



**Preparing the world for important population changes | Investing ahead – for people and the planet | Building trust in government in pursuit of the sustainable development goals**

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## Feature Articles

### Preparing the world for important population changes

*In 2015, the world will adopt a new set of goals, guiding the efforts to achieve a more sustainable and fairer world where no-one is left behind. In designing and implementing the post-2015 agenda, it is important to understand and account for demographic changes that are likely to unfold in the future. On 13-17 April, the 48th session of the Commission on Population and Development will take place with the task of identifying a set of key actions that will enable population issues to be integrated into this new sustainable development agenda.*

Over the next fifteen years, the world population is expected to increase by 1.1 billion so that by 2030, the global economy will need to support approximately 8.4 billion people.

“Globally, two billion babies will be born, each requiring health care services. More than two billion children will reach school age, each needing access to high quality education,” explained Mr. John Wilmoth, Director of UN DESA's Population Division.



Watch the video: <http://bit.ly/1OVBZ6C>

#### Large regional variations

These large scale population dynamics mask large regional variations. While almost all regions are projected to grow by at least 10 percent over the next 15 years, Africa will account for more than 40 per cent of the global increase in population, while Europe can expect a slight decrease in population.

In addition, the world's different regions have varying capabilities in managing an increasing population. An increasing number of births pose particularly significant challenges for low-income countries where poverty and malnutrition rates are already high, levels of education low, healthcare systems weak and where the rates of infant and child

mortality are high. In addition, two billion children will turn age 5 and will require access to education.

#### Preparing education and jobs for growing youth population

Beyond all the two billion newborns who will see the light of day during the coming fifteen years, and the two billion children who will turn five, more than 1.2 billion young people will transit into adulthood and begin looking for a job. Most of the increase is concentrated in African countries such as Burundi, Mali, and Niger. However, there are also large regional differences, for example in Asia, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, where the number of young people will decline, in some cases significantly.

A growing young generation presents a major promise for economic development, technological innovation and social change. At the same time, it can also pose possible challenges when it comes to for example adolescent pregnancies, drug abuse, school dropouts and trafficking. What determines the outcome is often the opportunities that have been offered to these children in the younger age, in the form of education and skills training that makes them competitive in today's global marketplace.

#### Taking care of an ageing population

Rapid growth in the number of older persons is expected over the next fifteen years across all areas of the world. Nearly half of all the older persons do not receive any form of pension and for many who do, the level of support is inadequate. In several high-income countries, benefit levels have been reduced.

“One thing that all countries have in common is the need to plan for population ageing. People aged sixty and older are now the world fastest growing age group,” Mr. Wilmoth explained.

#### Urban areas continue to grow

The 1.1 billion increase in global population over the next fifteen years is expected to occur in urban areas. Africa and Asia are projected to have the largest increases in urban populations so that the number of urban areas, as well as their absolute size will continue to grow.

While the growth of already very big cities poses risks, as uncontrolled expansion of urban areas, environmental degradation and heightened risk for natural hazards as floods and landslides, the density of population also opens up the possibility for lower costs per capita in providing infrastructure and basic services.

“[Ongoing population change] puts [cities] on the front line when it comes to eliminating poverty, reducing pollution, and ensuring access to safe water and essential services,” explained Mr. Wilmoth. “Governments must ensure that urban expansion takes place in a sustainable and inclusive manner.”

#### Commission on Population and Development convenes for 48th session

The world will need to confront many major challenges in the years ahead if it is to achieve sustainable development in the social, economic and environmental spheres. Through motivated and proactive work, like the upcoming Commission on Population and Development, the possibility of achieving these goals has never been greater.

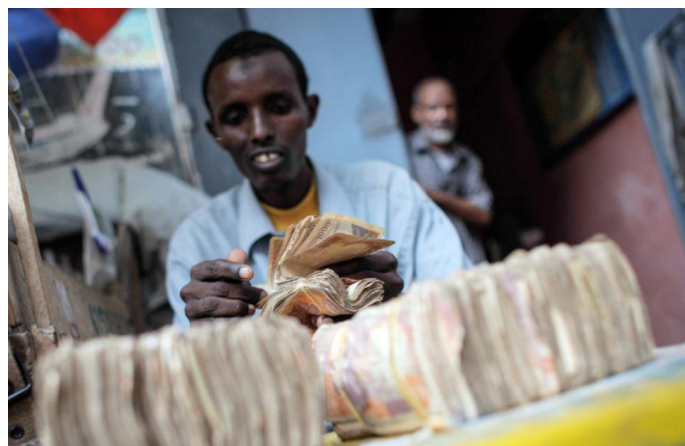
“Through a deeper understanding of how the world is changing, combined with better planning, stronger partnerships, and greater political will, we can create a better tomorrow for both people and planet,” said Mr. Wilmoth, as his division continues to prepare for the upcoming commission taking place at UN Headquarters in New York.

For more information:

[48th session of the Commission on Population and Development](#)

## Investing ahead — for people and the planet

*The international community has the means to improve the lives of people everywhere. But we need to make sure that the right financing gets to where it is needed. The Third International Financing for Development Conference in Addis Ababa aims to accomplish just that and it offers a chance to secure financing for sustainable development. Preparations are now entering a critical phase to ensure a successful outcome of the event benefitting both people and the planet.*



UN DESA's Under-Secretary-General and the Conference Secretary-General Mr. Wu Hongbo leads the efforts and he has been traveling across continents to make sure that inputs and views from different stakeholders and regions across the globe

are taken into account as the countdown continues to this milestone event in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on 13-16 July.

“One week ago, the co-facilitators of the preparatory process, Ambassador Pedersen of Norway and Ambassador Talbot of Guyana, made public the first draft of the Addis Ababa outcome document,” Mr. Wu said as he addressed the Regional Consultation on Financing for Development held on 23 March in Geneva.

“It addresses the full remit of the Financing for Development agenda [...],” he added. “But it also goes beyond Monterrey and Doha to fully take into account the report of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the report of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing, and the Secretary-General’s synthesis report.”

A successful outcome in Addis Ababa should be comprised of three key elements: (1) a cohesive and holistic financing framework for the post-2015 development agenda; (2) concrete deliverables in crucial areas of sustainable development, such as infrastructure, agriculture, social needs, and SMEs; (3) a strong follow-up process to ensure that no country is left behind.

### Regional dimension vital

Organized by the UN Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) and the Regional UN Development Group for Europe and Central Asia, the event provided a regional input to the global negotiations. The importance of the regional dimension on the road to Addis Ababa and beyond 2015 was stressed at the event, which was attended by around 150 participants, including experts and representatives of Governments, civil society, private sector and other international organizations.

Michael Gerber, Ambassador, Special Envoy for Global Sustainable Development, Switzerland, who chaired the Consultation, urged to have “a frank exchange” on some of the key issues the Addis Ababa Conference needs to deliver on: “how to unlock private resources for sustainable development; how to create a conducive international environment for domestic resource mobilization; and how a renewed global partnership will look like”.

### Huge financing needs and importance of ODA

Financing needs are huge, but as Manuel Sager, Secretary of State and Director-General of the Swiss Agency for Development Cooperation, emphasized, “the money is there. Global savings by far surpass the needs to finance the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), with the vast majority of these savings lying in private hands”. What is required is to devise appropriate mechanisms and regulatory frameworks that can help channel these resources into meeting the SDGs. The UNECE region already has a wealth of experience on the mobilization of private

sector resources, which provides a good foundation to tackle the financing challenges of the post-2015 development agenda.

The continued importance of Official Development Assistance (ODA) was stressed during the consultation but the question of financing for sustainable development should be framed in much broader terms. “Our ambition should be much larger than the ODA ambition. We need to ensure that all financial flows take into account and contribute to sustainable development needs,” said UNECE Executive Secretary Christian Friis Bach.

### Indispensable role of regional commissions

“Looking ahead, regional economic commissions will play an indispensable role in implementing the Addis outcome document and the post 2015 development agenda,” Mr. Wu said, as he addressed the UNECE event. He also highlighted his recent visit to Washington where he met with IMF and World Bank officials. “Last week, I visited the World Bank and held very frank discussions with Dr. Kim and some of the board members.



ODA was an issue raised a lot during the meetings,” Mr. Wu explained.

Earlier in March, Mr. Wu also took part in the Latin American and Caribbean Regional Consultation on Financing for Development, organized by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and Chile’s government.

The Regional Consultation was inaugurated by Hernando Muñoz, Chile’s Minister of Foreign Affairs; Mr. Wu; Jessica Faieta, Director for Latin America and the Caribbean of the United Nations Development Program (UNDP); and Alicia Bárcena, ECLAC’s Executive Secretary.

During his speech, Minister Muñoz underlined the importance of the meeting, allowing the region to make inclusive proposals for sustainable development with equality to the conference in Addis Ababa. “The heart of the new development agenda must be inclusion, integrating environmental, social and economic dimensions,” he said.



At the end of March, Mr. Wu also attended the African Union Conference of African Ministers and the ECA Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic

Development, held in Addis Ababa.

### Unlocking resources for the benefit of all

For Conference Secretary-General Mr. Wu, a busy agenda lies ahead for the coming months. Some of the next events in preparation for the conference include the hearings with civil society and the business sector (8-9 April), the second drafting session on the Conference outcome document (13-17 April), the IMF and World Bank Spring Meetings in Washington D.C. on 17-19 April, the ECOSOC Special high-level meeting with the World Bank, IMF, WTO and UNCTAD (20-21 April), and the joint session between the Financing for Development and the post-2015 processes (21-24 April).

The next round of regional consultations will take place in Amman, Jordan on 7-8 April, and then in Jakarta, Indonesia, on 29-30 April, gathering inputs from Western Asia and Asia and the Pacific regions. The third drafting session on the outcome document will be held on 15-19 June.

As preparations continue towards this landmark event in Ethiopia, the hopes and expectations are high. In Addis, there is a new opportunity to forge partnerships between governments, civil society and businesses to create the mechanisms and incentives needed to align people-centred public and private investments for the greatest possible impact.

“As you know, 2015 provides a unique opportunity to chart a new era of sustainable development. Addis Ababa is the first of three major milestones that are likely to shape international cooperation for years to come,” Mr. Wu said as he addressed the event in Geneva. “In Addis, the international community must lay the groundwork for a successful Summit on sustainable development at the United Nations in September and the climate change conference in Paris in December.”

For more information:

[Third International Conference on Financing for Development](#)  
[Zero draft of the outcome document](#)  
[Regional consultations on Financing for Development](#)

## Building trust in government in pursuit of the sustainable development goals

*Public administration and good governance are critical in achieving sustainable development. On 20-24 April, the Committee of Experts on Public Administration (CEPA), will meet in New York for its 14th annual session to discuss the practical measures governments can take in pursuit of the sustainable development. The timely issue of building trust in government in pursuit of the sustainable development goals will be highlighted in this year's meeting.*



Good governance, supported by well-functioning public administration, is a cornerstone of sustainable development. Governments across the globe will need to undertake a process of transformative change to create a favorable environment to foster economic growth, social cohesion and environmental protection. This will require, among others, ethical leadership at all levels backed up by effective institutions, strong commitment to integrity, coordination, integration, innovation, as well as shared responsibility and accountability.

### Good governance catalyst for sustainable development

“This Committee has the opportunity to contribute substantively to the thinking on the role of governance and public administration in sustainable development,” said UN DESA’s Under-Secretary-General Mr. Wu Hongbo, as he addressed last year’s session. “Government leaders have affirmed that to achieve sustainable development, good governance, peace and security, respect for human rights, and rule of law are essential. In particular, they point out that we need institutions at all levels that are effective, transparent, accountable and democratic. But what does this mean in practice?,” Mr. Wu also asked the CEPA Members.

Mr. Wu further highlighted that issues such as transparency and accountability of public institutions, combatting corruption, citizen participation, access to information and public-private partnerships offer some sign points on how policy-makers can be better equipped to address the complex challenges of sustainable development.

#### Responsive public service delivery through e-solutions

The discussions of this year's CEPA will be held under three sub-themes: a) redefining relationships and responsibilities to support participatory governance and responsive public service delivery, including through e-solutions; b) strengthening innovation, prioritization, informed decision-making and the integration of policy development processes for enhanced impact; and c) promoting accountable institutions, ethical leadership and integrity to enhance confidence in efforts to deliver sustainable development.

“Governance is critical to achieve social and economic development, environmental sustainability, peace and security. We need, therefore, to transform public governance, among other things, by tapping the potential of technological advancement and innovation to fulfil our vision”, the President of the ECOSOC Mr. Martin Sajdik noted at the 13th CEPA Session.

“Transformation of governance systems and culture is a priority for sustainable development. It is also an end in itself. Strong institutions and good governance are now recognized by the international community as a catalyst for sustainable development,” Mr. Sajdik continued and reminded that the mission of CEPA is to support ECOSOC in promoting effective public administration among UN Member States.

#### Strengthening innovation and informed decision-making



Members of CEPA will present papers on the sub-themes to introduce the Committee's discussions. On the basis of the parameters set out in these papers and ensuing discussion, CEPA will present conclusions and recommendations related to

supporting participatory governance and responsive public service delivery, strengthening innovation, informed decision-making and policy integration as well as promoting accountable institutions and ethical leadership.

In addition to engaging in discussions on transforming public administration for sustainable development, CEPA will also review the report submitted by the Secretariat on the activities

implemented in 2014 under the United Nations Programme in Public Administration and Development Management.

To this end, recommendations will be made to the Secretariat on how to strengthen support to Member States in promoting accountable institutions and responsive public service delivery and in addressing emerging issues related to public governance and administration and its role in supporting sustainable development.

For more information:

[The United Nations Committee of Experts on Public Administration \(CEPA\)](#)

## Global Dialogue on Development

### Promoting the autism advantage on World Autism Awareness Day



*The United Nations General Assembly unanimously declared 2 April as World Autism Awareness Day to highlight the need to help improve the quality of life of children and adults, who are affected by autism, so they can lead full and*

*meaningful lives.*

Since then, there has been a growing public awareness about autism and Autism Spectrum Disorders and an increase in public services to those affected. Greater understanding allows parents to seek early intervention therapies. It encourages policy-makers to prompt schools to open their doors to students with autism who, with adequate support, can be educated in the heart of their communities.

This year, World Autism Awareness Day (WAAD) will highlight the unique talents of people with autism and what is required to promote growth in employment opportunities. People with autism often possess in greater abundance than “neurotypical” workers do – such as, heightened abilities in pattern recognition and logical reasoning, as well as a greater attention to detail. These exceptional and unique skills make them valuable employees to organizations. Such qualities make them ideally suited to certain kinds of employment, such as software testing, data entry, lab work and proofreading, to name just a few examples. The hurdles that need to be overcome to unleash this potential include: a shortage of vocational training, inadequate support with job placement, and pervasive discrimination.

Article 27 of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) on Work and Employment calls upon States Parties to promote and protect the right of persons with disabilities, to work on an equal basis with others and to an environment that is open, inclusive and accessible. The Convention also works to enable persons with disabilities to have effective access to general technical and vocational guidance programmes, placement services and training.

However, certain issues have not received due attention that are a cause for concern. For example, what happens when a young person with autism has completed school and prepares to face life as an adult? It is estimated that even in those parts of the world where awareness about autism is most advanced, more than 80% of adults with autism are unemployed or underemployed.

To help realize “the autism advantage”, there will be a “[Call to Action](#)” launched at the United Nations on 2 April, inviting businesses to make pledges and commitments to employ persons with autism as well as to create work zones where people with autism can excel. Businesses are encouraged to use the platform established by the [United Nations Global Compact](#).

The [event at UN Headquarters](#) will include a discussion by a panel of experts that will cover: inadequate support with job placement, pervasive discrimination and a shortage of vocational training.

World Autism Awareness Day aims to help improve the quality of life of those who are affected by autism so they can lead a full and meaningful life as valuable members of their communities.

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

### High-level symposium deliberating on development cooperation post-2015



*UN DESA and the Republic of Korea are co-hosting a High-level Symposium themed “Development cooperation for people and planet: What will it take?” on 9 – 10 April in Incheon, the Republic of Korea. As the first high-*

*level Symposium in preparation for the 2016 DCF, the symposium will explore what it will take in terms of means of implementation to deliver on the proposed sustainable development goals, integrating the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development.*

For the successful implementation of the post-2015 development agenda, a renewed global partnership for development is needed for implementing this transformative agenda. New ways must be found to mobilize, allocate and use unprecedented amounts of financial resources and other means of implementation more

effectively. This calls for aligning the financial and non-financial means of implementation, securing an enabling policy environment at all levels and strengthening coherence of international monetary, financial and trading systems.

The event will gather together approximately 180 participants including high-level representatives from national and local governments, international organizations, parliaments, civil society organizations, foundations, academia and the private sector, expected to attend interactive dialogues and workshops discussing questions such as aligning means of implementation approaches at country level, implications of a universal development agenda, improving ODA allocation as well as technology facilitation and capacity building.

### Essential contributions to key inter-governmental processes in 2015

The Development Cooperation Forum high-level symposium in the Republic of Korea is expected to generate key recommendations and messages as an input to the Third International Conference on Financing for Development in Addis Ababa on 13-16 July, and the Summit to Adopt the Post-2015 Development Agenda in New York on 25-27 September.

### Paving the way for the 2016 DCF

The Development Cooperation Forum provides an inclusive policy space for all stakeholders to discuss the implications for international development cooperation on a unified and universal global development agenda and gives policy guidance and recommendations on the role of development cooperation in all its forms to promote lasting results for sustainable development.

The narrative of development cooperation in a post-2015 setting should be strengthened, including the vital role ODA continues to play in many countries. The Development Cooperation Forum assists developing countries and other stakeholders to engage more effectively in this debate.

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

The outcome of the symposium will contribute to the Development Cooperation Forum of the United Nations Economic and Social Council, to be held in New York in the summer of 2016.

For more information:  
[DCF Republic of Korea High-level Symposium](#)

## Protecting the rights of the world's indigenous peoples



*The fourteenth session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues will be held at UN Headquarters in New York from 20 April to 1 May.*

The UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues meets for 10 days

each year in accordance to the ECOSOC resolution that established the Forum. It is a high-level advisory body that deals with indigenous issues related to economic and social development, culture, environment, education, health and human rights.

In addition to these six areas, each session has thematically focused on a specific issue. During the Forum's first six sessions, a specific theme was discussed each year. Since 2008, the Forum has adopted a bi-annual working method of one year with a specific theme and the next year focusing on review of implementation.

Some of the topics on this year's agenda include the outcome of the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly known as the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples, the post-2015 development agenda, and youth, self-harm and suicide.

At the September 2010 UN Summit on Millennium Development Goals, Member States initiated steps towards advancing the development agenda beyond 2015. Indigenous peoples have consistently called for the recognition of their distinct cultural identities and political status of indigenous peoples – as rights holders and agents of change – in the post-2015 development agenda.

The indigenous peoples' major group has clustered its concerns in six main areas: the need for disaggregation of data; rights to lands, territories and resources; free prior and informed consent; special measures that include health, education, etc.; access to justice and redress mechanisms; and participation and representation in decision-making in relevant bodies. They have also specifically recommended that the negotiations and related processes of post-2015 development agenda ensure indigenous peoples meaningful participation and access to the mechanisms tasked with the development of indicators, national policies, monitoring and evaluation.

There are over 70 million indigenous youth globally and available data suggests that indigenous peoples experience

disproportionately high rates of youth suicide. Indigenous youth today face the challenge of striking a balance between their place within their indigenous community, and within the mainstream society of the country in which they live. They may feel marginalized from both, resulting in a sense of socio-cultural isolation. This isolation, compounded by contemporary manifestations of discrimination, such as disproportionately high levels of poverty and unemployment, may contribute to the high rates of suicide experienced by certain indigenous peoples.

There will also be a regional focus on the Pacific region, which is home to a diverse range of indigenous peoples speaking 19 per cent of the world's estimated 5,000 languages. Indigenous peoples in the Pacific are still linked to their communal lands, belief systems, spirituality and customary laws which forms the basis of their social, economic and political systems.

Due to the diversity of Pacific countries and territories, there are significant variations in the social, political and economic situation of indigenous peoples in the region. The small developing States of the Pacific face specific environmental, social and economic challenges that have significant impacts on indigenous peoples exercising their human rights.

For more information:

[Fourteenth session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues](#)

## Partnerships come into focus



*As the international community heats up with the advent of the post 2015 development agenda underway, there can be no denying that multi-stakeholder partnerships (MSPs), will be central to the effective implementation. At special*

*event hosted by ECOSOC on 27 February, the focus was squarely on multi-stakeholder partnerships and making them work for the Post 2015 agenda, specifically in terms of alignment and in examining models that work.*

The President of ECOSOC stressed that for two decades partnerships have become an integral part of the UN's work with increased efforts to mobilize partnerships in order to promote development. He added that while being important on a global level, it was important to ensure that partnerships worked effectively at the national level and deliver results.

In his remarks, Ambassador Sajdik discussed the mushrooming of partnerships which are "voluntary by nature, rarely the same, and often with variable reporting and other requirements." He suggested that we must look for new and innovative ways to harness multi-stakeholder partnerships and we must ask ourselves what partnerships should look like in order to best link to the post 2015 agenda.

The first panel "Aligning Partnerships with the post 2015 development agenda: how and where should this be done?" with Michael Shank of Climate Nexus moderating offered an overview on the different partnerships and cited finding from a recent survey by the International Civil Society Centre (ICSC) in 2014 examining 330 partnerships. It noted that 38% were not active or demonstrating measurable impact. At the same time, 26% of the partnerships were active, but conducted activities that were not directly related to their public goals. The survey served as a clear reminder that there is work to do in the partnership landscape.

The panellists reiterated the need to involve actors at all levels of society, and focused on how MSPs are central to supporting the implementation of a new integrated and sustainable approach required for challenges at global, national and local levels. Through partnering capacities, MSPs bring together resources and complementary skills necessary to face complex and cross-sectorial issues. While enhancing the scale of action, MSP's offer partners a reduction of the transaction costs of activities. Furthermore, what is required is: i) efficient, effective, Government-led multi-stakeholder platforms; ii) strong, specific areas of accountability, and iii) building the capacity of actors as well as their ability to partner effectively.

Representing the private sector, Mr. Klaus Leisinger stated the need to engage top management and reminded the audience that different stakeholders define problems differently and often with different value systems, thus it's critical to focus on definable solutions and take time to understand partners to build trust and be successful. Charles Badenoch of World Vision iterated the need to focus on 3 key areas for MSP's; including 1) implementation linked to national development plans, 2) the need for strong accountability to learn what works and to build trust, 3) and the need to build capacity for all sectors.

From her perspective in Zimbabwe at the Center for African Development Solutions, Prof. Hespina Rukato (via satellite) emphasized that "people need to own the development agenda" to create consensus and provide sustainable flow of resources, while the UN should focus on the continuous mechanisms to engage all stakeholders.

The second panel focused exclusively on sharing best practices and "Partnership models that work: monitoring and reviewing in action." Moderator Raj Kumar of Devex reinforced the notion



that multi-stakeholder partnerships will be the “critical modality” for the post-2015 period and reminded the audience about the need to identify partnership models that work by learning from successful initiatives.

Some suggested for greater partnership involvement with the private sector- incentives could be provided. Other best practices of MSP include: (i.) clarifying the purpose and narrative of partnerships as well as drawing well-defined and understandable goals and targets for all partners; (ii) focusing on core benefits for partners and promoting win-win approach; (iii) giving all partners an active role in the initiative.

Adding to the private sector perspective, Gary Lawrence of AECOM suggested that for partnerships to be successful and to align with SIDS and transform development—“partnerships must be technically feasible, economically viable and politically acceptable.”

Representing REEEP, Martin Hiller identified the need for strategic and clear goals which has been decisive for the success of REEEP’s many energy partnerships and suggested the need to measure impact on the ground rather than activities as well as establishing a global framework to provide a template for measurement. He felt that government should “work to address market failures and should explore incentives for those who take early risks.”

There was discussion about the role that governments play in incentivizing private sector involvement. Private investments require regulation, rules, predictability and stability. While governments can help in creating markets necessary to make these investments possible, the right balance needs to be found between regulation and incentives.

Kandeh Yumkella shared his experience at Sustainable Energy for All (SE4All), a mega partnership working in over 100 countries, citing the need for companies and countries to incubate ideas, especially within the energy space. He pointed out that partnerships are not “simply asking companies to write checks, but to be thinking about developing markets.”

The participants seemed to agree that measuring results is decisive for the success of partnerships. Panellists cited the need to focus on measuring impact on the ground and take into account the different levels of action. From the Rotary Foundation, Michael McGovern spoke to the need for stakeholders to have clearly defined roles as in the case of Polio eradication, which although relatively easy to measure –requires alignment and inclusion of local, regional and national leaders. He suggested a clear document up-front to outline roles and responsibilities as well as an independent body for monitoring and evaluation.

Part of the discussion moved to the central issue of accountability, with an overall prerequisite on building trust. Accountability was viewed as equally important for all partners – especially to prevent conflict of interest and align partners around the common priorities for the new development agenda and making them accountable to the UN.

As such, Member States were encouraged to give strong consideration to ECOSOC as a good place to set the broad rules of engagement. Kathy Calvin of UNF highlighted the central role of accountability and a need for strong country ownership to develop successful multi-stakeholders programs like Every Woman, Every Child, Cookstove Alliance, and GAVI. Discussants cited a need to look at outcomes from various markets and the lessons learned from “when we tried.” Calvin highlighted the critical role for public sector in setting standards, norms and coordination.

In Q&A and comments by Member states, there were differing perspectives of the role of governments and whether incentives should be utilized in monitoring of MSP’s and devising effective implementation frameworks. In concluding remarks by the President of ECOSOC, the way forward seems to be a stronger consideration to hone in on what works for evaluating multi-stakeholder partnerships and to explore what learnings were effective related to global oversight mechanisms and potential platform on issues related to measurement.

For more information:

[ECOSOC special event on “Multi-stakeholder partnerships: Making them work for the Post-2015 Development Agenda”](#)

## Trends and Analysis

### The youth effect on gender balance in education



*Can you imagine if you or a large number of your friends had to drop out of school before graduating? For most people in the developed world, the answer to this question*

*would be a simple “no”. But the reality is that globally, 1 in 5 adolescent girls is currently not in school.*

Vivian Onano, a young activist originally from rural Kenya did see many of her friends drop out of school along the way. Some of them got married, and others didn’t finish because of financial or cultural concerns.

“My two brothers and I were raised by a single mum who did not have a stable source of income,” Vivian said. “But my mother made sure that I went to school. In fact, I was the only girl from my village who graduated from university.”

Mirna Fernandez, a 25-year-old activist from Bolivia also knows some girls who dropped out of their school, most often because they got pregnant. But according to her, the high number of girls dropping out of school “doesn’t make any sense”. “Girls more than boys will sustain a family and will take care of the next generation, so why shouldn’t I go to school?” she asked.

Worldwide, 62 million girls of primary and secondary school-age are not in school. This number adds to the fact that most of the 700 million people who are illiterate are women. Patience Stephens, Special Advisor on Education at UN Women, says the problem mostly revolves around poverty.

“Poverty is number one,” Ms. Stephens said. “Poverty meaning the ability to pay those school fees. And more importantly, the ability to supplement for what families lose because the girls have gone to school.”

According to youth themselves, girls are not prioritized enough when it comes to education: “I think that is because a lot of people don’t see potential in girls,” 19-year old Paulina Wojciechowska said. “They are seen more as the care givers,” Kadijatou Diallo added. “And so between going to school or caring for their homes

and helping their families, people prioritize helping their families more. So girls are discouraged from going to school.”

Even if these girls end up staying in school, it does not always mean that their education will be equal to that of boys and young men, as teaching materials and in-classroom culture are often very male-centered, according to Ms. Stephens. “Even when they do stay, the attention that they get is going to be biased by social and cultural factors that cause them to graduate with perhaps fewer skills and with lower earning power than boys that they have been to school with,” she said.

Luckily, youth around the world have a pretty good idea of how they can contribute to a solution of this problem, no matter how unfamiliar it may be to them. Yixi Lang recognizes the value of leading by example: “We need to show our potential to our society. Try to show them what we are capable of.”

Young people have to be part of this global movement, Henry Ekwuruke, a young activist from Nigeria said.

“Just help empower people. Push them to do things they believe in,” Elaina Estrin said. “Dream big!”

“Whether it’s in social media, in organization or in their own school,” Kadijatou Diallo added. “Or whether it’s just talking to their friends about it.”

Most important on the road to successfully keeping girls in school, however, is stimulating the ambitions of girls themselves, according to Ms. Stephens. “If a girl grows up in an environment where the role models that are around suggest that it’s okay to come out of school after 6th grade or 8th grade, then that’s the attitude she will grow up with.”

*The Youth Effect, a new monthly web series produced by the UN Webcast, Department of Public Information, in collaboration with the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the Office of the Secretary-General’s Envoy on Youth, will explore different topics that affects the lives of young people around the world.*

For more information:

[United Nations Focal Point on Youth, UN DESA’s Division of Social Policy and Development \(DSPD\)](#)

[Office of the Secretary-General’s Envoy on Youth](#)

[UN Women](#)

## Measuring the value of ecosystems



*A Forum of Experts in the SEEA Experimental Ecosystem Accounting will be held on 28-30 April at UN Headquarters in New York.*

As part of the project on “Advancing the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA) in Pilot Countries”, UN DESA’s Statistics Division in collaboration with United Nations Environment Programme, Secretariat of the Convention of Biological Diversity and the Government of Norway is organizing a Forum of Experts on the SEEA Experimental Ecosystem Accounting.

The Forum will bring together experts, practitioners and statisticians to discuss the draft guidance document that have been developed as part of the project to complement the SEEA Experimental Ecosystem Accounting. The guidance document will provide practical guidance for countries wanting to start testing the SEEA Experimental Ecosystem Accounting. The Forum will discuss selected issues related to the delineation of statistical units for ecosystem accounting, the classification of ecosystem services, the measuring and modelling of ecosystem services and ecosystem condition.

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

## Apply to UN DESA’s ‘Powering the Future We Want’ Grant by 30 April

*A million US dollar grant has been launched by UN DESA, with funding support from the China Energy Fund Committee (CEFC), to promote leadership and innovative practices in energy for sustainable development.*



In an interview with Derrick Mbatha of UN Radio, the Director of DESA’s Division for Public Administration and Development Management, Mr. Juwang Zhu, said the idea of the grant came from the UN Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in 2012.

He explained that many governments felt that while encouraging progress had been made, best practices and lessons learned in promoting energy for sustainable development were not being disseminated. The new grant seeks to help address this issue by funding future capacity development activities in this area. It will be awarded to an individual, institution or partnership based on past and current achievements. Applications are accepted until 30 April 2015.

Listen to the UN Radio interview to find out more about the grant: <http://bit.ly/18UP8fh>

For more information: [Powering the Future We Want](#)

## E-discussion concludes on the 2015 ECOSOC Theme



*The 2015 ECOSOC e-discussion took place between 17 February and 17 March. The e-discussion engaged stakeholder groups, experts, practitioners and policy-makers from various regions in a global dialogue on specific aspects*

*of the 2015 ECOSOC theme of “Managing the transition from the Millennium Development Goals to the sustainable development goals: What it will take”.*

The e-discussion consisted of four concurrent thematic windows to focus the discussion, each led by an expert moderator and supported by a shadow facilitator from UN DESA, UNDP or the Sustainable Development Solutions Network. The thematic windows included: i) policy choices and mindset change for an integrated agenda; ii) adaptation by institutions and structures; iii) partnerships for the implementation of the SDGs and the post-2015 agenda; and iv) follow-up and review.

Participants in the thematic window on policy choices and mindset change acknowledged the importance of integrated approaches and ‘triple wins strategies’ as entry-points for scaling up and mainstreaming sustainable development at the core of policy making processes and of adopting a bottom-up approach by including local communities in decision-making processes and in implementation. They also stressed the importance of actively engaging traditional and religious leaders, women, and youth at all levels, integrating their concerns and perspectives in policies and programmes.

In the discussion on institutions, participants stressed that it will take a significant shift in the mindsets and attitudes of individuals and groups, as well as all countries, to modify and create new institutional frameworks to effectively drive the transition from the MDGs to the SDGs. The transition will need a change in norms, rules, regulations and even laws that govern the way that government ministries and departments work together. New institutions should be anticipatory, participatory, networked, coordinated and should not react through a ‘silo’ approach.

Participants discussing partnerships highlighted the need to: clearly define the meaning of and roles in partnerships; establish a mechanism for civil society to participate in the monitoring of implementation of the SDGs; partner with local organizations to benefit from community-level knowledge of development; and take account of different national circumstances and respect national policies and priorities.

Under follow-up and review, participants put forward a wide range of suggestions, including the establishment of regional and global UN monitoring processes; the need for multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder trainings to build awareness of sustainable development issues and their impact; and the importance of ensuring the comparability of data.

The expert moderators had high praise for the quality and substance of the contributions from the participants. Mr. John-Mary Kauzya, Chief, Public Administration Capacity Branch, DPADM, and moderator of the window on adaptation by institutions and structures, said “This has been a very enlightening reading for me...fascinating discourse on people, ideologies, values, norms, markets, technology, even philosophical contributions, politics, human rights, and so many others.”

Ms. Anita Sharma, Senior Director of MDG Initiatives, UN Foundation, and moderator of the window on partnerships, called the discussion “a very thoughtful month” and thanked the participants for the “lively and informative conversation.” She said that she looks forward to “continuing to think about the topics and questions raised during this dialogue in the months leading up to September and the launch of the SDGs.”

Over the one month period, the e-discussion generated a significant amount of interest, with more than 750 contributions from over 170 countries.

For more information:

[E-discussion on the 2015 ECOSOC theme: “Managing the transition from the Millennium Development Goals to the sustainable development goals: What it will take”](#)

## Capacity development

### Developing a national plan for advancing environmental-economic accounting in Vietnam



*UN DESA's Statistics Division will lead a mission to Hanoi on 6-10 April as part of the project Advancing the System of Environmental Economic Accounting (SEEA) in Vietnam.*

As part of the project “Advancing the SEEA Experimental Ecosystem Accounting in pilot countries”, UN DESA’s Statistics Division in collaboration with the United Nations Environment Programme and the Convention of Biological Diversity Secretariat, are working in close collaboration with the General Statistics Office of Vietnam to develop a National Plan for advancing environmental-economic accounting in Vietnam.

The objective is to strengthen the national statistical system in support of developing an information system for sustainable development through the development of comparable environmental-economic accounts, including ecosystem accounts to support policy decisions.

A mission led by the Statistics Division will be in Vietnam to hold bilateral consultations and a high-level segment with Vietnamese officials, representatives of international organizations and other relevant stakeholders, with the objective to obtain high-level endorsement of the National Programme of Work. A national training workshop will also be held to increase capacity for the implementation of environmental economic accounts in various ministries in Vietnam.

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

### Improving capacity to implement experimental ecosystem accounting



*A Regional Training Workshop will be organized in Santiago on the SEEA Experimental Ecosystem Accounting in Latin America and the Caribbean on 13-16 April.*

Representatives from National Statistical Offices, Ministries of Environment and/or other line ministries dealing with forests, biodiversity or other environment-related issues, that have or plan to have programmes on the implementation of the SEEA in countries from Latin America and the Caribbean will meet in Santiago to attend the regional training workshop on the SEEA Experimental Ecosystem Accounting.

Participants from some other pilot countries involved in the project “Advancing the SEEA Experimental Ecosystem Accounting in pilot countries”, as well as staff from ECLAC and other international agencies will also attend.

The objective of the workshop is to improve the capacity of participants in the implementation of the SEEA Experimental Ecosystem Accounting. The workshop aims (i) to help participants acquire knowledge and skills to deepen their understanding of the accounting principles and basic data needs for SEEA Experimental Ecosystem Accounting; (ii) to facilitate experience sharing among countries in Latin America and the Caribbean; and (iii) to support countries to set up a strategy and work plan for the implementation of the SEEA Experimental Ecosystem Accounting.

The workshop is organized by UN DESA’s Statistics Division as part of the project on “Advancing the SEEA in Pilot Countries” and will be hosted at ECLAC.

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

## Advancing environmental economic accounting in Indonesia



*UN DESA's Statistics Division will conduct a mission to Jakarta on 13-17 April as part of the project Advancing the System of Environmental Economic Accounting (SEEA) in Indonesia.*

As part of the project "Advancing the SEEA Experimental Ecosystem Accounting in pilot countries", UN DESA's Statistics Division in collaboration with United Nations Environment Programme and Convention of Biological Diversity is working in close collaboration with the National Statistical Office of Indonesia to develop a National Plan for advancing environmental-economic accounting in Indonesia.

The objective is to strengthen the national statistical system in support of developing an information system for sustainable development through the development of comparable environmental-economic accounts, including ecosystem accounts to support policy decisions in Indonesia.

The Statistics Division will visit Indonesia to participate in a series of high-level bilateral meetings as well as a high-level general meeting with Chilean officials and other relevant stakeholders, with the objective to obtain high-level endorsement of the National Plan and begin to foster institutional arrangements to implement the SEEA with the active involvement of all relevant agencies.

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

## Advancing system of environmental economic accounting in Chile



*UN DESA's Statistics Division will conduct a mission to Santiago on 13-17 April as part of the project Advancing the System of Environmental Economic Accounting (SEEA) in Chile.*

As part of the project "Advancing the SEEA Experimental Ecosystem Accounting in

pilot countries", the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) in collaboration with United Nations Environment Programme and Convention of Biological Diversity is working in close collaboration with the National Statistical Office and Ministry of Environment of Chile to develop a National Plan for advancing environmental-economic accounting in Chile.

The objective is to strengthen the national statistical system in support of developing an information system for sustainable development through the development of comparable environmental-economic accounts, including ecosystem accounts to support policy decisions in Chile.

The Statistics Division will visit Chile on 13-17 April to participate in a series of high-level bilateral meetings as well as a high-level general meeting with Chilean officials and other relevant stakeholders, with the objective to obtain high-level endorsement of the National Plan and begin to foster institutional arrangements to implement the SEEA with the active involvement of all relevant agencies.

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

## Implementing environmental and economic statistics system in Asia Pacific countries



*A training workshop on the SEEA Experimental Ecosystem Accounting will take place in Jakarta on 14-17 April.*

Representatives from national statistical offices, Ministry of Environment or other

line ministries dealing with forests, biodiversity or other environment-related issues, and staff from regional commission and international agencies that have or plan to have programmes on the implementation of the SEEA from Asia Pacific countries will meet in Jakarta to attend the regional training workshop on the SEEA Experimental Ecosystem Accounting.

The objective of the workshop is to improve the capacity of participants in the implementation of the SEEA Experimental Ecosystem Accounting in Asia Pacific. The workshop aims (i) to help participants acquire knowledge and skills to deepen their understanding of the accounting principles and basic data needs for SEEA Experimental Ecosystem Accounting; (ii) to facilitate

experience sharing among countries in Asia Pacific; and (iii) to support countries to set up a strategy and work plan for the implementation of the SEEA Experimental Ecosystem Accounting. The workshop by UN DESA's Statistics Division is organized as part of the project on "Advancing the SEEA in Pilot Countries".

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

## Measuring progress towards achieving a green economy



*UN DESA's Statistics Division is organizing the second regional workshop within the UN Development Account project "Supporting Developing Countries Measure Progress Towards Achieving a Green Economy" in cooperation*

*with the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) on 21-24 April.*

The workshop will take place in Lima, Peru, and is co-organized by the statistical office of Peru – INEI. It will primarily be a technical workshop that covers topics identified as needing attention and guidance in the first part of the project.

Recognizing the importance of high quality statistics and their effective use in promoting evidence-based socio-economic policies and achieving internationally agreed goals, the project aims to enhance the national statistical systems' capacity of its pilot countries to produce good quality, timely and reliable statistics and indicators to inform about progress towards achieving a green economy in the context of sustainable development.

Key elements of the workshop will cover four main statistical domains, namely environment, agriculture, energy statistics, and statistics on new themes related to green economy (e.g. environmental goods and services, green jobs). The contents of each of the fields cover the following: general introduction to the theme; main frameworks and international recommendations covering these fields; internationally agreed definitions and metadata for selected statistics underlying green economy indicators; and detailed description and compilation methods for selected indicators from the reference green economy indicators list of the project. The workshop will also finalize the discussion on the direct technical assistance to the pilot countries that will take place in the months following this workshop.

A similar workshop will take place in May 2015, for the Asia Pacific region in Hanoi, Viet Nam.

For more information:

[Supporting developing countries measure progress towards achieving a Green Economy](#)

## Advancing water and sustainable development



*UN DESA's Division for Sustainable Development (DSD) organized a two-day workshop at the United Nations in New York in support of the proposed*

*sustainable development goal on water which seeks to ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.*

The workshop, held from 24 to 25 February, enhanced the capacity of selected developing countries with integrating water and sustainable development into their national development strategies.

"One of the biggest challenges will be communicating the post-2015 development agenda to those that are in a better position of realizing this agenda," said Mr. Nikhil Seth, Director of DSD, in his opening remarks. "We look to you to help us disseminate this more widely, ratchet up on national political agendas, create more partnerships and communicate the importance of this new agenda especially in the area of water."

Selected policymakers and national practitioners from 20 developing countries and countries in transition from Africa, Asia, the Middle East, Latin America and the Caribbean worked with UN-system partners to increase their understanding of the proposed sustainable development goals (SDGs) and targets. Participants identified major entry points for how the water SDG and its targets can be mainstreamed into policies and strategies at the national level. These entry points included creating national awareness, enhancing the lessons learned from the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) for transitioning into the proposed SDGs and identifying gaps in policy and implementation.

Unlike the MDG on environmental sustainability, where the water target focused on access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation, the water goal will cover six target areas and is not confined to only one proposed sustainable development goal. “Among the 17 sustainable development goals, water is a livelihood resource. The most significant long-term risk worldwide in terms of impact is water security. Water is now the top issue for posing a risk to various development initiatives,” said Mr. Jong-Soo Yoon, Head of the UN Office for Sustainable Development (UNOSD) in Incheon, which was a partner in the workshop.

The workshop provided an opportunity for the participants to share their knowledge and best practises on integrated water resources management with research institutions, academia and regional organizations active in the water sector. The participants identified three key challenges for implementing the SDGs: financial and budget allocations, institutional mandates on who will be responsible and how will they monitor and review the targets, and human resources development.

“We need up-to-date information, which is a challenge in Zambia,” said Mr. Michael Mutale, a senior water expert from Zambia and former official of the Zambian River Commission. “With the focus traditionally put on hydrological data, more focus has to be placed on collecting economic, social and environmental data as well. The implementation of SDG six would require national resources for monitoring and reviewing.”



A key follow-up action was to establish partnerships and a network of experts that will continue to promote an active dialogue on the water goal, cross-sectoral integration, and the nexus

approach to enhance the efficiency of different sectors such as the water-energy-food security nexus or the water-climate change nexus.

“The water SDG needs to be seen as the goal where interrelationships can be built,” said Ms. Ndey-Isatou Njie, Chief of the Water, Energy and Capacity Development Branch in DSD. “In moving forward, let us look at how the water sector will have linkages to other sectors where water has an impact.”

The workshop included a special session for the launching of the report ‘[Water in the World We Want](#)’ by UNU-Institute for Water, Environment and Health (UNU-INWEH). The report provided insights such as how the intensity of water-related disaster events and its negative effects are most reflected in the poorest population

and the most vulnerable. It made recommendations for water to be integrated into national-level planning, where actions taken have to be oriented to help those at the bottom of the socio-economic ladder.

UN DESA’s Statistical Division, the UN Economic Regional Commissions, UN-Water, UNU-INWEH, UNICEF, UNEP, International Water Management Institute (IWMI), International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD) and the International Research Institute for Climate and Society at Columbia University contributed to the workshop presentations.

For more information:

[Capacity Development Workshop in Advancing Water and Sustainable Development](#)

## Mainstreaming the sustainable development goal on energy



*To support the post-2015 development agenda, the Division for Sustainable Development (DSD) in partnership with UN DESA’s Statistics Division, UN-Energy, Sustainable Energy for All, the World Bank and the International*

*Energy Agency, organized a workshop on capacity development for “Mainstreaming Energy Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Targets and Indicators into Statistical Programmes of Selected Latin American Countries.”*

The three-day workshop took place at the UN Regional Centre for Latin America and the Caribbean in Panama City, Panama from 4 to 6 February. Participating countries were Brazil, Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, Guatemala and Panama. There were 34 workshop participants, including 16 women. The country representatives learned about the UN Post-2015 Development Agenda, the proposal for a dedicated Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) and corresponding targets on energy and the leading international efforts on energy statistics and indicators.





The workshop provided an opportunity to discuss the status of national statistical programmes and the challenges and advantages for adopting and adapting the global energy SDGs, targets and indicators at the national level. The participants made national presentations and

discussed strengths and common challenges they face in the collection of data and in the implementation of national and international statistical commitments and programmes.

At the conclusion, many participants expressed their appreciation for this capacity development event which provided a valuable setting for the exchange of statistical knowledge and lessons learned at the global, regional and national level.

Many participants also asked for future international support and more capacity building activities on collecting and processing data for energy statistics and for building better information systems. DSD is planning the implementation of similar capacity development workshops for developing countries in Asia and Africa.

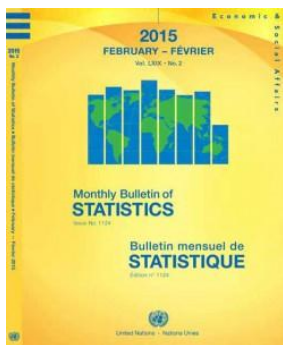
For more information:

[Workshop on Capacity Development for Mainstreaming Energy Sustainable Development Goals \(SDGs\), Targets and Indicators into Statistical Programmes in Selected Latin American Countries](#)

## Publications and Websites

### Statistical compilations

#### Monthly Bulletin of Statistics and MBS Online



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

Vol. LXIX – No. 2, February 2015

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

- [For more information](#)

### Outreach material

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

The March issue of the Sustainable Development in Action newsletter, published by UN DESA's Division for Sustainable Development is available online, featuring articles including on the Global Sustainable Development Report, discussions on the vision for the post-2015 development agenda and mainstreaming the sustainable development goal on energy. The newsletter aims to feature the work carried out by Member States, United Nations system, Major Groups and other relevant stakeholders in

implementing sustainable development and leading the way to the Future We Want.

- [Read full issue](#)

#### Youth Flash Newsletter

United Nations Youth Flash March edition is now available, including a feature article on “Achieving Gender Equality by 2030 Is Possible!” written by Vivian Onano, a youth representative at UN Women Global Civil Society Advisory Group, who describes her experiences with gender inequality while growing up in Kenya. The newsletter is a service of the Division for Social Policy and Development (DSPD) Focal Point on Youth to help keep the public informed about the work of the UN on youth issues. It is prepared with input from UN offices, agencies, funds and programmes, and from youth organizations all over the world.

- [Read full issue](#)

#### DESA NGO News

Putting a spotlight on the 59th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women, a successful Third UN Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction and a redesigned multilingual UN portal, the latest issue of DESA NGO News has been issued. 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.

- [Read full issue](#)

### Discussion papers

#### Monthly Briefing on the World Economic Situation and Prospects No. 76

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

- Central banks in developed and emerging economies ease monetary policy
- Agreement reached to extend Greece's bailout programme through June

– Inflation pressures increasing in CIS economies, while easing in many other emerging economies

- [To download](#)

## Working papers

### **Towards integration at last? The sustainable development goals as a network of targets**

In 2014, UN Member States proposed a set of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which will succeed the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) as reference goals for the international development community for the period 2015-2030. The proposed goals and targets can be seen as a network, in which links among goals exist through targets that refer to multiple goals. Using network analysis techniques, we show that some thematic areas covered by the SDGs are well connected among one another. Other parts of the network have weaker connections with the rest of the system.

The SDGs as a whole are a more integrated system than the MDGs were, which may facilitate policy integration across sectors. However, many of the links among goals that have been documented in biophysical, economic and social dimensions are not explicitly reflected in the SDGs. Beyond the added visibility that the SDGs provide to links among thematic areas, attempts at policy integration across various areas will have to be based on studies of the biophysical, social and economic systems.

- [To download](#)

## Comings and Goings

### Comings

*The following staff members were promoted in March:*

Hantamalala Rafalimanana, Population Affairs Officer, Population Division

Tonya Vaturi, Sustainable Development Officer, Division for Sustainable Development

Xiao Wang, Public Information Assistant, Division for Public Administration and Development Management

### Goings

*The following staff member retired in March:*

Denise Oakley, Administrative Assistant, Executive Office

# Calendar

## April

### World Autism Awareness Day

2 April

### Advancing the System of Environmental Economic Accounting (SEEA)

6-10 April, Hanoi, Vietnam

### High-level symposium deliberating on development cooperation post-2015

9-10 April, Incheon, Korea

### Advancing the System of Environmental Economic Accounting (SEEA)

13-17 April, Jakarta, Indonesia

### 48<sup>th</sup> session of the Commission on Population and Development

13-17 April, New York

### Advancing the System of Environmental Economic Accounting (SEEA)

13-17 April, Santiago, Chile

### Regional Training Workshop on the SEEA Experimental Ecosystem Accounting in Latin America and the Caribbean

13-16 April, Santiago

### Regional Training Workshop on the SEEA Experimental Ecosystem Accounting in Asia Pacific

14-17 April, Jakarta, Indonesia

### 14<sup>th</sup> session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

20 April - 1 May, New York

### Committee of Experts on Public Administration (CEPA)

20-24 April, New York

### Workshop on “Supporting Developing Countries Measure Progress Towards Achieving a Green Economy”

21-24 April, Lima, Peru

### Forum of Experts in the SEEA Experimental Ecosystem Accounting

28-30 April, New York

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