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## Feature Articles

### UNGA Second and Third Committees kick off in New York

*Following the opening of the landmark 70th session of the General Assembly, the Second and Third Committees officially kicked off their working sessions at UN Headquarters. “Events that are unfolding around the world remind us of the daunting task ahead of sustaining social development gains and building more inclusive societies,” Mr. Wu Hongbo, UN DESA’s Under-Secretary-General said during the Third Committee’s opening session.*

The committee, tasked with social, humanitarian affairs and human rights issues, will play a crucial role in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The agenda, consisting of 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and 169 targets, aims to create a more inclusive and sustainable world.

“Nine of the 17 goals are directly related to the work of our committee,” Omar Hilale, Chair of the Third Committee, reminded the representatives in his opening address. “Combatting poverty and hunger, health, education, equality, access to water, decent jobs, and strengthening peace and justice. These are all issues on which our committee can and must take real action.”



#### Zeroing in on specific groups

During its thematic sessions and side events, the Third Committee zeroes in on specific groups – such as the development needs of women, youth, older persons, people with disabilities and indigenous groups – and issues like the right to education, elimination of racism and crime prevention.

A thematic session dedicated to the question of social development featured youth delegates from around the world addressing their priorities and concerns for young people.

Astrid Gustafsson, a youth delegate from Sweden, said education was “a human right and the cornerstone of critical thinking and the development of the individual.” Her fellow youth delegate, Katja Cimeranic from Slovenia, mentioned unemployment being one of the biggest threats facing youth today, while Sabri Boukadoum, the Algerian representative voice concerns on poverty and the need to reduce social exclusion.

“Despite having achieved the goal of halving extreme poverty, globally, more than one billion people are still living below the poverty line, and something like 2.2 billion people live just above the poverty line,”

Daniela Bas, Director of UN DESA’s Division For Social Policy And Development

said, reminding the delegates of the work ahead.



### Economic growth and development

Taking on issues related to economic growth and development, as well as the means of implementation for the SDGs, the members of the Second Committee have their work cut out for them as well. This committee will be responsible cooperating with Member States, the public and private sector and other stakeholders in streamlining both the major and specific policy questions that will lay the financial groundwork for the success of this new agenda.

“It will require a paradigm shift, from the UN, and member states and international organizations,” Andrej Logar, Chair of the Second Committee said, highlighting the unprecedented scope and scope of this development agenda. “To go above and beyond the existing models of development, and to make the work applicable and in line with the outcome document.”

### Promoting inclusive growth



The committee will cover a broad range of topics making up the diverse fabric of the new development agenda.

Following the outcome of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development earlier this year, side events of the

committee include – among others – promoting inclusive growth, resilience building, and development financing.

In the months ahead, the work of these two committees will form a foundation for cooperation between stakeholders, to implement this ambitious development agenda in all facets of society.

“This year could well be remembered as the year when policy integration for sustainable development truly became a common global vision,” Mr. Wu said, as he addressed the Second Committee. “We have seen unprecedented global cooperation to address some of the most challenging issues of our times.”

For more information:

[UN General Assembly Second Committee \(Economic and financial\)](#)

[UN General Assembly Third Committee \(Social, humanitarian and cultural\)](#)

## Coming together to end poverty and discrimination

*“To build a sustainable future, our struggle must be recognized,” said Henri Yamasheta Wilson, from the ATD Fourth World movement, as the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty was commemorated on 16 October. At the event, Mr. Wilson conveyed, along with Zena Grimes, the message of 25 members of his organization, many of whom live in poverty. “When you are poor, your life, your kid’s life, your family life – it is not your choice,” he said.*



Bringing together representatives from civil society and activists whose work engages on the experiences and efforts of people living in poverty, the day was commemorated under the theme

“Building a sustainable future: coming together to end poverty and discrimination.”

Participants looked back at progress made over the past 15 years and considered the challenges ahead, highlighting the most important issues for those living in extreme poverty.

17 October was established in 1992 by the UN General Assembly as the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty to promote awareness of the need to eliminate extreme poverty and destitution, especially in developing countries.

This challenge was also made a top priority by the global community when it adopted the Millennium Declaration in 2000. Millennium Development Goal number 1 was to eradicate extreme poverty and hunger, under which a target was set to halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people in extreme poverty.

### Seizing the MDG momentum for eradication of poverty

“The world has made extraordinary progress in reducing extreme poverty. Over the past 25 years, more than one billion people have been lifted above the poverty threshold,” said Mr. Tegegnework Gettu, Under-Secretary-General for General Assembly and Conference Management, in delivering the message of the UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon. “Yet these gains have not reached everyone. More than 800 million people continue to live in extreme poverty, and many more are at risk.”

The commemorative event that took place at UN Headquarters in New York was supported by the Permanent Missions of France and Burkina Faso. Co-hosted by Emma Speaks and Maryann Broxton of ATD Fourth World, the attendees at the event heard various statements from several representatives of people living in poverty.

“Eradication of poverty remains primary, the Sustainable Development Goal number one, with the ambition that, by 2030, not a single person on the planet lives on less than \$ 1.25 per day,” remarked Ambassador François Delattre of France.

“This goal, serving the poor, is Goal number one as it should be, and, if we reach it, that will have a positive impact on all other Sustainable Development Goals,” Mr. Delattre stressed.

Ambassador Mariame Fofana of Burkina Faso underscored the relevance of the event’s theme for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. “Humans are created equal, with the spirit of love, sharing and mutual acceptance regardless of differences,” she said. “Poverty and discrimination are not irreversible. They are a product of a system in which the most vulnerable pay the heaviest price.”

### Hearing the voices of people living in poverty

Participants focused on various issues and challenges facing people living in poverty today, from discrimination and marginalization, to access to education and employment opportunities, to problems caused by violence, conflict and climate change.

“Persistent poverty is the world we were born into. It’s a hard feeling not to be able to climb up the ladder little by little,” said Mr. Wilson, in co-delivering a collective message.

In the final message of the day, Donald Lee, of the International Committee for October 17, said that “We must not repeat the missteps of the last fifteen years. This time, we must ensure we leave no one behind,” conveying an overarching message that people living in poverty must be full and equal partners in creating a better world.

“Their full participation, particularly in the decisions that affect their lives and communities, must be at the center of policies and strategies to build a sustainable future.”

For more information:

[International Day for the Eradication of Poverty](#)

## Evolution of internet governance: empowering sustainable development

*Around the globe, there are about three billion people connected to the Internet. From achieving gender equality to promoting inclusive and sustainable innovation, the Internet has been identified as the key enabler of development by helping to foster positive results in areas including education, healthcare, agriculture, employment and commerce. On 10-13 November, the 10th Annual Internet Governance Forum (IGF) kicks off in João Pessoa, Brazil, bringing together some 5,000 online and offline participants.*

Technological advancements in connectivity have expanded broadband access and mobile penetration in recent years. But in spite of the progress achieved, more efforts are necessary in order to connect the next billion and to address the digital divide.



With the Internet as the foundation of the global economy, cybersecurity is increasingly becoming a critical issue in Internet governance. If inadequately addressed, these challenges will lead to a lack of resilience, with adverse impact on trust in the global digital ecosystem and sustainable economic growth.

To discuss and identify solutions to these and other pressing issues, high-level government officials, civil society leaders and Internet policy experts will gather both in-person and online to participate in the forum.

### Cybersecurity and trust among topics addressed

As underlined in the Tunis Agenda from 2005, the IGF, convened by the Secretary-General, is a multi-stakeholder, inclusive and transparent forum. It facilitates discussions on public policy issues related to Internet governance.

Stimulated by recent experiences and lessons learned, discussions during the event will address issues under the following sub-themes: Cybersecurity and Trust; Internet Economy; Inclusiveness and Diversity; Openness; Enhancing Multi-stakeholder Cooperation; Internet and Human Rights; Critical Internet Resources and Emerging Issues.

More than 100 in-depth workshops, open forums and plenary sessions, organized by interested stakeholders, will facilitate thorough and wide-ranging debates among participants from different parts of the world.

Furthermore, a high-level main session will be held on 'Internet Economy and Sustainable Development' as well as a variety of workshops and sessions on the relationship between ICTs, Internet and Sustainable Development.

### Close links to 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

"Information and Communication Technologies, as a powerful enabler of sustainable development, can make great contributions to the goals and targets of the post-2015 development agenda," said UN DESA's Under-Secretary-General Mr. Wu Hongbo, as he addressed the Initial Stocktaking Meeting in the Process of the Intergovernmental Negotiations on the Review of the Implementation of the Outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society, held in June this year.

The overall theme of this year's IGF, *'Evolution of Internet Governance: Empowering Sustainable Development'* is also very timely, as the United Nations General Assembly has just adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in September and will be reviewing the implementation of the WSIS outcomes at a high-level event in December 2015. The General Assembly will also be reviewing the extension of the IGF mandate within its overall WSIS review.

At the UN Summit for Sustainable Development and in its outcome document, ICTs were recognized as a crucial platform for the implementation of the agenda, which sets an ambitious goal to "significantly increase access to information and communications technology and strive to provide universal and affordable access to the Internet in least developed countries by 2020."

The 10th IGF also aims to enhance linkages among discussions, recommendations and policy options, coming from the various [National and Regional IGFs](#) and the rest of the Internet ecosystem. Furthermore, relevant Internet governance organizations are encouraged to bring forward key ideas raised during this event.

### Human rights online – a cross-cutting theme

In recent years, the IGF has been a critical platform to facilitate dialogue on human rights and their interlinkages with Internet policy and governance, which has also informed discussions in other policy bodies such as the Human Rights Council.

Human rights issues have also been increasingly prominent at the IGF, with a large proportion of workshops speaking to their different dimensions. Throughout the week, issues surrounding the inter-linkages between human rights, access and development, freedom of expression, right to assembly and privacy will be addressed in a number of different formats.

For more information:  
[Internet Governance Forum 2015](#)  
[Internet Governance Forum \(IGF\)](#)

*Photo courtesy of the Internet Governance Forum*

# Global Dialogue on Development

## Development cooperation in action for the 2030 Agenda



*Development cooperation will be vital to implement the new sustainable development goals (SDGs). UN DESA and the Government of Uganda are co-organizing a High-level Symposium on “Development Cooperation for a new era: Making the*

*renewed global partnership for sustainable development a reality”.*

Taking place on 4-6 November in Kampala, the event will help to lay the ground for the 2016 United Nations Development Cooperation Forum (DCF).

The Symposium will be officially opened by the President of Uganda, H.E. Mr. Yoweri Museveni, and it will bring together 150 participants, including high-level representatives from national and local governments, international organizations, parliaments, civil society organizations, foundations, academia and the private sector, for dynamic discussions and workshops.

### Adjusting development cooperation for the SDGs

Development cooperation will be an integral part of the renewed global partnership for sustainable development. The Symposium will provide a first opportunity for policy makers and practitioners to discuss how to align development cooperation policies and interventions to serve as key driver for achieving the SDGs.

Participants will identify proposals to address the changes needed in development cooperation to support integrated, aligned and coherent implementation of the SDGs and mobilization of all means of implementation. Particular attention will be placed on the challenges and opportunities in this context for development cooperation in Africa. Promoting technology facilitation and capacity building, and addressing gaps in technology, science and innovation will also be central to this discussion.

### Monitoring and reviewing development cooperation for sustainable results

There is a recognized need to place greater emphasis on how to monitor and review the impact of development cooperation on sustainable development. The Symposium will address three specific aspects – putting into practice country-driven monitoring and reporting frameworks; monitoring at local level and citizen-led monitoring of development cooperation; and monitoring development cooperation of the private sector, other non-state actors and blended financing.

### Practical policy guidance and global policy dialogue

The DCF Uganda High-level Symposium is set to produce concrete recommendations for action at all levels. It will generate guidance on specific development cooperation issues, in this early phase of implementation for the 2030 and Addis Ababa Action Agendas.

The DCF serves as the principal platform for global policy dialogue on development cooperation, engaging all stakeholders. The Forum informs the Financing for Development follow-up process and contributes to implementation of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda. The High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development takes the work of the DCF into account, in its review of progress towards the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

### 2016 Development Cooperation Forum

The outcome of the DCF Uganda High-level Symposium will contribute to the 5th High-level Meeting of the Development Cooperation Forum of the Economic and Social Council, to be held in New York in July 2016.

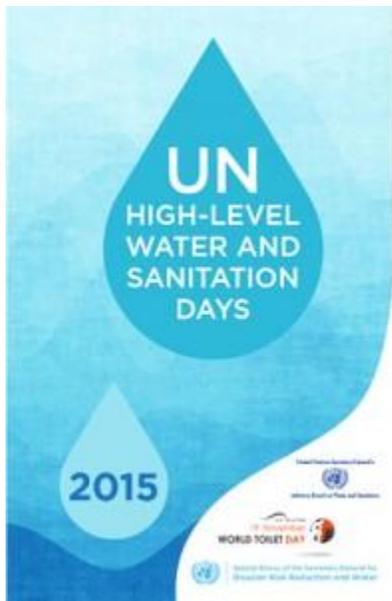
Ministers, senior level government officials and other stakeholders will engage with one another in an open and dynamic multi-stakeholder format to discuss key global trends in development cooperation and mobilizing effective support for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Forum is geared towards knowledge-sharing and mutual learning among the diversity of stakeholders on the fundamentals of development cooperation, addressing critical and emerging issues and generating action-oriented guidance and recommendations.

In the 2014-2016 cycle, UN DESA and its partners are supporting the work of the DCF to help shape the development cooperation aspects of the revitalized global partnership for sustainable development and to examine how the Forum can help forge new dynamism to mobilize development cooperation and address evolving development cooperation needs.

For more information:

[Development Cooperation Forum \(DCF\)](#)

## Placing water and sanitation front and center



*The new 2030 Agenda has water and sanitation at its core, with a dedicated Sustainable Development Goal 6 on water and sanitation and clear linkages to Goals relating to health, food security, climate change, resiliency to disasters and ecosystems, among many others.*

The UN High-Level Water and Sanitation Days 2015 are a set of coordinated events taking place on 18-20 November at UN Headquarters in New York.

The Final meeting of the UN Secretary-General's Advisory Board on Water and Sanitation (UNSGAB) spans the three days concluding on 20 November with the [UNSGAB Final Ceremony](#) (9:00 am – 12:45 pm, ECOSOC Chamber).

The [Second Special Thematic Session on Water and Disasters](#) will be held on 18 November (9:30 am – 10:30 am, GA Hall and 10:30 am – 6:00 pm, Conference Room 4) and the [UN World Toilet Day](#) will be celebrated on 19 November (1:15 pm – 3:00 pm, ECOSOC Chamber).

During the days UNSGAB will share and discuss its Final Report with the Secretary-General and the international community. The report reflects on the Board's impact and legacy while also offering a set of recommendations for the international community on necessary structures, institutions and initiatives to advance water and sanitation objectives post-2015.

The Second Special Thematic Session on Water and Disasters aims to develop both messages and recommendations for major UN conferences, including the UNFCCC COP 21 "Paris 2015", the Humanitarian Summit, and Habitat III.

World Toilet Day, organized by UN-Water, is an annual opportunity to make sanitation for all a global development priority and to urge changes in both behavior and policy on issues ranging from improving water management to ending open-air defecation. The New York-based event, coordinated by UNICEF

and UNSGAB on behalf of UN-Water, will focus on the WTD 2015 theme, *toilets and health: better sanitation for better nutrition*.

The UN High-Level Water and Sanitation Days 2015 are open to participants with access to UN Headquarters.

For more information:

[UN High-level Water and Sanitation Days 2015](#)

## 1,800 partnerships for sustainable development



*Partnerships will be essential for achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including the sustainable development goals (SDGs), and the 1,800 registrations on UN DESA's 'Partnerships for SDGs' online platform by Member States, international organizations, businesses, civil society and other stakeholders provide a strong basis for joint action.*

This public online platform was initially developed in response to decisions made at the Rio+20 Conference and has been a repository for initiatives and partnerships for sustainable development since then. It hosts over 300 partnerships that came out of the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States.

The platform has recently been revitalized and aligned with the 17 SDGs, and over 80 new commitments have been announced on the occasion of, or following, the historic UN Sustainable Development Summit in September.

The registry aims to set the standard for how information on multi-stakeholder partnerships is published and to encourage further global partnerships engagement around the SDGs. It is also an important tool for the High-level Political Forum on sustainable development to fulfill its mandate regarding partnerships.

## Examples of new partnerships

The more than 80 new partnerships added since the beginning of September reflect the broad scope of Agenda 2030, with registries made towards all 17 SDGs. A number of initiatives have been featured on the platform, to illustrate what partnerships can entail.

One of these examples is the initiative ‘Solar Empowered Schools’ (SES), which uses sustainable energy to improve academic performance in primary and secondary rural schools in Africa. It provides solar lanterns so that students who lack access to electricity can extend their study time.

SES identifies schools located in rural communities around Africa that are hindered by lack of artificial lighting, distributes solar lanterns to the schools’ students, and trains them on how to improve their academic performance and on how to maintain the lanterns given to them. The deliverable that SES has committed to is the distribution of 2,000 solar lanterns to schools by January 2016.

Another example is the Our Oceans Challenge (OOC) partner network, which consists of companies committed to generating innovative business models that promote clean and healthy oceans. OOC provides an online co-creation platform for entrepreneurs, offshore experts, scientists and those who care for the oceans to share and enrich ideas for a clean and healthy ocean.

After a selection made by its partners, OOC provides the means to realize these ideas by connecting entrepreneurs and start-ups with corporations and their financial resources and expertise, thus shortening the time to market of ocean ventures while tackling some of our most pressing environmental and social challenges.

A further partnership involving UN-Habitat, UNDP, FAO, UNCCD and the World Bank seeks to ensure that regional and national authorities will establish systems for improved access to land, adopt enabling legislation and put in place effective decentralized governance that fosters equitable and sustainable urban development by 2019.

Details on all 1800 registrations can be found on the platform.

## Share your views about the platform

The Partnerships for SDGs platform is currently in a draft (beta) version, with a full version including additional functionalities to be launched in January 2016, responding to the needs of the users and to the requests of the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development.

Views are now sought from all stakeholders through an online survey. The results will guide the development of the projected “full version” in achieving its aim of becoming a tool to encourage global partnerships engagement around the SDGs. The survey can be taken until 15 November 2015 and can be accessed [here](#).

For more information:

[Partnerships for SDGs platform](#)

[Publication: “17 SDGs 17 Partnerships”](#)

[Take the survey about the partnership platform](#)

## Strengthening cooperation on migration and refugee movements beyond 2015



*On 30 September, the Secretary-General held a High-Level Side Event on “Strengthening cooperation on migration and refugee movements in the perspective of the new development agenda.”*

The aim was to encourage enhanced cooperation and collective action in dealing with the problems and challenges of migration and human mobility, including mixed movements involving migrants, asylum-seekers and refugees.

Facilitating safe, orderly and responsible mobility is also a key component of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which requires coordinated action not only among States, but also at all levels of Government, and with a series of non-governmental stakeholders, to ensure no one is left behind.

Speakers at the High-level event included one President, eight Prime Ministers, 25 Ministers of Foreign Affairs, nine Deputy and Vice Prime Ministers, and six Principals of UN agencies. The regional perspective was highlighted by the President of Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) and the High Representative of the European Commission.

The Vice President of the International Federation of the Red Cross and President of the Italian Red Cross as well as a representative of the NGO Committee on Migration also spoke.

In total, 74 speakers were inscribed in the list, but only 42 were able to take the floor due to time limitations.

The Secretary-General opened the meeting by highlighting the crisis in solidarity the world was facing. He presented the eight guiding principles for action to address the current crisis.

Member States agreed that the current responses to the crises were ad hoc, uncoordinated and inadequate and that greater responsibility sharing was necessary. Speakers highlighted the unique role of the United Nations in finding a comprehensive, global response to the current realities of migratory and refugee flows. The urgent need for a global response and increased international cooperation was raised by a majority of speakers.

A number of countries highlighted the need to support developing countries that were hosting large refugee populations and the need for increased funding of UN humanitarian programmes.

Participants further stressed the importance of the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which recognized migration as an important enabler for development while some reminded of the consensus of the Declaration of the 2013 High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development.

For more information:

[High-Level Side Event on “Strengthening cooperation on migration and refugee movements in the perspective of the new development agenda”](#)

## Trends and Analysis

### Policy responses to low fertility



*An expert group meeting and a briefing for Member States will be held on “Policy Responses to low fertility” at UN Headquarters on 2-3 November.*

The Population Division of UN DESA, jointly with the East-West Center in Hawaii, is organizing this expert group meeting that will build on a series of studies across Asia, Europe, North America and Australia.

The meeting aims to distil lessons learned and policy guidance for countries experiencing low fertility and the consequent ageing of their populations, and for those that are likely to face these challenges in the not-too-distant future. The purpose of the expert group meeting is to broaden the discussion and the impact of these studies by involving other stakeholders, including academics, policymakers, and representatives of selected United Nations agencies and international organizations.

Following the expert group meeting, a briefing for Member States will take place on 3 November in order to bring the key policy messages on this important subject to the attention of policymakers and other stakeholders.

For more information:

[Expert group meeting on “Policy responses to low fertility”](#)

## Experts meet on international cooperation in tax matters

*The 11th session of the UN Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters concluded in Geneva, Switzerland, on 23 October after five days of discussions and deliberations. The session was held three months after the adoption of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda at the Third International Conference on Financing for Development in July.*



During the session, members of the Committee addressed a number of critical issues, including the tax treatment of fees for technical services, the negotiation of tax treaties, extractive industries taxation, exchange of information among tax administrations, and capacity building activities for tax administrations.

The Committee adopted a new Article on the taxation of fees for technical services to be included in the next update of the UN Model Double Taxation Convention between Developed and Developing Countries (UN Model). In addition, it adopted a new practical Manual for the Negotiation of Bilateral Tax Treaties between Developed and Developing Countries.

Members of the Committee also decided to establish two new subcommittees: (1) Subcommittee on Royalties, with the mandate to propose an update of Article 12 of the UN Model and its Commentary, particularly on the tax treatment of industrial, commercial and scientific equipment and software-related payments; and (2) Subcommittee on Mutual Agreement Procedures – Dispute Avoidance and Resolution, to study the topic, provide guidance and propose any necessary updates to the UN Model in that respect.

The Subcommittee on Extractive Industries Taxation Issues for Developing Countries presented its work on tax treaty issues and indirect sales of extractive interests. The Subcommittee will continue to produce practical guidelines for developing countries in this area, including on the tax treatment of decommissioning, VAT and re-negotiation of contracts.

The Subcommittee on Exchange of Information presented a draft “Code of Conduct” aimed to provide guidance for countries to cooperate in combating international tax evasion through enhanced transparency and exchange of information. Suggestions were made to improve it and a new draft will be presented at the next October session of the Committee.

The Committee also welcomed the work of the Financing for Development Office of UN-DESA in the area of capacity-building, including the production of a “Handbook on Selected Issues in Protecting the Tax Base of Developing Countries” and the rich programme of training workshops and other activities with the participation of developing countries, in collaboration with international and regional organizations.

For more information:

[Eleventh Session of the Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters](#)

## Celebrating seven decades of work on population issues

*The study of global population trends, and the challenges they bring, has been one of the tasks that UN DESA has been focusing on almost since its inception. As we mark seven decades of economic and social development, we turn our focus towards the department’s demographic work.*

The Second World War brought some of the greatest loss of life in human history. It is estimated that some 3 per cent of the world’s population died as a result of the war.

The end of the war brought about the initiative to form an international organization whose goal would be to never allow such destruction and loss of life to happen again. The United Nations was created, initially joining together some 45 countries of the world.

The world’s population entered a period of unprecedented growth. From about 2.5 billion in 1950, global population has reached over seven billion today. This rate of population growth created some significant new challenges, from urbanization, transportation, food security, to aging population and migration.

The United Nations has been actively engaged in population issues since its early years. The first World Population Conference took place in 1954 in Rome, and it launched the process of international cooperation between countries on demographic issues, promoting the creation of regional training centers for demographic analysts. Several conferences followed, in Belgrade in 1965, Bucharest in 1974, Mexico in 1984 and in Cairo in 1994.

Today, UN DESA provides analytical expertise on demographic issues, producing expert reports on population subjects such as urbanization, migration, fertility and mortality, etc. Working together with the UN, Member States are preparing for great

demographic transformations ahead, to ensure that no one is left behind.

For more information:

[UN DESA’s Population Division](#)

[Celebrating 70 years of development](#)

## Migration and development in focus for global forum



*Society Days from 12-13 October.*

*The 8th Summit Meeting of the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) was held in Istanbul from 14 to 16 October, hosted by Turkey, the GFMD Chair in-Office for 2014-2015. The event was preceded by the Civil*

The purpose of the GFMD is to address the multi-dimensional aspects, opportunities and challenges related to international migration and its inter-linkages with development. Around 150 countries took part in this year’s Forum, which comes in the wake of the adoption of the 2030 Agenda and amidst heightened global focus on the plight of migrants and refugees.

Participants had the opportunity to discuss a broad range of issues under three main themes, i) human mobility and the well-being of migrants, ii) migration as a factor in development, iii) enhancing international cooperation on emerging issues in migration and mobility, as well as in numerous side events.

The UN Deputy Secretary-General, H.E. Jan Eliasson, delivered the keynote address on “Strengthening Partnerships: Migration and Human Mobility for Sustainable Development”. On behalf of UN DESA, Assistant Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Inter-Agency Affairs Thomas Gass and the Chief of the Migration Section participated as speakers in the Summit Meeting and the Civil Society Days.

For more information: [Detailed programme of the 8th Summit Meeting of the Global Forum on Migration and Development \(GFMD\)](#)

[Civil Society Days](#)

## Capacity development

### Accelerating improvements of civil registration and vital statistics systems



*UN DESA's Statistics Division, in coordination with ECLAC, is conducting the Workshop on the Principles and Recommendations for a Vital Statistics System, Revision 3, for South American Countries, from 9-12 November*

*in Santiago, Chile.*

This workshop contributes to the initiatives at the global and regional levels to accelerate improvement of civil registration and vital statistics systems. With the view of strengthening technical capacity to contribute to the efforts in improving civil registration and vital statistics systems, the workshop aims to increase the knowledge of government statisticians and civil registration officers about the revised international principles and recommendations for compiling, processing and disseminating vital statistics; and to improve their capability in identifying gaps and challenges in applying international standards to improve their civil registration and vital statistics systems.

The workshop will bring together civil registrars and vital statisticians from twelve South American Countries.

For more information:

[UN DESA's Statistics Division](#)

### Sustainable data key for measuring global development

*As part of the celebration for World Statistics Day 2015, Leni Montiel, UN DESA's Assistant Secretary-General for Economic Development, hosted a Twitter chat to put the spotlight on the pivotal role of statistics in*



*measuring development progress across the globe.*

Using the hashtag #SDGsData, people from all corners of the world tuned in on 22 October to ask their questions on how the UN is working with data and how these efforts can contribute to realize sustainable development.

#### **Inclusive data ensures leaving no one behind**

In the chat, questions mainly covered data transparency and effectiveness, as well as the experiences gained from monitoring the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

Data inclusiveness was also mentioned by many chat participants, and there were several questions on how to make data speak for youth, women, persons with disabilities, indigenous groups and communities in remote areas.

Mr. Montiel pointed out that to measure progress towards the SDGs, inclusive data is a must, and that the participation of every sector of society is needed. "Everyone can contribute to SDGs data," stressed Mr. Montiel. "We need inclusive data to leave no one behind."

#### **Lessons from MDGs help in implementing SDGs**

What lessons have we learned from monitoring the MDGs, and what will be particularly relevant to the SDGs agenda, were questions at the very centre of the chat.

To address these questions, Mr. Montiel highlighted five key actions: paying attention to national ownership and flexibility in the reporting format; conducting more consultation among statisticians in international organizations, UN Inter-Agency and Expert Groups; placing focus on country level data; investing in statistical capacity to ensure availability, reliability, timeliness and accessibility of development data; and last but not least, improving institutional coordination at all levels, including within national statistical systems.

#### **Statistical revolution is a new trend**

Some expressed concerns about a pervasive tendency in current statistics to overemphasize on GDP growth, regardless of the fact that inequality is also rising.

Mr. Montiel explained that the data revolution is helping us address inequalities in data access and use through principles, innovation, resources and leadership. "Data is the key for effective measuring of the SDGs. It will not only rely on GDP growth. The data revolution is happening and we've seen progress in data innovation already."

At the end of the chat, Mr. Montiel concluded that, though the SDGs are very ambitious, it is not impossible to accomplish them, and statistics will be at the core of this process. “I am convinced that with the wealth of knowledge gained through the MDGs monitoring, we will be successful tracking SDGs data, ensuring to leave no one behind.”

For more information:

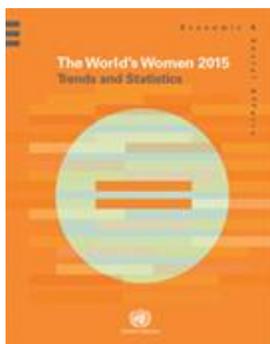
[Twitter chat with Lenni Montiel on #SDGsData \(Storify\)](#)

[Statistics at the center of sustainable development](#)

## Publications and Websites

### Technical reports

#### The World's Women 2015: Trends and Statistics



The report was launched on 20 October 2015, on the occasion of the 2nd World Statistics Day. It presents statistics and analysis on the status of women and men in the world, highlighting the current situation and changes over time. The report is the sixth in the series which has been published every five years by UN DESA's Statistics Division, 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 2015 highlights that progress towards the goal of gender equality has been made in the last two decades in most areas of concern, although at low and uneven pace.

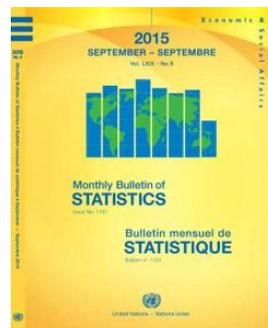
Through a life cycle approach, the publication reveals the challenges and specific needs experienced by women during their different stages of life. The different trajectories of women and men—from childhood through the working and reproductive stage to older age—are highlighted in the analysis undertaken in 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 statistics and indicators covered in the publication are presented in its Statistical Annex, available online [here](#).

- [To download](#)

## Statistical compilations

### Monthly Bulletin of Statistics and MBS Online



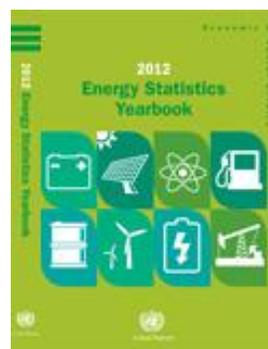
The Monthly Bulletin of Statistics presents current economic and social statistics for more than 200 countries and territories of the world. It contains over 50 tables of monthly and/or bimonthly, quarterly and annual data on a variety of subjects illustrating important economic trends and developments,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

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In addition to the regular recurrent monthly tables, this issue includes quarterly and annual tables: Earnings in non-agricultural activities, by sex; Fuel imports, developed economies: unit value and volume indices; value; Indicators on fuel imports, developed economies; External trade conversion factors; Manufactured goods exports: unit value indices, volume indices and value; Exports by commodity classes and by regions: developed economies and Selected series of world statistics.

- [For more information](#)

### Energy Statistics Yearbook, 2012



This yearbook is the fifty-sixth issue in a series of annual compilations of internationally comparable statistics summarizing world energy trends, which commenced under the title [World Energy Supplies in Selected Years, 1929-1950](#). Annual data for 235 countries and areas for the period 2009 to 2012 are presented on production, trade and consumption of energy for solid, liquid, and gaseous fuels, electricity, and heat.

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; selected series of statistics on

renewables and wastes; refinery distillation capacity; and a table on selected energy resources.

- [For more information](#)

## Meeting records

### Climate Change Action for Sustainable Development



The report has been prepared by UN DESA's Division for Sustainable Development, in collaboration with the partners of the Higher Education Sustainability Initiative.



The report was presented on the occasion of the event "From Rio to Paris: Higher Education for Climate Change Action", held on 14 October 2015 at UNESCO headquarters, organized by the partners of the HESI

initiative in close collaboration with the Kedge Business School, itself a signatory of the HESI initiative, as contribution to the XXI Session of the Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC (COP21), to be held in Paris in December 2015.

- [To download](#)

## Working papers

### How well are the links between education and other sustainable development goals covered in UN flagship reports? A contribution to the study of the science-policy interface on education in the UN system

In 2015, a set of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) will succeed the Millennium Development Goals as reference goals for international development for the period 2015-2030. Education was identified as a standalone goal (SDG4). Epistemic communities have documented a number of links between education and other SDG areas, and policy makers have long recognized many of them. Based on an exhaustive content analysis of 40 global reports, this paper examines how well such links are represented in flagship publications of the United Nations system.

- [To download](#)

## Outreach material

### Enable Newsletter



Prepared by the Secretariat for the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (SCRPD) within UN DESA's Division for Social Policy and Development, the newsletter provides news from UN Headquarters and UN agencies and other news of relevance for the work to advance the rights of persons with disabilities.

At the end of last month, the UN Enable newsletter was released for September 2015 and has been translated into Arabic, Russian and Spanish, as well as Hebrew, Indonesian, Korean, Amharic and Oromo (Ethiopian), Swedish and Uzbek.

- [Read full issue](#)

### SD in Action Newsletter – October 2015

The latest edition features a range of articles including "From Rio to Paris: Higher Education for Climate Change Action"; "Enhancing food security, health and well-being in Small Island Developing States"; "Share your views on the Partnerships for SDGs platform"; "17 Sustainable Development Goals 17 Partnerships"; and a "Questionnaire on 2030 Agenda follow-up and review". Published by UN DESA's Division for Sustainable Development, the newsletter aims to feature the work carried out by Member States, United Nations system, Major Groups and other relevant stakeholders in implementing sustainable development and leading the way to the Future We Want.

- [Read full issue](#)

### Youth Flash Newsletter

The October issue is now available online with a feature article by Orla Murphy, an Irish Youth Delegate to the United Nations General Assembly for 2015, "Behind the Flags: My Experience at the United Nations". The newsletter is a service of UN DESA's Division for Social Policy and Development (DSPD) Focal Point on Youth to help keep the public informed about the work of the UN on youth issues. It is prepared with input from UN offices, agencies, funds and programmes, and from youth organizations all over the world.

- [Read full issue](#)

### **DESA NGO News**

Published by UN DESA's NGO Branch, the latest issue is available online providing the most up-to-date information on news and upcoming events of interest to civil society at UN headquarters in New York, Geneva and elsewhere.

- [Read full issue](#)

## **Discussion papers**

### **Monthly Briefing on the World Economic Situation and Prospects No. 83**

Prepared by UN DESA's Development Policy and Analysis Division, October issue is available online with the following summary:

- Global trade flows drops in value terms amid persistently weak commodity prices and stronger US dollar
- Budget cuts and increasing fiscal strains in many commodity-exporting developing countries

- [To download](#)

## Comings and Goings

### Comings

*The following staff members were promoted in October:*

Ola Goransson, Sustainable Development Officer, Division for Sustainable Development

Edward Odina, Administrative Assistant, Executive Office

Sergio Pires Vieira, Economic Affairs Officer, Development Policy and Analysis Division

Suwannee Thatchaichawalit, Human Resources Assistant, Executive Office

### Goings

*The following staff members retired in October:*

Miriam Danar, Staff Assistant, Secretariat of the United Nations Forum on Forests

Marilyn Elblein, Staff Assistant, Financing for Development office

Gulab Singh, Senior Statistician, Statistics Division

# Calendar

## November

**Expert group meeting and a briefing for Member States will be held on “Policy Responses to low fertility”**

2-3 November, New York

DCF Uganda High-level Symposium - Development cooperation for a new era: Making the renewed global partnership for sustainable development a reality

4-6 November, Kampala

Workshop on the Principles and Recommendations for a Vital Statistics System, Revision 3, for South American Countries

9-12 November, Santiago, Chile

UN High-Level Water and Sanitation Days 2015

18-20 November, New York

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