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Global economy risks falling into renewed recession

“We have identified three major economic risks,” said Pingfan Hong, Chief of the Global Economic Monitoring Unit of DESA’s Development Policy and Analysis Division, as the World Economic Outlook for 2013 was revealed on 18 December 2012. Mr. Hong pointed to the deterioration of the euro crisis, the US fiscal cliff and a possible hard landing for some large developing countries.



“To mitigate these risks, policymakers worldwide are greatly challenged,” underscored Mr. Hong, also describing how the world economy is still struggling to recover five years after the eruption of the global financial crisis.

The first chapter of the World Economic Situation and Prospects 2013 (WESP) just launched, outlines that growth of the world economy has weakened considerably during 2012 and is expected to remain restrained in the coming two years. “A number of developed economies in Europe and Japan have already fallen into a double-dip recession,” explained Mr. Hong.

The report also predicts that global economy is expected to grow at 2.4 per cent in 2013 and 3.2 per cent in 2014, a significant downgrade from the forecast six months ago. This growth pace will not be enough to overcome the continued jobs crisis faced by many countries. With existing policies and growth trends, it may take at least another five years for Europe and the United States to make up for the job losses caused by the Great Recession of 2008-2009.

Root of economic slowdown

Weaknesses in the major developed economies are at the root of the global economic slowdown. It is stressed that most of them, particularly those in Europe, are trapped in a vicious cycle of high unemployment, financial sector fragility, heightened sovereign risks, fiscal austerity and low growth. Several European economies and the euro zone as a whole are already in recession, and unemployment here increased further to a record high of almost 12 per cent this year.

“The US economy remains sluggish,” Mr. Hong pointed out, referring to the trend seen in 2012 and with a predicted growth

for 2013 of 1.7 per cent. Mr. Hong continued saying that “several large developing economies such as Brazil, China and India, which managed to recover rapidly in the aftermath of the global financial crisis, are currently also facing a significant slowdown”.

The economic woes in Europe, Japan and the US are spilling over to developing countries through weaker demand for their exports and heightened volatility in capital flows and commodity prices. Most low-income countries have held up relatively well so far, but are now also facing intensified adverse spillover effects from the slowdown in both developed and major middle-income countries.

The prospects for the next two years continue to be challenging, fraught with major uncertainties and risks slanted towards the downside. Rob Vos, the Director of DESA’s Development Policy and Analysis Division and the team leader for the report, warned: “Each of these risks could cause global output losses of between 1 and 3 per cent.”

Policies for jobs and green growth

The report further assesses that present policy stances fall short of what is needed to spur economic recovery and address the jobs crisis. While policy efforts have tried to redress sovereign debt distress, the combination of fiscal austerity and expansionary monetary policies has had mixed success so far in calming financial markets and even less so in strengthening economic growth and job creation.

Fiscal policies need to shift focus from short-term consolidation to robust economic growth with medium to long-term fiscal sustainability. They should also be internationally coordinated and aligned with structural policies, supporting direct job creation and green growth. The report also recommends that monetary policies be better coordinated internationally. It also underlines the need to secure sufficient development assistance to help the poorest nations accelerate progress towards poverty reduction goals and invest in sustainable development.

Recession and high unemployment in Europe

Several European economies are already in recession. To address the situation, a number of new policy initiatives have been taken by the euro area authorities in 2012, including the Outright Monetary Transactions (OMT) programme. But there has been no significant initiative towards boosting growth in the short run or tackling the ever-mounting crisis in the labour markets.

The euro area economy is expected to grow by only 0.3 per cent in 2013 and 1.4 per cent in 2014 and because of the dynamics of the vicious circle, the risk for a much worse scenario remains high and could be triggered by deeper fiscal cuts and delayed implementation of the OMT programme.

The unemployment rate continued to climb to a record high during 2012. In Spain and Greece, more than a quarter of the working population is without a job and more than half of the youth is

unemployed. Only a few economies in the region, such as Austria, Germany, Luxembourg and the Netherlands, register low unemployment rates of about 5 per cent. Unemployment rates in Central and Eastern Europe also edged up slightly in 2012.

United States sees weakened economy

The US economy also weakened during 2012, and growth prospects for 2013 and 2014 remain slow-moving. On the up side, the housing sector is showing signs of recovery, and further support is expected from the new round of quantitative easing recently launched by the Federal Reserve (Fed). The unemployment rate stayed above 8 per cent for the most part of 2012, but dropped to just below that level from September onwards.

The lingering uncertainties about the fiscal stance continue to hold back business investment and external demand is also expected to remain weak. Growth of GDP (gross domestic product) in the US is forecast to decelerate to 1.7 per cent in 2013 from 2.1 per cent in 2012. Risks remain high for a bleaker scenario, emanating from the “fiscal cliff,” which would entail a drop in aggregate demand by as much as 4 per cent of GDP during 2013 and 2014, as well as from spillover effects.

Economy slows in Japan and weakens in developing Asia

Economic growth in Japan in 2012 was up from a year ago, mainly driven by the reconstruction work following the earthquake-related disasters of 2011. And for 2013 and 2014, Japan’s GDP is forecast to grow at 0.6 per cent and 0.8 per cent, respectively. The Japanese government took additional measures to stimulate private consumption, however exports faced strong headwinds from the slowdown in global demand and appreciation of the yen. Japan’s economy is also expected to slow as a result of the phasing out of incentives to private consumption and a new measure that increases the tax on consumption, reduces pension benefits and cuts government spending.

Economies in developing Asia have also weakened during 2012, as the region’s growth engines, China and India, have shifted into lower gear. Deceleration in exports has been a key factor behind the slowdown, however, both economies also face a number of structural challenges, hampering growth. Average growth in East Asia is forecast to pick up to 6.2 per cent in 2013 and GDP growth in South Asia is expected to average 5.0 per cent in 2013, up from 4.4 per cent in 2012.

Moderate growth in Africa and decelerated GDP expected in Western Asia

Economies in Africa are forecast to see a slight moderation in output growth in 2013 to 4.8 per cent, down from 5.0 per cent in 2012. Major factors behind this continued growth route include the strong performance of oil-exporting countries, continued

fiscal spending on infrastructure projects, and expanding economic ties with Asian economies. However, Africa remains plagued by numerous challenges, including armed conflicts in various parts of the region. Growth of income per capita will continue, but at a pace insufficient to accelerate poverty reduction.

Contrasting trends are found in Western Asia, where most oil-exporting countries have experienced robust growth supported by record-high oil revenues and government spending. Social unrest and political instability, notably in the Syrian Arab Republic, continue to elevate the risk assessment for the entire region. On average, GDP growth in the region is expected to decelerate to 3.3 per cent in 2012 and 2013, from 6.7 per cent in 2011.

Weaker export demand decelerate growth

GDP growth in Latin America and the Caribbean decelerated notably during 2012, led by weaker export demand and lower prices of non-food commodities in the region's exports.

In the outlook, subject to the risks of a further downturn, the projection is for a return to moderate economic growth rates, led by expected improvements in economic conditions in Brazil. For the region as whole, GDP growth is forecast to average 3.9 per cent in the baseline for 2013, compared with 3.2 per cent in 2012.

Firm commodity prices hold up growth

Economic growth in the Russian Federation and other countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) was robust in 2012, although it moderated in the second half of the year.

Firm commodity prices, especially the prices of oil and natural gas, held up growth among energy-exporting economies, including the Russian Federation and Kazakhstan. In the outlook, GDP for the CIS is expected to grow by 3.8 per cent in 2013, the same as in 2012.

More findings on the world economy will be revealed on 18 January 2013 when the full report of the World Economic Situation and Prospects 2013 will be launched. The report is produced by DESA, the United Nations Conference for Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and the five United Nations regional commissions.

Describing the way forward, tackling the grim economic situation, Mr. Hong said, "some countries have indeed strengthened their policy stance, but we need more concerted policy actions, at both national and international levels. We also need policies to focus more on promoting jobs creation."

For more information:

[World Economic Situation and Prospects](#)

Putting commitments into actions after Rio+20

The Rio+20 Conference, which took place in June last year, launched various processes as a result of the outcome document "The Future We Want". Activities are now under way to make sure that commitments are put into actions. On 30 November, the General Assembly's Second Committee also adopted an important resolution on sustainable development, providing specific timelines for implementation.



Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has previously highlighted that the Rio+20 outcome document contains many good recommendations. "What is important at this time is to implement them," he has said, also stressing the importance of "ensuring the three pillars of our goals: social equity, economic development and environmental sustainability".

At Rio+20, Member States agreed on the new high-level political forum for Sustainable development. As a result of the Second Committee resolution adopted on 30 November, discussions will begin this month on the format and organizational aspects of this forum. They are likely to continue through May.

The resolution also recommended that the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) holds its last session just prior to the first high-level political forum. It also officially adopted the Ten-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production; the beginning of work of the Open Working Group (OWG) on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that will submit a report to the 68th session of the General Assembly and calling for the work of the OWG to view to propose options for effective sustainable development financing strategy and requests that the OWG updates the General Assembly on the progress of its work before the beginning of the 68th session of the General Assembly.

In addition to the agreements in the Agenda 21 resolution, DESA will produce a synthesis report with views of Member

States on the Sustainable Development Goals and a Secretary-General's report is also being requested on lessons learned from CSD, to inform negotiations on the high-level political forum. Finally, the resolution welcomed that preparations are now underway for the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States (SIDS) that will be held in Samoa in 2014.

Addressing sustainable challenges of Small Island Developing States

At Rio+20, Member States also decided to convene the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States (SIDS) in 2014, reaffirming their recognition of SIDS as a special case for sustainable development. The Government of the Independent State of Samoa has offered to host the conference in 2014, and negotiations were recently concluded in the General Assembly on the first modalities resolution for the conference preparations. As a result, SIDS-led national, regional, and inter-regional preparations will take place throughout 2013.

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon has appointed DESA's Under-Secretary-General Wu Hongbo as the Secretary-General of the SIDS conference. Mr. Wu has begun mobilizing the full support of DESA, including the SIDS Unit within the Division for Sustainable Development. The President of the General Assembly will launch the intergovernmental preparatory process at the end of 2013, with the first committee meeting to occur early in 2014.

The objectives of the conference, laid out in the modalities resolution, are to: a) assess progress to date and the remaining gaps in implementation; b) seek a renewed political commitment; c) identify new and emerging challenges and opportunities for the sustainable development of SIDS and means of addressing them, including through collaborative partnerships; and d) identify priorities for the sustainable development of SIDS to be considered in the elaboration of the post-2015 UN development agenda. The resolution also calls for "a concise, focused, forward-looking and action-oriented political document."

Platform for follow up and continued knowledge-exchange

The Rio+20 Conference was an action-oriented conference focusing on implementation of sustainable development. Member States, the United Nations system, and Major Groups and other stakeholders are together leading the way forward to the future we want.

Rio+20 mandated DESA to establish and maintain a comprehensive registry of voluntary initiatives for sustainable development, whose partners have requested registration with the United Nations Secretariat. The present registry is available on the United Nations Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform (SDKP). This platform was launched after Rio+20 as a platform for follow-up activities to the Conference. The database is searchable by thematic areas and can be filtered by various "Action Networks", including the Rio+20 voluntary commitments,

partnerships for sustainable development and green economy policies.

Key initiatives for implementation of sustainable development resulting from Rio+20 include Voluntary Commitments, Partnerships for Sustainable Development, and Green economy policies and initiatives. All voluntary initiatives are expected to announce and achieve concrete time-bound deliverables that advance sustainable development.

Other major networks included in the "SD in action" registry are the Secretary-General established Sustainable Energy for All initiative, which aims to drive actions and mobilize commitments to positively transform the world's energy systems; the Every Woman Every Child initiative, launched by the Secretary-General during the United Nations Millennium Development Goals Summit in 2010, aiming to save the lives of 16 million women and children by 2015; the initiative by United Nations Global Compact in calling for commitments to action from the private sector to take action in support of UN goals and issues; and the Higher Education Sustainability Initiative, which aims to get institutions of higher education to commit to teach sustainable development concepts, encourage research on sustainable development issues, green their campuses, and support sustainability efforts in their communities.

In addition to the Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform website, DESA has also launched complementary social media accounts on Facebook and Twitter, for civil society to engage in the follow-up to Rio+20. Visitors can "like" the [Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform on Facebook](#), or follow them on Twitter via the Twitter handle [@SustDev](#).

The Rio+20 Conference was a major step in moving towards the future we want. Mr. Wu has also highlighted the far-reaching vision of the conference, emphasizing, "it is our responsibility to help turn that vision into reality."

For more information:

[Sustainable development in action](#)
[Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform](#)
[The UN System framework for follow-up of Rio+20](#)
[Small Island Developing States \(SIDS\) – SIDSNet website](#)

Removing barriers for an inclusive society accessible to all

“Persons with disabilities have a significant positive impact on society, and their contributions can be even greater if we remove barriers to their participation. With more than one billion persons with disabilities in our world today, this is more important than ever,” said Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon in his message on the International Day of Persons with Disabilities (IDPD) on 3 December.



Commemorated with events and festivities at UN Headquarters in New York, the theme of this year’s celebrations was “Removing barriers to create an inclusive and accessible society for all.”

Following the opening ceremony with a joyful musical performance by students from the New York Institute for Special Education (NYISE), the event included statements by key Government representatives, a panel discussion and the United Nations Enable Film Festival (UNEFF).

Panelists and audience members were invited to discuss strategies to ensure full integration of persons with disabilities in achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and setting targets for a post-2015 development agenda. Specific issues of exclusion and accessibility, including removing barriers to education, employment, transportation and sports were also discussed.

The Day’s events culminated with the United Nations Enable Film Festival that included the screening of disability-related films from a wide range of countries and organizations. The films featured diverse stories that challenged stereotypical assumptions about persons with disabilities. They also helped raise awareness about a variety of barriers including lack of accessibility in the physical environment; to information and communication technologies, as well as hurdles resulting from legislation and policy; or from societal attitudes and discrimination.

The event was organized by the Secretariat for the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in DESA’s Division for

Social Policy and Development (DSPD), collaborating with the Governments of the Philippines, Spain and Brazil, as well as the New York Institute for Special Education (NYISE), WHO, UNICEF, the International Disability Alliance, Rehabilitation International and others.

Emmanuel’s dream

Among the speakers at the IDPD event, Emmanuel Elisha Ford, a young student from NYISE, shared his personal experiences of discrimination and made an urgent plea on behalf of all persons with disabilities. Emmanuel, who was born prematurely, is blind and was also diagnosed with cerebral palsy. He related his story about when his mother had enrolled him in a swimming programme to help exercise his arms and legs to enable him walk better, the instructor refused to let him into the pool. Furthermore, when he and his mother tried to get a taxi on the street, they had to wait for a very long time because most drivers were not willing to serve them because he was in a wheelchair. Emmanuel said that he was “hurt and disappointed.”

Despite these obstacles, Emmanuel has a great dream. “I would like to be a meteorologist and even though people tell me that they’ve never seen a blind meteorologist, I am determined to achieve my dream. To everyone listening, be aware, this is an alert, it is very important that we prepare now, because stormy weather is in forecast for people with disabilities. If we do not prepare now, things will deteriorate and more people with disabilities will suffer and die. Please heed the storm warning and put in place laws to protect and respect people with disabilities,” he announced in a concerned tone.

Emmanuel called for laws to protect and respect the 1 billion persons with disabilities in the world today, who constitute approximately 15 per cent of the world’s population. He concluded his statement calling on all participants to take the opportunity of this IDPD event to address the exclusion of persons with disabilities by highlighting the need to ensure their equal access to services and opportunities and by identifying obstacles and barriers to accessibility, worldwide.

Enjoying rights and realizing potentials

The Director-General of UNESCO, Ms. Irina Bokova, stated in her message for the Day that “persons with disabilities remain marginalized today in education systems, and children with disabilities represent one third of all out-of-school children.” She stressed the importance of equal human rights for persons with disabilities, saying, “We have a responsibility to ensure that all persons enjoy equal rights and that women and men are empowered to participate fully in social, political, economic and cultural life.”

According to United Nations Enable website, there is a growing body of evidence and experience indicating that when persons with disabilities are empowered to participate fully in society by removing barriers to their inclusion, their community can better

achieve progress and development for all. These barriers are, therefore, a detriment to the development of society as a whole, as well as to achieving the MDGs.

All panelists at the IDPD event concurred that empowerment of persons with disabilities was a key element for development at community, national and international levels, and called on world's leaders to aim for the development of an entirely inclusive and equitable society. Mr. Srinivas Tata, representing the UN Regional Commissions noted that the investment in persons with disabilities was critical in achieving the future we want. He stated "You cannot treat persons with disabilities as expenditure; they are investment," Mr. Richard Morgan from UNICEF also added that focusing on this least advantaged group is "a single most effective development strategy."

Preparations kick off for High-level meeting on disability and development

This year's IDPD marked the official opening of preparations for the High-level Meeting of the General Assembly on disability and development, which will take place on 23 September 2013 at UN Headquarters in New York.

Some of the panelists underscored the importance of collecting and using available evidence-based data to inform the high level meeting. Ms. Adriana Telles Ribeiro from the Government of Brazil proposed a showcase of best practices and success stories of policy and practices in regard to promoting inclusion and accessibility. She added that it was crucial to showcase these examples in that "they be not only from developed countries but also from developing countries." Mr. Werner Obermeyer from WHO also suggested that the meeting must ensure the relevant and specific indicators to uncover patterns or trends experienced by persons with disability. "We all know that what is measured gets done," he said.

Panelists also shared their thoughts on the topic related to the outcome document of the high level meeting. Mr. Obermeyer stated that the impact of the meeting should be to bring a real change in the quality of life of people with disabilities over the longer term. Mr. Tata further suggested that there should be clear guidelines for roles that the different stakeholders should play in regard to the meeting. He urged for a strong and clear mandate about inclusion and accessibility to strengthen the work of all agencies.

Mr. Morgan also provided another critical input, referring to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRDP) by which development programmes and policies should be evaluated. "Every policy, every development programme, every bit of development cooperation has to be subject to that test and needs to pass that test of systematic consideration and inclusion. With costs not being a reason for exclusion. But rather, cost efficiency being sought in order to make the necessary investment in the inclusion and for the rights of persons with disabilities."

Like many organizations striving to build an inclusive society for all, UNICEF, UN Women and the International Disability Alliance have hosted an online consultation for the post-2015 development agenda on the World We Want 2015 web platform. Running through 5 December, the discussion sought input and feedback on inequalities related to disability.

"I make an earnest plea and call upon all of you to look at people with disabilities as differently-abled," concluded Emmanuel Elisha Ford in his statement, also encouraging the world community to make the most of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the opportunity offered by next year's high-level meeting of the General Assembly on disability and development.

For more information

[International Day of Persons with Disabilities – Removing barriers to create an inclusive and accessible society for all \(UN Webcast – Part 1\)](#)
[International Day of Persons with Disabilities – Removing barriers to create an inclusive and accessible society for all \(UN webcast – Part 2\)](#)
[International Day of Persons with Disabilities, 3 December 2012 United Nations ENABLE DESA's Division for Social Policy and Development](#)

Global Dialogue on Development

NGO Committee to consider 200 applications

The 2013 Regular Session of the Committee on NGOs will meet on 21-30 January and is expected to adopt its report on 8 February 2013

The Committee on NGOs will consider over 200 new applications for status by NGOs as well as applications deferred from earlier sessions. It will also review nearly 300 quadrennial reports of NGOs in general or special consultative status.

It is a standing committee of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), established by the Council in 1946. It reports directly to ECOSOC, and the two reports of its annual regular session (usually at the end of January) and resumed session (in May) include draft resolutions or decisions on matters calling for action by the Council.

The Committee has 19 members who are elected on the basis of equitable geographical representation:

- 5 members from African States;
- 4 members from Asian States;
- 2 members from Eastern European States;
- 4 members from Latin American and Caribbean States; and
- 4 members from Western European and other States.

The term of office of its members is four years. The current terms of reference of the Committee are set out in Resolution 1996/31. In its proceedings the Committee is guided by the rules of procedure of the Council.

Members of the NGO Committee for the period 2011-2014 are the following: Belgium, Bulgaria (Chair), Burundi, China, Cuba, India, Israel (Vice-Chair and Rapporteur), Kyrgyzstan (Vice-Chair), Morocco, Mozambique, Nicaragua, Pakistan, Peru, Russian Federation, Senegal (Vice-Chair), Sudan, TURKEY, United States of America, and Venezuela (Bolivarian Rep.)

The main tasks of the Committee are:

- The consideration of applications for consultative status and requests for reclassification submitted by NGOs;
- The consideration of quadrennial reports submitted by NGOs in General and Special categories;
- The implementation of the provisions of Council resolution 1996/31 and the monitoring of the consultative relationship;

- Any other issues which the ECOSOC may request the Committee to consider.

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

Major resolution on policy review recommends important improvements

The General Assembly adopted on 21 December a landmark resolution on the policy review of UN operational activities for development. The far-reaching changes endorsed in the resolution signal the importance of improving the relevance and effectiveness of the UN development system.

The resolution also recognizes the value of better linking operational activities with norms and standards such as freedom, peace, security and human rights, as well as the importance of incorporating sustainable development into the mandates, programmes, strategies and decision-making processes of UN entities. For the first time, there is also intergovernmental recognition of the 'delivering-as-one' model though it remains a voluntary option.

The resolution represents a significant step in the reform of the UN development system. The resolution is the culmination of two months of intensive intergovernmental negotiations underpinned by comprehensive analytical preparations supported by DESA and UN system entities. It was stated at the time of the adoption of the QCPR resolution that "this legislation is a major confidence-builder in the UN development system".

The new QCPR resolution addressed several key issues.

Funding

The resolution has identified a number of steps to address the growing imbalance between core and non-core contributions. Funds and Programmes (Fs/Ps) are requested to present proposals for the concept of "critical mass" of core funding with a view to a decision in 2014; all core and non-core resources at the country level to be consolidated within a common budgetary framework; Fs/Ps to adopt by 2013, with a view to full implementation in 2014, cost recovery frameworks based on the principle of full cost recovery of all non-programme costs proportionally from core and non-core funding sources. This decision will require an increase in the present programme support cost rate of the Fs/Ps.

Functioning (programming, business practices, resident coordinator system, DaO)

The UN development system to improve the UNDAF as a strategic framework, simplify the UNDAF process and strengthen joint programming; simplify and harmonize the UNDAF and agency-specific programming instruments and

processes; develop a common approach for measuring progress in capacity development; mainstream South-South and triangular cooperation into country-level programming and strengthen the use of the gender scorecard.

The UN development system to consolidate support services at the country level either by adopting a lead agency model, establishing a common service centre, or through outsourcing, and report on concrete achievements by the end of 2014; UN entities to invest in intra-agency rationalization of business operations and present plans by the end of 2013; rules, policies and procedures in the functional areas of finance, human resources management, procurement, ICT and other administrative services to be unified across the UN system by 2016; use of national systems to be stepped-up and the number of parallel implementation units reduced; the Secretary-General to present a proposal in early 2014 for decision-making by the Executive Boards of Fs/Ps on the common definition of operating costs and a common and standardized system of cost control. This is important for enhanced transparency in financial reporting and the calculation of cost savings from harmonization of business practices across UN entities. The resolution also calls for achieving full interoperability of enterprise resources planning systems of Fs/Ps in 2016 and the UN development system to develop a strategy for common premises in programme countries by the end of 2013.

The resolution calls for enhancing the planning and coordination function of UN resident coordinators including their ability to propose amendments to projects and programmes to bring them in line with the UNDAF, as well as the UNDAF itself, or its action plan, if activities are determined to be no longer in alignment with the broader UN strategy; strengthening of the capacity of resident coordinators' offices; improved reporting by resident coordinators on the results of the UN development system as a whole at the country level; further decentralization of authority to field representatives of UN entities for decisions on programmatic and financial matters; and improved coordination between Secretariat entities and agencies of the UN development system in countries in transition from relief to development, e.g. through simplification and harmonization of programming instruments and processes and business practices. The Secretary-General is also requested to submit a proposal on the funding of the resident coordinator system in 2013.

The UN system is requested to consolidate the DaO process by clearly outlining the core elements of each of the "ones" and to provide the respective programme countries with an integrated package of support, comprising standard operating procedures as well as guidance on DaO-specific programming, monitoring and evaluation and reporting, pooled funding mechanisms and support to the resident coordinator system; the Secretary-General is requested to present options for the review and approval of common country programme documents of the DaO countries for consideration of ECOSOC and GA in 2013 and to come up with proposals for the establishment of common monitoring, evaluation and reporting mechanisms on DAO implementation.

Results-based management and system-wide evaluation

In the areas of results-based management, the Secretary-General is requested to present a report to ECOSOC in 2013 on an approach to streamline the planning, monitoring, measurement and reporting on system-wide results. Governing bodies of UN entities are also invited to engage in a focused dialogue on how to balance reporting on system-wide results with the current agency-specific reporting requirements. The UN development system is also requested to develop clear and robust results frameworks that demonstrate complete results chains with the Fs/Ps reporting annually on implementation from 2014.

In addition, the resolution requests the Secretary-General to establish an interim coordination mechanism for system-wide evaluation of operational activities for development, with a draft policy and a proposal for pilot system-wide evaluations to be submitted for discussion at the operational activities segment of ECOSOC in 2013.

For more information:

<http://www.un.org/en/ecosoc/about/qcpr.shtml>

Vienna Policy Dialogue focuses on women empowerment

At its December meeting, the Vienna Policy Dialogue of the UN Development Cooperation Forum discussed how to firmly anchor gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls in the evolving post-2015 UN development agenda.

Organized by UNDESA, in partnership with UN Women and the Government of Austria, the Vienna Policy Dialogue on 13 and 14 December 2012 brought together more than 80 senior representatives and experts from national and local governments, civil society organizations, parliaments, and women's organizations with representatives of international organizations.

With gender inequalities persisting across the globe, the main objective of the meeting was to explore how to put gender equality and the empowerment of women at the heart of the post 2015 development agenda to put an end to gender injustice. The meeting reviewed the role which development cooperation can play to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women.

A key message emerging from the meeting was that Millennium Development Goals have helped to mobilize financial resources for gender equality and galvanize political support. At the same time, it acknowledged that the MDGs have not sufficiently addressed the root causes of gender inequality. Participants have therefore called for a post 2015 development agenda, which has both a standalone goal on gender equality and the integration of gender equality across the entire post 2015 development agenda.

Participants also examined the role of mutual accountability mechanisms and gender responsive budgeting in addressing gender inequalities. Both were seen as powerful tools to ensure that gender equality becomes a reality on the ground. There was broad agreement that development partnerships at all level must reflect womens' voices. Mutual accountability mechanisms can help to empower citizens in their efforts to hold their governments and providers of external assistance to account for gender-responsive policy making.

The Vienna Policy Dialogue is the first in a series of consultations in preparation of the 2014 DCF. The DCF is the principal multi-stakeholder platform for global dialogue and policy aimed at reviewing trends and progress in international development cooperation. It provides policy guidance and recommendations to promote more effective and coherent international development cooperation.

For more information:

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

Second Committee adopts important resolutions as it completes 67th session

Thirty-six resolutions and one decision were adopted by the Second Committee during its current session. At the front and centre of the discussion was the resolution on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review (QCPR)

The Committee faced difficult negotiations but was able to reach agreement by consensus on ways to better assess the effectiveness, efficiency, coherence and impact of the United Nations operational activities. Delegations were able to negotiate important resolutions that aim to provide policy direction for the macroeconomic and trade actions of the international community, including on external debt sustainability, international trade, international financial system, financing for development, and industrial development.

Within the sustainable development cluster of items, the Second Committee adopted a total of 16 draft resolutions including on the Follow-up to Agenda 21; the preparatory work for the third international conference on Small Island Developing States; the designation of 2014 as the International Year of SIDS, the declaration of 2014-2024 as the United Nations Decade of Sustainable Energy for All. A resolution on strengthening UNEP was also adopted and a UN-Habitat resolution reaffirmed the decision to hold, in 2016, a third United Nations conference on housing and sustainable urban development (Habitat III).

On the issue of LDCs, the Committee has taken a significant step to follow up on the Istanbul commitments, including by adopting resolutions on smooth transition for countries graduating from the list of LDCs, and the follow up to the fourth UN Conference on LDCs.

Resolutions were also adopted on issues including: migration, international day of forests; world water day; entrepreneurship for development; fiscal transparency; among others.

Two high-level joint events were held in this year's session. The first was with ECOSOC on the theme of the global economic outlook. The second was with the Third Committee on the theme of ICTs for development. Additionally, five special events were held to inform the Committee's deliberations on some of its key agenda items, including: sustainable development goals, sovereign debt crisis, entrepreneurship, migration, and science, technology and innovation.

For more information:

<http://www.un.org/en/ga/second/index.shtml>

Secretary-General welcomes outcome of climate change talks

Ban Ki-moon welcomed the outcome of the UN Climate Change Conference which took place in Doha on 26 November-7 December, saying it paves the way to a comprehensive, legally binding agreement by 2015

The two-week meeting of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the parent treaty of the 1997 Kyoto Protocol, wrapped up today in the Qatari capital, with delegates reportedly agreeing to extend the Protocol, whose first commitment period expires at the end of this year, until 2020.

Under the Protocol, 37 States – consisting of highly industrialized countries and countries undergoing the process of transition to a market economy – have legally binding emission limitation and reduction commitments.

“Doha successfully concluded the previous round of climate negotiations, paving the way to a comprehensive, legally binding agreement by 2015,” said a statement issued by Mr. Ban's spokesperson.

“The Secretary-General believes that far more needs to be done and he calls on governments, along with businesses, civil society and citizens, to accelerate action on the ground so that the global temperature rise can be limited to 2 degrees Celsius,” it added.

Recent UN-led reports have pointed to the urgency of keeping global average temperatures from rising beyond an internationally agreed level of 2 degrees Celsius, beyond which climate change would have serious impacts.

Ban Ki-moon had also expressed his hope for five key “deliverables” by governments in Doha, beginning with the adoption of a ratifiable second commitment period of the Protocol.

He also expected progress on long-term climate finance, and ensuring that the institutions set up during previous conferences in Cancun and Durban to support mitigation and adaptation by developing countries – including the Green Climate Fund and the Climate Technology Centre and Network – are fully equipped and effective.

In addition, the Secretary-General expected governments to demonstrate, with no ambiguity, that negotiations on a global and legally binding instrument remain on track, and to show how they intend to act on the gap between mitigation pledges and what is required to achieve the 2 degrees target.

In a statement on 8 December, it was said that Ban Ki-moon will increase his personal involvement in efforts “to raise ambition, scale-up climate financing, and engage world leaders as we now move towards the global agreement in 2015.”

Source: UN News

For more information:

[Gateway to the United Nations Systems Work on Climate Change](#)

Trends and Analysis

Second meeting of the Open-Ended Intergovernmental Ad Hoc Expert Group on Forest Financing (AHEG2)

Second meeting of the Open-Ended Intergovernmental Ad Hoc Expert Group on Forest Financing (AHEG2), 14-18 January, Vienna

In October 2009, the Special Session of the ninth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) adopted the Resolution on Means of Implementation for Sustainable Forest Management. This Resolution provided a specific mandate and designed a strategic road map to address forest finance within UNFF. Member States also agreed that the tenth session of UNFF should make decision on forest financing.

The Resolution established the Open-ended Intergovernmental Ad Hoc Expert Group on Forest Financing (AHEG) to make proposals on strategies to mobilize resources from all sources to support the implementation of sustainable forest management, the achievement of the global objectives on forests and the implementation of the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests (forest instrument), including, inter alia, strengthening and improving access to funds and establishing a voluntary global forest fund.

The Resolution also established a Facilitative Process. According to this Resolution, the AHEG should hold two meetings, one before the ninth session and one before the tenth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests. The Expert Group should submit a preliminary report at the ninth session and final recommendations at the tenth session for the Forum's consideration and decision.

Based on the outcome of AHEG1 which was held in September 2010 in Nairobi, Kenya, UNFF9 adopted in its Resolution on Forests for People adopted in February 2011. Resolution of the UNFF9 called for intensive intersessional activities on forest finance. A wide spectrum of inputs on forest financing was requested from governments, CPF members, regional processes and major groups, in preparation for AHEG2 and UNFF10.

Member States are also expected to develop and implement national forest policy and policy instruments on all types of forests and trees outside forests, and to report their progress, experiences and lessons to AHEG2.

The main inputs to AHEG2 include the 2012 study on Forest Financing by the Advisory Group on Finance of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (AGF/CPF), reports of the Facilitative Process Workshops on Forest Financing in LFCCs/SIDS, and

Africa/LDCs, compilation of substantive submissions on forest financing by countries, as well as other relevant inputs. The outcome of AHEG2 is a critical component for a decision on forest financing in UNFF10 in April 2013 in Istanbul-Turkey, and also for the decision on the future of the international arrangement on forests in UNFF11 in 2015.

For more information: <http://www.un.org/esa/forests/adhoc.html>

With a focus on indigenous youth

International Expert Group Meeting on Indigenous Youth will take place at UN Headquarters in New York on 29-31 January

The Division for Social Policy and Development will be organizing an International Expert Group Meeting entitled "Indigenous youth: Identity, challenges and hope: articles 14, 17, 21 and 25 of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples". The meeting will be arranged in accordance with a decision by ECOSOC made at the recommendation of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues.

Some of the challenges that indigenous youth face across the globe will be explored and policy and programmatic proposals will be proposed and be addressed at the twelfth session of the Permanent Forum in May 2013.

For more information:

[International Expert Group Meeting: Indigenous youth: Identity, challenges and hope: articles 14, 17, 21 and 25 of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples](#)

Preparing for World Conference on Indigenous Peoples

International Experts of the three UN mechanisms on Indigenous Peoples' Rights met to prepare for the 2014 World Conference on Indigenous Peoples on 17-21 December in Guatemala

On the occasion of the commemoration of the Oxlajuj B'aqtun held in Tikal, Guatemala, the UN Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, the UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues met to discuss the preparation of the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples in 2014.

Assisted by staff from the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (SPFII), members of the forum also met with government officials, the UN country team, indigenous peoples' organizations as well as journalist and the academia.

More information (in Spanish):

[Encuentro de Expertos Indígenas Internacionales](#)

and short-term economic indicators which fully meets the user needs as well as complies with the international standards.

For more information:

[Calendar of Events of the Statistics Division](#)

Capacity development

Estimating populations using census data

An International Workshop on Population Projections using Census Data will be arranged on 14-16 January in Beijing, China

DESA's Statistics Division, in collaboration with China National Bureau of Statistics, is organizing the workshop with the aim to strengthen the technical capacity of National Statistical Offices of Asian countries to generate national population projections from census data.

Twelve Asian countries are invited to participate and the event will cover topics including assessing quality of census data; determining appropriate levels of fertility, mortality and migration; and techniques on making national population projections.

The International Workshop will be followed by a National workshop on 17-18 January, to be attended by representatives from provincial-level statistics offices in China and with a focus on techniques for making sub-national and sectoral population projections.

For more information:

[Calendar of Events of the Statistics Division](#)

Strengthening national statistical systems

Seminar on developing a programme for the implementation of the 2008 SNA and supporting statistics in the Caribbean region will be held in Kingston, Jamaica, on 30 January – 1 February

The event is organized by DESA's Statistics Division, in collaboration with the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Secretariat and the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC).

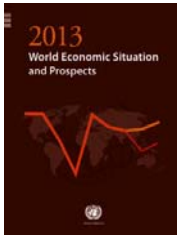
The goal is to assist participating Caribbean countries with initiating the formulation of a national strategy and implementation programme for the 2008 System of National Accounts (SNA) and supporting socio-economic statistics with the objective of strengthening the national statistical system in support of improved policy making.

It is expected that this initiative will lead to a multi-year statistical programme helping countries to change over to the 2008 SNA with a view to producing timely comparable national accounts statistics

Publications and Websites

Technical reports

World Economic Situation and Prospects 2013 (WESP)



On 18 December, the first chapter of the World Economic Situation and Prospects (WESP), the Global Economic Outlook, was pre-released in New York. According to the report, growth of the world economy has weakened considerably during 2012 and is expected to remain subdued in the coming two years. This pace of growth will be far from sufficient to overcome the

continued jobs crisis that many countries are still facing. With existing policies and growth trends, it may take at least another five years for Europe and the United States to make up for the job losses caused by the Great Recession of 2008-2009. The prospects for the next two years continue to be challenging, fraught with major uncertainties and risks slanted towards the downside. The full report will be launched on 18 January.

Free download: [World Economic Situation and Prospects \(WESP\)](#)

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.

In addition to regular monthly tables, the November 2012 issue (print as well as online) includes the following quarterly and annual tables:

- 12. Earnings in manufacturing, by sex.
- 38. Total exports and imports by regions: quantum and unit value indices and terms of trade in US dollars.
- 42. World exports by commodity classes and by regions.

For more information:

[Monthly Bulletin of Statistics and MBS Online](#)

Outreach material

Social Development Link Newsletter (SDLN)

The October issue is now available highlighting among other things the conclusion of the 5th session of the Conference of States Parties and an update on the System Wide Action Plan on Youth Survey which gathered over 13,500 online responses from 186 countries. An overwhelming majority of the respondents were under 30.

The newsletter, which is now published monthly by the Civil Society and Outreach Unit of the Division for Social Policy and Development, aims at providing a sharp and synthetic summary of major activities carried out by DSPD. The newsletter will serve as a link between DSPD and its major partners, from civil society actors to social development practitioners and scholars.

View full issue at:

[Social Development Link Newsletter \(SDLN\)](#)

Youth Flash Newsletter

The November issue is now available featuring a story by the UN Youth Delegate from Georgia. The newsletter is a service of the UN Programme on Youth to keep the public informed about the work of the UN on youth issues. It is prepared with input from UN offices, agencies, funds and programmes and from youth organizations around the world.

View full issue at:

[Youth Flash Newsletter November 2012](#)

Probabilistic Population Projections

This CD-ROM contains the 2nd Revision of Probabilistic Population Projections prepared by DESA's Population Division. While the 1st Revision, published in early 2012, was based only on probabilistic projections of total fertility, this revision also includes probabilistic projections of life expectancy at birth for all countries that do not have a high prevalence of HIV/AIDS infections.

The probabilistic projections are based on the historical estimates of population by age and sex, fertility and mortality between 1950 and 2010 from the 2010 Revision of the World Population Prospects.

For more information:

[Probabilistic Population Projections](#)

Comings and Goings

Goings



Paul Cheung, Director of DESA's Statistics Division, will retire at the end of December 2012. Since his appointment at the United Nations in 2004, Mr. Cheung has provided strong leadership to the development of the global statistical system. The UN Statistical Commission is now universally recognized as its apex entity. In 2012, there were 136

member states attending the Commission, an 80% increase from 2004.

During his tenure, the Statistics Division organized the first-ever World Statistics Day in 2010, won three UN21 Awards, and launched many innovations including UNdata. Mr. Cheung chaired the International Technical Advisory Boards for the population censuses in Iraq and Afghanistan and was involved in census preparations in Kosovo, Bosnia and Myanmar.

Recognizing the importance of geospatial information to the development of societies, he initiated the intergovernmental mechanism on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM). This initiative was endorsed by ECOSOC in 2011 with the establishment of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management.

Mr. Cheung is well known and recognized around the world for his contribution to the development of official statistics and for initiating the GGIM process. He will return to his home country Singapore and will teach at the National University of Singapore.



Rob Vos will leave his position as Director of the Development Policy and Analysis Division (DPAD) in January. Before joining the UN in 2005, Mr. Vos was a Professor of Finance and Development at the Institute of Social Studies in the Hague, and Professor of Development Economics at the Free University in Amsterdam.

Between 1999 and 2002, Mr. Vos was Deputy Rector of the Institute of Social Studies. He has also worked as a senior economist at the Inter-American Development Bank, where he co-founded the Inter-American Institute for Social Development (INDES) and initiated the programme on improving surveys of living conditions in Latin America (MECOVI).

He has also been a visiting professor at numerous universities around the world and has worked as a policy advisor and consultant to several governments in Latin America, Africa and Asia. His work covers a broad range of development issues,

including trade policy, inequality and poverty; financing for development; poverty and social policy analysis; and macroeconomic and general equilibrium modeling for development policy.

Mr. Vos has published numerous books where the most recent include "Globalization and Economic Diversification: Policy Challenges for Economies in Transition" (with MalinkaKoparanova, Bloomsbury, 2011); "Economic Insecurity and Development" (with Richard Kozul-Wright, United Nations, 2011); "Public Policies for Human Development" (Palgrave, 2010); and "Ageing and Development" (with José Antonio Ocampo and Ana Luiza Cortez, Oriental Blackswan/Zed Books, 2007).

Mr. Vos will join the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN in Rome as the Director of Rural Development and Poverty Reduction.

The following staff member also retired in December:

Virgilio Castillo, Programme Analyst, Statistics Division

Comings

The following staff members were promoted in December:

Flor Velazco Juarez, Programme Assistant, Division for Public Administration and Development Management

Silvia Schwarz, Programme Assistant, Division for Public Administration and Development Management

Calendar

January

International Workshop on Population Projections using Census Data

Beijing, China, 14-16 January

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

Second meeting of the Open-Ended Intergovernmental Ad Hoc Expert Group on Forest Financing (AHEG2)

Vienna, 14-18 January

<http://www.un.org/esa/forests/adhoc.html>

Launch of World Economic Situation and Prospects 2013 (WESP)

New York, 18 January

<http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/policy/wesp/index.shtml>

Regular Session of the Committee on NGOs

New York, 21-30 January

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

International Expert Group Meeting on Indigenous Youth

New York, 29-31 January

<http://social.un.org/index/IndigenousPeoples/tabid/70/articleType/ArticleView/articleId/122/UN-Report-on-Rights-of-Indigenous-Children.aspx>

Seminar on developing a programme for the implementation of the 2008 SNA and supporting statistics in the Caribbean region

Kingston, Jamaica, 30 January – 1 February

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

February

51st Session of the Commission for Social Development

New York, 6-15 February

<http://social.un.org/index/CommissionforSocialDevelopment/Sessions/2013.aspx>

44th session of the Statistical Commission

New York, 26 February – 1 March

http://unstats.un.org/unsd/statcom/commission_44th_session.htm

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.