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## Feature Articles and Webcast

### Promoting peace, job creation and food security

*The General Assembly's Second Committee has many pressing issues to address this fall including poverty eradication, agriculture development and energy efficiency. A new agenda item on "People's empowerment and a peace-centric development model" has also been introduced. DESA News spoke with Ambassador Abulkalam Abdul Momen, who leads this important work.*



On 3 October, Ambassador Momen opened his first official meeting as the Chair of the Economic and Financial Committee, also known as the Second Committee. Pleased with the way the work has started and with a very optimistic outlook, Ambassador Momen shares his thoughts on the tasks ahead this fall. He highlights sustainable development and the Monterrey Consensus as some of the areas where he would like to see more consensus and talks about expected resolutions on price volatility, transition of landlocked countries and on coral reefs. He also gives praise to the Member States for their inventiveness when they addressed critical issues during the general debate.

**The Committee addresses many important issues including macroeconomic policy questions, IT for development, food security and sustainable development; is there any matter that you see as more pressing and in need of more attention?**

"We do discuss all of these issues. And in addition, we have a special focus this fall on the LDC-IV follow up and on Rio+20. There is also a new item this year on "People's empowerment: A Peace model". Critical for people's empowerment is their participation in governance, to eliminate poverty and hunger and empower them with jobs and education. If we can empower people, they will be capable of making decisions that will bring lasting peace and prosperity. We will also need to include 'the excluded', to eliminate all forms of discrimination, provide education, enhance manpower development and to end terrorism in all forms."

**Are you pleased with the way the work of the Committee has started?**

“Yes, I am very pleased with the work and it started smoothly due to very good consensus and understanding within the Bureau members and of course, the Secretariat.”

**What did you think about the general debate and the issues addressed by Member States?**

“I was very impressed. The representatives are addressing many relevant issues and I have also noted that they are coming up with new ideas and innovative ways to address critical issues and challenges, for example on the financing of LDC IV program of action and escalation of food prices.”

**Are there any particular issues where you want to see more consensus among Member States?**

“I would love to see more consensus, specifically on sustainable development. Creating a sustainable institutional framework would enable us to move forward in a cohesive way to achieving sustainable development goals through building blocks and bridges. The commitments that have been made over the years need to be materialized on the ground and these are the ‘building blocks’ essential for sustainable development. There has to be consensus on a holistic approach between the major pillars of sustainable development like (1) economic sustainability, (2) environmental sustainability and (3) social sustainability. Secondly, on the LDC-IV follow up, I want continuous monitoring and follow up. Thirdly, and long overdue, is a framework for monitoring and following up on the Monterrey Consensus.”

**What do you see as the main challenges for the Committee and its work this session?**

“Reaching consensus on the Monterrey framework, COP 17 and getting a legally binding agreement on climate issues. Transfer of technology is also a challenge and how we can pass this on from the private sector to the Least Developed Countries.”

**Sustainable Development; promotion of new and renewable sources of energy; green economy – are all matters of high priority. Can we expect that the work of the Committee will help push these matters forward?**

“We are working towards pushing these matters forward. We have many resolutions coming up including on price volatility, transition of landlocked countries, COP 17 and a new resolution on coral reefs. There will also be a new resolution on agricultural development and people’s empowerment. It is also interesting that we are working with ECOSOC on ‘brainstorming job-rich growth model for development’ and cyber crime prevention. This is the first time that the Second Committee and ECOSOC are jointly arranging a Special event on the ‘current global economic challenges’.”

**Other important items before the Committee under “Sustainable Development” include “International Strategy for Disaster Reduction” and “Protection of global climate for present and future generations of humankind”; what outcomes can the international community hope for?**

“I am always an optimist. I have no doubt that humanity can meet these challenges. We need to keep the general public aware of these issues. There are also some misconceptions about the scientific findings on climate change and a need to get the facts right. We will work more towards facing these challenges together and on raising public awareness.”

**How will the Committee assist in the preparations for Rio+20?**

“We are very much involved. The Committee works with others to minimize duplicity. We welcome the Secretary General’s High-powered panel on Global Sustainability and look forward to their recommendations and focus.”

**How far have we come in implementing what was decided at the UN Conference on Financing for Development in Monterrey 2002; and in Doha 2008 respectively?**

“Much more is needed. These are critical issues. Other issues are lagging behind because of this. Without adequate, predictable and timely financing, many programs and goals will remain unimplemented. If we fail to implement, we may lose credibility. Implementation is very important.”

**There are a number of side events arranged by the Committee; can you highlight some of them?**

“We are organizing Special events in six areas; (1) Alternative development strategies for job creation; (2) Financing for development; (3) The follow-up to the LDC IV Conference; (4) Peoples-empowerment: a Peace Model for sustainable development; (5) Food and energy security and energy efficiency; and (6) Means of implementation for sustainable development. We are also organizing together with ECOSOC a joint panel discussion for the first time in history on ‘Investing in productive capacities for job-rich growth’.

Although GDP growth rates in many countries are relatively comfortable and the profit margin for a few sectors, for example, in the USA is very lucrative, unfortunately not that many jobs are being created. We therefore want to have a brainstorming session on job-rich growth model. During the current economic and financial crises, one after another, many traditional global leaders and leaders of international financial institutions, however, remained rather quiet and they failed to come up with effective policy prescription either to enhance or regain global confidence or to guide them with a roadmap. Therefore, it created a vacuum and the UN and ECOSOC should come

forward to take up these challenges and enhance global confidence. Secondly, without implementation of internationally agreed programs and goals on the ground, we cannot achieve goals neither can we enhance hopes and dreams of teeming millions. To implement programs and goals, in addition to leadership commitment and hard work, we need adequate, predictable and timely financing. As to how to get there, we are organizing these brainstorming events.”

Having served as the Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the UN since 2009 and also as the President of the UNICEF Executive Board in 2010, Ambassador Momen has a diverse background within the economic and business fields with a Doctor’s degree from Northeastern University and three Master’s degrees from Harvard, Northeastern and Dhaka Universities besides a Law degree. He has chaired the Department of Economics and Business Administration at Framingham State University, served as Expert Economic Adviser to the Saudi Industrial Development Fund (SIDF), Ministry of Finance and National Economy, and held a number of positions within the Government of Bangladesh.

For more information:

Economic and Financial Committee (Second Committee):

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

Biographical note on Ambassador Momen:

<http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2011/bio4320.doc.htm>

## Online community welcomes UN DESA

*On 24 October, UN DESA officially launched its presence in social media. Pouring in from across the globe including India, Australia, Iran, Italy, USA and Sudan, the response has been very positive. “We are honored to work with you and know that only together can we truly change anything,” stated one NGO working to eradicate poverty through education. Another Facebook user in Nigeria commented, “this is simply good.”*



Whether you want to browse the latest economic reports; access MDGs statistics; show your support for Rio+20; know more about the rights of persons with disabilities; youth employment; public service awards or where fertility peaks in the world, UN DESA is the online hub to visit.

Online users can now like UN DESA on Facebook, follow the work of the department on Twitter and access a wealth of information on the department’s Slideshare platform.

“We look forward to sharing our knowledge and our work with you in this new and interactive platform,” said Sha Zukang, Under-Secretary General for Economic and Social Affairs and Secretary-General of the 2012 UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), in a welcome message on UN DESA’s Facebook page.

With the ambition to raise awareness and showcase the expertise of its divisions, the launch was kicked-off with a 10-day special highlighting each of the teams within UN DESA that make this extensive work happen. This 10-day special will run through 4 November on Facebook and Twitter.

In the long term, the department hopes to add value to online communities, to facilitate knowledge transfer and exchange and to enable the world community to make informed decisions in the field of economic and social affairs.

So far, UN DESA’s social media presence has been appreciated by a variety of online communities from around the world. Since its launch, the group of people who have joined the department on Facebook, or are following UN DESA on Twitter, has increased considerably.

“Thank you for creating this community. I think it will prove to be a wonderful foundation,” said one of the new members of UN DESA’s online Facebook community.

[Like UN DESA on Facebook](#)

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[Access a wealth of information on Slideshare](#)

## Nobel Laureate briefs about world economy and debt crisis

*“The economic challenges are great. And the policy frameworks responding to these economic challenges are not up to the mark. In fact, in many countries, they are going in the wrong direction,” said Joseph Stiglitz, recipient of the 2001 Nobel Prize in Economics as he briefed a meeting held by the Second Committee and ECOSOC on 24 October.*



Professor Stiglitz shared his fairly pessimistic view about the global economy and he also explained some of the outcomes of the crisis. “One of the big changes that have emerged in the aftermath of the crisis is the recognition by the IMF that under certain circumstances capital controls are a good thing. A position that the UN has taken and that I took when I was at the World Bank a decade ago. Now it seems to have become part of the conventional wisdom,” he said.

“The global economic situation and sovereign debt crisis” was the theme of the meeting organized by DESA’s Development Policy Analysis Division and the Office for ECOSOC Support and Coordination in cooperation with Project LINK — Expert Group Meeting of DESA on the World Economy.

To view the presentation by Professor Joseph Stiglitz:  
<http://www.unmultimedia.org/tv/webcast/2011/10/professor-joseph-stiglitz-the-global-economic-situation-and-sovereign-debt-crisis-2.html>

For the entire meeting:  
<http://www.unmultimedia.org/tv/webcast/2011/10/professor-joseph-stiglitz-the-global-economic-situation-and-sovereign-debt-crisis.html>

UN News story on the meeting:  
<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=40181&Cr=financial+crisis&Cr1=>



## Global Dialogue on Development

### Forestry Week celebrates the International Year of Forests

*Second Asia-Pacific Forestry Week (APFW) will take place on 7-11 November in Beijing, China*

The week, organized by FAO, is being held in conjunction with the 24th Session of the Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission and will include events in celebration of the International Year of Forests, 2011. The theme of the Week is “New Challenges – New Opportunity.”

Over 1,500 participants are expected to discuss forest issues in the evolving Asia-Pacific landscape. Director of the UN Forum on Forests Secretariat (UNFFS), Ms. Jan McAlpine, will deliver a keynote speech on the International Year of Forests at the plenary session.

In celebration of the International Year of Forests, this year’s Asia-Pacific Forestry Week will include film screenings from the International Forest Film Festival, launched by UNFFS in partnership with the Jackson Hole Wildlife Film Festival.

For more information:

<http://www.fao.org/forestry/ap-forestry-week/en/>

The International Year of Forests: <http://www.un.org/forests>

### Outreach to Member States on the UN Public Service Awards 2012

*Information sessions have been organized to raise awareness about the UN Public Service Awards 2012 open for online nominations until 31 December. The next briefing will be held on 10 November*

The UN Public Service Award is an international recognition designed to promote excellence and support innovations in public service delivery worldwide under the management of DESA’s Division of Public Administration Development Management (DPADM). It is open to public organizations of all kinds, including Governments and public-private partnerships involved in delivering services to citizens around the globe.

As Mr. Sha Zukang, DESA’s Under-Secretary-General emphasized during the 2010 UN Public Service Awards ceremony in Barcelona, Spain, “The winners have shown great dedication to

upholding the values and virtues of excellent public service and have provided examples of efficiency, effectiveness, transparency and accountability. In transmitting their lessons-learned they are assisting all governments in devising ways to improve the lives of citizens everywhere”.

Held annually on the 23 June, the designated international Public Service Day, the 2012 Public Service Awards will mark the 10th anniversary of the programme. The awards will be bestowed on those public institutions that have distinguished themselves in the following categories: preventing and combating corruption in the public service; improving the delivery of services; fostering participation in policymaking decisions through innovative mechanisms; advancing knowledge management in government and promoting gender-responsive delivery of public services. The awards highlight cutting edge innovations and recognize that democracy and successful governance are built on a competent civil service.

As part of its strategy to raise awareness of the programme and generate nominations for innovative projects that can provide solutions to countries facing similar challenges around the world, DESA through DPADM collaborates with multiple partners, including the UN Women, the UN Office on Drugs and Crime and UNDP country offices.

To consolidate these efforts, DESA conducts three information sessions for Permanent Missions to the UN in New York. The first of these sessions was held on 13 October, where Permanent Missions of Canada, Central African Republic, Finland, Italy, Namibia, Philippines, Republic of Korea and Romania were represented. The remaining sessions will be held on 27 October and 10 November at Two UN Plaza, Conference Room DC2 – 1949, 19th Floor East 44th Street, New York.

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

Nominations must be made online at (deadline 31 December): <http://www.unpan.org/applyunpsa2012>.

### Addressing macro economy and financing for development

*Second Committee focused on macroeconomic policy questions and issues on financing for development at meetings in New York on 10 and 13 October*

Considering macroeconomic policy questions and sub-items on international financial system and development and external debt sustainability and development, the Director of DESA’s Financing for Development Office (FfDO) introduced the Report of the Secretary-General on “International financial system and development”. The Chief of the Debt and Development Finance Branch of UNCTAD’s Division of Globalization and

Development Strategies, introduced the Report of the Secretary-General on “External debt sustainability and development”. A total of 30 countries and one specialized agency addressed the Committee.

#### Global economic and financial fragilities and their impact on development

Many delegations pointed to the increasing risk of a renewed global economic downturn and rising financial instabilities. They expressed concerns over the possible adverse impact on emerging economies and developing countries and called for a more rapid concerted response by the international community. In particular, the need to prevent contagion from sovereign debt problems in advanced economies, especially in the euro area, was stressed. The importance of promoting economic policy coordination, implementing growth-oriented policies, addressing global imbalances and volatile capital flows, and fulfilling ODA commitments was underscored. Concerns over high commodity price volatility, partly caused by financial speculation, were also expressed. Several delegations emphasized the central role of the UN in global economic governance.

#### Reform of the international financial system

Many delegations underscored that deficiencies in the international financial system and architecture were a major cause of the ongoing financial and economic crisis. The continuing need for significant reforms of the international monetary and financial system was underscored. There was also a proposal to develop a Pact on Global Regulation of the financial sector and advocacy for greater involvement of developing countries, including LDCs, in international standard-setting bodies in financial regulation and supervision.

The role of regional and sub-regional monetary and financial cooperation was also emphasized by some countries. A few countries called for a continuation of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group of the General Assembly to follow up on the issues contained in the Outcome of the Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and Its Impact on Development. Member States were also urged to consider the conversion of the Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters to an intergovernmental body of ECOSOC.

#### Governance reform at the Bretton Woods institutions

A few delegations welcomed the recent governance reforms at the IMF and the World Bank. However, a number of them called for further reforms of the mandates, scope and governance structures of the Bretton Woods institutions to reflect current economic realities and ensure full voice and participation of developing countries, including LDCs. It was for instance noted that LDCs were not recognized as a special category by the Bretton Woods institutions. Delegations also called for open, transparent and merit-based selection procedures for heads and senior management of the IMF and the World Bank.

#### External debt sustainability and development

Delegations from developing countries stated that debt sustainability remained a critical challenge. While developing countries recognized the benefits of debt relief initiatives such as HIPC and MDRI for some countries, others remained at high risk of debt distress. LDCs and others called once again for additional debt relief, including full cancellation of multilateral and bilateral debts. Developing countries called for sovereign debt restructuring and resolution mechanisms that would take into account the multiple dimensions of debt sustainability and the role that debt sustainability played in the achievement of the IADGs, including the MDGs.

It was also noted that significant success had been achieved over the last decade on debt-related commitments, most notably through the Enhanced HIPC Initiative, the MDRI and the joint World Bank-IMF Debt Sustainability Framework. At the same time it was underscored that the international community should enhance its efforts on debt relief.

#### Debating follow-up and implementation of the 2002 International Conference on Financing for Development and the 2008 Review Conference

On 13 October, the Second Committee focused on the Follow-up to and implementation of the outcome of the 2002 International Conference on Financing for Development and the 2008 Review Conference. The Director of FfDO/DESA introduced the Report of the Secretary-General on “Follow-up to and implementation of the Monterrey Consensus and Doha Declaration on Financing for Development”. A total of 22 countries addressed the Committee.

Many delegations called for the full implementation of the commitments and agreements contained in the Monterrey Consensus and Doha Declaration on Financing for Development. It was pointed out that aid delivery fell short of commitments and net ODA/GNI targets of many larger donors remained below the UN target of 0.7%. Emphasis was also given to the need to enhance aid effectiveness and to align development assistance with the national priorities and needs of developing countries.

Many delegations referred to the positive contribution that innovative mechanisms of finance can make in mobilizing additional resources for development, while also emphasizing that these should not substitute or negatively affect the level of traditional resources for development. Many speakers pointed out that such financing should be disbursed in accordance with the national priorities of developing countries, while one group of countries also stressed the need for further deliberations and analyses on the potential positive and negative implications to developing countries of these schemes. It was pointed out that Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) constituted an important source of financing for development.

Several speakers stressed the importance of having a universal, rules-based, open, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system that would contribute to growth, sustainable development and employment. There were also calls for all countries to refrain from protectionist measures. Delegations also referred to the need for the international community to fulfill all commitments contained in the 2005 Hong Kong Ministerial Declaration of the World Trade Organization in favor of LDCs.

#### Call for reform and greater participation of developing countries

A number of countries spoke of the need for reform of existing international economic and financial systems, and for ensuring greater participation of developing countries in decision making and norm setting processes. There was a call for reforming the mandates, scope and governance of the BWIs, while appreciation was also expressed about the ongoing reforms in these organizations. Reference was also made to the need for better coordination, both between international organizations and between macroeconomic policy objectives and other areas of global governance.

Many delegations stressed the need for an effective and enhanced follow up mechanism for the Financing for Development process. Specific reference was also made to the need to seriously consider the long-standing proposal to create a functional commission on financing for development. There was also support for upgrading the Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters to an intergovernmental body of ECOSOC. Many delegations also emphasized the importance of the forthcoming fifth High-level Dialogue on Financing for Development in New York on 7-8 December.

#### Innovative mechanisms of financing for development

The Committee also held a separate meeting on innovative mechanisms of financing for development and the Director of FfDO/DESA introduced the Report of the Secretary-General on "Innovative mechanisms of financing for development". A total of 20 countries addressed the Committee and many stressed the growing importance of raising additional resources through innovative mechanisms of financing for development in the context of the current global economic situation and the approaching MDG deadline of 2015. Several delegations advocated for the extension of innovative mechanisms beyond health and climate change to other areas, such as education, food security, sanitation and other MDGs.

Many speakers emphasized that funding from these mechanisms should be predictable, stable and effective. They also emphasized that innovative financing should be "additional" to traditional sources of development finance. Concerns were expressed over a considerable part of innovative financing being reported as ODA.

Several delegations called for developing an internationally uniform definition of innovative financing to provide the reference point for standardized reporting and accounting. Some delegations

noted that the application process for funds was often complex and put additional burden on recipient countries and that countries with weaker institutional capacities failed to benefit from the innovative financing proceeds.

Many delegates stressed that the growing role of innovative mechanisms of financing for development should not weaken donors' commitment to the UN target of 0.7 per cent of GDI and 0.20 per cent to LDCs, and that the implications of innovative financing for aid architecture and aid effectiveness required continued attention.

For more information:

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

## Third Committee urges integration of social concerns into economic recovery policies

*At the opening of the Third Committee on 3 October, Mr. Sha Zukang, DESA's Under-Secretary-General, stressed the need to design ways of integrating social and economic policies to ensure "people-centred recovery and long-term" sustainable development*

Mr. Sha Zukang, the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs and Secretary-General of next year's UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), urged countries to pursue economic policies that take social considerations into account to ensure that the poor, youth, persons with disability and the elderly do not continue to bear the brunt of fiscal austerity measures and unemployment in the uncertain global economy.

"Successful policies are those that promote economic and social development together with human rights protection, more [and] better jobs, social cohesion and less inequality," Mr. Sha said in an address to the annual opening of the Third Committee of the General Assembly, which deals with social, humanitarian and cultural affairs.

In his speech, delivered by Thomas Stelzer, the Assistant Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Inter-Agency Affairs, Mr. Sha stressed that the world must design ways of integrating social and economic policies to ensure "people-centred recovery and long-term" sustainable development.

The official highlighted three approaches that he said could facilitate the achievement of inclusive and sustainable development.

"First, in the current economic climate, it is important to maintain our commitment to poverty eradication and social

justice. We must retain and strengthen social objectives, not to diminish them,” he said, noting that countries must safeguard growth-enhancing social expenditures even as they strive to bring fiscal deficits under control.

“Second, experience has shown that job creation is paramount. As policy responses to the current crises are developed, jobs are needed for inclusive recovery and poverty reduction.

“Third, the establishment and expansion of social protection floor is also imperative. Such a floor protects people from extreme poverty and deprivation. And it functions as an automatic stabilizer by supporting aggregate demand during economic downturns,” said Mr. Sha.

He said the Rio+20 will be an opportunity to integrate social concerns with the economic and environmental pillars of sustainable development.

“We know that a green economy must support poverty eradication. That is why we continue to explore... ways in which a green economy can create jobs for the poor and sustainable livelihoods,” added Mr. Sha.

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

## Discussing green economy and inclusive growth

*The Government of India and the Rio+20 Secretariat jointly organized the Delhi Ministerial Dialogue on “Green Economy and Inclusive Growth” on 3-4 October in New Delhi, India*

Over 150 participants, including 24 ministers (14 from developing countries) and 12 experts attended the meeting. The Dialogue advanced the understanding and promoted the achievement of consensus on key issues related to green economy and inclusive growth, with a particular focus on how green economy strategies and policies could be integrated with food security and energy security objectives.

DESA’s Under-Secretary-General and the Secretary-General of Rio+20, Sha Zukang, emphasized that Rio+20 must be about integration, implementation and coherence, and must “mobilize renewed political commitment for sustainable development.” He also commented on the importance of food production saying “to tackle the food and nutrition challenge, the best agricultural science will need to be wedded to the best traditional knowledge. And the outcome needs to benefit smallholders, especially women farmers.”

For more information:

<http://www.uncsd2012.org/rio20/index.php?page=view&nr=320&type=13&menu=23>

Mr. Sha’s statement:

<http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/usg/statements/delhi-ministerial-dialogue.html>

## Promoting forests’ contributions to green economies

*The conference on the Contribution of Forests to a Green Economy was held in Bonn, Germany on 4-7 October*

The meeting was organised in support of the UN Forum on Forests, and in preparation for the UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) in June 2012. The meeting was jointly organized by the Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development and the Federal Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Consumer Protection in collaboration with the UN Forum on Forests Secretariat (UNFFS) and FAO.

The conference brought together nearly 150 forest experts from governments, the Collaborative Partnerships on Forests (CPF), intergovernmental organizations and major groups. Presentations and panel debates focused on the essential role that forests play in sustainable development.

The significant role of forests in transitioning towards green economies was stressed, noting that forests provide a variety of goods and services that support human well-being, including through poverty reduction. Nearly a quarter of the world’s population (1.6 billion people) depends on forest goods and services for livelihood and subsistence.

In her opening address, the Director of the UN Forum on Forests Secretariat, Jan McAlpine, highlighted the changes in approach and vision related to forests that have taken place in the 20 years since the first Rio Summit in 1992. She pointed out that “one size does not fit all”, and that green economies will apply differently across countries, depending on their national circumstances, priorities and capacities. She also emphasized the critical role that the International Year of Forests has played in raising awareness and visibility of forests, both in the global policy agenda, and in public media.

The conference included side events, a reception celebrating the winners of the Future Policy Awards, and the inauguration of the International Forest Days in the city of Bonn. The outcome of this conference is contained in a co-chairmen summary which will be submitted to the Rio+20 Preparatory Committee.

For more information: [www.forests-in-a-green-economy.de](http://www.forests-in-a-green-economy.de)



## Highlighting annual meetings of Bretton Woods Institutions

*Briefing by the World Bank and the IMF on the Outcome of the 2011 Annual Meetings of the Bretton Woods Institutions which took place in Washington, DC, on 23-25 September*

On 14 October, DESA's Financing for Development Office (FFDO) organized a briefing by the World Bank and the IMF on the Outcome of the 2011 Annual Meetings of the Bretton Woods Institutions (BWIs), which took place in Washington DC on 23-25 September.

The briefing was chaired by the ASG Thomas Stelzer and featured the following presenters:

- (1) Mr. Jorge Familiar Calderón, Vice President and Corporate Secretary, World Bank Group, on the meeting of the joint World Bank/IMF Development Committee;
- (2) Mr. Elliott C. Harris, Special Representative of the International Monetary Fund to the United Nations, on the meeting of the IMF's International Monetary and Financial Committee;
- (3) Mr. Sudarshan Gooptu, Sector Manager, Economic Policy and Debt Department (PRMED), Poverty Reduction Economic Management Network (PREM), World Bank Group, on the World Economic Outlook; and
- (4) Ms. Carolina Sanchez, Senior Economist, World Bank Group, on the 2012 World Development Report: Gender Equality and Development.

Mr. Familiar briefed delegations on the outcome of the meeting of the joint World Bank/IMF Development Committee, where the two principal themes were jobs and gender equality. The Development Committee also discussed the economic performance of developing countries in the current situation of the world economy and noted rising financial instabilities, fiscal strains, volatile commodity prices and pressures on food security. Members of the Development Committee committed themselves to pursuing policies that supported strong and inclusive growth and job creation. Mr. Familiar informed that the next World Development Report will be on jobs.

Mr. Harris shared with delegations the economic background analysis undertaken for the meeting of the IMF's International Monetary and Financial Committee (IMFC). The world economy was in a dangerous phase, with financial instabilities, insufficient demand, and sovereign debt problems in advanced economies threatening global recovery.

Against that backdrop, IMFC agreed that advanced economies would address sovereign debt problems, pursue medium-term fiscal consolidation, ensure strong capital positions of banks, maintain accommodative monetary policies, revive weak housing markets and undertake structural reforms to boost growth and job creation. Emerging economies and developing countries would

rebuild policy buffers, contain overheating and enhance their resilience in the face of volatile capital flows.

The IMFC encouraged the Fund to focus on a more effective and even-handed surveillance framework, enhancements to the global financial safety net, a review of the adequacy of Fund resources, adequate policy advice and financing to low-income countries, and further work on a comprehensive and balanced approach for the management of capital flows.

The IMFC also agreed to intensify efforts to ratify the 2010 quota and governance reform, called on the Fund to complete a comprehensive review of the quota formula by January 2013, and committed to complete the 15th General Review of Quotas by January 2014.

Mr. Gooptu provided an assessment of the global economic outlook, based on the Bank's biannual Global Economic Prospects, which examined growth trends for the global economy and their impact on developing countries. The global economic environment for developing countries had become more precarious. Contagion from financial instabilities and economic slowdown in advanced economies, commodity price volatility, inflationary pressures and increasing precautionary savings represented significant downside risks. Market concerns about the sovereign debt crisis, in particular in the euro area, had started to adversely affect sovereign debt markets worldwide, including hitherto unaffected countries, such as lower middle-income countries. Capital flows to developing countries had started to decrease in August/September 2011.

Ms. Sanchez provided an overview of the World Development Report 2012 on "Gender Equality and Development". In terms of economic impacts of gender equality, the report pointed to significant economic costs of persisting gender inequalities. The report highlighted the relevance, underlying reasons and policy options to deal with gender inequality.

In the ensuing discussion, delegations raised a number of issues, including the recognition of the category of LDCs at the Bretton Woods institutions and financial facilities for LDCs (Nepal), current work on commodity price volatility (New Zealand), the process of implementation of the 2010 IMF governance reforms (France), the World Bank strategy towards middle-income countries (Turkey), and ongoing work at the BWIs on the measurement of development (Denmark).

The representatives of the BWIs responded that the lack of a separate category of LDCs at the BWIs did not represent a practical disadvantage. All concessional facilities were accessible for low-income countries. The IDA crisis response window was targeted to support low-income countries. Commodity prices were being watched and related research was ongoing, focusing on mitigating the impact of price fluctuations.

The implementation of the 2010 IMF governance reforms was lagging behind. To date, only countries representing 19 per cent of quota shares had ratified the reforms, while 85 per cent were necessary for the reforms to enter into effect. The World Bank was currently reviewing its strategy towards middle-income countries. The BWIs considered multi-dimensional development indicators, including social and environmental factors, more appropriate measures of development than purely GDP-based indicators.

For more information:

<http://www.un.org/esa/ffd/events/2011BWIBriefingprogramme13.10.11.pdf>

## Trends and Analysis

### Mortality crises to be addressed

*Expert Group Meeting on Mortality Crises: Conflicts, Violence, Famine, Natural Disasters and the Growing Burden of Non-communicable Diseases will take place in New York on 14-15 November*

DESA's Population Division is organizing the meeting with the main objective to review the state of the art in regard to evidence and understanding of crises that cause significant rises in mortality levels and to initiate a discussion on how current knowledge on this issue can inform the preparation of the UN mortality estimates.

The meeting will also consider trends in mortality from non-communicable diseases with the objective of informing assumptions about future mortality trends. The meeting will consider the following topics:

- (a) mortality crises associated with violence, including both outright armed conflict and low-level endemic violence;
- (b) mortality crises caused by natural disasters, including tsunamis, earthquakes, floods and hurricanes as well as those caused by famines, and
- (c) the growing burden of non-communicable diseases (NCDs), especially when those diseases cause excessive premature mortality or when the burden of NCDs coexists with a sizable burden from communicable diseases.

For more information:

<http://www.un.org/esa/population/unpop.htm>

### Cooperating for rural development and decent work

*Inter-Agency Technical Meeting on Broadening Coherence and Collaboration for Rural Development through Employment and Decent Work will be held in Rome on 14-15 November*

DESA's Division for Social Policy and Development (DSPD), in partnership with the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO), will organize the event, intended as a continuation and a follow up of the Inter-agency technical meeting on "Building employment and decent work into sustainable recovery and development – the UN contribution" held in Turin in November 2010.

The meeting aims at establishing a broad coherence and collaboration to set "Unleashing of rural development through

employment and decent work" as a core element of national and international development strategies.

A set of complementary themes will be discussed and each session will address the following three questions:

- (a) What are the relevance/potential and the challenges that need to be addressed?
- (b) What are the options for action?
- (c) How to build coherence and collaboration among agencies and actors based on comparative advantages?

The outcome of each session will include an identification of specific areas of collaboration, as well as a set of concrete, practical and country-level initiatives to be undertaken jointly (by two or more agencies and other institutions, including donors, participating in the technical meeting). These could be new initiatives, or initiatives building on existing ones, to enrich them or increase their outreach.

For more information: <http://social.un.org/index/>

### International Children's Art Contest to raise awareness of forests

*In celebration of the International Year of Forests 2011, the UN Forum on Forests Secretariat (UNFFS) is partnering with the Gabarron Foundation to organize the 2011 International Children's Art Contest*

This year's theme, "Celebrate the Forests," challenges children to use the power of imagery to raise awareness on the multifaceted values of forests and the role of youth in safeguarding natural resources.

The Gabarron Foundation, along with the Queen Sofia Children's Art Museum in Spain, has been developing programs aimed at promoting diversity of arts and culture for 20 years. To date, it has collected more than 50,000 works expressing the creative spirit of children internationally.

Children between the ages of 5 and 14 are invited to submit their work through 30 December 2011. An awards ceremony for the winners will be held at the Gabarron Carriage House Center for the Arts in New York sometime in January 2012. Entries can be submitted to the Gabarron Foundation in the US, The Queen Sofia Children's Art Museum in Spain, or by e-mail to [PIRSfsg@gabarron.org](mailto:PIRSfsg@gabarron.org)

For more information: <http://qscam.gabarron.org>

### Make your voice heard and show support for Rio+20

*The Rio+20 Secretariat is proud to announce three inter-related initiatives, aiming at raising and mobilizing public awareness of the Rio+20 Conference and Sustainable Development*

### **Rio+20 Messages of the World**

At Rio+20, people from all over the world will gather and discuss how to best manage our common future in a sustainable and lasting way. What message would you like to echo to the world? Let us know! Either write your own message, or agree on any of the already published messages. It's easy! Remember - the strength are in the numbers! Maybe your idea will catch on?

Post your message here: <http://www.uncsd2012.org/messages>

### **Rio+20 Pictures of the World**

Rio+20 present world leaders the opportunity to create a new paradigm of sustainable lifestyles. Ensuring that our future needs can be met, and balancing our consumption with the environmental limits of the planet, is a collective effort that will impact all levels of society. What aspects of a sustainable lifestyle do you enjoy? Show us in pictures!

Upload your image here: <http://www.uncsd2012.org/photo>

### **Rio+20 Count me in!**

Show the World that you support Rio+20 and Sustainable Development. Put yourself on the map:

<http://www.uncsd2012.org/countmein>

## **Big turn-out at internet forum**

*The Sixth Internet Governance Forum was held in Nairobi, Kenya on 27- 30 September*

The Internet Governance Forum (IGF) is a multi-stakeholder event which brings together the global internet policy making community. Although it has no decision making role it has, over the years, influenced the way other fora and policy making processes have engaged with the policy debate. Thus, for example, the IGF has forged a multifaceted public policy debate around three equal pillars of security, openness and privacy.

At its 6th meeting in Nairobi, organized by DESA through Division for Public Administration & Development Management (DPADM) who provides substantive and administrative support to the IGF, in cooperation with the Government of Kenya and the UN Office, over 2000 badges were issued to participants with delegates attending from around the world; Africa (53%), WEOG (29%), Asia (11%), GRULAC (4%) and Eastern Europe (3%) including representation from 125 governments.

A core feature of any IGF meeting is the thematic workshops which are complemented by the main sessions around each of the core issues, namely Internet Governance for Development, Emerging Issues, Access and Diversity, Security, Openness and Privacy; Critical Internet Resources, Taking Stock and the Way Forward. In Nairobi over 100 of these were organized.

The theme for the sixth meeting was "Internet as a catalyst for change: access, development, freedoms and innovation". Participants highlighted how the previous year had seen access to the Internet act as a catalyst for development of new freedoms and the delivery of innovative products and services. The debates on Internet governance for development highlighted the importance of emerging countries as centres of Internet innovations of global importance, especially with regard to services and applications, thus, ensuring that policy initiatives fully incorporated Internet governance issues for all countries, was seen as fundamental. Growth in mobile broadband access had accelerated in recent years, coupled with the increasingly pervasive smart phones, Internet access was becoming a reality for development projects across the world.

The constant evolution of Internet technologies and consumer use was seen as creating a myriad of emerging issues. Increasingly, mobile networks were becoming the norm for Internet access, raising new opportunities and challenges. The combination of smart phones, tablets and cloud computing was giving users unprecedented access to content and services, such as social networks, and the ability to communicate and make new associations. The management, allocation and assignment of radio spectrum was becoming a new policy focus area as the continuing growth in the use of mobile networks makes them the access technology for the Internet.

The debates over access and diversity focused not only on the availability, quality and cost of Internet access but also on the ways in which access to the Internet is increasingly seen as a human right. Establishing the rights of users to freedom of expression and freedom of association on the Internet as human rights was seen as one of the recent and fundamental developments in Internet public policy.

One key area of focus was on issues of access and diversity for the disabled, stressing that the need for designing access into products and services for the disabled was fundamental and that ultimately all people benefited from access regimes that addressed those needs; an example being the pioneering use of captioning throughout all sessions at the IGF. What was clear though, was that universal access to the Internet was fundamental to the lives of people worldwide.

The IGF has pioneered work which has inextricably linked the policy debates of security, openness and privacy, and linked these issues in a multi-stakeholder process. Such an approach encourages a debate about the responsibilities and limits to the action of different stakeholders across local, national and



international communities, thus individual responsibilities and freedoms can be complemented by actions of other stakeholders and legislative processes.

In the coming months the critical resource that is the Internet will be subject to radical change. Not only will the continued diffusion and adoption of Internet Protocol version 6 (IPv6) dramatically increase in capacity but also new generic top level domain names (such as by way of illustration .eco) will allow several hundred new 'registries' to be created; some of which may well be private. These transformations of Internet resources and the processes by which they had been implemented, especially the new generic top level domain names, provoked a debate about how best to secure open and multi-stakeholder participation across all Internet policy making fora and processes.

The theme of multi-stakeholder participation and the call for open and transparent policy debates underpinned the debates about taking stock and the way forward. The momentum that had launched the IGF, the desire to see all the people of the world enjoy the benefits of the Internet, continued to drive plans for the future of the IGF. As befitting a highly innovative technical system, the innovative approach of the IGF to policy making was seen as critical to its continued success. In the coming year, the IGF can make a significant contribution to DESA's Rio+20 process as discussions around Internet governance have become ever more crucial in setting the ICT agenda and in solidifying the Internet as a catalyst for positive change and supporting sustainable development.

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

## Capacity Development

### Data revealing violence against women

*Consultative Meeting on Guidelines for Producing Statistics on Violence against Women will be held in Beirut, Lebanon from 8-10 November*

DESA's Statistics Division will conduct a Consultative Meeting to Review the Guidelines for Producing Statistics on Violence against Women. The draft guidelines provide comprehensive methodological guidance regarding the selection of core and additional topics, sources of data, relevant statistical classifications, outputs, wording of the questions and all other pertinent issues related to conducting statistical surveys to measure violence against women. The meeting will review the text in detail and, upon incorporation of all the inputs, the final version will be submitted to the United Nations Statistical Commission for approval.

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

### With an aim to strengthening public services in Africa

*Expert Group Meeting on "Strategies for Attracting the best talent in the Public Service in Africa" to be held on 14-18 November in Lilongwe, Malawi*

A workshop on Strengthening Public Administration and Leadership Capacities at Local Level for the Achievement of Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) will be held during the 33rd Annual Round-Table Conference of AAPAM. The workshop, a collaboration of DESA through the Division for Public Administration & Development Management (DPADM) and the African Association for Public Administration and management (AAPAM) aims to contribute to the strengthening of the capacity of public administration at local level for effective, efficient and equitable delivery of services through identifying strategies that strengthen local government capacities.

Local government officials will discuss challenges facing local level public administration and leadership within the context of achieving the MDGs under globalization and how such challenges can be overcome, to ensure developmental institutions at local level and achieve the intended results of decentralized governance.

Local governments are increasingly expected to be responsive to the needs and problems facing their communities and more often

than not, they do not possess the necessary resources, administrative and leadership capacities to effectively address such problems. Consequently, in many developing countries public administration capacity in local governments is generally very weak posing a threat to the achievement of the MDGs.

Poverty, illiteracy, gender inequality, child mortality, HIV/AIDs, malaria and other diseases are prevalent at local levels, leading to the belief that this is where efforts to achieve MDGs are best suited. The workshop provides DESA with an opportunity to engage high level policy makers in Africa, including Ministers responsible for local governments, senior local government officials and development partners, who will eventually champion implementation of ensuing strategies, to propose standards of excellence that need to be further developed to serve as a framework for guiding effective public administration in local governments.

During the same period, DESA through DPADM in collaboration with the African Public Sector Human Resource Managers' Network (APS-HRMnet) will also hold an Expert Group Meeting (EGM) on "Strategies for attracting the best talent in the Public Service in Africa". The quality of human resources in the public sector is critical to the development of any country and to the achievement of the MDGs and other internationally agreed development objectives. Global, regional and national commitments to sustainable development and poverty reduction need human capacities as the translation of such goals into tangible results is in the hands of human resources. It is through the knowledge, know-how and skills, networks and attitudes of human resources that services are planned and delivered, critical innovations conceived and realized and needed reforms carried out.

The objective of the EGM is two-fold:

- i) to highlight the challenges related to attracting and retaining high performing public servants to serve in the public service, and especially in local governments in rural Africa
- ii) to propose strategies for attracting and retaining the best talent to boost improvement in the delivery of public service at local level.

The EGM will provide a forum for sharing knowledge as well as provide advice to policy formulators, especially human resource managers in the public service, on elements of policies and strategies that should be instituted to attract and retain the best human resources to serve at local level for effective implementation of government policies and programs especially those related to the achievement of the MDGs.

For more information:

<http://www.unpan.org/DPADM/Home/tabid/420/language/en-US/Default.aspx>

## Analyzing population and housing census

*Burkina Faso National Seminar on Census Data Analysis to be held in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso on 14-16 November*

The main objective of the national seminar is to provide an opportunity for the staff members of the Burkina Faso Institut National de la Statistique et de la Démographie to further analyze data from the 2006 population and housing census of Burkina Faso on selected topics.

The ultimate objective is to promote greater analysis and dissemination of the data collected from the 2006 census. The national seminar will cover the following topics:

- (i) population projections at municipal level,
- ii) analysis of data on migration, and
- (iii) analysis of data on educational characteristics.

After the seminar, participants are expected to produce thematic analytical reports, based on analyses generated during the seminar.

For more information:

<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/sources/cwp2010/docs.htm>

## Strengthening the capacity to assess census data

*UN Sub-regional Workshop on Census Data Evaluation will be held in Phnom Penh, Cambodia on 14-17 November*

DESA's Statistics Division in cooperation with the Cambodian Institute of Statistics will organize a Workshop on Census Data Evaluation. This workshop will be organized within the framework of the UN/DESA Development Account project for strengthening the statistical capacity of countries in South-East Asia.

The objectives of the workshop are to strengthen the technical capacity of the participating countries to identify types of errors in census data and to apply methods of evaluating the quality of census data. Representatives from national statistical offices of Cambodia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar, Timor-Leste and Viet Nam are invited to the workshop. The workshop will also provide the forum to discuss national practices and to exchange experiences and lessons learned among the participating countries.

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

## Workshop to highlight potentials of CensusInfo

*Regional Workshop on CensusInfo arranged in New Delhi, India on 28-30 November*

Organized by DESA's Statistics Division in collaboration with the Office of the Registrar General and Census Commissioner of India, the Regional Workshop on CensusInfo is expected to gather representatives from about 20 countries from the Asian region. It is intended to provide a forum for sharing national practices and experiences in the dissemination of census data as well as highlight CensusInfo's potential as a platform for disseminating census data at any geographical level.

The workshop will demonstrate the various processes involved in the adaptation of CensusInfo, including the preparation of CensusInfo template and database, importing data, language translation and customization of the software package. The workshop sessions will also include hands-on training on using the CensusInfo User Interface and Database Administration applications.

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

## Implementation of the System of National Accounts 2008

*Focusing on statistics in Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia (EECCA) and South and East Europe (SEE) region, this workshop will take place in Kiev, Ukraine on 29 November – 2 December*

DESA's Statistics Division, in collaboration with the UN Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), is organizing this workshop on the implementation of the 2008 SNA, hosted by the State Statistical Committee of Ukraine. The purpose is to initiate the formulation of an implementation plan for the 2008 SNA and supporting economic statistics in the EECCA and SEE region with the objective of developing comparable economic statistics for monitoring the integration of their economies.

The regional plan will be part of the global implementation programme for the 2008 SNA and supporting statistics. The workshop will also discuss the treatment of conceptual issues, such as the recording of financial services and research and development in the national accounts. The expected outcome is consensus among participants on the implementation of the 2008 SNA.

For more information:

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

## **UN Office for Sustainable Development (UNOSD) launched**

*On 19 October, UNDESA officially launched a new UN Office for Sustainable Development in Incheon, Republic of Korea*

The Office, housed in Yonsei University, is co-sponsored by UN DESA, the Korean Ministry of Environment, the City of Incheon and Yonsei University.

It will serve as training and research institution and a centre for pooling together all knowledge on sustainable development. In addition, it will provide a sustainable development knowledge portal uniquely integrating the three pillars of sustainable development—economic growth, improving the quality of life, and protecting the environment.

As a resource center, it will also provide training and capacity building by organizing training programmes for national representatives and major groups from developing countries to advance the sustainable development agenda and enhance the implementation of sustainable development goals and targets.

The event was attended by Mr. Sha Zukang, DESA's Under-Secretary-General, and the Rio+20 Secretary-General and Ms. Yoo Young Sook, Minister of Environment of the Republic of Korea and other high-level officials.

For more information: <http://www.uncsd2012.org/rio20/>



## Publications and Websites

### New UN stamps illustrate importance of forests



The UN Postal Administration (UNPA) issued a series of eight stamps to commemorate the International Year of Forests on 13 October. These vibrant new stamps illustrate the importance of trees and forests in people's lives.

Designed by internationally celebrated artist, Sergio Baradat, the artwork highlights the beauty of forests, and their vital link to life on earth. "For centuries, stamps have been valued for their role in chronicling human history," said Jan McAlpine, Director of the UN Forum on Forests Secretariat. "Just as the rings within trees hold the history of life on earth; stamps mark historic milestones. This beautiful stamp series visually evokes the spirit of the International Year of Forests and transports it to the far corners of the world."

"Sergio's colourful designs remind us all that one third of the Earth's land surface is covered by trees," said UNPA Chief David Failor. "The stamps also remind us that mankind plays an important role in maintaining the balance provided by forests."

For more information: <http://unstamps.un.org/>

### 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 annual and quarterly data on a variety of subjects illustrating important economic trends and developments, including population, prices, employment and earnings, energy, manufacturing, transport, construction, international merchandise trade and finance.

Vol. LXV - No. 9, September 2011

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; 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>

#### 2009 International Trade Statistics Yearbook, Volume II Trade by Commodity



The 2009 International Trade Statistics Yearbook, Volume II - Trade by Commodity provides information on the world trade in 2009 of 258 individual commodities (3-digit SITC groups) and eleven world trade tables covering trade values and indices up to the year 2009. Volume II has been compiled approximately six months after the submission of Volume I (in November 2010) as the preparation of these tables requires and benefits from the additional country data which, normally, become available later in the year. Volume I - Trade by Country has been compiled (and made available) early in 2010 (in May 2010) to allow for an advanced release of an overview of international merchandise trade in 2009 and for a much earlier publication of the available 2009 country (area) data.

The information for 2009 in Volume II is based on data provided by 130 countries (areas), representing 92.6% of world trade of 2009. All tables of Volume II are made available electronically shortly after the completion of the manuscript. Volume II contains updated versions of the two world trade tables A and D published in Volume I.

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

#### 2008 Industrial Commodity Statistics Yearbook



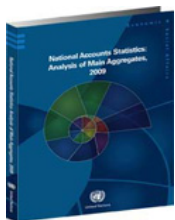
The Industrial Commodity Statistics Yearbook provides statistics on the production of about 600 major industrial commodities. Data are provided for a ten-year period and for approximately 200 countries and territories. The commodities have been selected on the basis of their importance in world production and trade.

This edition of the Yearbook is the fourth to provide data on the value of industrial production, in addition to quantities of industrial production that have been the scope of previous editions of the Yearbook. The Yearbook is therefore organized in two volumes: Volume I: Physical Quantity Data and Volume II: Monetary Value Data.

The publication contains three annexes to assist the user: an index of commodities in alphabetical order; a table of correspondence among the CPC-based commodity codes and the International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities (ISIC), Rev.3.1 and Rev.4, the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System (HS) 2002 and 2007, and the Commodity Classification of the European Community (Prodcom) 2002 and 2008; and a note on the Prodcom codes that are referenced in footnotes used in this publication.

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

### National Accounts Statistics: Analysis of Main Aggregates, 2009

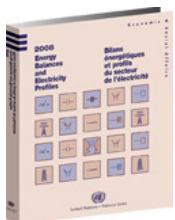


The National Accounts Statistics: Analysis of Main Aggregates, 2009 is the 40th issue of this publication presenting a series of analytical national accounts tables for more than 200 countries and areas in the world. It has been prepared by DESA's Statistics Division in cooperation with the national statistical offices.

The publication presents, in the form of analytical tables, a summary of the principal national accounts aggregates as provided by countries and supplemented with estimates prepared by the Statistics Division. The tables of the publication include analysis of data on GDP by different structural components, for example, by type of expenditure, kind of economic activity, major area, region and country.

For more information: <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/pubs/gesgrid.asp?id=445>

### 2008 Energy Balances and Electricity Profiles



The 2008 Energy Balances and Electricity Profiles is a source of overall consumption statistics of energy commodities in all sectors and provides detailed information on production, trade and consumption of electricity, net installed capacity and thermal power plant input and efficiency for selected countries.

This publication contains energy balances for about 115 developing countries, showing energy production, trade, conversion and consumption for each fuel used in the country; and electricity profiles for about 190 countries, providing detailed information on production, trade and consumption of electricity, net installed capacity and thermal power plant input for selected developing and developed countries. This publication is a source of production and consumption statistics of energy commodities in all sectors and of detailed information on production, trade and consumption of electricity, net installed capacity and thermal power plant input and efficiency.

The 2008 Energy Balances and Electricity Profiles is bi-lingual (English and French) and is available in printed and electronic (PDF format) versions.

For more information: <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/pubs/gesgrid.asp?id=443>

### 2008 Energy Statistics Yearbook



The 2008 Energy Statistics Yearbook is the fifty-second issue in a series of annual compilations of internationally comparable statistics summarizing world energy trends. Annual data for 224 countries and areas for the period 2005 to 2008 are presented on production, trade and consumption of energy: solids, liquids, gaseous fuels and electricity.

In addition, per capita consumption series are also provided for all energy products. Graphs are included to illustrate historic trends and/or changes in composition of production and/or consumption of major energy products. Special tables of interest include international trade tables for coal, crude petroleum and natural gas by partner countries – providing information on direction of trade, selected series of statistics on renewables and wastes, refinery distillation capacity and a table on selected energy resources.

For more information: <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/pubs/gesgrid.asp?id=444>

## Discussion papers

### Monthly Briefing on the World Economic Situation and Prospects

October issue highlights the fall of equity markets worldwide and its impact on emerging countries' capital outflows and currency depreciation. It also reports on the latest consequences

of Europe's sovereign debt crisis and on the steady focus of G20 finance ministers on fiscal consolidation as the cornerstone of the recovery to come.

For more information:

<http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/policy/index.shtml>

For more information:

<http://www.uncsd2012.org/rio20/index.php?menu=14>

## Outreach material

### Rio+20: Making it Happen

The latest issue of the Rio+20: Making it Happen newsletter highlights the International Day of Rural Women and the critical role rural women play in promoting sustainable development and eradicating poverty. Among other related events and issues, it also announces the opening of the UN Office for Sustainable Development in South Korea and various regional preparatory meetings for Rio+20.

For more information:

<http://www.uncsd2012.org/rio20/index.php?menu=40>

### “Working with ECOSOC – an NGOs Guide to Consultative Status”



NGOs have been actively engaged with the UN since 1945. They work with the UN Secretariat, programmes, funds and agencies in various ways, including in consultation with Member States. NGOs contribute to a number of

activities including information dissemination, awareness raising, development education, policy advocacy, joint operational projects, participation in intergovernmental processes and in the contribution of services and technical expertise. To facilitate for NGOs applying for consultative status and guiding them on the work of the Economic and Social Council, UN DESA's NGO Branch has launched the brochure “Working with ECOSOC – an NGOs Guide to Consultative Status”.

To view the brochure:

<http://csonet.org/content/documents/Brochure.pdf>

## Websites

The Rio+20 Secretariat launched a donation button on the Rio+20 website. The money collected will be used to fund the participation of representatives from developing countries, in particular the 48 least developed, land-locked countries and Small Island Developing States to Rio de Janeiro to participate in the Conference in June 2012.

# Comings and Goings

## Goings



**Mr. Thomas Buettner**, Assistant Director and Chief of the Population Studies Branch of the Population Division, retired at the end of October 2011. He joined the Population Division in 1992 and worked mostly in the area of population estimates and projections. Mr. Buettner made major contributions to the work of the division.

He improved the methods to project mortality and fertility and oversaw the development of major software packages to produce the population estimates and projections, some of which are still the “state-of-the-art” in the field. The module to estimate and project the population impact of HIV/AIDS is one example.

As Assistant Director, Mr. Buettner provided leadership in making major changes in the methodology used to project populations and supported the intergovernmental work of the Division with skill and tact. Mr. Buettner is returning to his home city of Berlin where he hopes to continue contributing to the field of population.

*The following staff members also retired in October:*

Indrakanthi Jayawickrema, Staff Assistant, Division for Sustainable Development

Hanna Negatu, Technical Co-operation Assistant, Division for Public Administration and Development Management

## Comings

*The following staff members were promoted in October:*

Youlia Antonova, Chief of Section, Statistics Division

Maria Corazon De La Rosa, Administrative Assistant, Capacity Development Office

Astrid Hurley, Social Affairs Officer, Division for Social Policy and Development

Jana Grace Ricasio, Senior Programme Officer, Capacity Development Office

Shouchun Zheng, Statistics Assistant, Statistics Division



# Calendar

## November

### 66<sup>th</sup> session of the General Assembly

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

### Second Asia-Pacific Forestry Week (APFW)

7-11 November, Beijing  
<http://www.fao.org/forestry/ap-forestry-week/en/>

### Outreach to Member States on UN Public Service Awards 2012

Briefing session, 10 November, New York  
<http://www.unpan.org/unpsa>

### Consultative Meeting on Guidelines for Producing Statistics on Violence against Women

8-10 November, Beirut, Lebanon  
<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/default.htm>

### Expert Group Meeting on Mortality Crises: Conflicts, Violence, Famine, Natural Disasters and the Growing Burden of Non-communicable Diseases

14-15 November, New York  
<http://www.un.org/esa/population/unpop.htm>

### Inter-Agency Technical Meeting on Broadening Coherence and Collaboration for Rural Development through Employment and Decent Work

14-15 November, Rome  
<http://social.un.org/index/>

### Expert Group Meeting on “Strategies for Attracting the best talent in the Public Service in Africa

14-18 November in Lilongwe, Malawi  
<http://www.unpan.org/DPADM/Home/tabid/420/language/en-US/Default.aspx>

### Burkina Faso National Seminar on Census Data Analysis

14-16 November, Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso  
<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/sources/cwp2010/docs.htm>

### UN Sub-regional Workshop on Census Data Evaluation

14-17 November, Phnom Penh, Cambodia  
<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/default.htm>

### Regional Workshop on CensusInfo

28-30 November, New Delhi, India  
<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/default.htm>

### Workshop on the Implementation of the System of National Accounts 2008

29 November – 2 December, Kiev, Ukraine  
[http://unstats.un.org/unsd/newsletter/globalstat\\_unsd\\_calendar.htm](http://unstats.un.org/unsd/newsletter/globalstat_unsd_calendar.htm)

## December

### International Day of Persons with Disabilities

3 December

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.