



Video

UN financial and economic summit adopts outcome document

General Assembly President Miguel d'Escoto Brockmann said at a briefing following the UN Conference on the World Financial Crisis and Its Impact on Development on 24-26 June in New York that the agreed outcome was a "recognition of the fact that the G-192 is the proper venue to discuss world financial and economic matters". This document "represents the first step in a long process of putting the world on a new path towards solidarity, stability and sustainability".

<http://webcast.un.org/ramgen/ondemand/pressconference/2009/pc090626pm1.rm> (28 minutes)

Inside this issue

Global health challenges and their impact on development

The 2009 Annual Ministerial Review, to be held during the high-level segment of the annual session of the Economic and Social Council (6-9 July, Geneva), will focus on "Implementing the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to global public health", p. 1

Annual awards for innovative public services

In recognition of the impact that public services can have on the day-to-day lives of citizens, the UN presented its annual Public Service Awards to innovative programmes on UN Public Service Day on 23 June in New York, p. 4

Global dialogue on development, p. 6

Trends and analysis, p. 10

Technical cooperation, p. 12

Publications and websites, p. 14

Comings and goings, p. 18

Calendar, p. 19

Feature articles

Global health challenges and their impact on development

The 2009 Annual Ministerial Review, to be held during the high-level segment of the annual session of the Economic and Social Council (6-9 July, Geneva), will focus on "Implementing the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to global public health".

The Annual Ministerial Review (AMR) is a new function of the United Nations Economic and Social

Council (ECOSOC), mandated by the 2005 World Summit. AMR was established to assess progress in achieving the internationally agreed development goals arising out of the major United Nations conferences and summits since the 1990s, and to contribute to scaling-up and accelerating action to realize the United Nations development agenda.

The AMR session consists of three main elements: A global review of the United Nations development agenda, a thematic review, and a series of national voluntary presentations of both developing and developed countries on their progress in implementing internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

Meeting the Millennium Development Goals

Health is at the heart of the MDGs. It is the specific subject of three goals — to reduce child mortality, to improve maternal health and to combat HIV/AIDS, Malaria and other diseases by the 2015 deadline.



But more importantly, health is a critical precondition for progress on most of them. Poverty cannot be reduced without addressing the issues concerning health as diseases lead people to fall below the poverty level. Evidence shows that during the financial and economic crisis the international community should focus on health as investment, and that investing in people's lives is the best way to prevent crisis and ensure sustainability. Without sound health systems, MDGs in other areas could not be achieved.

The 2008 MDG report shows that strong national policies with global initiatives have helped to make great progress on health-related MDGs. The number of deaths from AIDS fell from 2.2 million in 2005 to 2.0 million in 2007, and the number of people newly infected declined from 3.0 million in 2001 to 2.7 million in 2007. At present, the number of HIV/AIDS affected people has remained steady with an average of 1 per cent of the world population, and most of the African countries are at or lower than the 1% threshold. The same progress could be seen for deaths and preventions related to malaria, tuberculosis and measles.

As countries have become richer, child mortality rates have decreased considerably. However, the MDG report also found that, about-one quarter of all children in developing countries are still underweight and are at risk of having a future blighted by the long-term effects of undernourishment. More than 500,000 prospective mothers in developing countries die annually in childbirth or of complications from pregnancy.

As the 2015 deadline approaches, it has become apparent that the MDGs can only be achieved if the focus on specific diseases is complemented with a strengthening of the overall health systems and if health concerns are included in an overall development strategy. Hence, the AMR process does not only address the progress on the health MDGs but also aims at evaluating the advances in tackling health-system constraints and in mainstreaming health into national development strategies.

Strengthening health systems

Without immediate improvements and long-term commitments to make health systems functioning, accessible and affordable, the health MDGs will be difficult to achieve. The Secretary-General has made the need to strengthen health systems as a priority for his tenure, expressing that efforts to address the human resources crisis and to protect the poor from catastrophic out-of-pocket health expenditures are particularly important.

There is much to learn from the initiatives such as the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization and the United States President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, among others. Their focus on a specific disease is complementary and includes efforts to ensure well-managed, adequately staffed and well-equipped health systems with the capacity for delivering prevention and care interventions. The challenge is to scale up and strengthen services for health in a coherent manner beyond these initiatives.

One of the main challenges that health systems across the world face is the health workforce crisis. Health-worker international migration has been increasing worldwide over the past decades, especially from lower-income countries, whose health systems are already very fragile. Actions are needed in the host country and in the home country of skilled health professionals. Predictable, sustained and increasing resource flows can help home governments to adequately equip and retain their health workforce. It is also vital to support countries in solid planning, management and deployment for competent and motivated health workers, including a considerable scale-up in education and training facilities.

A comprehensive approach is needed for the recruitment, training, support and retention of all levels of health workers. Much more attention should be dedicated to support the work of community health workers, whose role is particularly critical in ensuring service delivery to the most vulnerable.

Noncommunicable diseases

In addition to the challenges addressed in the MDGs, issues related to noncommunicable diseases (NCDs) are also emerging. The human and financial cost of NCDs is great, and governments need to develop new, or strengthen existing programmes to prevent and control NCDs as part of their national health policy and broader development frameworks.

We also need to ensure that provision of health care for NCDs is dealt with in the context of overall health system strengthening, with a special focus on primary health care. This requires investments in building national capacities to develop, implement and evaluate evidence-based policies and plans, as well as investments to strengthen human resources and promote intersectoral actions.

Governments should put NCDs and mental health on the global health and development agendas, considering inter-linkages with poverty and MDGs, while providing a platform to connect policy-makers, researchers, health promoters, educators, and parents to exchange up-to-date science and best practices for the prevention and control of NCDs.

The growing NCD crisis in developing countries requires the creation of national NCD prevention and control plans to reduce modifiable risk factors, enabling health systems to respond more effectively and equitably to people with NCDs; promote early detection of breast and cervical cancers, diabetes, hypertension and other cardiovascular risk factors; help people with NCDs to manage their own conditions better; and improve access to affordable essential medicines, including for pain relief and palliative care.

Countries emerging from conflicts

During times of crisis inequities in health increase, requiring special efforts to meet the needs of the poorest and most vulnerable. The situation is worse for countries in, or emerging from, conflict or those that have experiences in natural disasters.

As evidence showed, these countries are farthest from reaching the MDGs because of their lack of progress in health. Political violence and conflict generate health risks in the short run, but the most devastating is the impact of the conflict on health, especially on mental health. Serious interruptions or the collapse of health-care systems also prevent access to basic health care, and attempts to accelerate past achievements in the health-related MDGs may

be hampered by the loss of capacity and near collapse of the public health system.

Public health is the key in peacebuilding efforts to ensure long-term peace and sustainable development, and it provides a strong peace dividend in the aftermath of conflict. While health initiatives alone could not lead to the consolidation of peace, providing health care to populations living in war-torn areas is one way to strengthen reconciliation. Early integration of public health into peacebuilding strategies and programs is critical in order to ensure the continuation of efforts towards recovery and long-term development.

Impact of the financial crisis

The economic crisis is putting multiple pressures on people. Unemployment means loss of health insurance coverage for many people while a fall in remittances can contribute to indebtedness. Imported medicine also becomes unaffordable with local currencies devalued. In such cases, treatment may be deferred for some and not sought at all by others. As incomes fall, people turn to public sector services, at the very time that government venues to finance them are under greatest pressure. Many high-income countries with ageing populations are facing additional pressures with an anticipated increase in spending on health and pensions. Unless extra efforts are made to sustain funding for public services, their quality and availability will fall. This places the most vulnerable groups at risk of being excluded from care.

To overcome the health challenges during economic downturn, several countries intend to increase public funding for health and increase coverage of vulnerable groups (e.g. Eastern Europe), while some developing countries are in a better fiscal position than in previous crises and many donors have committed to maintain levels of aid. However, further actions need to be taken. It is imperative to increase investment in health and social sectors and building on past success. This is not only to promote economic recovery, but also to protect the poor, to promote social stability and security and to generate efficiency.

In this time of crisis, all Government and political leaders must maintain their efforts to strengthen and improve the performance of their health system, protect the health of the people around the world, and in particular of those who are most fragile.

The road ahead

Global partnerships are required in order to overcome the current and future health challenges. Political leadership at the highest levels can make the greatest difference in galvanizing global and national efforts to promote and protect health, reduce inequities in health outcomes and access to services, and to achieve the MDGs. For this reason, world leaders should call for joint action on strengthening health systems through primary health care to advance the goal of universal access to health services, promoting health as an outcome of all policies and greater coherence, building and strengthening partnerships, and sustaining and enhancing financing for health and development.

The scientific knowledge and availability of technology for saving lives is stronger than ever. We now know how to cure basic diseases and decrease suffering and we have had a successful decade in improving health. As Mr. Jomo Kwame Sundaram, ASG for Economic Development of DESA said at the opening session of the global preparatory meeting for the 2009 AMR on 31 March:

“Ultimately, progress towards improving health indicators, including achieving the health-related MDGs, will depend on public health provisioning, and hence political will and public health resources... There is also an urgent need to ensure sustainable development by limiting financial instability and enhancing macroeconomic stability.”

For more information:

<http://www.un.org/ecosoc/newfunct/amr2009.shtml>

Annual awards for innovative public services

In recognition of the impact that public services can have on the day-to-day lives of citizens, the UN presented its annual Public Service Awards to innovative programmes on UN Public Service Day on 23 June in New York

2009 Awards Ceremony

This year, 8 winners and 4 finalists were presented with the most prestigious international recognition of excellence in public service. United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon made welcoming remarks, and handed out the awards at the annual ceremony for the first time together with Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs Sha Zukang.

The winners were awarded in four categories, including a new category on knowledge management. They represent public servants who have excelled in their home countries in enhancing transparency, accountability and responsiveness in the public service; improving the delivery of services; fostering participation in policy-making decisions through innovative mechanisms; and advancing knowledge management in government.

Among the winners of the 2009 United Nations Public Service Awards are an electronic water quality service that allows citizens of Seoul (Republic of Korea) to access up-to-date information on the quality of water supplied to their homes; a mobile community clinic in Zambia providing counseling, training and essential basic health services at the district level; and an initiative in Slovenia that reduced the registration time for companies from 60 days to just three. Nine other programmes from Canada, Egypt, India, Oman, Poland, South Africa, Sweden and Thailand were also recognized.



The Centre for Public Service Innovation in South Africa (CPSI), the Shanghai-based Regional Cooperation Office for City Informatization (RCOCI) and the Institute of Public Administration in Central America (IPAC) were recognized with the Special Award for the United Nations Public Administration Network (UNPAN) Member Excellence for Knowledge Sharing. The award celebrates the achievements of network members in advancing knowledge-sharing through the use of information and communications technology to advance the Millennium Development Goals and other internationally agreed development targets.

Following the opening ceremony, a special session on “Celebrating Public Service from around the World” was held in the morning. High-level government officials, including several ministers, representing the various regions of the world spoke about the critical role of governance and public administration in overcoming emerging challenges,

as well as the importance of recognizing and rewarding excellence in the public service. The ceremony ended with cultural performances in honor of the winners. An art exhibition and expert group meeting were also held for the occasion.

The event this year attracted great interest from the media and saw over 400 participants from around the world, including dignitaries, innovative leaders, as well as Ambassadors and delegates from 192 Permanent Missions to the United Nations.

United Nations Public Service Awards

The United Nations General Assembly proclaimed 23 June as United Nations Public Service Day in 2003, and at the same time the Economic and Social Council established the United Nations Public Service Awards to celebrate the value and virtue of servicing citizens.

The United Nations Millennium Declaration emphasized the role of democratic and participatory governance in assuring the basic rights of men and women, as well as the idea that good governance within each country is a prerequisite to “making development a reality for everyone and to freeing the entire human race from want”. Without good governance, nationally or internationally, and an efficient, competent, professional, responsive and highly dedicated public service, sustainable development and livelihood are jeopardized. The Secretary- General, in his speech at the World Youth Forum in 1998, stressed the importance of public service by encouraging the world’s youth to enter into this field:

“In this changing world of new challenges, we need, more than ever before, dedicated and talented individuals to enter public service. More than ever before, we need people like you sitting here today, to make the choice of service to humankind.”

To recruit and retain its share of top talent, develop innovative practices and enhance its efficiency and effectiveness, public service must be visible. Also, the United Nations’ guiding principles, which revolve around public interest, eradication of poverty, equity, individual rights and working ethics, including transparency, accountability and efficiency, must be conveyed to the public.

Therefore, the United Nations Public Service Awards, as the most prestigious international recognition of excellence in public service, rewards the creative achievements and contributions of public service institutions to a more effective and responsive

public administration in countries worldwide. Through an annual competition, the UN Public Service Awards promotes the role, professionalism and visibility of public service. Since the first Awards Ceremony in 2003, the United Nations has received an increasing number of submissions from all around the world.

The competition is open to all public organizations and agencies at the national or sub-national level, as well as public-private partnerships. Awards are given in three categories: improving transparency, accountability and responsiveness in the public service; improving the delivery of services; and fostering participation in policy-making decisions through innovative mechanisms.

Organizations performing outsourced public service functions are eligible for nomination. The United Nations Public Service Awards Programme takes into consideration a geographical distribution of five regions. In order to level the playing field for nominations received from countries with varying levels of development and income, five regions were established: Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Europe and North America, Latin America and the Caribbean and Western Asia.

The 2010 United Nations Public Service Awards competition will start accepting nominations in the fall of this year.

For webcast, picture, success stories and other updates: <http://www.unpan.org/unpsa>

Global dialogue on development

ECOSOC spurs actions to improve health outcomes for all

The prevailing financial crisis amplifies the importance of the 2009 annual substantive session of the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon will open the ECOSOC High-level Segment (6-9 July) under the theme of the 2009 Annual Ministerial Review, “Implementing the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to global public health.” He will also launch the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) Progress Report 2009. Halfway towards the MDGs’ 2015 target date, ECOSOC will explore practical long-term commitments to strengthen and improve the performance and capacity of global health systems.

Eight countries, Bolivia, China, the Dominican Republic, Jamaica, Japan, Mali, Sri Lanka, and Sudan will make National Voluntary Presentations on their progress in implementing the internationally agreed development goals, including the MDGs. An Innovation Fair will also take place.

Ministerial Roundtable Breakfasts, including on “Digital Health and Development in Africa: Role of Public and Private Partnerships” on 7 July and on “The implications of population ageing for global public health” on 8 July will be organized around the theme of the 2009 AMR. There will also be a Special Event on “Africa and the Least Developed Countries (LDCs): Partnerships and Health” on 8 July.

The Coordination Segment (10-14 July) will focus on the follow up to the 2008 ECOSOC Ministerial Declaration on “implementing the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to sustainable development” and UN system’s role in the implementation of these goals.

Four panel discussions on various dimensions and challenges of sustainable development will be held, emphasizing the impact of the financial crisis, climate change, and other emerging threats and challenges, on sustainable development.

During the Operational Activities Segment (15-17 July), Member States will provide guidance to the UN development system for implementing the 2007 Triennial Comprehensive Policy Review of Operational Activities of the General Assembly. The Segment gives special importance to UN operational activities in helping governments respond to the impact of the global crises and health-related issues at all levels. Two dedicated panels will be organized.

ECOSOC will also focus on funding, the UN human resources and harmonization of rules and procedures. Two thematic dialogue sessions will be followed by debates based on six Secretary-General’s reports prepared by the Secretariat. Furthermore, the Council will hold a participatory dialogue with the Executive Heads of Funds and Programmes. Issues discussed will include development effectiveness in the new aid architecture, data collection and knowledge management for development cooperation, and capacity building and innovations in technology. The Council expects to come up with a focused resolution that gives actionable guidance to the UN system.

The Humanitarian Affairs Segment (20-22 July) will discuss the activities and issues related to strengthening the coordination of the humanitarian system of the UN. The theme is “Strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian assistance: Present challenges and their impact on the future”, and the segment will organize two panels.

At the General Segment (23-30 July, Geneva), the Council will review and take relevant action on the annual reports of the United Nations Funds and Programmes and its subsidiary bodies, including its functional and regional commissions, expert and ad hoc bodies, including the ECOSOC Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti. It will also be informed by the Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission about the economic and social aspects of peacebuilding in African countries emerging from conflict.

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

General Assembly elects Libyan Minister Treki to preside over its 64th session

President-elect Ali Abdussalam Treki pledged that the priorities be the fight against poverty in Africa,

United Nations reform, disarmament and implementation of UN resolutions

H.E. Ali Abdussalam Treki from Libya was elected as the President of the sixty-fourth session of the General Assembly on 10 June. Mr. Treki in his current capacity as Libya's Minister of African Union affairs has been working on pressing matters of mutual concern to the United Nations and the African Union, including Darfur. He also served three times as his country's UN ambassador, most recently in 2003.

Following his election by acclamation, Mr. Treki thanked Member States and the previous Bureau, saying he would depend on the assistance of every Member of the Assembly, and would not align himself with any party or group. "My only alignment will be for justice, security, peace and the common interests of the entire international community." Declaring that all wars constituted wrongdoing, he said the only ones worth fighting relentlessly were those against fatal disease, poverty, hunger and illiteracy.

Among others, he emphasized that climate change must continue to be addressed firmly and effectively through cooperation among Member States, adding that the world economic crisis must be met with measures to mitigate its impact, taking into account the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals, especially in Africa. It was imperative that all stand up firmly for the full realization of human rights through the provision of the basic necessities for a dignified life.

Stressing that "no country is an island", he pledged to work with the Member States, and all entities to close the widening gap between rich and poor, and to ensure the right to education, health care, food and fundamental freedoms - which were essential for international peace and security. That would require greater efforts and funding.

Congratulating Mr. Treki, United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said his wide-ranging diplomatic experience would be invaluable in forging new levels of international cooperation to solve the world's common problems, from climate change to hunger, from the economic crisis to the urgent need to meet the Millennium Development Goals through unified action. "We must also keep adapting and improving our Organization to better live up to the ideals of the Charter and the demands of the times."

For more information:

<http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2009/sgsm12302.doc.htm>,

<http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2009/ga10831.doc.htm>

Progress made in negotiations for Copenhagen deal

Bonn Climate Change Talks, held on 1-12 June, concluded with progress on draft negotiating texts, reflecting governments' proposals on how to step up international climate change action

Delegates from 183 countries discussed key negotiating texts which will serve as the basis for a Copenhagen deal in December. The Copenhagen agreed outcome is to follow on the first phase of the Kyoto Protocol, which expires at the end of 2012.

"A big achievement of this meeting is that governments have made it clearer what they want to see in the Copenhagen agreed outcome," said Yvo de Boer, Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). "In my view, an ambitious and effective agreed outcome in Copenhagen is in sight - an outcome that provides a strong and definitive answer to the alarm raised by the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change."

Michael Zammit Cutajar, Chair of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Long-term Cooperative Action under the Convention (AWG-LCA), also pointed out that "The next step will be for Parties to refine and streamline the Convention text and to begin drafting at the next session in August, whilst engaging on the specifics of the text." The negotiating text for consideration by the AWG-LCA, which comprises all 192 Parties to the UNFCCC, covers issues of a shared vision for long term cooperative action, enhanced action on adaptation, mitigation and finance, technology and capacity-building. A group focusing on further commitments for industrialized countries under the Kyoto Protocol (AWG-KP) focused on a proposal for amendments to the Kyoto Protocol, including the future emission reduction commitments of 37 industrialized countries for the second phase of the protocol (post-2012).

However, AWG-KP still needs to decide on the aggregate emission reduction target of industrialized countries, along with individual targets. AWG-KP

group was also still far away from the emission reduction range that has been set out to avoid the worst ravages of climate change: a minus 25% to minus 40% reduction below 1990 levels by 2020.

In addition to the two working groups for negotiations, the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) and the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI) also met in Bonn. SBSTA made solid progress on methodologies to monitor and report emissions from deforestation, which accounts for around 20% of all greenhouse gas pollution. A key focus of SBI's work in Bonn was the development and transfer of technologies. The Expert Group on Technology Transfer produced three reports (on future financing options, on a long-term strategy and on performance indicators) that provide important input for the content of the Copenhagen deal on technology cooperation.

The Bonn Talks constituted the second in a series of five major UN negotiating sessions this year leading up to the UN Climate Change Conference (7-18 December, Copenhagen). The next meeting, informal consultations comprising the LCA and KP groups, will take place 10-14 August in Bonn, followed by a gathering in Bangkok from 28 September - 9 October and a further gathering from 2-6 November in Barcelona.

For more information: <http://unfccc.int/2860.php>

UNPFII to seek further implementation of Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

8th session saw an increased engagement and dialogue of States, indigenous peoples' organizations and the UN and other IGOs

The 8th session of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII) (18-29 May, New York) was attended by 1800 participants from indigenous peoples' organizations, NGOs and academia as well as 36 UN agencies and other inter-governmental organizations, 70 Member States and 15 indigenous parliamentarians from around the world.

There were more than 60 side events that took place during the session, organized by Member States, UN

entities, other intergovernmental organizations, NGOs, the secretariat of the UNPFII and others.

The overall atmosphere of the eighth session was one of increased engagement and dialogue on the part of all stakeholders such as States, indigenous peoples' organizations and the UN and other inter-governmental organizations. This is largely due to the new impetus provided by the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the Permanent Forum's new methods of work.

Review of Previous Recommendations

The eighth session was a review year of previous recommendations on economic and social development; indigenous women; and the Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People.

Economic and Social Development

In regards to economic and social development, the Permanent Forum found that of the 150 recommendations it has previously issued on economic and social development, more than half of them are being implemented. Other matters that were raised under this issue included the Permanent Forum's attention to the significant increase in the infrastructure budget of the World Bank, from 15 billion to 45 billion in 2009, for the primary economies of developing states. The Forum noted that the implications of this development such as respecting and protecting the rights of indigenous peoples have to be clearly understood and the free, prior and informed consent of indigenous peoples affected by infrastructure projects, has to be guaranteed.

Indigenous Women

In regards to indigenous women, the Permanent Forum made further recommendations for workshops on indigenous peoples and health, with special emphasis on reproductive health, and on indicators of well-being of indigenous peoples to be used in implementing and monitoring the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. The Permanent Forum also asked the UN system and states to conduct assessments on the implementation of the Permanent Forum's recommendations on women, using the framework of the Declaration and also recommended a study on the situation of indigenous women migrants.

Second International Decade on the World's Indigenous People

In regards to the Second International Decade on the World's Indigenous People, the Permanent Forum called for the full engagement of states, the UN system and indigenous peoples' organizations in the mid-term evaluation of the Decade at the national level and called for support for the Trust Fund for the Decade. The Forum also commended Australia and Colombia for their recent endorsement of the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

In-depth dialogues with six UN system entities

The Permanent Forum launched a new methodology by organizing in-depth dialogues with six UN system entities: Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR); Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO); International Fund for Development (IFAD); United Nations Development Programme (UNDP); United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA); and the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA). The Permanent Forum considered the in-depth dialogues to be a positive experience. Agencies sent high-level delegations and a considerable number of staff to participate in these dialogues. The Forum will adopt statements on each of the six UN system entities after the session. This new method of work will further evolve and improve for the 2010 Session.

Indigenous Peoples and the Arctic Region

The special regional focus was on indigenous peoples of the Arctic region. The challenges identified focused mainly on the effects of climate change on indigenous peoples as well as highlighting the impact of pollution and vector-borne diseases on indigenous peoples' health, education and culture in Alaska, northern Canada and Greenland. The Permanent Forum welcomed a number of positive institutional developments, namely in Greenland and in Norway and also urged states to provide financial resources to Arctic communities to develop their cultures and adapt to climate change.

Human Rights

The Permanent Forum placed a major focus on discussing how it will discharge its mandate under the Article 42 of the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, which mentions the Permanent Forum explicitly as a body to follow up and promote the implementation of the Declaration.

The Permanent Forum also welcomed as good practice, the mission it conducted to Bolivia and

Paraguay on the slavery situation of the Guarani peoples and urged the UN country teams as well as the two governments to follow up on the recommendations contained in the reports of the mission.

The Economic Crisis

Discussions on the economic crisis was also held as part of the eighth session. As one of the panel members, Mr. Jomo Sundaram, Assistant Secretary-General, DESA, said the global financial crisis had created major challenges and serious social consequences. For example, it is expected the number of working poor to increase by 200 million, and those formally unemployed to rise by more than 50 million. Government social spending was at risk and there was growing unrest, as living standards and social protections declined, and extreme poverty rose. Indigenous peoples will face an uphill battle over protection of their natural resources, particularly water. The UNPFII Chairperson, Ms Tauli-Corpuz, and Mr. Nicolas Ticum of Guatemala, also participated in the panel.

Following the panel, the Forum decided to request one of its members to conduct a study on the impacts of the global economic crisis on indigenous peoples and to identify measures and proposals for governments and the UN system to address these impacts.

Conclusion

In her closing remarks, Chairperson of the Permanent Forum, Victoria Tauli-Corpuz, said each agenda item during the eighth session had provided important insights and an opportunity for participants to hear and learn from one another. At the national, regional, local and community levels, challenges remained. "We must be strongly committed," she stressed. "We need to work towards developing close cooperation with United Nations agencies and Governments to realize our self-determined rights."

For more information:

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

Trends and analysis

Sharing experiences in economic census

Country representatives and experts will join a workshop in Seoul from 6-9 July, organized by DESA's Statistics Division and in collaboration with Korea National Statistical Office

The workshop is dedicated to the topics of great relevance for the establishment and maintenance of a sound foundation for the compilation of economic statistics in countries at different levels of economic development. It is a follow up event to the First International Workshop on Economic Census, jointly organized by the Statistics Division and the National Bureau of Statistics of China in 2005, which evaluated the potential of the economic census for production of high quality and policy relevant economic statistics and concluded that it serves as the cornerstone for the economic statistics infrastructure of many countries.

This Second International Workshop on Economic Census is aiming to provide a discussion forum for country representatives and international experts to share and document their experiences in economic census and its role in addressing the challenges faced by the National Statistical Offices in measuring the constantly changing economies. The workshop will review all aspects of the conduct of an economic census – from its planning, through data collection and processing, to the dissemination and analysis of census results.

For more information:

http://unstats.un.org/unsd/economic_stat/EconomicCensus/2ndIWEconomicCensus.htm
<http://www.geni-pco.com/iwec/>

Causes, impact and remedies of economic crisis

Panel discussion on Public Administration and Economic Crisis will be held during the Specialized Conference of the International Institute of Administrative Sciences from 7-11 July in Helsinki

The current economic crisis engulfing many countries, both developed & developing, is not the first one and will certainly not be the last the world

has witnessed. Whichever way the crisis is looked at, governments or public administrations are not innocent in the matter. The issue of the crisis can be examined in relation to public administration with a view to determine to what extent, policies or lack of policies, action or inaction, decisions or indecisions of government contributed to the emergence of the crisis.

It is equally necessary to diagnostically analyze the extent to which the situation has impacted Public Administration and Society in general. Moreover, and probably more importantly, it is necessary for each government and regional & global governance player to examine what could be done to avert, minimize or mitigate the impact of the economic crisis on the society they serve as well as future generations.

During the "International Specialized Conference" of the International Institute of Administrative Sciences (IIAS), DESA's Division for Public Administration & Development Management and IIAS will host a Panel Discussion on "Public Administration and Economic Crisis: Causes, Impact and Remedies". The Panel will be chaired by Mr. Rolet Loretan, IIAS Director General. Joining as Panellists are Mr. John-Mary Kauzya, Chief of Governance and Public Administration Branch, DESA and Professor Wang Zhongming, Acting Dean of School of Management of Zhejiang University, Republic of China. The panel will discuss issues related to public administration and the current economic crisis.

For more information:

<http://www.unpan.org/Events/BrowseEventsbyCalendar/tabid/94/mctl/EventDetails/ModuleID/1532/ItemID/1218/language/en-US/Default.aspx?selecteddate=7/7/2009>

New membership to DESA's GAID

New chairmanship and new members is a partial renewal of the Steering Committee and Strategy Council of DESA's Global Alliance for Information and Communications Technologies for Development (GAID)

Mr. Talal Abu-Ghazaleh, CEO of Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Organization, has been appointed as the new Chairman. He will take over from Dr. Craig Barrett, Chairman of the Board of Intel Corporation.

The new Chairman will be assisted by Mr. Ramón Garza, CEO, Índigo Media and Mr. Kamran Elahian, CEO, Global Catalyst Partners, as Co-Chairs in an arrangement aimed at ensuring a powerful leadership team to solidify GAID's successful functioning in the coming year and beyond.

Replacing one-third of the membership of both the Committee and the Council, the new members are expected to follow up on the alliance's strategic work towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) through ICT, initiated in past years. Prominent individuals from both the public and private sectors were selected to join the Steering Committee based on their ongoing commitments towards achieving the MDGs through various uses of ICT. Several national governments and international organizations were added on the Strategy Council membership, as well as individuals, in their effort to define priorities and policy directions, and to promoting further partnerships under the umbrella of the Global Alliance.

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

Mobile technology and social networking tools for development

Multi-stakeholder panel discussions during the 12th session of the UN Commission on Science and Technology (CSTD), convened in Geneva from 25-29 May

As part of the 12th session, the CSTD Secretariat along with DESA's GAID, ITU and WHO organized two panels in response to the request by the Chairman of CSTD. The Panels focused on Mobile Technology, Convergence and Social Networking Tools for Development and Poverty Alleviation, and on Delivering Innovation in Global Public Health. The event provided a great opportunity for policymakers and representatives of civil society and regional and international organizations to enhance the understanding of the importance of science and technology in development and to identify specific measures needed at various levels to ensure that science and technology contribute effectively to achieving the MDGs.

For more information:
<http://www.unctad.org/Templates/Page.asp?intItemID=4783&lang=1>

Capacity Development

National accounts for South Asian countries

Workshop in New Delhi from 6-9 July will be organized by DESA's Statistics Division in collaboration with the Central Statistical Organization of India

The workshop is part of the Statistics Division efforts to strengthen statistical capacity building in the region and as such relates to the framework of the project "Strengthening statistical capacity building in support of progress towards the Internationally Agreed Development Goals in countries of South Asia."

The purpose of the workshop is to have an interactive discussion on the methodology for compiling Quarterly National Accounts following production approach and related issues such as, the timeliness and reliability of source data, benchmarking and rebasing, volume measures and back casting in view of the update of the System of National Accounts (SNA) and the revision of International Standard Industrial Classification (ISIC). It is foreseen that workshop discussions will also contribute to a regional strategy to harmonize data collection, compilation and revision policies, quality standards and the extension of the scope and detail of the quarterly national accounts in the region.

For more information:

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

Survey to help build capacity for LDCs

The Secretariat of the Committee for Development Policy (CDP) has sent out a survey to bilateral development partners on aid flows and development cooperation policies related to least developed country (LDC) status. The survey was prepared with the assistance of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and in consultation with the Office of the High Representative for LDCs, Landlocked Developing

Countries and Small Island Developing States (OHRLLS).

The results of the survey will contribute to the overall objective of the Development Account project on capacity-building for LDCs and also serve as an important input into the comprehensive appraisal of the implementation of the Programme of Action for LDCs for the decade 2001-2010.

For more information:

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

New ICT network for Arab States

Launch of network on 18 June in Damascus will promote exchange of experience and serve as a venue for channeling input from the Arab region to the global ICT for Development policy-making bodies

DESA's Global Alliance for Information and Communications Technologies and Development (GAID) recently launched a network of information and communications technology (ICT) policy makers, business leaders and experts from Arab countries to assist the region in using ICT to implement the international development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals. The Regional Arab Network will be the Arabic focal point for GAID.

The Regional Arab Network will be coordinated by a Steering Group composed of active and committed regional representatives. Some of their responsibilities include facilitating and creating platforms for better coordination and enhanced cooperation amongst existing programs and initiatives, promoting awareness and advocacy campaigns on regional ICT for development initiatives at the global and regional levels, with the support of the GAID Secretariat and networks, and promoting the objectives of GAID through outreach with governments, business leaders, civil society, academic institutions and technology communities.

The launch of the network comes at the end of a three-day meeting of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA). The meeting is a follow-up on the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society or WSIS. The gathering considered the Regional Plan of Action for building the Information Society in Western Asia, the

Arab ICT Strategy and other national strategies and plans of action.

For more information: <http://www.un-gaid.org/tabid/1090/Default.aspx>

Publications and websites

Technical reports



World Public Sector Report 2008: People Matter – Civic Engagement in Public Governance

The 2008 flagship report highlights the importance of civic engagement in public governance and by profiling several case studies, demonstrates how such practices gain the capacity to strengthen governance, make it more transparent and accountable and most importantly, contribute to developmental outcomes that are more sustainable, equitable and just.

The report also highlights several challenges and cautions that adequate attention must be given to the issues of power relations, institutional capacities of the government as well as the civil society organizations and adaptation of methodologies and strategies that suit the local conditions and other factors crucial to the introduction of successful civic engagement practices in public governance.

For more information and to download:

http://www.unpan.org/dpepa_worldpareport.asp

To order: <https://unp.un.org/Details.aspx?pid=17127>

Global Economic Outlook

The report presents the main short-term prospects for the global economy in 2009-2010 and summarizes the major risks and policy challenges related to these expectations. Since the last LINK forecast of October 2008, the world economy has sunk in its first global and deepest recession of the post-war period. With its increasing impact both in scope and depth worldwide, the crisis has affected many countries by the combination of depressed demand in the developed economies and dysfunctional financial markets. As a result, most LINK country growth forecasts for 2009 have been revised downwards from their previous forecasts with the largest adjustments registered among the developing countries and the economies in transition.

In the baseline scenario of the current outlook, world gross product (WGP) is forecast to fall by more than 2.6 per cent in 2009, compared with a growth of 2.1 per cent in 2008 and an average growth above 3 per

cent in the years prior to the crisis. While a mild recovery in the growth of WGP is possible for 2010, risks remain on the downside. A more prolonged global recession is possible if the problems in financial and corporate sectors in major market economies persist and business and consumer confidence remain depressed in most economies throughout 2009.

For more information:

<http://www.un.org/esa/policy/link/>

To download:

<http://www.un.org/esa/policy/link/presentations09/geo200906.pdf>

Handbooks



Handbook on Geospatial Infrastructure in Support of Census Activities

Censuses provide much of the basic population information that countries need for development.

This handbook aims to help UN member countries to make use of

recent technological developments such as geographic information systems (GIS), remote sensing, and global positioning systems, for improving census quality and analytical products offered by national statistical organizations.

In times of humanitarian crisis, geographically specific population information can provide the means to target relief efforts and save lives. The handbook describes the methods for and the philosophy behind the application of new technology to improve census efforts, for both managers and technicians, illustrating that information infrastructure is of key importance for all countries. It also addresses technical and practical issues which are the concerns of census cartographers and census takers.

For more information:

<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/pubs/gesgrid.asp?id=408>

To order: <https://unp.un.org/Details.aspx?pid=18912>

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.

Vol. LXIII – No. 3, March 2009

Quarterly tables included in this issue: Fuel imports of developed economies (unit value indices, volume indices and value); Indicators on fuel imports of developed economies; Registration of new motor vehicles; External trade conversion factors; Manufactured goods exports (unit value indices, volume indices and value); Selected series of world statistics. Publication symbol is ST/ESA/STAT/SER.Q/435.

Vol. LXIII – No. 4, April 2009

Quarterly and bimonthly tables included in this issue: Retail price indices relating to living expenditures of United Nations officials; 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). Publication symbol is ST/ESA/STAT/SER.Q/436.

Vol. LXIII – No. 5, May 2009

Quarterly tables included in this issue: Indices of world industrial production by branches of industry and by regions; Producer price indices; Earnings in manufacturing, by sex; Construction of new buildings; Total exports and imports by regions (volume and unit value indices and terms of trade). Publication symbol is ST/ESA/STAT/SER.Q/437.

For more information:

<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/mbs/>



International Recommendations for Distributive Trade Statistics 2008

The *IRDTS 2008* provides the comprehensive methodological framework for collection and compilation of distributive trade statistics in all countries, irrespective of level of development of their statistical systems. The recommendations refer to the concepts, definitions, classifications, data sources, data compilation methods, approaches to data quality assessment, metadata and dissemination policies applicable in distributive trade statistics. Some specific topics identified require additional guidance such as the treatment of informal sector units, compilation of indices of distributive trade, seasonal adjustment, etc. are also covered.

IRDTS 2008 is consistent with recommendations issued in other fields of economic statistics such as industrial statistics, construction statistics and other related domains of structural and short-term statistics, compilations of index numbers and performance indicators and moreover has been harmonized with the System of National Accounts 2008 (2008 SNA).

The primary audience of this publication is the staff of national statistical offices involved in compilation of these statistics. *IRDTS 2008* may also be of relevance to data users interested in better understanding the nature of distributive trade data.

For more information:

<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/pubs/gesgrid.asp?id=407>

To order: <https://unp.un.org/Details.aspx?pid=18226>



Population and Vital Statistics Report

This issue of the report presents data for countries or areas on population size (total, male, and female) from the latest available census, estimated total population size for 2006 or 2007 (the later available year), and the number and rate of vital events (live births, deaths, and infant deaths) for the latest available year within the past 15 years (1993-2007).

These data are presented as reported by national statistical authorities to the Demographic Yearbook of DESA's Statistics Division. This issue also presents data for the world and its major areas and regions on estimated population size for both 2005 and 2006. These estimates were prepared by DESA's Population Division.

For more information:

<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/pubs/gesgrid.asp?id=405>

To order: <https://unp.un.org/Details.aspx?pid=19173>

Meeting records

Report of the 11th session of the Committee for Development Policy

The report contains the main findings and recommendations of the 11th session, held at the United Nations Headquarters from 9-13 March. The Committee addressed international cooperation on global public health and, in particular, the importance of tackling inequalities; the global financial turmoil and its impact on developing countries; climate change and development; and, the triennial review of the list of the least developed countries.

In its review of the international cooperation for health (with emphasis on global partnerships), the Committee concluded that much greater consideration should be given to the persistently high inequalities in access to health services and in health outcomes. The Committee also discussed the implications of the current global financial crisis for developing countries and concluded that there is a need to raise the revenue capacity of Governments through measures that would improve tax collection. The climate change problem has become increasingly urgent and there is a need for every country to adopt carbon-saving technologies. The financial crisis provides an opportunity to alter conventional patterns of investment and production.

For more information:

<http://www.un.org/esa/policy/devplan/reportstoecosc.htm>

Report of the 53rd session of the Commission on the Status of Women

The report includes the agreed conclusions on the equal sharing of responsibilities between women and men, including caregiving in the context of HIV/AIDS and focuses on the gender perspectives on global public health in implementing the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals.

It also contains the draft resolutions for adoption by the Council, including the future operation of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women, the situation and assistance

to Palestinian women, the future organization and methods of work of the Commission on the Status of Women and the Working Group on Communications on the Status of Women of the Commission on the Status of Women.

For more information:

<http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/csw/53sess.htm>

To download:

[http://www.un.org/Docs/journal/asp/ws.asp?m=E/2009/27%20\(SUPP\)](http://www.un.org/Docs/journal/asp/ws.asp?m=E/2009/27%20(SUPP))

Discussion papers

Policy Brief No. 17: Reaching a Climate Deal in Copenhagen

There is a growing awareness that action is urgently needed to seriously address the climate change problem. The multilateral process that began with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in 1992 resulted in the Bali Action Plan (BAP) in 2007. The BAP calls for enhanced action on adaptation, mitigation, technology development and transfer, and finance, which should be specified in an international agreement by the end of 2009 in Copenhagen.

The brief addresses some key aspects of development and burden sharing in relation to mitigation and adaptation to climate change. These aspects need due consideration to ensure a successful and sustainable outcome of the Copenhagen negotiations

For more information:

<http://www.un.org/esa/policy/policybriefs/>

To download:

<http://www.un.org/esa/policy/policybriefs/policybrief17.pdf>

9th Monthly Briefing to the Secretary-General on the World Economic Situation and Prospects

This brief provides updates on the global economic situation, focusing on main global issues, as well as on regional perspectives. Recently released data on GDP growth in the first quarter of 2009 underscore the severity of the global economic crisis. In most regions of the world, the pace of the downturn accelerated sharply during the first three months of the year, most notably in Western Europe and the New EU members, Japan, and the Economies in Transition. Many large developing countries such as Mexico, South Africa, and Turkey have also fallen into deep recessions, largely owing to the collapse in

demand for manufactured goods in developed economies.

By contrast, some large Asian economies including China, India, and Indonesia reported relatively robust GDP growth in the first quarter, surpassing the expectations of most analysts. Economic activity in these countries continued to expand owing to large fiscal stimulus packages and resilience in domestic demand. While these better-than-expected performances during the first quarter of the year have raised hopes of an early recovery in parts of East and South Asia, other regions may need much longer to return to robust growth.

For more information:

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

To download:

http://www.un.org/esa/policy/publications/wes_pmbn/s_gnote_9.pdf

Working Paper on Impact of the global crisis on the achievement of the MDGs in Latin America

Progress towards the MDGs is expected to slow as a consequence of the global economic downturn. This study applies an economy-wide framework to analyze the impact of the crisis on the progress towards the MDGs in six Latin American countries. It finds significant setbacks towards the goals and the cost of achieving these will rise commensurately by about 1.5 to 2.0 per cent of GDP in required additional public spending per year between 2010 and 2015 as compared with a no-crisis scenario. The additional public spending would contribute to economic growth though not sufficiently for full recovery to pre-crisis growth.

For more information:

<http://www.un.org/esa/desa/papers/>

To download:

http://www.un.org/esa/desa/papers/2009/wp74_2009.pdf

Comings and goings

Comings

The following staff members were promoted in June:

Ms. Petra Denise Sumpf, Sustainable Development Officer, Division for Sustainable Development

Ms. Edith Niamke, Team Assistant, Secretariat of the United Nations Forum on Forests

Mr. Vladimir Korovkin, Staff Assistant, Statistics Division

Ms. Rosalinda Sanchez, Meeting Services Assistant, Office for ECOSOC Support and Coordination

Ms. Malgorzata Juszczak, Information Technology Assistant, Financing for Development Office

Goings

The following staff members retired in June:

Mr. Thomas Alex, Library Assistant, Development Policy and Analysis Division

Ms. Consuelo Brannon, Administrative Assistant, Technical Cooperation Management Service

Calendar

July

Economic and Social Council

Substantive session for 2009, Geneva, 6-31 July
<http://www.un.org/ecosoc/>

National Accounts Workshop for South Asian Countries

New Delhi, 6-9 July
http://unstats.un.org/unsd/newsletter/globalstat_unsd_calendar.htm

Second International Workshop on Economic Census

Seoul, 6-9 July
<http://www.geni-pco.com/iwec/>

Panel discussion on Public Administration and Economic Crisis

Specialized Conference of the International Institute of Administrative Sciences, Helsinki, 7-11 July
<http://www.unpan.org/Events/BrowseEventsbyCalendar/tabid/94/mctl/EventDetails/ModuleID/1532/ItemID/1218/language/en-US/Default.aspx?selecteddate=7/7/2009>

August

International Day of the World's Indigenous People

9 August
<http://www.un.org/depts/dhl/indigenous/>

International Youth Day

12 August
<http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unyin/iyouthday.htm>

Observances

International Day of Cooperatives

4 July

The International Day of Cooperatives is celebrated on the first Saturday of July to increase awareness of cooperatives, highlight the complementary nature of the objectives of the United Nations and the international co-operative movement, and underscore the contribution of the movement to the resolution of global issues. The International Day helps strengthen and extend partnerships between the international cooperative movement and other actors, including

governments, at local, national and international levels.

This year's theme is "Driving Global Recovery through Cooperatives". It focuses on recovery rather than crisis and aims to highlight the role that cooperatives have in not only promoting economic growth, but also in promoting ethical values - values which have been severely challenged during the financial and food crisis. It also underlines that cooperatives can effectively contribute to global economic recovery and that they will do so in respect of the Cooperative Values and Principles which guide their operations.

The theme also allows stakeholders to address the response of the cooperative movement to crisis - financial, food, values. However, it is key to be reminded that cooperatives serve their members needs in both good and bad times whether it be economically, socially and/or culturally. They are not tools to address crisis, but a sustainable form of enterprise that outlives crisis and drives recovery.

For more information:

<http://www.copac.coop/idc/index.html>

World Population Day

11 July

No one knows yet what the full scale of this global economic crisis will look like. We do know that women and children in developing countries will bear the brunt of the impact. What started as a financial crisis in rich countries is now deepening into a global economic crisis that is hitting developing countries hard. It is already affecting progress toward reducing poverty.

Policy responses that build on women's roles as economic agents can do a lot to mitigate the effects of the crisis on development, especially because women, more than men, invest their earnings in the health and education of their children. Investments in public health, education, child care and other social services help mitigate the impact of the crisis on the entire family and raise productivity for a healthier economy.

This year's theme "Fight poverty: Educate girls" will highlight that investing in education and health for women and girls is a smart choice and is linked to productivity, agricultural yields and national income - all of which contribute to the achievement of the MDGs.

For more information: <http://www.unfpa.org/wpd/>

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.

Inquiries should be addressed to esa@un.org.