban Ki-Moon, to discuss GAID's progress and the path ahead.

The Secretary-General thanked Mr. Sha Zukang for his continued support as well as the current and former leadership of GAID for their tireless commitment. The agenda included the development of a *Matrix of ICT Solutions for MDGs Advancement* that GAID committed to present next September in the context of the United Nations Summit on MDGs, and initial ideas of the Chairman and Co-Chairs on normative matters on rights in Information Societies and uses of ICT for the protection of life and property. The Secretary-General gave his full support to the continuing efforts of GAID, in particular to the Matrix project. The Secretary-General accepted the role of a "Honorary Chair" of GAID.

On the same day, DESA hosted the 7th meeting of the Steering Committee of GAID at the United Nations Headquarters in New York. Participants included the Minister for the Information Society of Macedonia, Mr. Ivo Ivanovski, members from the private sector and civil society, and United Nations staff.

Mr. Sha Zukang acknowledged the success of the Alliance in advocacy for ICT for development and reiterated the need to be more results-oriented. The Committee welcomed the appointment by DESA of the new Executive Coordinator of the Secretariat of GAID, Mr. Sergei Kambalov, as well as the designation by the Chairman of Mr. Sarbuland Khan as his Honorary Advisor.

The Committee determined that the main output of GAID in 2010 will be the *Matrix of ICT Solutions for MDGs Advancement* to be delivered next September in the context of the United Nations Summit on MDGs. The Committee discussed ways to secure the successful implementation of the 2010 Action Plan. Attention was given to the need of effective fund raising to support the GAID budget for 2010.

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

Technical cooperation

Caring for indigenous children and youth

Expert group meeting on indigenous children and youth in detention, custody, foster care and adoption will take place in Vancouver from 4-5 March

The Secretariat of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (SPFII) is currently working with First Nations Summit to organize this event that will be attended by Permanent Forum members, indigenous experts from the seven UNPFII socio-cultural regions, government officials and representatives from UN Agencies and Funds. Representatives of indigenous peoples' organizations are welcome to attend.

For more information:

<http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii/>

Allocating national economic activities to regions

DESA's Statistics Division, in collaboration with the National Bureau of Statistics of China, will organize an International Workshop on Regional Products and Income Accounts from 15 to 17 March in Beijing

The workshop aims to review the current practices of various countries in regional accounts and propose best practice approaches in compilation of Gross Regional Product and Income. This workshop is part of a series of events organized under the project on strengthening statistical capacity development in China and other developing countries in Asia funded by the Chinese Government.

It will give an overview of the conceptual framework and different approaches for allocation of national economic activities to regions and address some measurement issues on the inconsistency between the national aggregates and the sum of regional data. The workshop will also offer the opportunity to exchange experiences and discuss the optimal approach in the calculation of Gross Regional Product and Income.

For more information:

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

Implementing sound transportation systems

Forum on Climate Change Mitigation, Fuel Efficiency and Sustainable Urban Transport will be held on 16-17 March in Seoul

The transport sector is emerging as the fastest growing source of global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, accounting for more than 23 per cent of those emissions in 2006. Road transport accounts for three quarters of all transport GHG emissions. The continuously growing motor vehicle use also causes other emissions harmful to human health, including lead, total suspended particulates (TSP), nitrogen oxides (NO_x), ground level ozone, carbon monoxide (CO) and volatile organic compounds (VOC).

This Expert Level Forum will contribute to the sustainable development of the transport sector and is meant to help curb the global growth of GHG and other emissions emanating from motor vehicles, particularly in rapidly growing metropolitan areas. The Forum is intended to support collaborative action on implementing affordable, economically viable, socially acceptable and environmentally sound transport systems.

The meeting will address key topics related to public transport systems and private motor vehicle use in urban areas, as well as highlight recent innovative initiatives and good practices in fuel efficiency promotion policies as well as climate change mitigation in the transport sector.

The Forum is co-organized by the Korea Energy Economics Institute (KEEI) and DESA, with extra-budgetary financial support provided by the Government of the Republic of Korea through the Korea Energy Management Corporation (KEMCO).

For more information:

http://www.un.org/esa/dsd/susdevtopics/sdt_tran_eg_m0310.shtml

Public administration training courses available for enrollment

The United Nations Public Administration Network (UNPAN) online training center has re-opened its courses for the year 2010 in English, French, Ukrainian, Russian and Arabic and soon in Spanish

The training center delivers courses on various topics in public administration with the main objective to increase the opportunities for government officials from all over the world to access training materials on e-government. Each course is self-guided, and must be completed within 60 days of registration. A certificate of completion will be awarded at the end of the course.

The online training courses will also be translated into Spanish as a result of collaboration between Hunter College, City University of New York and DPADM. Ms. Maria Cornelio, Coordinator of Spanish Major Concentration in Translation/Interpretation of Hunter College, proposed the translation of these online courses into Spanish at a recent meeting with Ms. Haiyan Qian, Director, DPADM.

As per Ms. Cornelio's proposal, it was agreed to arrange the translation of the UNPAN online training courses from English into Spanish without cost. The training courses in Spanish will increase the opportunities for government officials from Spanish speaking countries to access training materials on e-government.

UNPAN online training courses are available to anyone with Internet access and are provided free of charge by DESA. They are currently available in English, French, Ukrainian, Russian and Arabic.

For more information:

<http://www.unpan.org/onlinetraining/>

Publications and websites

Technical reports



2010 World Public Sector Report: Restructuring Public Administration after Conflict

The report emphasizes that because post-conflict situations are heterogeneous, there are no “one size fits all” solutions to governance challenges. In each country, public administration reforms should be tailored to local needs. The report also highlights that contrary to commonly held belief, post-conflict situations not only present challenges, but also offer numerous opportunities to leapfrog stages of development by adopting innovative practices in public administration, particularly the application of ICTs in government and service delivery in the information age we all live in.

For more information:

<http://www.unpan.org/DPADM/MajorPublications/WorldPublicSectorReport/tabid/595/language/en-US/Default.aspx>



Analysing and Measuring Social Inclusion in a Global Context

The objective of the study is to serve as a guiding framework for policymakers, researchers and practitioners interested in developing practical tools for evidence-based policymaking, impact assessment, monitoring and evaluation in the area of social inclusion. It provides guidance on how to develop tools, taking into consideration the historical, cultural and contextual backgrounds of one’s own society. The study also builds on the work on social indicators that has already been undertaken by many people at local, national, regional and international levels. It is hoped that the study will help to inspire new ideas and to generate innovative approaches.

For more information:

<http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/publications/measuring-social-inclusion.pdf>

Statistical compilations



Monthly Bulletin of Statistics and MBS Online

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

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Quarterly and bimonthly features in this issue:

7. Producer price indices
8. Retail price indices relating to living expenditures of United Nations officials
12. Earnings in manufacturing, by sex
33. Construction of new buildings
38. Total exports and imports by regions: volume and unit value indices and terms of trade

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

Discussion papers

16th Monthly Briefing on the World Economic Situation and Prospects

The February 2010 issue forecasts that the global economy started on a positive note, with continuing recovery in industrial production and international trade, led by Asian developing countries. However, economic policymakers may face even tougher challenges in 2010. The significant increase in government indebtedness in Greece and other EU countries may threaten global financial stability. Rain shortfalls in large parts of Africa will form a major threat to food security during 2010 and the devastating earthquake in Haiti presents serious economic challenges, including those of a long-term

nature; addressing them will require a sustained international effort and debt forgiveness

For more information:

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

Websites



Knowledge Base of Innovative E-government Practices

The Knowledge Base of Innovative E-government Practices

is a compilation of recent case studies of Innovative e-government solutions, services and applications. The Knowledge Base does not promote one solution over another, but rather highlights e-government practices that place the citizen in the forefront.

To browse:

<http://www.unpan.org/Directories/CompendiumofInnovativeEGovernmentPractices/tabid/828/language/en-US/Default.aspx>



ICT Applications for Public Service

DESA is undertaking an initiative to collect a broad array of current ICT

applications from almost all geographic regions of the world. Through this Knowledge Base, these cases could become a useful tool at the disposal of government at all levels, the private sector and civil society around the world. The primary goal of this initiative is to provide information that will stimulate an even more rapid expansion of electronic government, which will be more tailor-made to citizen's needs.

To browse:

<http://www.unpan.org/Library/KnowledgeBaseofICTforPublicService/tabid/826/language/en-US/Default.aspx>

Comings and goings

Comings



Mr. Vincenzo Aquaro was appointed, effective 1 February 2010, as Chief, Knowledge Management Branch, Division for Public Administration & Development Management. Before joining the United Nations, Mr.

Aquaro was the Chairman of the Board and CEO of Formit Servizi S.p.A., a leading company in the field of e-governance advisory, management and monitoring services. He was also a member of the Scientific Committee of FORMIT Foundation, and President and CEO of CARMA Research Consortium, with offices in Rome, Naples, Bari, Brussels and Moscow.

Recognized as an international expert in the area of e-governance matters and ICT technology transfer programs for Public Administration, Mr. Aquaro was also a member of the board and professor of the Masters in “ICT Governance: development, management and monitoring” at the University of Rome 3. Mr. Aquaro holds a degree in Electronic Engineering – automatic controls – from the University of Bari, Italy.

The following staff members were promoted in February:

Janette Amer, Chief of Section, Division for the Advancement of Women

Cynthia Conti, Technical Co-operation Assistant, Technical Cooperation Management Service

Nicole Hunt, Statistics Assistant, Development Policy and Analysis Division

Flor Velazco-Juarez, Programme Assistant, Division for Public Administration and Development Management

Goings

The following staff members retired in February:

Veda Gittens, Technical Co-operation Assistant, Division for Public Administration and Development Management

Calendar

March

54th session of the Commission on the Status of Women - "Beijing + 15"

New York, 1-12 March

<http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/beijing15/index.html>

International Expert Group Meeting: Indigenous Children and Youth in Detention, Custody, Foster-Care and Adoption

New York, 4-5 March

<http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii/en/workshops.html>

AIMS Regional Meeting on Mauritius Strategy of Implementation + 5

Maldives, 9-10 March

http://www.un.org/esa/dsd/dsd_aofw_sids/sids_milemajomeetmsi5_aims.shtml

International Workshop on Regional Products and Income Accounts

Beijing, 15-17 March

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

International Expert Group Meeting on UN Forum on Climate Change Mitigation, Fuel Efficiency and Sustainable Urban Transport

Seoul, 16-17 March

http://www.un.org/esa/dsd/susdevtopics/sdt_tran_egm0310.shtml

Caribbean Regional Meeting on Mauritius Strategy of Implementation + 5

Grenada, 17-18 March

http://www.un.org/esa/dsd/dsd_aofw_sids/sids_milemajomeetmsi5_carr.shtml

High-Level Meeting with the Bretton Woods Institutions, WTO and UNCTAD

New York, 18-19 March

<http://www.un.org/esa/ffd/>

12th session of the Committee for Development Policy

New York, 22-26 March

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

High-level Dialogue on Financing for Development

New York, 23-24 March,

<http://www.un.org/esa/ffd/hld/HLD2010/index.htm>

April

9th session of the UN Committee of Experts on Public Administration

19- 23 April, New York

<http://www.unpan.org/DPADM/CEPA/9thSession/ta/bid/1136/language/en-US/Default.aspx>

9th session of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

19-30 April, New York

http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii/en/session_ninth.html

Observances

International Women's Day

3 March

This year's theme for the United Nations observance of International Women's Day is "Equal rights, equal opportunities: progress for all" as a contribution to the fifteenth anniversary of the Beijing World Conference on Women. The purpose of the event is to renew international commitment to accelerate the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action as a key instrument for the full realization of the Millennium Development Goals. This event, organized by the Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality, will be held on 3 March 2010, from 10 am to 12 noon at United Nations Headquarters, Conference Room 1.

The programme for the Day is divided in two parts. The first segment (10 - 10:45am) will feature statements by the Secretary-General, H.E. Ms. Meng Xiaosi, Minister and Vice-Chairperson of the National Committee on Women and Children, China and H. E. Mr. Audon Lysbakken, Minister for Gender Equality and Children's Affairs, Norway drawing attention to the 15th anniversary of Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.

The second segment (10:45 am – 12:00 noon) will be an interactive panel discussion entitled "Beijing at 15: the Unfinished Agenda" devoted to exchange of experiences, lessons learned, and good practices, as

well as to identify persisting gaps and challenges in the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action. The panel presents an opportunity to inspire a new generation of women's rights advocates and to identify some of the key challenges that remain despite the promise that the Beijing Conference signified for the women all over the world.

In celebrating International Women's Day 2010, progress made, rather than the challenges encountered since the adoption of the Beijing Platform for Action almost 15 years ago, should serve as an inspiration to do more. The 15th anniversary of the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action provides an opportunity to all in the United Nations to recommit to enhanced efforts to ensure the full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.

For more information:
<http://www.un.org/womenwatch/feature/iwd/>

World Water Day

22 March

International World Water Day is held annually on 22 March as a means of focusing attention on the importance of freshwater and advocating for the sustainable management of freshwater resources.

This international day was recommended at the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) and the United Nations General Assembly responded by designating 22 March 1993 as the first World Water Day.

This year's theme will be "Clean Water for a Healthy World", reflecting its importance alongside quantity of the resource in water management. Its campaign is envisaged to raise awareness about sustaining healthy ecosystems and human well-being through addressing the increasing water quality challenges in water management.

It will also raise the profile of water quality by encouraging governments, organizations, communities, and individuals around the world to actively engage in proactively addressing water quality e.g. in pollution prevention, clean up and restoration.

World Water Day 2010 activities will include the World Water Day 2010 website, communication and outreach materials, key publications and flagship initiatives around water quality, a global event on

water quality around 22 March 2010, a policy dialogue for global commitment to address water quality, ecosystems, and human well-being challenges at key global political events.

For more information:
<http://www.unwater.org/worldwaterday/>

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. Prior to January 2007, DESA News was issued every other month. It is now issued monthly.

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