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**ADDIS: new UN-backed report details ways to boost finance for sustainable energy**

13 July - A new United Nations-backed report launched today at a conference in Addis Ababa details concrete ways to boost crucial investment in sustainable energy by some $120 billion a year.

‘Scaling Up Finance for Sustainable Energy Investments,’ launched at the Third International Conference on Financing for Development that opened today in the Ethiopian capital, was produced by the Sustainable Energy for All (SE4All) initiative.

According to the latest estimates, investment from both the public and private sectors will need to triple to more than $1 trillion per year to meet SE4All's ambitious goal of sustainable energy for all by 2030.

“A trillion-dollar investment need is also a trillion-dollar investment opportunity,” said Kandeh Yumkella, the Secretary General's Special Representative for Sustainable Energy for All and CEO of the SE4All initiative.

“This report shows in detail how we can start driving that investment in really practical ways, by mobilising new sources of finance and encouraging investors by helping them to manage their risks.”

The report identifies four broad 'investment themes' where action could help drive increased investment: developing the Green Bond market; using the de-risking instruments of the development finance institutions to mobilize private capital; exploring insurance products that focus on removing specific risks; and developing aggregation structures that focus on...
bundling and pooling approaches for small-scale projects.

Speaking at the high-level event at which the report was launched, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon called sustainable energy “the golden thread that links economic growth, increased social equity and a healthy environment.”

He went on to note that transition of global energy systems is clearly a challenge, but also an unprecedented opportunity, citing a number of examples, including in Ethiopia, one of many African countries currently developing action agendas and investment prospectuses to ensure sustainable energy for all.

Strong leadership was also shown during the recent launch of the West African Energy Leaders Group in Côte d’Ivoire, he said.

Mr. Ban also recalled that the second UN Sustainable Energy for All Forum in May showed that commitments to date make halving of energy poverty realizable by 2030, through initiatives like the European Union's ElectriFI, the United States' Power Africa, and increased public investments.

**ADDIS: greater investments needed as fight against malaria enters critical phase – UN**

**13 July** - Despite the tremendous progress made over the past 15 years, greater investments are needed to achieve the goal of a world free of malaria, United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon stressed today in Ethiopia, where world leaders have gathered to discuss financing for development.

“We are coming to the end of an extraordinary period in the fight against malaria,” Mr. Ban said at an event on Malaria Financing for a New Era, held on the sidelines of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development.

Participants at the event in Addis Ababa discussed the new World Health Assembly endorsed Global Technical Strategy for Malaria 2016-2030 and the Roll Back Malaria Partnership’s Action and Investment to defeat Malaria 2016-2030 (AIM) – for a malaria-free world.

AIM – for a malaria-free world builds on the success of the first Global Malaria Action Plan – for a malaria-free world, serving as a guide for collective action for all those engaged in the fight against malaria. It complements the WHO Global Technical Strategy by positioning malaria in the wider development agenda.

Together, these documents provide technical guidance and a framework for action and investment to achieve the ambitious malaria elimination targets outlined in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that Member States are set to adopt this September.

The final report on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) showed that malaria deaths have reached an all-time low, and Mr. Ban noted that this success has been a collective effort forged by partnerships. “It could not have been possible without the contributions of every part of our coalition.”

Mr. Ban thanked the heads of State and Ministers of Health and Finance for their effort and leadership, especially the African Leaders Malaria Alliance; the World Health Organization (WHO); the broad coalition of committed partners under the Roll Back Malaria Partnership; and the multitude of international funders, including the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria, the United States, the United Kingdom, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and the World Bank.

“As we move toward a new set of global goals for sustainable development, we have an unprecedented opportunity to put an end to the global threat of malaria once and for all,” he stressed.

“And we have the strategic vision to do so,” he continued, referring to the two documents discussed at the event. “They
provide a comprehensive framework to guide efforts to reduce malaria by 90 per cent by 2030. Achieving this will take continued and greater investments from all countries, including a robust replenishment of the Global Fund.”

Success, he added, will also depend on continued coordination of efforts, with clear targets to push towards the ultimate goal of ending malaria.

Progress in the fight against malaria since 2000 has resulted in a 58 per cent reduction in malaria mortality - with more than 6.2 million malaria deaths averted between 2001 and 2015, according to the Roll Back Malaria Partnership (RBM), which comprises a number of UN agencies and partners.

However, malaria remains a major cause and consequence of poverty and inequity worldwide. It impedes economic development, undermines food security, stops children going to school, and absorbs the capacity of national systems to respond effectively to health security threats.

Experts say over $100 billion is needed to achieve the 2030 target of reducing the malaria burden by 90 per cent, with an additional $10 billion needed to fund research and development of new tools, including new drugs and insecticides. To achieve the first milestone of reducing malaria incidence and mortality rates by 40 per cent, annual malaria investments will need to rise to $6.4 billion by 2020.

“Now, more than ever, we must re-focus our efforts and re-commit our budgets so we can continue saving lives and unlock economic potential in communities around the world,” said Dr. Fatoumata Nafo-Traoré, RBM’s Executive Director.

**ADDIS: strong partnerships needed to turn billions into trillions for sustainable development**

13 July - Achieve the future sustainable development agenda and the goal of ending extreme poverty will require strong and creative partnerships to turn billions in official assistance into trillions in investments, the President of the World Bank Group stressed today at an event on the sidelines of the United Nations conference on financing for development.

“Now is the time to translate the best ideas and expertise of all our institutions into action. To go from billions in official assistance to trillions in investments, we’ll have to push even further our willingness to collaborate through creative partnerships,” said Jim Yong Kim.

Mr. Kim noted that official development assistance, which stands at about $135 billion a year, is the cornerstone of financing for development, especially in the poorest and most fragile countries.

“But now we have a responsibility to find new ways to leverage the generosity of donors and crowd in especially private sector financing. We must also stop illicit financial flows and increase domestic resource mobilization,” he told the audience.

“Only by doing all of these things together will allow us to leverage the billions of dollars in official development assistance to the trillions that we need. Tackling this challenge requires us to think creatively and collaboratively.”

The event, part of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development that opened today in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, follows the announcement last week by the multilateral development banks (MDBs) and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to extend more than $400 billion in financing over the next three years.

They also vowed to work more closely with private and public sector partners to help mobilize the resources needed to meet the challenge of achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that countries will adopt in September at the UN.

“All the world is watching us in Addis to see if our aspirations and courage will match those of the nearly billion people
who continue to live in extreme poverty today,” said Mr. Kim. “Only by doing so can we be the first generation in human history to end extreme poverty in our lifetime.”

Also addressing the event, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said the joint efforts of the World Bank Group and the regional development banks, working along with the UN system, will be “critical” to transforming the commitments in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda – the expected outcome of this week’s conference - into a vigorous global partnership for sustainable development.

Mr. Ban cited three areas where the efforts to turn billions into trillions will be most crucial, beginning with bridging infrastructure financing gaps, particularly in Africa. He also noted the clear call in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda for the financial institutions to promote regional integration, and cited the need to increase investments in addressing hunger and malnutrition, including in sustainable agriculture.

“The Millennium Development Goals have significantly advanced poverty reduction and social development,” he stated. “Now we must tackle the unfinished business of the MDGs, consolidate achievements and put our world on a more sustainable and equitable trajectory.”

**ADDIS: UN conference opens with call for 'reboot' of development finance**

13 July - At a critical moment in what the United Nations has dubbed “a year for global action,” the Third International Conference on Financing for Development kicked off today in the Ethiopian capital with calls to ensure the necessary resources to improve people’s lives while protecting the planet.

“You have recognized that in a world in which both the global population and resource constraints are growing, development finance needs a reboot,” Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon told the opening in Addis Ababa of the Conference, also known as FFD3.

The gathering, which brings together high-level government officials, financial institutions, the private sector, non-governmental organizations, and civil society representatives, comes at an important juncture, as Member States prepare to adopt a new set of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in September and reach a universal climate change agreement in December.

“But without resources, commitments will amount to little more than promises on paper,” Mr. Ban noted, adding that the outcome of the conference – to be known as the Addis Ababa Action Agenda – will be the starting point of a new path for financing sustainable development.

The draft outcome document, which is still under negotiation, presents an “ambitious financing framework” that includes concrete policy commitments in at least six crucial areas, beginning with a new social compact for quality investment.

It also includes a package for least developed countries, including a commitment to increase official development assistance, as well as a new Technology Facilitation Mechanism that aims to break new ground to help facilitate the development, transfer and dissemination of relevant technologies for the sustainable development goals.

The draft, Mr. Ban continued, calls for greater international cooperation in tax matters to stem the tide of illicit financial flows; mainstreams gender equality throughout the financing for development agenda; and makes clear that everyone’s actions need to be underpinned by a strong commitment to protect and preserve the planet.

“Let us put aside what divides us and overcome narrow self-interest in favour of working together for the common well-being of humanity,” Mr. Ban appealed to delegates. “Let us build on our shared vision of a sustainable world free from poverty and deliver a transformative outcome here in Addis.”

Hailemariam Desalegn, Prime Minister of Ethiopia and President of the Conference, which is being held at the headquarters
of the UN Economic Commission for Africa, noted that there are those who say that the sustainable development agenda is too ambitious.

“I am not one of them. This is the right agenda for a world in transition. It is the right agenda for a world with the power, for the first time in history, to wipe poverty out entirely. And the right agenda for a moment in history when our future on this planet is no longer certain unless we embark on a serious change of course,” he told the meeting.

“But the soaring ambition of the Sustainable Development Goals will only mean anything if the intentions that we bring to delivering them through the Addis Ababa Action Agenda is every bit as ambitious as the goals themselves,” he added.

“If it is not, we will let down the people we all represent and will ultimately be blamed for years to come for our lack of seriousness. We will also seriously undermine the credibility of our key global institution, the United Nations… This will be a devastating blow at a point when the need for collective action has never been greater. But I don't believe that we will choose that path.”

General Assembly President Sam Kutesa told delegates that the Conference should result in an ambitious, holistic and comprehensive framework for financing sustainable development.

“We need concrete deliverables, actions, policies and measures which will result into increased mobilization of resources from all sources, and ensure their effective use, to support the implementation of the universal post-2015 development agenda.”

He cited six areas that are crucial: generating increased domestic resources; international public finance; the need for countries to access long-term financing for infrastructure at concessional or affordable rates; finding ways of increasing the private sector's participation and contribution to the implementation of the new agenda; addressing the enabling domestic and international environment for development; and effective follow-up to track progress.

“Through a renewed global partnership, solidarity and collective action, we can and will mobilize the resources to achieve a prosperous and sustainable future for all.”

**ADDIS: UN and partners launch key financing platform to end maternal, child mortality**

The United Nations and its partners today launched a new initiative to help end maternal and child mortality by 2030, as they gathered in Addis Ababa for the Third International Conference on Financing for Development.

The Global Financing Facility (GFF) will support Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon’s Global Strategy for Women’s, Children’s and Adolescents’ Health and the Sustainable Development Goals that world leaders are expected to adopt in September.

“Our vision is clear: to end all preventable maternal, child and adolescent deaths within a generation and ensure that women, children and adolescents thrive,” Mr. Ban said at the launch, where he was joined by the World Bank Group, and the Governments of Canada, Norway and the United States as well as national and global health leaders.

“Ending extreme poverty and promoting development and resilience entails ensuring the survival, health, well-being and economic opportunity of women, children and adolescents everywhere,” he added.

“They are our greatest untapped resource for driving the transformative SDG agenda.”

It was also announced that $12 billion in domestic and international, private and public funding has already been aligned to country-led, five-year investment plans for women’s, children’s and adolescents’ health in the four GFF front-runner countries of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Kenya and Tanzania.
The next group of eight countries to benefit from the Facility will be Bangladesh, Cameroon, India, Liberia, Mozambique, Nigeria, Senegal, and Uganda.

“Investing in saving and improving the lives of women, children and adolescents is not only a moral imperative, it makes economic sense,” said Mr. Ban. “It reduces poverty; it stimulates economic productivity and growth; it creates jobs. It helps women, children and adolescents realize their fundamental human rights to health, well-being and a sustainable future.

“But despite compelling evidence, public and private sector financing for women's and children’s health has not been adequate,” he noted, adding that without additional investment, the ambitious new sustainable development goals will not be reached.

**Ban urges South Sudan leaders to ‘give up war’ and forge a political agreement**

13 July - Just days after marking the somber fourth anniversary of South Sudan’s independence, United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon today urged the leaders of the country to end hostilities and to move beyond their “partial interests” and show courage and leadership.

“Today, I repeat my call to President Kiir and former Vice-President Dr. Riek Machar to give up war – for the sake of the people and future of South Sudan. I urge them to compromise, forge a political deal and make true on their promises to protect their people,” declared Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon from Addis-Ababa, where he is attending the Third International Conference on Financing for Development.

Speaking to the press after a “productive” meeting with Hailemariam Desalegn, Prime Minister of Ethiopia, and Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma, Chairperson of the African Union Commission, he said the United Nations is offering full support to Intergovernmental Authority on Development Partners Forum (IGAD), “so that collectively we show the parties a single way forward.”

“We are in agreement. The conflict in South Sudan must stop,” Mr. Ban stated.

Recalling vividly the high hopes invested in this new nation at its birth four years ago, he said he was “heartbroken” for the people of South Sudan whose aspirations for a peaceful and prosperous future have been “shattered so unnecessarily, so tragically.”

The humanitarian situation in the country is “appalling”, with over 1.6 million displaced people and over 600,000 refugees in the neighboring countries, and close to 4.6 million facing severe food insecurity. Parties must respect international humanitarian law and enable unfettered access to those in need of assistance, stressed the Secretary-General.

Deeply disturbed by the level of violence and the unspeakable atrocities committed against civilians, he reminded all parties to the conflict that those responsible for serious human rights violations will be held accountable.

“True leadership means making compromises. It means stopping the fighting, stopping the killing and raping, stopping the destruction of the country.”

Convinced that peace in South Sudan also requires support from its neighbors, the UN top official also urged Uganda President Yoweri Museveni and Sudan President Omar Al-Bashir to use their influence on the parties to help end this conflict.

The UN Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) is now accommodating more than 150,000 internally displaced persons, which is a figure that it was never deal with in the first place. Despite this difficult position, UNMISS is doing its best to provide life-saving support to them, added the Secretary-General, expecting South Sudan authorities to “fully” cooperate and provide support.
Widespread human rights violations being committed by all parties in Iraq – UN report

13 July - The ongoing conflict in Iraq continues to exact a “terrible” and deadly toll on the country’s civilians, particularly in the areas still under control by the so-called Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), according to a new report released today by the United Nations.

The report – a joint effort compiled by the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and the UN Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI) – notes that the situation facing civilians in ISIL-controlled territory remains dire with many of those perceived to be opposed to the extremist group’s ideology being murdered, often in “grim public spectacles.”

Members of ethnic and religious communities, for instance, continue to be persecuted with as many as 3,500 members of the Yezidi community remaining under ISIL captivity enduring physical and sexual violence.

Others, meanwhile, are apparently being persecuted based on their perceived sexual orientation. On 8 March, the report says, ISIL beheaded two individuals accused of homosexuality and a third for blasphemy in the Bab al-Toob area of Mosul.

At the same time, the report cites examples of the continuing forced recruitment of children by ISIL forces across several Iraqi governorates, including Anbar and Ninewa.

“UNAMI continues to have grave concerns for the thousands of civilians subjected to human rights violations on a daily basis, particularly by ISIL,” UNAMI chief and the Special Representative for Iraq, Ján Kubiš, explained in a press release.

“Parties to the conflict are required by international human rights law and international humanitarian law to prevent such violations and abuses from taking place and to ensure that civilians are spared to the fullest extent possible from the ongoing violence.”

In another instance highlighted by the UN document and drawing on detailed interviews with 12 survivors, 1,700 Iraqi cadets were slaughtered by ISIL fighters in early June 2014 at a military base known as Camp Speicher.

According to the report, a significant number of the young Iraqi troops were taken to a location near the [Tikrit] Palace in a valley near the river and systematically shot as they lay in trenches that had been dug by bulldozers. Others were taken to a location near the river and were shot there, and their bodies subsequently thrown into the river. The report also cites one interviewee who claimed to have seen “a pile of decapitated bodies in a bathroom” in the former presidential palace in Tikrit, and others who said they were kept in “holes.”

“The magnitude and brutality of the Camp Speicher massacre was exceptional,” stated UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Zeid Ra’ad Al Hussein in the press release. “It is important to recognize the plight of the survivors and the families of victims and their courage in refusing to let the issue of what happened be set aside.”

Although the report widely focuses on the crimes perpetrated by ISIL extremists, it also documents violations committed by the Iraqi Security Forces and affiliated forces, including indiscriminate airstrikes and shelling as well as actions of reprisal against civilians.

The High Commissioner has ensured that the terrorist acts and human rights violations committed by ISIL militants will not go unpunished and has also urged the Iraqi Government to join the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court and ensure that international crimes defined in that Statute are criminalized under domestic law.

The UN report comes at a time of high stress for Iraq’s civilian population as it endures not only the daily threat of conflict but also a growing humanitarian crisis. In its latest situation report, the UN World Food Programme (WFP), in fact, has
confirmed that an estimated 8.1 million people in the Gulf country remain in need of humanitarian aid, 3.1 million are displaced, and 4.4 million require critical food assistance.

The uptick in UN relief work in Iraq is being further hindered by a funding shortfall which, the UN agency has warned, risks causing cutbacks to food assistance unless $123.6 million are received over the next 6 months.

**Ban welcomes announcement of new measures to de-escalate recent violence in Colombia**

**13 July** - Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has welcomed yesterday’s announcements that the Colombian Government and the FARC-EP plan to institute new measures in de-escalating the fighting in the country and accelerate negotiations towards a peace agreement, the United Nations has confirmed.

A statement issued by Mr. Ban’s spokesperson also confirmed that the Secretary-General welcomed the intention of the Colombian Government and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC-EP) to invite the United Nations to accompany discussions in the sub-committee focusing on end-of-conflict issues.

Mr. Ban reiterated the United Nations’ willingness to provide the support required to ensure the successful conclusion of negotiations and the implementation of a peace agreement in Colombia.

Rebels from FARC have been in talks with the Government for the last 30 months, seeking to end a 51-year conflict that has made almost a quarter of a million victims.

The two sides are working to end the long-running conflict through full implementation of the General Agreement for the End of the Conflict and Building a Stable and Lasting Peace, signed two years ago.

Last year, the parties reached an accord on dealing with illicit drugs in the country. This followed a deal reached in 2013 on political participation and enhancing the role of women, which the Secretary-General also welcomed at the time.

According to media reports, however, tension mounted in June amid clashes between insurgents and Government soldiers.

**Syria's children at risk from water scarcity and illness amid ongoing conflict – UNICEF**

**13 July** - Syrian children are becoming increasingly vulnerable to water borne illnesses amid peaking summer temperatures and dwindling supplies of safe water, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) warned today.

“The situation is alarming particularly for children who are susceptible to water borne diseases,” Hanaa Singer, UNICEF’s Representative in Syria reported in a press release. “With the crisis now in its fifth year, water has become even more scarce and unsafe, and poor hygiene conditions especially among the displaced communities are putting more children at severe risk.”

Since the beginning of 2015, said the UN agency, Syria has reported 105,886 cases of acute diarrhoea while also registering a sharp increase of Hepatitis A cases.

The situation is particularly dramatic in Deir-Ez-Zour, a city not far from Syria's border with Iraq, where raw sewage has reportedly contaminated the Euphrates River from which the local population receives its water. As a result, UNICEF added, some 1,144 of typhoid cases have been reported.
“Since the beginning of the crisis, we’ve been working with a range of partners to support the vital water infrastructure on which some 15 million people in Syria depend,” Ms. Singer continued. “This includes drilling and equipping wells as alternative sources of water as well as supporting the local production and procurement of water treatment supplies.”

The conditions in Syria have steadily been deteriorating since the outbreak of the country's conflict in March 2011.

The UN’s Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) has cautioned that some 12 million people in the Middle Eastern country today remain in need of humanitarian assistance – a twelve-fold increase since 2011. 7.6 million people have been displaced by the conflict and another 4.8 million people are in need of humanitarian assistance in hard to reach and besieged locations.

The humanitarian impact of the crisis is only further compounded by funding shortfalls which has seen wholesale cuts to the UN's delivery of humanitarian aid – from food assistance to lifesaving health services.

**In Nepal, UN and partners help quake-stricken district prepare for monsoon season**

13 July - More than 2.8 million people remain in urgent need of life-saving humanitarian assistance in Nepal, especially in the district worst hit by the twin earthquakes east of the capital, Kathmandu, where monsoon-triggered heavy downpours, floods and landslides will soon exacerbate their needs, the United Nations has said.

According to the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), since June, as part of the pre-monsoon assistance to the communities affected by the devastating 25 April earthquake, the World Food Programme (WFP), in collaboration with its partner organizations – Nepal Red Cross Society (NRCS) and Save the Children, has been distributing cooking oil, rice and lentils, which are Nepal’s staple food.

“With the onset of the monsoon season, which often brings heavy downpours, floods and landslides in Nepal, United Nations and humanitarian partners have expedited distribution of basic food items to earthquake-affected families in Sindhupalchowk, the country’s worst-hit district, east of the capital, Kathmandu,” OCHA reported.

Many of the beneficiaries gathered at one of the distribution centres at the Jalbire Valley Campus — much of which has turned into rubble — said it was the first time they received any relief aid.

“I had not received anything until now,” said Nanda Maya Shrestha, 45, the mother of three who came from a nearby village to receive the aid. “This is the first time I am receiving something in aid. We only got our cards [certifying their “earthquake victim” status], nothing else.”

This is the second phase of distribution of WFP aid to earthquake victims in Sindhupalchowk district since the 25 April quake, and it is likely to continue until the end of July.

OCHA said aid agencies operating in Nepal estimate that more than 2.8 million people remain in need of life-saving humanitarian assistance, and that those needs are expected to persist through the end of the monsoon season in August.

Most of the people gathered at the distribution centre said that shelter is the most important thing, together with food.

“Unless we have a house, even the food items received cannot be stored safely,” said Shiva Kumari Nepali, 44, who was buried under the rubble of her house together with her daughter, Yamuna, for several hours after the April quake.
Central African Republic: UN concerned by decision of authorities to deny refugees vote

13 July - United Nations agencies voiced concern today about the decision of Central African Republic authorities to deny refugees from the country the right to participate to the presidential election set for this fall.

“The UN Humanitarian Coordinator, Aurélien A. Agbénonci, the [UN] High Commissioner for Refugees, and the entire humanitarian community in the Central African Republic (CAR) expressed deep concerns regarding the decision of the Transitional National Council (CNT) to refuse central African refugees vote in the upcoming presidential elections and the potential impact of this decision on efforts to promote reconciliation and social cohesion in the country,” says a press release issued today by the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA).

Since December 2013, approximately 25 per cent of the Central African population has been displaced inside the country and more than 460,000 have fled to Cameroon, Congo, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Chad.

Emphasizing how significant that number is, Mr. Agbénonci drew attention to the consequences of such exclusion on the credibility and inclusiveness of the upcoming polls.

“We all want free, transparent, inclusive, and open elections to everyone,” he underlined. “The return of refugees to their country of origin is strictly voluntary and that principle cannot be violated. It is true that the reconciliation process has been initiated, but the decision for refugees to return can only be made by them,” said Mr. Agbénonci.

The date of the first round of presidential and parliamentary elections is 18 October and the possible second round for the presidential election is 22 November. In recent years, the country experienced a major political crisis that led to violent conflict affecting almost all of the population. Approximately 2.7 million people, more than half of the Central African population, are in need of immediate assistance.

Afghanistan: UN envoy condemns deadly suicide attack that killed 27 civilians

13 July - The top UN official in Afghanistan today condemned the deadly attack perpetrated on Sunday in the eastern province of Khost.

“On behalf of the United Nations in Afghanistan, I condemn, in the strongest terms, yesterday's suicide attack in Khost Matun city, Khost province that killed 27 civilians and injured at least 10 others”, said Nicholas Haysom, the Secretary-General's Special Representative in the country, expressing his deep condolences to the families of the victims.

Yesterday evening, right before the Iftar – the meal when Muslims end their daily Ramadan fast at sunset –, a suicide bomber detonated a vehicle packed with explosives at an Afghan security forces checkpoint located near a bazaar.

“A suicide attack near a community bazaar can never be justified. Those responsible for this indiscriminate attack must be held accountable,” added Mr. Haysom.
Among those killed were three women and 12 children, points out the statement issued by the UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA), which Mr. Haysom heads. Six members of the Afghan security forces also lost their lives in the attack.

The UN Envoy reiterated UNAMA's repeated calls for the immediate ban of weapons which kill indiscriminately and to cease attacks in civilian-populated areas.

The conflict in Afghanistan is resulting in thousands of people being killed or wounded, forcing families to leave their homes and seek refuge in neighbouring communities, according to Mark Bowden, the UN Secretary-General's Deputy Special Representative in the country.

### UN chief condemns deadly suicide bombing in Chad

12 July - United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has strongly condemned yesterday's deadly terrorist attack in the Chadian capital of N'Djamena, a spokesperson for the Organization said today.

According to reports, a suicide bomber targeted N'Djamena's central market killing at least 15 people and injuring numerous others.

In a statement released earlier this morning, the Secretary-General's spokesperson declared that Mr. Ban extended his “heartfelt condolences” to the families of the victims and to the Government and people of Chad.

“This brutal attack against civilians during the month of Ramadan serves as a reminder to all of us that the scourge of terrorism knows no bounds,” the statement continued.

“The Secretary-General reiterates the importance of further collaboration among countries of the region to more effectively combat terrorism while adhering to international humanitarian, human rights and refugee law.”

Although the attack has, as of yet, gone unclaimed, the porous border between Chad and north-eastern Nigeria has permitted militants aligned with the Boko Haram extremist group to fan out across the region and widen their range of devastation.

In June, a Boko Haram attack in N'Djamena killed 25 people and similarly drew the Secretary-General's condemnation.

Mr. Ban has also previously commended Chad for its “courageous role” in the fight against Boko Haram as part of a larger Multinational Joint Task Force.

### UN chief condemns twin suicide bombings in Cameroon

13 July - United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has strongly condemned the twin suicide bombings that targeted the city of Fotokol in the north of Cameroon on 12 July.

“[The Secretary-General] extends his heartfelt condolences to the families of the victims and to the Government and people of Cameroon, and wishes a speedy recovery to those injured in the terrorist attacks,” said a statement issued today by a UN spokesperson.

Encouraged by the measures already taken by the Government of Cameroon to counter the Boko Haram threat, Mr. Ban, adds the statement, commends the authorities and people of Cameroon for welcoming refugees from the region since the beginning of the crisis.

“The Secretary-General expresses his support for the Government of Cameroon and countries of the region and encourages them to further strengthen their cooperation in addressing the threat posed by Boko Haram, as well as ensuring strict
According to media reports, Boko Haram militants are suspected to have committed a twin suicide attacks in Fotokol late Sunday, killing at least a dozen people, including the two assailants.

**Libya: UN welcomes new political agreement as 'first step' towards peace**

12 July - Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has voiced encouragement at the initialing of a critical agreement between Libyan stakeholders aimed at resolving the country's political crisis, a United Nations spokesperson confirmed today.

The Libyan Political Agreement – initialed yesterday in Skhirat, Morocco, following consultations between various parties – comes amid ongoing fighting across the North African country.

In today’s statement, Mr. Ban's spokesperson said the Secretary-General looked forward to “the speedy conclusion of the full agreement and its implementation.”

“The act is a clear demonstration of political will and courage and brings the country one step closer to resolving the current institutional and security crisis,” the spokesperson continued. “The Secretary-General calls on all Libyans to move the political transition process forward, in a spirit of unity, through the formation of a Government of National Accord.”

The fighting in Libya has provoked a growing displacement crisis within the country with the number of people displaced almost doubling from an estimated 230,000 last September to more than 434,000, according to the UN’s refugee agency.

The largest bloc of internally displaced, some 105,000 people, is located in Benghazi, where the UN has been working with the municipality, as well as local and international NGOs to distribute items to some 6,000 of the most vulnerable IDPs between March and June.

Meanwhile, the violence has also added to the mounting list of casualties. Last week alone, at least 10 fatalities were reported among civilians in Benghazi including a number of children, according to information provided by the UN Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL).

To that point, UNSMIL head and the Secretary-General's Special Representative for Libya, Bernardino León, celebrated the initialing of the Libyan Political Agreement as “a very important step on the road to peace” which all stakeholders had been long seeking to achieve.

“Through this text,” Mr. León declared from Skhirat as he addressed the ceremony of the initialing of the Agreement, “you are laying the foundation for a modern, democratic state based on the principle of inclusion, the rule of law, separation of powers and respect for human rights.”

Both Mr. Ban and Mr. León confirmed the UN’s continued support for the Libyan people as the country's stakeholders now move forward in building institutions and good governance.
ADDIS: UN chief hails key role of civil society in financing future development agenda

12 July - As Member States press on with efforts to reach agreement on a plan to secure the necessary financing for sustainable development, United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon today told civil society organizations gathered in Addis Ababa that their role is vital in keeping governments accountable and ensuring that the voices of billions around the world are heard.

“Now, more than ever, the world needs your advocacy, expertise, and ingenuity,” Mr. Ban told the Global Civil Society Forum, held in the Ethiopian capital from 11 to 12 July. “You are the voice of the people. You can count on the UN to make it heard, loud and clear.”

The Forum took place on the eve of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, which is expected to launch a renewed and strengthened global partnership for financing people-centred development.

The Conference, commonly referred to as FFD3, will bring together high-level political representatives, including heads of State and government as well as ministers of finance, foreign affairs and development cooperation, along with international financial institutions, non-governmental organizations and the business sector for to secure resources for the well-being of the world's people and the planet.

“I am inspired by your passion, commitment and energy,” the Secretary-General told the representatives of civil society, adding that their engagement marks the culmination of “untiring efforts” to ensure a successful and meaningful outcome at the Conference.

“Over the last year, you have called on Member States to be ambitious to secure the resources we need for the well-being of all people and the health of our planet,” he said. “You have reminded them that a successful outcome in Addis will be necessary to securing an ambitious post-2015 development agenda and a comprehensive agreement on climate change.”

Mr. Ban said the Addis Ababa Action Agenda – as the final outcome will be known - provides a comprehensive financing framework for sustainable development, while acknowledging that there are differing views on the level of ambition it contains.

“Stakes and expectations are very high. The negotiations were difficult,” he noted. “Yet, the agreement contains several concrete commitments and deliverables that would not have been there without your robust engagement and advocacy.

“The real test, of course, will lie in its implementation,” he went on, pointing to four key areas where civil society has a role.

The first is the critical issue of domestic resource mobilization. “In too many countries taxation is hampered by illicit financial flows,” said Mr. Ban. “The Action Agenda takes a small but important step in improving international cooperation on tax matters. We need your continued support to increase the voice and participation of developing countries on these matters.”

Second, donor countries need to fulfill their commitments on official development assistance (ODA) as well as climate finance, he noted. “I encourage you to continue to hold governments accountable to help the poorest countries and those with special needs.”
Third, he said that while the quantity of private investment is crucial, so too is the quality, adding that governments and businesses must address private sector incentive structures and business regulations that encourage short-term or unsustainable investments.

“We need your continued pressure to ensure that they better align these structures and regulations with the shift towards sustainable development.”

Fourth, he said he is counting on civil society to remind the international community to go beyond the different flows of finance and include trade, debt, systemic issues and domestic and international enabling environments.

“Let us seize this opportunity to usher in a new era of international cooperation on financing for sustainable development,” Mr. Ban stated.

Stefano Prato, Managing Director of the Society for International Development and a member of the Addis Ababa CSO Coordination Group, told the UN News Centre that the draft outcome document does not contain the level of ambition necessary to meet the new development agenda or the aspirations to transform the economic, financial and monetary systems to be responsive to the needs of people and the planet.

The document, in his view, presented a regression with what was agreed at the two previous financing for development conferences, in Monterrey, Mexico, in 2002 and in Doha, Qatar, in 2008. “Rather than moving forward, we're actually moving backwards,” he stated.

Nevertheless, he stressed that civil society organizations are engaged on many different levels and have a fundamental watchdog responsibility.

“Independently of what policy commitments are being taken, it's fundamental to track what is happening and be able to review and follow up into a process that is not exclusively based on numbers and data – despite their importance – but in the direct participation of those most affected by development challenges,” said Mr. Prato.

UN Somalia envoy condemns latest terrorist attacks in Mogadishu

11 July - The top United Nations official in Somalia has condemned “in the strongest terms” a series of deadly terrorist attacks against an African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) base and two hotels in the country capital of Mogadishu which resulted in numerous casualties.

The attacks – committed yesterday by the Islamist extremist group Al-Shabaab – reportedly caused the death and injuries of civilians, members of the security forces, AMISOM troops and Government officials and come as the Muslim world celebrates its holy month of Ramadan.

“I condemn yesterday’s terrorist attacks in Mogadishu in the strongest terms and am appalled by the complete disregard for the lives of innocent civilians shown by the attackers,” the Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for Somalia, Nicholas Kay. “An attack during Iftar prayers, a sacred time for families and communities to come together, is an assault on the beliefs of Muslims all over the world.”

In today's statement, Mr. Kay also commended the swift action taken by the Somali and African Union security forces who managed to ultimately repel the attacks and prevent further casualties.

“The United Nations continues to work actively with the Federal Government, AMISOM and international partners to build strong national security and government institutions to secure the country,” he added.

In a briefing of the Security Council in May, Mr. Kay told Security Council members that momentum had been regained on
efforts to achieve political progress in the country, pointing to work by federal, regional and local leaders, and parliamentarians to build a State through dialogue and reconciliation, and top-level commitment to deliver Somalia's Vision 2016 plan.

At the same time, however, he conceded that there was “still a long way to go,” adding that with so much at stake between now and 2016, “we can expect Al-Shabaab to do everything it can to derail the political process.”

**At Srebrenica memorial, UN Deputy Secretary-General urges action against future atrocities**

11 July - The international community has grown ever more vigilant to the warning signs of human rights abuses since the days of the tragic Srebrenica massacre twenty years ago but much more still remains to be done, United Nations Deputy Secretary-General Jan Eliasson declared today.

“I wish that I could say that the genocide which occurred here made the world realize the curse of hate and the folly of division,” the Deputy Secretary-General said in remarks delivered at a commemoration of the Srebrenica genocide held at Potocari in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

“But,” he added, “tragedies still take place with grim frequency.”

From the ongoing conflict in South Sudan where millions have been displaced to the relentless fighting in Syria, Member States and the United Nations itself, he said, still had “many lessons to learn,” particularly when confronting the effects of hate against vulnerable communities.

“We must stand up for, defend and live up to the values of the United Nations Charter,” Mr. Eliasson continued. “We must strengthen humanitarian action around the world. We must uphold the responsibility to protect. We must act at the first sign of violence, at the earliest warnings of atrocities.”

The UN official’s remarks come just days after he, along with UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein, urged the UN Security Council to implement better efforts aimed at prevention and greater cohesion among the international community as it confronts the growing litany of crimes against humanity perpetrated around the world.

Both officials, furthermore, acknowledged with regret that the UN and Member States could have done more to prevent the massacre at Srebrenica in July 1995 when thousands of ethnic Bosnian Muslim men and boys were slaughtered during a week of brutality.

“It is by concrete and courageous action that we best honour the victims of Srebrenica. We are running out of words of regret and statements of good intentions,” Mr. Eliasson told those gathered at today's event.

“Now is the time for action,” he concluded. “To stand up everywhere, every time, with courage and without hesitation for life and human dignity.”

Against that backdrop, the Srebrenica ceremony was marred by an attack against Serbian Prime Minister Aleksandar Vučić who was also in attendance and was reportedly chased away by a stone-throwing crowd. According to the press, one stone appeared to hit the Serbian Prime Minister in the face.

Deputy Secretary-General Jan Eliasson immediately condemned the “deplorable” attack in a statement which noted that the incident was “far removed from the spirit I felt at this dignified and solemn commemoration.”

“This incident must not detract from what we are to learn from Srebrenica,” he added. “Genocide must never occur again.”