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Protecting the rights of indigenous peoples

There are over 370 million indigenous peoples living in 90 countries across the globe. Protecting and advancing their rights have been at the heart of Tonya Gonnella Frichner’s mission for almost three decades, serving as an attorney and former member of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues. In DESA News, she shares past gains and hopes for the future.



With the upcoming 12th Session of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues taking place on 20-31 May, and with the world conference more than a year away, DESA News got an exclusive opportunity to meet with Ms. Tonya Gonnella Frichner.

Ms. Gonnella Frichner has an impressive track record, working as an attorney since 1987 to secure the rights of indigenous peoples worldwide. She is the President and Founder of the American Indian Law Alliance and comes from the Onondaga Nation, Snipe Clan, based in Syracuse about 250 miles North-West of New York City.

During the past 20 years, she has sought to make the voices of indigenous peoples heard at some of the major UN Conferences. She also paved the way for the establishment of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues in 2000 and the adoption of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in 2007. From 2008 until 2010, Ms. Gonnella Frichner served as a member of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous issues and she was its North-American Regional Representative.

Long history of involvement

“I began my work in 1987, after I finished law school and it was the Iroquis Confederacy, the Haudenosaunee, that brought me along and mentored me and who took me to my first meeting at the UN in Geneva,” Ms. Gonnella Frichner said. “The Haudenosaunee have been doing this work for many, many years,” she added, sharing that it was in 1923, when a Cayuga Chief was sent to Geneva for the first time to discuss the situation on his territory.

Ms. Gonnella Frichner described the importance of the nation-to-nation relationship that had been established early on by her

community, as European settlers started to arrive at their shores. "That's when our treaties were established, our diplomacy," she said. For her community, it was a natural step seeking justice at the United Nations. "In 1977 our people understood that there was a Universal Declaration of Human Rights, but were confused as to why it did not apply to indigenous peoples," she explained.

In 1992, she was involved in the first Earth Summit and she saw the surge in interest and participation of civil society. "Civil society should have a voice, and should be speaking with governments and should be holding them accountable on different levels," she said, also pointing to the fact that indigenous peoples have taken a leading role in seeing civil society more involved at the UN.

Paving the way for UN Declaration

Ms. Gonnella Frichner also depicted the 14-year-long process that finally led to the creation and adoption of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in 2007. "There were difficulties along the way, especially around the right to self determination," she said. Getting the language right and reaching consensus also for the wording around the right to free, prior and informed consent, also involved a lot of work. "The article within the declaration that I am very proud of is the one protecting our treaties, agreements and other arrangements," she added.

The UN Declaration is a milestone for Ms. Gonnella Frichner's own Nation and she underscored the importance of its realization. "What our people would like to see is this declaration being implemented on a local and national level," she added.

The need for a broader and more encompassing forum later led the way to the creation of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues and for three years Ms. Gonnella Frichner served as its member. "I was assigned to write a preliminary study on the Doctrine of Discovery and its affect on indigenous peoples," she said. This Doctrine has throughout history led state actors to assert a sovereign dominant authority over indigenous peoples, ultimately resulting in the violation of their human rights. In 2012, the Permanent Forum addressed this issue as the main theme for its 11th session.

Critical matters for upcoming events and beyond

There are many important items on the agenda for the upcoming 12th Session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues to be held on 20-31 May. The implementation of the UN Declaration, education, health and culture – these are some of the topics at hand. There will also be a discussion on the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples which will be held at UN Headquarters in September next year.

"My hope is that it will continue its excellent work," said Ms. Gonnella Frichner, describing the Forum's important role addressing a number of issues related to social and economic development. "If we look at health, the statistics are very, very high against us and it has been agreed to that indigenous peoples are the most marginalized in the world and the most vulnerable.

Whether suffering from diabetes or tuberculosis, the list goes on and on," she said, adding that these statistics basically are the same in developing and developed countries.

"Education, the statistics are the same. Governments need to provide situations where education as a human right, is available to indigenous peoples. Education is important but including our life ways and our languages must be attached to that as well," she said.

Ms. Gonnella Frichner also underscored the vital role of culture and the need for it to be part of the domestic policies of governments. "When I think of culture I think of being in a room with 2,000 indigenous peoples all speaking different languages," she said smiling. "But when we are together, in our meetings, we are speaking one language," she added. "Our relationship to mother Earth is identical throughout indigenous communities."

When talking about next year's world conference, Ms. Gonnella Frichner expressed hope that the participation of indigenous peoples will be at a high-level, pointing to the strong commitment for this event shown by the past and current President of the General Assembly. Indigenous delegates will also gather for a meeting in Alta, Norway this June to look at the issues at hand and to draft a unified statement for the world conference.

Addressing poverty at core of priorities

When we discussed the development agenda beyond 2015 and some of the most important priorities, Ms. Gonnella Frichner emphasized the issue of poverty. "Poverty is the overarching theme if you will, that affects indigenous peoples when it comes to health, education, our youth, our women. It affects everything across the board." She also underscored the need for an inclusive process, ensuring indigenous peoples participation.

"Development in indigenous communities must be applied with the Declaration in mind," she said, explaining the importance of using it as a framework to look at development, poverty and its affect on all Indigenous peoples within different regions. "It must be applied, seriously, not only on a local, national, but international level," she said.

Involvement of future generations key

Playing a crucial part in world matters is today's youth, which makes up for about 40 per cent of the global population, with 67 million of them representing the indigenous youth community. "We have seen indigenous youth take on a very strong role and make very strong statements," Ms. Gonnella Frichner said, highlighting that one of their main concerns relates to climate change and global warming.

"This world is going to be left to them, they are our future leaders, so our responsibility is to mentor those future leaders, and to bring them into the discussions," she said. "And that's not just for indigenous youth, that's for all youth throughout the world," she added. "As we say from the community that I'm

from, the Haudenosaunee, when our leaders sit in deliberation, when they are in counsel, their decisions are going to be made with the 7th generation in mind,” she explained.

Ms. Gonnella Frichner underscored the importance of this kind of approach. “So that we don’t stick with a quick fix, or something that will only last for 15 years. No it must be until that seventh generation has arrived. The world needs to be intact for them when they arrive and are here to take on the challenges of this world,” she concluded encouragingly.

[Watch the video interview with Ms. Tonya Gonnella Frichner](#)

For more information:

[The United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues](#)
[The 12th Session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues](#)
[The UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples](#)
[Onondaga Nation site](#)
[American Indian Law Alliance site](#)

Committee to decide on large number of NGO applications

The 2013 regular session of the Committee on NGOs was held earlier this year and saw a record number of applications from NGOs seeking consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). On 20-29 May, and on 7 June, the Committee will resume its session and make decisions about which NGOs to accept for general, special or roster consultative status.



As the Committee concluded its first session of the year on 8 February, 159 NGOs were recommended to be granted consultative status. The Committee will revisit this recommendation and also review the applications of a total of 246 new and 180 deferred applications by NGOs at the upcoming session.

Navid Hanif, Director of the Office for Economic and Social Council Support and Coordination in DESA, said the number of

NGO applications had never been higher. More than 600 of them, from all over the world, were submitted this year, which is double the number compared to last year.

NGOs play vital role for reaching development goals

Mr. Hanif also underscored the crucial role of NGOs and civil society in reaching the Millennium Development Goals and in helping to design Sustainable Development Goals, as well as a post-2015 development agenda. “The concerns of everyone, not least the world’s poor and marginalized, must be heard loud and clear,” Navid Hanif said. “Civil society is well placed to achieve this,” he added.

Established as a standing committee of ECOSOC in 1946, the Committee reports directly to the Council. Comprised of 19 members elected on the basis of geographical representation, the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations decides about the general, special or roster consultative status on the basis of an applicant’s mandate, governance and financials, among other criteria. Once accredited, NGOs can attend meetings of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and enjoy different levels of benefits, depending on their status.

Organizations enjoying general and special status can attend Council meetings and make oral statements, or circulate written statements. In addition, those with general status may recommend items for the Council’s provisional agenda. Roster status organizations can attend meetings, but submit statements only if requested by the Council or Secretary-General. Groups with general and special status must also submit a report every four years, which is also analyzed by the Committee. There are currently more than 3700 organizations with ECOSOC consultative status.

“The Committee’s work is seen as essential by many NGOs as ECOSOC consultative status provides important benefits, such as automatic accreditation to many intergovernmental meetings, as well as year-round access to the UN conference facilities in Geneva, Vienna and New York,” Navid Hanif said.

Wide range of work carried out across the globe

While the majority of applications still originate from Europe and North America, an increasing number of applications is being received from what is known as the developing world. This is a reflection of the clear trend towards globalization of civil society and, as the application process is entirely online, increased access to the Internet globally.

Most of the organizations now seeking consultative status work directly with social and economic issues. Representing all corners of the world, they operate focusing on sustainable development, improving living conditions and reducing poverty in rural areas, reaching educational equality, addressing racism and fighting HIV/AIDS. They also support health and social workers, promote women and girl’s rights, protect natural resources and biodiversity and foster civil society partnerships for development as well as the participation of youth.

For more information:
[DESA's NGO Branch](#)
[Civil society database](#)

Financing for sustainable development beyond 2015

While the world economy struggles to recover, the challenges and emerging issues of the global slowdown have affected developed and developing countries alike. With a focus to address these pressing issues, UN ECOSOC, the Bretton Woods institutions, the World Trade Organization (WTO) and the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) held a special high-level meeting on 22 April.



Taking place in the wake of the global economic crisis, the high-level event focused on ‘Coherence, coordination and cooperation in the context of financing for sustainable development and the post-2015 development agenda’. The meeting was addressed by Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, who inaugurated the newly renovated Economic and Social Council Chamber, saying, “let us use this new room for dynamic actions that will have an impact far beyond its walls to help suffering people. Together, we can make our world more just and equitable – and that will make it more peaceful.”

In his opening remarks, ECOSOC President Néstor Osorio called for greater coordination between the United Nations and the Bretton Woods institutions to achieve poverty reduction, trade growth and job creation. Mr. Osorio also stated that given the current high unemployment, geopolitical tensions and the possibility of a climate shock, there was a need for “more forceful and concerted policy actions at both national and international levels to mitigate major risks and ensure a stronger and sustained economic recovery.”

The Deputy Secretary-General called upon ECOSOC to play a crucial role in promoting dialogue among Member States on the

post-2015 development agenda, including the issue of financing for sustainable development.

World economic outlook and pursuit of MDGs

As reported in the World Economic Situation and Prospects (WESP) 2013, released by DESA’s Division for Development Policy and Analysis earlier this year, the world economy is still struggling to recuperate. Growth of world gross domestic product (GDP) is forecast to reach 2.4 per cent in 2013, constituting only a slight improvement from the estimated growth of 2.2 per cent in 2012, when the world economy saw a renewed slowdown synchronized across countries at every level of development. This economic downturn has affected the work of sustainable development projects, particularly the pace in reaching the MDG goals.

Since 2000, the MDG framework has helped galvanize international efforts towards the implementation of internationally agreed development goals. The implementation of the MDGs, and particularly MDG 8 on global partnerships for development, gained additional momentum with the outcome of the International Conference on Financing for Development, held in Monterrey, Mexico, in March 2002, which engendered immediate gains for financing the MDGs, particularly with regards to official development assistance.

During the event, the ECOSOC President also highlighted the importance of a “renewed global partnership” beyond 2015, calling for a new development agenda to be “more structural, inclusive and systematic.”

Strategies to effectively finance sustainable development

Clear and practical measures for implementing sustainable development progress were established to better inform policy decisions. The Rio+20 Conference recognized the need for significant mobilization of resources to promote all three pillars of sustainable development. For this purpose, governments agreed to establish an intergovernmental committee of experts to propose options for an effective sustainable development financing strategy. A dedicated working group under the UN System Task Team on the post-2015 development agenda was established with the objective of mobilizing inputs from the UN system in support of the committee’s work.

International cooperation remains important in facing the challenges for global development. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon proposed that a strengthened Ministerial Review should be a central venue for monitoring the implementation of the post-2015 development agenda. He also suggested that the biennial High-level Development Cooperation Forum, which had emerged as a mutual accountability forum within the United Nations system, “could further expand its role as a driver for greater national and global accountability in development cooperation by promoting mutual accountability as an overarching principle in the post-2015 development agenda.”

In her remarks, Ms. Shamshad Akhtar, DESA's Assistant Secretary-General for Economic Development, underscored the importance of an effective strategy to finance sustainable development in the follow-up to the outcome of the Rio+20 Conference. She suggested that, "foreign investors will play a significant role and serve to introduce innovation and technology and make sure that countries/companies that are bringing FDI, bring in the technology for sustainable development." She also urged for an increase of official development assistance (ODA) to the level of 0.7 per cent of national income of developed countries.

[Effective global governance system](#)

In addition, an effective system of global economic governance would also enhance the global partnership for development through ensuring the participation of all relevant global actors in international policy making and dialogue.

The international community must broaden and strengthen the involvement of developing countries within international economic decision-making while creating partnerships with relevant non-state actors, like the private sector and civil society, in activities and dialogue pertaining to development. An inclusive, flexible and coherent system for global economic governance is necessary at the national, regional and international levels.

Underscoring the importance of coherence, coordination, cooperation, Mr. Osorio pointed to the very basic goal of the international community's efforts, saying "as long as poverty exists our work will remain unfinished. Let there be no barrier to the heights in which we must soar. In the post-2015 agenda we have committed ourselves to eradicate poverty. We need to think horizontally rather than vertically."

[Watch the webcast of the event](#)

For more information:

[Special high-level meeting of ECOSOC with the Bretton Woods institutions, the World Trade Organization and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development](#)
[World Economic Situation and Prospects 2013](#)

Global Dialogue on Development

Exploring 'triple win' approaches to sustainable development

The Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) will hold an Integration Meeting on Sustainable Development on 13 May at UN Headquarters in New York



At the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), world leaders acknowledged the vital importance of an inclusive, transparent, strengthened and

effective multilateral system to better address the urgent global challenges of sustainable development.

In The Future We Want conference outcome document, world leaders also recognized the important role of the Economic and Social Council in achieving a balanced integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development.

“In order to fulfill this mandate, it is paramount that the Council acts as an effective platform to discuss and define concrete measures to articulate this vision into an integrated agenda,” ECOSOC President Néstor Osorio said in a recent meeting.

The Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) is taking action. The Council organized a Special Ministerial Meeting on 24 September 2012 at UN Headquarters in New York. On 13 May, the ECOSOC Integration Meeting will bring together policymakers, key stakeholders and UN system to examine how science, technology and innovation can contribute to the integration of the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development for triple-win solutions in the energy and agricultural sectors.

In particular, the meeting will explore the potential of energy and agricultural sectors in providing 'triple win' approaches to sustainable development. The meeting will seek to identify ways in which integrated policy actions, some of which may involve short-term trade-offs in one dimension, may result in longer-term benefits in all areas of development. It will also provide guidance on the integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development for building the future we want.

For more information:
[ECOSOC Integration Meeting](#)

Designing sustainable development goals

The intergovernmental Open Working Group (OWG) on sustainable development goals (SDG) held its second session on 17-19 April and will meet again on 22-24 May

The working group, called for in the Rio+20 Outcome Document convened its second meeting at UN Headquarters, bringing together members of the OWG, other Member States, representatives from the UN system and Major Groups.



Chaired by the Permanent Representatives of Kenya and Hungary, Macharia Kamau and Csaba Körösi, the session focused on conceptualizing the SDGs, the SDG process and on poverty eradication. The Co-Chairs defined the task of the OWG as “gradually crafting the backbone of the transformative agenda.”

One of the many points made during the discussion on the conceptual aspects of SDGs was that any unfinished business regarding the MDGs must be concluded. They should be learned from, built on, and serve as point of departure, said Co-Chair Kamau. And while the SDGs would have to do justice to the complexity of sustainable development and integrate its three dimensions, thereby addressing a significant gap of the MDGs, they should also maintain a key MDG success factor, namely simplicity. The SDGs should be “tweetable”, as one Delegate put it.

The discussion on poverty eradication was equally rich. Many countries saw this as core of the SDGs. There were varying opinions on whether the poverty goal should be a stand-alone goal, a cross cutting goal or both. But there was agreement on the multidimensionality of poverty and that this needs to be reflected in the SDGs.

The next session of the OWG is scheduled for 22-24 May 2013, and is tentatively set to cover food security and nutrition, sustainable agriculture, drought, desertification, land degradation and water and sanitation.

Webcasts of all six meetings of the second session, a summary of the concluding remarks of the co-chairs, statements and presentations as well as other information can be found on the sustainable development knowledge platform.

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

ECOSOC addresses international tax cooperation

The Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) will hold a one-day meeting to consider international cooperation in tax matters on 29 May



The Council will have before it a report of the Secretary-General on further progress achieved in strengthening the work of the Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters and its cooperation with concerned multilateral bodies and relevant regional and sub-regional organizations.

The meeting will also take a look at institutional arrangements to promote such cooperation, with participation of the representatives of national tax authorities.

The center piece of the morning session will be an official launch of the UN Practical Manual on Transfer Pricing for Developing Countries, followed by a panel discussion on “Transfer pricing challenges for developing countries”.

The afternoon session will feature a panel discussion on “Capacity development in tax matters”, with the participation of major international organizations active in the tax area, such as the UN, IMF, World Bank, OECD, the Inter-American Centre of Tax Administrations (CIAT) and the African Tax Administration Forum (ATAF).

Subsequently, an interactive discussion will be held on “Current issues in countering international tax avoidance and tax evasion”, which will include the discussion of issues of tax base erosion and profit shifting.

The ECOSOC meeting will be preceded by the Expert Group Meeting on Extractive Industries Taxation.

For more information:

[Special Meeting of ECOSOC on International Cooperation in Tax Matters](#)

Population Commission concludes 46th session

The Commission on Population and Development ended its session focusing on new trends in migration on 26 April

The Commission adopted a resolution on the session’s theme, “New trends in migration: demographic aspects”, that noted the increasing volume, scope, and



complexity of migration since the adoption of the Programme of Action of the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD).

The resolution recognized the contributions of migrants to the political, economic, social and cultural fabric of countries and called on states to promote and protect the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all migrants, both international and internal. It invited states to take practical measures to enhance the benefits of migration for development in both origin and destination countries, such as reducing the transfer costs of remittances, ensuring the portability of pensions and other social protections, and promoting circular and return migration.

The Secretary-General opened the Commission on 22 April, highlighting several goals in addressing international migration, including establishing safe, legal channels of migration; aligning migration policies to the demands of labour markets; addressing the problems faced by migrants with no legal status; and promoting integration of migrants into host societies.

In the Commission’s general debate, Member States reaffirmed their commitments to the goals and objectives of the ICPD Programme of Action and shared their national experiences with new migration trends. Delegates described a variety of challenges, such as dealing with large volumes of internal migration; providing services to rural-urban migrants; improving legal frameworks for emigration that regulate the placement of migrant workers overseas; large scale departure of health care workers; irregular migration; the vulnerability of migrants to crime, violence and exploitation; measures that criminalize migration or restrict the human rights of migrants; the cost of remittances; and efforts to engage diaspora communities in the development of their home countries. Delegates also stressed the positive impact of remittances for development and the quantitative significance of remittances at the global level.

Several delegations underscored migration as a key component of development strategies, highlighting the important role of the upcoming High-Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development. They stressed the importance of taking into account and integrating population dynamics, including migration, in the context of the post-2015 UN development agenda. Delegations also stressed linkages between the post-2015 process and the continued implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action, which the General Assembly extended beyond 2014 in its resolution 65/234.

The forty-seventh session of the Commission in 2014, which will be chaired by H.E. Mr. Jose Luis Cancela, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Uruguay, will mark the 20-year anniversary of the ICPD and will be devoted to the theme “Assessment of the status of implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development”.

For more information:

[46th Session of the Commission on Population and Development](#)

Partnering for innovative solutions for sustainable development

The Economic and Social Council held its annual Partnerships Forum on 24 April in preparation for its 2013 Annual Ministerial Review (AMR), in Geneva this July



The event attracted over 350 senior representatives from the private sector and foundations, as well as from NGOs and academia. It considered ways in which to partner in support of the AMR theme of promoting science, technology, innovation and culture for sustainable development.

A number of CEOs and heads of foundations participated, including the CEOs of Starwoods Hotels, Vestergaard Frandsen (public health tools), the END Fund (neglected tropical diseases) and Sumitomo Chemicals, as well as foundations like Western Union and the Luce and Pritzker Foundations, to name just a few.

The morning session included an inspiring address by Mr. Mo Ibrahim, Chair of the Mo Ibrahim Foundation, who stressed the importance of accountability amongst Governments for the fight against poverty and the achievement of the MDGs to be successful. Panel discussions examined ways for better use of technologies, innovation and knowledge sharing. The two policy dialogues discussed the importance of promoting partnerships to address issues such as job creation, food and water security, green growth and cleaner renewable energy technologies.

It was noted that a huge amount of innovation was already taking place to address sectoral issues, through mobile cash transfers and other innovative initiatives. Business opportunities needed to be created, especially for youth and women. Access to the internet needed to be recognized as a human right. The key role of education, particularly in science, technology, engineering and math, was stressed as paramount for sustainable development.

The afternoon featured four Partnerships Clinics, organized by WIPO, UNESCO, UNICEF and ITU respectively. The ITU Clinic noted that up to 35% of live births go unregistered, a fact that has been described as the single most critical development failure of the last 30 years.

Every child needed to be counted, and the midwife was in the best position to provide critical health information and to make sure that births were properly recorded. Government regulators, service providers, software engineers and midwives were brought together in the Clinic to devise an effective platform for ensuring solutions for providing such critical information.

A white paper would be drafted and presented to the Every Woman Every Child Alliance, the mHealth Alliance and the next

Broadband Commission meeting in September. The UNICEF Clinic focused on how to make Innovation and technology sustainable for education. It noted that innovation was not just about digital technology but also different ways of teaching or unusual partnerships. Risks needed to be taken as well as new approaches for meeting the many challenges that prevented children from getting a proper education. The main message emanating from the discussion was that there were no stumbling blocks – just stepping stones.

The WIPO Clinic highlighted the importance of addressing NTDs for achieving the MDGs, and that partnerships played a key role in helping eradicate them. WIPO's role in making available, through an open innovation platform, the availability of unpublished scientific and regulatory data and know-how for research on NTDs. The Clinic highlighted the need for innovative approaches and stronger partnerships. It was proposed that a political declaration was needed, similar to the one for HIV/AIDS. A Special Envoy on NTDs was also needed to address the problems faced by 1.4 billion voiceless and faceless people suffering from NTDs.

Finally, the UNESCO Clinic emphasized the importance of culture, innovation and technology in the development and dissemination of design solutions to address extreme poverty. Understanding local cultures and partnering to create socially and economically sustainable design solutions was critical, as well as the creation of regional alliances and collaborative networks. Most importantly, the need for learning from communities that devise innovative design solutions with limited resources in a challenging environment was deemed essential.

For more information:

[ECOSOC Partnership Forum](#)

Foundations engage in shaping post-2015 development

The role of philanthropic organizations in the post-2015 setting was in focus for the second ECOSOC Special Policy Dialogue event on 23 April

At this special event, discussing the role of foundations in international development cooperation, philanthropic organizations agreed to further engage in shaping a shared vision of the post-2015 development agenda and the renewal of the global partnership for development.



The Office for ECOSOC Support and Coordination, in partnership with UNDP, the OECD Global Network of Foundations Working for Development (netFWD) and the Worldwide Initiative for Grantmaker Support (WINGS), co-organized this special event with more than 60 Northern and Southern foundations, including Rockefeller, Gates, Mott and Sawiris. It is part of an ongoing effort to support philanthropic

engagement in development and to accelerate MDGs implementation.

The event explored how the growing philanthropic sector, with its diverse innovative and risk-taking practices, can further leverage and increase its development cooperation activities, particularly by strengthening partnerships and helping shape the global development agenda beyond 2015.

To complement long-term efforts by other stakeholders, philanthropic contributions to development should go beyond strategic investments to solve specific problems. “As for all development partners, it is crucial to ensure that philanthropic organizations’ activities align with national development priorities,” said Thomas Stelzer, DESA’s Assistant-Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Inter-Agency Affairs.

Participants also observed that some forms of philanthropic engagement may be better suited than others to reach the poorest and most vulnerable populations.

To facilitate a more structured engagement with foundations in the post-2015 context, and to fully harness their potential to effect change, it was suggested that good practices of multi-stakeholder partnerships and information on the work of foundations could be collected and more widely shared.

ECOSOC, with its biennial Development Cooperation Forum (DCF), was asked to play this role, as well as to address how foundations and member States can develop common ways of monitoring, sharing knowledge and accounting for results.

The DCF was also identified as legitimate platform to discuss how a renewed global partnership for development could effectively engage philanthropic organizations, together with the broad range of other development cooperation actors.

A [forthcoming DCF High-level symposium](#) in Addis Ababa (6-7 June) will provide an opportunity for foundations and others to feed their lessons learned – from successes and failures – in development into the discussion on the purposes, principles, features of a renewed global partnership for development and a monitoring and accountability framework for the post-2015 era.

The President of the Council will also convey key messages to Ministers attending the High-level Segment of the 2013 Substantive Session of ECOSOC. It will also feed into the Ministerial meeting of the Busan global partnership and discussions of the OECD netFWD initiative.

For more information:

[The role of philanthropic organizations in the post-2015 setting](#)

ECOSOC, BWIs, WTO and UNCTAD attend spring meeting

The 2013 Special high-level meeting of ECOSOC with the BWIs, WTO and UNCTAD addressed the overall theme of “Coherence, coordination and cooperation in the context of financing for sustainable development and the post-2015 development agenda” on 22 April



The central feature of the meeting focusing on the “World economic situation and prospects in the wake of the world financial and economic crisis”, was accompanied by debates on financing sustainable development, leveraging private capital, outcomes of the Rio+20 and global partnerships.

ECOSOC will play a crucial role in promoting dialogue among Member States on the post-2015 development agenda, including the issue of financing for sustainable development, and renewed commitment for the Monterrey Consensus and Doha Declaration, underpinning the global partnership for development.

Challenges such as climate change, growing inequality in many countries, and continued risks posed by the financial sector have emerged. In particular, the financial crisis exposed flaws of the international financial system. Although efforts have been made to address those risks, additional efforts are necessary.

Improving the cooperation between the UN and BWIs through coordination on the ground in the area of capacity-building, democratic governance, statistics and gender equality is necessary in maintaining a global partnership.

The World Bank presented its perspective on the post-2015 development agenda and emphasis was placed on the need to enhance the impact of available resources and leverage additional funds, in particular from the private sector. The speaker pointed out that even though ODA declined in real terms, it continues to remain important in terms of leveraging other flows, especially in fragile states.

The President of the Trade and Development Board of UNCTAD emphasized the importance of trade as an engine of development and highlighted the need for expeditious and successful realization of the development objectives of the Doha Round of multilateral trade negotiations.

The Vice President and Corporate Secretary of the World Bank reported on the outcome of the meeting of the Development Committee, held during the previous weekend. The Committee endorsed two goals: (i) to end extreme poverty within a generation and (ii) to promote shared prosperity.

In this context, the importance of cooperation between the World Bank and the UN was emphasized. The Deputy Secretary

of the IMF reported on the outcome of the meeting of the International Monetary and Financial Committee and the Director of the Development Division of WTO on the present state of the Doha Round of multilateral trade negotiations and prospects for the forthcoming Ministerial Conference in Bali, Indonesia. He highlighted progress achieved on several issues, including trade facilitation, agriculture and specific issues for the LDCs.

The work of the Intergovernmental Committee on a sustainable development financing strategy will provide an important contribution to formulating a coherent mechanism. It was emphasized that the international commitments, especially those on ODA, should be met. Public resources will have to come from a variety of international, regional and national sources. However, given the size of financing needs for sustainable development, it is clear that official sources of financing will not be sufficient.

It was highlighted that FDI rose only moderately in 2013 and that the overall increase is slower than pre-crisis levels. At the same time, transnational corporations are sitting on record amounts of cash reserves. The challenge is to mobilize FDI for inclusive, responsible and green growth.

The post-2015 development agenda should be rooted in an effective and inclusive system of global economic governance. It is necessary to have greater accountability, cooperation and effective and coherent policy-making among Member States with regard to the framing, monitoring and implementation of the global partnership for development.

Strengthening the involvement of developing countries in international economic decision-making and enhance engagement and partnerships with non-state actors in activities and dialogue pertaining to development is imperative in moving forward. These efforts would ensure that the post-MDG 8 framework is anchored in a more inclusive, flexible and coherent system for global economic governance.

For more information:

[Special high-level meeting of ECOSOC with the Bretton Woods institutions, the World Trade Organization and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development](#)

Harmony with Nature dialogue focuses on sustainable economic models and the rights of Nature

The Third Interactive Dialogue of the General Assembly on Harmony with Nature took place at UN Headquarters on Monday 22 April

This year's discussion focused on different economic approaches to further a more ethical basis for the relationship between humanity and the Earth. Several participants stressed that both a new



economic model as well as rights for Nature were necessary for sustainable development.

At the beginning of the dialogue, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon referred to it as a “chance to reaffirm our collective responsibility to promote harmony with nature.” He said we must confront the hard truth that our planet is under threat. “Unsustainable exploitation of natural resources – often driven by greed – is eroding our planet’s fragile ecosystems”, said the Secretary-General, pointing to loss of biodiversity, depletion of fish stocks and acidification of oceans.

But he also saw hope, referring to the millions of people around the world who are recognizing this problem as part of a growing movement for sustainable development. “More and more governments are hearing their calls for action” he said, giving as examples Bolivia, which has adopted a legal framework that specifically protects “Mother Earth”, and Ecuador, whose Constitution recognizes the rights of Nature.

The President of the General Assembly, Vuk Jeremic, noted that “as we consume our natural resources at an increasingly faster rate than we can replenish them, we have unwittingly begun a massive experiment with the planet’s ability to support our continued existence.”

In the course of the interactive dialogue, Ms. Linda Sheehan, Executive Director at the Earth Law Center, California, Mr. Ian Mason, Principal at the School of Economic Science, London, Dr. Fander Falconi, National Secretary of Development Planning of Ecuador, and Dr. Jon Rosales, Associate Professor of Environmental Studies at St. Lawrence University, New York, discussed a number of approaches to further harmony with Nature.

Mr. Mason stressed that humanity, when it comes to its relation with earth, needs to restrain the abuse of power and the worst excesses by recognizing rights for Nature and enforcing them through laws. “A simple duty of care for the Earth could apply to individuals, corporations and governments alike,” he said.

The importance of rights for Nature and a new economic paradigm were also highlighted by Dr. Falconi. He said that not only humans have rights, but other species as well: “Guaranteeing plants and animals the right of being perpetuated is central”. He noted that the deterioration of the planet’s physical condition is challenging mankind and that a new economics is necessary, one that results in prosperity and development without growth.

Traditional cultures that are already living within Nature’s limits were the focus of the bottom-up option for sustainable development outlined by Dr. Rosales. Many indigenous cultures whose subsistence activities are dictated by the cycles of Nature have existed for a long time and are already sustainable, he noted.

This kind of traditional knowledge and culture should be enabled and supported. “Such an approach offers relief from trying to find a grand solution to sustainable development – it focuses on what’s already working”, he explained.

Ms. Sheehan said that our current economic paradigm needs to be rejected and the rights of the natural world acknowledged. She stressed that we currently try to “contort the environment, and increasingly ourselves, to fit within our economic model.” But we should instead recognize the economy’s place as servant to humans and the Earth, not the master of both, she said.

For more information:

[Third Interactive Dialogue of the General Assembly on Harmony with Nature](#)

Forest Forum ends endorsing measures that ensure priority to forest issues beyond 2015

The 197 country members of the United Nations Forum on Forests concluded their two-week session in Istanbul, Turkey, on 19 April



The session ended with an agreement on a series of measures aimed at improving sustainable management of forests and ensuring that forest issues will continue to have priority in the process to define the United Nations development agenda after 2015.

The Forum calls on national Governments to take a range of actions – from substantive data collection, measuring the full value of forest functions, products and services, and addressing the causes of deforestation and forests degradation, to improving participation of local communities, including indigenous peoples, in the management of forests. Countries also agreed, at the global and national levels, to mobilize additional resources to support sustainable forest management activities.

The outcome calls on countries to further integrate forests into their national development strategies and to strengthen legal frameworks and governance, including land tenure rights, in order to realize the full economic potential of the forests.

While recognizing that there is no single solution to meet all forest financing needs, the Forum agreed that multiple sources of financing, at the national, regional and international levels was needed from multiple sources, public and private, including consideration of a voluntary global forest fund.

There was also agreement that the option of establishing a new Global Environment Facility (GEF) focal area on forests should be considered and invited GEF to strengthen its support for forests in its next replenishment period, which starts in 2014.

The Istanbul session of the Forum follows a strong decision by countries at Rio+20, held last June in Rio de Janeiro, to support

action on forests, recognizing that forests play a major role in promoting sustainable development, which supports economic and social development while protecting the environment.

Countries agreed that Member States should “fully integrate forests into the discussions on the outcomes of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) and the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015, taking into account the vital role and significant contributions of the conservation and sustainable management of all types of forests and trees outside forests for achieving sustainable development and poverty eradication.”

DESA’s Under-Secretary-General Wu Hongbo said: “Countries came to Istanbul with the aim of halting deforestation and forest degradation and enhance sustainable forest management to increase economic, social and environmental benefits, to all of society. The results of the Forum show that countries are serious about implementing the agreements reached at Rio+20.” He added: “The outcome of the UN Forum on Forests is a major step forward in global efforts to implement sustainable development.”

“There is now greater recognition than ever before that forests are essential to economic development and sustainable development,” said Jan McAlpine, Director of the Secretariat for the Forum. “In this historic meeting, countries broke new ground and agreed to take actions that demonstrate the need to sustainably manage our forests so that they can continue to be a source of livelihoods, broader economic development, including clean air, clean water and biodiversity — all leading to poverty eradication.”

More than 130 countries attended the Forum, including at least 50 who were represented at the ministerial level. All told, there were over 3,000 delegates, representatives of non-governmental organizations and civil society groups, press, and local staff participating in the Forum.

The Forum also featured the winners of the “Forests for People Awards”, which honoured “Forest Heroes” — five individuals who made outstanding contributions to forests and the communities that rely on them — as well as the winners of the International Short Forest Film Festival and the International Forest Photography contest.

“The Awards ceremony highlighted the idea that the discussion about forests is a discussion about people,” Jan McAlpine said. “People need forests and forests need people to act sustainably and responsibly.”

For more information:

[United Nations Forum on Forests](#)

Source: Press release of the UN Department of Public Information

Photo: International Forest Photograph Award winner Eka Fendiaspara, Indonesia

Southern partners agree to engage in more regular dialogue on development cooperation issues

A DESA-supported conference held in New Delhi on 15-16 April paved the way to strengthen dialogue on issues of common concern and interest among “Southern partners” – developing countries that provide development cooperation to other developing countries

DESA and the Research and Information System for Developing Countries, with the support of the Government of India, co-organized the first South-supported dialogue in recent years on South-South development cooperation, entitled “Conference of Southern Partners: Issues and Emerging Challenges”.



Jointly opened by Mr. Wu Hongbo, DESA’s Under-Secretary-General and Mr. Ranjan Mathai, Foreign Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs, India, the Conference brought together 11 governments including main emerging economies as well as lead southern think tanks with a view to identifying and addressing common challenges in promoting stronger impact of South-South development cooperation both on the ground and on global agenda setting.

There was strong consensus that the growth in South-South development cooperation should not weaken the commitments and responsibilities of developed countries in global development cooperation, especially the continued important role of ODA.

Good practices of South-South development cooperation discussed at the meeting revealed the scale of innovative practices and specific comparative advantages of this type of assistance, often inspired by a clear sense of priority for areas where partners have unique expertise to share and by the needs of beneficiary countries.

Global bodies were called on to take into consideration such practices in norm-setting activities. Referring to the principle of accountability and transparency, some Southern partners also made it clear that this principle should be tailored to their business models and applied at their own pace, rather than conceptually imposed by other actors.

The event mirrored a growing appetite of Southern partners to get together in an informal setting to form common ground in major global development-related processes. The need to take a proactive approach in engaging in such global processes was recognized. Southern partners agreed to continue and deepen the self-driven and supported dialogue on South-South development cooperation with a view of concrete results. The United Nations was seen as the impartial actor that can facilitate such dialogue.

DESA will continue to support the efforts of the Southern partner countries in strengthening their dialogue and cooperation in this area. As a follow-up to the Delhi Conference, DESA, in cooperation with the UN Office for South-South cooperation is organizing a meeting of Directors-General responsible for development cooperation in Southern partner countries at the [DCF High-level Symposium in Addis Ababa](#) on 7 June.

For more information:

[Conference of Southern Partners: Issues and Emerging Challenges”](#)

Successful chat engages online community on global partnership

Almost 500 participants took part in the Facebook chat discussing the report “A renewed global partnership for development” on 4 April



Questions addressed topics ranging from the sustainable development goals (SDGs); how to ensure government and private sector accountability, to safeguarding human rights and gender equality.

Launched by the UN System Task Team on the Post-2015 UN Development Agenda, the report focuses on the need for the global community to develop a renewed global partnership for development for the post-2015 era which fosters collective action from all countries to create an enabling environment for development. Based on the lessons learnt from the current global partnership for development, the report provides a set of recommendations on potential dimensions and format.

Nine experts from DESA’s Division for Development Policy and Analysis (DPAD) and the Division for Sustainable Development as well as UNDP’s Bureau for Development Policy interacted with the online community, answering questions posted from users from all over the world. For example, there was one that especially caught everyone’s attention. It was a question posted from a primary school in the High Atlas Mountains of Morocco, asking how children can be better involved in international cooperation.

The more than 60 questions posted were related to human rights, gender equality, government accountability, inclusion of youth in development strategies, environment, sustainability, and other topics.

Diana Alarcon, Senior Economic Affairs Officer at DPAD, who also took part in the chat answering questions, highlighted the depth and specificity of the questions posted and also, the level of detail and familiarity that most of them had with the UN report and complementary information. “It was a high level discussion, with sophisticated, concrete and specific questions to our experts,” she stated.



“It is the second time we do a live chat for promoting our reports, and we are very happy about the way in which this new technology helps us to share our documents and reach all kinds of people,” said Diana Alarcon.

The first Facebook live chat, hosted by DESA and UNDP, took place on 27 November 2012 and it highlighted the UN System Task Team’s first report “Realizing the Future We Want for All”. It addressed the post-2015 development agenda more generally and provided some key recommendations on how to build on the successes of the MDGs beyond 2015.

The team in DESA is very positive about this tool for promoting the department’s reports and documents, because of its enormous possibilities of direct and open dialogue with the online community.

“Also, our team of experts has developed a taste for interacting with our followers in social networks and to discuss with them their work in the reports”, Diana Alarcon said.

For more information:

[UNTT Report: A renewed global partnership for development](#)

[Facebook live chat: A renewed global partnership for development](#)

Trends and Analysis

Youth encouraged to start innovating

In connection with the recent ECOSOC Youth Forum, UN Youth Envoy Ahmad Alhendawi, Mashable's Chief Marketing Officer Stacy Martinet and Founder of boo-box Marco Gomes, shared their thoughts on how to empower youth to be future innovators



“Everyone has a share in making the world a better place,” said the Secretary-General’s Envoy on Youth Ahmad Alhendawi, as he spoke with DESA in connection with ECOSOC’s Youth Forum held

on 27 March. Mr. Alhendawi also described the close connection between young people and science, technology and social media, saying “young people are not just the consumers of these applications, they are the innovators and they are the people that are paving the way for more innovations to come”.

When talking about some of the measures young people can take to change the world, Mr. Alhendawi pointed to the possibilities of new technologies, enabling us to connect. He also underscored the importance of moving from virtual to real. “I think young people hold the potential to do that, and they should really believe in themselves and believe that it is not about changing everything always. It is about starting something new, small ventures, a new enterprise,” he said.

“The opportunities are endless,” said Mashable’s Chief Marketing Officer Stacy Martinet, sharing her advice for today’s youth and describing the prospects brought on by the age of digital media and the rapid pace of innovations in technology. “They should take their ideas and creativity and start working on things that are important,” she said, also underscoring the power of social media as a way to connect, collaborate and to help transform societies.

“To use science and technology to change the world, the most important thing is prepare yourself, educate yourself,” said Marco Gomes, Founder of boo-box, emphasizing the need to be very well prepared before starting on such an endeavor. “Pay attention to what’s around you. Your community, your city, your country – they are full of opportunities,” Mr. Gomes said, adding encouragingly, “the world needs true innovation that improves people’s lives.”

Highlighting the role of the United Nations, Ms. Martinet said, “places like the UN and national and local governments are really also empowered to support young people who want to get involved (...) I think this is an exciting moment to do more for young people.” This is something which was also echoed by the UN’s newly appointed Youth Envoy Ahmad Alhendawi. “I am very much optimistic that in my office and with my mandate, I will be

able to use and leverage all different tools that we have to reach out to young people and make them closer to the United Nations,” Mr. Alhendawi said.

Mr. Alhendawi, Ms. Martinet and Mr. Gomes are all supporting the work of ECOSOC, bringing the voices of youth into the important discussions and decisions of the Council ahead of its annual meeting in Geneva in July, as well as its major online campaign, “Innovate Your Future”, on Facebook and Thunderclap. The campaign seeks worldwide support to help empower youth and shape future innovators.

Share ideas with ECOSOC on how to leverage science, technology and culture to create a better world:
<http://bit.ly/InnovateYourFuture>

Show support for youth worldwide on Thunderclap:
<https://www.thunderclap.it/InnovateYourFuture>

[Watch video “Start innovating now!”](#)

Discussing impact of extractive industry on tax policies

DESA’s Financing for Development Office (FfDO) is organizing an expert group meeting on the taxation of the extractive industry on 28 May



Taking place at UN Headquarters, the event is organized with the view to identifying pressing issues for developing countries in this area and to informing the work of the Committee of Experts on International Cooperation

in Tax Matters during its next annual session (Geneva, 21-25 October 2013).

The meeting will bring together invited representatives from national tax authorities, experts from international financial organizations, as well as representatives from non-governmental organizations and the private sector.

Together they will discuss the impact of the extractive industry on national and international tax policy and administration. In light of the upcoming launch of the [UN Practical Manual on Transfer Pricing for Developing Countries](#), there will also be discussions on the nexus between transfer pricing and the taxation of the extractive industries. The final session will focus on lessons learned in building capability in resource tax policy and administration.

The meeting will be held in the run up to the [Special Meeting of ECOSOC on International Cooperation in Tax Matters](#), which will be held on 29 May 2013.

For more information:
[Expert Group Meeting on Extractive industries taxation](#)

Implementing the System of National Accounts

8th Meeting of the Advisory Expert Group on National Accounts will take place in Luxembourg on 28-31 May



The Advisory Expert Group on National Accounts (AEG) has been established to assist the Inter-secretariat Working Group on National Accounts (ISWGNA) in resolving issues on the research agenda of the System of National Accounts (SNA), identifying emerging research issues, and assisting the ISWGNA in the review of the SNA implementation programme.

The composition of the AEG reflects the global community representing all regions in the world and comprises 16 members (not including the five representatives of the members of the ISWGNA, Eurostat, IMF, OECD, UN and WB). The main purpose of this meeting is to consider guidance on issues related to the implementation of the SNA, such as financial output, global production, delineation of head offices, holding companies and special purpose entities, pension entitlements, stability fees, treatment of freight and insurance in the 2008 SNA, and the SDMX initiative.

For more information:

[8th Meeting of the Advisory Expert Group on National Accounts](#)

Network of Regional Governments for Sustainable Development (NRG4SD); Jeffery Huffines, Organizing Partner of the NGO Major Group. The discussion was moderated by John Romano, Social Media Focal Point for DESA's Division for Sustainable Development.

[Watch the hangout here](#)

For more information:

[Sustainable Development in Action Google+ Hangout Series](#)

Google+ hangout highlights Major Groups successes at Rio+20

Google+ Hangout arranged on 26 March highlights successes of the Major Groups and other stakeholders at the Rio+20 Conference

As part of the ongoing follow-up of the Rio+20 UN Conference on Sustainable Development, DESA's Division for Sustainable Development hosted a Google+ Hangout on 26 March that highlighted the successes of the Major Groups and other stakeholders at the Rio+20 Conference.



The hangout explored the views of civil society on the positive and concrete outcomes of the conference, and the Major Groups' ongoing follow up of the conference.

Panellists featured Corinne Woods, Director of the UN Millennium Campaign; Chantal Line Carpentier, Major Groups Programme Coordinator at DESA's Division for Sustainable Development; Farooq Ullah, Director of Stakeholder Forum for a Sustainable Future; Maruxa Cardama, Former Secretary General of the

Capacity development

Classifying products and economic activities

DESA's Statistics Division is organizing an Expert Group meeting on International Statistical Classifications on 13-15 May in New York

The objective of the meeting is to agree on priorities and work arrangements for international classifications work over the next years.



It also aims to further the work on the implementation of recently revised classifications in the International Family of Statistical Classifications, such as the International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities (ISIC) and the Central Product Classification (CPC), to review classifications currently under development and consider other issues relevant to the application and use of international standard classifications.

For more information:

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

Scaling up efforts for SNA implementation

Expanding the coordination and resources for the implementation of the System of National Accounts will be in focus for a meeting on 28-29 May in Luxembourg



Despite some progress in a number of countries, many developing countries are still a long way from actually adjusting their supporting collections of economic statistics for implementing the System of National Accounts (SNA).

The forty-fourth session of the United Nations Statistical Commission (UNSC) requested DESA's Statistics Division, in collaboration with the Inter-secretariat Working Group on National Accounts (ISWGNA), supporting countries and other regional organisations, to scale up coordination, advocacy and resources for the implementation of the SNA and supporting statistics at the national level where required.

This seminar, which brings together the ISWGNA, the Advisory Expert Group on National Accounts (AEG) and representative from a number of countries with less developed statistical systems,

aims to develop proposals for scaling up the effectiveness of the coordination and funding for the implementation of the SNA for consideration by the ISWGNA and to discuss practical issues related to the topics to be discussed by the AEG.

For more information:

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

Improving skills in tax treaty administration

Technical meeting on "Tax treaty administration and negotiation" will be held on 30-31 May at UN Headquarters in New York

DESA's Financing for Development Office (FfDO) and the International Tax Compact (ITC) are jointly organizing this meeting held within the context of a capacity development project, undertaken jointly by the two organizations, aimed at strengthening the capacity of Ministries of Finance, National Tax Authorities, and other competent authorities in developing countries to effectively identify and assess their needs in the area of double tax treaty negotiation and administration.



The purpose of the New York meeting is to present, discuss and revise a series of draft papers on selected issues in administration and negotiation of tax treaties, which are being prepared by experts. These papers are to address the actual skills gaps and challenges faced by developing countries in administering and negotiating their tax treaties, which were identified during a meeting held in Rome on 28-29 January 2013, with the participation of 25 national experts from developing countries.

Following the meeting, the papers on administration of tax treaties will be revised and will comprise the UN Handbook on Selected Issues in Administration of Double Tax Treaties for Developing Countries. Participants in this meeting are also invited to participate in the Special meeting of ECOSOC on international cooperation in tax matters on 29 May.

For more information:

[Technical meeting on "Tax treaty administration and negotiation"](#)

Publications and Websites

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 the quarterly and bimonthly 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; Selected series of world statistics.

For more information:

[Online Monthly Bulletin of Statistics](#)

Outreach material

DESA NGO News

The April issue is now available online and features news on the General Assembly's efforts to boost interaction between UN and G20, the second session of Open Working Group on SDGs and the UNAOC and UNESCO campaign "Do One Thing to Support Cultural Diversity and Inclusion". The monthly newsletter is published by DESA's NGO Branch, 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: [DESA NGO News](#)

Sustainable Development in Action – Issue 4, Volume 1

The launch of a sustainable transport action network and bridging knowledge and capacity gaps for sustainability transition – these are some of the topics addressed in the latest issue now available on the Sustainable Development website. Published by DESA's Division for Sustainable Development, the newsletter aims to

highlight the work carried out by Member States, the UN, Major Groups and other relevant stakeholders in implementing sustainable development and leading the way to the Future We Want.

View full issue:

[Sustainable Development in Action Newsletter](#)

Youth Flash Newsletter

April issue is now available featuring an article on "United Nations System-wide Action Plan on Youth". The newsletter is published by DESA's Division for Social Policy and Development Focal Point on Youth to keep the public informed about the work of the UN on youth issues. It is prepared with input from UN offices, agencies, and from youth organizations around the world.

View full issue at: [Youth Flash Newsletter](#)

Enable Newsletter

Prepared by the Secretariat for the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (SCRPD) within DESA's Division for Social Policy and Development, the March issue is now available highlighting the upcoming 6th session of the Conference of States Parties (COSP6) to be held from 17 to 19 July 2013. The newsletter features input from UN offices, agencies, funds and programmes, and civil society.

Read full issue: [United Nations ENABLE](#)

Discussion papers

Monthly Briefing on the World Economic Situation and Prospects No. 53

Published by DESA's Development Policy and Analysis Division, the April issue sheds light on the renewed concerns about banking fragility in the euro area as well as the increase of capital inflows into emerging markets. The Briefing also highlights the new monetary stance disclosed by the Bank of Japan and the strengthening of the US housing market.

Download:

[Monthly Briefing on the World Economic Situation and Prospects No. 53](#)

Meeting records

Advanced unedited version of the Report on the 15th session of the Committee for Development Policy
The report on the 15th session of the Committee for Development Policy, which was held from 18 to 22 March 2013 in New York, includes main findings and recommendations of

the Committee on the following themes: the role of science, technology and innovation for achieving sustainable development (the theme of 2013 AMR); addressing the vulnerabilities and development needs of SIDS; emerging issues in international development in post-2015 era; issues related to the least developed countries, including proposed guidelines on new reporting requirements for graduating and graduated LDCs.

For more information:

[Advanced unedited version of the Report on the 15th session of the Committee for Development Policy](#)

Committee for Development Policy Background Paper No. 16, Science, technology and innovation for sustainable development

The CDP Background Paper argues that science, technology and innovation (STI) play a critical role in expediting transition to a sustainable mode of development. Latecomer nations suffer from several disadvantages as they attempt to catch-up with the technological leaders, but they can enjoy latecomer advantages, if appropriate strategies are formulated and executed.

One of the key concepts is leapfrogging, whereby the latecomers absorb what the technological leaders have to offer and leap to a new environment-friendly techno-economic paradigm. To facilitate such a leap, the current intellectual-property-rights regimes need to evolve to one that fosters technology diffusion and greater use of intellectual property.

For more information:

[Background Paper No. 16, Science, technology and innovation for sustainable development](#)

Comings and Goings

Comings

The following staff members were promoted in April:

Wei Liu, Sustainable Development Officer, Division for Sustainable Development

Michelle Alves de Lima-Miller, Programme Assistant, Division for Public Administration and Development Management

Chi Hyun Cho, Statistics Assistant, Statistics Division

Hanna W. Deneke, Research Assistant, Office for ECOSOC Support and Coordination

Kimberly Gruber, Information Systems Officer, Statistics Division

Carlos Gusukuma, Research Assistant, Office for ECOSOC Support and Coordination

Margo Kemp, Programme Assistant, Office for ECOSOC Support and Coordination

Wai Min Kwok, Governance & Public Admin officer, Division for Public Administration and Development Management

Maria Angela Parra, Senior Economic Affairs Officer, Office of the Under-Secretary-General

Diego Rumiany, Programme Officer, Office for ECOSOC Support and Coordination

Matteo Sasso, Human Resources Officer, Capacity Development Office

Calendar

May

ECOSOC Integration Meeting on Sustainable Development

New York, 13 May

<http://www.un.org/en/ecosoc/we/>

Expert Group meeting on International Statistical Classifications

New York, 13-15 May

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

Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, 12th session

New York, 20-31 May

<http://social.un.org/index/IndigenousPeoples.aspx>

2013 regular session of the Committee on NGOs

New York, 20-29 May & 7 June

<http://csonet.org/index.php?menu=80>

Expert group meeting on the taxation of the extractive industry

New York, 28 May

http://www.un.org/esa/ffd/tax/2013EGM_EIT/index.htm

8th Meeting of the Advisory Expert Group on National Accounts

Luxembourg, 28-31 May

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

Expanding the coordination and resources for the implementation of the System of National Accounts

Luxembourg, 28-29 May

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

Special Meeting of ECOSOC on International Cooperation in Tax Matters

New York, 29 May

<http://www.un.org/esa/ffd/tax/2013ITCM/index.htm>

Technical meeting on “Tax treaty administration and negotiation”

New York, 30–31 May

<http://www.un.org/esa/ffd/tax/2013TMTTAN/index.htm>

June

2013 Ethiopia High-Level Symposium on “A renewed global partnership for development for a post-2015 era”

Addis Ababa, 6-7 June

<http://www.un.org/en/ecosoc/newfunct/dcfethiopia.shtml>

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.