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## Feature Articles

### Behind the scenes at the UN General Assembly

*In the last week of September, high-level government representatives descended on New York to attend the UN General Assembly to address a number of issues vital for the well-being of our planet. Putting people at the centre of development, meeting new population challenges and ensuring the rights of the world's indigenous peoples – these were some of the topics on a busy agenda, where UN DESA played a crucial role providing support.*



Watch the video on YouTube <http://bit.ly/1vupYeZ>

“This is a historic occasion – the UN’s first World Conference on Indigenous Peoples,” said UN DESA’s Under-Secretary-General Wu Hongbo as the department was gearing up for back-to-back high-level events at UN Headquarters in New York. “The adoption by the General Assembly of the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in 2007 was a milestone. Now is the time for concrete actions to translate the principles and objectives of the UN Declaration into reality. The UN will make every effort to ensure the survival, dignity and well-being of indigenous peoples of the world,” Mr. Wu added.

Prior to the kick-off of a busy UN week, Mr. Wu launched the MDG Gap Task Force Report 2014 “The State of the Global Partnership for Development” at a press briefing together with Thomas Gass, UN DESA’s Assistant Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Inter-Agency Affairs, Pingfan Hong, the Director of UN DESA’s Division for Development Policy and Analysis and Magdy Martínez-Solimán, UNDP’s Deputy Assistant Administrator. “With only one year ahead, we definitely need a strong sense of urgency and action,” Mr. Wu said, as targets for the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) related to the global partnership to improve people’s lives and end poverty, showed mixed results on providing the poorest developing countries with greater access to aid, trade, debt relief, essential medicines and technologies.

### Ensuring the rights of indigenous peoples now and beyond 2015

As UN General Assembly events got underway, UN DESA provided support to two high-level events taking place back-to-back, and in parallel on 22 September. First off was the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples (WCIP), convened as the first high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly's 69th session, bringing together over a thousand indigenous and non-indigenous delegates to discuss the realization of their rights and the implementation of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

Indigenous peoples represent remarkable diversity – more than 5,000 distinct groups in some 90 countries, making up more than 5 per cent of the world's population, some 370 million people. These peoples continue to self-identify as distinct peoples with strong links to traditional territories with their own social, economic and political systems as well as unique languages, cultures and beliefs.

"I am pleased that in the World Conference outcome document Member States commit to give due consideration to all the rights of indigenous peoples in the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda," Mr. Wu said as he addressed a panel event focusing on indigenous peoples' priorities for the post-2015 development agenda and as he commented on the approval of the Conference Outcome Document on 22 September.

"We must intensify our work to ensure that policy commitments translate into programs and projects that directly benefit indigenous peoples, with their direct participation," Mr. Wu added. "With just one year remaining to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, in many ways, we have been unable to address the development gaps indigenous peoples face. Nearly all available data shows that indigenous peoples fare worse in socio-economic terms than non-indigenous peoples. We must draw upon the lessons learned from the MDGs and we must do better this time around," Mr. Wu said.

### Putting people at the centre of development

Taking place on the same day as the WCIP on 22 September, the General Assembly held its special session on the follow-up to the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development beyond 2014, marking 20 years since the landmark conference in Cairo that reinforced the principle that development should centre on people.

"This is an important opportunity for the international community to focus on the unfinished agenda of the ICPD Programme of Action and to reaffirm their commitment to placing people at the centre of development," Mr. Gass said, as he briefed journalists ahead of this major event. "Let us recall that in 1994, Cairo achieved a remarkable consensus that the rights and well-being of individuals should be the central focus of efforts to promote social and economic development," he added.

Mr. Gass highlighted that progress since 1994 has been remarkable in many areas including gains in gender equality, advances in educational attainment, health, survival, human rights protection, poverty reduction and access to sexual and reproductive health services. "But many of the promises of the ICPD remains unfulfilled," Mr. Gass explained. "Progress has been unequal and is often hampered by persistent discrimination and inequality," he added. "New challenges have emerged including those linked to rapid urbanization, environmental change, economic transformation and increasingly complex migration trends".

### Moving the world forward into the future we want

The special General Assembly session brought together 73 representatives of Member States, including 18 Heads of State, who took the floor to reaffirm their commitments to the ICPD agenda. It also marked the beginning of the final year of negotiations on a new long-term post-2015 development agenda. "We must renew our pledge to protect people – especially women and girls – as we strive to eradicate extreme poverty, protect the rights and dignity of all people and secure the future of our planet for generations to come," UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said.

In addition to high-level events during UN week, there are many major conferences, commissions, expert groups and other forums that meet throughout the year to address issues related to social, economic and sustainable development. UN DESA is there to assist, providing expertise and experience and thereby enabling nations across the globe to make decisions that will move the world forward into the future we want.

As the first week of the 69th session of the UN General Assembly is about to conclude, Mr. Wu reflects on the major events that have just taken place. "I am impressed by the big turnout at these events. It is a privilege and a great responsibility to be a part of this international process. I am also very proud of the hard work of my DESA staff. They are one of the most critical components in the global effort to eradicate poverty and create a better future for everyone," Mr. Wu said.

For more information:

[MDG Gap Task Force Report 2014](#)

[World Conference on Indigenous Peoples](#)

[Special Session of the General Assembly on the follow-up to the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development beyond 2014](#)

## Providing key information for MDG momentum

*UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon called for an end to the unfinished business of the Millennium Development Goals while speaking at a high-level event convened by the MDG Advocacy Group on 25 September. Organized by UN DESA in collaboration with a number of partners, the event featured the launch of a new publication as well as a data tool visualizing 14 years' worth of MDG data from UN DESA's Statistics Division.*



Watch the video on UN Web TV <http://bit.ly/1poOf0e>

Gathering 300 global leaders, the MDG Advocates' event co-hosted by the Roll Back Malaria Partnership, showcased the successes of the eight MDGs to deliver a healthier, equitable and more sustainable future and it also launched the MDG Advocates' Leaders Report, "Accelerating Action: Global Leaders on Challenges and Opportunities for MDG Achievement", which was presented by MDG Advocate Graça Machel.

Authored by 37 world leaders, this unique publication looks at successful policies and interventions championed by governments and partners to drive progress on the MDGs, as well as obstacles faced and actions taken to overcome them. It was published with the support of the Executive Office of the Secretary-General, UN DESA, the UN Millennium Campaign, the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation and the UN Foundation.

"While the achievement of the MDGs depends on the action and commitment of governments as well as numerous organizations and of course individuals," said Thomas Gass, UN DESA's Assistant Secretary-General, "the MDG Advocates play a crucial role in helping to keep the flame burning and continuously refocus international attention on this important agenda amidst numerous crises and other issues competing for public concern."

## Challenges and opportunities for achieving MDGs by end of 2015

Led by the Prime Minister of Norway Erna Solberg and President of the Republic of Rwanda Paul Kagame, the MDG Leaders praise successes of improving people's lives. But they also demand more action. The lives of millions of people worldwide have improved due to concerted efforts. During the past two decades, the likelihood of a child dying before the age of five has been nearly cut in half, which means about 17,000 children have been saved every day. The maternal mortality ratio dropped by 45 per cent. Antiretroviral therapy for HIV-infected people has saved 6.6 million lives. An estimated 3.3 million deaths from malaria were averted due to a major expansion of simple preventions, such as bed nets, and treatments. Efforts to fight tuberculosis have saved an estimated 22 million lives.

"The Millennium Development Goals have been the greatest anti-poverty push in history," UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said. "New partnerships have been established. New actors have been engaged. Now we must finish the job," he urged. With many MDG targets already met – including reducing poverty, increasing access to clean drinking water, improving the lives of slum dwellers, and achieving gender parity in primary school – many more targets are also within reach by the end of 2015.

"All of us, whether in government, business, or civil society, have to keep pushing, not just to December 2015, but beyond," wrote the Prime Minister of Norway Erna Solberg. "The MDG deadline, after all, is not the finish line of the race, and there will be neither medals nor rest."

The unfinished business of the MDGs remains the focus of the MDG leaders who underlined the need to invest in education, adolescent girls and women's empowerment, scaling up efforts to fight child and maternal mortality and investing agriculture as well as water and in sanitation to end open defecation.

"One way to accelerate progress is to share innovations by learning from the experiences of others," Paul Kagame, President of Rwanda, said. "We have to cultivate cross-sectorial efforts and broad partnerships in the year ahead so that we can accelerate synergies, including between education and health as well as gender equality. Our experience as leaders is that it is a common sense that often requires the most sustained advocacy."

## Visualizing 14 years' worth of MDG data

As part of the United Nations ongoing efforts to highlight the progress made on the MDGs, an initiative to map official data from UN DESA's Statistics Division, in partnership with Microsoft was initiated by the UN Millennium Campaign. This new visualization represents an innovative approach to communicating progress made toward poverty eradication and galvanizes momentum for the final days for MDG realization.



By using Microsoft's Power View to demonstrate data in an accessible and digestible format, the aim is to tell the story of the progress made toward eradicating global poverty, and inspire continued global efforts.

“Reliable and robust data are critical for devising appropriate policies and interventions for achieving the MDGs and creating a better world for all,” explained Stefan Schweinfest, Director of UN DESA's Statistics Division. “We have worked on monitoring the progress towards the MDGs since its start. Every month, millions of people download the global MDG report and the MDG data from our website. I am happy to collaborate with the UN Millennium Campaign to use MDG data visualization to communicate with policy makers and the public to promote development,” Mr. Schweinfest added.

Addressing the high-level event, the Secretary-General urged delegates to help focus on what he described as “two critical fronts” in the battle towards realizing the MDGs: accelerating progress towards meeting the MDGs and preparing for a post-2015 world. “We need a strong successor framework in place,” affirmed Ban Ki-moon. “Building mechanisms for effective partnerships and multi-stakeholder accountability will be critical to the success of the post-2015 development agenda.”

For more information:

[MDG Leaders Report](#)

[MDG Data Visualization](#)

[Millennium Development Goals Snapshot 2014](#)

## Renewing commitments to end poverty

*The global community is making important strides to reduce extreme poverty. However, despite substantial progress, about one in five people worldwide still lives on less than \$1.25 a day. To renew commitments, show solidarity and make sure no one is left behind, the United Nations will commemorate the 2014 International Day for the Eradication of Poverty at UN Headquarters in New York on 17 October.*



“While poverty levels have declined significantly, progress has been uneven. Our impressive achievement in cutting poverty by half should not blind us to the fact that more than 1.2 billion people still live in extreme poverty worldwide,” Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said in his message as the day was commemorated last year.

“Too many, especially women and girls, continue to be denied access to adequate health care and sanitation, quality education and decent housing. Too many young people lack jobs and the skills that respond to market demands. Rising inequality in many countries — both rich and poor — is fuelling exclusion from economic, social and political spheres, and we know that the impacts of climate change and loss of biodiversity hit the poorest the hardest. All of this underpins the need for strong and responsive institutions,” the Secretary-General said.

The observance of the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty can be traced back to 17 October 1987. On that day, over a hundred thousand people gathered at the Trocadéro in Paris, where the Universal Declaration of Human Rights was signed in 1948, to honour the victims of extreme poverty, violence and hunger. They proclaimed that poverty is a violation of human rights and affirmed the need to come together to ensure that these rights are respected. In 1992, the General

Assembly declared 17 October as the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty and invited all States to devote the Day to presenting and promoting concrete activities with regard to the eradication of poverty and destitution.

This year's commemoration will be organized in partnership with the International Movement ATD Fourth World, the NGO Subcommittee for the Eradication of Poverty and UN DESA, supported by the Missions of France and Burkina Faso to the United Nations. A commemorative event will be held on Friday, 17 October in Conference Room 2 of the Conference Building from 1:15 pm to 2:30 pm. Additionally, a ten-part exhibition of collective artwork by people living in poverty will be featured in the 1B Corridor to the Vienna Cafe from 13 to 17 October. Each collection shows how the human act of creation—whether by rousing strength and hope, or bestowing a peaceful calm—helps people to hold their heads high, to come together in dignity, and to leave no one behind.

### Leaving no one behind

The 2014 theme, “Leave no one behind: think, decide and act together against extreme poverty,” recognizes and underscores the demanding challenge of identifying and securing the participation of those experiencing extreme poverty and social exclusion in the post-2015 development agenda.

“The United Nations and the World Bank and all of us can end extreme poverty from this earth, to save everybody and to leave nobody behind. That is our priority and vision,” UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon stated earlier this year as he addressed an End Poverty Call to Action Event in Washington, D.C. taking place alongside the spring meetings of the World Bank and International Monetary Fund (IMF).

The call to “Leave no one behind” points to the urgent need to eliminate discrimination, marginalization and exclusion based on poverty, ethnic origin, gender, age, disability or economic and social status. It will require concerted action to actively reach out to the most impoverished and excluded groups in our societies. At the core of such action must be the alignment of development policies and targets, and their implementation, with human rights norms and standards, in keeping with the United Nations Guiding Principles on Extreme Poverty and Human Rights. As the Secretary-General has also said, “we must not fail the billions who look to the international community to fulfil the promise of the Millennium Declaration for a better world”.

### Think, decide and act together against extreme poverty

The call “to think, decide and act together against extreme poverty” highlights the need to include people living in poverty as partners in building our understanding and knowledge of more sustainable forms of development. Local, national and international institutions must create genuine participatory mechanisms, with accountability and grievance mechanisms at all

levels, while working as partners with communities to strengthen their own support organizations.

In particular, we must promote and support an inclusive, equitable and sustainable economy. That is, an economy that protects the environment, fosters the creation of full employment and decent work opportunities for all, and ensures high quality education and healthcare with improved results for all, including people living in extreme poverty.

“The post-2015 development agenda calls for a single development framework with poverty reduction and sustainable development at its core. Development, however, will only be fully sustainable when its economic, environmental and social dimensions are integrated in a balanced way,” stressed UN DESA's Under-Secretary-General Wu Hongbo as he addressed the Commission for Social Development earlier this year.

Ultimately, the success of the post-2015 development agenda will depend on the full and meaningful participation of all people, actively supported by increased commitments at the political, economic, social and cultural levels in all countries.

In addition to the commemorative events to be held in New York on 17 October, celebrations of this international day are being organized worldwide. People from all corners of the world are also encouraged to help the United Nations to raise awareness about progress made and the challenges that remain in the fight against poverty. The online community is asked to use #EndPoverty to share messages about the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), the post-2015 development agenda and the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty via social media.

For more information:

[International Day for the Eradication of Poverty 2014](#)

[International Movement ATD Fourth World](#)

[International Committee for October 17](#)

[The UN Millennium Campaign](#)

# Global Dialogue on Development

## Second Committee to focus on inequality and development



*The 69th session of the General Assembly's Second Committee (Economic and Financial) will be held under the theme of inequality and development and begins its substantive work on 7 October.*

Since the adoption of the UN Millennium Declaration in 2000, when world leaders expressed their commitment to create a more equitable world, the international community has made important progress towards the goal to lift people out of poverty. Inequality, however, has persisted and even increased in many dimensions, ranging from income inequality to disparities in health and education outcomes globally.

Whilst income inequality between countries may have been reduced, inequality within countries has risen within many countries. Additionally, non-income gaps and gender inequality remain high. In light of this, Professor Janet Gornick will deliver the keynote address. Professor Gornick's work include the co-author or co-editor of three books: *Families That Work: Policies for Reconciling Parenthood and Employment* (Russell Sage Foundation, 2003); *Gender Equality: Transforming Family Divisions of Labor* (Verso Press, 2009); and *Income Inequality: Economic Disparities and the Middle Class in Affluent Countries* (Stanford University Press, 2013). In 2006-2007, she served as Guest Editor for "Work-Family Reconciliation Policies in High-Employment Economies: Policy Designs and their Consequences," a special double issue of the *Journal of Comparative Policy Analysis: Research and Practice*. She is currently working on a book about how and why inequality varies across the U.S. states.

Six side events are proposed during the upcoming session:

### **Investment promotion regime for foreign direct investment in LDCs**

The objective of this event, hosted by the UN Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked developing countries and Small Island Developing States (OHRLLS), will be to explore ways and means to attract and retain increased foreign direct investments in LDCs, including through

specific measures, initiatives and mechanisms to be adopted by LDCs, the home countries of FDI, international organizations and other stakeholders, with a view to boosting growth performance, stimulating structural changes and accelerating poverty eradication in LDCs.

### **Promoting accountability at all levels: Monitoring the post-2015 development agenda**

Member States will decide on the elaboration of a framework for global monitoring and accountability as part of the process for agreeing on the post-2015 development agenda and its implementation. An inclusive, comprehensive and coherent accountability framework will need to be designed that ensures that all stakeholders take ownership of the post-2015 development agenda and are incentivized to share in implementing their commitments, as well as evaluating and adjusting policies. The objectives of this event, hosted by UN DESA's Office for ECOSOC Support and Coordination (OESC), will be to further the discussion on monitoring and accountability, as well as to explore practical ways in which progress in implementation of a universal agenda, reinforced by the international community's commitment to poverty eradication and sustainable development, could be measured within and between countries and entities.

### **E-Government for sustainable development in SIDS**

The proposed panel discussion hosted by UN DESA's Division for Public Administration and Development Management (DPADM), will provide a platform for e-government officials from Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and development partners to discuss challenges of building-up e-infrastructure and e-government development in pursuing sustainable development. Best practices of e-government will be introduced, including from peer countries such as Fiji and Mauritius, enhancing cooperation among interested stakeholders for knowledge sharing and transfer of innovative e-practices.

### **Social Market Economy and new Instruments of Social Finance**

This event will explore how new instruments of social finance can contribute to achieving development goals, both in industrialized and developing countries. In developed countries, Social Impact Bonds (SIBs) have started to make some inroads in achieving social development goals. In developing countries, a Development Impact Bond (DIB) provides new sources of financing to achieve improved social outcomes in developing country contexts, primarily by engaging the private sector to help improve the management of public services. It will be hosted by the Permanent Mission of Italy to the United Nations and UN DESA's Financing for Development Office.



### Joint meeting of the Second Committee and ECOSOC in collaboration with Project LINK

The topic proposed for this year is secular stagnation, a theory put forward by a growing number of prominent economists including Larry Summers, Tyler Cowen, and Paul Krugman. The theory states that the nature of macroeconomics has changed dramatically in the last seven years. In the absence of a bubble, developed economies are unable to generate enough spending to attain to the goal of full employment. This is due to the slowdown in productivity and labour force growth, permanently lowering the “natural interest rate” into negative territory. Since nominal interest rates cannot be negative, and central banks are targeting positive inflation, real rates are not able to be set low enough to keep the economy out of a protracted slump. This event, hosted by UN DESA’s Development Policy and Analysis Division, will explore this phenomenon in both theory and practice, and will demonstrate if and how it affects the global economy as a whole on the long run. It is hoped that the event will promote discussion on new economic thinking and catalyse innovative economic development analysis.

### Joint meeting of the Second Committee and ECOSOC on a renewed global partnership for development

A unified and universal post-2015 development agenda must be supported by a renewed global partnership for development to mobilize the unprecedented financial resources and other means of implementation needed. Both private and public financing from domestic and international sources are necessary, and both need to be effectively utilized to fill the large needs for support. The ability to mobilize public and private resources and smartly use them to leverage action for development will be decisive in supporting implementation of the new development agenda. To this end, the event will analyse how a renewed global partnership for development and successor arrangements to MDG8 could bring the Monterrey and Rio tracks together and usefully feature climate change financing. The joint meeting will be hosted by the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Korea to the UN and UN DESA’s Office for ECOSOC Support and Coordination (OESC).

For more information:

[UN General Assembly’s Second Committee \(Economic and Financial\)](#)

[Side events of the Second Committee](#)

## Promoting a society for all



*The International Day of Older Persons (1 October) will be celebrated this year under the theme of “Leaving No One Behind: Promoting a Society for All”. The commemoration will take place on 9 October at UN Headquarters in New York.*

Living up to the Secretary-General’s guiding principle of “Leaving No-One Behind” necessitates the understanding that demography matters for sustainable development and that population dynamics will shape the key developmental challenges that the world is confronting in the 21st century.

Almost 700 million people are now over the age of 60. By 2050, 2 billion people, over 20 per cent of the world’s population, will be 60 or older. The increase in the number of older people will be the greatest and the most rapid in the developing world, with Asia as the region with the largest number of older persons, and Africa facing the largest proportionate growth.

Not addressing older persons means not addressing 20 per cent of the global population by 2030, where there will be more people over 60 than children under 10, with the most rapid change in age structures occurring in the developing world. If our ambition is to build the future we want, we must address the population over 60 which is expected to reach 1.4 billion by 2030.

UN DESA’s Division for Social Policy and Development (DSPD) and the NGO Committee on Ageing are celebrating the 2014 International Day of Older Persons. The commemoration will be held on Thursday, 9 October 2014 from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm at the United Nations Headquarters.

For more information: [International Day of Older Persons 2014](#)

## CERN: Sixty years of science for peace and development



*CERN, the world's leading laboratory for particle physics, is celebrating its 60th anniversary with a series of events in Geneva; at the UNESCO Headquarters in Paris, where the CERN Convention was signed, and at UN Headquarters in New York on 20 October.*

The organization is pleased to announce that the celebrations will be brought to a close with a special high-level event at the United Nations Headquarters in New York, sealing the close relationship between CERN (Conseil Européen pour la Recherche Nucléaire/European Council for Nuclear Research) and the UN. The event will be held under the auspices of the President of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).

The event will consist of a series of speeches and an open discussion, using CERN as an example to highlight the role that science has played in peaceful collaboration, innovation and development, and to consider how this legacy can be used to address present and future global issues. The engagement of ECOSOC in this event builds on the Council's 2013 Annual Ministerial Review (AMR) on the role of Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) and the potential of culture for sustainable development.

Featuring contributions from eminent politicians and scientists, the event will:

- celebrate the values promoted by science – neutrality, inclusion, and co-operation;
- highlight the role of science and scientific education in sustainable development;
- promote, through an open discussion between the fields of science and politics, the idea of better integrating science into global decision-making processes.

### Celebrating with the international community

This event will include interventions from eminent personalities representing science, diplomacy and politics, who will highlight the role of science in the sustainable development of society and peaceful international cooperation.

Under the chairmanship of the President of ECOSOC and following an introduction by the President of ECOSOC, the President of the General Assembly, the UN Secretary-General, and

CERN Director-General, invited speakers from the scientific, political and diplomatic spheres will present their views on science's role in peacefully uniting international communities whose sole aim is the advancement of knowledge. The President of the General Assembly of the United Nations will close the meeting with his testimony on the role of science for the peaceful and sustainable development of the society.

The scientific community, and CERN in particular, offers governance and operational models that successfully manage complex scientific missions on which thousands of people from different cultures, nationalities and religions collaborate. Such models contribute to creating bridges between cultures and promoting exchanges between all countries, independent of their bilateral relations.

For more information:

[United Nations Economic and Social Council \(ECOSOC\)](#)

## Collaborating on international tax matters



*Tenth session of the Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters will be held from 27 to 31 October at the Palais des Nations in Geneva, Switzerland.*

As the Committee is working towards updating the United Nations Model Double Taxation Convention between Developed and Developing Countries ("UN Model") before the end of their current term, which lasts until June 2017, the Committee will discuss various related issues.

For example, the application of treaty rules to hybrid entities will be part of their deliberations with the goal to discern whether current rules sufficiently protect countries from aggressive tax planning that would inappropriately make use of tax treaty benefits. The concept of "permanent establishment", i.e. the economic presence in any country that would give rise to taxing rights, and the meaning of "connected projects" will also be discussed, especially in light of a more digitalized economy and keeping in mind the specific concerns and realities of developing countries.

Relatedly, and recognizing the importance that some developing countries have placed on this aspect including in their tax treaty practice, the cross-cutting issues of the taxation of services will



be debated. At their last meeting, the Committee decided to include a separate article on fees for technical services in the UN Model. The upcoming session will also address this issue in more detail.

Another element is the work that the Committee is doing towards updating and enhancing the United Nations Practical Manual on Transfer Pricing for Developing Countries. The Manual provides guidance on the policy of inter-group pricing in accordance with the arm's length principle with a special focus on developing countries. The envisaged update aims to give more precise guidance on how to deal with intra-group services and management fees, which are identified as key areas of concern for many developing countries in relation to profit shifting.

Between its annual sessions, the Committee of Experts carries out its work through subcommittees, which then report and present drafts for adoption to the Committee as a whole. During the session, the Subcommittee on Extractive Industries Taxation Issues for Developing Countries, for example, will introduce the outcome of its two meetings and present preliminary drafts on the tax treatment of the decommissioning of extractive facilities, capital gains taxation, tax treaty issues and value added taxation as well as a projected work plan, including tax aspects of extractive contract negotiations.

Other issues on the agenda of the session include work towards the next update of the Manual for the Negotiation of Bilateral Tax Treaties between Developed and Developing Countries, the issue of base erosion and profit shifting and its consequences for developing countries as well as capacity development. Observers from countries, civil society and business have played an important role in the work of the Committee and are encouraged to participate. The session is held in accordance with ECOSOC decision 2014/220 of 13 June 2014.

For more information:

[Tenth session of the Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters](#)

[United Nations Practical Manual on Transfer Pricing for Developing Countries](#)

## Reaffirming commitments for population and development



*On 22 September 2014, the General Assembly held a special session on the follow-up to the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD).*

Seventy-three representatives of Member States, including 18 Heads of State took the floor to reaffirm their commitment to the ICPD agenda, to recount the progress their countries have made in implementing the agenda, and to underline the challenges remaining in the further implementation of Programme of Action of the ICPD. Many more countries were prepared to make statements, but given time constraints were not given the opportunity to take the floor. However, they were urged to submit their statements to the Secretariat so that the statement could be included in the verbatim report of the meeting.

The President of the General Assembly, the Secretary-General and the Executive Director of UNFPA opened the session. “The world agreed in Cairo that when women and girls get the education they deserve, societies are more productive,” UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said. “When their rights are protected, societies are more just. And when they are empowered to determine their own future, societies become stronger.” In addition, five representatives of non-governmental organizations accredited with ECOSOC gave statements focusing on youth, women and sexual and reproductive rights. Daren Abu Lail from the Global Youth Action Network asked how it was possible to celebrate the Cairo action plan when terrible things were still happening around the world. It was not enough to listen, but action needed to be taken, as well.

Other entities of the United Nations system and observers for intergovernmental organizations also attended. Following the request by the General Assembly for an effective participation of civil society, about 100 participants from non-governmental organizations also attended, including some civil society organizations not in consultative status with ECOSOC.

Overall, Member States addressed a wide range of population and development issues, including

- persistent socioeconomic inequalities, and inequalities in access to basic services such as education and health services, including access to sexual and reproductive health services;

- population growth and the importance of investing in adolescents and youth and to harness the demographic dividend (especially in Africa);
- population ageing and strengthening social protection systems (especially in Europe and Latin America);
- urbanisation, building of sustainable cities and strengthening rural-urban linkages;
- international migration and protecting migrants' rights;
- eliminating gender-based violence and harmful practices;

Countries reported on the many achievements that have taken place since Cairo, in education, reproductive health, and reduction of child and maternal deaths, among others. They also highlighted remaining challenges, especially on the limited progress on gender equality; lack of adequate reproductive health services, especially for youth; unwanted pregnancies and unmet need for contraception; harmful practices such as child and forced marriage and FGM; and the impact of climate change if left unabated, to name a few. Growing inequalities within and between countries, high unemployment especially among youth, the impact of unsustainable consumption patterns as well as the management of labour migration were also raised.

Most Member States acknowledged the importance of population dynamics for future development planning and expressed strong support for integrating population dynamics into the post-2015 development agenda, including commitments on population and development made in regional outcomes from the ICPD review process.

The special session on ICPD marked the beginning of the final year of negotiations on a new post-2015 development agenda before a summit in September 2015, when world leaders are expected to adopt an ambitious, long-term agenda to improve people's lives and protect the planet for future generations. "We must renew our pledge to protect people – especially women and girls – as we strive to eradicate extreme poverty, protect the rights and dignity of all people and secure the future of our planet for generations to come," Mr. Ban said.

For more information:

[Special Session of the General Assembly on the follow-up to the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development beyond 2014](#)

## Indicator framework for the post-2015 development agenda



*UN DESA's Statistics Division has issued a note on 'Work on the indicator framework for the post-2015 development agenda,' in the context of the 24th Session of the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities, which took place in*

*Rome, Italy, on 11-12 September.*

According to the note, the goals and targets of the Open Working Group (OWG) on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the UN General Assembly (UNGA) outcome on the post-2015 development agenda will serve as the basis for the framework, which will provide indicators to monitor and report progress on the agenda.

The note discusses the: purpose and basis of the indicator framework; arrangements for the development of the indicator framework; principles for the design of the indicator framework; and principles for the selection of individual indicators.

For more information:

[Work on the indicator framework for the post-2015 development agenda](#)

## \$1.9 billion pledged in sustainable development partnerships



*300 partnerships between governments, businesses and civil society organizations from all over the world have been registered to support small island developing states bringing the total value of these commitments to over USD \$1.9 billion, the United*

*Nations announced at the conclusion of the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States.*

The partnerships, which were registered in the lead up to and during the Conference in Apia, Samoa, seek to boost the capacity of these group of countries to achieve sustainable development.

“Without a doubt, these partnerships leave a legacy with impact,” said the Secretary-General of the Conference, Wu Hongbo. “Many of the initiatives announced here are looking at the unique position of small island developing states as an opportunity to accelerate advancements on renewable energy, disaster preparedness and sustainable food systems, to name just a few key areas.”

Representatives from 115 countries attended the meeting, which was the third global conference to tackle sustainable development of small island developing states, and the first to be held in the Pacific region. The Conference reaffirmed the need to consider the special circumstances faced by small island developing states in achieving sustainable development.

“Today marks a beginning, not an end,” said Samoan Prime Minister Tuilaepa Lupesoliai Sailele Malielegaoi, in his closing statement on 4 September.

“Samoa is by no means the final destination for responses to small island developing states’ development challenges. But it is an important launch point to key future stops on our journey to sustainably employ the few resources available to small island developing states to improve and raise the standard of living for our communities.”

The meeting brought global attention to the issues that people on the islands are facing, and the solutions they have developed. It also provided a foundation for many of the issues that were addressed at the Climate Summit on 23 September in New York, where more than 100 Heads of State and Government announced actions on climate change.

With genuine and durable partnerships as its theme, the Conference brought representatives from governments, businesses and civil society together to concentrate on forging long-lasting joint initiatives.

The partnerships include 166 states and governments, 85 United Nations entities/inter-governmental organizations, and nearly 1,200 major groups and other stakeholders. The established partnerships are addressing a wide range of issues including climate change, disaster resilience, environmental protection, access to energy and social development, among others.

“These issues are a priority for small island developing states because of their unique circumstances, remote location and high vulnerability, but we must remember that some of these issues, such as climate change and disaster resilience, have global consequences, and we must all work together to ensure a sustainable future,” Mr. Wu said.

“Never before have multi-stakeholder partnership dialogues been so integral to a UN Conference. The understanding that achieving

sustainable development is a joint endeavour by all, is reflected in this approach. I believe it is the approach of the future,” he added.

### **New partnerships for sustainable development**

Over one-third of the 300 partnerships registered were announced during the four-day Conference. These new initiatives have the potential to mobilize some USD \$625 million, while existing partnerships made new commitments that will go beyond 2014, amounting to USD \$1.28 billion.

One of the new partnerships, the Small Island Developing States Lighthouse Initiative, developed by the International Renewable Energy Agency, will seek to raise USD \$500 million to assist small islands in increasing their share of renewable energy, enabling them to meet or exceed their renewable energy targets. This is of particular importance to this group of countries where fossil fuels can cost three times more than in mainland markets. The initiative will also provide training for policymakers to make them aware of what is needed in terms of legislation and outreach to the public to transform their country’s energy sector.

Another new initiative, the Pacific Island Oceanic Fisheries Management Partnership, aims to mobilize over USD \$94 million to help 15 small island developing states in the Pacific meet their international obligations regarding sustainable fishing. This partnership is supported by the UN Development Programme, the Food and Agriculture Organization, the Global Environment Fund, Forum Fisheries Agency and the Secretariat of the Pacific Community.

Other initiatives include the South-South Technology Transfer Facility for SIDS, which will mobilize nearly US\$5 million to provide small island developing states transfer technology in areas such as global health and agriculture, and The Programme for Strengthening the Resilience of our Islands and our Communities to Climate Change, budgeted at over US\$5 million, which will strengthen the ability of the Cook Islands to manage the anticipated consequences of climate change.

For a list of all the existing and new partnerships, please visit the [SIDS 2014 Partnerships Platform](#). All partnerships will be monitored by the United Nations, with the goal of increasing accountability.

“We want these partnerships to last, and we will be creating opportunities for partners to update us on the status of their initiatives,” said Nikhil Seth, Director of UN DESA’s Division for Sustainable Development.



## The SAMOA Pathway

UN Member States formally adopted the outcome document of the Conference, the Small Island Developing States Accelerated Modalities of Action – or SAMOA Pathway – in which countries recognize the need to support and invest in these nations so they can achieve sustainable development.

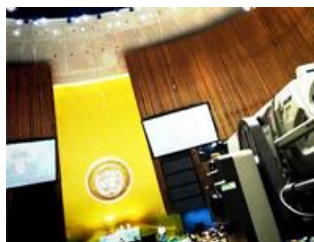
The Samoa Pathway also recognizes that financing – from all sources – is critical for the sustainable development of small island developing states. In the document, Member States reaffirmed their commitment to help these countries strengthen their domestic policies and help them gain access to financing for development.

“The motto of this Conference was ‘Island voices, global choices,’ said Mr. Wu at the closing plenary. “The islands have made their case in a convincing way. Together, we have agreed on what needs to be done. It is now for the international community to take up these calls when the post-2015 development agenda is negotiated.”

For more information:

[Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States \(SIDS\)](#)

## General Assembly adopts resolution on SDGs report



*On 10 September, the UN General Assembly adopted a resolution that paves the way for the incorporation of sustainable development goals into the post-2015 development agenda.*

In adopting the “Report of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals established pursuant to General Assembly resolution 66/288” the Assembly decided that the Open Working Group’s outcome document would be the main basis for integrating the SDGs into the future development agenda. The resolution states that other inputs would also be considered during the intergovernmental negotiation process at the upcoming General Assembly session.

At its thirteenth and final session in July 2014, the Open Working Group on SDGs had completed its report containing proposed SDGs. The proposal contains 17 goals with 169 targets covering a broad range of sustainable development issues.

At a stock-taking event on 11 September, during which UN Member States shared their views on the post 2015-development agenda, the President of the 68<sup>th</sup> session of the General Assembly, John Ashe, said that this agenda “must represent our collective commitment to end poverty and ensure that sustainable development becomes the norm for all nations, societies and economies... [it] must pick up where the MDGs left off, fill in its gaps and take us to the next level.”

“The SDGs build on the MDGs and incorporate economic and environmental dimensions. They break new ground by including issues such as energy, economic growth, inequality, cities, sustainable consumption and production, as well as peaceful societies,” he added.

At the opening of the 69<sup>th</sup> session of the General assembly on 16 September, the body’s new President, Sam Kahamba Kutesa, declared the theme of this year’s general debate “Delivering on and implementing a Transformative Post-2015 Development Agenda” and said the framework must strive to eradicate poverty and hunger and promote sustained and inclusive economic growth.

Commenting on the Open Working Group’s report after its final session in July, UN DESA’s Under-Secretary-General Wu Hongbo had said that “the proposal of the Open Working Group brings together a breadth of economic, social and environmental issues in a single set of goals like never before. All those involved in crafting these 17 goals can be proud of themselves. Member States have shown a determination and willingness to work together for people and planet that bodes well for the General Assembly’s negotiations on the post-2015 development agenda.”

### The proposed sustainable development goals are:

Goal 1: End poverty in all its forms everywhere

Goal 2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture

Goal 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

Goal 4: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote life-long learning opportunities for all

Goal 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

Goal 6: Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

Goal 7: Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy for all

Goal 8: Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

Goal 9: Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation

Goal 10: Reduce inequality within and among countries

Goal 11: Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

Goal 12: Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

Goal 13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development

Goal 15: Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss

Goal 16: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels

Goal 17: Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development

### **Next steps**

The post-2015 sustainable development agenda is expected to be adopted by UN Member States at a summit in September 2015. By the end of 2014, the Secretary-General will produce a synthesis report bringing together the results of all the different work streams on the post-2015 development agenda to facilitate the General Assembly's further deliberations. The report of the Open Working Group on SDGs will be among the inputs to this synthesis report.

For more information: [Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform](#)

## Trends and Analysis

### Moving experimental ecosystem accounting forward



*UN DESA's Statistics Division, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and Convention of Biological Diversity (CBD) are launching a project "Advancing the System of Experimental-Ecosystem Accounting (SEEA) Experimental Ecosystem Accounting in 7 pilot countries".*

UN DESA's Statistics Division will conduct scoping missions to Indonesia (1-3 October 2014) and Bhutan (6-10 October 2014) in an effort to advance the SEEA by initiating the testing of the SEEA Experimental Ecosystem Accounting. The scoping mission will mark the beginning of the inception phase of the project that will assess data availability and measurement practices, and develop a SEEA work programme based on policy priorities in Indonesia and Bhutan.

The project will build capacity to develop national strategies and formulate the way forward on how to engage national, sub-regional, regional and international organizations and institutions in developing strategies for the testing of the SEEA Experimental Ecosystem Accounting, with the objective of strengthening the national statistical system in support of developing comparable ecosystem accounts for policy making in Indonesia and Bhutan.

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

### Smart governance for sustainable development



*The e-Government Branch (eGB) of UN DESA's Division for Public Administration and Development Management (DPADM) is organizing the 2014 United Nations Global e-Government Forum (GeGF) in partnership with the Agency for*

*Communication and Information of the Republic of Kazakhstan on 6-8 October.*

Taking place in Astana, Kazakhstan, the event will focus on 'Smart Governance for Sustainable Development: New Opportunities for Partnership in a Networked Society'. The Forum will be opened by the Prime Minister of Kazakhstan and representatives of UN DESA top management.

It is expected that the president of Kazakhstan will attend the event and that almost 30 Ministers will participate in this high-level event. During the Forum the winners of the 2014 United Nations E-Government Survey Special Award will be recognized for their leadership and outstanding achievements in the field of e-government during the Awards Ceremony.

For more information:

[2014 United Nations Global e-Government Forum](#)

### Assessing trends for MDGs indicators



*The 26th Meeting of Inter-agency and Expert Group on MDG Indicators (IAEG-MDG) will be organised by UN DESA's Statistics Division on 7-9 October in Geneva, and will be hosted by the International Labour Organization (ILO).*

The IAEG-MDG has been responsible for data development, compilation and analysis for the assessment of trends in Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) indicators. During the meeting, the outcomes of the debates on MDGs at the 69th session of the General Assembly as well as on outcomes of various post-2015 development-related processes and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) will be reviewed. The



participants will also discuss how to prepare the 2015 final global MDG report.

The Inter-Agency and Expert Group (IAEG) on MDG Indicators includes various Departments within the United Nations Secretariat, a number of UN agencies from within the United Nations system and outside, various government agencies and national statisticians, and other organizations concerned with the development of MDG data at the national and international levels including donors and expert advisers.

IAEG is responsible for the preparation of data and analysis to monitor progress towards the MDGs. The Group also reviews and defines methodologies and technical issues in relation to the indicators, produces guidelines, and helps define priorities and strategies to support countries in data collection, analysis and reporting on MDGs.

Over the past few years, the IAEG has worked to promote improvement and better documentation on the standards and methods used in compiling and analyzing MDG indicators, including finding ways to aggregate country data in a meaningful way, overcoming problems of comparability and, even more importantly, providing a meaningful analysis of the aggregate figures that represents the local situation. This work is undertaken through thematic sub-groups established within IAEG and through other inter-agency mechanisms bringing together specialized agencies in the various fields covered by the MDGs.

For more information: [Millennium Development Goals Indicators](#)

## Advancing methodologies of environmental-economic accounts



*The London Group on Environmental Accounting is holding its annual meeting in New Delhi, India, on 15-17 October.*

Comprising of experts from national statistical offices, as well as international organizations, the

London Group plays a leading role in advancing the methodologies of environmental-economic accounts.

This year the group will discuss, among other things, Integrated Approaches to the implementation of the System of Environmental Economic Accounts (SEEA), the Technical Notes and Core Tables for the SEEA Central Framework, issues relating to SEEA Experimental Ecosystem Accounting, Training and Capacity Building, and the SEEA-Agriculture.

The London Group on Environmental Accounting is a city group created in 1993 to allow practitioners to share their experience of developing and implementing environmental accounts linked to the System of National Accounts. It generally meets annually and the meetings provide a forum for review, comparison and discussion of work underway by participants towards development of environmental accounts.

The London Group has played a leading role over the years in advancing the methodologies of environmental-economic accounts and in providing a forum for sharing national and international expertise in the field. The most notable accomplishments have been its contribution to the System of Environmental Economic Accounting Central Framework (SEEA-Central Framework) which was adopted as the international statistical standard for environmental economic accounts at the forty-third session of the United Nations Statistical Commission, and to the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting for Water (SEEA-Water), which was adopted as an interim international statistical standard at the thirty-eighth session of the United Nations Statistical Commission.

For more information: [London Group on Environmental Accounting](#)

## Engaging citizens to implement post-2015 development agenda



*Leading experts from academia, government and civil society organizations will meet in Paris, France, on 20-21 October at a meeting on Formal/Informal Institutions for Citizen Engagement for implementing the Post-2015 Development Agenda.*

The Expert Group Meeting, organized by UN DESA's Division for Public Administration and Development Management (DPADM) in collaboration with ESCWA, OECD and UNESCO, will examine ways in which governments can leverage opportunities for collaboration with non-State actors to better address sustainable development challenges. Engagement practices will be analyzed, including in contexts where institutions are under pressures due to conflict and its spillover effects. At the end of the Meeting, experts are expected to provide recommendations on ways to achieve greater coherence between formal and informal citizen engagement in development management.

## A New Public Engagement Framework

Particularly in the period after 2015 when the MDGs timeframe is up, governments will need to examine their frameworks and practices for better engaging citizens and the broad public. This will be necessary if they are to “ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels” as emphasized by the Open Working Group (OWG) on SDGs.

Meeting’s discussions on this topic will be informed by a background document distilling learnings from various forms of engagement through examples in Asia and North America. The paper argues that, considering, for example, the proposed SDG 1, which is to “End poverty in all its forms everywhere.” It takes little reflection to realize that such a goal will not be achieved by governments alone. Poverty is a complex condition whose causes reach into all parts of a community, from family relationships to conditions in the workplace.

Unsurprisingly, a sustainable solution to poverty will require effort and action from across the community, including governments, NGOs, businesses and individuals. For instance, governments must provide the right regulations, policies, programmes and services; businesses must pay fair wages and use fair hiring practices; NGOs must provide appropriate forms of relief; and families must provide support to individuals in need. Poverty reduction requires a community effort in which everyone must participate.

In view of this, the Meeting will examine ways in which governments can address increasingly complex realities, including those resulting from conflict, by leveraging opportunities for collaboration with non-State actors.

### Towards an alignment between formal and informal engagement

Experts will share experiences from around the world on ways of engaging non-State actors through formal and informal means. The Meeting will consist of an opening and a closing ceremony and a total of six plenary sessions. Discussions will focus on the options for participatory decision-making for implementing the post-2015 development agenda, as well as whether informal systems are a resilience mechanism or an obstacle to governance reform, particularly in post-conflict settings. The Meeting will also reflect upon engagement in the context of information and communication technology, social media and open government. It will then examine leadership requirements and changes in the public sector to enhance engagement for better service delivery and accountability.

The limits encountered by formal institutions when attempting to influence and tap into informal engagement systems will also be analyzed. At the end of the meeting, participants are expected to make recommendations on enhancing coherence between formal

and informal engagement and the framework to be provided by national policies.

For more information:

[Formal/Informal Institutions for Citizen Engagement for implementing the Post 2015 Development Agenda](#)

## Potential and challenges of big data



*International Conference on Big Data for Official Statistics will be held on 28-30 October in Beijing, China.*

Innovations in technology, broad use of electronic devices and the all-around generation of digital information bring fundamental changes to the availability of real-time information, such as data from GPS devices, from mobile phones or from social media. These high-volume and sometimes loosely structured data sources, commonly referred to as Big Data, are different from conventional data sources for official statistics, and have many challenges in their application. The business case still needs to be made for many statistical offices if, why and how Big Data are useful for official statistics.

The potential of Big Data sources resides in their timely (sometimes real-time) availability of large amounts of data. The traditional data sources, such as household and business surveys are often costly and slow in the production of statistics. Big Data could supplement, reduce or replace such data collections. However, the statistical community is conscious of the fact that in order to be able to take advantage of these innovative data sources, it needs to adequately address issues pertaining to methodology, quality, technology, legislation, privacy, management and finance. It is also of utmost importance to create an environment where public trust in the use of Big Data for official statistics is established and where privacy and confidentiality of personal information can be assured.

The statistical community has recognized the potential use of big data for official statistics. The UN Statistical Commission therefore established in March 2014 a global working group mandated to provide strategic vision, direction and coordination of a global programme on Big Data for official statistics, to promote practical use of sources of Big Data for official statistics, while finding solutions for their challenges, and to promote capacity building and sharing of experiences in this respect. Currently, mainly developed countries have started using various Big Data sources, such as Mobile phone data,

Traffic loop data, Twitter data and Satellite imagery. Whereas national circumstances can be fairly unique, the objective of the Conference and of the global working group is to generalize the use of such Big Data sources to other countries, especially also in developing parts of the world. The Conference will bring together statisticians, data scientists and academia, who are interested in making Big Data sources useful for statistical applications.

For more information: [International Conference on Big Data for Official Statistics](#)

## Developing capacity for e-participation



*In 2013, the Development Management Branch (DMB) of UN DESA's Division for Public Administration and Development Management (DPADM) launched the project entitled "Developing capacity for e-Participation: Engaging citizens in development policy and decision-making*

*processes through Information Communication Technologies (ICTs)".*

Funded under the Development Account, the project emphasizes governments' use of e-participation – engagement via electronic means – to bring citizens into the development policy-making process and improve the delivery of public services.

The linchpin of the project is a survey tool developed by DMB known as 'METEP', the Measurement and Evaluation Tool for Engagement and e-Participation. Substantial input for its realization was derived in part from the experiences and best practices of international policymakers, experts and practitioners on e-participation, gathered by DMB during a seminar in Geneva in July 2013.

A dynamic self-assessment and recommendation guide, METEP is aimed at both national and local government officials. It seeks to raise awareness of the benefits of e-participation and increase the deployment of e-participation strategies by government agencies in charge of development policy. The most critical phase of DMB's project will be the roll-out of METEP over the course of national capacity building workshops in select developing countries. The first of these is projected to take place in Kazakhstan in October 2014, concurrently with the 3rd Global e-Government Forum, with two more to follow in Kenya and Indonesia this year.

Training on METEP provided to government officials during the workshops, as well as future field advisory services, will contribute to national capacity development for harnessing e-participation – to ensure development management becomes more citizen-centric, demand-driven and realistic.

For more information: [UN DESA's Division for Public Administration and Development Management \(DPADM\)](#)

## Connecting continents for enhanced multi-stakeholder Internet governance



*The theme of the 9th Internet Governance Forum (IGF), which took place on 2-5 September in Istanbul, was 'Connecting Continents for Enhanced Multi-stakeholder Internet Governance'. More than 3,500 participants (approximately 2,400 on-site*

*and 1,100 online) from more than 140 countries attended, from governments, the technical community, civil society, private sector, media and academia.*

It was the most attended IGF to date and can be compared to the 8th IGF in Bali, where over 2,000 participants from 111 countries attended. The official hashtag was tweeted more than 40,000 times and reached more than 29 million twitter users. For the 8th IGF, the official hashtag reached an estimated 10 million users.

Mr. Thomas Gass, the Assistant Secretary-General (ASG) for Policy Coordination and Inter-Agency Affairs, represented the United Nations. The ASG made a statement at the High-Level Leaders Meeting preceding the IGF, on capacity building for economic development, organized by the host Government. He also opened the 9th IGF.

The main sessions and workshops addressed a wide range of Internet governance issues under the sub-themes of: Policies Enabling Access; Content Creation, Dissemination and Use; Internet as an Engine for Growth & Development; IGF & The Future of the Internet Ecosystem; Enhancing Digital Trust; Internet and Human Rights; Critical Internet Resources; and Emerging Issues.

The NETmundial Initiative announced by the World Economic Forum (WEF) and ICANN in late August was also discussed in Istanbul. The IGF presented an excellent opportunity for WEF



representatives to hear from diverse stakeholders. “NETmundial Initiative needs to be more inclusive, transparent, focused, and it should not duplicate or undermine existing efforts” was the common message delivered by the majority of the IGF stakeholders.

The IANA transition and ICANN’s broader accountability were also hot topics and were featured in a main session and a number of workshops. In the main session entitled “Enhancing ICANN Accountability and Governance Town Hall Meeting”, participants found an opportunity for an open dialogue to address and clarify any concerns regarding to enhancing ICANN’s accountability and governance process.

Initiatives to produce tangible outputs that catalogue successful policies and activities, identified during the IGF, were introduced. Among several, they included five Best Practices Forums: online child protection; regulation and mitigation of unwanted communications or spam; coordinated responses to cyber-security threats; development of local content; and multi-stakeholder participation mechanisms. The draft Chair’s Summary was distributed at the Closing Ceremony, at the initiative of Ambassador Janis Karklins (IGF’s Multi-stakeholder Advisory Group Chair).

There was a strong support for further strengthening the IGF and extending its current mandate that ends in 2015. The donors also echoed similar support during a meeting that took place on 4 September. A multi-stakeholder group of participants drafted a statement that it intends to submit to the United Nations, requesting the renewal of the IGF mandate with a longer cycle.

The Internet Governance Forum Support Association was also officially launched during the ninth IGF at its inaugural General Assembly meeting in Istanbul. The establishment of the IGF Support Association is an initiative of the Internet Society, with the main objectives of promoting and supporting the global IGF, as well as the national and regional IGF initiatives.

Participants in a range of workshops kept the links between human rights and Internet policy front and center, and the week culminated in the launch of the African Declaration on Internet Rights and Freedoms, a document developed through extensive multi-stakeholder processes to promote human rights in Internet policy in Africa, and to serve as an advocacy and organizing tool.

### **About the IGF**

The IGF was established as an outcome of the World Summit on the Information Society (Geneva, 2003 and Tunis, 2005). DESA has been convening annual meetings since its inception in 2006. While not a decision-making body, the IGF has become the major multi-stakeholder platform for discussions on internet-related policy issues.

The United Nations General Assembly agreed in December 2010 to extend the IGF’s mandate for another five years. In 2015, the General Assembly will assess the progress with the input of the broader WSIS review process that is scheduled to take place in December 2015. The 10th IGF, the last meeting under the current mandate, will be held in Joao Pessoa, Paraiba, Brazil from 10 to 14 November 2015.

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

## Capacity development

### Collecting data on economic activities



*UN DESA's Statistics Division is organizing a workshop on the implementation of the International Standard Classification of All Economic Activities (ISIC) Rev.4 in cooperation with the Economic and Social Commission of Western Asia (ESCWA) and the Arab Institute for*

*Training and Research in Statistics (AITRS) on 28 September – 1 October in Amman, Jordan.*

The workshop aims at assisting countries in the region and will cover the overall organization of an update process, development of national classifications, the recoding of the business register and issues of backcasting of statistical series. UN DESA's Statistics Division will also provide direct assistance to the Companies Control Department of Jordan in the update of the business registration process, implementing ISIC Rev.4.

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

### Improving public administration capacity



*Within the framework of the overall theme of the 2014 United Nations Global e-Government Forum (GeGF) in Astana, Kazakhstan, 6-8 October, 'Smart Governance for Sustainable Development: New Opportunities for Partnership in the Networked Society', four*

*interrelated sub-themes will be discussed in the workshop in order to enhance public administration capacity.*

Session 1 on "Trends and Emerging Issues of Smart Government" will reflect the perspectives of international organizations on recent e-Government development trends, challenges and emerging topics; Session 2 on "Strategic Policy-Making Aspects of Implementing Smart Government" will deal with cases of leading countries on the decision making progress that Governments go through when implementing Smart Government; Session 3 on

"Whole-of-Government Approach" will explore the issues that make up Business Intelligence and how governments can be enhanced with the proper implementation of Business Intelligent technologies ; Session 4 on "Open Government" will look at the importance of managing and reusing data, and how this is changing the relationship between citizens and the public sector.

For more information:

[Workshop on Smart Governance for Sustainable Development: New Opportunities for Partnership in the Networked Society](#)

### Developing governance capacities for sustainable development



*The high-level International Workshop on "Developing Government and Governance Capacities for Sustainable Development" is a joint capacity-development initiative of UN DESA and UNDP, which is scheduled to take place in Yerevan, Armenia*

*from 8 to 10 October.*

The Rio+20 Outcome Document acknowledged the essential role of good governance, both at national and international levels, for sustainable development and it underscored the importance of international cooperation in addressing the persistent challenges related to sustainable development for all, particularly in developing countries. The Document also emphasized the need for enhanced capacity building for sustainable development, including the provision of much needed capacity-building for strengthening institutional capacities and developing human resources, including training, exchange of experiences and expertise, knowledge transfer and technical assistance.

The Workshop, which targets public policy makers and other stakeholders, will endeavour to strengthen capacity of developing countries with economies in transition to shift policies toward planning public administration structures and systems in a more sustainable way, focusing on specific institutional and human resource requirements.

For more information:

[The high-level International Workshop on "Developing Government and Governance Capacities for Sustainable Development"](#)

## Ensuring consistent use of International Standard Industrial Classification



*UN DESA's Statistics Division will host a meeting of the Technical Subgroup for the International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities (TSG-ISIC) on 14-16 October in New York.*

The meeting will discuss necessary clarifications for ISIC Rev.4, such as the treatment of Factoryless Goods Producers (FGPs) in the classification, to ensure a consistent application of ISIC interpretation and application rules.

The International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities (ISIC) is the international reference classification of productive activities. Its main purpose is to provide a set of activity categories that can be utilized for the collection and reporting of statistics according to such activities. Since the adoption of the original version of ISIC in 1948, the majority of countries around the world have used ISIC as their national activity classification or have developed national classifications derived from ISIC.

ISIC has therefore provided guidance to countries in developing national activity classifications and has become an important tool for comparing statistical data on economic activities at the international level. Wide use has been made of ISIC, both nationally and internationally, in classifying data according to kind of economic activity in the fields of economic and social statistics, such as for statistics on national accounts, demography of enterprises, employment and others. In addition, ISIC is increasingly used for non-statistical purposes.

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

## Enhancing knowledge in census recommendations



*UN DESA's Statistics Division will conduct the Workshop on Revision 3 of Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses and Census Data Evaluation, in collaboration with Arab Institute for Training and Research in Statistics, on*

*19-23 October in Amman, Jordan.*

The workshop will bring together statisticians from twenty-two countries and representatives of international organizations. It aims to increase the knowledge of government statisticians on the revised international principles and recommendations for population and housing censuses; enhance the knowledge of the staff on importance of evaluation of the quality of census data and identification of types of errors in census data through using demographic techniques; and improve their capability in identifying gaps and challenges in applying international standards in conducting population and housing censuses and improving the quality of data collected through the census. The workshop also aims to provide a platform for participants to share their national experiences and learn from good practices.

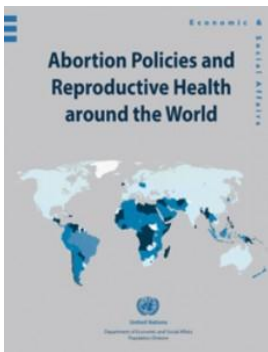
For more information:

[Calendar of events of UN DESA's Statistics Division](#)

## Publications and Websites

### Technical reports

#### Abortion Policies and Reproductive Health around the World



Produced by UN DESA's Population Division, the report provides information on changes in legal grounds for abortion between 1996 and 2013. It also includes latest available information on government policies and programmes related to reproductive health.

- [To download](#)

#### MDG Gap Task Force Report 2014: The State of the Global Partnership for Development



Targets for the Millennium Development Goals related to the global partnership to improve people's lives and end poverty show mixed results on providing the poorest developing countries with greater access to aid, trade, debt relief, essential medicines and technologies, according to the MDG Gap Task Force Report 2014 launched on 18 September.

The lives of millions of people worldwide have improved due to concerted efforts – at the global, regional, national and local levels – to achieve the eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Recent statistics show that with many MDG targets already met – including reducing poverty, increasing access to clean drinking water, improving the lives of slum dwellers, and achieving gender parity in primary school – many more targets are within reach by the end of 2015. However, much unfinished business remains.

The MDG Gap Task Force Report 2014, entitled, “The State of the Global Partnership for Development,” tracks delivery on commitments listed under Millennium Development Goal 8—the global partnership for development. Goal 8 was created as a call to developed countries to extend specific types of support to developing countries to help them achieve the other seven MDGs, which include targets on reducing poverty, hunger and child and maternal mortality, and increasing access to education, and environmental sustainability.

- [For more information](#)
- [To download](#)

#### United Nations E-Government Survey 2014 is now available in Chinese



UN DESA's Division for Public Administration and Development officially launched the 2014 edition of the United Nations E-Government Survey in Chinese on 12 August 2014 in Beijing. By introducing the publication, Wu Hongbo, USG of DESA, gave the keynote address to more than 200 senior officials from ministries responsible for e-government and ICT in China, research and academia

institutions, industry representatives and major Chinese news agencies. During the launch event, the Chief of e-Government Branch of DPADM Mr. Vincenzo Aquaro made a presentation on the Methodology of the Survey and introduced key findings and ranking of 193 United Nations Member States based on the results of the Survey.

The publication presents a systematic assessment of the use and potential of information and communication technologies (ICTs) to transform the public sector by enhancing its efficiency, effectiveness, transparency, accountability, as well as access to public services and citizen participation.

The Chinese translation of the Survey was provided by the Chinese Academy of Governance in effort to give more exposure of the Survey and to reach out to target audiences in the region more efficiently.

- [For more information](#)
- [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.

#### Vol. LXVIII – No. 8, August 2014

In addition to the regular recurrent monthly tables, this issue includes quarterly and annual tables: Retail price indices relating to living expenditures of United Nations Officials; Earnings in manufacturing, by sex; Total exports and imports by regions: volume and unit value indices and terms of trade.

- [For more information](#)

### 2013 International Trade Statistics Yearbook, Volume I Trade by Country



This publication provides an analytical, condensed and integrated view of the international merchandise trade and trade in services up to the year 2013 by means of brief descriptive text, concise data tables and charts. The information presented in the publication gives an insight into the latest trends of trade in goods and services of around 175 countries (or areas) in the world.

In contrast to editions prior to 2013 which featured only merchandise trade, the International Trade Statistics Yearbook Volume I —Trade by Country now includes integrated presentation of international merchandise trade and trade in services.

The publication is aimed at both specialist trade data users and common audience at large. The presented data, charts and analyses will benefit policy makers, government agencies, non-government organizations, civil society organizations, journalists, academics, researchers, students, businesses and anyone who is interested in trade issues. The information and analyses are presented in a way which can be comprehended by non-expert users of statistics.

- [For more information](#)
- [UN Comtrade Database](#)
- [UN Service Trade](#)

## Outreach material

### Youth Flash Newsletter

Published by UN DESA's Division for Social Policy and Development Focal Point on Youth, the September issue puts the spotlight on the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States. The newsletter is prepared with input from UN offices, agencies, and from youth organizations around the world.

- [Read full issue](#)

### 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 September issue is now available highlighting that disability rights worldwide have reached a major milestone after the CRPD was ratified by the 150th country. Guyana became the latest state to ratify the Convention, which has been in force since 2008 and has seen one of the fastest rates of ratification of any of the international human rights treaties. The issue features input from UN offices, agencies, funds and programmes, and civil society.

- [Read full issue](#)

### DESA NGO News

The latest issue provides 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. The newsletter is published by UN DESA's NGO Branch.

- [Read full issue](#)

### **Issue 23: UN Bimonthly Publications Review**

Produced by the UN-Water Decade Programme on Advocacy and Communication (UNWDPAC), every two months this review includes the latest publications produced by United Nations agencies and programmes on issues related to water and sanitation.

- [Read full issue](#)

### **Natural Resources Forum, Special section on oceans**

Prepared by UN DESA's Division for Sustainable Development, this special section provides valuable background information for the ongoing oceans-related processes and discussions. It contains two papers which are devoted to the analysis of the multitude of ecosystem services provided by oceans and their benefits for local communities. In addition, the authors enumerate possible stressors threatening these services as well as possible activities that can be undertaken to deal with these challenges while also strengthening the understanding and management of marine and coastal ecosystems.

The third paper deals with the particular challenges faced by remote, poor, coastal and island communities and elaborates on an innovative approach of using environmentally friendly, non-fuel vessels which could possibly be used to solve difficulties encountered through conventional shipping methods.

- [For more information](#)

## **Discussion papers**

### **Monthly Briefing on the World Economic Situation and Prospects No. 70**

Prepared by UN DESA's Development Policy and Analysis Division, the September issue examines the reciprocal economic sanctions on both the Russian Federation and the European Union; how setting monetary policy within the US is challenged by the labor market situation, and how Brazil is falling into recession, while India expands faster than expected.

- [To download](#)

## **Meetings records**

### **Compendium of Recommendations on Population and Development, Vols. I and II:**

- Volume I compares recommendations emanating from the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development with the resolutions from the Commission on Population and Development since 1994. [To download](#)
- Volume II provides a compilation of recent outcome documents of five regional conferences on population and development held in preparation for the review of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development beyond 2014. [To download](#)

# Comings and Goings

## Comings

*The following staff members were promoted in September:*

Robert Clive Altshuler, Senior Economic Affairs Officer,  
Development Policy and Analysis Division

Marie-Erdwine Antoine, Research Assistant, Office for ECOSOC  
Support and Coordination

Patrick Gerland, Chief of Section, Population Division

L. G. Gonzalez Morales, Statistician, Statistics Division

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

Ingo Pitterle, Economic Affairs Officer, Development Policy and  
Analysis Division

Oksana Yarashuk, Programme Assistant, Statistics Division

# Calendar

## October

### **International Day of Older Persons**

1 October

### **2014 United Nations Global e-Government Forum**

6-8 October, Astana, Kazakhstan

### **Workshop on Smart Governance for Sustainable Development: New Opportunities for Partnership**

6-8 October, Astana, Kazakhstan

### **Second Committee of the 69<sup>th</sup> session of the General Assembly**

7 October - 11 December, New York

### **Third Committee of the 69<sup>th</sup> session of the General Assembly**

7 October - 11 December, New York

### **26<sup>th</sup> Meeting of Inter-Agency and Expert Group Meeting on MDG indicators (IAEG-MDG)**

7-9 October, Geneva

### **High-level Workshop on “Developing Government and Governance Capacities for Sustainable Development”**

8-10 October, Yerevan, Armenia

### **Expert Group on International Statistical Classifications**

14-16 October, New York

### **London Group on Environmental Accounting**

15-17 October, New Delhi, India

### **International Day for the Eradication of Poverty**

17 October

### **Workshop on Revision 3 of Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses and Census Data Evaluation**

19- 23 October, Amman, Jordan

### **CERN’s 60th anniversary**

20 October, New York

### **Expert Group Meeting on Formal/Informal Institutions for Citizen Engagement for Implementing the Post 2015 Development Agenda**

20-21 October, Paris, France

### **Tenth Session of the Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters**

27-31 October, Geneva

### **International Conference on Big Data for Official Statistics**

28-30 October, Beijing, China

**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.**