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UN continues drive to combat violence against women

Violence against women is widespread in every corner of the globe: from the bedroom to the battlefield. Women and girls suffer many forms of violence, including genital mutilation, rape, beatings by their partners, families or killings in the name of honour. It is shocking that in women's lifetime, up to 76 per cent are subject to physical and/or sexual violence within intimate relationships.



Discrimination in law, social practice and attitude, impunity and apathy are the underlying causes of violence against women and girls. In many countries, laws, policies and practices discriminate against women and girls, denying them equality with men, politically, economically and socially. Social roles reinforce the power of men over women's lives and bodies, while traditions and customs can subjugate women and leave them vulnerable to violence.

Leadership of Corporate Sector

This year's commemoration of the United Nations International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women on 25 November will take place under the umbrella of the Secretary-General's Campaign UNiTE to End Violence against Women and will focus on: "The Leadership of the Corporate Sector in Empowering Women and Ending Violence against Women and Girls."

In many cases, the private sector has shown to be effective in preventing violence against women through raising awareness, generally at the workplace and in the community. These private sector initiatives aim to eliminate violence against women by adopting measures such as employment-based codes of conduct and zero tolerance policies, distributing awareness-raising materials to employees, clients, and customers, and providing technical assistance to other organizations.

The private sector has also played a key role by contributing financially to foundations and organizations focusing on initiatives to end violence against women and girls. Examples of this commitment include Avon Products Inc., which in 2008, announced a public-private partnership with the United Nations

Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), part of UN Women, and committed \$1 million USD to the United Nations Trust Fund to End Violence against Women. In 2009, Avon committed an additional \$250,000 USD to the Trust Fund.

The major challenge worldwide is to translate commitments into practice. Innovative and groundbreaking campaigns, as well as policy and practice changing initiatives, are some of the areas in which the corporate sector can focus their efforts to raise awareness among employees and customers and change their attitudes.

Since the UNiTE campaign was launched in February 2008, the Secretary-General of the United Nations has made urgent calls on governments, civil society, the media, the private sector and the entire United Nations system to join forces in addressing this global issue. This year's commemoration will acknowledge the continuing corporate leadership in addressing this issue, and it will also provide an important opportunity for sharing experiences and discussing strategies for enhancing the leadership role in addressing violence against women and girls.

UN trust fund

In October this year, the United Nations Trust Fund in Support of Actions to Eliminate Violence against Women (UN Trust Fund) announced US\$10 million in grants to 13 initiatives in 18 countries. The UN Trust Fund is the only multilateral grant-making mechanism exclusively devoted to supporting local and national efforts to end violence against women and girls. Established in 1996, the Fund is managed by UNIFEM.

"Violence against women destroys families, fractures communities and hampers progress on development goals," said Inés Alberdi, Executive Director, UNIFEM. "But it is a problem with a solution. Only by intensifying support and increasing investment to national and local efforts can we ensure women and girls are safe from violence and can lead healthy, productive lives," she added.

The Secretary-General's campaign UNiTE to End Violence against Women includes a specific target of raising US\$100 million annually for the UN Trust Fund by 2015.

Tasks of UN Committee

The UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women regularly reviews the status and progress of each of the 186 countries that have accepted the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), which was adopted in 1979.

"Significant progress has been achieved with respect to women's human rights but we know that much more needs to be done throughout the whole world," said Zou Xiaojiao, the vice chair of the 23-member Committee during the recent meeting in October.

Ms. Zou expressed alarm over the fact that violence against women is prevalent in many parts of the world, pointing out that the scourge is on the rise with one in three women around the world being beaten, coerced into sex or abused. Characterizing the statistics as "frightening," she noted that many rapes go unreported due to stigma and trauma.

Asked why sexual violence against women was on the rise, she cited several different reasons, saying that in some countries, stereotypes were deeply rooted and women were considered objects. Incidents of sexual violence against women, especially in situations of armed conflict, were often politically charged. The Committee had therefore started discussing, in cooperation with UNIFEM, general recommendations for women in such situations.

She also welcomed the creation of UN Women, the first UN super-agency on female empowerment, headed by former Chilean President Michelle Bachelet.

Michelle Bachelet's address to the 3rd Committee

"Although Member States set the goal of universal ratification of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) for 2000, ten years later, it still has not been reached. We all agree that much more needs to be done to close the gaps between women's rights in the law, and their enjoyment in practice," Ms. Bachelet told the Third Committee in her first address as Head of UN Women.

"One area that has clearly moved to the centre of global and local attention is ending violence against women," she added, noting that two reports on the subject were put before the Third Committee, during the 65th session of the General Assembly. The first focused on the intensification of efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women and the second addressed trafficking in women and girls

"These are indicative of the scope and range of actions taken by Member States and other stakeholders..." Ms. Bachelet recognized, "Yet, notwithstanding this attention, violence against women continues in all parts of the world, and trafficking in women persists. The reports highlight key actions and strategies that should be in place and effectively enforced. ...I pledge UN Women's enhanced support at national level to strengthen implementation of your recommendations," she added.

History of International Day

In October 1999, at a meeting of the Third Committee, the representative of the Dominican Republic, on behalf of 74 Member States, introduced a draft resolution calling for the

designation of 25 November as the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women.

The draft expressed alarm that endemic violence against women was impeding women's opportunities to achieve legal, social, political and economic equality in society.

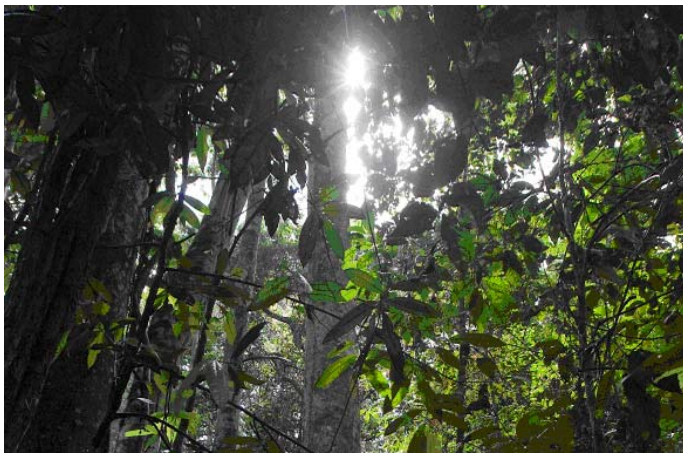
On 17 December 1999, the General Assembly designated 25 November as the annual date for the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women in commemoration of the Mirabal sisters as it marked the day when these political activists from the Dominican Republic were assassinated in 1960, during the Trujillo dictatorship. This day also marks the beginning of the 16 days of Activism against Gender Violence.

For more information:

<http://www.un.org/en/events/endviolenceday/>

Celebrating forests for people

The General Assembly declared 2011 as the International Year of Forests (Forests 2011) to raise awareness on sustainable management, conservation and development of all types of forests. This October, in preparation for the Year, the official website and the International Forest Film Festival were launched, along with other advancements in preparation for Forests 2011.



The Year provides a means of bringing those voices together and building momentum towards greater public participation in forest activities around the world. To help facilitate achievement of the objectives of the Year, the secretariat of the United Nations Forum on Forests is undertaking many communication activities.

Launch of Forests 2011 Website

The site, launched in early October, provides a global platform to celebrate people's action to sustainably manage the world's forests and will serve as the central hub of information for all things related to Forests 2011.

The site currently features a slide show, a calendar of activities, information on the International Forest Film Festival and national plans for the year. Throughout 2010, additional multimedia features will be added, including videos, slide shows, fact sheets, searchable events calendars and more. These will help create an interactive environment that will draw people in and inform them about events and issues throughout Forests 2011.

International Forest Film Festival

The United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) Secretariat, in collaboration with the Jackson Hole Wildlife Film Festival, launched the International Forest Film Festival (IFFF) in early October. The IFFF is currently open for submissions, and a call for entries has been sent out.

The festival aligns with the theme of Forests 2011: "Forests for people". Using narratives and stories, told through the powerful medium of film, the IFFF will spread the message of Forests 2011 in a new and significant way. Film categories such as "This is My Forest" highlight people's personal connection to their local forests, and "Forest Heroes" showcase individuals with profound dedication to forests. The deadline for submissions is 30 November 2010.

The IFFF will showcase a selection of forest films as part of the global launch of Forests 2011 taking place at the Ninth Session of the UN Forum on Forests at UN Headquarters in New York, and subsequently at other festivals and events around the world.

Forests 2011 Logo

The logo, designed to convey the theme of "Forests for People," was launched in July 2010. Governments, the United Nations system and various stakeholders have expressed interest in using the logo, and it is being distributed by the UNFF Secretariat to approved parties. The logo is already being featured on Web sites, in meetings and on brochures.

Its design captures some of the multiple values of forests and the need for a 360-degree perspective: forests provide shelter to people and habitat to biodiversity; are a source of food, medicine and clean water; and play a vital role in maintaining a stable global climate and environment. All of these elements taken together reinforce the message that forests are vital to the survival and well-being of people everywhere, all 7 billion of us.

International Year of Biodiversity 2010

There is a clear synergy between the International Year of Biodiversity, which took place this year, 2010, and the forthcoming Forests 2011. A variety of activities will take place between late 2010 and early 2011. These will include the organization of a “bridging event” as part of the closing ceremony of the International Year of Biodiversity in December 2010 (Kanazawa, Ishikawa Prefecture, Japan) as well as plans to build on the successes of the International Year of Biodiversity and carry the momentum forward into Forests 2011.

Launch of the International Year of Forests 2011

The Official launch of Forests 2011 will take place at the United Nations Headquarters during the high-level segment of the Ninth Session of the United Nations Forum on Forests (2 and 3 February 2011), in which Heads of State and Ministers are expected to participate. The programme will include high-level panel discussions, media activities, film screenings, the issuance of the United Nations commemorative stamp series for Forests 2011, and other public events.

Continuing Preparations for Forests 2011

The International Year of Forests, 2011 offers a unique opportunity to raise public awareness of the challenges facing many of the world’s forests and the people who depend on them. Great success stories and valuable lessons on how to promote sustainable forest management already exist. Forests 2011 provides a means of bringing those voices together.

As the year draws nearer, preparations are continually underway. From events to posters to contests and more, the UNFF Secretariat is working to make sure that Forests 2011 continues to build momentum towards greater public participation in forest activities around the world.

For more information: www.un.org/forests

On 65th anniversary, UN resolves 'to do more' for development

video



This year's United Nations Day, celebrated on 24 October, focused on the eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and followed on the MDG Summit, which adopted a global action plan to achieve the eight goals by their 2015 target date.

“I am determined to press ahead as the 2015 deadline approaches,” declared Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon. “Despite our problems, despite polarization and distrust, our interconnected world has opened up vast new possibilities for common progress. Let us commit to do even more to realize the great vision set out in the UN Charter.”

Video: <http://www.unmultimedia.org/tv/webcast/2010/10/un-day-2010-secretary-generals-message.html> (2:10 minutes)

Message:

<http://www.un.org/en/events/unday/2010/sgmessage.shtml>

Web site: <http://www.un.org/en/events/unday/2010/>

Global Dialogue on Development

Advancing economic growth and development

General Assembly's Second Committee held its general debate focusing on the MDG Summit implementation and on the preparations for Rio+20, debated its methods of work and discussed operational activities for development

During the Second Committee's general debate, which took place from 4-6 October, a total of 72 delegations took the floor. Delegations expressed their views on various issues pertaining to the Committee's work, including the world's economic situation, global economic governance, MDG Summit implementation and sustainable development, in particular for the preparation of Rio+20. Delegates also highlighted the links between poverty, security, peace and development and focused on countries in special situation (i.e. LDC, landlocked developing countries, small island developing States), Africa and the UN Reform.

At the opening session, statements were made by the Chairperson of the Second Committee, H.E. Ms. Enkhtsetseg Ochir, and the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, Mr. Sha Zukang, followed by a keynote address by Professor Robert J. Shiller of Yale University.

Methods of work

The Second Committee held a debate on its methods of work on 8 October. Delegations welcomed the Bureau's initiative to consider this topic and the non-paper which had been circulated as a background paper for the discussions. The debate was concentrated around the following main conceptual issues, including the procedural aspects of the Committee's work with implications for its substantive outcome and the established tradition of adoption of decisions by consensus.

The debate also focused on the inter-connectedness of the agenda items dealt with by the Committee and their importance for the UN's development agenda, and the requirement for consultations among a broad spectrum of stakeholders, including line ministries in capitals, with a view to garnering the necessary technical and other inputs for effective discussions and decisions.

As a result, maintaining discipline in established timelines as well as streamlining the work of the Committee was felt by all as being of considerable importance. The Chairperson and the Bureau will convey specific proposals for short and longer-term actions on the ways forward, after distilling the main elements of the debate.

Agenda item on Operational activities for development

On 13 October, the Second Committee held a debate on operational activities for development. Delegates acknowledged the on-going reform efforts that have improved the impact of the United Nations development system at country-level. They however felt there is significant scope for improving effectiveness and efficiency. Speakers underscored the continued importance of the General Assembly's Comprehensive Policy Review of operational activities (TCPR/QCPR) to guide UN system's work in the countries.

Delegations were unanimous in saluting the adoption by the General Assembly of resolution 64/289 on system-wide coherence. They welcomed in particular the establishment of UN Women, and the appointment of Ms. Michelle Bachelet as its helm. Importance was attached to the speedy follow-up to the resolution.

Several delegations said that the "Delivering as One" (DaO) approach represents a major advancement towards improving the United Nations support at country-level. Speakers looked forward to the independent evaluation of the DaO initiative. G-77 and China said that any saving accrued through increased coherence should be re-invested into the development cluster of the UN.

The report of the Secretary-General on the analysis of the funding of operational activities for development of the United Nations system for 2008 was very well received. On the positive side, many speakers welcomed that contributions received by the United Nations system reached the highest level ever in 2008. However, delegations expressed concern at the continued imbalance between core and non-core (extrabudgetary) resources. They felt this imbalance erodes the priorities set by Member states. It also contributes to complexity and fragmentation within the system, leading to high transaction costs and heavy administrative burdens.

Committee's work in November

The agenda items that will be considered by the Committee in November include sustainable development, UN Habitat, the permanent sovereignty of the Palestinian people, International trade and development. The Committee will also have a dialogue with the Executive Heads of the Regional Commissions.

The Committee aims to conclude its work on 23 November 2010.

For more information:

<http://www.un.org/en/ga/second/index.shtml>

Young people highlighted the International Year of Youth at the General Assembly

At the 65th session of the General Assembly, twenty United Nations Member States included one or more youth delegates in their official delegations

Youth delegates took part in the deliberations of the Third Committee of the General Assembly and addressed issues under the agenda item of social development. While in New York, 14 of the youth delegates delivered statements to the Third Committee on behalf of their Member States and represented the view of young people in their countries.

A majority of the youth delegates highlighted the International Year of Youth, which began in August 2010, and the importance of engaging young people both when it comes to young people's inclusion in decision-making processes, and also to see young people as important partners in the work of Member States and the United Nations work for achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

Some of the main concerns addressed by the youth delegates were the alarming rise of youth unemployment, the need for universal access to both formal and non-formal education, young people's participation in the work of achieving the MDGs and sexual and reproductive rights. The youth delegates highlighted the fact that young people need to be included in developing strategies for curbing the high unemployment levels among young people, and should also be key partners in designing poverty reduction strategies to ensure their effectiveness.

Additionally, youth delegates participated in the general work of their Missions by attending a range of meetings and informal consultations on various resolutions. They also organized many side events on a variety of issues related to the International Year of Youth. The topics of the side events varied from youth employment in times of crises, global initiatives on cultural dialogue, youth participation in environmental policies, dialogue and mutual understanding and the role and participation of youth in sustainable development. Youth delegates also met with the President of the General Assembly to discuss young people's role in the UN and to gain deeper knowledge of the Member States work in decision-making processes.

The work of the youth delegates is, however, not only limited to their time in New York during the General Assembly. Most of them have been selected for a term of one year, which includes traveling their own countries to interact with young people from different parts of society to gather opinions and concerns on the issues highlighted at the General Assembly. With the International Year of Youth, the youth delegates have an important role to play in the success of the Year, which includes raising awareness in

their countries and encouraging young people, Governments and other stakeholders to take advantage of the Year and to increase their commitment and investment in young people.

The youth delegate programme is coordinated by the UN Programme on Youth (UNPY), with the aim to strengthen young peoples participation in decision-making processes at all levels in order to increase their contribution to national and international development. The UNPY provides youth delegates with information and advice to the youth delegates and Member States before, during and after their stay in New York.

For more information:

<http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unyin/youthrep.htm>

Further including persons with disabilities in development

There are 650 million persons, 10 per cent of the world's population, with disabilities; disability could be associated with 20 per cent of the global population living in poverty. Moreover one household in every four include a person with disability which indicates that 2 billion people are directly and indirectly affected by disability worldwide

The United Nations has been working to promote disability inclusive development for the past quarter of a century. The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities has provided a legal framework, an impetus and unique platform for advancement of the international disability rights agenda in development. There is growing recognition that disability is a cross-cutting issue and that the international commitment to development for all the peoples of the world hinges on making the Internationally Agreed Development Goals including the Millennium Development Goals inclusive of and accessible to persons with disabilities.

There was a rise in the number of countries ratifying the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) that was adopted by the General Assembly in 2006 and came into force in May 2008. As of 15 September, there are 91 ratifications and 146 signatories of the Convention and there is increasing demand from stakeholders, including UN country teams, governments and civil society organizations for guidance to support the implementation of the CRPD at the country level.

Recognizing these demands, the General Assembly through its resolutions 64/131 and 64/154 urged the United Nations system to make a concerted effort to integrate disability into its work. In 2009 a United Nations Development Group task team was established to develop guidelines and a toolkit to support United Nations country engagement in the implementation of the CRPD. The guidance note and accompanying appendices is

now complete and was officially endorsed by the undg on 6 October 2010.

Below are a few examples of how the United Nations country offices' engage at the country level to promote the rights of persons with disabilities in line with the goals and objectives of the Convention.

The 2006 Common Country Assessment for Moldova illustrates the level of exclusion faced by persons with disabilities particularly children with disabilities. For example, an estimated 16,000 children of school age have disabilities. The majority of these children do not attend school whilst an estimated 5,000 are enrolled in institutionalized care centers. Also in Moldova in 2004, there were 146,000 adults with disabilities -- and of these only 14 % were employed.

As a result of UNICEF's engagement with civil society and the government of Moldova, the situation of children with disabilities is now more visible on the national agenda.

Another example from Uganda highlights the leadership of UNDP in assisting landmine survivors. In 2008, a baseline study was conducted to establish the needs of landmine survivors. There are over 2,000 estimated victims of antipersonnel mines living in Uganda. UNDP's project on Return and Resettlement of Landmine Victims from Internally Displaced Camps in Uganda has been effective in supporting the successful return of internally displaced landmine victims to reintegrate into their communities.

The guidance note should meet the need of Country Offices to be able to advocate for a shift from a medical to a social rights based approach to disability to ensure that disability issues and persons with disabilities be included in all aspects of their work.

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

Guidance note: <http://www.undg.org/docs/11534/Disability---Guidance-note-for-UN-Country-Teams.pdf>

Guidance note annexes:

<http://www.undg.org/docs/11534/Disability---GN-Annexes.pdf>

Trends and Analysis

Nominations accepted for 2011 Public Service Awards

In continuing efforts to promote and support innovations in public service delivery worldwide, the United Nations is calling for nominations to its 2010 Public Service Awards

The 2011 United Nations Public Service Awards (UNPSA) is the most prestigious international recognition of excellence in public service and is open to local or national public organizations, and to public-private partnerships involved in essential service delivery to citizens. Contestant from public institutions cannot nominate themselves. Instead, interested institutions will have to be nominated by Governments and civil society organizations for their achievements and performance.

More specifically, the Awards aims to discover innovations in governance, rewards excellence in the public sector and motivates public servants to further promote innovation. In addition, the Awards also enhances professionalism in the public service, raises the image of public service, enhance trust in government, and collects and disseminate successful practices for possible replication.

Nominations can be made online until 31 December 2010. The 2011 Awards are given in 5 categories: Preventing and combating corruption in the public service; Improving the delivery of public services; Fostering participation in policy-making decisions through innovative mechanisms; Advancing knowledge management; and Promoting gender responsive delivery of public services.

New Awards category on Promoting gender responsive public service delivery

DESA's Division for Public Administration & Development Management (DPADM) and the United Nations Development Fund for Women - UNIFEM (part of UN Women) have signed an agreement to collaborate and jointly manage a new UNPSA category on "Promoting gender responsive delivery of public services".

An efficient public administration that delivers services for all citizens is central to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). It is equally apparent that the achievement of gender equality remains a great challenge in many parts of the world and negatively impacts progress towards all of the MDGs. Women's enjoyment of rights, resources, and voice are shaped by governance systems.

While there has been notable progress in ratifying conventions and improving legislation, adequate design and delivery of gender-responsive services have lagged behind. For this reason, there is hope that this award will serve as a token of recognition for all those public servants who are working untiringly to improve the delivery of services to women and serve to spur others to learn and replicate from their good examples.

New Awards category on Preventing and combating corruption in the public service

DPADM and the United Nations Office on Drug and Crime (UNODC) have agreed to collaborate in the establishment and management of a new category on "Preventing and combating corruption in the public service". This foresighted and important partnership, which aligns DPADM and UNODC's missions in the area of integrity, accountability and transparency, will help to collect, document, share and possibly replicate good practices in the area of anti-corruption.

It will also encourage higher standards of public conduct and promote greater awareness of the importance to act against corruption in order to achieve the Millennium Development Goals. As it is well known, corruption hurts the poor disproportionately by diverting funds intended for development, undermining a Government's ability to provide basic services, feeding inequality and injustice and discouraging foreign aid and investment. Corruption is a key element in economic underperformance and a major obstacle to poverty alleviation and development (United Nations Convention against Corruption).

Thus, promoting integrity and anti-corruption preventive practices is of the utmost importance to ensure that the State's funds are used to improve people's quality of life through the delivery of basic services and the establishment of a good business environment. Partnering with the above organizations will ensure that the project is carried out building upon and integrating in a coherent way the knowledge, expertise and experience of the various partners to the advantage of Member States.

For more information: <http://www.unpan.org/unpsa>
Regarding the new category on Promoting gender responsive public service delivery:
http://unifem.org/news_events/story_detail.php?StoryID=1184.

Endorsing recommendations for energy statistics

Second Meeting of Expert Group on Energy Statistics will be held in New York from 2-5 November

DESA's Statistics Division is organizing this Expert Group Meeting to review and endorse the provisional draft of the International Recommendations for Energy Statistics (IRES) prior to its submission to the United Nations Statistical Commission for adoption at its 42nd Session (22-25 February 2011).

The Expert Group will review the results of the worldwide consultation on the provisional draft of IRES that took place during the period from July to August 2010 and advise on their incorporation in the final draft. During this meeting a number of issues relevant to the preparation of the Energy Statistics Compilers Manual (ESCM) and to the development of the implementation programme of the revised recommendations will be discussed.

The meeting will gather experts from countries and international/regional organizations active in energy statistics.

For more information:

<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/energy/Workshops/EGM-IRES.htm>

Improving environment statistics systems

Expert Group Meeting on the Revision of the Framework for the Development Environment Statistics will take place in New York from 8-10 November

DESA's Statistics Division, in collaboration with Statistics Canada is organizing this meeting to revise the United Nations Framework for the Development of Environment Statistics, published in 1984, on the basis of improved scientific knowledge about the environment and new cross-disciplinary requirements created by emerging environmental concerns and their management.

The main objective of this EGM is to agree on the conceptual framework that best supports an integrative approach to environment statistics and helps countries to establish and improve their national environment statistics systems.

For more information:

http://unstats.un.org/unsd/environment/fdes/fdes_egm.htm

Dealing with discrepancies and gaps of MDG data

Workshop on MDG Monitoring will be held in Geneva from 8-11 November

The Workshop, which is organized by DESA's Statistics Division in collaboration with the United Nations Economic Commission

for Europe (UNECE), will bring together representatives from national statistical offices and line ministries to review recommendations for reporting of MDG data and to establish strategies for dealing with data discrepancies and data gaps at the national and international level, particularly for health related MDG indicators.

The meeting is part of the regular consultation with both national and international experts to review and discuss issues related to the MDG monitoring. It will focus on localizing the MDG indicators, country capacity building and creation of appropriate frameworks for monitoring national development; as well as the coordination of related technical cooperation activities in countries. The meeting will also plan the production of the global MDG monitoring outputs for 2011. In addition, the workshop will provide participants with skills needed to improve the production and dissemination of MDG indicators.

For more information:

<http://mdgs.un.org/unsd/mdg/Host.aspx?Content=Capacity/Geneva.htm>

Responding to the statistical needs of the global economic and financial crisis

International Seminar on Early Warning and Business Cycle Indicators will take place in Moscow from 17-19 November

This is the final seminar organized by DESA's Statistics Division and Eurostat in cooperation with the hosts of the three seminars, Statistics Canada (Ottawa, May 2009), Statistics Netherlands (Scheveningen, December 2009) and the Federal eState Statistics Service of the Russian Federation. These seminars are held in response to the call made in the fortieth Session of the United Nations Statistical Commission in 2009 for swift and coordinated statistical initiatives by countries and international organizations in response to the global economic and financial crisis.

The seminars will focus on the methodologies for compiling and releasing of high quality rapid (or 'flash') estimates, their international comparability, the communication strategy for such estimates and their analytical indicators on the performance of the real sector of the economy and the financial markets for effective macroeconomic monitoring.

The third international seminar is expected to formulate recommendations for the monitoring of business cycles and the early identification of turning points, as well as strategies for future work on improving statistical tools for this purpose. The outcome will be formulated as recommendations that will be

presented to the United Nations Statistical Commission at its next session in March 2011.

For more information:

Ottawa seminar:

<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/nationalaccount/workshops/2009/ottawa/ac188-2.asp>

Scheveningen seminar:

<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/nationalaccount/workshops/2009/netherlands/ac202-2.asp>

Moscow seminar:

<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/nationalaccount/workshops/2010/moscow/ac223-2.asp>

Urban innovation and sustainable development

The Summit Forum of the 2010 Shanghai World Expo will take place on 18 November

The Summit Forum is of the highest rank among three types of forums. It will be the climax of the Expo forums as it provides a stage for large-scale discussion of global urbanization issues. The “Shanghai Declaration,” which is to be announced at the Summit Forum, will be a significant document of the Expo based on participants’ understanding on global urban development. The “Shanghai Declaration” will be based on common willingness.

Linked to the core Expo theme of “Better City, Better Life,” the topic of the Summit Forum is recommended as “Urban Innovation and Sustainable Development,” which focuses on the key urban challenges confronting countries around the world. It is also based on the themes of past Expos and therefore enhances both the continuing value of the event and its long heritage.

The forum will take the form of conferences and sub-forums, accompanied by keynote speeches, round-table meetings, mini summits, group discussions, cocktail receptions, and visits in the Expo Site.

Up to 2,000 participants are estimated to attend the Summit Forum, including heads of state, ministers, mayors, Chinese government officials, the UN Secretary General, Commissioners General, and representatives of academic, business and media, as well as outstanding members of the younger generation.

For more information:

<http://esango.un.org/irene/dsd.html?page=viewContent&nr=9728&type=8>

Long road to recovery

Expert Group Meeting on the World Economy (Project LINK) was held from 20-22 October in New York

The LINK Global Economic Outlook indicates that the road towards recovery from the Great Recession is proving to be long, sinuous and bumpy. After a year of fragile and uneven recovery, growth of the world economy is now decelerating on a broad front, presaging an even weaker growth in the outlook for 2011.

The report points out the weakness of major developed economies that continues to drag on the global recovery. There seems to be no quick fix to many of the predicaments these economies are facing in the aftermath of the financial crisis. While credit shortage, financial fragility, persistently high unemployment and anaemic domestic demand are found in these economies, the contribution of government spending to GDP growth is expected to become negative in 2011 as a result of the announced fiscal consolidation.

In contrast, developing countries and economies in transition have shown a strong economic recovery. In the outlook, however, as the recovery in major developed economies falters, growth prospects in developing countries are expected to weaken in tandem.

The report identified a number of risks for the world economy. Risks for the world economy are mostly rooted in major developed economies, including those associated with persistently high unemployment, the continued fragility of the financial system and looming sovereign debt stress. For developing countries and economies in transition, major risks are associated with surges in capital inflows, which are causing upward pressures on their currencies. Mitigating these risks poses enormous policy challenges.

In major developed economies, macroeconomic policy options are limited by political factors restraining further fiscal stimulus and market responses to sovereign debt distress. This has led policymakers to rely increasingly on monetary policy, which may not suffice to boost aggregate demand and create new jobs. The surge in capital flows to emerging and other developing economies and the consequent pressures on currencies are complicating the international environment for developing countries.

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

Web-based tools to support MDG advancement

During the High Level Meeting on MDGs, a Global Alliance for ICT and Development (GAID) Side Event was held on 21 September in New York

GAID held a high-level breakfast meeting to launch web-based knowledge tools and information resources, providing tangible and practical benefits to developing countries in their efforts to advance the MDGs.

The meeting was attended by government leaders and officials, CEOs and managers from ICT companies, and representatives of NGOs and international organizations from several countries. ASG Mr. Jomo Kwame Sundaram read a welcoming message on behalf of the Secretary-General.

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

Advancing knowledge management for governments

Workshop on Harnessing Knowledge Management through Web 2.0 Tools took place in Shanghai, China, from 25 to 27 September

Knowledge Management has proven to be essential for government agencies at all levels to efficiently and effectively deliver public services and act as centers for the timely collection, organization and dissemination of information. However, due to the disparity between the haves and the have-nots, all countries are not at the same point in their development of efficient and effective Knowledge Management systems. Over the years, through Knowledge Management capacity building, many governments and institutions have moved toward electronic systems of data management.

Co-organized by DESA's Division for Public Administration & Development Management (DPADM) in collaboration with the Regional Cooperation Office for City Informatization (RCOCI) of the Shanghai Municipal People's Government, the meeting resulted in many actions to be undertaken by DPADM and UNPAN Partners, including updating the existing web user survey, starting an online discussion platform for continuous collaboration with workshop participants, updating the Discover UNPAN page and providing more detailed information for each partner organization and creating yearly progress reports in addition to regular monthly reports.

The meeting also decided to launch 6 more online courses in Spanish, discuss possible collaboration areas in knowledge management and consider translating some of the existing online courses into Arabic. As an outcome DPADM together with UNPAN partners will draft a set of standardized marketing tools on knowledge management products and produce a summary of UNPAN Partner fee based services to be displayed in UNPAN North America home page.

For more information: <http://www.unpan.org/km2010>

Developing the future of the Internet together

Fifth and last meeting of the Internet Governance Forum under its original mandate was held in Vilnius, Lithuania from 14-17 September

The meeting concluded with a number of calls by participants for continued dialogue and a renewed mandate. Jomo Kwame Sundaram, ASG for Economic Development, opened the conference on behalf of Sha Zukang, USG of DESA, together with President Dalia Grybauskaitė of Lithuania. The theme of the meeting was “developing the future together”, a concept embodying what many participants perceive to be a fundamental achievement of the IGF – bridging cultural differences among stakeholders to discuss, in a flexible, open format, critical Internet resources, access, diversity, security, privacy and the many other important matters at hand.

For more information: <http://www.intgovforum.org/cms/>

Capacity Development

Implementing recommendations of trade statistics in Sub-Saharan Africa

Workshop on updated and new recommendations for International Merchandise Trade Statistics (IMTS 2010) will be held in Lusaka, Zambia, 1-5 November

At its forty-first session (23 - 26 February 2010) the Statistical Commission adopted IMTS 2010 and endorsed the implementation programme as contained in the Secretary General's report, including the preparation of the revised IMTS Compilers Manual and continued technical assistance activities.

This workshop focuses on the implementation of IMTS in countries of the Sub-Saharan Africa region and is organized by DESA's Statistics in cooperation with the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA). Participants will learn about the new and updated recommendations and share their experiences in the compilation of IMTS and the implementation of the international recommendations (old and new) on IMTS, also with view on identifying issues and best practices for inclusion in the updated IMTS Compilers Manual.

For more information:

http://unstats.un.org/unsd/trade/WS%20Lusaka10/ws_imts_lusaka10.htm

Developing census capacities in Malawi

National CensusInfo Training will take place in Zomba, Malawi from 9-12 November

DESA's Statistics Division is organizing this training in collaboration with the National Statistical Office, Malawi. It is intended to develop the national census technical teams' capacities to adapt CensusInfo as platform for disseminating census data. Participants will learn various processes involved in the adaptation of CensusInfo including preparation of CensusInfo template and database, standard report and profile templates, language translation and packaging the software.

The sessions also includes hands-on training on using CensusInfo User Interface and Database Administration applications, designing and creating templates and databases to house country-specific census data, learning various data administration utilities including importing census data to facilitate uploading of data into

the CensusInfo system, and generating relevant tables, graphs, maps, reports and profiles for reporting purposes.

For more information:

http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/sources/census/2010_PH C/default.htm

Support the implementation of National Accounts in Latin America

Seminar on the Implementation of the System of National Accounts 2008 in the Latin America and Caribbean Region will be held in Lima, Peru, 9-12 November

The System of National Accounts, 2008 (2008 SNA) is an updated version of the System of National Accounts, 1993 (1993 SNA). It is the fifth version of the SNA, the first of which was published over fifty years ago.

The 2008 SNA was prepared under the auspices of the Inter-Secretariat Working Group on National Accounts (ISWGNA), which consists of five organizations: the Statistical Office of the European Commission (Eurostat), the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), DESA's Statistics Division and regional commissions of the United Nations Secretariat and the World Bank. The 2008 SNA is published jointly by these five organizations.

DESA's Statistics Division, in collaboration with the United Nations Economic Commission of Latin America and the Caribbean, is organizing this seminar to support the regional implementation programme of the System of National Accounts 2008 (2008 SNA). The seminar will be hosted by the National Statistics and Informatics Institute of Peru.

The purpose of the seminar is to assist the Working Group on National Accounts of the Statistical Conference of the Americas in implementing the regional implementation programme of the 2008 SNA and supporting economic statistics with the objective of developing comparable economic statistics for countries in the Latin America and the Caribbean region as a whole to monitor the integration of their economies. This regional programme forms part of the global implementation programme for the 2008 SNA and supporting statistics.

For more information:

<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/nationalaccount/sna2008.asp>

Various methods for evaluating censuses

Workshop on the 2010 World Programme on Population and Housing Censuses: Census Evaluation and Post Enumeration Surveys, for Arabic speaking Countries will be held in Amman, Jordan, 21-24 November

DESA's Statistics Division in collaboration with the Jordan Department of Statistics and the Arab Institute for Training and Research in Statistics, is organizing this workshop to present an overview of the various methods of evaluating censuses with a focus on the post enumeration survey (PES) methodology.

More specifically, the workshop will cover elements of the PES with regard to planning and implementation, frames and sample design, methodologies for evaluating content and coverage errors. It will also focus on matching procedures, imputation of missing values, and tabulation and dual system of estimation. The workshop will offer the possibility to the participants to present and discuss the experience of their countries on different aspects of census evaluation and the post enumeration survey.

For more information:

http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/meetings/wshops/Jordan_21Nov10/default.htm

Collect, disseminate and use social statistics

International Workshop on Social Statistics will take place in Beijing from 22-26 November

DESA's Statistics Division and the National Bureau of Statistics of China are organizing this workshop as part of the social statistics programme of the Statistics Division with the purpose of enhancing the capacity of countries to collect, disseminate and use quality statistics on time use and on violence against women.

This workshop is also intended to provide an opportunity to review and discuss new national initiatives and data collection tools for the improvement of these two areas of social statistics.

For more information:

http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/meetings/wshops/China_22-24Nov2010/default.htm

Training of trade in services statistics

Workshop on Statistics of International Trade in Services will be held in Hanoi, Vietnam from 30 November-3 December

DESA's Statistics Division in cooperation with the General Statistical Office of Vietnam is organizing this workshop within the framework of DESA's Development Account project for the

strengthening of the statistical capacity of countries in South East Asia.

The objective of the workshop is to train representatives from national statistical offices and central banks of Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Timor-Leste and Vietnam on the methodology of trade in services statistics and on current country-practices in compilation of trade in specific services sectors.

The training focuses on both the interpretation of conceptual issues and options for the implementation of the international recommendations, taking account of country specific circumstances and facilitating the establishment of a network of statisticians among these South East Asian countries. The workshop reviews particularly the travel item and tourism statistics.

For more information:

<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/tradeserv/default.htm>

Linking capacity of local leadership and local development

Ministerial Workshop on leadership capacity building for decentralized governance and poverty reduction in Africa was held in Kampala, Uganda from 4 to 7 October in conjunction with the Global Forum on Local Development

Key stakeholders in local governance in Africa recommend the strengthening of public administration and leadership capacities to enhance accountability and improve the delivery of services at local level which will speed up the achievement of MDGs.

Leaders from 22 African countries attended the Forum including Ministers responsible for local government, senior public service officers from central and local governments, leaders of local government associations, political leaders in local governments, International and Regional Organizations representatives, management experts and practitioners as well as representatives of civil society organizations.

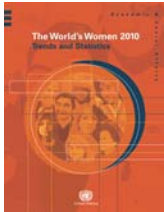
The focus of this workshop was on the linkages between the capacity of local leadership and local development, strengthening public administration in local governments for effective delivery of services, improving the delivery of services through application of ICTs, and how to implement the recommendations made by the Global Forum on Local Development to speed up the achievement of MDGs at the local level.

For more information:

<http://www.unpan.org/Events/BrowseEventsbyCalendar/tabid/94/mctl/EventDetails/ModuleID/1532/ItemID/1607/language/en-US/Default.aspx?selecteddate=10/4/2010>

Publications and Websites

Statistical compilations



The World's Women 2010: Trends and Statistics

This publication presents statistics and analysis on the status of women and men in the world, highlighting the current situation and changes over time. It was prepared to coincide with and in observance of the first-ever World Statistics Day, 20.10.2010. The report is the fifth in the series which has been published every five years, as called for in the Beijing Platform for Action adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women in 1995. As in the past editions, the presentation is made in a format and language that non-specialists can readily understand.

The World's Women 2010 reveals that progress towards the goal of gender equality has been made in the last two decades in a number of areas, although uneven and, for the most part, quite modest. In some areas it is clear that there is a long way to go before gender equality is achieved. These are elaborated in the following eight chapters of the report, each representing a broad area of concern: population and families, health, education, work, power and decision-making, violence against women, environment and poverty. A wide selection of the statistics and indicators at the country level are presented in the Statistical Annex of the report.

For more information:

<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/products/Worldswomen/W2010pub.htm>



International Recommendations for Industrial Statistics 2008

This publication provides a comprehensive methodological framework for collection and reporting of industrial statistics in all countries, irrespective of level of development of their statistical systems. Part I of the publication comprises international recommendations on industrial statistics relating to statistical units, characteristics of statistical units, data items and their definitions and the data items for international reporting.

Part II of the publication contains guidance for implementation of the international recommendations and relate to performance indicators, data sources and data compilation methods, data-

collection strategy, data quality and metadata, and dissemination of industrial statistics. IRIS 2008 are consistent with System of National Accounts 2008 and also harmonized with recommendation in other fields of economic statistics such as distributive trade, construction, and other related domains of structural and short-term statistics.

It is intended primarily for the producers of industrial statistics; particularly the staff of national statistical offices involved in the collection and compilation of industrial statistics, but may be also useful to researchers and other users interested in better understanding the nature of industrial statistics.

For more information:

<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/industry/docs/M90.pdf>



The Demographic Yearbook 2008

This edition, now available online, is the sixtieth in a series published by the United Nations since 1948. It contains statistical tables including a world summary of selected demographic statistics, data on the size, distribution and trends in national populations, fertility, foetal mortality, infant and maternal mortality, general mortality, nuptiality and divorce, for all countries and areas of the world, as available.

Population counts of countries, areas and cities, births and deaths counts, as well as respective demographic rates, such as crude birth and death rates, age-specific fertility and mortality rates, infant and maternal mortality rates, life expectancy, crude marriage and divorce rates, etc., are shown as available. In addition, the volume provides technical notes, a synoptic table, a historical index and a listing of the issues of the Yearbook published to date. The latest reference year of the data presented is 2008.

For more information:

<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/products/dyb/dybsets/2008%20DYB.pdf>

Monthly Bulletin of Statistics and MBS Online



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

manufacturing, transport, construction, international merchandise trade and finance.

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This month, the following tables, which are featured in the MBS on a quarterly or annual basis, are presented along with the regular recurrent monthly tables: Earnings in non-agricultural activities, by sex; Fuel imports, developed economies: unit value and volume indices, value; Indicators on fuel imports, developed economies; Registration of new motor vehicles; External trade conversion factors; Manufactured goods exports: unit value indices, volume indices and value; Exports by commodity classes and by regions: developed economies; Selected series of world statistics.

For more information: <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/mbs>

Meeting records

Internet Governance: Creating Opportunities for All

Released by the Secretariat of the Internet Governance Forum (IGF), the book was edited by William J. Drake and gives a detailed overview of the fourth IGF meeting held in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt 15-18 November 2009. It also contains a message by Under-Secretary-General Sha Zukang and was distributed in hard copy at the fifth Internet Governance Forum meeting, hosted by the Government of Lithuania in Vilnius on 14-17 September 2010. The publication will also be made available as e-book.

To download: <http://www.intgovforum.org>

Discussion papers

Monthly Briefing, No. 24 on the World Economic Situation and Prospects

The Briefing highlights that trade tensions and risks of competitive devaluations heighten amidst global economic slowdown and increased turmoil in currency markets. In addition, the briefing discusses the return of sovereign debt stress in some European countries and focuses on the United Nations summit on MDGs that secured more than \$40 billion for women's and children's health.

For more information: http://www.un.org/esa/policy/publications/dpad_wespmbn.html

Working papers

Labour Markets Trends, Financial Globalization and the current crisis in Developing Countries

The current wave of globalization has profound labour market effects, accentuated, in many cases, by the current financial and economic crisis. This paper reviews general labour market trends and country examples, arguing that the current globalization process makes labour's position more precarious, a trend magnified by the current crisis. This is consistent with the policy reactions to the crisis: governments have (rightly) acted as a banker of last resort to avoid the collapse of the financial system, but, despite stimulus plans and monetary easing and some labour market policies, have not really acted as an employer of last resort.

For more information:

http://www.un.org/esa/desa/papers/2010/wp99_2010.pdf

e-Publications



MDG Gap Task Force Report 2010: The Global Partnership for Development at a Critical Juncture

ePub format of the MDG Gap Task Force Report 2010: The Global Partnership for Development at a Critical Juncture is now available for download on various mobile devices and e-readers, in the six official languages.

For more information: <http://www.un.org/esa/policy/index.html>



The 2010 E-Government Survey is now available on the Apple iBook App

DESA's Division for Public Administration and Development Management (DPADM) announces the launch of the 2010 United Nations E-Government Survey on the Apple iBook App which makes the survey available to Apple iPad users around the world.

For more information: <http://itunes.apple.com/us/book/united-nations-e-government/id397771555?mt=11>

Comings and Goings

Comings

The following staff members were promoted in October:

Marie O Antoine, Senior Staff Assistant, Office of the Under-Secretary-General

Aida Diawara, Statistics Assistant, Statistics Division

Juanita Llanto-Barnett, Programme Assistant, Division for Sustainable Development

Patience Stephens, Principal Officer, Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women

Goings

The following staff members retired in October:

Joliette Jean, Staff Assistant, Division for Public Administration and Development Management

Ramachandra Kurup, Secretary, Development Policy and Analysis Division

Calendar

November

65th session of the General Assembly

- Second Committee
5 October - December
<http://www.un.org/ga/second/>
- Third Committee
5 October - December
<http://www.un.org/ga/third/>

UN Public Service Awards Call for Nominations

1 November – 31 December
<http://www.unpan.org/unpsa>

Workshop on updated and new recommendations for International Merchandise Trade Statistics (IMTS 2010) and their implementation in countries of the Sub-Saharan Africa region

Lusaka, Zambia, 1-5 November
http://unstats.un.org/unsd/trade/WS%20Lusaka10/ws_imts_lusaka10.htm

Second Meeting of Expert Group on Energy Statistics

New York, 2-5 November
<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/energy/Workshops/EGM-IRES.htm>

Expert Group Meeting on the Revision of the Framework for the Development Environment Statistics

New York, 8-10 November
http://unstats.un.org/unsd/environment/fdes/fdes_egm.htm

Workshop on MDG Monitoring

Geneva, 8-11 November
<http://mdgs.un.org/unsd/mdg/Host.aspx?Content=Capacity/Geneva.htm>

National CensusInfo Training

Zomba, Malawi, 9-12 November
http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/sources/census/2010_PHC/default.htm

Seminar on the Implementation of the System of National Accounts 2008 in the Latin America and Caribbean Region

Lima, Peru, 9-12 November

<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/nationalaccount/sna2008.asp>

International Seminar on Early Warning and Business Cycle Indicators

Moscow, 17-19 November

<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/nationalaccount/workshops/2010/moscow/ac223-2.asp>

Summit Forum of the 2010 Shanghai World Expo

Shanghai, 18 November

<http://esango.un.org/irene/dsd.html?page=viewContent&nr=9728&type=8>

Workshop on the 2010 World Programme on Population and Housing Censuses: Census Evaluation and Post Enumeration Surveys, for Arabic speaking Countries

Amman, Jordan, 21-24 November

http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/meetings/wshops/Jordan_21Nov10/default.htm

International Workshop on Social Statistics

Beijing, 22-26 November

http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/meetings/wshops/China_22-24Nov2010/default.htm

International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women

25 November

<http://www.un.org/en/events/endviolenceday/>

Workshop on Statistics of International Trade in Services

Hanoi, Vietnam, 30 November-3 December

<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/tradeserv/default.htm>

December

International Day of Persons with Disabilities

December 3

<http://www.un.org/disabilities/index.asp>

Workshop on the 2010 World Programme on Population and Housing Censuses: Census Editing, for Countries in the Caribbean Region

St. John's, Antigua and Barbuda, 6-11 December

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

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