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Financing for development: Facing new challenges

When Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon addressed the special high-level meeting on financing for development last month, he urged that the course charted for should be truly sustainable, equitable development. "The world is still reeling from the financial and economic crisis. The path to recovery has been slow, fragile and uneven. Rising debt levels, growing inequality and social exclusion are real concerns," he stated.



Indeed, a lot has happened since the first UN International Conference on Financing for Development that took place in

Monterrey, Mexico in March 2002. The conference resulted in the Monterrey Consensus, embracing main areas for financing for development including mobilizing domestic and international financial resources; international trade; increasing international financial and technical cooperation; external debt and addressing issues to enhance the coherence of the international monetary, financial and trading systems.

At the Doha Conference in Qatar in 2008, heads of state and government and high representatives reaffirmed their commitment to the Monterrey Consensus resulting in the Doha Declaration. They declared that "we once again commit ourselves to eradicate poverty, achieve sustainable development as we advance to a fully inclusive and equitable global economic system."

In the Doha Declaration, the countries also recognized that "mobilizing financial resources for development and the effective use of all those resources are central to the global partnership for sustainable development, including the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)."

Remaining challenges and solutions discussed

On 10-11 March of this year, the special high-level meeting of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) with the Bretton Woods Institutions (BWIs), the World Trade Organization (WTO) and the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) addressed many of these issues including aid for trade, debt relief, the role of the UN system in global economic governance and new challenges in the wake of the global financial crisis.

The least developed countries were also considered and a number of policy proposals were presented to resolve the challenging issues at hand. In addition, matters facing middle-income countries were discussed and the Secretary-General stated accordingly, “it is the middle-income countries that, to date, have led the recovery. Their impressive performance follows decades of admirable efforts to diversify exports and gain higher market shares for high-technology goods.”

He continued, “Yet, despite notable reductions in poverty levels, many middle-income countries face rising inequality, the persistence of extreme poverty, and a lack of adequate social security systems. Further efforts are needed to improve safety nets and economic security.”

The Secretary-General also observed that while there have been advancements, many difficult challenges still remain. Success has been seen when it comes to reducing extreme poverty, improving school enrolment and child health, reducing child mortality and enhancing access to preventive care of a number of tropical diseases. However, progress on the MDGs has been uneven. There have been slow improvements towards reaching full and productive employment and decent work for all, in advancing gender equality and in improving maternal and reproductive health.

Regarding the global partnership for development, the reviews found major gaps in the delivery of international development cooperation commitments, including aid levels and effectiveness, conclusion of the Doha Round of multilateral trade negotiations, debt relief and resolution mechanisms.

Planning for the future

The global efforts within financing for development is an ongoing and continuous process and as the Secretary-General concluded in his statement to the special high-level ECOSOC meeting, “in a volatile and changing world, we must not disappoint the many millions of people who look to us, and our organization, for help and reassurance. Let us respond to the full spectrum of their aspirations – economic, social, environmental and democratic. Let us listen to their voices, today and tomorrow”.

For more information:

[Financing for Development](#)

[The Special High-level meeting of ECOSOC](#)

[The Monterrey Consensus](#)

[The Doha Declaration](#)

Public governance for results

Achieving effective outcomes in public administration has become increasingly challenging. This is a result of the rise in demand for public goods and services following natural disasters caused by climate change and devastation due to conflict. Disasters and conflicts cause tremendous destruction to global economic, political and social infrastructures and negatively impact the living conditions of world populations.



National governments and international organizations face increased difficulties in achieving internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). This occurs when states’ capacities are weakened by degradation and when appropriate public policies are either inadequate or nonexistent. The challenges resulting from these disastrous circumstances are often overwhelming to the existing capacities of local governments, and when not addressed, they bring the inefficiencies of public institutions to light, thus threatening their legitimacy.

The Committee of Experts on Public Administration (CEPA) will focus on strategies for more results-oriented public governance to assist stakeholders world-wide in addressing post-disaster and post-conflict challenges. Among the topics for discussion will be how to encourage governments to place greater emphasis on the result potential of their economic and social policies. This will better prepare them towards accomplishing the imperative improvements to the quality of life for populations, in the aftermath of conflict and disaster, for all.

Improvements in the various quality of life indicators requires formulating, implementing and assessing more successful strategies and systems for the delivery of public goods and services. The Committee will also discuss how effective social protection policies could be implemented to minimize the socio-economic impacts of conflict and disaster. States could address the poverty and vulnerability of citizens by minimizing their exposure to risks through the provision of basic services in critical areas, such as education, health care, water, nutrition and shelter.

Committee of Experts on Public Administration

The Committee will meet this month (4-8 April 2011) for the tenth annual session of discussions. CEPA is comprised of twenty-four specialists in public administration from all world regions, who are currently working in academia, government or public service. The overall theme of the session will be: “Public governance for results to improve the quality of human life for all, by supporting the implementation of the internationally agreed development goals including the Millennium Development Goals.”

Professor Susan Woodward, Rapporteur of the ninth session of CEPA, noted: “Of particular importance to CEPA this year are the rising number of devastating natural disasters, particularly due to climate change, which have moved from rare emergencies to regular, repeated occurrences in vulnerable countries, and the need of their public administrations to find ways to anticipate, plan for, and manage on a recurring basis, for which regional and international mechanisms and funding will be essential.”

The Committee will first focus on existing conceptual and operational frameworks for governance, with due attention to implications of multi-stakeholder systems to achieving better governance. Next, they will address the needs of populations in post-conflict and post-disaster countries and other vulnerable people. The Committee will also examine and debate social protection policies and programmes designed to reduce the poverty and vulnerability of citizens.

What have we learned?

In one of the main discussion papers of the upcoming meeting, entitled “Public governance for results: State capacity for post-conflict and post-disaster reconstruction and social protection policies,” recognition is made of the increased pervasiveness and institutionalized nature of humanitarian interventions in the case of natural disasters and complex emergencies. Studies of international assistance have revealed an “aid-institutions paradox.” The paradox is based on the idea that aid undermines or destroys local institutions and capacity, rather than assists in building them.

Most of the policies, programmes and projects of external assistance dominate the governance process in post-conflict countries. The criteria and results of those programmes are defined by donors and external actors and are internationally imposed, rather than locally formulated and proposed. When this occurs, local actors are not engaged in these processes. They do not become familiarized with the principles of good public governance, specifically including: transparency, accountability and professional integrity of public service and citizen participation, which become lost from not being emphasized.

An important lesson to recognize is that donors and external actors must continue to work more closely with local actors in order to render assistance adapted to the specific local contexts. This will

give ownership to local actors and foster a greater sense of responsibility for outcomes among them.

Progress to date

The Division for Public Administration and Development Management (DPADM) has included a new component to their flagship publication, the biennial “United Nations e-Government Survey”, to assess the provision of public information to promote awareness of environment preservation issues by governments.

DPADM has also produced several analytical papers including: “Enhancing public administration effectiveness in Africa through strengthening local leadership capacity”, “Strategies for attracting and retaining the best talent in the public service in Africa” and “Public administration in achieving the Millennium Development Goals.”

Progress has also been made in improving knowledge-sharing, training, advocacy, partnership-building and advisory assistance. In 2010, the United Nations Public Administration Network (UNPAN) served as the de facto global network and portal for public administration and governance. The UNPAN Online Training Centre is available to deliver capacity-building courses on public administration free of charge.

To address the issue of post-conflict and post-disaster countries, the Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery of the United Nations Development Programme has now begun to specialize in the early recovery of countries, which encompasses post-disaster, post-conflict and conflict prevention.

Many strides have already been made to create improved public governance, including capacity building conferences, workshops and seminars in different parts of the world. These programmes and activities will be continued throughout 2011.

For more information:

<http://www.unpan.org/DPADM/CEPA/10thSession/tabid/1446/anguage/en-US/Default.aspx>

Opportunity for agreement on ‘green economy’

video



“Rio+20 is humanity’s chance to commit to a transition to a green economy, to lift people out of poverty. We cannot wait another 20 years,” said Sha Zukang, Secretary-General of the 2012 UN Conference on Sustainable Development and Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, at a news conference in New York on 8 March, following a preparatory meeting for Rio+20.

Mr. Sha said he hopes Member States will be able to agree on a “green economy as a pathway to sustainable development” and come up with a “tool kit” for implementation of agreed principles. He has earlier cautioned: “If we continue on our current path, we will bequeath material and environmental poverty, not prosperity, to our children and grandchildren”.

Video: <http://www.unmultimedia.org/tv/webcast/2011/03/press-conference-rio-2012.html>

Press release:

http://www.un.org/News/briefings/docs/2011/110308_Rio.doc.htm

Statement:

<http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/usg/statements/2nd-prepcom-rio2012.shtml>

UN Conference on Sustainable Development:

<http://www.uncsd2012.org/rio20/>

Global Dialogue on Development

Fertility declines worldwide

The 44th session of the Commission on Population and Development will discuss the theme of 'Fertility, reproductive health and development' from 11-15 April in New York

This year's session will discuss a wide range of issues, including the decline in fertility over the last six decades and the efforts being made to achieve universal access to reproductive health by 2015. Discussions will highlight the potential impact of existing levels of fertility if they are maintained. Efforts to rapidly reduce fertility are especially needed in fast growing countries in Africa and Asia. In both areas, particularly in Africa, current fertility levels would lead to unsustainable numbers of people in the future.

The discussion is expected to note that ensuring access to modern methods of family planning to those who need them is an effective way of improving the health of mothers and infants. This is key to making sure that people have the means to exercise their reproductive rights. Furthermore, by preventing unintended pregnancies, family planning can ultimately reduce the overall cost of providing healthcare services to mothers and newborns.

However, even as the funding levels required are greater than ever before, the financial resources actually mobilized are still not sufficient to realize the objectives of the Programme of Action and achieve the Millennium Development Goals. The decrease in the funds made available for family planning services has been of particular concern.

Items on the agenda for the Session include actions to follow-up on the recommendations of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), a general debate on national experience in population matters, world demographic trends, programme implementation and future programme of work of the Secretariat in the field of population, contribution of population and development issues to the theme of the annual ministerial review in 2011 ("Implementing the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to education") and the adoption of the report of the Commission on its forty-fourth session.

The Population Commission was established by the Economic and Social Council in 1946 and renamed the Commission on Population and Development by the General Assembly in 1994. In addition to advising the Council, the Commission, as a functional commission assisting the Council, has the task of monitoring, reviewing and assessing the implementation at the national, regional and international levels of the Programme of Action of the ICPD. The Commission is composed of 47 members, who are

elected on the basis of equitable geographic distribution and serve a term of four years.

For more information:

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

Electing members for ECOSOC bodies

ECOSOC resumes its organizational session and holds elections of subsidiary bodies in New York on 27-28 April

The Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) will hold elections to the following subsidiary bodies: Statistical Commission; Commission on Population and Development; Commission for Social Development; Commission on the Status of Women; Commission on Narcotic Drugs; Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice; Commission on Sustainable Development; Commission on Science and Technology for Development; International Narcotics Control Board; Committee for Programme and Coordination; Executive Board of UNICEF; Executive Committee of the Programme of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees; Executive Board of NDP, UNFPA, UNOPS; Programme Coordinating Board of the Joint UN Programme on HIV/AIDS; Governing Council of UN Human Settlements Programme; and Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting.

The Council will also take decisions on outstanding matters from the organizational session, including themes for the Annual Ministerial Review 2012-2014; for the humanitarian affairs segment and for the item on regional cooperation of the 2011 substantive session. It will also hold the annual half-day session on the transition from relief to development.

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

Discussing a range of issues affecting education

Preparatory meeting of the Economic and Social Council on the theme "Meeting the Internationally Agreed Goals and Commitments with regards to Education" will take place in New York on 28 April

In line with the Council's recent emphasis on giving voice to people with a direct stake in its debates and policy recommendations, it will hear the views of a range of stakeholders, including young people and students, UN system and academic experts on education, practitioners and the general public.

A range of issues affecting education, including access, innovation, quality and its relevance for capacity building, poverty reduction and sustainable development will be discussed. The meeting will also highlight some innovative solutions that are currently being tried by various governments and other stakeholders and that could be replicated or scaled up in other countries and regions.

The meeting will be divided into two parts. The first will feature a reporting back on the outcome of a Facebook e-discussion on “Building a future for today’s youth: improving access to education”, and a presentation on the results of the UN Development Group’s MDG-Net forum e-discussion on “Education: Closing the Gap”. The former will feature brief summaries by the discussion moderators from the five geographical regions of the world and the latter will present a short summary of the discussion on the themes of quality, access and innovation in education.

The second part of the meeting will be a panel discussion on “Removing barriers to education: What’s new and notable”, which will feature brief presentations by expert panelists, followed by an interactive discussion.

For more information:
<http://www.un.org/en/ecosoc/newfunct/amr2011.shtml>

Preparing for the Commission on Sustainable Development

Intergovernmental Preparatory Meeting (IPM) of the 19th session of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD-19) took place on 28 February-4 March in New York

The discussions on all five themes - transport, chemicals, waste management, mining and a 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production patterns - as well as on inter-linkages and cross-cutting issues were productive and substantial, providing a very good base for the Chair’s draft negotiating document. Each discussion started with presentations from two to three expert panelists in relevant fields, followed by interactive discussions among Member States, representatives of the UN System and Major Groups.

There were also two multi-stakeholder dialogues, one on implementation of sustainable development and the other on contributions of CSD-19 to the UN Conference on Sustainable Development. The Chair of CSD-19, H.E. Mr. László Borbély, Minister of Environment and Forests of Romania, presented the Chair’s draft negotiating document. The document will serve as basis for negotiations during CSD-19 and will be posted to the CSD-19 website after factual comments by Member States and other stakeholders have been incorporated.

For more information:
http://www.un.org/esa/dsd/csd/csd_csd19.shtml

Progress made in understanding a green economy

The second Preparatory Committee meeting of the UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) took place on 7-8 March in New York

A number of publications helped propel the debate forward, including the Secretary-General’s report and Synthesis Report, the UN Environment Programme’s Green Economy Report and the report prepared by a panel of experts (coordinated by UN-DESA, UNEP and UNCTAD) on the “Transition to a Green Economy: Benefits, Challenges and Risks from a Sustainable Development Perspective.”

During discussions on the objective, many speakers referred to the gaps in the decisions made in Rio in 1992 and in Johannesburg in 2002 and the need to assess those gaps. There was significant progress made in the understanding of a green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication.

Regarding the institutional framework for sustainable development, many speakers stressed finding a balance across the three pillars and on the strengthening of ECOSOC and the Commission on Sustainable Development. They also called for the introduction of stronger mechanisms for reviewing progress of the implementation of commitment.

The meeting concluded with the adoption of a decision that gave the Bureau of the Rio+20 Preparatory Process the mandate to initiate an open, transparent and inclusive process led by Member States. The mandate also called for the preparation of a draft text based on all preparatory inputs that will serve as the basis for a conference outcome document. The text will be prepared for the Second Inter-sessional meeting to be held on 15-16 December 2011, while the zero-draft of the outcome document for consideration by Member States and other stakeholders will be presented in early January 2012, followed by a three-day discussion in January and a week-long discussion in February, March and April 2012.

For more information:
<http://www.uncsd2012.org/rio20/index.php?page=view&type=13&nr=28&menu=46>

High-level innovative debates on financing for development

The Special High-level Meeting of ECOSOC with the Bretton Woods institutions, the World Trade Organization and the UN Conference on Trade and Development was held in New York on 10-11 March on the theme “Coherence, coordination and cooperation on Financing for Development”

This high-level meeting of ECOSOC constitutes an intergovernmental focal point for follow up to the Monterrey and Doha Conferences on Financing for Development. The purpose is to promote an open exchange of views and experiences between the UN Delegates and the Executive Directors of the World Bank and IMF with participation of senior officials from the UN, the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and WTO.

The President of ECOSOC Lazarous Kapambwe gave opening remarks, followed by the address of the Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and statements on behalf of relevant intergovernmental bodies (Development Committee, International Monetary and Financial Committee, Trade and Development Board and WTO).

The meeting was organized in four interactive debates focusing on the Millennium Development Goals, the least developed countries, middle-income countries and the role of the UN in global economic governance. It was very well attended with Executive Directors, Advisors and senior staff members of the World Bank and IMF, participating actively in the discussions and expressing genuine interest in promoting closer relations between their organizations and ECOSOC.

For more information:

<http://www.un.org/esa/ffd/ecosoc/springmeetings/2011/index.htm>

Trends and Analysis

Consultations on ways to improve public governance

The Committee of Experts on Public Administration (CEPA) will meet in New York for its 10th session on 4-8 April

The meeting will discuss public governance for results to improve the quality of human life for all, by supporting the implementation of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals. The complexities and dynamics of contemporary global economic, political and social environments present new challenges to government legitimacy and efficiency.

These are intensified by increasing occurrences of crises and disasters, producing growing demand for effective, prepared and responsive public institutions in UN Member States worldwide. Consequently, the need for results-based public governance abounds. To improve the quality of life for all, more successful processes to deliver public goods and services must be formulated, implemented and assessed.

CEPA is responsible for supporting the work of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), promoting public administration and services among member states. For this session, it brings together its twenty-four experts from government and academia from around the world. The Vice-President of ECOSOC, Gonzalo Gutierrez Reinel, will deliver an opening statement, followed by a welcome address by Sha Zukang, Under-Secretary-General for the Department of Economic and Social Affairs.

At the meeting, CEPA will review, contemplate and discuss existing frameworks and look into pragmatic implications of multi-stakeholder systems to achieve better governance. The Committee will also address the needs of populations in post-conflict and post-disaster countries and other vulnerable populations. Moreover, it will examine and discuss social protection policies and programmes designed to reduce the poverty and vulnerability of citizens, diminishing exposure to risks, enhancing the capacity of people to protect themselves against hazards and to counter the interruption or loss of income.

In addition, CEPA will examine the 2011 theme of the annual ministerial review of the high-level segment of ECOSOC, regarding the implementation of agreed goals and commitments for education. They will also debate best practices in educating and training public administrators in public performance management and review the work programme of the Division of Public Administration and Development Management.

The CEPA sub-committee for the UN Public Service Awards will also review and evaluate nominated initiatives and select the winners for 2011.

For more information:

<http://www.unpan.org/DPADM/CEPA/10thSession/tabid/1446/anguage/en-US/Default.aspx>

Geospatial information management initiative

The third preparatory meeting regarding the proposed UN Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management will be held in New York on 4-6 April

The meeting is organized by DESA's Statistics Division and the UN Cartographic Section/DFS to discuss and finalize the report on Global Geospatial Information Management (GGIM) to be submitted to the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and the inter-governmental process.

In addition, the meeting will consider the agenda and the modality of the forthcoming UN Forum on GGIM to be held in Seoul, the Republic of Korea on 25-28 October 2011. This is the last preparatory meeting and there are expectations of strong guidance from the member states on the progression of this GGIM initiative.

For more information: <http://ggim.un.org/meeting3.html>

Improving the quality of education in Africa

The Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) 2011 Africa Regional Meeting will be held on the theme "The right to Education for All in Africa: Reinforcing quality and equity" on 12 April in Lomé, Togo

The meeting is co-organized by DESA, in cooperation with the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the UN Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), in collaboration with the Government of Togo.

The meeting will take place in conjunction with an African Union Teachers' Conference and it is part of the preparatory process for the 2011 Annual Ministerial Review on "Implementing the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to education."

Ministers of Education and a broad cross section of regional stakeholders will gather to discuss trends, challenges, and

policies and programmes on education in Africa and their impact on the achievement of the Millennium development Goals. Panellists and experts will examine approaches to improve equity and inclusiveness in education and improve its quality.

They will also address ways to use universal primary education as a powerful driver to eradicate poverty, reduce child and maternal mortality, promote gender equality, and ensure sustainable development. A special session will showcase best practices and new initiatives from across the region.

For more information:

<http://www.un.org/en/ecosoc/amr/index.shtml>

Briefing sessions in celebration of the International Year of Youth

Next event in the series organized by the UN Programme on Youth of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs will take place in New York on 12 April on the topic of "Youth Participation"

The event is one of many arranged to celebrate the International Year of Youth, leading up to the UN Conference on Youth on 25-26 July. It will explore the issue of youth participation, taking examples from the work of the UN system, NGOs and young people themselves on youth participatory processes.

Featured participants will include Ravi Karkara, Child Participation Specialist with UNICEF; Pamela Wridt of CUNY Graduate Center; four youth speakers of a youth-friendly community in East Harlem; and Mahroo Moshari, Director of Manhattan Multicultural Counseling, and Representative of the International Union of Anthropological and Ethnological Sciences (IUAES) to the UN.

Participation is a fundamental right. It is one of the guiding principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights that has been reiterated in many other Conventions and Declarations. Through active participation, young people are empowered to play a vital role in their own development as well as in that of their communities, helping them to learn vital life-skills, develop knowledge on human rights and citizenship and to promote positive civic action.

The UN has long recognized that young people are a major human resource for development and key agents for social change, economic growth and technological innovation. Participation in decision-making is a key priority area of the UN agenda on youth.

To prepare for the events, the UN Programme on Youth is making use of the International Year of Youth Facebook page to ask young people about issues of most concern to them, using the responses to feed into the sessions.

Upcoming briefing sessions during the spring will highlight topics including: "Girls and Young Women"; "Indigenous Issues"; "Armed Conflict"; "Information and Communication Technology"; and "Education".

For details on the briefing sessions:

<http://social.un.org/youthyear/briefings.html>

Factsheet on Youth Participation:

<http://social.un.org/youthyear/docs/youth-participation.pdf>

International Year of Youth Facebook page:

<http://www.facebook.com#!/UNyouthyear>

Strengthening the protection of human rights of older persons

The first open-ended working group session will be convened on 18-21 April in New York

The working group was established by the General Assembly resolution 65/182 on 21 December 2010. This landmark decision to focus attention on the rights of older persons came nearly ten years after the adoption of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing in 2002. It recognizes that national development strategies, policies and programmes still often fall short of addressing older persons' right to participate in society and development, and to live safe and dignified lives.

The current situation of the human rights of older persons around the world will be considered. The group will also identify possible gaps and how best to address them, including by considering, as appropriate, the feasibility of further instruments and measures. It will draw on the experience and expertise of Member States, the UN system, NGOs, national human rights institutions, human rights mandate-holders and treaty bodies and a range of stakeholders.

The first session will focus on understanding the current situation of the human rights of older persons around the world. This includes two panel discussions on the existing international and regional human rights frameworks. At the end of the first session the working group is expected to start identifying possible gaps and measures to address them.

For more information: <http://social.un.org/ageing-working-group/>

Preparing for the Internet Governance Forum (IGF)

Stakeholder consultations took place in Geneva on 23-24 February in preparation for the IGF to be held on 27-30 September in Nairobi

Planning for the sixth meeting of the Internet Governance Forum continued with discussions on the agenda and detailed programme. The two-day session was followed by an informal meeting of the Secretary-General's Multi-stakeholder Advisory Group (MAG), moderated by Alice Munyua, Head of Delegation of the Government of Kenya with the support of DESA's Division for Public Administration and Development Management (DPADM), including the IGF Secretariat.

MAG is recommending that the format and agenda of the sixth IGF largely follow precedents set in previous meetings with an overall theme in 2011 of "Internet as a catalyst for change: access, development, freedoms and innovation." The Group will reconvene in Geneva in May to continue conference preparation efforts.

The Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD) Working Group on Improvements to the IGF also met in Switzerland last week to consider which issues should be the subject of the group's deliberations and to begin reflecting on these topics.

Specific themes include: Review of the current situation and of IGF versus the Tunis Agenda; improving the IGF and linking it to the broader dialogue on global IT governance as directed by the UN General Assembly Resolution on "Information and communications technologies for development"; enhancing participation of developing countries; outreach to and cooperation with other organizations dealing with IG issues; and options for ensuring predictability, transparency and accountability in financing IGF.

All stakeholders were invited to submit thoughts, comments and points of view by 14 March to be made available as an input to the Working Group's discussion. The second meeting of the Working Group was scheduled for 24-25 March in Geneva.

At its inter-sessional meeting on 17 December 2010, CSTD decided that the Working Group would be made up of 22 Member States. The Chair of CSTD also invited five representatives from each of the following groups: the business community, civil society, the technical and academic community; and from intergovernmental organizations, to participate and remain fully engaged throughout the process.

DESA was selected to be one of the five participating intergovernmental organizations along with International Telecommunication Union (ITU), the UN Educational, Scientific

and Cultural Organization, World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and the UN Development Programme.

For more information:

<http://www.intgovforum.org/cms/2011calendar>

Getting ready for the 2011 UN Public Service Forum

A preparatory meeting was held in New York on 28 February and 1 March prior to the forum to be held in Dar es Salaam on 20-23 June

A high-level delegation from Tanzania, headed by the Permanent Secretary of the Office of the President, George Yambesi, met with DESA's Division for Public Administration and Development Management (DPADM) to discuss and agree upon the structure, organization and logistics of the 2011 United Nations Public Service Forum.

Holding the UN Public Service Forum in Dar es Salaam is very significant as Tanzania will also be hosting Africa Public Service Day, which coincides with the UN Public Service Day, thereby bringing the whole region together. It is expected that over 400 participants will attend this event, including ministers from Africa and other regions of the world, government officials, representatives of international and regional organizations, civil society, and the private sector.

During the preparatory meeting, DPADM made presentations about the workshops to be held during the Forum. It was decided that the Forum will be composed of plenary sessions, capacity development workshops, a ministerial round-table and an inter-generation dialogue round-table. It will conclude with a final declaration with policy recommendations based on the findings of the workshops and the UN Public Service Awards Ceremony.

For more information:

<http://www.unpan.org/DPADM/UNPSDayAwards/UNPublicServiceAwards/tabid/1095/language/en-US/Default.aspx>

Capacity Development

Preparing for first Kosovo census

The Inter-regional Advisor on censuses at DESA's Statistics Division will participate in the international monitoring of enumeration activities on 1-15 April

An International Monitoring Operation (IMO) is closely following census preparations for the 2011 Kosovo census. The IMO also includes the Management Group, of which the Statistics Division is a member, which monitors all methodological aspects and provides guidance for the census.

International observers are selected by the Management Group to monitor activities to ensure that census data are collected in line with international standards and recommendations.

For more information:

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

Analyzing the Ethiopian population and housing census of 2007

DESA's Statistics Division is coordinating the review in Addis Ababa on 11 April-8 May

The evaluation is arranged by DESA's Statistics Division as part of the regional project to strengthening the capacity to analyze, present and disseminate census data.

The staff of the Central Statistical Agency (CSA) of Ethiopia will work closely with national and international experts during this period to look into four selected topics of importance – fertility, mortality, housing and elderly. After three weeks' intensive research, they are expected to produce an analytical report for each topic.

For more information:

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

Implementing the System of National Accounts 2008 in the African region

DESA's Statistics Division will organize the seminar together with the UN Economic Commission for Africa, African Development

Bank and the African Union Commission in Addis Ababa on 11-15 April

The System of National Accounts, 2008 (2008 SNA) is an updated version of the System of National Accounts, 1993 (1993 SNA). It is the fifth version, the first of which was published over fifty years ago, and it was prepared under the auspices of the Inter-Secretariat Working Group on National Accounts.

This working group consists of five organizations: the Statistical Office of the European Commission, the International Monetary Fund, the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development, DESA's Statistics Division and the regional commissions of the UN Secretariat and the World Bank. The 2008 SNA is published jointly by these five organizations.

The seminar will be hosted by the African Centre for Statistics at the ECA, with the purpose of assisting the African Group on National Accounts in applying the regional implementation programme of the 2008 SNA and supporting economic statistics. The objective is to develop national implementation programmes for the compilation of comparable economic statistics and national accounts for countries in Africa to monitor the integration of their economies. The regional programme is part of the global implementation plan for the 2008 SNA and supporting statistics.

For more information:

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

Measuring gross domestic product by final demand approach

An international workshop arranged in Shenzhen, China on 25-27 April

DESA's Statistics Division, in collaboration with the National Bureau of Statistics of China is organizing an international workshop on measuring gross domestic product (GDP) by final demand approach. It is being conducted as part of the project on strengthening statistical capacity development in China and other developing countries in Asia funded by the Chinese Government.

It will give an overview of one of the main approaches to GDP compilation – the final demand approach – and will address specific issues of measuring the final consumption expenditures of households, government and non-profit institutions serving households, and estimating gross capital formation for the economy and by sector. The estimation of national accounts' imports and exports of goods and services from foreign trade statistics and other sources will also be discussed.

For more information:

http://unstats.un.org/unsd/economic_stat/China/GDP-FE-China-Workshop.htm

e-Government procurement consultations

A regional meeting discussed opportunities and challenges of electronic Government Procurement (eGP) and outlined partnerships with the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank in Seoul on 10-11 March

The consultation meeting, organized by DESA in partnership with the UN Project Office on Governance (UNPOG), was held with concrete emphasis on toolkits, approaches and case studies aimed at capacity development of public officials initially in Asia and the Pacific as the first step towards a global eGP alliance.

Considering that some 15-20 per cent of countries' GDP is disbursed via procurement systems, the consultation explored both the potential of electronic procurement to promote transparency and efficiency, as well as the opportunities for enhanced public service delivery. Developing countries with relevant experience such as the Philippines, Mexico and China presented their cases.

Institutions such as the World Bank and Asia Development Bank also shared their experience and agreed to formalize a partnership with DESA to address concrete follow-up objectives including: Joint capacity development and assessment activities in the field addressing current demand for improving eGP services; joint participation in the Ministerial e-Procurement meeting planned by ADB for October 2011 in Asia; information exchange and dissemination of case studies via the UN Public Administration Network (UNPAN) and UN Public Administration Country Studies (UNPACS); and development of a network with participants of the consultation for the consolidation of a road map.

Participants also agreed to start an informal network for e-Procurement, following an invitation by Italian IT services and Procurement Agency (CONSIP) to hold the next regional meeting possibly in Italy during the last quarter of 2011. The focus would then be on Eastern European, Commonwealth of Independent States and Balkans countries, willing to give priority to anti-corruption and transparent public sector practices.

Values and the principles of Public Service and Administration

United Nations and African human resources managers met in Addis Ababa to discuss the charter on 14-18 March

The workshop brought together human resource managers in the public sector, trainers in management development institutes and public service commissions and other appointing authorities from over 35 African countries. The purpose was to discuss how promoting professionalism and strengthening the role of human resource managers in the public sector, facilitates the implementation of the charter.

The event was also attended by representatives of the African Union, the International Public Management Association for Human Resources (IPMA-HR), the UN Development Programme and the World Bank. In addition, they were joined by Ministers responsible for public service in Ethiopia, Tanzania, Kenya and Uganda, as well as several Permanent Secretaries and Director-Generals of the public service in Africa.

Participants shared information and experiences on how to promote and sustain professionalism in the public service on the continent. They also discussed the challenges and obstacles in the implementation of the African Charter on the Values and Principles of Public Service and the Administration.

The workshop was organized by the Division for Public Administration and Development Management of the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs in collaboration with the UN Economic Commission for Africa, the Government of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia and the Africa Human Resource Managers' Network.

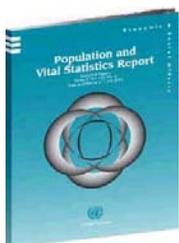
It is the third of its kind since the launch of the Africa Human Resources Managers' Network – APS-HRMnet in Arusha, Tanzania in February 2009. The network aims to sustain capacity development by institutionalizing professional human resource management in the public sector in Africa.

For more information:

<http://www.unpan.org/DPADM/ProductsServices/APSHRMnet/abid/1114/language/en-US/Default.aspx>

Publications and Websites

Statistical compilations



The Population and Vital Statistics Report (Online)

The report includes data for countries or areas on population size (total, male, and female) from the latest available census, and the number and rate of vital events (live births, deaths, and infant deaths) for the latest available year. These data are presented as reported by national statistical authorities to the Demographic Yearbook of DESA's Statistics Division.

For more information:

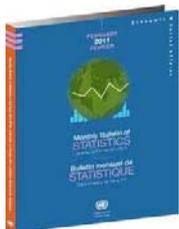
<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/products/vitstats/default.htm>



National Accounts Statistics: Main Aggregates and Detailed Tables, 2008 Parts I, II, III, and IV

The publication contains detailed national accounts estimates for 189 countries or areas of the World for the years 1997 to 2008. The estimates for each country or area are presented in separate chapters with uniform table headings and classifications as recommended in the System of National Accounts 1993 (1993 SNA). A summary of the SNA conceptual framework, classifications and definitions are included in the publication.

The publication contains statistics on national accounts aggregates and detailed variables such as gross domestic product, national income, saving, household and government consumption expenditure, gross capital formation, exports and imports, value added, compensation of employees, operating surplus, etc. It is a valuable source of information on the state and structure of the economies worldwide.



Monthly Bulletin of Statistics and MBS Online

The Monthly Bulletin of Statistics presents current economic and social statistics for more than 200 countries and territories of the world. It contains over 50 tables of monthly and/or

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

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This month, the following tables, which are featured in the MBS on a quarterly or bimonthly basis, are presented along with the regular recurrent monthly 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: <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/mbs>

Publications in other languages

The following publications are now available in other languages:

- Designing Household Survey Samples: Practical Guidelines (Arabic)
- Tourism Satellite Account: Recommended Methodological Framework 2008 (Spanish)
- International Merchandise Trade Statistics: Supplement to the Compilers Manual ST/ESA/STAT/SER (Russian)

Meeting records

The Transition to a Green Economy: Benefits, Challenges and Risks from a Sustainable Development Perspective

The Report by a Panel of Experts was released in March 2011 by DESA's Divisions on Sustainable Development, UNEP and UNCTAD. It contains three papers:

The first one, by José Antonio Ocampo, looks at the macroeconomic policy implications of the transition to the green economy. The second, by Aaron Cosby, focuses on the interlinked issues of trade, investment and technology. And, the third by Martin Khor, considers the risks that this concept generates for developing countries and the domestic and international policies necessary to promote the green economy in these countries according to the principles of sustainable development.

For more information:

<http://www.uncsd2012.org/rio20/index.php?page=view&type=400&nr=12&menu=45>

Briefs

Rio+20 Issues Brief on Trade and Green Economy

Produced by the Secretariat of the UN Conference on Sustainable Development with inputs from UNCTAD, this Brief provides guidance on issues to be addressed to reinforce trade, green economy and sustainable development complementarities. The Brief examines policy options for green transformation and their WTO-rule compatibility. It suggests that green economy offers an opportunity to improve global trade governance and the domestic trade environment to create an enabling environment for developing countries. This will ensure that trade contributes positively to a green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication.

For more information:

<http://www.uncsd2012.org/rio20/index.php?page=view&type=400&nr=13&menu=45>

Working papers

Behavioural Factors as Emerging Main Determinants of Child Mortality in Middle-Income Countries: A Case Study of Jordan

This paper uses data from Jordan's 2007 Demographic and Health Survey to reassess the main determinants of child mortality in this middle-income country. Running different logit estimations to allow for different time windows and sets of variables, we find that behavioural factors have gained importance, compared to the household and community factors that were found to be important in earlier studies. We conclude that once a country has passed a certain threshold in household income, education and access to health care and safe drinking water, policies targeting behavioural changes are the most promising for achieving further reductions in mortality rates.

For more information:

<http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/papers/2011/index.shtml>

Globalization and development in sub-Saharan Africa

This paper critically reviews the impact of globalization on sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) since the early 1980s. The large gains expected from opening up to international economic forces have, to date, been limited, and there have been significant adverse

consequences. Foreign direct investment in SSA has been largely confined to resource—especially mineral—extraction, even as continuing capital flight has reduced financial resources available for productive investments. Premature trade liberalization has further undermined prospects for the economic development of SSA as productive capacities in many sectors are not sufficiently competitive to take advantage of any improvements in market access.

For more information:

<http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/papers/2011/index.shtml>

Discussion papers

Monthly Briefing on the World Economic Situation and Prospects

This briefing highlights the further increase in international oil prices amidst continued unrest in the Middle East, as well as the rise in food and commodity prices that have pushed up inflation worldwide. The catastrophic earthquake and tsunami that hit Japan has caused massive damage, but global economic repercussions have yet to be fully determined.

For more information:

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

Comings and Goings

Comings

The following staff members were promoted in March:

Isabelle Mc Kusick, Team Assistant, Division for Sustainable Development

Maria Melissa Paca, Statistics Assistant, Statistics Division

Simona Maria Chindea, Staff Assistant, Division for Sustainable Development

Calendar

April

Monitoring of the 2011 Kosovo Census 1-15 April

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

10th session of the Committee of Experts on Public Administration

New York, 4-8 April

<http://www.unpan.org/DPADM/CEPA/10thSession/tabid/1446/language/en-US/Default.aspx>

Third Preparatory Meeting of the Proposed United Nations Committee on Global Geospatial Information Management

New York, 4-6 April

<http://ggim.un.org/meeting3.html>

44th session of the Commission on Population and Development

New York, 11-15 April

<http://www.un.org/esa/population/cpd/cpd2011/cpd44.htm>

In-depth Analysis of Ethiopian Population and Housing Census

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 11 April - 8 May

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

Seminar on the Implementation of the System of National Accounts 2008 in the African Region

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 11-15 April

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

International Year of Youth: Briefing session on Youth Participation

New York, 12 April

<http://social.un.org/youthyear/briefings.html>

ECOSOC 2011 Africa Regional Meeting

Lomé, Togo, 12 April

<http://www.un.org/en/ecosoc/amr/index.shtml>

The first substantive session of the Open-ended Working Group on strengthening the protection of human rights of older persons

New York, 18-21 April

<http://social.un.org/ageing-working-group/>

International Workshop on Measuring GDP by Final Demand Approach

Shenzhen, China, 25-27 April

http://unstats.un.org/unsd/economic_stat/China/GDP-FE-China-Workshop.htm

Electing members for ECOSOC bodies

New York, 27-28 April

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

Preparatory meeting of the Economic and Social Council

New York, 28 April

<http://www.un.org/en/ecosoc/newfunct/amr2011.shtml>

May

United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development - 19th Session (CSD-19)

New York, 2-13 May

<http://esango.un.org/irene/?page=viewContent&nr=14063&type=8§ion=8>

International Day of Families

15 May

<http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/family/idf11.html>

United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues - 10th Session

New York, 16-27 May

http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii/en/session_tenth.html

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.