



## Video

### Stevie Wonder designated United Nations Messenger of Peace

*Singer-songwriter Stevie Wonder is joining the prestigious roster of United Nations Messengers of Peace to advocate for the Organization's work, with the artist – blind since birth – championing people with disabilities. "I recognize that he has consistently used his voice and special relationship with the public to create a better and more inclusive world, to defend civil and human rights and to improve the lives of those less fortunate. Stevie Wonder is a true inspiration to young people all over the world about what can be achieved despite any physical limitation," Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said in a news conference on 3 December 2009.*

<http://webcast.un.org/ramgen/ondemand/specialevents/2009/se091203am3.rm?start=00:06:46&end=00:12:26> (6 minutes)

## Inside this issue

### World economy is recovering, but is it sustainable?

The state of the global economy is slowly beginning to improve with the support of massive fiscal stimuli, but the recovery is uneven across regions and conditions for sustained growth remain fragile. Uncertainties and risks still exist, as well as policy challenges, which need to be addressed, p. 1

### Striving for a self-determined development

More than 370 million indigenous people live on this planet. Among them, each group has its own distinct culture and identity, which are formed and developed on the land where they have been living and struggling through generations, p. 3

Global dialogue on development, p. 6

Trends and analysis, p. 9

Technical cooperation, p. 11

Publications and websites, p. 12

Comings and goings, p. 16

Calendar, p. 17

## Feature articles

### World economy is recovering, but is it sustainable?

*The state of the global economy is slowly beginning to improve with the support of massive fiscal stimuli, but the recovery is uneven across regions and conditions for sustained growth remain fragile. Uncertainties and risks still exist, as well as policy challenges, which need to be addressed.*

The global economic landscape has begun to show signs of improvement. Since the second quarter of 2009, global equity markets have rebounded, risk premiums on lending have fallen and international trade and global industrial production have noticeably recovered. An increasing number of countries are starting to register positive quarterly growth of gross domestic product (GDP).

According to the World Economic Situation and Prospects (WESP) 2010, to be launched worldwide in the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of January, a mild growth of 2.4 per cent in the baseline scenario is expected for the global

economy in 2010, compared with a rate of 7 per cent below where it might have been if pre-crisis growth had continued.



However, the speed of recovery is uneven among different economies: although still below their potential growth, developing countries, especially those in Asia, are expected to show the strongest growth in 2010, led by the economies of China and India, which are expected to grow at 8.8 and 6.5 per cent respectively. Meanwhile, the Russian economy, which is leading the turnaround among economies in transition, is expected to grow at 1.5 per cent in 2010 after a severe decline by 7 per cent in 2009.

Compared with developing economies, the major developed economies are not expected to provide a strong pull to global growth in the near future. The United States is expected to grow by 2.1 per cent in 2010, following an estimated downturn of 2.5 per cent in 2009, while the European Union and Japan will see a much weaker recovery, with GDP growth of no more than 0.6 and 0.9 per cent respectively.

But the circumstances for sustained growth remain fragile. Credit conditions are still tight in major developed economies, the rebound in domestic demand remains tentative at best in many economies and is far from self-sustaining, and high unemployment rates and the large output gap in most countries continue to pose challenges for policy makers worldwide. Further, the global macroeconomic imbalances could widen again to form a source of renewed financial instability.

#### **Sustainable global rebalancing**

Continued fiscal stimulus will be necessary to keep up global aggregate demand, amidst further pressures on financial institutions to cleanse their balance sheets and restore lending capacity. For policymakers, the immediate challenge will be to

determine how much longer the fiscal stimulus should continue. Given the risk of a double-dip recession resulting from premature withdrawal, the stimulus should continue at least until there are clearer signals of a more robust recovery. Although it is difficult to establish when and where the recovery has become robust, substantial improvements in employment conditions and reduction of output gaps will likely be meaningful indicators for establishing the turning point.

Three forms of rebalancing of the global economy would need to take place over time, in order to avoid a return to the unsustainable pattern of growth that led to the global crisis in the first place. First, the pressure on Governments to buoy global demand would need to diminish gradually through renewed impulses from private demand. Second, the composition of aggregate demand would need to be rebalanced to lend greater weight to investment in support of future productivity growth, and especially to initiate the transformative investments needed to meet the challenge of climate change. Third, demand across countries will need to be rebalanced, which would involve a shift towards external demand (net exports) in major deficit countries, such as the United States and a few others, and towards domestic demand in the major surplus countries, especially those in Asia.

Close policy coordination is required to achieve these three rebalancing acts, since they are strongly interdependent. Consumer demand in the United States, as one of the key drivers of pre-crisis growth, is expected to remain sluggish in the outlook, making a rebalancing across countries necessary. From the perspective of global imbalances, it would also be undesirable to have to rely again on this source of growth for the recovery. Public and private investment to address climate change can also be an integral part of the rebalancing efforts.

#### **Strengthening policy coordination**

The framework for “strong, sustainable and balanced growth” launched by the G20 leaders at the Pittsburgh Summit could prove an important step in the right direction. As part of this framework, G20 members with significant external deficits (mainly the United States) have pledged to undertake policies to support private savings and undertake fiscal consolidation while maintaining open markets and strengthening export sectors.

As elaborated in detail in the World Economic Situation and Prospects 2007, a successful framework for international macroeconomic policy coordination

should consist of at least four components: developing a consensus on common goals through international consultations with outside mediation, addressing commitment problems by issuing multi-year schedules for policy adjustments, enhancing the context for mediation and the perceived legitimacy of the mediator, and initiating systemic reforms in the field of international monetary and financial affairs.

To strengthen global governance, further progress is needed on four fronts: extension of multilateral surveillance by the IMF well beyond the traditional emphasis on exchange rates, to address broader macro-financial surveillance and to monitor the “sustainable rebalancing” process of the global economy as outlined; more pervasive progress on governance reform of the IMF to add legitimacy to the institution’s enhanced role in this respect and also for mediating multi-annual agreements; strengthening accountability through clear and verifiable targets for desired policy outcomes, including a mechanism for penalizing non-compliance; and close coordination with other areas of global governance, including those related to development financing and the multilateral trading system, and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

#### Reforming the global reserve system

The present global reserve system, which uses the United States dollar as its major reserve currency, suffers from a number of systemic flaws that have been well documented since its creation. The key deficiencies could be addressed by either evolving the present reserve system into a full multi-currency reserve system or, preferably, by moving to a reserve system based on SDRs.

#### Policy actions will make the difference

The effectiveness with which policy makers address these three challenges will ultimately determine whether the global economy will recover or once again slide into recession.

WESP 2010 provides in-depth analysis of policy responses from governments and financial institutions. This and further analysis and forecasts are backed up by detailed macroeconomic statistics.

For more information:

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

## Striving for a self-determined development

*More than 370 million indigenous people live on this planet. Among them, each group has its own distinct culture and identity, which are formed and developed on the land where they have been living and struggling through generations.*

Indigenous peoples are the aboriginal residents of Mother Earth. From the Arctic cold to the tropical heat, they can be found in every inhabited climate zone. They speak around 5,000 languages and numbering more than 370 million, they make up 6 percent of the world’s population.



Throughout history, indigenous peoples have suffered from invasions, conquests, marginalization and assimilation. Their lands have been usurped, their natural resources excavated, their cultures subordinated, their identities destroyed, and their rights as human beings violated. Today, they are facing issues such as losing their traditional lands and languages. However, working together with the United Nations, indigenous people are finding their own way towards a self-determined development.

*Our roots are deep in the lands where we live. We have a great love for our country, for our birthplace is here. The soil is rich from the bones of thousands of generations. Each of us was created in these lands and it is our duty to take great care of them, because from these lands will spring the future generations of our peoples. We walk about with great respect, for the Earth is a very Sacred Place.*

Sioux, Navajo, and Iroquois Declaration

#### Becoming the agent of a development with culture and identity

Many times in history, indigenous people have been treated as either “primitives” or “savages” who needed to be civilized and assimilated, or were seen as obstacles in the way of economic development

because the land they occupied was often rich in resources.

Indigenous people have suffered when countries have forced them to assimilate to a dominant cultural context. Models of development that continue to follow assimilationist policies have further alienated indigenous peoples, generating further poverty and a myriad of social inequalities. Today, there are plenty of testimonials about the negative impacts of development or models of development where indigenous peoples might have achieved certain western standards of living, but now experience the loss of identity and cultural impoverishment.

From the views of indigenous peoples, development should take an approach which prioritizes the preservation of their culture and identity, by respecting their aspirations, values, their way of life and their uniqueness. Indigenous peoples want to become agents of their own development and have the foresight to promote a development paradigm that is self-determining. This corresponds to recently-evolved conceptions towards development in the international community: “human development”, “sustainable development” and “human-rights based approach to development”. This development paradigm includes economic growth, sustainable development of the environment and affirmation of the social, economic and cultural rights of indigenous peoples.

In today’s rapidly transforming societies, it is crucial that indigenous peoples’ vision of development be explored and given further consideration. While important issues such as sovereignty, self-government and self-determination are core values in the Western world, they are seldom contemplated in relation to indigenous peoples. However, the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples provides a strong basis from which indigenous peoples can affirm their rights and define their aspirations in the debates with states and corporations around development with culture and identity.

Certainly, Articles 3 and 32 of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (which was adopted in 2007) affirm their right to self-determination and the right to determine and develop priorities and strategies for development.

### Working together with the United Nations

Significant changes began to take place in 1923, when Haudenosaunee Chief Deskaheh travelled to

Geneva to speak to the League of Nations, to defend the right of his people to live under their own laws, on their own land and under their own faith. This historic event inspired those in generations to come to try and improve the status of indigenous people.

A similar journey was made by Maori religious leader T.W. Ratana. Ratana believed that the Treaty of Waitangi (which was brokered between Maoris and white settlers in New Zealand in 1840 and gave Maori ownership of their lands) had been broken. Ratana first traveled to London with a large delegation to petition King George, but was denied access. He then sent part of his delegation to Geneva to the League of Nations and arrived there later himself, in 1925, but was also denied access.

In 1982, the Working Group on Indigenous Populations (WGIP) of the Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights was established by a decision of the United Nations Economic and Social Council.

On 13 September, 2007, the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples was adopted by the General Assembly. It is the most comprehensive statement of the rights of indigenous peoples ever developed. It was highlighted as the overarching framework for development regarding indigenous peoples’ issues with the right to self-determination being the key to debates on development. The UNESCO Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity gives attention to the linkages between culture, development and identity.

The work of committed international bodies combined with the active involvement and lobbying by indigenous peoples within the United Nations system has resulted in the creation of several UN entities that address indigenous peoples’ issues, such as the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, the UN Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms of Indigenous Peoples, Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples of the UN Human Rights Council, as well as the increasing use of UN Treaty Bodies to raise complaints against States.

Indigenous peoples have also expanded lobbying and advocacy efforts and constructive engagements to other UN bodies, such as the International Labor Organization, the World Bank, the UN Development Programme and the UN Development Group, and bodies dealing with the protection of traditional knowledge, traditional cultural expressions, cultural heritage, etc.

Lobbying and advocacy at a national level has likewise resulted in important developments for indigenous peoples in enactments of constitutional provisions and national laws that recognize indigenous peoples' rights, gaining political power, establishment of indigenous autonomous regional governments, increasing networking at national, regional and global levels.

### United Nations International Expert Group Meeting this January

Recommended by the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII) at its eighth session in May 2009, authorized by the Economic and Social Council at its regular session on 30 July 2009, the *United Nations International Expert Group Meeting on Indigenous Peoples- Development with Culture and Identity: Articles 3 and 32 of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* will be held at the United Nations Headquarters in New York from 12-14 January 2010, which is also the special theme of the ninth session of the UNPFII.

This meeting will discuss ways for indigenous peoples to realize development with culture and identity under the collaboration of multiple interest holders. With a focus on the preservation of their communities, lands, resources and their human rights, the meeting will also propose options and further plans to build the necessary conditions for development, such as empowering and strengthening indigenous peoples' organizations and governance systems. The final report and recommendations of the meeting will be submitted to the ninth session of the UNPFII.

### Articles 3 and 32 of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

#### Article 3:

Indigenous peoples have the right to self-determination. By virtue of the right they freely determine their political status and freely pursue their economic, social and cultural development.

#### Article 32:

1. Indigenous peoples have the right to determine and develop priorities and strategies for the development or use of their lands or territories and other resources.
2. States shall consult and cooperate in good faith with the indigenous peoples concerned through their own representative institutions in order to obtain their free and informed consent prior to the approval of

any project affecting their lands or territories and other resources, particularly in connection with the development, utilization or exploitation of mineral, water or other resources.

3. States shall provide effective mechanisms for just and fair redress for any such activities, and appropriate measures shall be taken to mitigate adverse environmental, economic, social, cultural or spiritual impact.

For more information:

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

## Global dialogue on development

### High demand for consultative status

*2010 Regular Session of NGO Committee will be held from 25 January to 3 February to examine applications for consultative status and consider reclassifications and quadrennial reports*

The Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) is a standing committee of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), established by the Council in 1946. It reports directly to ECOSOC, and the two reports of its annual regular session (usually at the end of January) and resumed session (in May) include draft resolutions or decisions on matters calling for action by the Council.

The Committee, mandated with the responsibility to monitor the evolving relationship between NGOs and the United Nations, will have a heavy agenda and examine 140 new applications from NGOs seeking consultative status with ECOSOC. The Committee will also consider around 170 submissions of quadrennial reports from NGOs in Special and General consultative status.

The Committee has 19 members who are elected on the basis of equitable geographical representation: 5 members from African States; 4 members from Asian States; 2 members from Eastern European States; 4 members from Latin American and Caribbean States; and 4 members from Western European and other States. The term of office of its members is four years. The current terms of reference of the Committee are set out in Resolution 1996/31 of 25 July 1996. In its proceedings the Committee is guided by the rules of procedure of the Council.

The main tasks of the Committee are the consideration of applications for consultative status and requests for reclassification submitted by NGOs, the review of quadrennial reports submitted by NGOs in General and Special categories and the implementation of the provisions of Council resolution 1996/31 and the monitoring of the consultative relationship.

For more information:

<http://www.un.org/ecosoc/ngo/committee>

### Copenhagen Accord marks significant step towards shaping first truly global climate pact

*United Nations Climate Change Conference – COP 15 concluded on 18 December with 128 heads of State or Government participating in the two-week-long event*

The Secretary-General welcomed the outcome of the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of Parties (COP-15) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the fifth meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol. He thanked the Government of Denmark for hosting the Conference and leading the negotiations to a successful conclusion with substantive outcomes.

The collected decisions of the parties fulfill in large part the benchmarks for success laid down at the September 2009 Summit on Climate Change at United Nations Headquarters. The Secretary-General particularly appreciates the many Heads of State and Government who have demonstrated their global political leadership to make this deal possible.

Among the outcomes of the Conference, the Copenhagen Accord marks a significant step forward in negotiations for the first truly global agreement that can limit and reduce greenhouse gas emissions, support adaptation for the most vulnerable and help to establish a new era of environmentally sustainable growth.

Parties to the Accord agreed to work towards a common, long-term goal to limit global temperature rise to below 2° Celsius. Developed countries have committed to establish and implement targets for greenhouse gas emissions, and a number of developing countries, including major emerging economies, have agreed to implement nationally appropriate mitigation actions and communicate their efforts every two years.

In this Accord, countries also agreed on the importance of acting to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, and also agreed to provide comprehensive support to the most vulnerable to cope with climate change. The Accord

specifically calls for immediate establishment of a mechanism including REDD-plus, to enable the mobilization of financial resources from developed countries.

In addition, the Accord also establishes three new bodies: a High-Level Panel under the COP to study the implementation of financing provisions, the Copenhagen Green Climate Fund and a Technology Mechanism. The establishment of the High-Level Panel could be a major development in involving business and private sectors in climate change policy setting processes.

To support these priorities, countries pledged up to \$30 billion a year between 2010 and 2012, to be disbursed through a Copenhagen Green Climate Fund. Countries also backed the goal of mobilizing \$100 billion a year by 2020 for developing countries.

On 16 December 2009, the United States, Australia, France, Japan and Great Britain together pledged \$3.5 billion over three years to “slow, halt and eventually reverse” deforestation in developing countries. These pledges build on the \$1 billion contribution that Norway pledged in 2008.

In the coming months, the Secretary-General will work with Member States to ensure that the commitments enshrined in the Copenhagen Accord can be converted into a global, legally binding treaty as soon as possible in 2010.

### Technology transfer – time for action

Following the UNFCCC COP13 in Bali, the United Nations Chief Executives Board (CEB) declared technology transfer as one of the focus areas of the UN system’s work on climate change. The United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO) and DESA have been assigned the task of co-convening a process to support UN system-wide coherence and international cooperation on climate change-related technology development and transfer.

In this capacity, the COP 15 Side Event on International Cooperation on Technology Transfer: Time for Action held on 16 December was co-organized by UNIDO and DESA’s Division for Sustainable Development and chaired by Sha Zukang, Under-Secretary-General of DESA. Since, low-carbon technologies are central to addressing climate change and development, the event focused on actions and strategies to hasten the transfer of clean technologies world-wide as well as the promotion of energy for sustainable development.

The event brought together heads of major United Nations organizations and other agencies to discuss the role of international cooperation in accelerating the global development and deployment of climate friendly technologies, particularly in developing countries. It featured statements and input from the heads of DESA, UNDP, GEF, WIPO, UNIDO, UNEP, IRENA and the UN Foundation. H.E. Mr. Jairam Ramesh, Minister, Ministry of Environment and Forest, Government of India participated as a special guest.

### Forest Day 3

DESA’s United Nations Forum on Forests Secretariat (UNFFS) co-hosted the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF) Forest Day 3 event on 13 December 2009. Close to 1,500 representatives from government delegations, international organizations and civil society gathered at Forest Day 3, to ensure that forest-based climate change solutions remained high on the agenda at the UNFCCC COP 15 discussions. The event featured luminaries such as Gro Harlem Brundtland, Nobel laureates Elinor Ostrom, Rajendra Pachauri and Wangari Maathai and a video message from former US President Bill Clinton.

UNFFS co-hosted two key events at Forest Day 3, a learning event on strategies for increasing financing for forests and climate change and a sub-plenary session on Forest Degradation which highlighted the importance of degraded forests (the second "D") in REDD+.

Ms. Jan McAlpine, Director of the UN Forum on Forests Secretariat, chaired and facilitated the learning event discussion on financing for forests and climate change. The main message from this event was that REDD+ could provide 30% of the global abatement potential by 2020 and that financing in the order of 25 billion Euros per year from all sources is needed. REDD+ initiatives must include attention to the social, economic and environmental aspects and start in a phased approach immediately; delaying action until 2015 would “cost” 16 giga tons of carbon lost."

The sub-plenary session on degradation was moderated by Fiona Harvey of *The Financial Times*. The main message from the sub-plenary session was that improved forest governance is a prerequisite to reversing degradation and that forest restoration provides an immense opportunity to address the widespread degradation of forest lands and

significantly enhance carbon stocks and also provides important opportunities for adaptation.

*Based on Press Release SG/SM/12682 and UN News (21 December 2009)*

For more information: <http://en.cop15.dk/>  
Side event on International Cooperation on  
Technology Transfer: Time for Action:  
[http://www3.cop15.meta-fusion.com/kongresse/cop15/templ/play.php?id\\_kongressmain=1&theme=unfccc&id\\_kongresssession=2657](http://www3.cop15.meta-fusion.com/kongresse/cop15/templ/play.php?id_kongressmain=1&theme=unfccc&id_kongresssession=2657)  
[http://www.un.org/esa/dsd/dsd\\_aofw\\_tec/tec\\_sideevent1209.shtml](http://www.un.org/esa/dsd/dsd_aofw_tec/tec_sideevent1209.shtml) (including webcast)  
Forest Day 3:  
<http://www.cifor.cgiar.org/Events/ForestDay3/Introduction>,  
[http://www.un.org/esa/forests/pdf/UNFFS\\_FD3.pdf](http://www.un.org/esa/forests/pdf/UNFFS_FD3.pdf)

## Second Committee adopted 43 resolutions

*Conference on Sustainable Development at the highest level in 2012, a review of the Mauritius Strategy in 2010 and a follow-up conference on financing for development by 2013 were decided by the Committee*

The Second Committee (Economic and Financial) of the General Assembly concluded its session on 11 December 2009. Forty-three resolutions were adopted (six resolutions were voted upon – the oil slick on Lebanese shores, Permanent sovereignty of the Palestinian people, agricultural technology for development, towards a New International Economic Order, unilateral economic measures, and international trade and development).

The resolution on the implementation of Agenda 21 decided to hold the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development at the highest level in 2012 in Brazil and detailed the preparation process. The Committee also decided to convene the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries in the first half of 2011 in Istanbul, Turkey.

In addition, the Committee reaffirmed the Assembly's decision to convene a two-day high-level review of the Mauritius Strategy in September 2010 as part of the Assembly's sixty-fifth session as well as the one-day high-level meeting on biological diversity close to the opening of the general debate as

a contribution to the International Year of Biodiversity.

With regard to Financing for Development, the Committee adopted a consensus resolution, which reaffirmed the need for a strengthened and more effective inclusive intergovernmental process to follow-up on financing for development. The resolution recalled the decision to consider holding a follow-up conference on financing for development by 2013. The Committee could not reach a consensus on the Trade and Development resolution for the fifth consecutive year.

This year, with the initiative of the Chairperson of the Committee, ten special events were organized on key issues relevant to the Committee's work. The Committee benefited from a series of stimulating discussions during these special events on issues pertaining to the Committee's programme of work.

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

## Trends and analysis

### Promoting gender equality and women's empowerment

*e-Discussion on Women and Poverty will be held from 11 January to 12 February, organized by the United Nations Development Programme and DESA*

In March, the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) will undertake a 15 year review of the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action. In late June, the ECOSOC Annual Ministerial Review will examine the implementation of the internationally agreed development goals on gender equality and women's empowerment. In September, the UN General Assembly will undertake the 2010 review of implementation of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), and propose policy measures to accelerate implementation over the period to 2015. 2010 will also be a watershed year for the promotion of gender equality and women's empowerment.

This e-discussion presents a unique opportunity to make voices heard, and to influence the deliberations of the above events by formulating critical policy messages and action agenda to the United Nations intergovernmental processes. Participants can bring new thoughts and ideas to the policy debate, drawing on their experiences, and help make a difference in the fight against poverty.

The e-discussion will address the following topics:

- What are the new understandings of poverty and its gender dimensions that have evolved since the adoption of the Beijing Platform for Action? What are good practices in gender-responsive poverty analysis and poverty reduction activities?
- How can the institutional and policy environment for addressing the gender dimensions of poverty be strengthened, building on the Beijing Platform for Action and the Millennium Declaration?
- How can national poverty reduction strategies and programmes as well as international support more effectively address the gender dimensions of poverty in the build-up to 2015?

- What are the core policy messages for leaders participating in the 2010 CSW, ECOSOC, and the High-level Plenary Meeting on MDGs?
- What are the most critical actions required to tackle "gender and poverty", in light of new obstacles and challenges, such as climate change and the impact of the global economic and financial crisis?
- How could financing for gender equality be strengthened in order to alleviate the gender dimensions of poverty?

The e-discussion is open to all stakeholders. Practitioners, experts and policy-makers, from within and outside of the UN system, and especially those working at the country level, can make use of this opportunity to contribute to the United Nations intergovernmental processes, and more broadly, help create a more equal world.

*For more information:*

<http://www.un.org/ecosoc/newfunct/amredis2010.shtml>

### Addressing concerns related to women's health

*First preparatory meeting for the 2010 Annual Ministerial Review will be held for the African region on 12-13 January in Dakar, Senegal*

The meeting will be hosted by the Government of Senegal, in cooperation with DESA, the World Health Organization (WHO) and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA). Different panel discussions will address regional concerns related to women's health and empowerment.

The meeting will be comprised of five sessions that enable participants to engage with expert panelists on the topics of maternal health and mortality, strengthening access to HIV/AIDS health interventions, and promoting women's empowerment.

The meeting presents an opportunity for regional stakeholders to share best practices, challenges, trends, policies and programmes on issues that are specific to the region. More than 100 participants have been invited to the meeting including national

health ministers from UNECA member states, NGOs, multi-lateral institutions, civil society groups and private sector organizations.

*For more information:*

<http://www.un.org/ecosoc/newfunc/amr2010senegal.shtml>

## Developing with culture and identity

*Experts will meet from 12-14 January in New York to understand indigenous peoples' development and to identify the means to realize such development under multiple cooperation*

Recommended by the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII) at its eighth session in May 2009 and authorized by the Economic and Social Council at its regular session on 30 July 2009, the International Expert Group Meeting on Indigenous Peoples - Development with Culture and Identity - will bear multiple goals and also be the special theme of the ninth session of the UNPFII.

Permanent Forum members, indigenous experts, states and representatives from United Nations agencies and funds will have the opportunities to exchange information and analysis on the various concepts of development and practices and their impact on indigenous peoples' livelihoods, communities, cultural practices and lands and natural resources. Positive and negative practices will be highlighted to give references to further measures.

The meeting will analyze enshrined human rights within international standards and policies and how they contribute to indigenous peoples' concept of development with culture and identity. Options and further plans to build the necessary conditions for development such as empowering and strengthening indigenous peoples' organizations and governance systems will be identified. They will also analyze opportunities for partnerships with indigenous peoples on development issues and how such arrangements might be informed by good practices and corporate responsibility models.

The final report and recommendations of the Expert Group Meeting will be to be submitted to the ninth session of the UNPFII.

*For more information:*

[http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii/en/EGM\\_DCI.html](http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii/en/EGM_DCI.html)

## Teaming up in e-government

*European Union's 5th Ministerial Meeting on e-Government was held in Malmo, Sweden from 19-20 November*

The Director of DESA's Division for Public Administration & Development Management participated in a panel on global teamwork in e-government as part of the Ministerial Meeting. Ms. Qian was joined on the panel by representatives from the European Commission, OECD, the World Bank, and IBM.

DESA's message to participants, which was conveyed in a prepared statement, was that European interests do not stop at the EU border and collaboration should not stop there either. The Information Society is the future society and global e-government collaboration presents a tremendous opportunity for visionary leaders.

Global cooperation in e-government, as in other areas of public interest, is both possible and desirable in all areas covered by the UN development agenda – indeed in all areas where international cooperation is already taking place. The simplest way to organize global teamwork would be through existing institutions such as the United Nations.

The world is not lacking for cooperation mechanisms. It is only lacking resolve. In the global arena, that resolve usually begins with a UN General Assembly resolution, and EU Member States should begin by sponsoring one.

## Capacity Development

### Revising statistical classifications

*Workshop on International Economic and Social Classifications will be held for statisticians of French-speaking countries from 25-28 January in Bamako, Mali*

DESA's Statistics Division in collaboration with AFRISTAT and the National Statistical Office of France (INSEE) is organizing a workshop that will present the conceptual as well as main structural changes for the revised International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities (ISIC) and the Central Product Classification (CPC).

The workshop will also review the current implementation of activity and product classifications in the region and will try to coordinate the work on a regional classification for AFRISTAT member countries.

*For more information:*

[http://unstats.un.org/unsd/newsletter/globalstat\\_unsd\\_calendar.htm](http://unstats.un.org/unsd/newsletter/globalstat_unsd_calendar.htm)

### Implementing national development strategies

*Mission to Chad from 13-22 November to recruit additional national experts to support the Government*

Mr. Gustave Nébié, Inter-Regional Adviser of DESA's Division for Public Administration & Development Management, went on mission to Chad from 13 to 22 November. The main objective was to participate in a recruitment panel for 4 additional national experts for the project "Implementation of National Development Strategy" and for the elaboration of a 2010 work plan and budget of this project.

After successfully supporting the elaboration of a National Development Strategy for Chad in 2008, the project now focuses on supporting the implementation and monitoring of the National Strategy. In this regard, more resources are needed (both financial and human) to support the

Government. With these 4 additional experts, the project will be able to scale-up its activities, and a budget of around \$1.7 millions is planned for 2010.

### Establishing human resource manager's network for Asia

*During the International Symposium on Public Personnel Management in Beijing from 25 - 28 October a proposal was made to set up this network*

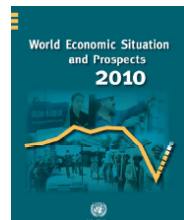
Following a presentation of the Africa Public Sector Human Resource Managers' Network (APS-HRMnet), which was established in February 2009 with the support of DESA, to the participants at the International Symposium, a proposal to establish a human resource managers' network in Asia, similar to the one already implemented in Africa, was made.

This proposal was accepted by the participants with enthusiasm and appreciation and was discussed along with a presentation made by a participant from Sri Lanka. An agreement was reached to establish a small working group that would meet virtually and continue to work on the proposal.

It was also agreed that the working group will inform the Symposium participants on progress made regarding the establishment of the Human Resource Managers' Network in Asia and on the way forward.

## Publications and websites

### Technical reports



#### Launch of the World Economic Situation and Prospects 2010

The report, to be released worldwide in the third week of January, outlines that the world economic landscape has begun to show signs of improvement. Since the second quarter of 2009, global equity markets have rebounded, risk premiums on lending have fallen and international trade and global industrial production have noticeably recovered. An increasing number of countries are starting to register positive quarterly growth of gross domestic product (GDP).

A mild growth of 2.4 per cent in the baseline scenario for the global economy in 2010 is expected. In this scenario, the level of the world economic activity will be 7 per cent below where it could have been if pre-crisis growth would have continued. However, unevenness exists noticeably among different economies. China's and India's economies are expected to grow at 8.8 and 6.5 per cent respectively in 2010 while in other developing economies, such growths remain well below the pre-crisis pace of more than 7 per cent per annum. Developing countries, especially in Asia, are expected to show the strongest growth in 2010. Meanwhile, the Russian economy is leading the turnaround among economies in transition, expected to grow at 1.5 per cent in 2010 after a severe decline by 7 per cent in 2009.

Compared with developing economies, the major developed economies are not expected to provide a strong pull to global growth in a near future. The United States is expected to grow by 2.1 per cent in 2010, following an estimated downturn of 2.5 per cent in 2009, while the European Union and Japan see a much weaker recovery, with GDP growth of no more than 0.6 and 0.9 per cent respectively.

But the conditions for sustained growth remain fragile. Credit conditions are still tight in major developed economies, many countries are now burdened with high unemployment rates, some are affected by a large output gap, and economists even predict that the possibility of a further spread of

pandemic influenza A (H1N1) could hurt economic activity.

For more information:

<http://www.un.org/esa/policy/wess/wesp.html>

### Statistical compilations



#### International Merchandise Trade Statistics: Supplement to the Compliers Manual

This supplement covers a number of topics deemed to be beneficial to trade data compilers, including an overview of compiling practices, the revised International convention on the simplification and harmonization of customs procedures (revised Kyoto Convention), the 2007 edition of the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System, specific compilation issues such as goods for processing and re-exports, an overview of the differences between IMTS and general merchandise in balance of payments statistics, the lessons learned from the Intrastat system of the European Union, and the topic of linking trade and business statistics.

For more information:

<https://unp.un.org/Details.aspx?pid=17694>



#### 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. 11, November 2009

Quarterly and bimonthly tables included in this issue:

- 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
- World exports by commodity classes and by regions

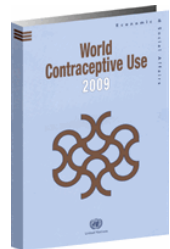
#### Vol. LXIII – No. 12, December 2009

- Retail price indices relating to living expenditures of United Nations officials
- Fuel imports, developed economies: unit value and volume indices; value
- Indicators on fuel imports, 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

*For more information:*

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

## Outreach material



### World Contraceptive Use 2009 (Wall Chart)

This wall chart presents the latest data available on key dimensions of reproductive health, including two of the indicators for the Millennium Development Goals, namely, contraceptive prevalence relative to

the use of any method and unmet need for family planning. The wall chart shows that universal access to reproductive health is still far from being attained. In at least 40 countries, over 20 per cent of women of reproductive age who are married or in union have an unmet need for contraception. Nevertheless, at the global level contraceptive use continues to increase.

*To order:* <https://unp.un.org/Details.aspx?pid=19841>

## Working papers

### Growth, Development Policy, Job Creation and Poverty Reduction

Policies seeking to directly help the poor have an important role to play. But without sustained growth in per capita output and significant job creation, they

will not succeed. Policies promoting growth have been suggested, most notably by avoiding pro-cyclical responses to macroeconomic shocks (especially from abroad), steering macroeconomic prices, such as exchange and interest rates, to support developmental objectives, pursuing industrial and trade policies involving increasing returns, promoting financial development, and making productive use of foreign aid. Ensuring national economies have sufficient policy space to achieve sustained growth and structural change should be the over-riding policy concern.

*For more information:*

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

*To download:*

[http://www.un.org/esa/desa/papers/2009/wp90\\_2009.pdf](http://www.un.org/esa/desa/papers/2009/wp90_2009.pdf)

### Microfinance as a Poverty Reduction Tool—A Critical Assessment

This paper attempts to provide a critical appraisal of the debate on the effectiveness of microfinance as a universal poverty reduction tool. It argues that while microfinance has developed some innovative management and business strategies, its impact on poverty reduction remains in doubt. Microfinance, however, certainly plays an important role in providing safety-net and consumption smoothing. The borrowers of microfinance possibly also benefit from learning-by-doing and from self-esteem. However, for any significant dent on poverty, the focus of public policy should be on growth-oriented and equity-enhancing programs, such as broad-based productive employment creation.

*For more information:*

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

*To download:*

[http://www.un.org/esa/desa/papers/2009/wp89\\_2009.pdf](http://www.un.org/esa/desa/papers/2009/wp89_2009.pdf)

### The Terrible Simplifiers: Common Origins of Financial Crises and Persistent Poverty in Economic Theory and the new ‘1848 Moment’

One element explaining the financial crisis is what Hyman Minsky called ‘destabilizing stability’: long periods of stability lead to increasing vulnerability. This paper argues that similar mechanisms are at work inside economics: long periods of economic progress in the core countries lead to increasingly abstract and irrelevant economic theories (‘terrible simplifications’). This leads to turning points towards more relevant economic theories, referred to as ‘1848

moments'. The paper further outlines the key variables that need to be re-introduced into economic theory in order to furnish poor countries with the type of productive structures that makes it possible to eliminate poverty.

*For more information:*

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

*To download:*

[http://www.un.org/esa/desa/papers/2009/wp88\\_2009.pdf](http://www.un.org/esa/desa/papers/2009/wp88_2009.pdf)

### **The Emperor's New Suit: Global Poverty Estimates Reappraised**

The recent revision of the World Bank's global poverty estimates based on a new \$1.25 (2005 PPP) poverty line underlines their unreliability and lack of meaningfulness. It is very difficult to justify various aspects of the Bank's approach. In the short term, less weight should be given to the Bank's poverty estimates in monitoring the first MDG. In the longer term, a solution to the observed problems requires adopting an altogether different method. Such an alternative exists but requires global institutional coordination. Until it is implemented, the crisis in the monitoring of global consumption poverty can be expected to intensify. Subsequent versions of this paper, correcting errors or extending the argument, will be made available on [socialanalysis.org](http://socialanalysis.org).

*For more information:*

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

*To download:*

[http://www.un.org/esa/desa/papers/2009/wp79\\_2009.pdf](http://www.un.org/esa/desa/papers/2009/wp79_2009.pdf)

## **Discussion papers**

### **15th Monthly Briefing on the World Economic Situation and Prospects**

The December 2009 issue forecasts that the global recovery will continue, with an increasing number of countries reporting rises in output. The recovery, however, is uneven across regions and economic and financial fragilities remain. The global trade is gaining momentum and prospects for commodity exporters have improved. To avoid a double-dip recession, a continued and better coordinated policy support is still needed

*For more information:*

[http://www.un.org/esa/policy/publications/dpad\\_wes\\_pmbn.html](http://www.un.org/esa/policy/publications/dpad_wes_pmbn.html)

### **UN-DESA Policy Briefs**

UN-DESA Policy Briefs feature synopses of key policy analysis intended to frame issues, inform decisions and guide policy action in the economic, social and environmental arena. The following new UN-DESA Policy Briefs are now available:

- The challenges of adapting to a warmer planet for urban growth and development
- Ocean Acidification: A Hidden Risk for Sustainable Development

*For more information:*

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

## **Websites**



### **New Environment Statistics Web Dissemination**

DESA's Statistics Division publishes global environment statistics through two

main web-based products: the Environmental Indicators and the Country Snapshots. In 2009, the scope of the Statistics Division online dissemination of environmental indicators was expanded, covering a wider range of environmental themes and data sources. Previously, indicators compiled from the Statistics Division/UNEP Questionnaire on Environment Statistics, supplemented by data from UNFCCC and FAO, were the focus of dissemination on the website.

Since 2009, the Statistics Division now provides a broader set of indicator themes, which makes use of the increasing availability of internationally comparable environmental data compiled by a variety of international organizations. The objective of the Statistics Division's expanded dissemination of environmental indicators is to provide a global hub for statistics on the environment.

Ten themes have been selected to organize the current set of Environmental Indicators: Air and Climate; Biodiversity; Energy and Minerals; Forests; Governance; Inland Water Resources; Land and Agriculture; Marine and Coastal Areas; Natural Disasters; and Waste. The themes were selected after an extensive review of the availability of environmental statistics with global scope and comparability. Currently, there are 64 downloadable indicator tables organized within the 10 themes.

Country Snapshots, which include many of the indicators from the Environmental Indicators list, in addition to other economic and demographic background information, have also been updated using a new process. Country Snapshots for United Nations member states are now compiled and produced by the Division, using an automated system that allows for improved quality control and more efficient and regular updates.

To browse:

<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/environment/qindicators.htm>

[http://unstats.un.org/unsd/environment/Questionnaires/country\\_snapshots.htm](http://unstats.un.org/unsd/environment/Questionnaires/country_snapshots.htm)

<http://data.un.org>

### Special web feature on Gender Equality and Sustainable Urbanisation



To mark the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the adoption by the General Assembly of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, this new feature provides evidence from a wide variety of United Nations sources on the economic and social costs of gender inequalities in cities. It also draws attention to the positive impact of better governance and targeted interventions to tackle ongoing discrimination in various aspects of urban life.

Commenting on the initiative, UN-HABITAT Executive Director Mrs. Anna Tibaijuka stressed the importance of incorporating urban dwellers in the fight for gender equality. Currently, 186 countries—over ninety-five per cent of the Members of the United Nations—have ratified the Convention, which is often described as an international bill of rights for women.

To browse:

<http://www.un.org/womenwatch/feature/urban/>



### New Redesigned Integrated Civil Society Organizations System

This consolidated database of civil society information in economic and social affairs provides online participation and facilitates the application procedure for consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). Accredited NGOs with ECOSOC can also submit their quadrennial reports and designate representatives to international conferences convened by the United Nations.

Users can search and browse more than 12,000 organizations to find out more about their activities, meeting participation and accreditation status in the areas of sustainable and social development, advancement of women, financing for development, forests and public administration.

To browse: <http://www.un.org/esa/civilsociety>

## Comings and goings

### Goings



**Ms. Carolyn Hannan** retired on 31 December as Director of DESA's Division for the Advancement of Women, a position she held with distinction since December 2001. Her retirement marks many years of

dedicated service to the goal of gender equality and development, which began long before she joined the United Nations, both in her home country of Sweden, and in Africa, where she lived and worked for more than 10 years.

Ms. Hannan's academic background in social and economic geography and social anthropology, and her rich work experience covering many countries and gender perspectives in many areas, including water supply and sanitation, health, population, statistics, human settlements, natural resource management, governance and poverty eradication, equipped her with a keen understanding of the impact of major developments on women and gender equality. She has been tireless in her efforts to ensure that important concerns and cutting-edge thinking have been brought to the attention of policymakers and others in positions of power with potential to make a positive difference in women's lives.

How will Ms. Hannan remember her eight years at the Division for the Advancement of Women? These years were "intense", "never, ever dull", and "always lightened by the dedication and positive team-spirit of DAW colleagues", she says. Her coming years are sure to be equally fulfilling.

### Comings

*The following staff members were promoted in December:*

Paul Hanna, Statistician, Statistics Division

Richard A. Roehrl, Sustainable Development Officer, Division for Sustainable Development

Simone Wilson, Associate Social Affairs Officer, Division for Social Policy and Development

## Calendar

### January

#### **Launch of the World Economic Situation and Prospects 2010**

3rd week of January

<http://www.un.org/esa/policy/wess/wesp.html>

#### **E-discussion on Women and Poverty**

11 January - 12 February

<http://www.un.org/ecosoc/newfunct/amredis2010.shtml>

#### **2010 Regional Preparatory Meeting for Africa on Women and Health**

Dakar, Senegal, 12-13 January

<http://www.un.org/ecosoc/newfunct/amr2010senegal.shtml>

#### **International Expert Group Meeting on Indigenous Peoples: Development with Culture and Identity**

New York, 12-14 January

[http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii/en/EGM\\_DCI.html](http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii/en/EGM_DCI.html)

#### **Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations**

2010 Regular Session, New York, 25 January - 3 February

<http://www.un.org/esa/coordination/ngo/>

#### **Workshop on International Economic and Social Classifications**

Bamako, Mali, 25-28 January

<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/class/intercop/training/ecal0/ecal0-2.asp>

### February

#### **Commission for Social Development**

48<sup>th</sup> session, New York, 3-12 February

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

#### **Statistical Commission**

41<sup>st</sup> session, New York, 23-26 February

[http://unstats.un.org/unsd/statcom/commission\\_41st\\_session.htm](http://unstats.un.org/unsd/statcom/commission_41st_session.htm)

*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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