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Feature Articles

Joint call for nations to invest ahead for people and planet

With less than two months to go, the countdown is intensifying for the Addis Ababa Conference aimed at securing the resources needed for the well-being of people and the health of our planet. In a joint call, the principals of the organizations behind the event urge world leaders to come to the Ethiopian capital ready to commit to a financing plan which will help us achieve our aspirations to end extreme poverty by 2030.



Watch the video: <http://bit.ly/1LNJYPL>

“This year we can make history by adopting our ambitious and adaptive sustainable development agenda, and a universal climate agreement,” said UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon. “But without the right financing and policies we cannot achieve our ambitions; commitments will remain solely words on paper,” he stressed.

Ban Ki-moon’s sentiment is also shared by Wu Hongbo, UN DESA’s Under-Secretary-General and the Conference Secretary-General, who underlined the critical importance of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development which will take place on 13-16 July.

Mr. Wu pointed to the fact that the means and know-how to eradicate poverty do exist. “While public financing, ODA in particular, continues to be very important, public, private, domestic and international sources of finance will need to be part of the equation,” Mr. Wu said. “Globally, capital is plentiful – the financial resources are there, but they must be unlocked, mobilized, channeled, and used more effectively for sustainable development,” he added.



“Wellbeing of billions of people depends on our success”
Mr. Ban and Mr. Wu were joined in this video message by the principals of the World Bank, IMF, WTO, UNCTAD and UNDP, as well as the Prime

Minister of the host country Ethiopia and they all stressed the importance of this upcoming Conference to mobilize the means to achieve a sustainable and prosperous future

“History has afforded us the opportunity to make a solemn promise that 15 years from now, we would no more talk of extreme poverty and hunger,” said Ethiopia’s Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn, encouraging UN Member States to be represented at the Conference at the highest possible level.

“The wellbeing of billions of people depends on our success,” stressed Jim Yong Kim, President of the World Bank Group. “If we seize this moment, we can accomplish the greatest achievement of human history: we can end extreme poverty in a generation,” he said, also describing the need to find new and innovate ways to leverage development financing and drive private investment to emerging markets.

Christine Lagarde, Managing Director of the IMF, stressed the need for everyone to participate in this joint effort. “We have a collective responsibility, not only to make sure that 2015 is a successful year, but to make sure that 2015 is transformative and improves our future,” she said

Crucial role of trade to finance sustainable development

“Financing for sustainable development calls for a new 21st century approach to trade and investment issues at large,” said Mukhisa Kituyi, the Secretary-General of UNCTAD. “Trade and investment play a crucial role in raising domestic resources and creating sustainable opportunities. Even more importantly, trade and investment can transform the structure of poor and vulnerable economies, and provide new value and livelihoods to the impoverished and the marginalized,” he said.



Roberto Azevêdo, WTO’s Director-General also underlined the possibility to do more, highlighting their efforts linked to aid-for-trade. “80 per cent of all trade in the world is somehow backed or relies on some type of financing,” he said. “The more

vulnerable, the smaller the country, the less access they have to this kind of financing,” he explained. “So we need to do more. [...] We’re investing in better global governance and in global growth as a whole,” he said.

“If the Addis Ababa conference on financing goes well, then the prospects of world leaders agreeing on sustainable development goals later this year are good. And so are the chances of achieving those goals over time,” encouraged Helen Clark, UNDP Administrator. “So let’s all work together to make the meeting in Addis Ababa on development financing a very big success.”

Negotiations continue on outcome document

Member States are continuing to negotiate the revised draft of the outcome document, the Addis Ababa Accord, which consists of three main sections, addressing: a global framework for financing sustainable development; an action agenda; and data, monitoring and follow-up.



The action agenda is divided into chapters addressing: domestic public resources; domestic and international

private business and finance; international public finance; international trade as an engine for development; debt and debt sustainability; addressing systemic issues; and science, technology, innovation and capacity building.

Co-Facilitators George Talbot, Permanent Representative of Guyana, and Geir Pedersen, Permanent Representative of Norway, have convened two additional informal sessions for Member States to review and discuss the outcome document, on 12-15 May and on 26-29 May, with a third session planned for 1-5 June. The final and third drafting session before the Conference will be held on 15-19 June.

Financing for development blog launched

Outlining the six financing priorities for Addis and the reason why 2015 is key for sustainable development – these are some of the topics for a new blog series just launched on the Conference website. The blog highlights and brings together a variety of perspectives and recommendations on all issues on the agenda for the Conference.

Featured in the launch of this series are blog posts by Stephany Griffith-Jones, Financial Markets Program Director at the Initiative for Policy Dialogue at Columbia University; Jeffrey D. Sachs, Guido Schmidt-Traub, and Aniket Shah, Sustainable Development Solutions Network; and Alicia Bárcena Ibarra, Executive Secretary, UN Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean.

Preparations for the Conference will now enter into its final stretch under the leadership of Mr. Wu, who urges everyone to step up to the plate. “World leaders must rise to the challenge. All together we must show our determination and commitment to invest ahead for people and the planet.”

High-level Political Forum on sustainable development prepares for post-2015

From 26 June to 8 July, the High-level Political Forum (HLPF) on sustainable development will meet for the second time under the auspices of ECOSOC and the third time since its creation. The Forum will have an essential role in steering and reviewing progress towards the sustainable development goals and the post-2015 development agenda once Member States adopt them in September. In line with this task, its theme will be “Strengthening integration, implementation and review – the HLPF after 2015?”.



“We will need a strong review mechanism to track our progress towards this new ambitious agenda, and the HLPF will be the core platform for this mechanism. At this year’s meeting, the Forum will reflect on how it can best organize itself to perform this role,” said Nikhil Seth, Director of UN DESA’s Division for Sustainable Development.

This year’s HLPF session will also help to advance reflection and pave the ground for an agreement on the new development agenda ahead of its adoption at the 2015 United Nations Summit, which will be held from 25 to 27 September 2015 at UN Headquarters in New York.

The High-level Political Forum is a young institution that was created at the Rio+20 Conference on sustainable development in 2012. It provides political leadership, guidance and recommendations. It follows up and reviews the implementation of sustainable development commitments and addresses new and emerging challenges. It also enhances the integration of economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development.

“The Forum helps us focus on the long-term challenges of sustainable development, looking beyond the short-term. It will

help keep the compass on commitments and identify new issues that come up”, said Mr. Seth.

Strengthening the science-policy interface

The HLPF is also mandated to strengthen the science-policy interface. One instrument employed to this end is the Global Sustainable Development Report, which is presented at the forum to bring the insights and voices of scientists into its work. The Report seeks to bring together the range of existing assessments of sustainable development and review global progress and future pathways in an integrated way, taking into account the perspectives of scientific communities across the globe.

The HLPF brings together Governments, UN system and other organizations, as well as the major groups and other stakeholders of civil society. It meets every four years at the level of Heads of State and Government under the auspices of the General Assembly, and annually under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council.

2015 ECOSOC High-level Segment

The Economic and Social Council High-level Segment will be convened from 6 to 10 July at UN headquarters in New York. It will include the HLPF Ministerial Segment (6-8 July), followed by the final ECOSOC Annual Ministerial Review (AMR) and other HLS events (8-10 July), addressing the 2015 ECOSOC theme of “Managing the transition from the Millennium Development Goals to the sustainable development goals (SDGs): What it will take”.

The report of the Secretary-General on the theme is available here. The Council’s consideration of the theme will take place in the overall substantive context of the final push to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, the continued follow-up to Rio+20 and the process for elaborating the post-2015 development agenda.

The High-level Segment will feature high-level keynote addresses in the afternoon of 8 July, followed by sessions that will include: consideration of the lessons from the from the MDGs for the future; focus on LDCs and their specific needs for the implementation of the post-2015 development agenda; the Thematic Discussion on the theme “Strengthening and building institutions for policy integration in the post-2015 era” (the report of the Secretary-General on this theme is available here); the High Level Policy Dialogue with the International Financial and Trade Institutions; and the regional dialogue with the Executive Secretaries of the UN Regional Commissions.

The Segment will also feature the AMR National Voluntary Presentations (NVPs). Four countries – Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia,

Philippines and Zambia – will make voluntary presentations on their progress in implementing the internationally agreed development goals, including the MDGs, and the transformation to the post-2015 development agenda.

For more information:
High-level Political Forum on sustainable development (HLPF)
United Nations Economic and Social Council

Modest growth of global economy continues

The world economy continues to grow at a modest pace, with a gradual improvement projected for the second half of 2015 and 2016, according to the United Nations World Economic Situation and Prospects as of mid-2015 report, launched on 19 May. Growth of world gross product is projected to improve slightly from 2.6 per cent in 2014 to 2.8 per cent in 2015—a downward revision by 0.3 percentage points from the forecast presented in the World Economic Situation and Prospects 2015 (WESP) in January.



Watch report launch on UN Web TV: <http://bit.ly/1dBOs1g>

The downward revision reflects mainly deterioration in the prospects of the economies in transition and several large developing countries, especially in South America. In 2016, global growth is forecast to improve to 3.1 per cent, which is still well below the pre-crisis pace.

“The current world economic situation is characterised by five ‘lows’: low growth, low trade flows, low inflation, low investment, and low interest rates, combined with two ‘highs’: high equity prices, and high debt levels”, remarked Pingfan Hong, Director of UN DESA’s Development Policy and Analysis Division (DPAD).

Growth divergence likely to widen

The report notes that the growth divergence between the various regions will likely widen this year. WESP attributes this in part to the differing impacts from the recent drop in the prices of oil and other commodities.

The short-term growth prospects of most commodity-exporting economies have been downgraded; by contrast, commodity-importers tend to benefit from the lower prices in the form of reduced inflationary, fiscal and balance-of-payment pressures.

The report warns of still significant downside risks to the forecast related to the impact of the upcoming monetary policy normalization in the United States, ongoing uncertainties in the euro area, potential spillovers from geopolitical conflicts and persistent vulnerabilities in emerging economies.

These individual risk factors are interconnected and could be mutually reinforcing, potentially leading to a weaker-than-expected expansion of the global economy. The overall subdued performance of the world economy since the global financial crisis has raised concerns of a “new normal” of lower growth.

The broad-based weakness in investment worldwide not only holds back current growth, but also reduces potential growth in the future.

“It is somewhat concerning that, despite highly accommodative monetary policies and historically low global interest rates, real investment has been weak in many parts of the world since the global financial crisis”, said Ingo Pitterle, the DPAD’s team leader for the report.

Developed economies: growth momentum picking up

Almost all major developed economies are expected to see the growth momentum picking up, with average growth projected to accelerate from 1.6 per cent in 2014 to 2.2 per cent in 2015.



The upward trend reflects a moderately improved outlook for the euro area, where the fragile recovery is gradually becoming more broad-based. Lower energy prices, significant currency depreciation on the back of the European Central Bank’s new

large-scale asset-buying program, and some easing of fiscal consolidation pressures are expected to support the recovery.

In the United States, export growth may be dampened by the significant appreciation of the US dollar since mid-2014. Despite expectations of a pick-up in growth, developed economies still

face considerable headwinds from the legacies of the global financial crisis, including subdued employment levels, elevated private and public sector debt, and financial sector fragilities.

Policy coordination

The report identifies key challenges in the areas of monetary, fiscal, labour market and trade policies, underlining the need for strengthened international policy coordination. WESP underscores such coordination becomes ever more critical as the Member States of the United Nations are expected to adopt a new financing framework for sustainable development, an ambitious sustainable development agenda, and a universal agreement on climate change later this year.

For more information: [World Economic Situation and Prospects](#)

Global Dialogue on Development

Changing the global face of leprosy



Leprosy, a chronic infectious disease mainly affecting the skin, peripheral nerves, upper respiratory tract and eyes, has impacted people and their societies for thousands of years. Persons with leprosy were ostracized by their

communities and families, and looked upon as objects to be feared. But leprosy research has thrived throughout the decades, and the drugs that have subsequently been developed have made leprosy a disease that is curable, and made treatment provided in the early stages successful in averting disability.

The disease was first arrested in the 1940s with the development of the drug dapsone. Further research led to the development of a more successful multidrug therapy (MDT). Over the past 20 years, more than 14 million persons with leprosy have been treated, about 4 million of them since 2000. The prevalence rate of the disease has dropped by 90%: from 21.1 per 10,000 persons to less than 1 per 10,000 persons in 2000.

Although leprosy has been eliminated from 119 out of the 122 countries where the disease was considered a public health problem in 1985, persons affected by leprosy continue to face high levels of exclusion in society.

Persons affected by leprosy acquire a disability due to their condition, for instance, facial and other disfigurement as a result of the disease, which further leads to pronounced physical and attitudinal barriers to inclusion in their communities. Historically held fears and assumptions about leprosy continue to promote the pervasive exclusion of persons affected by leprosy from mainstream efforts to include them in society and development.

Exclusion and barriers are often a result of inaction or actions by Governments, healthcare services, educational institutions and their own communities that often lead to social isolation, discrimination and under-representation in the educational, employment and other social domains. Furthermore, persons affected by leprosy are not well represented in the disability rights movement, nationally and globally; a common misconception persists that leprosy is only related to health and is not a disability issue.

The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) calls upon States Parties to take action to combat such stigma and discrimination, as well as to work to ensure the full and equal participation of all persons with disabilities in society, on an equal basis with others.

Leprosy programmes around the world need to be further improved and must focus on underserved populations and inaccessible areas to improve access and coverage. Persons affected by leprosy who also live with a disability should be empowered in their local communities to raise awareness and help improve the understanding of the disease. Enhancing collaborative efforts between healthcare practitioners and the general public can further help reduce the discrimination and isolation currently experienced by people affected by leprosy within the disability population.

As part of an initiative to include persons affected by Leprosy in the disability movement, Disabled People's International (DPI) with the support of the Nippon Foundation and DESA will convene an event entitled "Voices of People affected by Leprosy," during the 8th Session of the Conference of States Parties to the CRPD to be held from 9-10 June 2015.

The Conference of States Parties to the CRPD is the world's largest and most diverse global disability meeting that brings together high-level Government officials, UN agencies, leading civil society organizations, including organizations of persons with disabilities, academia, practitioners and service providers. The event on leprosy hopes to draw greater attention to issues by sharing the concerns of persons with leprosy with this key audience to better ensure that their voices and needs are included in the global disability and development agenda.

For more information:

[WHO fact sheet on leprosy](#)

Disabled Peoples International
United Nations Enable

Putting a spotlight on the future of humanitarian affairs

The Humanitarian Affairs Segment of the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) is a unique platform for Member States, UN agencies, humanitarian and development partners, the private sector and affected communities to discuss emerging and pressing humanitarian issues. This year's segment will be convened in Geneva on 17-19 June.



The ECOSOC Humanitarian Affairs Segment is the only Segment still alternating between holding its sessions in New York and Geneva. This year, it will take place in Geneva and benefit from the extensive presence in the Swiss city of UN agencies, NGOs and the Red Cross/Red Crescent movement. The Segment will be chaired by Ambassador Mohamed Khaled Khiari, Permanent Representative of Tunisia to the United Nations and Vice-President of ECOSOC.

In 2015, the Economic and Social Council will support the transition to the new post-2015 development framework through its theme “Managing the transition from the Millennium Development Goals to the sustainable development goals: What will it take?”. The Humanitarian Affairs Segment will contribute to this reflection, while the focus will be maintained on the Segment’s theme over the last two years and leading to the World Humanitarian Summit: “the future of humanitarian affairs: towards greater inclusiveness, coordination, interoperability and effectiveness”.

The Segment will be organized in the form of two high-level panels, a general debate, numerous interesting side-events sponsored by a wide range of actors and a humanitarian fair in the halls of the Palais to showcase effective humanitarian action. The two high-level panel discussions will be on ‘Addressing Capacity and Resource Challenges through Humanitarian Financing’ and on ‘Protecting Civilians by Upholding International Humanitarian Law”.

Around 20 side-events organized by humanitarian partners and Member States and including film screenings and workshops – will provide participants with essential information on a wide range of humanitarian issues, opportunities and challenges. A high-level side-event will take place outside of the Palais des Nations and gather the heads of UN and non-UN agencies as well as the UN Emergency Relief Coordinator, to discuss the ‘Future of Humanitarian Action’ in light of preparations for the World humanitarian Summit in May 2016.

The Segment will be accompanied by a humanitarian fair providing insight to the Segment’s participants into what it feels like to live and/or work in humanitarian settings showcasing the reality of humanitarian settings.

The annual informal ECOSOC event on the transition from relief to development will also take place during the Humanitarian Affairs Segment. The event will focus on how recovery and resilience-building activities in countries which are experiencing humanitarian crises can increase the effectiveness of the overall assistance effort.

For more information: [Humanitarian Affairs Segment of ECOSOC](#)

United Nations Public Service Forum will honor best in governance



The United Nations Public Service Forum, Day and Awards Ceremony, a capacity-building gathering on public governance, will honor the best initiatives in governance and public service from 23 to 26 June in Medellin,

Republic of Colombia. The theme of this year's Forum is innovating service delivery to implement the post-2015 development agenda and it will culminate in the ceremony for the Winners of the UN Public Service Award from 18 countries.

The 2015 UN Public Service Awards Winners from Azerbaijan, Ecuador, Estonia, India, Kenya, Mexico, Republic of Korea, Singapore, Spain, Thailand, Turkey, United Arab Emirates (1st place winners) and Brazil, Ethiopia, France, Indonesia, Latvia, Philippines, Thailand (2nd place winners) will be celebrated during the 2015 UN Public Service Forum, Day and Awards Ceremony.

“The awards competition process helps us uncover and share many innovations that are going on all over the world in public sector institutions – innovations that make the lives of many people better”, UN DESA’s Under-Secretary-General Mr. Wu Hongbo noted during the 2014 United Nations Public Service Forum that was held in Seoul, Republic of Korea.

The 2015 Forum will help build a shared understanding on innovative government policies and strategies, practices and tools for building public sector capacities to promote a more effective, transparent, accountable, participatory and citizen-centric public administration and service delivery in support of the implementation of the post-2015 development agenda.

The Forum will also help build the capacity of governments, particularly in developing and Least Developed Countries, to anticipate and respond in innovative ways to the challenges posed by the implementation of the development goals and countries’ transition from meeting the Millennium Development Goals to implementing the post-2015 development agenda.

The Forum also promotes international and regional cooperation by providing government officials and other stakeholders an opportunity to exchange good practices, experiences and lessons learned through networking. Furthermore, the UN Public Service Awards (UNPSA) brings attention to innovative practices in the public service, which consequently can lead to replication in many countries.

Winning the Award has a big impact on the winning countries, beyond the ceremony. “Huduma Programme is already proving to be a showcase in efficient and effective public service delivery in Africa and beyond”, the President of Kenya Uhuru Kenyatta noted during a recent meeting with the UNPSA 2015 Winner the Huduma Programme that provides access to public services and information through One Stop Shop citizen service centres in Kenya.

Representatives from the Mobile Community Service Centre in the Limpopo Province of South Africa, Winner from 2004, shared that winning the UNPSA has incentivized institutions to “promote more innovative and creative solutions in fighting crime”.

UNPSA 2014 Winner from Brazil, the Mae Coruja Program from Pernambuco, noted that winning the Award has facilitated sharing the results of their work. “The Mae Coruja programme has produced an impact in reducing infant mortality and bringing positive change in the lives of these women... The programme is empowering women, families, and the society as a whole. It has brought us something we believe in”.

An estimated 800 participants from all over the world are expected to attend the Forum this year, including Ministers, senior government officials, and representatives from civil society, academia, and the private sector as well as international and

regional organizations. The Forum will be conducted in plenary sessions and parallel capacity development workshops, and other events including an Expert Group Meeting, exhibitions and study visits.

The Forum is organized by UN DESA through its Division for Public Administration and Development Management (DPADM), in collaboration with the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women), and with support from the hosting Government of the Republic of Colombia.

For more information: [United Nations Public Service Awards](#)

Forum adopts roadmap for future forests



On 15 May, the eleventh session of the UN Forum on Forests successfully concluded with the approval of a wide-ranging omnibus resolution that extends the International Arrangement on Forests (IAF) until 2030.

Demonstrating a high level of political interest in forests, delegates from over 125 Member States participated, including 30 forest Ministers and Vice Ministers.

Expectations were high for this UNFF session, and senior UN officials characterized the need to balance ambitious vision with practical structure as a “formidable task”. In the opening session of the Forum on 4 May, UN Deputy Secretary-General Jan Eliasson highlighted the importance of forests for global development, stating “A meaningful decision on strengthening the International Arrangement on Forests will put us on a path towards a greener economy and a more equitable and sustainable future for all.”

In addition to extending the timeline for the International Arrangement for another 15 years, UNFF11 also agreed to update the UN Forest Instrument, strengthen the Forum and its Secretariat, develop a strategic plan, and establish a strengthened UNFF Global Forest Financing Facilitation Network (building on the UNFF Facilitative Process) to mobilize and enhance access to financial resources for forests.

A renewed focus on implementation and forest financing

Director of the Forum Secretariat, Manoel Sobral Filho



noted that through the agreement on the UNFF Global Financing Facilitation Network, re-structured UNFF sessions, delegates at UNFF11 had paved the way for a more effective International Arrangement. Starting in 2017, the Forum will meet annually for one-week sessions with an increased focus on implementation and technical advice.

The UNFF11 Resolution also calls for systematic collaboration with the multilateral financial institutions like the Global Environment Facility (GEF) to support countries in the implementation of sustainable forest management. In particular, the Forum requested the GEF to consider establishing a new focal area on sustainable forest management during its next replenishment period.

Forest-related aspects of the post-2015 development agenda

UNFF11 outcomes also paved the way for the Forum to play a more active role in contributing to the High-level Political Forum, and to the follow-up and review of the forest-related aspects of the post-2015 development agenda, including its forest-related SDGs and targets.

Delegates also agreed to integrate the forest-related SDGs and targets into the UN Forest Instrument, while at the same time extending the timeline of the Global Objectives on Forests (GOFs) from 2015 to 2030 (in line with the timeline of the post-2015 development agenda).

2015, a time for global action for forests

UNFF11 also adopted a Ministerial Declaration that highlights sustainable management of all types of forests is vital to facilitate transformative change and address challenges – from poverty eradication, energy and economic growth to food security, biodiversity conservation and climate change mitigation and adaptation.



Ministers responsible for forests, pledged to cooperate internationally and bilaterally to address the drivers of deforestation and degradation, including by promoting secure land tenure rights and stakeholders' participation. They recognized that the

UNFF, with its universal membership and comprehensive mandate plays a vital role in addressing challenges related to forests in a holistic and integrated manner.

The Declaration emphasized the need to integrate forests in the outcomes of key international conferences taking place in 2015, including the Addis Ababa Conference on Financing for

Development, the UN Summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda and its SDGs, and the Paris Climate Change Conference.

The twelfth session of the UNFF is expected to be held in mid-2017. During the intersessional period of 2016 to early 2017, a strategic plan for 2017 -2030 will be developed through meetings of UNFF ad hoc expert groups (2016) and a UNFF working group (late 2016 /early 2017).

For more information: [11th session of the United Nations Forum on Forests](#)

Trends and Analysis

Strengthening capacity of youth organizations

Strengthening the capacity of youth organizations to formulate, monitor and evaluate effective and evidence-based policies will be at the center of the debate during a regional training workshop on “Evidence-based policies on Youth Development in the Caribbean”. The focus of the training workshop will lie on using international youth indicators to develop these policies.



The workshop, organized by UN DESA ‘s Division for Social Policy and Development (Focal Point on Youth and the Technical Cooperation Unit) in partnership with UNDP and The Commonwealth, will focus on representatives of youth organizations, representatives of Member States, academia and United Nations entities. It will be held from 2 – 4 June in Bridgetown, Barbados and will be attended by 17 countries.

For more information: [UN DESA’s Division for Social Policy and Development](#)

Wide range of topics before coordination and management meeting



The Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) will hold its sixth Coordination and Management Meeting on 8-10 June at UN Headquarters in New York.

During the meeting, the Council will review the reports of some of its subsidiary bodies and UN System Entities (Programme), and it will hold an event for the Commemoration of the Twentieth Anniversary of the World Summit for Social Development. H.E.

Mr. Eduardo Frei, Former President of Chile in 1995 will participate in this event.

The Council will consider among others, reports of its subsidiary bodies, under the following thematic issues: Social development; Gender equality and empowerment of women; Transport of dangerous goods; Prevention and control of non-communicable diseases; Follow-up to the International Conference on Financing for Development; International cooperation in tax matters; Statistics; Sustainable Development; Implementation of and follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits; and a Dialogue with the Secretary of the United Nations Chiefs Executive Board for Coordination (CEB).

For more information: [ECOSOC’s Coordination and Management Meeting](#)

Collecting data on gender equality

Collecting reliable data on gender equality will be at the center of the Enumerator’s training of the Mexican EDGE module, from 8-12 June at Aguascalientes, Mexico. The Evidence and Data for Gender Equality (EDGE) project staff will participate, as a resource person, in the training of enumerators on the EDGE module for data collection on the individual level asset ownership and entrepreneurship.



The Instituto Nacional de Estadística y Geografía (INEGI), Mexico has volunteered to canvass the EDGE module appended to their National Household Survey (ENH).

Findings of the pilot survey is expected to inform the international methodological guidelines to be developed by the EDGE initiative on measuring individual level asset ownership and entrepreneurship from a gender perspective.

For more information: [UN DESA’s Statistics Division](#)

Capacity development

Monitoring new development goals at a global level

The First Meeting of the Inter-agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators (IAEG-SDGs), taking place on 1-2 June at the UN Headquarters in New York, will develop an indicator framework for the monitoring of the goals and targets of the post-2015 development agenda at the global level, and to support its implementation.



The main objectives of the meeting are to set up the process for the development of the indicator framework; develop a work plan and agree on the way forward; establish the methods of work of the group; and discuss technical issues, including the interlinkages across targets and data disaggregation.

The meeting is expected to be webcast live at webtv.un.org

For more information: [UN Sustainable Development Goal Indicators](#)

Assessing Member States contributions



The Committee on Contributions – a technical committee of the General Assembly – will review the methodology of the scale of assessment of the contributions of Member States to the budget of the Organization for possible improvements, with the support of UN DESA's Statistics Division.

The Committee will commence its 75th session on 1 June and will continue until 26 June, and the Statistics Division will provide substantive services to the Committee on technical aspects of the elements of the scale methodology and the supporting data for calculating the scale.

For this purpose the Statistics Division will make presentations on the elements of scale, provided oral responses to the questions by the Committee, prepare several conference room papers as requested by the Committee members including the calculation of several alternative models for the scale assessment for the period 2016-2018 using updated data.

The Statistics Division will also provide information on the economic situation of Member States to help the Committee to decide on representations made under Article 19 of the United Nations Charter.

For more information: [UN DESA's Statistics Division](#)

Incorporating economic and environmental perspectives in social policy-making

Aiming to contribute to the work of the UN in the area of capacity development in the framework of the sustainable development goals (SDGs), UN DESA's Division for Social Policy and Development is



organizing a workshop on incorporating economic and environmental perspectives in social policy-making. The meeting is being organised back-to-back with the meeting of the inter-governmental council of UNESCO Management of Social Transformation (MOST) in Paris on 3-4 June.

The workshop is being held at UNESCO and will address specific capacity gaps like understanding a new sustainable development paradigm that places people in the centre of development, capacity to formulate social policies in the framework of the SDGs, and capacity to begin the process of identifying specific SDGs indicators to monitor sustainable social development policies.

The workshop will include representatives of the African Union, the European Union, the ILO, OECD, UNESCO, the International Energy Agency, the International Social Science Council as well as Ministers from Tanzania, Moldova and high-level representatives from Ghana, Malaysia, Mongolia, Norway, South Africa and Thailand, as well as other countries.

The overall objective of the workshop is to enhance participants' knowledge and skills to effectively incorporate economic and

environmental concerns into social policy-making and national economic and development planning.

For more information: [UN DESA Division for Social Policy and Development](#)

Publications and Websites

Technical reports

World Economic Situation and Prospects: Mid-2015



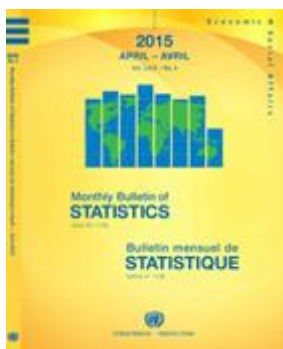
World Economic Situation and Prospects as of mid-2015 launched on 19 May reveals that the growth trajectory will be 2.8 per cent in 2015 and 3.1 per cent in 2016, slightly lower than previously forecast in January. The downward revision reflects mainly deterioration in the prospects of the economies in transition and several large developing countries, especially in South America. In 2016, global growth is forecast to improve to 3.1 per cent, which is still well below the pre-

crisis pace.

[Download the report](#)

Statistical compilations

Monthly Bulletin of Statistics and MBS Online



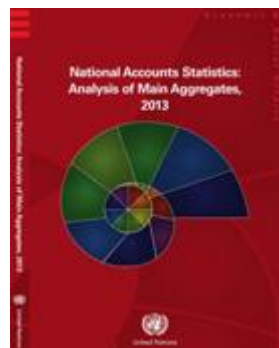
The Monthly Bulletin of Statistics presents current economic and social statistics for more than 200 countries and territories of the world. It contains over 50 tables of monthly and/or bimonthly, quarterly and annual data on a variety of subjects illustrating important economic trends and developments,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

merchandise trade and finance.

In addition to the regular recurrent monthly tables, this issue includes quarterly tables: Retail price indices relating to living expenditures of United Nations officials; Civil aviation traffic: passenger km and cargo net ton km; Total exports and imports by countries or areas: volume, unit value, terms of trade and purchasing power of exports, in US dollars.

[More information](#)

National Accounts Statistics: Analysis of Main Aggregates, 2013



The National Accounts Statistics: Analysis of Main Aggregates, 2013 is the forty-third issue of this publication which comprises in the form of analytical tables a summary of the principal national accounting aggregates based on official national accounts data for more than 200 countries and areas, covering 1970-2013. It also contains a section on the estimation methods used for compiling data. It is prepared by the

Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations in cooperation with national statistical offices.

Tables include analysis of data on gross domestic product (GDP) by different structural components. They are classified into: 1) analysis of the level of total and per capita GDP; 2) analysis of the percentage shares of GDP by type of expenditure and gross value added by kind of economic activity; 3) analysis of economic development expressed in terms of real growth of GDP and its components by type of expenditure and gross value added by kind of economic activity, and 4) analysis of price development reflected by implicit price deflators of GDP.

[More information](#)

Outreach material

Sustainable Development in Action, Volume 3, Issue 4

The May issue published by UN DESA's Division for Sustainable Development (DSD) aims to feature the work carried out by Member States, United Nations system, Major Groups and other relevant stakeholders in implementing sustainable development and leading the way to the Future We Want. The current edition features the Draft Recommendations for a Small Island Developing States Partnership Framework, a UN radio interview with Nikhil Chandavarkar, Chief of the Outreach and Communications Branch in DSD on the occasion of International Mother Earth Day and an account of the General Assembly's interactive dialogue on 'Harmony with Nature: Towards achieving sustainable development goals including addressing climate change in the post-2015 development agenda.'

[Read full issue](#)

New FFD3 blog series launched



The new blog is featured on the website of the [Third International Conference on Financing for Development](#) to highlight and bring

together a variety of perspectives and recommendations on all issues on the agenda for the Conference. The first posts presents contributions by Stephany Griffith-Jones, Financial Markets Program Director at the Initiative for Policy Dialogue at Columbia University; Jeffrey D. Sachs, Guido Schmidt-Traub, and Aniket Shah, Sustainable Development Solutions Network; and Alicia Bárcena Ibarra, Executive Secretary, UN Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean.

[Access the blog](#)

Comings and Goings

Comings

The following staff members were promoted in May:

Charlotte French, Statistician, Statistics Division

Goings

The following staff member retired in May:

Elvira Doyle, Programme Assistant, Division for Public Administration and Development Management (DPADM)

Jana Grace Ricasio, Senior Programme Officer, Capacity Development Office (CDO)

Calendar

June

The Committee on Contributions

1-26 June, New York

The First Meeting of the Inter-agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators (IAEG-SDGs)

1-2 June, New York

Regional training workshop on “Evidence-based policies on Youth Development in the Caribbean”

2-4 June, Bridgetown, Barbados

Workshop on incorporating economic and environmental perspectives in social policy-making

3-4 June, Paris

ECOSOC Coordination and Management Meeting

8-10 June, New York

Enumerator’s training of the Mexican EDGE module

8-12 June, Aguascalientes, Mexico

3rd Drafting Session for the Third International Conference on Financing for Development

15-19 June, New York

ECOSOC Humanitarian Affairs Segment

17-19 June, Geneva

UN Public Service Forum, Day and Awards Ceremony

23-26 June, Medellin

High-level Political Forum on sustainable development

26 June – 8 July, New York

July

Third International Conference on Financing for Development

13-16 July, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

DESA News is an insider's look at the United Nations in the area of economic and social development policy. The newsletter is produced by the Communication Section/SPCS of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs in collaboration with DESA Divisions. DESA News is issued every month. Please click [here](#) to send inquiries.