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## Feature Articles

### Assessing progress for populations worldwide

*When the Commission on Population and Development gathers on 7-11 April, it will be only a few months away from the 20-year anniversary of the largest intergovernmental conference on population and development ever held – the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) in Cairo in 1994. Ahead of this event, John Wilmoth, Director of UN DESA's Population Division, spoke with DESA News about some of the demographic trends during the past 20 years and some of the issues currently at stake.*



Watch the interview on YouTube: <http://bit.ly/1pFUNY7>

“One of the most important areas of progress goes to the heart of what the Cairo conference was all about,” said Mr. Wilmoth, highlighting how this conference represented a shift in thinking. “Across the board, the emphasis went toward thinking about individuals and their rights and needs, and addressing those issues first and foremost,” he explained. He also pointed to positive changes that can be seen over the past 20 years including a substantial reduction of fertility around the world, increases in life expectancy as well as greater recognition of the contribution of international migration to development.

The conference in Cairo helped galvanize action that brought major improvements in the well-being of people around the world. When representatives and experts from a large number of UN Member States and NGOs gather in New York for the 47th session of the Commission on Population and Development, they will assess the status of implementation of the Programme of Action, adopted by 179 governments in 1994.

“There is still an unfinished agenda of the Cairo conference,” Mr. Wilmoth said, pointing to the need to continue to improve life expectancy, reduce fertility, enhance access to education, and achieve gender equality. “It means continuing to work on fulfilling the rights and needs of individuals across the life course,” Mr. Wilmoth added.

The Commission will also be an important preparatory event for the special session of the General Assembly, which will take place on 22 September 2014 to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the Cairo conference.

### Population growth and diversity

In 2011, the world's population surpassed 7 billion and it is expected to reach 8.1 billion in 2025 and 9.6 billion in 2050. Between 2010 and 2014, the world's population grew at a rate of 1.2 per cent per annum, below the 1.5 per cent per annum around the time of the ICPD in 1994.

Considerable diversity exists in the expected future course of population change, driven mainly by differences in fertility levels. At one end of the spectrum are countries characterized by high fertility and rapid population growth, and at the other end are countries where fertility has fallen below the replacement level, resulting in rapid population ageing and, in some cases, population decline.

For example, the combined population of the 49 least developed countries is projected to double by 2050, whereas in more than 40 other countries – many of them in Eastern Europe, East, South-East and Western Asia, other parts of Europe and Latin America and the Caribbean – the size of the population is expected to decline in the coming decades.

### Need to close gaps

Policies designed to increase the availability of safe and effective contraceptives and accessibility to family planning programmes and reproductive health care have been instrumental in reducing fertility. In 2013, more than 90 per cent of governments provided either direct or indirect support for family planning programmes. Furthermore, life expectancy worldwide has increased since ICPD, rising from 65 years in the period 1990-1995 to 70 years in the period 2010-2015.

Despite these advances, most countries will not achieve the ICPD Programme of Action target for life expectancy of 75 years (70 years for the countries with the highest mortality levels) by the target date of 2015. Worldwide, women live 4.5 years longer than men, a gap that has remained virtually unchanged since 1994. Similarly, the world as a whole will miss the Conference target of a 75 per cent reduction in maternal mortality.

### Ageing, international migration and urbanization

In 2013, the number of international migrants worldwide reached 232 million, up from 154 million in 1990. There are more people living outside their country of birth than ever before, and it is expected that the numbers will increase further.

“[Migration] has become increasingly important as [a] driver of development,” said Mr. Wilmoth. Indeed, the international community is increasingly recognizing the contribution of migration to global development, as exemplified by last year's landmark General Assembly political declaration on the issue.

An important consequence of lower fertility and higher life expectancy is population ageing. The number and proportion of

older people are expected to continue rising. Globally, the share of people aged 60 years or older increased from 9 per cent in 1994 to 12 per cent in 2014, and is expected to reach 21 per cent by 2050.

“Since most of the future growth of the world's population [...] will be absorbed by urban areas, it is important to address urban planning issues and promote sustainable patterns of urban growth”

Mr. Wilmoth observed that “this creates challenges in terms of meeting the needs of the older population and also in managing the relationship between the generations as the working-age population inevitably has to provide a certain amount of financial and other forms of support for the older population,” he said.

“Another important area is urbanization,” Mr. Wilmoth added.

### Shaping the post-2015 sustainable development agenda

People are at the heart of sustainable development. As emphasized in one of the Commission's main reports (E/CN.9/2014/3), few factors will shape the global development agenda as fundamentally as the size, structure and spatial distribution of the world's population. Demographic change will continue to affect and be shaped by social, economic, environmental and political changes. Increased knowledge of how these factors interact can help shape the post-2015 development agenda and contribute to policies that achieve both new and existing development goals.

Although the post-2015 development agenda has yet to be finalized, Mr. Wilmoth expected that the Population Division would have a major role in monitoring future sustainable goals. “We look forward to being a part of that,” Mr. Wilmoth concluded.

For more information:

[UN DESA's Population Division](#)

[47th Session of the Commission on Population and Development](#)

## Transforming public administration for sustainable development

*The 13th session of the UN Committee of Experts on Public Administration (CEPA) will be convened at the United Nations Headquarters in New York from 7 to 11 April. The newly appointed twenty-four CEPA members will hold discussions on the theme of transforming public administration for sustainable development.*



Good governance, underpinned by well-functioning public administration, is the cornerstone of present and future sustainable development. At the 12th session of CEPA last year, UN DESA's Under-Secretary-General Wu Hongbo highlighted the crucial role of public administration in reaching the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the post 2015 development agenda, acknowledging "the significant task of public administration, which is vital for sustainable development."

Considering the importance of public administration in the creation of a favorable environment to foster economic growth, social cohesion and environmental protection – the three pillars of sustainable development, which the MDGs embody, reinventing and reforming public administration is a positive and necessary way forward.

Established by the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) in its resolution 2001/45, CEPA is responsible for supporting the work of ECOSOC concerning the promotion and development of public administration and governance among Member States. Since its conversion from a Group into a full-fledged Committee, CEPA has been meeting annually to deliberate on current and emerging public administration issues related to the implementation of the internationally agreed development goals (IADGs), including the MDGs.

The 13th session will witness the first meeting of the 24 members of the Committee appointed by ECOSOC for the period 2014-2017 upon their nomination by the Secretary-General as outlined in the ECOSOC resolution E/2013/9/Add.13. Discussions will be held under the sub-themes of a) strengthening national and local capacities for sustainable development management; b) promoting leadership, innovation and risk management; and (c) invigorating the professionalism and morale of the public service.

To enrich the discussion, UN DESA's Division for Public Administration and Development Management (DPADM) invited observers of CEPA to send their input on the main theme of the meeting which will be uploaded online and made available to the public. The inputs will be compiled and made available to the Committee for its consideration during its deliberation.

### Strengthening capacities, promoting leadership, and invigorating public service

Experts on public administration will gather from 24 countries to participate in this session. Members of the Committee will present papers on the above-mentioned different sub-themes for discussion. On the basis of the parameters set out in these papers, the Committee will discuss and present conclusions and recommendations related to the transformation of public governance and public administration in supporting sustainable development.

Dr. Najat Zarrouk will present a paper on the theme of strengthening national and local capacities for sustainable development management. Her paper will address progress in attaining the Millennium Development Goals, residual challenges and governance deficits and transforming governance to allow it to serve the interests of sustainable development as well as defining a new vision for capacity development, which are now urgent imperatives at both the national and local levels for sustainable development management.

The paper by Ambassador Walter Fust will explore the transformation in public administration and public leadership that needs to be undertaken to enable Governments to pursue and achieve sustainable development. In this paper, the leadership of public administration is called upon to adopt risk management practices and develop appropriate capacities to assess, measure and manage risk.

Ms. Odette R. Ramsingh, will present a paper on the impact of the reform on public service and public servants as the stewards of the development goals, and the challenges and issues that the reform has wrought on professionalism of the public service with special reference to Africa. Additionally, her presentation will draw lessons from the reform periods and the Millennium Development Goals to explore whether public servants have the

requisite ethos, behavioural pattern and motivation to successfully deliver on the sustainable development agenda.

### Reviewing the UN Programme in Public Administration and Finance

In addition to engaging in dynamic discussions on transforming public administration for sustainable development, the Committee will also review the report submitted by the Secretariat on the activities implemented in 2013 and those proposed for implementation in the biennium 2014-2015 under the United Nations Programme in Public Administration and Finance.

Recommendations will be made to the Secretariat to assist Member States in addressing concerns of global importance, and in becoming aware of emerging issues related to public governance and administration and its role in supporting sustainable development.

### CEPA — “Going Green”

Since the 11th session of CEPA, DPADM has partnered with the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management (DGACM) through the Integrated Sustainable PaperSmart Services (ISPS) Secretariat to strategically utilize information technology in servicing delegates with varied methods of accessing documentation.

Delegates attending the 13th Session of the Committee of Experts on Public Administration will be able to download documents to their mobile devices/tablets by the use of QR codes. The ISPS Media can make documents also available via flash-drives. Additionally, the ISPS Print-on-demand will provide hard copies upon request.

For more information:

[13th Session of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Public Administration \(CEPA\)](#)

[Profiles of the Members of the Committee 2014-2017](#)

[PaperSmart](#)

## The role of partnerships beyond 2015

*Strengthening the global partnerships for sustainable development for the post-2015 development agenda will be the main topic of a thematic debate and Forum on Partnerships jointly convened by the President of the General Assembly Mr. John Ashe, and the President of the Economic and Social Council, Mr. Martin Sajdik which will take place from 9 to 10 April at United Nations Headquarters in New York.*



The thematic debate and forum on partnerships will feature three consecutive, interactive, multi-stakeholder panel discussions on 9 April 2014 and two on 10 April. The event is being organized by UN DESA in collaboration with the United Nations Office for Partnerships and the UN Global Compact.

### Building on MDGs moving forward

As the Secretary General’s High-level Panel on the Post-2015 Development Agenda has noted, an important transformative shift going forward is to bring a new sense of global partnership into national and international politics. A new global partnership should engage national governments of all countries, local authorities, international organizations, businesses, civil society, foundations and other philanthropists, and people. It should move beyond the MDG’s orientation of state-to-state partnerships.

“Together, nothing is impossible; if we strengthen these partnerships among governments, business communities, civil organizations and philanthropists, then I think all these powerful partnerships can bring us towards the right direction,” UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said at the beginning of his second term in office.

Strengthened global partnerships for sustainable development will be a catalyst for the international community to aspire and

advance towards an ambitious and transformative sustainable development agenda beyond 2015. The thematic debate and forum on partnerships will promote the scaling-up of the impact of all forms of cooperation in the post 2015 development agenda, and promote the urgent implementation of existing commitments under the global partnership for development while also addressing the emerging role of innovative multi-stakeholder partnerships.

Member States will participate, including at Ministerial level, alongside senior representatives of private sector companies, UN agencies, NGOs and other relevant stakeholders.

The two-day event is expected to generate innovative policy ideas and models for multi-stakeholder partnerships that can contribute to the implementation of the post-2015 development agenda. The Presidents of the General Assembly and ECOSOC will issue a summary at the conclusion of the event which will be made available to the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals and the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing.

#### Addressing the role of innovative multi-stakeholder partnerships

In the effort to achieve the MDGs, partnerships among various groups and stakeholders have played a critical role. New partnership models have emerged, motivated by the sense of urgency of the MDG deadline, which have created innovative sources of financing, in addition to the official development assistance and trade. Novel uses of technology, capacity building, and engagement with low-income members of society have helped increase access to basic services. The panel debates will discuss how to further leverage these innovative approaches in the conclusion of the MDG process, as well as in the delivering on the post-2015 development agenda.

The role of private sector, civil society and philanthropy has grown significantly in its size and reach. These actors will have a critical role to play in bringing the innovative methods and tools to the task of creating decent employment and strengthening the use of funding and research. In the panel discussions, member states will have a chance to explore the role of the private sector in the development agenda.

#### Monitoring and accountability

One of the most common explanations for gaps in MDG achievement is the lack of effective framework. Challenges in establishing consistent mechanisms for monitoring and accountability come from the diverse nature of partnerships and partners. The architecture of this framework will need to be flexible and adaptable enough in order to accommodate the variety of actors with the development agenda.

In order to better understand these issues, participants will share their experiences and lessons learned. While focusing on

development, these sessions will also attempt to address gender, human rights and peace-building issues.

#### Finding solutions, delivering outcomes

The second day of the two-day event will focus on linking the policy discussions on innovative multi-stakeholder partnerships, monitoring and accountability with specific concrete solutions and outcomes. In the course of that discussion, special focus will be on Small Island Developing States (SIDS), Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs). One of the major issues to be discussed will be food security, nutrition and marine resources. In this area, partnerships can provide indispensable science, technology, financing and capacity building in order to address the problems of food security.

In order to deliver solutions, the core component in sustainable development is reliable infrastructure. Without its physical components, such as roads, railways, ports, communication and technology, water and waste management systems, development efforts are severely hindered. This is especially relevant for a certain group of vulnerable countries, such as small islands and landlocked developing countries. These are faced with serious transportation infrastructure problems, which result in high transit transportation costs.

The outcome of the event is expected to provide ideas and information for the coming major conferences, such as the SIDS conference in September in Samoa, the Ministerial conference on New Partnerships for Development of Productive capacities of LDC in July in Benin and the Comprehensive Ten-Year Review Conference of the Almaty Programme of Action to be held 3-5 November 2014 in Vienna, Austria.

For more information:

[The role of partnerships in the implementation of the Post-2015 Development Agenda](#)

## Global Dialogue on Development

### Raising awareness of autism



*World Autism Awareness Day will be commemorated at UN Headquarters on 2 April under the theme of “Opening Doors to Inclusive Education”.*

The Day raises awareness of autism on all levels of society and encourages participation of Member States, civil society, private and public organizations and the UN system. A message of the Secretary-General has been delivered each year on that occasion.

A “Meet the Author” (sponsored by the UN Department of Public Information) of Drawing Autism (Jill Mullin) will start the Day at the North Lobby of the Secretariat Building (12-1pm). After that, a film screening (sponsored by the UN Permanent Missions of Italy and Argentina) of the documentary *Ocho pasos adelante* (e. Eight Steps Forward) will commence (1-3pm) at the ECOSOC Chamber, which will be followed by a Q&A session.

The film’s director (Selene Colombo), the Permanent Representatives of Italy (H.E. Mr. Sebastiano Cardi) and Argentina (H.E. Ms. María Cristina Perceval) as well as the Under Secretary-General of DPI (Mr. Peter Launsky-Tieffenthal) and the Director of the Division for Social Policy and Development, DESA (Ms. Daniela Bas) will be present. A keynote address by Mr. Ron Suskind, a Pulitzer Prize winning journalist and senior fellow at Harvard University on his book “Living Animated,” will proceed two panel discussions on “Legal Instruments” and “Inclusion in Practice” that are scheduled for 3-6 in the ECOSOC Chamber.

For more information: [World Autism Awareness Day](#)

### Open Working Group starts consolidation phase



*The Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals starts consolidation phase at the 9th Session and prepares for its 10th session taking place from 31 March to 4 April.*

The Open Working Group on sustainable development goals (SDGs) started the consolidation phase at its ninth session from 3 to 5 March when, after eight stocktaking sessions, the Group began deliberations with a view to agreeing on a proposal for SDGs.

At the opening of the session, Macharia Kamau, Permanent Representative of Kenya and Co-Chair of the Group, described the issues being dealt with by the Group as challenging the very existence of our ecosystem, environmental system, and food chains. “The challenges we are facing are real and existential,” he said.

In the run-up to the session, the Co-Chairs had sent to the Member States a [document](#) identifying 19 focus areas for consideration. The document consolidates the essence of deliberations during the Group’s stocktaking phase and lays out some possible areas for action under each focus area, but is not intended as a zero draft for negotiations on goals and targets. The Co-Chairs have also released an annex outlining interlinkages between the focus areas, and a proposal of how to cluster the focus areas during the Group’s tenth session.

#### For a more sustainable global political framework

Ambassador Kamau said that if these 19 focus areas are addressed in synergy, they can promise us “a more sustainable earth, a more sustainable society, more sustainable economies, and ultimately a more sustainable global political framework”. The exchange of views and initial reactions revealed that the document was very well received, with delegations accepting it as the basis for further discussion. Nevertheless, delegations and civil society noted a number of issues that they thought could be more fully reflected, including: migration; disaster risk reduction; land degradation, desertification and drought; youth and culture; and sustainable agriculture.

The discussions showed strong and continued support for gender equality and women’s empowerment as a stand-alone focus area, as well as a cross-cutting issue of relevance to other focus areas. A strong consensus that poverty eradication must be the

overriding objective of a post-2015 development agenda, and that it must feature prominently in the SDGs, was also underscored.

### Joint meeting with Committee on Sustainable Development Financing

In the course of the ninth session, the Open Working Group held a joint meeting with the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing, which provided an opportunity to share progress and priorities in their respective areas of work. At the joint meeting, the Financing Committee Co-Chairs emphasized that they would be examining all relevant sources of financing for sustainable development post-2015, public and private, and that the role of ODA would be given due weight in their deliberations.

The Open Working Group continued its strong engagement with civil society. Major Groups and other stakeholders were given the opportunity to share their views on the focus areas document, including during a dedicated session.

### 10th sessions to take place from 31 March to 4 April

The tenth session of the Open Working Group will take place from 31 March to 4 April. On 19 March the Co-Chairs submitted to the Member States a slightly revised version of the focus areas document, reflecting the main comments received during the groups ninth session, but not introducing major changes. It is expected that during this session, the focus will turn to more detailed discussions of possible goals and targets.

For more information: [Tenth session of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals](#)

## ECOSOC convenes annual spring meeting



*On 14-15 April, the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) will hold its annual Special high-level meeting with the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, the World Trade Organization and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development at UN Headquarters in New York.*

The overall theme of the meeting will be “Coherence, coordination and cooperation in the context of financing for sustainable development and the post-2015 development agenda”.

Chaired by the ECOSOC President, Ambassador Martin Sajdik (Austria), the Special high-level meeting will bring together Ministers of Finance / Development Cooperation / Foreign Affairs and Central Bank Governors, as well as high-level representatives and senior officials of major institutional stakeholders, civil society organizations, academia and the private sector.

This year’s high-level meeting has special significance. It is taking place against the background of global economic recovery trends and in the context of the preparations for the post-2015 development agenda. The meeting should serve to strengthen the growing momentum on post-2015, which needs to be underpinned by a strong financing framework. It will promote synergies between various processes and events, including the work of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing and the preparations for the third international conference on financing for development to be convened in 2015 or 2016.

Thematic debates will be held on the following topics:

1. World economic situation and prospects
2. Mobilization of financial resources and their effective use for sustainable development
3. Global partnership for sustainable development in the context of the post-2015 development agenda

A full summary of the meeting by the President of ECOSOC will be issued subsequently as an official document of the Council and the General Assembly. It will provide an input to the summer session of the Council, deliberations of the Second Committee of the General Assembly on the Financing for Development agenda item, as well as the follow-up process to the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development and the discussions within both ECOSOC and the GA on the post-2015 development agenda.

For more information: [Financing for Development website](#)

## Sustainable development financing

*Third session of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing took place in New York on 3-7 March.*



The mandate of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing is to develop “options on an effective sustainable development financing strategy to facilitate the mobilization of resources and their effective use in achieving sustainable development objectives.” The work of the Committee is organized in three clusters of issues.

The central focus of the March meeting was Cluster 2, “*Mobilisation of resources and their effective use*”. The cluster co-facilitators presented their report and a summary of their inter-sessional work. The report identified guiding principles for an effective sustainable development financing framework. The session also briefly addressed Cluster 3, “*Institutional arrangements, policy coherence, synergies and governance*.” The co-facilitators of this cluster presented framing questions and received further guidance for their inter-sessional work. The Committee will return to discussing Cluster 3 in its next session, from 12 to 16 May. The Committee also referred to Cluster 1, “*Assessing financing needs, mapping of current flows and emerging trends, and the impact of domestic and international environments*,” which had been discussed in December.

In order to ensure effective coordination between the Committee and the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals, a joint meeting was held on Wednesday, 5 March. Members of both groups agreed that close coordination was critical in order to ensure the coherence, synergy, consistency and complementarity of the two processes.

The Committee’s deliberations were also enriched by informal briefings by outside experts on inequality and finance and on aligning private finance with sustainable development. In addition, a multi-stakeholder forum was convened on Monday, 3 March with the active participation of representatives from NGOs, the private sector and other major groups and relevant stakeholders. A number of rich points emanated from these presentations and discussions, which informed the work in the session.

The main outcome of the session was an agreement on the modalities for the drafting process of the final report, which will be

submitted to the General Assembly in September. The next sessions of the Committee will be held in May and August.

For more information:  
[Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing](#)



## Trends and Analysis

### Promoting the standardization of geographical names



*The United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN) will meet at UN headquarters in New York on 28 April – 2 May for their 28th Session.*

Geographical names are not only essential elements on a map; geographical names are far reaching and bring together elements of geography, history, cartography, language, culture, oral tradition, psychology, and politics. They provide words or phrases that identify places locally, nationally or worldwide, they give us an effective way of communicating, accessing other knowledge, and constitute a part of the collective memory and heritage.

Geographical names are of vital significance to people's sense of well-being and are key elements in almost all our socio-economic activities, such as postal services, planning and census work, trade and commerce, search and rescue operations, emergency aid and disaster relief, and transportation. Each geographic entity needs to be uniquely identified without ambiguity and therefore the need to standardize geographical names; which leads us to the work of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN).

UNGEGN was established based on ECOSOC resolution 715 A (XXVII) in 1959, which recommended the establishment of national organizations to standardize and disseminate geographical names, the creation of a clearing-house function at the UN, the setting up of a small group of specialists to consider technical problems of names standardization and the possibility of an international conference on the subject. Today, UNGEGN is one of nine standing expert groups that reports to ECOSOC.

The UNGEGN group of experts is therefore responsible for encouraging the standardization of geographical names, and promoting the national and international benefits to be derived from standardization. UNGEGN convenes conferences and sessions and carries out its work through the activities of ten Working Groups, 24 linguistic/geographical Divisions and two Task Teams. This body of experts consisting of cartographers, geographers, names experts, historians, linguists, planners and surveyors will be meeting in New York from 28 April to 2 May 2014 with the purpose to advance the work undertaken in the

implementation of the resolutions passed at the preceding Conferences, the last one being in 2012.

The session will focus on topics such as: the romanization of geographical names, discouraging the commercialization of geographical names, the standardization of geographical names, toponymic education, the creation and management of toponymic data files and gazetteers and the protection of geographical names as cultural heritage. It is expected that the programme of work, issues and challenges will be addressed through the discussions and interactions of over 180 attendees from approximately 60 Member States and about 20 linguistic Divisions during the week.

The UNGEGN session provides the global forum where these experts are able to learn of and share best practices, cooperative ventures, new developments in geographical names administration and practical outcomes of names standardization. There will also be special presentations on current topics impacting the discipline, along with side events, consisting of Divisional meetings and learning centres, plus an exhibition of maps and posters showcasing Indigenous Geographical Names.

The UNGEGN Secretariat based in UN DESA's Statistics Division, continues to provide support required to carry on the extremely important work of promoting the standardization of geographical names. Areas of collaborative work include capacity development with the preparation and delivery of toponymic training programmes (in person and on-line), the creation of training and promotional material and the management and maintenance of the World Geographical Names Database which stores the names of countries and major cities with a population of more than 100,000.

This database, as of March 12, 2014, has 5,876 geographical names consisting of 193 countries and 3,343 cities. There are also 974 sound files which assist with the pronunciation of city names. Another collaborative activity is the management and maintenance of the UNGEGN website, which facilitates information sharing and dissemination among member states, experts and users globally. The website has an impressive number and type of documents presented at conferences and UNGEGN sessions, pdf files of all UNGEGN publications available for download, and a portal providing links to national names authorities.

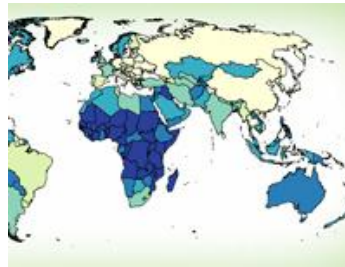
Ms. Shamshad Akhtar, the former Assistant Secretary-General for Economic Development in UN DESA, noted in her opening speech at the 10th Conference held on 31 July – 9 August 2012, that accurate and consistent geographical names are vital at the local, national and global level for sustainable planning strategies, among other developmental elements.

The upcoming 28th Session of UNGEGN will be another milestone and step by a global community of experts who share the vision and goals of making available geographical names, a fundamental data set which supports geospatial information management, and enables decision making for sustainable development.

For more information: [28th Session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names](#)

## With a spotlight on population and housing censuses

*Second Expert Group Meeting on the Revision of Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses will be held in New York on 29 April – 02 May.*



UN DESA's Statistics Division is conducting the Second Expert Group Meeting on the Revision of Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses in New York. The first meeting took place in November 2013 and resulted in establishing three working groups, each focusing on particular part of the principles and recommendations.

The second meeting of the expert group will review the consolidated input and contributions and discuss both general and specific issues and topics, leading to the draft text of revised principles and recommendations for population and housing censuses. This expert group comprises of over fifty experts from national statistical offices and international and regional organizations.

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

## Capacity development

### Improving national development indicators



*Workshop for the UNSD-DFID project on “Improving the collation, availability and dissemination of national development indicators, including MDGs” will take place in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, on 21-25 April.*

The workshop “CountryData: Building better dissemination systems for national development indicators,” organized by UN DESA’s Statistics Division, is the fourth in a series of international workshops planned by the Statistics Division - Department for International Development (DFID) Project on “Improving the collation, availability and dissemination of national development indicators, including MDGs”.

The series of workshops has served to build capacity around implementing the Statistical Data and Metadata eXchange (SDMX) dissemination model promoted by the project. The fourth workshop will, in particular, look at complex issues and advanced topics in SDMX mapping and exchange. It will also focus on metadata and its use in discrepancy analysis, with a long term view to reducing discrepancies between national and international development data. The training will be led by the Statistics Division in UN DESA and will bring together statistical and IT project focal points from the 11 countries participating in the project.

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

### Double tax treaties to promote investment in developing countries



*The Capacity Development Unit of the Financing for Development Office in UN DESA delivered, for the first time, the UN Course on Double Tax Treaties, based*

*on the 2011 version of the UN Model Double Taxation Convention between Developed and Developing Countries. The Course was held in Panama City, Panama, on 10-14 March, with the participation of 30 treaty negotiators and administrators from 16 developing countries in Latin America and Caribbean.*

The course provided the participants with the fundamentals of double tax treaties, which play a critical role in promoting international investment and with a good understanding of the UN Model, which is one of the two international double tax treaty models most widely used by countries as a basis for negotiations of their bilateral tax treaties.

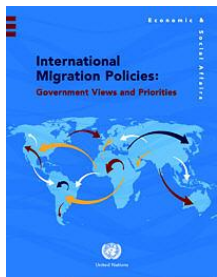
The Course, which was practical and focused on South-South sharing, included abundant examples and comprehensive case studies, which were discussed by the participants in small groups. In addition to instruction provided by world-renowned experts, regional experts provided practical insights and relevant examples from their country practices throughout the Course.

[Download](#) the UN Model Double Taxation Convention between Developed and Developing Countries

## Publications and Websites

### Technical reports

#### International Migration Policies : Government Views and Priorities

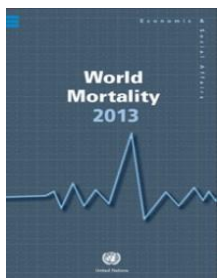


This report describes Government views and policy priorities related to immigration and emigration, and how these have evolved along with changing international migration patterns for 196 countries. It provides information on levels and trends in international migration, policies to influence the level of immigration, policies to promote immigration of highly skilled workers, policies to foster the integration of migrants

into the host society, including naturalization policies, and other policies designed by Governments in countries of origin, such as policies on emigration, acceptance of dual citizenship, policies to encourage the return of citizens, and measures to promote involvement of diaspora in countries of origin.

- [To download](#)

#### World Mortality Wallchart 2013



The wall chart on World Mortality 2013 presents the latest data available on 15 mortality indicators at the national, regional and world levels.

It also contains illustrative graphs, along with brief explanatory texts of selected regional and global trends in mortality.

- [To download](#)

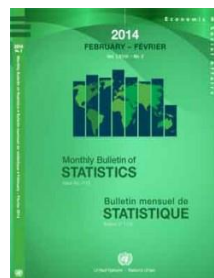
#### Fertility Levels and Trends as Assessed in the 2012 Revision of World Population Prospects

This report is a concise analysis of fertility levels and trends in World Population Prospects: The 2012 Revision, the official United Nations publication of population estimates and projections, and includes estimates of the contribution of fertility to future population growth.

- [To download](#)

### Statistical compilations

#### Monthly Bulletin of Statistics and MBS Online



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

Vol. LXVIII – No. 2, February 2014

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

- [For more information](#)

#### Guidelines on Integrated Economic Statistics



The Guidelines build upon international standards manuals by describing principles and detailed practices for further increasing the consistency and coherence of economic data within countries, over time, and across countries. The role of the System of National Accounts as the integrating framework in economic statistics is emphasized and the full set of relevant conceptual, statistical production and institutional issues are addressed.

The various statistical production components of integrated economic statistics are discussed ranging from the use of consistent definitions, classifications, questionnaires, sample frames, data sources and the use of consistent concepts and balancing techniques in national accounts to data dissemination. Issues that play an integral role in the institutional setting for integration, such as strategic planning, legislative framework,

governance, human resources, process management, are also highlighted.

The applicable practices vary across countries, therefore, practical advice for the reconciliation of economic statistics is covered for the entire spectrum of statistical agencies, from countries with centralized statistical systems that are able to control the entire production process to those with decentralized systems that must harmonize a wide array of data collected by different agencies.

The publication presents general methodological guidance for integration strategies and serves as a compendium of case studies and current existing practical examples covering a broad range of practical aspects and country experiences of the integration of economic statistics.

### System of Environmental-Economic Accounting Central Framework



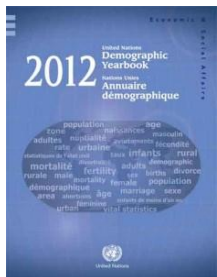
The publication is a statistical framework that provides a comprehensive, consistent, comparable and flexible set of environmental-economic accounts for policy making, analysis and research purposes.

Agenda 21 adopted at the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

called for the establishment of a “program to develop national systems of integrated environmental and economic accounting in all countries”. More recently, the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) reconfirmed that “integrated social, economic, and environmental data and information is important to decision-making processes.”

In response to the continued need for environmental and environmental-economic information, in 2005 the United Nations Statistical Commission established the UN Committee of Experts on Environmental-Economic Accounting (UNCEEA), an intergovernmental body composed of representatives from national statistical offices and international agencies, with the mandate to revise the SEEA.

### Demographic Yearbook 2012



Demographic Yearbook 2012 is the sixty-third in a series published since 1948. Through the cooperation with the National Statistical Offices, official demographic statistics are compiled in the Yearbook, as available, for more than 230 countries and areas of the world up to the reference year 2012. This edition of the Yearbook contains chapters on the population size and

distribution, the population of capital cities, fertility, foetal mortality, infant and maternal mortality, general mortality, nuptiality and divorce.

- [For more information](#)

### National Accounts Statistics: Analysis of Main Aggregates 2012

The forty-second issue of this publication comprises in the form of analytical tables a summary of the principal national accounting aggregates based on official national accounts data for more than 200 countries and areas, covering 1970-2012. It also contains a section on the estimation methods used for compiling data. It is prepared by UN DESA’s Statistics Division in cooperation with national statistical offices. Tables include analysis of data on gross domestic product (GDP) by different structural components. They are classified into:

1. Analysis of the level of total and per capita GDP
2. Analysis of the percentage shares of GDP by type of expenditure and gross value added by kind of economic activity
3. Analysis of economic development expressed in terms of real growth of GDP and its components by type of expenditure and gross value added by kind of economic activity
4. Analysis of price development reflected by implicit price deflators of GDP.

### National Accounts Statistics: Main Aggregates and Detailed Tables, 2012 Part I, Part II, Part III, IV & Part V

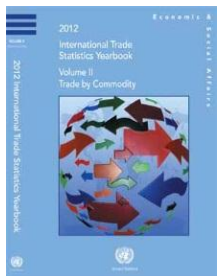
The publication contains detailed official national accounts data for over 200 countries or areas of the World for the years 2001 to 2012. It is a valuable source of information on the state and structure of economies worldwide. The data for each country or area are presented in separate chapters with uniform table headings and classifications as recommended in the System of National Accounts 1993 (1993 SNA). Each country chapter also contains a write-up on the methodology and data sources which are used to compile the national accounts.

A summary of the SNA conceptual framework, classifications, definitions, is also included in the publication. The publication contains statistics on gross domestic product by expenditure at current and constant prices and the relations among product, income, saving and net lending; value added by kind of activity at current and constant prices, and output, gross value added and fixed assets by industry; classification of consumption expenditure of general government, households, and non-profit institutions serving households according to purpose; production account through the financial account for the institutional

sectors; and cross classification of gross value added by industry and institutional sector.

- [To download the time-series data](#)

### 2012 International Trade Statistics Yearbook, Vol. II: Trade by Commodity



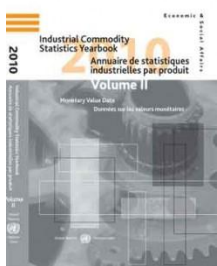
The publication contains detailed tables showing international trade for 258 individual commodities (3-digit SITC groups) and eleven world trade tables covering trade values and indices up to the year 2012. The information contained is based on data provided by approximately 140 countries (areas), representing more than 90% of world trade of 2012. Volume II has been compiled approximately six months after the submission of Volume I (in November 2013) as the preparation of these tables requires and benefits from the additional country data which, normally, become available later in the year.

Volume I – Trade by Country has been compiled (and made available) early in 2013 (in May 2013) to allow for an advanced release of an overview of international merchandise trade in 2012 and for a much earlier publication of the available 2012 country (area) data. All tables of Volume II are made available electronically shortly after the completion of the manuscript. Volume II contains updated versions of the two world trade tables A and D published in Volume I.

Beginning with the 2008 edition, the International Trade Statistics Yearbook is published in a redesigned format in respect to the presentation of data for individual countries (Volume I) as well as trade in a particular commodity (Volume II).

- [For more information](#)

### 2010 Industrial Commodity Statistics Yearbook, Vol. I and Vol. II



The publication provides statistics on the production of about 600 major industrial commodities. Data are provided for the ten-year period of 2001-2010 for approximately 200 countries and territories. The commodities have been selected on the basis of their importance in world production and trade.

The Yearbook provides data on the quantities and values of industrial production for the major industrial commodities, therefore it is organized in two volumes: Volume I: Physical Quantity Data and Volume II: Monetary Value Data.

The publication contains three annexes to assist the user: an index of commodities in alphabetical order; a table of correspondence among the CPC-based commodity codes and the International Standard Industrial Classification (ISIC), Revs. 4 and 3.1, the Harmonized System (HS) 2007 and 2002 and Prodcom 2008 and 2002; and information on all the classifications used in this publication.

- [For more information](#)

## Outreach material

### Sustainable Development in Action – Issue 3, Volume 2

The latest issue, published by UN DESA's Division for Sustainable Development, highlights among others, the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals. The newsletter aims to feature the work carried out by Member States, United Nations system, Major Groups and other relevant stakeholders in implementing sustainable development and leading the way to the Future We Want.

- [Read full issue](#)

### DESA NGO News

The March issue is available online. Published by UN DESA's NGO Branch, the newsletter provides the most up-to-date information on news and upcoming events of interest to civil society at UN headquarters in New York, Geneva and elsewhere. The latest issue highlights an open call by the NGO Branch for written and oral statements for the 2014 ECOSOC High-Level Segment as well as the conclusion of the 58th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women.

- [Read full issue](#)

## Discussion papers

### **Monthly Briefing on the World Economic Situation and Prospects No. 64**

Published by UN DESA's Development Policy and Analysis Division, the March issue is available online, putting the spotlight on the world economy's struggle to gain momentum, the policy dilemma facing emerging economies in trying to stabilize currencies and G20 leaders calling for new measures to lift growth and create jobs.

- [To download](#)

## Working papers

### **Crisis mismanagement in the US and Europe: impact on developing countries and longer-term consequences**

There are two major failings in policy interventions in the crisis in the US and Europe: the reluctance to remove the debt overhang through timely, orderly and comprehensive restructuring and the shift to fiscal austerity after an initial reflation. These have resulted in excessive reliance on monetary means with central banks entering uncharted policy waters, including zero-bound interest rates and the acquisition of long-term public and private bonds.

This ultra-easy monetary policy has not been very effective in reducing the debt overhang and stimulating spending. It has, however, generated financial fragility, at home and abroad, particularly in the case of the US as the issuer of the key reserve currency, and exit is full of pitfalls. Although ultra-easy money is still with us, the markets have begun pricing-in the normalization of monetary policy in the US and this is the main reason for the turbulence in emerging economies. Policy response to an intensification of the stress in the South needs to depart from past practices and should include measures to involve the private creditors in crisis resolution and provision of market support and liquidity by central banks in major advanced economies.

- [To download](#)

# Comings and Goings

## Comings

*The following staff members were promoted in March:*

Birgitte Alvarez-Rivero, Senior Economic Affairs  
Officer, Division for Sustainable Development

Menbere Dessalegne, Programme Assistant, Division for  
Sustainable Development

Elie Hobeika, Associate Governance & Public Admin.  
Officer, Division for Public Administration and Development  
Management

Marta Roig, Senior Social Affairs Officer, Division for Social  
Policy and Development

Thet Wynn, Information Systems Assistant, Development Policy  
and Analysis Division



# Calendar

## April

### **10<sup>th</sup> Session of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals**

31 March - 4 April, New York

### **World Autism Awareness Day**

2 April, New York

### **Thematic debate/ forum on partnerships**

9-10 April, New York

### **47<sup>th</sup> Session of the Commission on Population and Development**

7-11 April, New York

### **13<sup>th</sup> Session of the UN Committee of Experts on Public Administration (CEPA)**

7-11 April, New York

### **ECOSOC Special high-level meeting with the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, WTO and UNCTAD**

14-15 April, New York

### **Workshop for the UNSD-DFID project on “Improving the collation, availability and dissemination of national development indicators, including MDGs**

21-25 April, Phnom Penh, Cambodia

### **28<sup>th</sup> Session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN)**

28 April – 2 May, New York

### **Second Expert Group Meeting on the Revision of Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses**

29 April – 2 May, New York

**DESA News is an insider's look at the United Nations in the area of economic and social development policy. The newsletter is produced by the 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.**