

Regional Commissions Development Update

"Voicing regional perspectives on global issues"

Editorial

Accelerating the Achievement of the MDGs: Opportunities in the Multiple Crises

As the UN High-level Plenary Meeting on the MDGs is fast approaching, we are called to reflect on what we have achieved thus far and to consider what needs to be done to overcome the shortcomings in the areas where there has been insufficient progress. The overall picture regarding progress on the MDGs is mixed and uneven. This is true for the various goals and targets, within regions but also within the same country, with striking disparities often noted between rural and urban areas and among the different segments of the population. Even before the food, fuel and economic crises, progress towards certain goals and targets has been insufficient across most regions, particularly regarding maternal health, environmental sustainability and access to sanitation facilities. While the food, energy, financial and economic crises of the past few years and the continuing effects of climate change have presented us with formidable new challenges, they have also led us to view things in a different light and to think "out of the box" in order to come up with creative and effective solutions. The combined crises have pointed to aspects which require serious and urgent attention such as food security, increased social protection and more stringent regulation; all of this to make sure that the benefits of economic growth are sustained, more inclusive, more equitably distributed and that they are not outweighed by unnecessary and unfettered risks. These aspects have brought to bear the importance of the role of the State, the value of multilateralism and the importance of regional coordination and cooperation.

Analyses by the UN Regional Commissions indicate that several of the lessons learned and of the measures that were used to counter the effects of the global economic and financial crisis can also be applied for accelerated progress towards the achievement of the MDGs. One of the lessons of the crisis is the value and importance of State intervention to maintain economic stability and to actively mitigate the impact of the crisis on the most vulnerable and marginalized groups such as the poor, women, children, the youth and the elderly through a targeted investment in social protection systems. These systems proved not only useful in protecting vulnerable groups, but also in acting as economic stabilizers to confront sudden shocks. For this reason, governments across the globe responded to the multiple and interrelated crises by allocating sizeable portions of their fiscal stimuli packages to social investments, including agricultural and rural development, food-aid programmes and investments consistent with a low-carbon economy.

Based on this experience, countries that are lagging behind and that have not done so could adopt MDG-based national development plans which increase social inclusion through targeted government interventions and fiscal expenditure on MDG related priorities and gaps. To sustain the level of fiscal expenditure needed to accelerate progress in the achievement of the MDGs, governments should aim to augment their revenues, including through more effective taxation systems, and should optimize their spending towards MDG achievement. Countries should

also explore innovative sources of financing, including through incentives for the private sector to make investments on MDG related priorities through corporate social responsibility initiatives. Meeting ODA commitments is also necessary, especially to assist the least developed and most vulnerable countries.

Another of the lessons derived from the combined crises has been the increasingly recognized value of South-South and regional cooperation as a means of strengthening countries' resilience and achieving common goals. In response to the crisis, the various regions engaged in a number of coordinated measures and strategies, including emergency meetings of the Finance and Planning Ministers in the various regions (supported by some of the Regional Commissions), expanding the Chiang Mai Initiative, the European Recovery Plan, the establishment of the Summit for the Integration of Latin America and the Caribbean, and the recapitalization of the different regional and sub-regional development banks in order to raise credit lines and expedite lending procedures among others. All of these measures have been crucial to the prompt recovery from the crisis at the global, regional and national levels. As importantly, the guiding principles which distinguish South-South cooperation (national ownership and sovereignty, solidarity, equality, mutual respect and benefit, and freedom from any conditionalities) proved especially helpful in enabling the policy space that countries needed to confront the crises according to their particular circumstances and conditions. The dynamic performance by the emerging economies compared to that of the developed countries in the years to come, make South-South and regional cooperation an important element for the achievement of the MDGs. The multiple crises have also highlighted the need for more environmentally sustainable growth. A transition towards green growth was recognized as a pathway towards economic recovery and to sustainable development. It could create dynamic new industries, quality jobs and income growth while mitigating and adapting to climate change and arresting biodiversity decline.

In sum, the combined crises have shed light on the need for a more inclusive and environmentally sustainable development paradigm that is not exclusively centered on economic growth but that is based on a more humane, equitable and sustainable approach. The combined crises have also taught us valuable lessons about how to bring this paradigm shift to fruition. We should take full advantage of this opportunity in order to halve poverty by 2015, to spare millions of people, particularly women and children, from hunger, preventable illness and death and to preserve our natural resources for the benefit and enjoyment of future generations. With the necessary resolve, we can accomplish this. The Regional Commissions stand ready to assist Member States in this endeavour.



Jan Kubis
Executive Secretary of UNECE
and Current Coordinator of the
Regional Commissions

Activities of the UN Economic Commission for Europe

UNECE

UNECE project on Energy Efficiency moves closer to establishing Investment Fund

A UNECE-sponsored private-public partnership investment fund for energy efficiency and renewable energy projects will be established this year in Central and Eastern Europe and Central Asia. This was one of the main conclusions of the fifteenth session of UNECE Ad Hoc Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency

Investments for Climate Change Mitigation, which met in Geneva on 9 June 2010. The meeting gathered representatives from the 12 countries participating in the Financing Energy Efficiency for Climate Change Mitigation (FEEI) Project, as

well as from other UNECE member states, international organizations, the business community and non-governmental organizations.

Recent changes in the economic climate and better understanding of the benefits of energy efficiency investments from potential investors have created significant interest in such funds, according to Conning Asset Management Limited, which is designing the investment fund on

behalf of UNECE and the 12 countries participating in the project. The investment fund will function on commercial terms, thus fostering market formation and demonstrating that energy efficiency projects can become business-as-usual for the financial sector. This will also open the door for the replication of this or similar funds in other countries of the UNECE region and other regions of the world.



In its preliminary assessment, Conning makes use of the results of a recently completed study on Policy Reforms for

Energy

Efficiency Investments. This regional analysis identifies the barriers that the countries of the region face in the implementation of energy efficiency and renewable energy projects and provides policy recommendations on how to overcome them. National experts in the 12 participating countries will be involved in preparing an indicative project pipeline – i.e. project proposals that will be evaluated on their compliance with criteria set by the new investment fund and have the potential to be financed from the fund.

Helsinki Conference underlines the importance of innovation-based competitiveness for sustainable growth

The International Conference on Policies to Address Financing and Entrepreneurial Challenges in High-growth Innovative Firms, which took place in Helsinki on 2-4 June 2010, jointly organised by UNECE with the Ministry of Employment and the Economy and the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland, underlined that science, technology and innovation increasingly determine economic performance, the new employment opportunities and the competitiveness of industries and nations. Innovation is thus a major source of competitive advantage including during periods of dramatic change as in the current global economy.

The Conference brought together policy-makers, practitioners and academics from UNECE member States, including from many transition economies from Eastern Europe, Central Asia and the Caucasus. Participants discussed how innovation and entrepreneurship policies can promote faster post-crisis recovery, what are the most effective forms of public-private cooperation in these areas and what are the good practices in public programmes promoting the financing of innovative firms, among many other issues.

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Financing Global Climate Change Mitigation, THE ECE Energy Series No. 37

ISBN 978-92-1-117017-7

Forest Products Annual Market Review (2008-2009)

ISBN: 978-92-1-117007-8

HOW GENERATION AND GENDER SHAPE DEMOGRAPHIC CHANGE: Towards policies based on better knowledge.

ISBN 978-92-1-117004-7

A Common Regulatory Language for Trade and Development

ISBN 978-92-1-117016-0

Green Homes
Symbol: ECE/HBP/159

UNECE Selected Publications



UNECE signs an agreement with the International Union of Railways

UNECE and the International Union of Railways (UIC) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on 24 May in Prague, on the sidelines of the 18th OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum in order to further strengthen the co-operation between the two organizations in the pursuit of their common objective: the integration and development of the European transport of goods and passengers by railways. UNECE and UIC endeavour the development of sustainable transport and thus promote environment and health friendly transport systems to reduce pollution and greenhouse gas emissions. Efficient and safe rail transport plays a particularly important role for sustainable passenger mobility and freight transport in a pan-European context.

UNECE and UIC will exchange information and expertise, cross-participation at events sponsored and organized by on international legislation, technical interoperability, trans-boundary management, management of priority corridors, accessibility, international security, and rail safety. UNECE and UIC will also strengthen their cooperation for the development of relations with the private sector and international financial institutions in order to achieve effective implementation of the Public Private Partnership concept in the European railways and intermodal transport systems, and for the development of relations with other international organizations with a view to developing a competitive Euro-Asian Railway network. The current international trade flows and the ever growing environmental challenges create new perspectives and needs for efficient, safe and economically viable transport, boosting sustainable

performances particularly on long-distance routes. One of UIC's key projects is the development of the Europe-Asia corridor which perfectly aligns with UNECE's mandate to develop trans-boundary rail transport within Europe and Europe- Asia territory.

13 countries from Central and Eastern Europe and the Caucasus adopt joint initiative for safe, secure, prosperous and environmentally friendly transport

The national coordinators for the Trans-European Motorway (TEM) and Trans-European Railway (TER) projects from 13 countries from



Central and Eastern Europe and the Caucasus unanimously adopted the "Innsbruck Initiative for safe, secure, prosperous and environmentally friendly transport". The Innsbruck Initiative was adopted on the occasion of the 53rd session of the TEM Steering Committee and the 28th session of the TER Steering Committee, which took place from 19-23 April 2010 in Innsbruck, Austria.

The Initiative focuses on achieving four objectives: the development of transport infrastructure which improves safety, environmental performance and security; the promotion of policies and measures conducive to secure and safe transport through the proper design of

transport infrastructure; supporting interoperability between transport modes, intermodal connections and combined transport systems; and supporting the wide introduction and development of Intelligent Transport Systems (ITS), especially those which increase transport safety, security and contribute to minimising traffic congestion and air pollution.

UNECE, as the executing agency of both projects, will ensure support for the Innsbruck Initiative as a tool for cooperation between participating countries and as a platform for the exchange of knowledge on policies aimed at safe, secure, efficient and environmentally friendly transport systems.

The Initiative will make use of strategies and programmes recently developed by many European countries to improve environmental protection, safety and security in the transport sector. Experience gained to date shows how efforts aimed at making transport more sustainable could enhance security, safety, reduce environmental impact and contribute to the economy. Investment in safe, efficient and environmentally friendly transport systems

and infrastructure help to reduce congestion, accidents, crime and pollution, and thereby contribute to sustainable mobility and to combating climate change.

In order to achieve these goals, the Project Central Offices of TEM and TER in Warsaw, Poland, and Bratislava, Slovakia, in close collaboration with UNECE, will provide a platform for the exchange of good practices amongst policy makers, high-level officials and experts from the countries participating in the Initiative. Furthermore, this exchange will involve non-governmental organizations that deal with transport security, safety and protection of the environment.

Activities of the UN Economic and Social Commission of Asia and Pacific

United Nations Asian Pacific Commission Session closes with adoption of Incheon Declaration

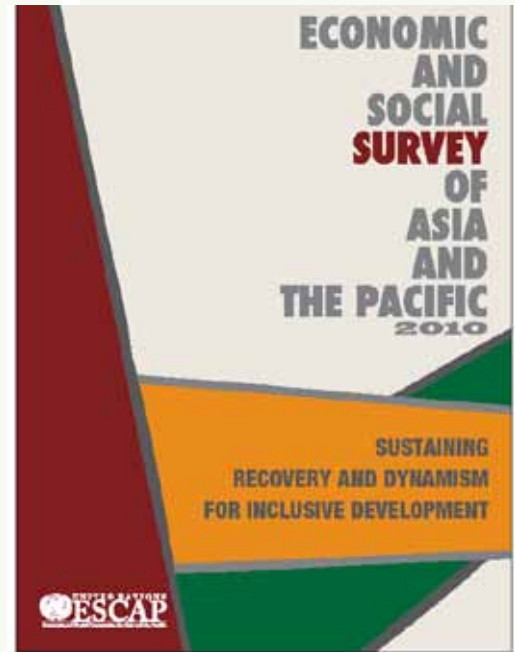
The annual session of ESCAP brought together ministers and senior officials in Incheon, Korea, to discuss and agree on joint economic and development measures allowing Asia's initial rebound from the global economic crisis to lead to sustained economic growth for all the countries of the region. Republic of Korea hosted the 66th Commission Session in Incheon, nearly two decades after it hosted the 47th session in Seoul in 1991. The Incheon Declaration, adopted at the session, calls for countries to strengthen and adopt green growth strategies in response to the global economic crisis of the past two years and to seek to create a more sustainable development path. The Declaration urges governments to use incentives to encourage the private sector to pursue more environmentally friendly practices for both existing business as well as foster the development of sustainable technologies, products and services. identifying the critical need for low carbon and clean technology

creating partnerships to share good practices and technological assistance, while providing both financial and technical support for less developed countries in the region. The Declaration underscores ESCAP's longer term efforts to create sustained, development for all economies within the region through creating new engines of growth to rebalance the region with greater regional consumption through increased intra-regional trade and accelerating the development of an Asia-Pacific consumer market.

Analyses on Turning the Economic Rebound into Sustained Recovery

While the economic rebound of the Asia-Pacific region from the financial crisis is stronger than expected, turning this rebound into a long term recovery that creates a fairer, more balanced, and sustained regional economy is the focus of the 2010 edition of the United Nations Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific 2010.

social policy recommendations to governments of Asia and the Pacific to create a stronger sustainable economy for the region.



growth strategies for the economies of the region. Additionally the Declaration calls for countries to work closely together,

The flagship publication of ESCAP analyzes the economic recovery of the region thus far and offers specific and innovative economic and

UNESCAP Selected Publications

Eco-efficiency Indicators: Measuring Resource-use Efficiency and the Impact of Economic Activities on the Environment
UNESCAP Reference No.: ST/ESCAP/2561

Renewable energy for the agricultural sector to enhance energy security and food security
UNESCAP Reference No.: ST/ESCAP/2564

Statistical Yearbook for Asia and the Pacific 2009
UNESCAP Reference No.: ST/ESCAP/2554

Achieving the Millennium Development Goals in an Era of Global Uncertainty
UNESCAP Reference No.: MDG Report 2009/10

UN forum unveils new regional roadmap to low-carbon economy

Business leaders and governments at a United Nations forum in China unveiled a roadmap for promoting low-carbon economic growth in the Asia-Pacific region.

The Forum, which had the theme, "Business Opportunities and Low-Carbon Economy," brought together some 230 representatives from the private sector, governments, civil society and international organizations, and was co-organized by ESCAP and the China Council



for the Promotion of International Trade (CCPIT) on 30 April 2010. The Asia-Pacific Business Forum in Kunming recognized that combating climate change is a major challenge and identified opportunities for the Asia and Pacific region to meet the double objective of economic development and long-term sustainability. Participants said the region has the capacity to lead the development of a roadmap to low-carbon development, requiring the region to come up with its own strategy and early action, with proper differentiation to meet different development contexts.

Forum participants agreed that regional cooperation is needed to address critical climate change-related issues such as drought. They fully supported the efforts to develop a regional cooperative mechanism on drought disaster monitoring and early warning, to assist drought-prone countries in the region to build operational capacity through sharing of relevant technical and information resources and services, based on a multi-stakeholder approach.

The forum also recognized the importance of developing partnerships among public, private and civil society organizations. The business

sector has a unique and critical role to play in converting climate change challenges to business opportunities. A region-wide network of green business can give Asia-Pacific business a voice in economic, social and ecological issues of global importance. Governments have to create an enabling policy environment and to provide appropriate incentives. International organizations such as ESCAP promote regional cooperation. All have responsibilities in achieving a low-carbon economy for common global prosperity.

ADB Joins Hands with ESCAP in Statistical

Capacity Building for Achieving Internationally Agreed Development Goals

The United Nations Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (SIAP), ESCAP's training arm in statistics, and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) through its Development Indicator and Policy Research Division (ERDI) in the Economic Research Department jointly organized a three week training workshop on Analysis, Interpretation and Dissemination of Official Statistics which concluded on 23 April 2010 at SIAP in Chiba, Japan.

The training workshop introduced the standard techniques and methodologies of generating good quality indicators, analysis and interpretation of data to monitor the progress made over time on the human development and the achievement of MDGs. There were ample opportunities for all participants to explore the relevant subject areas, through discussion on various issues, and sharing of country experiences in the compilation, analysis, interpretation and dissemination of social statistics.

The workshop curriculum covered the following topics: Poverty, Education, Health, Gender, Labour and Environment Statistics under

the umbrella of MDGs. In addition, the course included sessions on survey data analysis, report writing and presentation of results. The training workshop was attended by 14 statisticians from developing member countries in the region namely Afghanistan, Cambodia, Laos, Maldives, Mongolia, Nepal, and Timor-Leste who have improved their knowledge and skills in producing and analyzing statistical data relevant for monitoring progress of MDGs. SIAP and ADB will work together to foster the statistical capacity building of the countries in the region through similar collaborative efforts. SIAP has successfully conducted five Country Training Workshops on 'MDGs and Use of Administrative Data Systems for Statistical Purposes' jointly with ADB under RETA6356 project in 2008 and 2009.

ESCAP Urges Recognition of Women's Informal Work as Crucial to Improving women's Rights across Asia

ESCAP and its Member States are working to promote efforts to engage women in the informal sector and to ensure these women's access to resources, training, legal rights and entitlements across the region. A special session to commemorate International Women's Day on 25 March at ESCAP headquarters in Bangkok, with the theme, "Women Speak Up: Voices from the Informal Sector," heard messages about valuing women's informal work and their contributions to the global economy. The event included a discussion on women informal workers, addressing accountability and the need to affirm the value of women's work in the informal sector while making linkages with migration, HIV, violence against women and women's leadership.

The event was organized by the UN Regional Coordination Mechanism Thematic Working Group on Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women, an interagency group co-chaired by ESCAP and UNIFEM.

Activities of the UN Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

ECLAC

The State, a Decisive Actor for a Development with Equality Agenda

ECLAC launched in Brasilia during the Thirty-third Session of the Commission a new roadmap for the region in the document "Time for Equality. Closing Gaps, Opening Trails".

The report places equality at the core of all efforts to achieve greater welfare for the Latin American and Caribbean people. In the report, equality is not understood only in terms of access to opportunities, but also as the entitlement of rights: to quality education, health care during the entire lifespan, a fair pension and a decent job. Despite the economic and social progress in Latin America in recent years, the region continues

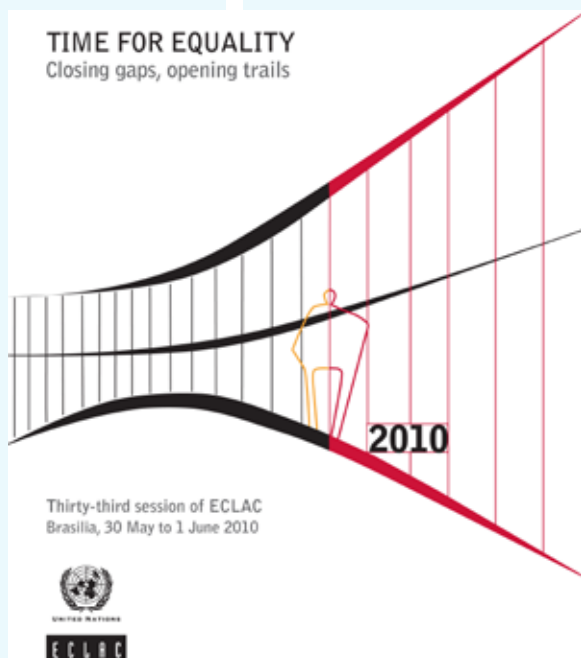
to exhibit the worst income distribution in the world, with significant levels of poverty and considerable productive heterogeneity, deriving in the deterioration of the labour market and the segmentation of social protection. Added to this are other long-term problems, such as ethnic and gender discrimination, vulnerability to climate change and the demographic transition.

In this scenario, ECLAC asserts that social equality and dynamic economic growth are not mutually exclusive and invites governments to find the synergies between both and redefine development. ECLAC believes that human capabilities must be strengthened and inequali-

ties reverted, universalizing rights and attaining convergence between sectors and territories. This strategic view requires public policies that go beyond a mere administrative role and building ample long-term social and political agreements. In sum, this means recreating the balance between the State, the market and society.

After a detailed examination of the current situation and of a body of recent evidence on the region's development problems, the ECLAC document lays out a broad set of State policies to help spur growth, foment productivity, contribute to greater territorial articulation, generate better employment and labour institutions and provide public goods and social protection with a clear universalist and redistributive

focus. This new ap-



proach is founded on six main pillars: 1) Macroeconomic policy for inclusive development; 2) Productive convergence with equality; 3) Territorial convergence; 4) More and better employment; 5) Closing social gaps; 6) Fiscal covenants as key to recreating the link between State and equality.

Latin America and the Caribbean Advance Towards Millennium Goals but Doubts Remain About Full Compliance

Latin America and the Caribbean have made significant progress towards meeting the targets included in the Millennium Development Goals (MDG), but the recent global crisis has cast doubts about the possibility of achieving them all by 2015, according to the report "Achieving the MDGs with equality in Latin America and the Caribbean. Progress and challenges".

The document was prepared within the framework of the United Nations Regional Coordination Mechanism by 18 UN agencies, funds and specialized bodies in the region: ECLAC, FAO, UN-HABITAT, ILO, PAHO/WHO, WFP, UNDP, UNEP, UNFPA, UNESCO, UNICEF, UNIFEM, OHCHR, UNAIDS, UNOPS, OCHA, UNHCR and UNWTO.

The document asserts that a significant part of the progress made by the region as a whole in advancing towards the MDGs, particularly with regard to reducing extreme poverty, took place in the six years prior to the global crisis (2002-2008). During that time, Latin America and the Caribbean had relatively high

Statistical yearbook for Latin America and the Caribbean, 2009

ISBN: 978-92-1-021072-0

Preliminary Overview of the Economies of Latin America and the Caribbean 2009

ISBN: 978-92-1-121732-2

Latin America and the Caribbean in the World Economy 2008 - 2009. Crisis and opportunities for regional cooperation

ISBN: 978-92-1-121710-0

Social Panorama of Latin America 2009

ISBN: 978-92-1-121729-2

ECLAC Selected Publications

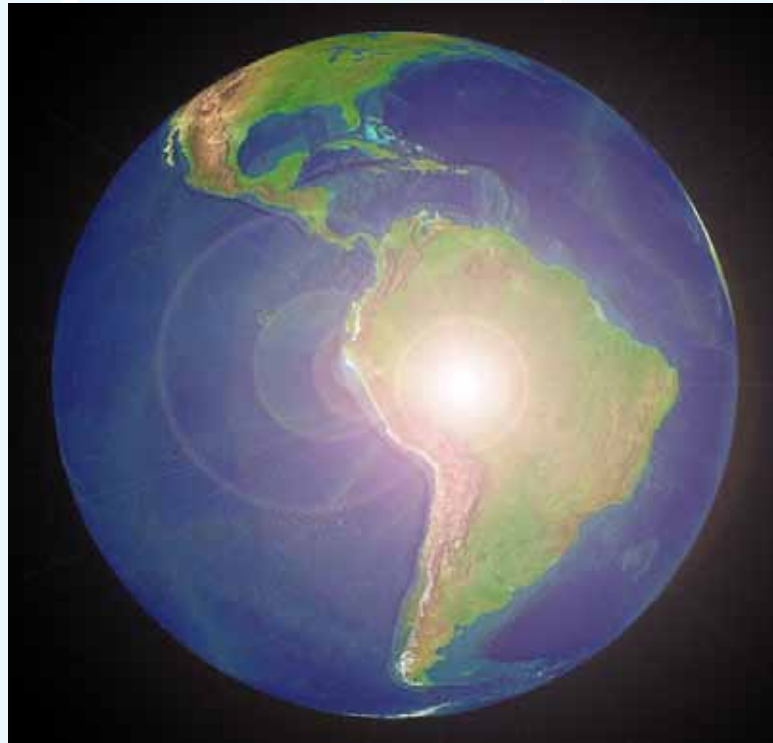
growth rates, with several countries improving income distribution, raising per capita social public expenditures and applying macro-economic policies that avoided a harsher impact of the crisis. However, although some countries have attained several of the targets and others are en route to doing so, several countries will have difficulties in achieving full compliance if they continue at the same rate of progress observed so far to 2015.

The report emphasizes a rights perspective and the reduction of gender, ethnic, socio-economic and territorial inequalities. It analyzes the post-crisis scenario in Latin America and the Caribbean and looks into productive employment and decent work, environmental sustainability, innovation and the technology gap and South-South cooperation. The document provides countries with a series of policy recommendations for the achievement of the Millennium Goals. These are South-South cooperation, including the principles of sustainable development in their national programmes, closing welfare gaps, implementing productive and technological policies to encourage job-creation and improve income, and paying urgent attention to the most extreme situations of poverty and hunger, all essential to gaining equality in the region.

Climate change: a regional perspective

The report "Climate change: a regional perspective" was prepared by ECLAC and the Inter-American Development Bank on the basis of the work carried out jointly with a number of countries of the region to further the analysis of the economic costs of climate change. The document contributes to the ongoing

discussion on climate change in light of the available evidence on the possible channels of transmission of the economic impact of this phenomenon and the results of the latest session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate



Change (COP 15), held in Copenhagen from 7 to 18 December 2009.

The region faces an opportunity to participate actively in the international negotiations and the preparation of the ensuing agreements (including the financial ones), to consider production alternatives that enhance competitiveness within the pursuit of low-carbon economic development, to adjust or take advantage of the economic incentives offered under the current climate regime, and at the same time become part of a collective solution to a global problem.

More effective multilateral mo-

dalities must be found for halting global warming, starting with an agreement that recognizes the interdependence of nations, of public, private and social actors, and of generations and that takes account of the different role played by each one in the creation of the problem.

Institutional and financial proposals for addressing the issue must be grounded in the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and give due consideration to development priorities within a fairer system of global governance.

The report was prepared as a contribution to the ongoing debate of Member States in the region. The region is in

a position to embark on a novel preparatory process for COP 16 and COP 17 and to foster a positive approach by focusing on building trust and ensuring the inclusiveness of the process leading up to the adoption of a binding agreement. The Conference of the Parties will next meet in Mexico, from 29 November to 10 December 2010. That session will be a unique occasion for the countries of the region to increase their presence on the international stage, to show the world the progress made, for all their diversity, as well as the directions being taken and the novel approaches being adopted to tackle climate change.

Activities of the UN Economic Commission for Africa

AU-ECA Convene First Joint Economic Report on Africa 2010 calls for job creation to be a priority for African countries

African countries must prioritise the creation of decent jobs as a central pillar of macroeconomic policy in order to attain the MDGs and eradicate poverty, according to the Economic Report on Africa 2010. Jointly published by UNECA and the AUC, the theme of this year's report was: Promoting High-level Sustainable Growth to Reduce Unemployment in Africa. ERA 2010 argues that the current global economic crisis offers African countries an opportunity to lay the foundation for sustainable, employment intensive, high economic growth rates.

For most people, gainful employment is the only way out of poverty. Unfortunately, unemployment and under-employment rates in Africa are high and continued to rise even during the period of rapid economic growth that came to an end with the global economic crisis in 2008.

Appropriate investment in infrastructure and human capital, renewed and creative efforts at domestic resource mobilization, factor market reforms, incentives to support private-sector employment and efforts to increase productivity and incomes in the informal sector, are needed, the report says. The report has two parts. The first part discusses current trends in the global economy and their implications for African economies. The second part deals with how to use the challenges created by the recent global economic crisis as an opportunity to develop and implement policies that lead to the structural transformation of African economies.

ERA 2010 also monitors the performance of African economies and finds that GDP growth in Africa declined from 4.9 per cent in 2008 to 2.4 per cent in 2009, but is

expected to grow by 4.8 per cent in 2010.

Another major challenge facing Africa is climate change. The report states that agricultural output is expected to decrease by 50 per cent in Africa, resulting in severe undernourishment as a result of unchecked climate changes. The health burden and conflicts will increase as populations fight over dwindling resources.



Meeting of the AUC/ECA Committee of experts focus on illicit financial flows and regulatory models in the knowledge economy

On March 2010, the African finance and development leading experts, gathered in Lilongwe (Malawi), tackled financial integrity issues and the e-economy regulatory models during two panel discussions organized as side events to the Committee of experts meeting.

Participants discussed the devastating effects of illicit financial flows on African economies as they drain currency reserves, undermine trade potential and deprave the life of millions in poor countries.

Available data indicate that 60 to 65% of the financial flows from Africa are taking place through fraudulent channels, including

tax evasion, mispricing trade and criminal activities such as money laundry. Illicit transfers are facilitated by a global shadow financial system which costs between 850 billions and a trillion US dollars to undeveloped countries. More over, illicit financial flows from Africa are worth 98% of what is needed to achieve the growth rates required to achieve the MDGs.

Possible ways of curtailing illicit financial flows out of Africa include: the strengthening of national financial intelligence units, improving the collection of statistics on financial flows, an advisory programme for individual countries, and considering an African Convention on Transparency.

Setting up a conducive regulatory environment for a sustainable socio-economic development in a knowledge based economy was another key challenge addressed during the side events to the Committee of experts meeting, as part of the debate on how to promote a growth that generates employment in Africa. Panelists called for the establishment of independent, competent and empowered regulation bodies in African countries.

UNECA Selected Publications

African Women's Report 2009
ISBN: 978-92-1-125112-8

Assessing Regional Integration in Africa IV

Enhancing Intra-African Trade
ISBN: 978-92-1-125114-2

African Governance Report II 2009
ISBN: 978-92-1-125110-4

African Youth Report 2009

African Scientists Developing a Roadmap Towards Climate Change

Over 60 African scientists drawn from African countries and experts from the African Ministerial Confer-



ence on Science and Technology, African Centre of Meteorological Application for Development, European Climate Foundation, Global Footprint Network, McKinsey Company, and International Council for Science-Regional Office for Africa gathered in Addis Ababa on 17 March 2010 for a three-day consultative workshop on "Climate Change and Scientific Consequences in Africa: Post-Copenhagen". The objectives of the workshop included assessing the status of research work on climate change in Africa (e.g. research infrastructure, data management, modeling and utilization, human resources training and retention initiatives), as well as channeling scientific research to improve policy-making, particularly in areas of high technical expertise. The other areas addressed included capacity of African governments and their institutions to handle the disaster risk management cycle; technologies at Africa's

disposal for adaptation and mitigation and the costs associated with deployment of such technologies; enhancing collaboration between African climate scientists and policy-makers for informed policy making; climate changes and their impacts on Africa's sustainable growth and development; Africa's collaboration with the international community dealing with climate change initiatives; the 2009 Copenhagen Climate Change Accord; and climate change and its consequences in

Africa: the roadmap for Africa and the launch of the network of African Scientists on Climate Change. The eminent scientists discussed how scientific knowledge as a basis for institutional action can support ways that African countries adapt to and mitigate the effects of climate change.

UNECA and Microsoft join forces to support economic growth and opportunity in Africa

UNECA and Microsoft signed a partnership agreement to promote development and foster regional cooperation in Africa by leveraging information and communication technology (ICT), as a pre-event to the 14th African Union Summit of Heads of State and Government with the theme "Information and Communication technologies in Africa: challenges and prospects for development", held in Addis Ababa on January 2010 . Through the public-private part-

nership, UNECA and Microsoft will employ their respective expertise in a number of areas including: access to software and technical support; local software development; capacity building in ICT for socio-economic development; and supporting the development of Africa's e-government programmes through enhanced use of ICT. Partnership programmes will support and align closely with the work of UNECA's Information Technology Centre for Africa (ITCA) to raise awareness and commitment in the use of ICT as a driver of economic opportunities in Africa. Microsoft will assist in technology infrastructure planning for the ITCA and provide curriculum and certification to ITCA trainers so that they can in turn teach ICT skills. The partners will use a "train the trainer" approach to ensure the long-term sustainability and scalability of the centre. The partnership will also include collaboration on issues relating to safeguarding intellectual property, security of information systems and networks and minimizing the impact of attacks on citizens and critical infrastructures. Microsoft's commitment to provide creative thinking and innovative solutions in areas where the necessary resources and capabilities are often lacking, will support UNECA's broad mandate to strengthen Africa's access to ICT in supporting economic development in Africa and build modern economies.



Activities of the UN Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

UNESCWA

Impacts of climate change on ESCWA region

On the occasion of the World Environment Day on 2 June 2010, the Executive Secretary of ESCWA reviewed anticipated impacts of climate change on the Arab region and the steps taken by its countries to control them.

The UN this year gave WED the slogan "Many Species, One Planet, One Future", as its celebration coincides with the 2010 International Year of Biodiversity. Challenges facing biodiversity in the Arab region include the unsustainable exploitation of natural resources and ecosystems, and practices as excessive grazing and poaching. Rapid population growth and the agricultural and industrial expansion add to these challenges. These factors lead to a decrease of water resources, a deterioration in their quality, an increase of drought areas, more desertification, land degradation, rising sea levels and other negative effects.

Arab countries are seeking to ward off the dangers of climate change by complying with the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species, the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, by developing strategies and national plans of action to preserve this diversity and the protection of ecosystems. ESCWA had formed a technical committee with the Lebanese Ministry of Environment to set priorities in dealing with adaptation to the impacts of climate change, air pol-

lution and solid waste management, and to promote environmentally friendly products and other topics. The Regional Committee is implementing supportive activities for



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lution and solid waste management, and to promote environmentally friendly products and other topics. The Regional Committee is implementing supportive activities for coping with the expected impacts of climate change on various sectors in the region. It also contributed to the general framework of a draft Arab Plan of Action on climate change, which included programs in the areas of reducing greenhouse gas emissions and adaptation to the potential impacts.

UNESCWA Launch Public Finance Management Reference Guide

A reference guide on 'Best Practices in Public Finance Management' was launched at a regional workshop on "Public Finance Reform: A Roadmap for Modernization and Good Governance", co-organized by ESCWA and the Basil Fuleihan Institute (IOF), on 21 May 2010 in Beirut.

The guide, prepared by ESCWA and IOF, spells out modern international trends and best practices in public finance management (PFM) reform that are adopted by most developed countries and that are reaching developing countries. The guide presents the standards that help public administrations and institutions develop and meet international trends, by calling for a change in mentalities and attitudes towards government restructuring and re-examining the government's role to focus on efficiency for increased productivity, lower production costs, and better service to the economy and citizens. Organizers seek to set up a forum for sharing experiences and expertise among Western Asia countries in different aspects of PFM reforms.

ESCWA Selected Publications

Compendium of Environment Statistics, 2008-2009
E/ESCWA/2009/13

Increasing the Competitiveness of Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises through the Use of Environmentally Sound Technologies: Assessing the Potential for the Development of Second-Generation Biofuels in the ESCWA Region
E/ESCWA/SDPD/2009/5

Knowledge mapping and analysis of ESCWA member states' capacities in managing shared water resources
E/ESCWA/SDPD/2009/7

Women's Control over Economic Resources and Access to Financial Resources
E/ESCWA/ECW/2009/2/Rev.1

Promoting Clean Energy through Small and Medium Enterprises

ESCWA held an expert meeting to discuss "Promoting the Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) sector's participation in implementing energy efficiency and renewable energy projects," in Beirut, on 28 and 29 April 2019.

ESCWA co-organized the meeting with the Arab Union for Youth and Environment, League of Arab States and ISESCO. The meeting tackled issues related to the role of SMEs, namely those concerned with energy efficiency and renewable energy, in achieving sustainable development. It also discussed their role in solving the youth's unemployment and the challenges they face. It was attended by representatives from Arab countries, research centers, universities, the private sector, non-governmental organizations and several concerned regional and international organizations.

In the region, SMEs constitute over 90 per cent of businesses and are a pillar in building national economies in view of the job opportunities they create for young people, the reduction of unemployment rates and boosting Gross Domestic Product. ESCWA accords special attention to empowering Arab youth and providing them with the right opportunities to contribute to the development process and the achievement of regional integration in its social and economic aspects. In addition, SMEs sector's participation in implementing energy efficiency and renewable energy projects is an active contribution to the achievement of the MDGs, namely those concerned with poverty and environment protection.

Participants concluded their meeting with recommendations that included the establishment of legislation in Arab countries that facilitate energy efficiency and renewable energy projects, the establishment of national economic plans that include the development of SMEs working in the fields of renewable energy and energy; the establishment of national and regional funds and banks to finance energy efficiency and renewable energy projects; and the establishment of media programs that increase public awareness of renewable energy techniques, and improving energy efficiency in the Arab region.

First Meeting for Arab Female Entrepreneurship held at ESCWA

ESCWA hosted the first Women Entrepreneurship meeting organized by the Arab Administrative Development Organization



(ARADO) on 25-27 April 2010 in Beirut. Participants included rep-

resentatives of Arab ministries and chambers of commerce, heads and members of managing boards of the private sector, founders and owners of private-sector companies, Arab business executives, the academia, and economy and business administration specialists. Women represent 33.3 per cent of the workforce in Arab countries and the percentage of women entrepreneurs or their participation in SMEs is increasing. The meeting discussed women entrepreneurship opportunities and difficulties in the Arab region, the specificities of Arab female entrepreneurs, and Arab women's economic empowerment. It also tackled the status of women entrepreneurs in Saudi Arabia, female political participation in Kuwait, the role of women entrepreneurs in the Arab economy and other relevant issues. Participants shared experiences in related fields, and some considered that despite progress achieved in recent years in gender equality at work, a high proportion of working women still face persisting hurdles that prevent their entry into the labor market. Female participation in economic life was not coupled with an improvement in their work conditions and quality.

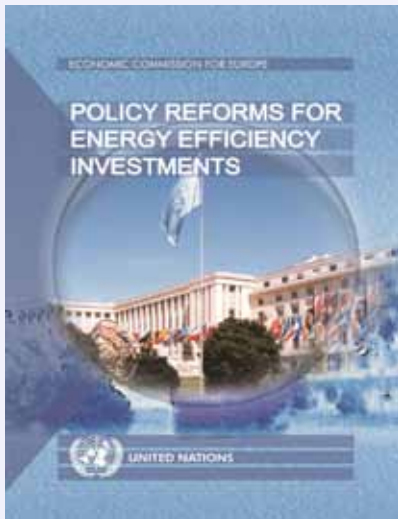
ESCWA and Hariri Foundation Sign an agreement on Women Empowerment

ESCWA signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Hariri Foundation for Sustainable Human Development to reinforce their joint work on gender issues. The MoU represents a major step in cooperation between ESCWA and Hariri Foundation for Sustainable Human Development. The signing ceremony took place at the Taif Forum Building in Beirut, and it culminated in the launch of the Lebanese Forum for Arab Women in the same venue. Participants in the ceremony included regional directors of Arab and international organizations operating in Lebanon, in addition to civil, educational and women-related associations.

Selected Major Publications by the Regional Commissions

Regional Analysis of Policy Reforms to Promote Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Investments

South-Eastern European, Eastern European and Central Asian countries are confronted with a wide range of economic and environmental problems caused by their inefficient and polluting energy systems. At the same time, their energy economies provide some of the most promising opportunities for reducing global greenhouse gas emissions. The Regional Analysis for Policy Reforms to Promote Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Investments is conceived as a wide-ranging regional assessment, including case studies, expert workshops and senior policymaker seminars. The main goal of the analysis is to provide recommendations



addressed to the policymakers of the participating countries in order to develop and implement policy reforms that will support market formation and foster a favorable climate for investments in the sectors of energy efficiency and renewable energy sources. To achieve this goal, an interactive approach has been applied with active involvement of the designated National Coordinators (NCs) and National Participating Institutions (NPIs) from the project countries and direct contributions from experts

which have been collected and consolidated in the final report.

Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific 2010

By early 2010, following the first global economic contraction in

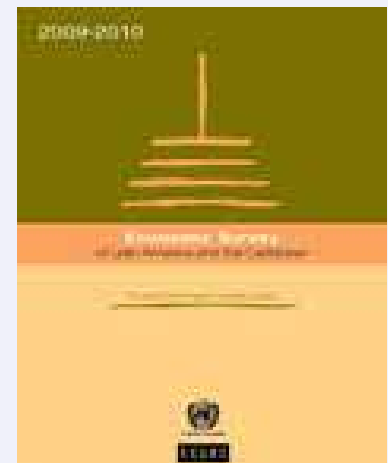


modern history, the contours of a V-shaped rebound were evident in the Asia-Pacific economies- assisted in large part by a number of unprecedented fiscal stimulus packages. But the rebound remains fragile and uneven, with a number of downside risks. While 2009 was a year of emergency crisis management, 2010 will be a year when economic policy will be even more complex. Turning the rebound into a sustained recovery will mean keeping up the momentum while maintaining macroeconomic stability in the face of rising inflationary tendencies and the potential for asset bubbles. The Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific 2010 explores this complex environment and – lest the V-shaped rebound induces complacency – outlines the elements of a coherent regional policy agenda.

Economic Survey of Latin America and the Caribbean 2009-2010

In 2009, the economies of Latin America and the Caribbean suffered the onslaught of the global financial crisis and, as a result, the region's

GDP shrank by 1.9%. In the second half of the year, however, most of the region's countries were experiencing a robust recovery that has been consolidated in 2010, paving the way for regional GDP to expand by 5.2%. This makes Latin America and the Caribbean, together with the emerging economies of Asia, one of the most dynamic regions in the world. Both internal and external factors are underpinning this positive performance. The most notable external factors include the continued buoyancy of certain key Asian economies, whose sustained demand for the region's products has led to a significant recovery of exports, especially in the case of South America. The internal factors include the fiscal and monetary poli-

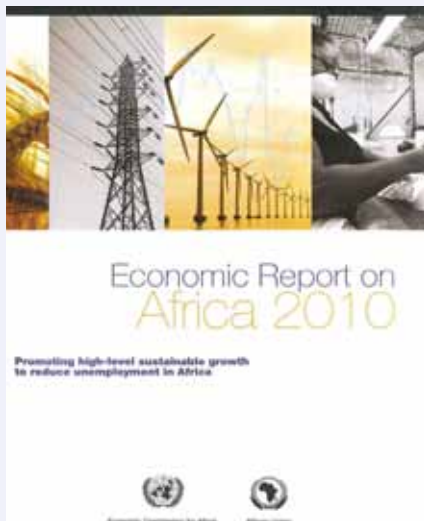


cy space that several of the region's countries had built up during the six previous years of booming commodity prices and sustained growth, which enabled them to deploy countercyclical measures during the crisis.

Economic Report on Africa 2010

The lingering effects of the recent global financial and economic crisis took a heavy toll on economic activity in Africa, retarding progress towards achieving the continent's development goals. With economic growth declining, the numbers of the unemployed as well as poverty rates have risen, particularly among vulnerable groups. In many

countries, the crisis has jeopardized progress towards meeting the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the objectives of AU and its NEPAD programme. ERA 2010 broadly assesses recent global economic developments, and economic and social conditions and emerging issues in Africa, including trade negotiations, financing development and climate change. The report then explores a theme of foremost importance to the long-term economic and social development of

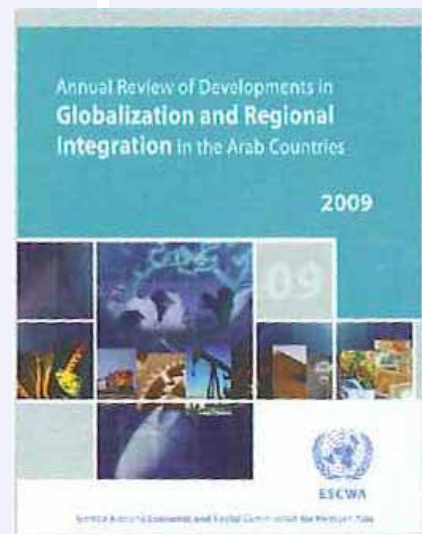


the continent: promoting high-level sustainable growth to reduce unemployment in Africa..

Annual Review of Developments in Globalization and Regional Integration in Arab Countries

This issue of the Annual Review examines the impact of the global financial crisis on the Arab economies. It assesses the performance of those economies in achieving regional economic integration and integration into the global economy through analyses of the following economic indicators: gross domestic product, foreign direct investment, external trade, tourism, worker remittances, and oil and natural gas production. It also analyses a number of such important sectors as transport, with focus on railways; energy, with focus on the regional electric connectivity projects; and information and communication technology, with focus on such indicators as the averages of fixed and mobile phone lines and Internet subscribers compared to the world averages. The Annual

Review concludes with a set of recommendations on ways to remove the obstacles hindering regional and global integrations.



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Achieving the Millennium Development Goals. Regional perspectives on the global agenda

In preparation for the High-level Plenary Meeting on the MDGs to be held in September 2010, the regional commissions, with relevant partners, have held regional consultations and prepared regional assessments on progress towards achieving the MDGs in their respective regions. Most assessments indicate that progress in the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) is mixed and uneven. This mixed performance is not only true inter-regionally, but also intra-regionally and often within the same country, with striking disparities between rural and urban areas and among the different segments of the population.

Africa is often portrayed as lagging on the MDGs relative to other regions. Overall data gathered by UNECA shows that African countries have maintained a steady, albeit slow, progress towards the MDGs, particularly regarding increasing primary education enrolment, gender parity, reducing malaria and tuberculosis, combating the spread of HIV/AIDs and reducing the under-five mortality rate. The number of adults and children newly infected with HIV has dropped by 17.4% between 2001 and 2008. The under-five mortality rate has declined by 21% from 168 deaths per 1000 live births in 1990 to 132 deaths per 1000 live births in 2008, but progress in reducing the under-five mortality rate continues to be insufficient. Data remains inadequate to precisely assess progress on maternal mortality; however unless significant interventions are implemented, the majority of African countries will not meet this target by 2015. Unfortunately, the region will also not meet the target of poverty reduction, particularly in the Sub-Saharan Africa. In 2005, the proportion of the population living in extreme poverty in Central, East, Southern and West Africa, using the \$1.25 per day poverty line, was 51% compared to 3 per cent in North Africa. North Africa also witnessed an increase in the proportion of the

population living in extreme poverty, rising from 3% in 1990 to 4% in 2005.

The Asia-Pacific region as a whole is an early achiever for a number of indicators: reducing gender disparities in primary and tertiary education; stopping the spread of HIV/AIDs and tuberculosis and halving the proportion of people living below the \$1.25 per day poverty line. The greatest advances have been in South-East Asia which has already achieved the targets in 11 out of the 21 assessed indicators. Next in place are the North and Central Asian countries that have already achieved the targets regarding nine indicators. South Asia has also made good progress on eight indicators, but is moving slowly in many others. As a group, the Pacific Island countries have been less successful. Progress in eradicating poverty remains one of the Asia Pacific region's greatest successes. Between 1990 and 2005, Asia and the Pacific reduced the number of people living on less than \$1.25 a day from 1.5 billion to 979 million. However, the Asia-Pacific region has been slow in reducing hunger, ensuring that girls and boys reach the last grade of primary education, reducing child mortality, improving maternal health and providing basic sanitation. All of the countries in South and South-West Asia, except Afghanistan and Maldives have reported on more than 80% of the 21 indicators assessed. Kazakhstan and Tajikistan are off track in 50% of the indicators – making slow progress on child mortality, for example, and none on health. Uzbekistan is in a better position, but on poverty has actually regressed. Since 1990, countries in Latin America and the Caribbean have made great strides in the achievement of the MDGs. Poverty indicators have improved significantly. As of 2008, the region had made 85% of the gains required to meet the target set for extreme poverty. Between 1990 and 2008 extreme poverty fell from 22.5% to 13.7% of the total population, or from 93

million to 71 million persons. In terms of fighting hunger, progress has been significant at the regional level, albeit too slow: at current rates hunger will not be cut in half by 2015. Many countries have not yet been able to achieve universal primary education, and at the regional level this MDG target will not be achieved at the current pace. Half the countries in the region have not shown enough progress to achieve the goal of reducing child mortality rates by 2015. The region as a whole is "off track" regarding maternal mortality and, despite progress in access to water and sanitation, there are significant gaps, particularly in rural areas. While some countries, namely Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Ecuador and Peru, have made very significant progress in the poverty reduction target, others, such as the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Honduras, Nicaragua and Paraguay, have seen a lower rate of decline in extreme poverty. Regarding the countries of the Caribbean, poverty estimates based on national poverty lines indicate that, in the early 2000s, 88% of the extreme poverty and more than 80% of total poverty in the sub-region was concentrated in five countries (Belize, Guyana, Jamaica, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago).

Since adopting the MDGs, the Arab region including the fourteen ESCWA member countries has achieved progress in many MDG areas, including significant strides in health and education. The region continues to be characterized by sharp disparities between the different sub-regions, particularly between the high-income countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) and the Arab Least Developed Countries (LDCs). While the GCC countries are on-track in achieving most of the MDG targets, the Arab LDCs and Palestine lag significantly behind, making it unlikely that they will be able to meet the majority of the targets by 2015. The Arab region

has shown some success mainly in reducing the proportion of indigent, as the remarkable progress in poverty reduction observed based on the \$1.25 line is not observed with the \$2.00 and higher poverty lines. Many countries in the Arab region are on track to achieve universal primary education (UPE) by 2015. The gender parity index measured by the girls-to-boys gross school enrolment ratio has substantially increased at all levels of education over the period 1991 to 2005. However, despite recording the most progress of all sub-regions in primary education, Arab LDCs still face a major challenge in guaranteeing girls equal access to secondary and tertiary education. The overall collective estimates for the Arab region including ESCWA member countries indicate a slow progress in improving maternal health by 75% by the year 2015. Similarly, while the region is not far off track to meet the target of reducing the under-five mortality rate by two thirds over the period 1990 to 2015, more than one child in ten dies before reaching his/her fifth birthday in the Arab LDCs.

Based on the current trends, the MDGs will not be fully reached in the ECE region by the year 2015 in a significant number of countries. Concerning MDG 1, the incidence of poverty is highest in resource-poor countries of Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia (EECCA). According to recent World Bank data, the number of poor and vulnerable in these countries rose by about 13 million in 2009. Furthermore, increases in relative poverty levels

have taken place in Western Europe and United States during the recent recession and its aftermath. Some 60% of the poor population in Eastern Europe and Central Asia are estimated to be hungry or malnourished. Persistently high disparities within countries are reported, both by socio-economic status and by place of residence, in Eastern Europe, Central Asia, SEE and even in

ing water and proper sanitation also remain serious problems in many of the transition economies. This is primarily a problem in the poorest economies of the EECCA and the SEE regions, but is also a concern in some rural areas of the NMS. Some 50 million people in over 15 countries of the region are living in informal settlements, over 20 million people do not have access to

safe drinking water and up to 50 million people do not have access to appropriate sanitation.

As for MDG 8, the advanced economies which are able to provide ODA are primarily located in two parts of the ECE region, Western Europe and North America. Recent estimates suggest that major donors will not meet the 2010 ODA/GNI targets they committed to at the Gleneagles G8 summit.

The regional assessments prepared by the regional commissions have proved valuable for national authorities, as well as for civil society and nongovernmental organizations, in the process toward the High-level Plenary Meeting on the MDGs. In fact, the regional commissions believe that the regional assessments will be of interest to all those who are committed to increasing the well-being of the region's peoples, to whom the Millennium Declaration promises not only to revitalize international cooperation but also to rekindle the hope of eliminating extreme poverty once and for all and shaping a more just and secure world through an "agenda for development with equality" as proposed by the regional commissions and other UN System agencies.



some of the NMS. Only a few countries in the EECCA region are not on track to reach the targets on maternal and child mortality. By contrast, HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis are emerging as particular concerns. In Eastern Europe and Central Asia HIV prevalence continues to increase and the number of HIV infections newly diagnosed in the whole European region has doubled since 2000. Lack of access to safe drink-

ing water and proper sanitation also remain serious problems in many of the transition economies. This is primarily a problem in the poorest economies of the EECCA and the SEE regions, but is also a concern in some rural areas of the NMS. Some 50 million people in over 15 countries of the region are living in informal settlements, over 20 million people do not have access to

South-South cooperation as a key strategy In tackling development challenges: The role of the Regional Commissions

South-South cooperation – technical, political and economic collaboration between developing countries – has for several decades been gaining ground as a complementary form of cooperation to the traditional ones. Its guiding principles, national ownership and sovereignty, solidarity, equality, mutual respect and benefit, and freedom from any conditionalities, have distinguished South-South cooperation from traditional forms of development assistance.

The outcome document of the High-Level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation held in Nairobi on December 2009 – known informally as the Nairobi Outcome Document – looks at South-South cooperation from a regional perspective, by recognizing the various regional integration initiatives and mechanisms that have taken place, including the creation of regional common markets and the development of transport and communication networks and institutional and regulatory frameworks.

South-South cooperation is at the core of the mandate of the Regional Commissions to promote regional cooperation and collaboration, through providing Member States with capacity building, data collection, and the sharing of experience, as a means of strengthening ties between countries and enhancing their respective capabilities.

Traditionally, the Regional Commissions have been supporting various regional integration processes since their inception. For instance, since 1975 ESCAP has provided Secretariat support to the Asia-Pacific Trade Agreement (APTA); ECLAC, through the Macroeconomic Policy Dialogue Network, has been providing support to the Andean Community, the Central America integration process and Mercosur; ECA, has been providing support to the regional economic communities through its Committee on Regional Cooperation and Integration; UNECE, through the UNECE Working Party on Road

Traffic Safety (WP. 1), has provided the region with the only existing UN intergovernmental body dealing with road safety; ESCWA provides support to member countries on issues related to regional integration, including the Greater Arab Free Trade Area (GAFTA).

The Regional Commissions have further expanded their role in increasing countries' resilience to confront the impact of multiple crises. To respond to the challenges of food insecurity and climate change, ESCAP has recently established in Beijing a regional institution, the United Nations Asian and Pacific Centre for Agricultural Engineering and Machinery. On climate change, ECLAC has supported national and regional capacity building for the assessment of the impact of climate change, with the involvement of several centers of excellence in the region. ECA has supported the use of geographic information systems in the fight against the HIV/AIDS pandemic, through training, capacity building and knowledge management activities; ESCWA has promoted the formulation of policies to improve the sustainable use of energy, and to foster the role of energy network in regional integration.

Furthermore, the Regional Commissions are working across the regions on the development of regional programmes, enhancing South-South cooperation as a key strategy for accelerating progress in the achievement of IADGs, including MDGs.

On energy efficiency, the Regional Commissions have combined technical assistance and policy advice to Member States in the design and implementation of investment projects with links to investment funds in order to develop self-sustained markets for energy efficiency and renewable energy and to facilitate compliance with future legally binding reduction targets for greenhouse gases (GHGs). On improving global road safety, the Regional Commissions are assisting low and middle income

countries to develop regional and national road traffic casualty reduction targets and providing them with examples of good road safety practice that could help them to achieve the targets selected by 2015. On international migration and development, the Regional Commissions are developing an information system containing an inventory of policies, programmes and legal norms worldwide and supporting the establishment of an interregional network of national and regional centers, institutions and experts for the exchange of best practices on policy responses to migration and development challenges. Also, the five commissions are working with disadvantaged communities through transforming existing ICT access points into networked knowledge hubs, involving beneficiaries in these networks and extending useful knowledge related to areas such as employment, education, gender and health.

In much of these development areas, the Regional Commissions are partnering with other United Nations and non-United Nations organizations to help the recipient countries in building the national and regional capacities to maximize the benefits and impact of South-South cooperation.

In the Nairobi outcome document, the Regional Commissions have been called upon by Member States to play a catalytic role in promoting South-South cooperation and in strengthening their technical, policy and research support to countries of their regions. Looking forward to enhance effectiveness and efficiency of South-South cooperation, the Regional Commissions can further play a role in identifying areas where support for South-South cooperation will have the greatest impact via the Regional Coordination Mechanisms and similar efforts at the regional level by the various UN agencies.