



IN THIS ISSUE >>>

MDG's to focus on mothers and children | Making development cooperation more accountable | Former Swiss leader elected as next President of the General Assembly

Global dialogue on development: Coherent development cooperation to accelerate progress towards the MDGs, Advancing gender equality and empowerment of women, Focus on global public health and on financing for development

Trends and analysis: Discussing ICT developments, trends and challenges, Presenting MDG eCenter, Accelerating attainment of MDG's

Capacity development: Developing Russia's 'Information Society', Developing national accounts for Caribbean States, Tourism statistics in Commonwealth and Independent States

Publications and websites | Comings and goings | Calendar

Feature Articles and Webcast

MDG's to focus on mothers and children

The annual Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) Report, released by Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon on 23 June 2010 in New York, reveals that the world has made huge strides in reducing extreme poverty, tackling HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases, and boosting access to clean drinking water, but is still not progressive enough in critical areas including improving maternal health and reducing child mortality.

“This report shows how much progress has been made. Perhaps most important, it shows that the Goals are achievable” expresses the Secretary-General in the foreword of the 2010 report. However, MDG targets number four and five, reducing child mortality and improving maternal health, have been indicated as the two slowest moving goals, and there is uncertainty as to whether these 2015 targets will be met if not given more attention.

“For too long, maternal and child health has been at the back of the MDG train,” Mr. Ban said at the 14 April 2010 launch of an initiative of a joint action plan among governments, businesses, foundations and civil society organizations for mothers in developing countries, “but we know it can be the engine of development.”

Continuing this conversation at the press conference on 23 June 2010 Mr. Ban expressed, “Mothers are the foundation of our society. When mothers are healthy families are healthy,” and “by focusing on the needs of the most vulnerable, we lay the foundation for a more sustainable and prosperous tomorrow.”

Women and children in underdeveloped countries are certainly among the most vulnerable.

Current progress and needs

As indicated in the report, MDG targets number four and five set out to reduce the under-five mortality rate by two thirds, and reduce the maternal mortality ratio by three quarters while also achieving universal access to reproductive health by 2015.



Current data indicates that child deaths are falling but not quickly enough to reach the target date, with the highest rates of child mortality still found within sub-Saharan Africa. Four preventable diseases - pneumonia, diarrhoea, malaria and AIDS - account for almost forty-three percent of all deaths, and revitalizing efforts against these diseases could save millions of children.

Similarly, the world health organization's (WHO) preliminary data on the maternal health of women shows signs of progress as

well as a reduction in maternal mortality; however the rate of reduction is still short of the 5.5 per cent annual goal necessary to meet the 2015 target.

Importantly, as with the causes of infant mortality, the vast majority of these maternal deaths are avoidable. Haemorrhage has been indicated as the leading cause, at almost 40 percent for all maternal mortality, and can be prevented or managed through a range of interventions administered by skilled health-care providers and adequate equipment and supplies.

The 2010 MDG Report reveals that much progress has been made, especially as the rural-urban gap in skilled care during childbirth has narrowed. More women are receiving skilled healthcare during pregnancy than ever before, yet the numbers indicate this increase has still only resulted in one in every three rural women in developing regions receiving the recommended care during pregnancy.

Part of the discrepancy in the MDG target results, and the lagging of maternal and child health goals, is due to the fact that women and children tend to suffer disproportionately in time of crisis or hardship, as evidenced during the recent financial and economic crisis and food crisis, as well as from the impacts of climate change. The MDG resources need to reach these most vulnerable peoples in order for continued progress.

Mr. Ban announced that an estimated 60 billion dollars of extra funds is required in order for these goals surrounding mothers and children to be met. Encouraged by positive responses from world leaders on these issues, Mr. Ban indicated that it was his desire to stress this need at the G20 Summit in Toronto, taking place 26-27 June 2010.

MDG Advocacy Group to speed up progress

In continued efforts to speed the progress of the MDGs, and encourage adequate additive funding for mothers and children and all vulnerable peoples, Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon also announced the newly established “MDG Advocacy Group” at a press conference on 23 June 2010. Mr. Ban explained that this group is made up of “a real collection of superheroes defeating poverty.”

More specifically, this Group is a collection of seventeen current and former political leaders, business people and thinkers from around the world who will work to galvanize support for achieving the Goals. Rwandan President Paul Kagame and Spanish Prime Minister José Luis Rodríguez Zapatero will co-chair the group, and the first meeting is set to take place in July, 2010, just two months before the world’s leaders will gather at UN Headquarters in New York for the September High-Level Summit also aimed at accelerating progress towards the MDGs.

“The world is still making progress in reducing poverty” Mr. Ban voiced, and “we must not fail the billions who look to the international community to fulfil the promise of the Millennium Declaration for a better world. Let us keep the promise”.

The MDG assessment report is based on data from more than twenty-five UN agencies and International organizations and indicates clearly which areas are improving and where obstacles are being faced. The world continues to make advances towards the MDGs despite the global economic downturn, but the rate of improvement remains too slow and countries must step up their commitments as the 2015 target deadline is fast approaching.

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

Holding the world accountable for development

Accountability for commitments is essential and a focus on implementing promises is urgently needed if acceleration of progress is to happen. The Development Cooperation Forum (DCF), a universal and respected forum, encourages participatory multi-stakeholder dialogue on major development cooperation issues. With a particular focus on the MDGs, this year’s forum aimed to also contribute to the forthcoming MDG Summit.



“This year’s Forum came at a critical juncture,” explains Under-Secretary-General Mr. Sha Zukang regarding the 2010 DCF. “The financial, food and energy crises have threatened development progress. In many countries, especially those in the South, the impacts of the crises will be long-lasting,” funding is imperative, “especially with competition for climate change financing.”

“Accountability, therefore, among development partners needs to be much stronger. These issues were paramount in the June Forum,” said Mr. Sha.

The 2010 DCF took place on 29 and 30 June 2010 in New York as part of the United Nations Economic and Social Council's (ECOSOC) High-level Segment. In reviewing global trends in development cooperation, and under the theme "Development Cooperation in Times of Crises: New Commitments to Reach the MDGs," the 2010 DCF addressed issues including the costs of the economic and financial crisis and the impact of climate change on the quantity and quality of aid.

Bringing together Ministers and high-level experts on development cooperation from governments, parliaments, local governments, civil society organizations and the private sector, the forum aimed to foster discussions on issues that can significantly improve the impact of development cooperation on the internationally agreed development goals and to give a clear political message to the United Nations High-level Plenary event on the MDGs, the "MDG Summit", to be held in September 2010.

The objective of the DCF is to provide policy guidance and recommendations to promote and improve the impact of development cooperation. Accountability of the stakeholders is a particular focus.

The 2010 DCF and the MDGs

The Millennium Development Goals 2009 Report revealed that major advances in the fight against poverty and hunger have begun to slow or even reverse as a result of the global economic and food crises. The global economic landscape has changed fundamentally since the first DCF and the multitude of crises that have occurred have threatened to stall the projected development progress.

Mutual accountability and transparency, according to the trends and progress in the international development cooperation report of the Secretary-General, are two key ways to strengthen the International Agreed Development Goal (IADG) results. Providers need to commit to individual targets to improve aid quality, giving priority to country groups such as Sub-Saharan Africa and fragile states which are lagging behind on progress towards the IADGs. Most areas of the global partnership for development are not living up to expectations and without progress across the board development cooperation will have limited impact.

The Advisory Group of the Under-Secretary-General stresses that "the DCF has a key role as a forum for debate on whether development cooperation partners are honouring the commitments they made and achieving the results that have been agreed and clearly defined. Developing countries should hold developed countries to account on aid and aid effectiveness in the spirit of mutual accountability."

DCF Beginnings and Expectations for Continued Progress

The DCF was established in 2005, after the World Summit mandated ECOSOC to organize the forum as a focal point within the United Nations system for consideration of global development cooperation issues. The DCF is set to continue to convene biennially.

During its first 2007-08 cycle, the DCF established a strong reputation for analysis and promoting balanced debate among stakeholder groups on development cooperation. Some key messages of the first ministerial-level DCF in 2008 were reflected in outcome documents of the Doha Review Conference on Financing for Development and Accra High-level Forum on Aid effectiveness.

President of ECOSOC, Mr. Hamidon Ali explains that "the Doha Declaration re-emphasized the importance of the DCF as the focal point within the United Nations system for holistic consideration of issues of international development cooperation, with participation by all relevant stakeholders. The DCF has a unique opportunity to act as a global, independent platform to hold all answerable for the commitments made"

In order to make the 2010 DCF successful, Mr. Sha explains that "turning our ideas into concrete actions is imperative."

Through mutual accountability and new commitments to development goals, it is strongly believed that the MDGs can be achieved. The forum, as well as the forthcoming MDG Summit is critical in ensuring results.

For more information:

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

Former Swiss leader elected as next President of the General Assembly

video



On 11 June, the General Assembly elected, by acclamation, H.E. Mr. Joseph Deiss of Switzerland as President of the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly. A former leader of Switzerland who was instrumental in his country joining the United Nations eight years ago calls on Member States to return to the goals set out in the UN Charter and guide their work by the principles of peace, friendship and cooperation.

“New global challenges have also emerged – climate change, economic and financial crises, terrorism and global crime, extremism of all kinds – in addition to the perennial problems of war and poverty. They all require collective and urgent responses. More than ever before, we need to act together to be effective,” said Mr. Deiss.

Video:

<http://webcast.un.org/ramgen/ondemand/ga/64/2010/ga100611am.rm?start=00:05:56&end=00:17:13> (11 minutes)

Full coverage:

<http://webcast.un.org/ramgen/ondemand/ga/64/2010/ga100611am.rm> (1 hour 42 minutes)

Press Release:

<http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2010/ga10947.doc.htm>

Global Dialogue on Development

Coherent development cooperation to accelerate progress towards the MDGs

Second biennial Development Cooperation Forum (DCF) took place as part of the ECOSOC High-level Segment on 29 and 30 June in New York

The forum addressed an array of challenges the international community is facing to ensure greater progress in international development cooperation and towards the MDGs. The 2005 World Summit outcome mandated ECOSOC to convene the DCF to review trends in international development cooperation, including strategies, policies and financing; promote greater coherence among the development activities of different development partners and strengthen the normative and operational link in the work of the United Nations.

The first DCF held in 2008 represented the first decisive step in positioning ECOSOC as a key venue for global policy dialogue on international development cooperation. As a result of the first DCF in 2008, the outcome document of the Doha Review Conference on Financing for Development acknowledges the role of the DCF as focal point within the United Nations system for holistic consideration of development cooperation with participation by all relevant stakeholders.

What makes the DCF stand out?

The most valuable asset of the DCF is its support by Member States of the United Nations and relevant stakeholders engaged in development cooperation. In order to live up to its vast mandate and large expectations in the development community, DESA facilitated an effective consultative and preparatory process based on solid substantive and technical inputs, that helped the Forum to establish its comparative advantage in producing high quality analysis, organizing balanced North-South discussions about development cooperation, and involving all necessary stakeholders in consultations on aid issues.

Both preparatory symposia in 2009 (in Vienna) and 2010 (in Helsinki) were multi-stakeholder events with the participation of senior technical experts in aid management and development cooperation from governments, parliaments, local governments, civil society organizations, foundations and the private sector. By giving voice to these stakeholders, the DCF encourages participatory multi-stakeholder dialogue on major development

cooperation issues – which is the second key value added of the forum.

What were expectations for the 2010 DCF?

Since the first forum, the global economic landscape has changed dramatically. A confluence of crises still threatens to derail the development process and signs of recovery are timid at best. Hard-won development gains are still showing reversals. Yet, there are stories of progress, and the MDGs can and must be achieved. Political momentum and a focus on turning pledges into implementation are urgently needed.

Accountability on commitments made is key if acceleration of progress is to happen. With limited resources and competing demands, any type of development assistance must show tangible results at the national and local level. In this new landscape, the Development Cooperation Forum has a unique value as a universal and authoritative forum where the various stakeholders can come together.

Against this backdrop, the 2010 Forum will be structured around the following themes: (i) Promoting greater coherence; (ii) Accountable and transparent development cooperation; (iii) The role of various forms of cooperation including South-South, triangular and decentralized cooperation; (iv) The impact of multiple crises and aid allocations; and (v) Improving development cooperation to accelerate progress towards the MDGs by 2015.

The policy dialogues brought together key players in international development cooperation, including from relevant line ministries in South and North, parliamentarians, and civil society to identify ways to enhance development cooperation to accelerate progress towards the MDGs. The outcome of the forum, in the form of an official summary by the ECOSOC President, presents an important contribution of relevant development cooperation actors to the United Nations September 2010 Summit on the MDGs.

Discussions in this second DCF aimed to establish consensus on priority actions to advance the implementation of commitments on development cooperation, which will be used as guidance for the work of the United Nations System with partners on the ground.

For more information:

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

Advancing gender equality and empowerment of women

Along the DCF, this year's high-level segment of ECOSOC features the Annual Ministerial Review from 28 June to 1 July

The event draws on the Beijing+15 global review, assessing the progress made in the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, adopted in 1995, and it contributes to the 2010 High Level Plenary Meeting of the 65th General Assembly, to be held in September.

As part of the Review, thirteen developing and developed countries, Australia, Brazil, France, Guatemala, Moldova, Mongolia, Namibia, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Republic of Congo, Republic of Korea and United States, report on the progress they have made towards advancing gender equality and empowerment of women.

The related thematic discussion highlights the role of women in countries in special situations. The debate focuses on the interconnections between gender equality and empowerment of women, ensuring food security, tackling climate change, and addressing the global financial crisis and gives special attention to improving the lives of women in countries in special situations and in conflict/post-crisis zones.

The high-level segment also includes keynote addresses by Michelle Bachelet, former President of Chile, Andrew Mitchell, Secretary of State for International Development, United Kingdom, Celso Amorim, Minister of External Relations, Brazil, Moshira Khattab, Minister of State for Family and Population Affairs, Egypt and Frances Stewart, Chair of the Committee for Development Policy.

Representatives of the international financial and trade institutions will gather in the Council on 2 July for a policy dialogue on the state of the world economy and its implications for the achievement of the MDGs. The dialogue, which will be moderated by DESA Under-Secretary-General, Mr. Sha Zukang, features Reza Moghadam, Director of the IMF's Strategy, Policy and Review Department, Otaviano Canuto, Vice President of Poverty Reduction and Economic Management Network of the World Bank, Clemens Boonekamp, Director, WTO and Supachai Panitchpakdi, Secretary-General of UNCTAD. The high-level segment will conclude on 2 July with the adoption of a Ministerial Declaration.

For more information:

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

Focus on global public health and on financing for development

The 2010 Coordination Segment will be organized from 6 to 8 July 2010 and focus on implementing the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to global public health and on financing for development

In its consideration of these issues, the segment provides an opportunity to assess the UN system role and activities in a broad range of policy areas relevant to development, identify areas where the UN system should promote more comprehensive and effective approaches, and recommend ways in which support by the UN system in the areas of global public health and financing for development can be strengthened against the backdrop of current challenges.

The Secretary-General's report on "the role of the United Nations system in implementing the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to global public health" will provide the background analysis for the debate on that issue.

In addition, the annual overview report of the UN system Chief Executive Board for Coordination (CEB) will be presented to the Council.

The segment will also review progress made by the Council in promoting the integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the major UN Conferences and Summits. An updated report of the Secretary-General will be presented under this item.

Under the financing for development agenda item, the Council will consider the Summary by the President of the Council of the special high-level meeting of the Council with the Bretton Woods institutions, the World Trade Organization and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, held in April 2010, as well as a report of the Secretary-General entitled "Recovering from the Crisis: a Global Jobs Pact".

The work of the Coordination Segment will be complemented by the following panels:

- Towards a United Nations comprehensive policy response to global health challenges
- Coordinating efforts for achieving the health-related Millennium Development Goals
- Operationalizing the UN system's short and long-term response to the economic and financial crisis: Progress towards implementing the Social Protection Initiative and the Global Jobs Pact
- South-South Cooperation and Financing for Development: Investment, Trade and Technology Transfer
- Global Economic Governance

The Council will also hear an address by Mr. Antonio Marzano, President of the International Association of Economic and Social Councils and similar Institutions (AICESIS).

Operational Activities Segment

This segment of ECOSOC's substantive session is where the Council provides guidance on the implementation of General Assembly policy orientations on UN operational activities for development. The segment of this year will be held from 9 - 13 July.

It will be opened by Mr. Sha Zukang, USG for Economic and Social Affairs, and chaired by H.E. Mr. Alexandru Cujba, Vice President of ECOSOC. Prior to the segment, there will be an informal roundtable discussion among the heads of development cooperation ministries and agencies from programme countries.

Preparations for the Segment are well underway. 4 reports of the Secretary-General have been prepared to aide the Council's deliberations. A briefing on the Segment was held on 17 June.

Delegates envisaged that the informal consultations on the outcome of the Segment would start the week of 5 July on the basis of a draft prepared by DESA to avoid overlaps with other intergovernmental processes. The negotiations will be facilitated by Switzerland.

Humanitarian Affairs Segment

This segment, which will take place from 13 – 15 July, provides an important forum where Member States and Humanitarian Organizations discuss the challenges, opportunities and activities related to the strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations.

At its organizational session for 2010, the Council decided that the theme of the Humanitarian Affairs Segment will be "Strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian assistance" and that it will convene two panel discussions, of which the topics will be "Humanitarian assistance operations in highly hazardous, or insecure and unsafe environments" and "Strengthening preparedness for humanitarian emergencies and the coordinated provision of humanitarian assistance, in particular addressing the humanitarian needs of the affected populations and the factors that increase susceptibility to humanitarian emergencies" (Council decision E/2010/L.3). Each panel will feature high-level participation from Member States, relevant UN agencies, NGOs and experts.

The panel discussion on "Humanitarian assistance operations in highly hazardous, or insecure and unsafe environments" will take place on Wednesday, 14 July 2010. The discussion will focus, from an operational perspective, on how to maintain the ability of

humanitarian organisations to operate in insecure and high-risk environments and look at issues such as risk and security management for humanitarian operations, coordination with national and local authorities and management of perceptions and acceptance at all levels.

The panel on "Strengthening preparedness for humanitarian emergencies and the coordinated provision of humanitarian assistance, in particular addressing the humanitarian needs of the affected populations and the factors that increase susceptibility to humanitarian emergencies," will take place on Thursday, 15 July 2010. The discussion will focus on how to better support governments and the humanitarian community in addressing more systematically humanitarian needs that arise from chronic and acute vulnerabilities, and look at issues such as improved monitoring of humanitarian needs in developmental and slow-onset disaster contexts, preparedness for response and strengthened partnerships with non-traditional humanitarian actors.

Scheduled for Tuesday afternoon 13 July, in between the Operational and Humanitarian Affairs Segments, is the informal ECOSOC event on "Transition from relief to development, lessons learned from the experience in Haiti". This event will provide an opportunity to take stock of the recovery efforts in Haiti, draw lessons learned and discuss good practices and remaining challenges.

In the margins of the Segment, there will be also the annual "Consolidated Appeals Process (CAP) Mid-Year Review" and informal side events on durable solutions for internally displaced persons, on cities at risk, on gender mainstreaming in humanitarian work, on environmental emergencies and on the special procedures of the Human Rights Council.

General Segment

At this segment, to be held from 16 to 22 July 2010 in New York, the Council will review the reports of its subsidiary bodies and of other United Nations entities working in the economic and social fields. The subsidiary bodies include the Council's functional commissions, regional commissions, expert and ad hoc bodies.

A series of events will be held during the General Segment. A joint meeting of ECOSOC and the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) will take place on the theme of "Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and Conflict". The objective of the meeting is to offer a joint analysis to Member States on how countries in or emerging from conflict could be supported to achieve the MDGs. A Briefing on cybersecurity and a panel on Small Island Developing States (SIDS) will also be organized during the Segment.

For more information:

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

Honouring excellence and innovation in public service

On Public Service Day, 23 June, the United Nations presented awards to 23 public institutions in Barcelona

United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, in his message for the Day, stated that “through this year’s United Nations Public Service Awards competition, we can see that innovation is thriving throughout the world”.

Among the winners are an Indian initiative allowing citizens to air their grievances directly to the Chief Minister and to get timely answers regarding the provision of public services at the state level, and a programme enabling Italian secondary students and their teachers to be actively involved in the law and decision-making processes in the local assembly.

This year, for the first time, the United Nations Public Service Day and Awards Ceremony were held away from United Nations Headquarters, in Barcelona, Spain, co-organized by the government of Catalonia. The Directorate General for Civic Participation of the Government of Catalonia, Spain, won the United Nations Public Service Award in 2008.

The Awards were presented at the end of a three-day international meeting on the role of public service in achieving the Millennium Development Goals. The meeting, which was followed by a ministerial round table, made recommendations on how to promote innovation in government. Participants shared best practices, including how technologies and innovations are being applied around the world to help meet internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals.

In total 23 winners — from Albania, Australia, Bahrain, Brazil, Canada, Germany, Japan, India, Italy, Republic of Korea, Lebanon, Oman, Saudi Arabia, Tanzania and Tunisia —received a Public Service Award. They are distinguished by their creativity and innovation in improving delivery, transparency, accountability and responsiveness in public service and for advancing citizens’ participation in policymaking decisions. They are also being honoured for knowledge management in government.

“The winners have shown great dedication to upholding the values and virtues of excellent public service,” said Sha Zukang, United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs. “They have provided examples of efficiency, effectiveness, transparency and accountability.”

Special Awards for e-Government

In addition to the Public Service Awards, United Nations e-Government Special Awards were bestowed on the Governments of the Republic of Korea, United States and Canada. These are the three top countries that, according to the biennial United Nations e-Government Survey, have ensured the continued availability of robust telecommunications infrastructure, excellent human capital capacity, e-services and e-content.

Also honoured by the e-Government Special Awards are 3 of the top 20 countries that have made significant progress in improving their e-service delivery and strengthening their citizens engagement through e-participation. The three countries are Singapore, Spain and Bahrain.

The e-Government Special Awards recognizes the success of each world region by distinguishing the top-ranked countries from Africa (Tunisia), the Americas (United States), Asia (Republic of Korea), Europe (United Kingdom) and Oceania (Australia).

The United Nations e-Government Survey presents rankings on a national and regional basis in two major categories: e-readiness — provision of government services and products online, combined with the extent of telecommunications infrastructure and public education in the country — and e-participation, or the degree to which government opens itself to interaction with its citizens through the Internet.

Background

The Public Service Awards programme, established in 2003, aims to reward excellence and promote professionalism in the public sector around the world. It is the most prestigious recognition of excellence in public service. Public organizations and agencies at national or subnational levels, as well as public-private partnerships, can enter the Awards competition.

There are four categories: improving transparency, accountability and responsiveness in the public service; improving the delivery of services; fostering participation in policy-making decisions through innovative mechanisms; and advancing knowledge management in government.

Source: United Nations Press Release Note No. 6264

For more information: <http://www.unpan.org/2010unpsa>

Maximizing impact of development cooperation

Helsinki Symposium was held on 3 and 4 June in preparation for the second ECOSOC Development Cooperation Forum (DCF)

The symposium entitled “Coherent Development Cooperation: Maximizing Impact in a Changing Environment“ had the primary purpose to advance the understanding of the issue of policy coherence for development. The meeting was opened by the Foreign Minister of Finland and co-chaired by Finland’s Under Secretary of State for Development Cooperation and DESA’s Under-Secretary-General. The symposium concluded with a High-level Seminar on how to enhance development cooperation through more policy coherence.

The meeting was attended by some 165 participants from developing and developed countries, including a large contingent of parliamentarians and civil society organizations. The involvement of such a varied group of stakeholders has been a hallmark of the DCF. Participants were all senior officials engaged in development cooperation, which made for a very informed and lively debate.

On policy coherence, the meeting reiterated that policies in areas such as trade or agriculture have a major impact on development objectives. A number of initiatives have been taken in OECD and the European Union to promote “policy coherence for development”. But there was the feeling that political will is lacking to make headway in this area.

The meeting also discussed how best to ensure that the activities of foundations and civil society organizations complements the development cooperation work of other actors and are aligned with national development plans. A key message was the importance of assuring accountability of civil society organizations. Foundations also emphasized the need for a forum for their views to be shared in a systematic way.

One panel was also dedicated to ways of ensuring that partners in development cooperation hold each other accountable on development results and aid management. Currently, programme countries have difficulties holding developed countries accountable for the way they deliver their aid (e.g. its predictability and use of country systems).

Oversight of parliaments and civil society over development cooperation is also limited. A survey conducted in 70 countries by DESA together with UNDP confirmed this situation. It was very well received, leading to recommendations for a greater role of the UN and the Development Cooperation Forum in mutual accountability on development cooperation.

Participants also discussed the relationship between development cooperation and gender equality and the empowerment of women. It was pointed out that many commitments have been made in this area and solutions are known. Little is known however about how much aid impacts on gender equality. It was felt that better data and indicators were needed to track progress.

Overall, the symposium put forward a number of ideas on areas which the Development Cooperation should explore, at its meeting on 29 and 30 June or between 2010 and the next DCF in 2012.

For more information:

<http://www.un.org/en/ecosoc/newfunct/dcfhelsinki10.shtml>

Trends and Analysis

Discussing ICT developments, trends and challenges

International Seminar on Information and Communication Technology Statistics will be held in Seoul, Republic of Korea from 19-21 July

Statistics on information and communication technologies (ICTs) have received increasing attention in recent years, highlighting the need for reliable data on new technologies that have impacted all aspects of economic and social life. Especially since the Tunis phase of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), there has been much progress on the production of ICT statistics.

At the same time, the ICT area continues to evolve rapidly and statistical standards and definitions need to be revised and adapted continuously. As the main data collectors, national statistical agencies are crucial players in ensuring sustainable and internationally comparable ICT statistics.

The Seminar takes place at the half-way point between the Tunis phase of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) and 2015, when the United Nations General Assembly will review progress towards achieving the WSIS targets, in line with the MDGs. As such, this Seminar presents a timely opportunity for statistical agencies and other relevant stakeholders to discuss new developments, trends and challenges related to ICT statistics.

The Seminar will in particular facilitate the exchange of experiences, discuss progress on ICT statistics and policy making, measuring the information society and information economy as well as measurement issues related to households ICT surveys.

DESA's Statistics Division, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) and the Statistical Office of the Republic of Korea (Statistics Korea) in cooperation with the Partnership on Measuring ICT for Development, are organizing this seminar.

More information: <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/ict>

Presenting MDG eCenter

GAID Preparatory Meeting on the Millennium Development Goals Electronic Center (MDG eCenter) will be held from 26-27 July in New York

Members of the Global Alliance for ICT and Development (GAID) together with representatives from member states, the private sector, key civil society actors and other leading development organizations including major UN agencies will convene an action-oriented forum focused on the development of the GAID Millennium Development Goal Electronic Center.

The main purpose of the meeting is to present the concept of the MDGs eCenter, including environment, mission, objectives, status of development, timetable for finalization of the two core components (Matrix of ICT Solutions for MDGs Advancement and Computer-Aided Strategic Planner) and to report on the results of on-line and physical consultations on the structure and functionalities of the Portal.

The forum's discussion will focus on actions needed to organize the development and population of the Matrix and the finalization of the Strategic Planner. Furthermore, interest and commitment to participate and contribute content and/or resources will be discussed.

More information: <http://un-gaid.ning.com/>

Accelerating attainment of MDG's

The establishment of the Broadband Commission for Digital Development in 2010 comes five years after the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), and ten years after the launch of the MDGs

The key aim of the commission is to accelerate attainment of those goals by the target date of 2015, through the introduction of ubiquitous access to broadband. Global leaders in government, business, civil society and international organizations have been invited to serve on the Broadband Commission as commissioners by the Secretary-General of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), with the strong support of the United Nations Secretary-General.

Given the Under-Secretary-General's role as a commissioner of the Broadband Commission, DESA will provide input to both the Report to the UN Secretary-General and the Background Report to the Broadband Commission. The focus of DESA's inputs will be on e-government, including ICT and promoting broadband for public service and government operations to be more efficient, effective, transparent and accountable.

The draft Report to the UN Secretary-General will be debated and finalized at a meeting of the Commissioners of the Broadband Commission to be held in Geneva, Switzerland, 11 July 2010. The Broadband Commission will report its findings to the Secretary-General in September 2010, immediately before

the MDG high-level event to review work on achieving the Millennium Development Goals by the target date of 2015.

For further information: <http://www.broadbandcommission.org/>

Capacity Development

Developing Russia's 'Information Society'

The 7th Tver Social and Economic Forum on Information Society will be held on 7-8 July

The Global Alliance on ICT and Development (GAID) has been invited to participate in the upcoming 7th Tver Social and Economic Forum which will focus this year on the development of Russia's 'Information Society' strategies and plans. Organized by the Russian Managers Association and the Institute of Contemporary Development, the Forum is an all-Russian event and is arranged with the official support of the Presidential Executive Office and the Administration of the Tver Region.

Over 2,000 participants are expected to attend the Forum, including the President of the Russian Federation, Mr. Dmitry Medvedev. GAID Executive Coordinator, Mr. Sergei Kambalov, will be a keynote speaker in a parallel thematic session on the "International Experience in the Information Society Development" during the forum.

Collaborating on 2008 data for upcoming 2010 census

The Malawi National Seminar on Census Data Analysis is scheduled for 19-22 July

The main objective of the national seminar is to provide an opportunity for the staff member of the Malawi National Statistical Office in collaboration with the University of Malawi Population Studies Centre to further collaborate on the analysis of data from the 2008 census of Malawi on selected topics.

The national seminar will cover the following topics: (i) fertility and nuptiality from a gender perspective; (ii) fertility indices based on data from the 2008 census; (iii) measures of nuptiality based on data from the 2008 census; and (iv) use of the Census Info software for data presentation and dissemination.

After the seminar, participants are expected to produce thematic analytical reports, based on analysis generated during the seminar.

For more information:

http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/meetings/wshops/Malawi_19July10/default.htm

Preparing Bangladesh Housing Census

DESA's Statistics Division sent an advisory mission to Bangladesh from 20-24 June to help assist with the preparation of the Bangladesh Housing Census scheduled in 2011

During the mission, the inter-regional advisor of the Statistics Division will work closely with the staff of the Bureau to review the census questionnaire of the 2011 Bangladesh Population and Housing Census, review the training materials and manuals, assess the data processing plans in details by stages, evaluate objectives and procedures of post enumerations survey, and discuss future plans for technical assistance.

For more information:

http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/sources/census/2010_PH_C/default.htm

Turkmenistan's 2030 Socio-economic strategy approved

The draft of the Government of Turkmenistan's 2030 Socio-economic Strategy was reviewed by DESA's Inter-regional Advisor Mr. Tikhomirov during a mission from 30 May to 5 June

As a result of Mr. Tikhomirov's additional comments and advice on the strategy, it was approved and preparations for its implementation were commenced.

In addition, Mr. Tikhomirov met with Mr. Lenni Montiel, UN Resident Coordinator, to discuss a project proposal for support to the Government of Turkmenistan for the implementation of the 2030 Socio-Economic strategy. The UN Resident Coordinator expressed an interest in fundraising for this project in the amount of more than 2 million dollars for the period 2010-2012. Other international organizations such as EBRD and the British Embassy also expressed a wish to participate in the fundraising and implementation of the project.

During his mission, Mr. Tikhomirov met with H.E. Mr. Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov, President of Turkmenistan, Mr. Rashid Meredov, Deputy Prime-Minister (Foreign Affairs), Mr. T. Japarov, Deputy Prime-Minister (Economics), Mr. H. Muhamedov, Deputy Prime-Minister (Office of the President), Mr. R. Saparaliev, Deputy Prime – Minister (Academy for Public Service under the President of Turkmenistan, Education and Science) and Ministers of Finance, Economics and Development, and other high-level officials.

Mr. Tikhomirov delivered a presentation and participated in a high-level management meeting on capacity development issues

of public service and establishing a public administration knowledge base, which was held under the supervision of Mr. T. Japarov, the Deputy Prime-Minister.

Coping with challenges of the 21st Century

Advisory Mission to Burkina Faso and Regional Workshop on 1 June, co-organized by DESA, increased the visibility of the Economic and Social Councils (ESCs)

Council Presidents, Secretary Generals and council members came from Benin, Burundi, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo, Guinea, Ivory Coast, Kenya, Mali, Mauritania, Rwanda, Senegal and Italy attended the workshop and participants discussed the requirements for ESC to cope with the challenges of the twenty-first century. More specifically, it was discussed how councils can contribute to national development strategies and policies in response to the current economic crisis.

Prime Minister of Burkina Faso Mr. Tertius Zongo and the President of the African Union of ESC (UCESA) Mr. Michel Kamano expressed their gratitude for the involvement of DESA and wished that it may continue.

Towards the end of the workshop participants discussed their demand for capacity building and listed the following future activities, which can be at least partly supported in the framework of the ongoing Development Account Project, aimed at strengthening ESC in Africa:

- Development of a Knowledge Base on ESC (ongoing; DESA/AICESIS)
- Training on Knowledge Management (fall 2010; Kenya)
- Workshop on Citizen Engagement and the Global Employment Pact (2010; Benin)
- Workshop on public policies and the development of a toolkit (early 2011; Senegal).

NATO to fund governments of CIS

Advisory Mission to Poland from 11 - 15 May and to Italy from 16 to 22 May to establish an e-government knowledge base

One of the major outcomes of an advisory mission to Poland and Italy by the DPADM Interregional Advisor, Mr. Alexei Tikhomirov, was the agreement of the NATO Institute to provide funding and support to the governments of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) in the establishment of an e-government knowledge base covering topics such as the integrity, accountability, confidentiality of information, as well as the

development of a secure information systems, for the delivery of services to citizens.

DPADM/UNDESA was invited to participate as a key partner with NATO on this initiative. Mr. Tikhomirov's mission to Italy was funded by a NATO grant.

Improving management with ICTs

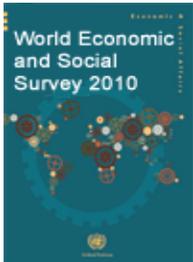
Proposed advisory services to the Government of the Republic of Mozambique

It has been proposed that DESA provides advisory services to the Government of the Republic of Mozambique for a project on improving the management of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation using ICT tools. This proposal resulted from a meeting on future cooperation with the Director that was requested by Ambassador José Rui Amaral, Adviser to the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, of the Republic of Mozambique.

At this meeting, the Ambassador sought advice how to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the management of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation. The Ambassador stated that based on this meeting his recommendation to the Minister would be to establish a technical cooperation advisory service project, funded by UNDP, and to request advisory services from DESA on institutional reform through the application of ICT tools.

Publications and Websites

Technical reports



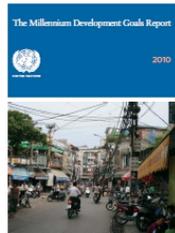
World Economic and Social Survey 2010

The report launched on 29 June notes that getting 'back on track' will require significant reforms in global economic governance and new thinking to put the world on a more sustainable path of development. Overcoming the serious weaknesses exposed by the global

economic crisis will not be easy and will require a major overhaul of the machinery for international finance, aid and trade. This year's report looks at the prospects for post-crisis global development and concludes that a major rebalancing of the global economy is needed to make it sustainable.

For more information:

<http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/news/policy/wess-2010.shtml>



Millennium Development Goals Report 2010

The report was launched in New York by the Secretary-General on 23 June 2010 and presents the yearly assessment of global progress towards the MDGs. The world continues to

make advances towards the MDGs, despite the global economic downturn, but the rate of improvement remains too slow and countries must step up their efforts if the MDGs are to be achieved by their target date of 2015.

The world has made huge strides in reducing extreme poverty, tackling HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases, and boosting access to clean drinking water, but is still lagging in other critical areas, such as improving maternal health and increasing access to decent sanitation.

For more information: <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/mdg/Default.aspx>

Statistical compilations



Monthly Bulletin of Statistics and MBS Online

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

Vol. LXIV – No. 5, May 2010

Quarterly features in this issue:

- 12. Earnings in manufacturing, by sex
- 33. Construction of new buildings
- 38. Total exports and imports by regions: volume and unit value indices and terms of trade

For more information: <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/mbs>

System of National Accounts 2008

This publication is the comprehensive statistical framework for economic statistics that provides a consistent and flexible set of macroeconomic accounts for policymaking, analysis and research. It has been produced and is released under the auspices of the United Nations, the European Commission, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank Group.

It represents an update, mandated by the United Nations Statistical Commission in 2003, of the System of National Accounts, 1993 (1993 SNA), which was produced under the joint responsibility of the same five organizations. Like earlier editions, the 2008 SNA reflects the evolving needs of its users, new developments in the economic environment and advances in methodological research. The 2008 SNA is the international statistical standards for national accounting and provides the methodological basis for improving the international comparability of national accounts data.

For more information:

<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/nationalaccount/sna2008.asp>

Population and Vital Statistics Report

This issue of the report presents data for countries or areas on population size (total, male, and female) from the latest available census, estimated total population size for 2007 or 2008 (the later available year), and the number and rate of vital events (live births, deaths, and infant deaths) for the latest available year within the past 15 years (1994-2008).

These data are presented as reported by national statistical authorities to the Demographic Yearbook of DESA's Statistics Division. This issue also presents data for the world and its major areas and regions on estimated population size for both 2007 and 2008. These estimates were prepared by DESA's Population Division.

For more information:

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

2009 International Trade Statistics Yearbook, Volume I - Trade by Country

The 2009 International Trade Statistics Yearbook, Volume I - Trade by Country provides an overview of the international merchandise trade in 2009 and detailed information on the trade performance for numerous countries up to the year 2009.

For more information: <http://comtrade.un.org/pb/>

Discussion papers

Monthly Briefing on the World Economic Situation and Prospects

The June issue highlights the main messages of the *World Economic Situation and Prospects – Update as of mid-2010* and stresses that while the world economy continues to rebound from a deep crisis, the recovery remains uneven, weak and fragile. The briefing also emphasizes that the recovery is still mainly driven by government stimulus measures and that a too early withdrawal of stimulus could risk taking steam out of the recovery.

For more information:

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

Websites



Expansion of the 2010 World Population and Housing Census Programme Website

The website is a resource centre for promoting international exchange and sharing of census-related knowledge and information and monitors progress in the implementation of the Programme. The resource centre serves as a repository of documents on international census guidelines as well as on national methodology and best practices in census taking. The website has been enhanced

this month to provide more detailed methodological information on selected topics.

To browse: <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/census2010.htm>

Comings and Goings

Goings

The following staff members retired in June:

Yoshinobu Yonekawa, Programme Officer, Division for Public Administration and Development Management

Diana Lin, Administrative Assistant, Division for Public Administration and Development Management

Atsede Mengesha, Editorial Assistant, Division for Social Policy and Development

Comings

The following staff members were promoted in June:

Brenda Olivas, Editorial Assistant, Population Division

Charmaine Williams-Carter, Administrative Assistant, Office for ECOSOC Support and Coordination

Calendar

July

Substantive Session of the Economic and Social Council
New York, 28 June - 22 July

<http://www.un.org/en/ecosoc/julyhls/index10.shtml>

7th Tver Social and Economic Forum on Information Society
Tver , Russia, 7-8 July

Malawi National Seminar on Census Data Analysis
19-22 July

<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/meetings/wshops/Malawi19July10/default.htm>

International Seminar on Information and Communication
Technology Statistics

Seoul, 19-21 July

<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/ict>

GAID Preparatory Meeting on the Millennium Development Goals
Electronic Center (MDG eCenter)

New York, 26-27 July

<http://un-gaid.ning.com/>

August

International Day of the World's Indigenous People
9 August

Workshop on the 2010 World Programme on Population and
Housing Censuses: Census Editing, for Countries in the Caribbean
Region

Castries, Saint Lucia, 23-28 August

Advanced Training Workshop in SAS software applications
Pretoria, South Africa, 2-6 August

Observances

International Day of Cooperatives

3 July

The International Day of Cooperatives is celebrated on the first Saturday of July to increase awareness of cooperatives, highlight the complementary nature of the objectives of the United Nations and the international co-operative movement, and underscore the contribution of the movement to the resolution of global issues. The International Day helps strengthen and extend partnerships between the international cooperative movement and other actors, including governments, at local, national and international levels.

This year's theme "Cooperative enterprise empowers women" highlights how the cooperative model of enterprise can successfully empower women. It links to the celebration of the 15th anniversary of the Beijing Platform for Action (Beijing+15) which sets out an agenda for women's empowerment.

Cooperatives offer women opportunities for participation in and influence over economic activities. Women gain self-reliance and self-esteem through this participation. Cooperatives also contribute to the improvement of the economic, social and cultural situation of women in other ways including promoting equality and changing institutional biases.

For more information:

<http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/social/intldays/IntlCoops/index.html>

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



Copyright (C) 2010, United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs