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Giving a voice to young people

Monique Coleman was appointed the first UN Youth Champion for the International Year of Youth, kicked off in August 2010 and culminating in the High-level Meeting on Youth on 25-26 July. Touring the world, she has strived to ensure that young people's initiatives are not neglected or overlooked. "The most important thing to me is to put actions to our words," says Monique in an interview for DESA News.

Tell us about what you have done and plan to do in the future as the UN Youth Champion and beyond

"The GimmeMo Tour is the biggest initiative I've made for the International Year of Youth. At the end of January, I set out to tour for six months around the world. I've been going to each continent and all different regions from developing countries to developed countries to really try to raise awareness about the International Year of Youth, the issues that young people face and to highlight and bring attention to the wonderful organizations that are making a difference in their respective communities.

The other thing I've been trying is to share this information, what I experience and what I see by imploring social media technology, by using my Facebook page, as well as the Year of Youth Facebook page and Twitter. I have a website that's completely devoted to empowering young people. Another aspect is speaking to high-level government officials and to be a bridge between the young people I am representing and their respective governments."

What do you see as some of the biggest problems the youth of today face?

"It varies from place to place, the biggest issue I think is that in developing countries and in developed countries there are totally different issues. I think one thing that is difficult is when you're dealing sometimes with developing countries that have shaky governments. I think the big issue is when young people don't have access to help and resources.



One of the concerns that the people I've met with have is feeling that their messages don't make it all the way to the UN, or the government or a high level position where policy actually comes into play. That's essentially what I think one of the roles of the youth champion is: to bridge that gap between the UN, government and the people."

For the high-level meeting in July, the General Assembly will discuss many of the issues the youth faces. How do you think we can bridge the age gap and get the UN, governments etc to listen to the youth?

“We have to remember who the audience is and there are tangible ways to engage young people. At that meeting specifically, I think it is important to give young people a platform to actually speak. I’ve met so many incredible youth that are leaders of youth organizations and have such high level positions in their respective countries and I think hearing young people at a conference specially devoted to them is essential.”

From your experiences on tour, what do you think some of the biggest issues that need to be discussed at the General Assembly meeting?

One thing that really needs to be discussed is the situation with young people on the streets. Unemployment as a whole is an issue that needs to be addressed, but not just in the idea of unemployment, but vulnerable employment and the fact that many young people have to take jobs because they have no choice. They are not privileged enough to be unemployed because they can’t find time off to find decent work. I think work should be a big point on the agenda as well as participation, girls and the rights of girls and girls being able to advance in their communities.

What can governments and member states do to bridge these gaps and fix these problems?

“What I’m trying to do is really reach a person on an individual level and really empower people not to wait for someone else to make a decision and not to wait for a policy to be put in place before they start taking actions themselves. I think it is very important for governments and members of state to support community activities and to support the activities that people are doing, but I think it is our job to actually initiate them, especially young people.”

What have you done so far on tour and off to help fix these problems?

“The main thing I’ve been doing has been initiating conversation. The theme of the year is very buoyant, which is ‘Dialogue and Mutual Understanding.’ I think everything starts at the conversation level, just having a dialogue about it. I’ve had the ability to do events at the US Embassy in India and Indonesia. We did a web chat and implored social technology to stream it live. The dialogue and conversation that comes out of it is really interesting and usually in that situation young people can figure out who their allies are.

I’ve also been volunteering, putting action to the things that are already happening instead of trying to come in and invent something new. When I go to a place, I ask them what are the issues, its varied from here, we deal with trafficking and girls being swooned into prostitution, here we’re dealing with clean drinking water and here we’re dealing with sanitation.”

Working with the International Year of Youth and your GimmeMo Tour targeting the youth, you need to take a different strategy. How have you approached this? Do you find this effective?

“The main thing I’ve been doing is treating young people like people. And not like they are going to arrive somewhere, but that they are already there to give them ideas of things they can do today. I think a lot of the times people approach young people as if they don’t care. I approach young people as if they all care, and are excited ready, willing and anxious to make a difference and give them the benefit of the doubt that if presented with an opportunity to be great, they would take it.

And another major strategy is to put myself out there. I’m candid, very honest and very open about my own life, my own struggles, my own insecurities, the challenges that I face, and my triumphs. I definitely wear my heart on my sleeve and am not afraid to be honest about anything. If it was a strategy, that’s my main tactic, sheer authenticity.”

What are some of the biggest strides you think the youth, yourself and governments have made?

“Well, I think two places that really stand out, and they’re both developed, are Australia and Greece. Their governments have really put people in positions to make change specifically for the youth. In Australia, the Youth Minister of Education and Arts is Peter Garrett, a former rock and roller activist turned politician. It’s such a perfect fit because his passion that he sang about, has now put him in a place where he can do something about it. In Greece, I’ve spent time in Thessalonki and they are a candidate for the European Youth Capital in 2014, so a lot of initiative is happening in their government. They have created very high-level positions specifically in the direction of youth.

The youth and the organizations they have created are endless. You can’t talk about the power of the youth without mentioning the power that youth have when they come together for change. I think we’re all watching some of the biggest strides you could have made in front of our eyes presently.

As for me, I’m just a girl, suitcase, hotel, just really trying to let other people know they can do anything and that change is in their horizon if you keep moving forward. I think the only way to really make a difference or do anything is to actually put yourself out there. You can do this, you can do anything. If you’re a nurse in a small town but you have a specific passion or there are children from Africa that can benefit from your knowledge, you can explain all the things that you want to do. I’m hoping to simply just inspiring by being me.”

For more information:

International Year of Youth: <http://social.un.org/youthyear/>
Monique Coleman: <http://www.gimmemo.com/>

Assessing progress towards the MDGs

Released on 7 July, the Millennium Development Goals Report 2011 will present the most updated assessment of progress towards the MDGs. It will be a key resource for the political debates at ECOSOC and the General Assembly in September, when Member States will assess what has worked and what needs to be done to bridge existing gaps.



Since they were first adopted, the eight Millennium Development Goals have raised awareness, generated important development gains and shaped a broad vision that remains the overarching framework for the development activities of the United Nations.

At the 2010 Summit last year, world leaders met again to reaffirm their commitment to the MDGs. They put forward an ambitious action plan to fight poverty – a roadmap outlining what is needed to meet the goals by 2015. But, as said by Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, “the Action Agenda will only deliver results when concrete steps are taken”.

Based on the latest available data, the report presents an assessment of where actions and interventions have delivered the necessary results and highlights the areas where progress needs to be accelerated if the targets are to be met by the 2015 deadline.

Achievements and remaining challenges

Already the MDGs have helped lift millions of people out of poverty, save countless children’s lives and ensure that they attend school. They have reduced the burden of maternal deaths and increased access to clean water.

But a number of challenges remain. At the 2010 Summit on the MDGs, world leaders acknowledged the challenges posed by multiple crises, increasing inequalities and persistent violent conflicts.

They called for intensified collective action and the expansion of successful approaches and stressed that accelerated action on the goals requires economic growth that is sustainable, inclusive and equitable – growth that enables everyone to benefit from progress and share in economic opportunities.

And, in the words of Sha Zukang, DESA’s Under-Secretary-General, the achievement of the MDGs will also “require a rejuvenated global partnership, expeditious delivery on commitments already made, and an agile transition to a more sustainable future”.

Looking behind average figures

Given the way the MDG framework is designed and targets are defined, average figures may indicate progress even when disparities persist. Even where growth is strong, the benefits are not always evenly shared. Progress often bypasses the poor and marginalized populations, and is slower for rural populations than for urban dwellers. The gap between urban and rural areas often widens, as does the difference in living standards between the prosperous and various marginalized groups.

The report, while providing an assessment of trends overall, looks behind the average figures to highlight differences among various groups of the population and identify the segments that are lagging behind and for whom most urgent interventions are needed.

Rigorous international collaboration to measure goals

Progress towards the eight Millennium Development Goals is measured through 21 targets and 60 official indicators. The report is the result of an intensively collaborative effort, led by the Statistics Division of DESA. It involves 27 international organizations and agencies and a group of representatives of national statistical systems, who meet every year to review the tools to compile and analyse the necessary data. These data are drawn from national statistics provided by Governments to the international statistical system and adjusted for comparability.

The Millennium Development Goals Report 2011 is the seventh of a series launched in 2005, in conjunction with the MDG Summit. The report has quickly become, as Assistant Secretary-General Jomo Kwame Sundaram noted, “the authoritative reference for the international community to monitor progress – or otherwise – towards achievement of the Millennium Development Goals as well as its targets and indicators. The vast inter-agency team behind this Report are to be commended for this vital resource for everyone seeking to enhance progress towards meeting these basic needs”.

The MDG Report 2011 will be available at the official UN website for the MDG Indicators on 7 July. Earlier editions of the

report as well as underlying data series on all official MDG indicators are also available at the same site: <http://mdgs.un.org>

For more information:

<http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/index.shtml>

Debating education, human rights and conflict

video



67 million children around the world are not in primary schools. About 53 per cent are girls and around 28 million of these children live in conflict-affected countries. In some places, human rights are violated, depriving boys and girls of basic education. On 4 July, the webcast debate “Face to Face” on “Education, human rights and conflict” will address these issues.

Starting at 3 pm in Geneva, the debate will take place as part of the High-level Segment of the Economic and Social Council. It is organized by DESA, UNICEF, UNESCO and the UN Department of Public Information and coincides with the release of the 2011 Education for All Global Monitoring Report of UNESCO on “The hidden crisis: Armed conflict and education”.

Video: <http://www.unmultimedia.org/tv/webcast/c/ecosoc-hls2011.html> (02:00 minutes)

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

Global Dialogue on Development

ECOSOC convenes in Geneva for annual substantive session

Opening with the High-level Segment on 4-8 July, the 2011 session of the Economic and Social Council will include a dialogue with the Executive Secretaries of the Regional Commissions on 8 July; a Coordination Segment on 11-14 July; Operational Activities Segment on 14-18 July; Humanitarian Affairs Segment on 19-21 July; and General Segment on 22-29 July

High-level segment focusing on education

The High-level segment will focus on the Annual Ministerial Review (AMR) turning the spotlight on actions and progress made towards achieving the agreed education goals, within the framework of the Millennium Development Goals and the Education for All agenda. The Review aims at promoting practical strategies to increase access to and quality of education around the world as the basis for poverty eradication and sustainable development. The 2011 AMR theme is “Implementing the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to education”. It emphasizes the catalytic effect of education on the broader development agenda, including poverty reduction and the transition towards more sustainable patterns of consumption and production.

The period since 2000 was initially one of rapid progress towards universal primary education. During this time, some of the poorest countries dramatically increased enrolment, narrowed gender gaps and extended opportunities to disadvantaged groups. However, the current pace of progress is insufficient to ensure that the education MDGs will be met by 2015.

Although access remains a key issue, policymakers are called upon to look more closely at the issues of quality and equity in education. Poor learning outcomes are often exacerbated by the inequitable distribution of education between and within countries. Increasingly, evidence shows that the completion of a full cycle of primary education does not ensure the acquisition of basic literacy and numeracy skills. For example, a recent survey of 21 developing countries showed that young adults with five years of education had a 40 per cent chance of being illiterate.

For the opening ceremony, the President of the General Assembly, the Deputy-Secretary General, and Mr. Gordon Brown have all confirmed their participation. It is also expected that President Dilma Rousseff of Brazil and President Micheline Calmy-Rey of the Swiss Confederation will partake.

The High-level segment will furthermore include National Voluntary Presentations from Bangladesh; Belarus; Germany; Malawi; Mauritius; Mexico; Pakistan; Qatar; Senegal; Turkey; and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela. Their national reports offer rich information on success factors and experiences on sustainable development with a focus on education at the country level.

The Segment will benefit from the summary reports of four AMR regional consultations held in Qatar on “reaching women, girls and the marginalized”; in Thailand on “education and the MDGs”; in Togo on “reinforcing quality and equity in education”; and in Argentina on “teachers, quality and equity”. In many of the regional meetings, the limited scope of the MDG goals and indicators for education has been emphasized. Many regions have also stressed the need for improving the quality of education.

There are several important panel discussions engaging Ministers from developing and developed countries, executive heads of UN agencies, and representatives of academia, civil society and the private sector. One of those will forge the link between education and sustainable development, while others will focus on the changing needs of education for the future, education in Africa and the LDCs and mobilizing resources and partnerships for education. The General Assembly mandate for ECOSOC to discuss the critical issue of promoting sustained, inclusive and equitable growth will be carried out through a panel discussion attracting high-level resource persons.

The second Face to Face debate on “Education, human rights and conflicts” will attract experts who will highlight the challenges surrounding access to education, particularly in high-risk environments. It will also introduce new ideas about how to improve the educational system and achieve human rights and educational access, as a contribution to the Millennium Development Goal 2. This event will be broadcasted live on UN webcast and via ECOSOC’s Facebook page.

An Innovation Fair on the theme, “Education For All” will also be organized. It will showcase innovative practices, approaches and projects in education from around the world. A wide range of institutions, NGOs and private sector companies will take part in the fair and a ministerial roundtable breakfasts will also be organized from 5 to 8 July. A series of side events, organized by Member States, international and civil society organizations, will take place at lunchtime or parallel to the formal sessions.

ECOSOC Dialogue with the Executive Secretaries of the Regional Commissions

In ECOSOC decision 2004/323, the Council decided to organize annually a dialogue with the Executive Secretaries of the Regional Commissions immediately after the High-level

Segment. This interactive dialogue provides an important forum for the exchange of information between Member States and the Regional Commissions on issues related to regional cooperation and emerging development priorities for the different regions. This year, the Dialogue with the Executive Secretaries of the Regional Commissions is scheduled to take place on 8 July in the afternoon.

At its organizational session, the Council decided that the theme of the interactive dialogue for 2011 will be "Regional cooperation as a catalyst for development: examples from the regions".

During this dialogue the Executive Secretaries of the Regional Commissions will highlight key examples of regional cooperation that have provided a stimulus for development and accelerated progress towards the MDGs, including in areas related to education, in their respective regions. The presentations will also outline the actions taken and the role of the Regional Commissions in strengthening regional cooperation and in supporting South-South cooperation. High-level representatives from countries and key regional organizations will act as discussants and provide their perspective on the importance of regional cooperation and their expectations from the Regional Commissions.

Coordination Segment to follow up on gender equality and financing for development

The 2011 Coordination Segment will focus on two main substantive areas: Follow-up to the 2010 Ministerial Declaration on "implementing the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to gender equality and the empowerment of women" and to the International Conference on Financing for Development.

In addition, the annual overview report of the UN system Chief Executive Board for Coordination (CEB) will be presented. A special event on "The right to development and global partnership for development" will also be organized marking the 25th anniversary of the adoption of the UN Declaration on the Right to Development.

The coordination segment provides an opportunity to identify areas where the UN system should promote more comprehensive and effective approaches and to recommend ways in which support by the UN can be strengthened against the backdrop of current challenges.

On gender equality and the empowerment of women, the Council will take stock of progress made in strengthening a coordinated approach by the UN system in this field, a year after the decision by the General Assembly to create UN Women. The Council will also review how the system uses the cross-cutting issues identified in the 2010 Ministerial Declaration as leverage to accelerate progress on gender related development goals.

Operational Activities Segment to focus on funding, resident coordination system and business practices

This segment will focus on progress in implementing the General Assembly 2007 resolution on the Comprehensive Policy Review of UN system's operational activities (TCPR). Through this review, the GA assesses the relevance, coherence, effectiveness and efficiency of operational activities and gives a detailed set of guidance on how the UN system should work in developing countries.

The funding of operational activities, the functioning of the resident coordination system, and simplification and harmonization of business practices will be central to this year's review. Four panel discussions on some of these key issues will support the debate.

The reports of the Secretary-General show that the UN system has launched numerous initiatives to implement the GA guidance on operational activities. For example, the UN Development Group, bringing together UN system organizations with operational activities, is working towards a coherent set of priorities to implement the TCPR and make UN system support more focused and coherent.

At the same time, some important reforms are not advancing fast enough. This is the case for the reforms aimed at improving the resident coordinator system and the accountability of its key actors (resident coordinators, UN country teams, regional directors, UNDG and its management etc). Moreover, the UN system does not assess systematically the sustainability of its capacity development work nor uses sufficiently national systems. Regarding funding of the UN system, there are concerns about the continued overwhelming share of non-core resources, as well as about the predictability of resources and reliance on a limited number of donors.

The expected outcome is an omnibus resolution that will provide guidelines for the preparation of the next Comprehensive Policy Review which the General Assembly will conduct in 2012. The Permanent Representative of Peru, chairing this segment, aims to have the resolution adopted at its conclusion.

On Tuesday morning, on 19 July, the informal ECOSOC event on "The role of the United Nations and the international community in supporting the capacity of the Government of South Sudan to manage the transition", is scheduled to take place.

Humanitarian Affairs Segment to discuss financing, strengthened coordination and response preparedness

This segment 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 “Working in partnership to strengthen coordination of humanitarian assistance in a changing world”; and that it will convene two panel discussions, of which the topics will be: (i) “Preparing for the future – predictable, effective, flexible and adequate humanitarian financing and its accountable use to meet the evolving needs and challenges for the delivery of humanitarian assistance”; (ii) “Strengthening resilience, preparedness and capacities for humanitarian response”. Each panel will feature high-level participation from Member States, relevant UN agencies, NGOs and experts.

The first panel discussion will take place on Wednesday, 20 July, focusing on broader issues of humanitarian financing, to make sure that its system can support meeting humanitarian needs both in terms of ensuring rapid and well-coordinated response, as well as the ability to address emerging requirements amid a growing humanitarian caseload. Investment in preparedness, funding tools to support the transition from humanitarian to sustainable development contexts, as well as aligning humanitarian funding tools and those of international financial institutions or regional and national mechanisms, will also be explored.

The panel on “Strengthening resilience, preparedness and capacities for humanitarian response” will take place on Thursday, 21 July. The discussion will focus on improving the understanding of humanitarians’ role in preparedness, and how they can strengthen partnerships with governments, regional institutions and relevant development actors to develop response capacities. As data points to an increase in frequency and intensity of disasters, and the recent large-scale disasters demonstrating some of the limits of capacity of the international humanitarian response system, meaningfully strengthening the resilience of populations through better preparedness of countries and regions at risk is becoming urgent.

In the margins of the Segment, there will be also the annual ‘Consolidated Appeals Process (CAP) Mid-Year Review’ and several informal side events (a list of side-events will be posted shortly).

The Report of the Secretary-General on strengthening the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations will be presented at the Segment.

General Segment to review reports of subsidiary bodies

At the General Segment, the Council will review the reports of its subsidiary bodies and of other UN entities working in the economic and social fields. These bodies include the Council’s functional commissions, regional commissions, expert and ad hoc bodies. It will also consider the report of its Ad Hoc Advisory

Group on Haiti. A panel with members of the Committee for Development Policy (CDP) and a briefing by the Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) will also be organized during the General Segment.

For more information:

High-level Segment:

<http://www.un.org/en/ecosoc/julyhls/index11.shtml>

Coordination Segment:

<http://www.un.org/en/ecosoc/julyhls/cs2011.shtml>

Operational Activities Segment:

http://www.un.org/en/ecosoc/julyhls/pdf11/11_oa-hls_programme.pdf.

Humanitarian Affairs Segment:

<http://www.un.org/en/ecosoc/julyhls/has2011.shtml>

General Segment:

<http://www.un.org/en/ecosoc/julyhls/g2011.shtml>

Enhancing youth participation, dialogue and mutual understanding

The High-level Meeting on Youth will be held in New York on 25- 26 July

On 18 December 2009, the UN General Assembly adopted a resolution proclaiming the year commencing on 12 August 2010 as the International Year of Youth: Dialogue and Mutual Understanding. With the same resolution also calling for a conference on youth to mark the year, the General Assembly will hold a High-level Meeting with the overarching theme “Youth: Dialogue and Mutual Understanding”.

The Meeting will be comprised of an opening session and two consecutive informal interactive round tables on 25 July and plenary meetings on 26 July. The round tables will be chaired by Member States at the invitation of the President of the General Assembly and will include representatives of UN entities, civil society, youth-led organizations and the private sector.

The round tables will be held to promote interactive and substantive discussions on the following themes:

Round table 1: Strengthening international cooperation regarding youth and enhancing dialogue, mutual understanding and active youth participation as indispensable elements towards achieving social integration, full employment and the eradication of poverty;

Round table 2: Challenges to youth development and opportunities for poverty eradication, employment and sustainable development.

Speaking at the opening plenary will be the President of the General Assembly, the Secretary-General and an eminent person

actively engaged in youth issues and a youth representative of non-governmental organizations.

The event will result in the production of an Outcome Document, currently being negotiated by Member States, taking into account written input from over 89 youth-led organizations, which will be put forward for adoption at the General Assembly.

It is expected that between 500-700 young people and youth organizations will attend the event from all regions of the world. In addition to the events taking place on 25-26 July, three days of side events will be arranged in the lead up to and following the High-level Meeting, on 21-22 and 27 July.

The side events, organized by Member States, civil society and the UN, will encompass a variety of topics related to youth, ranging from employment, gender equality, environment, education and more.

Wednesday, 27 July will be devoted to a day-long side event on investment by the private sector and youth philanthropists as actors of development. The event is organized by DESA/Division for Social Policy and Development/Focal Point on Youth together with the NGOs Restless Development and Search for Common Ground.

More information: <http://social.un.org/youthyear/high-level-meeting.html>

Debating outcomes of international migration

Informal thematic debate of the 65th session of the General Assembly on international migration and development was held in New York on 19 May

The President of the General Assembly convened an informal thematic debate to take stock of the progress made by Governments in implementing policies that maximize the development benefits of international migration and that address its negative consequences since the 2006 High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development. The debate also launched the preparatory process leading to the second High-level Dialogue that the General Assembly will conduct in 2013.

The debate recognized that international migration had many positive consequences for the migrants themselves, their families, for host societies as well as for communities of origin. While acknowledging that the developmental impact of remittances could be improved, participants noted that remittances were private income and could not be a substitute for foreign direct investment or official development assistance. Countries of origin were strengthening their ties with nationals abroad by promoting their

political participation, encouraging trade and investment linkages, and providing legal assistance. Innovative strategies to harness migrant entrepreneurship were also showcased. However, migrant entrepreneurs who had returned faced numerous practical obstacles. Some countries presented novel circular migration policies.

Examples of the adverse effects that international migration could have on families, especially on children who stayed behind in the countries of origin, were also provided. Concerns were raised about the international recruitment of skilled professionals, such as doctors, nurses and teachers, from developing countries facing serious skills shortages. Several speakers cautioned that international migration should not be considered an alternative pathway to development: Governments, not migrants, were responsible for achieving sustainable, human development. Participants underscored that migrants were first and foremost human beings with inalienable rights, which transcended their immigration status.

Cooperation at the global, regional and bilateral levels was considered an essential component of any strategy seeking to enhance the contributions of international migrants to development. Participants recognized the important role of regional consultative processes in promoting dialogue and cooperation among countries. They also acknowledged the importance of bilateral initiatives in acknowledging qualifications, facilitating the mobility of skilled migrants, supporting voluntary return, and ensuring portability of pensions and other social benefits. Greater international cooperation was required to address the root causes of international migration, including poverty, lack of employment opportunities, conflict, poor governance and environmental degradation.

International migration was increasingly being incorporated into national development plans and poverty reduction strategies. Since 2006, donor countries had allocated nearly a quarter of a billion dollars to multilateral activities on international migration and development. States had a shared responsibility in promoting safe and legal international migration, combating irregular migration and human trafficking, enhancing migrant integration, safeguarding migrants' rights, and protecting the most vulnerable, including migrant women and children. Transnational crimes, including human trafficking and migrant smuggling, offered striking examples of policy concerns that could only be addressed effectively through collaboration at the bilateral or multilateral levels.

The State-led Global Forum on Migration and Development had much contributed to fostering cooperation, sharing good practices and promoting a constructive dialogue among Member States as well as with civil society. However, the future of the Forum was challenged by a lack of stable funding. Some Member States identified the UN— and in particular the General Assembly — as the most suitable venue to promote global cooperation and dialogue on international migration and

development. Participants expressed appreciation for the increased interagency collaboration, in particular among the members of the Global Migration Group, which includes 15 entities of the UN system and the International Organization for Migration.

The debate successfully identified innovative policies, programmes and projects being developed and implemented to leverage the contributions of international migrants to development. By showcasing good practices and allowing the sharing of experience and information, the debate set a useful basis for the in-depth consideration of those issues in 2013.

For more information:

<http://www.un.org/en/ga/president/65/initiatives/migration.shtml>

Getting it right as a new nation is born

The Economic and Social Council and the Peacebuilding Commission convened an informal joint event on 13 June on “Promoting Durable Peace and Sustainable Development in Sudan and South Sudan”

On 9 July, South Sudan becomes the world’s youngest state following one of Africa’s longest and deadliest civil wars. As such it faces many challenges – 90% of the population live below internationally defined income standards; 92% of women cannot read or write; one out of every seven children dies before their fifth birthday; and few children complete primary school.

As the South becomes independent, both the North and South will face a number of socio-economic challenges which require the early mobilization of the international community to ensure the development of two viable states and to consolidate the peace attained, despite recent military clashes along the border.

On 13 June, the Economic and Social Council and the Peacebuilding Commission convened an informal joint event “Promoting Durable Peace and Sustainable Development in Sudan and South Sudan” to highlight the importance of development to peace; the need for effective international support to Sudan and South Sudan and the importance of regional cooperation.

Two panel sessions were held under the themes “Development and state-building priorities in South Sudan” and “Promoting durable peace and sustainable development in the Sudan and South Sudan: A regional perspective”.

The event featured statements by many high-level representatives including the President of ECOSOC, Lazarous Kapambwe; Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission, Eugène-Richard Gasana; President of the General Assembly, Joseph Deiss, Deputy Secretary-General, Asha-Rose Migiro; Permanent Representative

of the Sudan to the United Nations, Daffa-Alla Elhag Ali Osman; and Vice-President of Southern Sudan Riek Machar.

Acknowledging that this meeting takes place at a critical time, many speakers conveyed the importance of capacity building in South Sudan and the need for efficient international cooperation and support. They also underscored the need for political stability and basic security for development, as well as the importance of national ownership and an inclusive and participatory approach to governance to restore confidence and create legitimacy of the new state.

“It is well recognized that economic and social development can only occur if basic security is provided. At the same time, a successful and rapid implementation of economic and social programmes could help to stabilize the fragile security situation. This is why this joint special event between our two bodies is so important,” said Lazarous Kapambwe, President of ECOSOC, in his opening statement.

Joseph Deiss, President of the General Assembly, also recognized that the UN and the international community face a historic moment, “in a few weeks, a new State will formally declare its independence and will become a Member of the United Nations. This is a remarkable achievement, and we must spare no effort to ensure that this process is a success. This is critical, not only for the history of Sudan and of its people, but for the entire region and the continent,” he said.

Shortly after 9 July, South Sudan is expected to become a member of the UN, making the total number of member states 193. At this time, the new state will also have a development plan ready to highlight its needs to the international community.

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

Counting down to Rio+20

The one-year count-down to the UN Conference on Sustainable Development, Rio+20, was successfully marked in New York on 15 June with the screening of the animated movie “Rio”

“Rio+20 is the occasion for reinvigorating the spirit of Rio and re-launching our world on the pathway to a sustainable future,” said Mr. Sha Zukang, DESA’s Under-Secretary-General and the Rio+20 Secretary General. “We think this film, in its own particular way, captures many of the themes that we are looking to address in Rio.”

Up to one thousand New Yorkers, including children and their parents saw the movie. Hosted by DESA and the Permanent Mission of Brazil to the UN, in partnership with Twentieth

Century Fox, the screening was also attended by the director of the movie, Mr. Carlos Saldanha.

In the beginning of June, Mr. Sha also led a small mission to participate in the ceremonies held in Rio de Janeiro. In his message at the national launch ceremony, hosted by President Dilma Roussef at the Palácio do Planalto on 7 June, he stressed that the “plus” in Rio+20 should also be a plus to political commitment, development partnership and action on the ground.

Rio+20 will take place in Rio de Janeiro on 4-6 June 2012 and will have two main themes: “Achieving a green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication” and “The institutional framework for sustainable development”.

For more information: <http://www.uncsd2012.org/rio20/>

Trends and Analysis

Discussing the relationship between disability, education and employment

DESA Briefing Seminar Series; Disability and Economics: The nexus between disability, education and employment will be held in New York on 1 July

It may seem obvious to say that education is an advantage in the labour market, and, in some cases, possessing it is what allows some individuals to enter the job market to begin with. However, in countries like Nepal, when considering the case of persons with disabilities, such common knowledge does not hold true in the minds of many. The prevailing belief is, still, that even if persons with disabilities are educated, they are less likely to make use of the education, or that they will not be useful in the workforce.

To empirically challenge this assumption, an evidence-based study was conducted in Nepal. The study found that the return on investment in education was very high among persons with disabilities, ranging from 19.4 to 32.2%. Despite this high return, one significant finding was that, across the board, persons with hearing impairments had fewer years of schooling than their counterparts with visual or physical impairments. This confirms the crisis of the lack of schools for students with hearing impairments.

Additionally, when analyzing the likelihood of employment of persons with disabilities, it was found that years-of-schooling, type of impairments and age are significant in predicting the likelihood of participants' employment. Among these variables, years-of-schooling has a positive effect on the probability of employment. However, even aside from this finding, there are also several important nuances when the data is broken down by age and/or type of disability. The results suggest that unless affirmative action is taken on their behalf, it may be difficult for persons with physical impairments to enter directly into the competitive labour market.

A panel discussion will be held at UN Headquarters to discuss the relationships between disability, education and employment. Using the findings of the study conducted in Nepal, the panelists will highlight the moral, social imperatives of including persons with disabilities in the labour market, as well as show that it is good economics. They will also offer options for the further inclusion and participation of persons with disabilities in the labour market.

For more information:

<http://www.un.org/disabilities/default.asp?id=1575>

Updating knowledge of citizen engagement to enhance public service delivery

Expert Group Meeting on “Engaging Citizens to Enhance Public Sector Accountability and Prevent Corruption in the Delivery of Public Services” will take place in Vienna on 7-8 July

The goal of this meeting is to update global knowledge in the field of citizen engagement to enhance public service delivery, with particular attention to ways in which participatory approaches are being used in countries around the world to strengthen public sector accountability and prevent corruption. This objective is of particular importance at this time, as the UN Member States have identified participatory approaches to the provision of public services as a useful course of action for countries in achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

The meeting will bring together experts and practitioners in diverse aspects of citizen engagement, including public and social accountability, prevention of corruption and e-government, both from developed and developing countries, who work in national governments, international organizations, civil society organizations, and academic and research institutions. It will proceed as a series of dynamic round table discussions on specific aspects of citizen engagement and expected concrete outcomes include an analytical report to be published by the UN. In addition, the outcomes of the meeting will be used by DESA's Division for Public Administration and Development Management (DPADM) to develop the framework of two capacity building workshops to be held later this year and to produce a related publication, guidelines and online training courses.

It will be held back-to-back with the Workshop on Engaging Citizen to Enhance Public Service Delivery and Strengthen Accountability, also organized by DPADM in Vienna.

For more information: <http://www.unpan.org/2011EGM-CE>

Improving efficiency and accountability in public service delivery

Workshop on Engaging Citizen to Enhance Public Service Delivery and Strengthen Accountability will be arranged on 11-13 July in Vienna

This Workshop will explore how the engagement of citizens—and their organizations in civil society and the private sector—can contribute to improve public accountability in public service delivery and spending. The workshop aims to promote a better understanding, and to develop concrete skills and abilities for the analysis, design, implementation and evaluation of citizen engagement processes aimed at improving efficiency and accountability in public service delivery, especially those services which are closely related to the MDGs.

The Workshop will provide ample time for discussion on regional trends and contexts, and on public services related to the achievement of the MDGs, such as healthcare, primary education, employment and entrepreneurship services. It will also allow for consideration of emerging accountability mechanisms involving citizen, parliaments and public enterprises. Key lessons learned will be reflected in a set of recommendations, presented in the concluding session, and incorporated in the report of the proceedings of the Workshop, to be published on-line.

The Workshop will be held back-to-back with the UN-INTOSAI 21st Interregional Symposium also to be held in Vienna.

For more information: <http://www.unpan.org/2011WKS-CE-Vienna>

Assessing how Supreme Audit Institutions around the world engage citizens

The 21st Interregional Symposium will be organized by DESA's Division for Public Administration and Development Management and the International Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions in Vienna on 13-15 July

The Symposium will focus on the theme “Effective practices of cooperation between Supreme Audit Institutions (SAIs) and citizens to enhance public accountability”. It will provide the opportunity to identify, assess and exchange knowledge internationally about ways in which SAIs from countries around the world engage citizens, and innovations under analysis and consideration in this field as part of SAIs institutional development. For instance, publication of audit reports in the

media, participation of citizens in inter-institutional advisory bodies or councils, and decision to start determined audits on requests formulated by certain number of citizens.

The theme of the Symposium reflects a growing recognition of the need to deepen the participatory processes in public administration matters. Given their responsibilities for independence, professionalism and reliability, SAIs are uniquely positioned to serve the public to promote effective public governance, increase the efficiency of public administration, improve development outcomes, fight corruption and promote trust in government. In terms of greater public scrutiny, SAIs have a very important and relevant role to play.

By making their reports public, they make government actions transparent for the citizens; and, by being responsive to the legitimate concerns of citizens, the civil society and the private sector, they help to build public confidence. The Under-Secretary-General of DESA, Mr. Sha Zukang, will participate in the opening and closing ceremonies of the Symposium and will chair one of its substantive sessions.

For more information: <http://www.unpan.org/2011UN-INTOSAI-Symposium>

World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) in Geneva

In connection with the WSIS in Geneva on 16-20 May, DESA's Division for Public Administration and Development Management arranged a number of events

Ensuring implementation of WSIS action lines

On 18 May, DESA through DPADM, convened the Sixth Facilitation Meeting on implementing three of the 11 WSIS action lines, providing a platform for participants to: a) exchange information and experiences; b) identify the propriety areas for implementation within the Action Lines; and c) create synergies among different stakeholders for more effective knowledge sharing and collaboration to ensure the implementation of WSIS at the international, regional and national levels as well as enable further coordination of major stakeholders' activities to support strategic planning and implementation of accessible, inclusive and participatory governments.

Exchanging experiences and practices on e/m-government

On 19 May, the workshop on “Greater Government Transparency and Citizen Engagement to Promote Effectiveness and Accountability in Public Service Delivery” was arranged. Organized by DPADM in cooperation with the International Telecommunications Union (ITU), it provided opportunities for

participants to share experiences and exchange practices on e/m-government with speakers in order to develop new capacities for designing and implementing successful programs and policies for better government transparency and citizen engagement and create or strengthen international networks of stakeholders and practitioners based on proven viable experiences that have enabled lasting development results in different socio-economic and cultural contexts. A report on the workshop will be prepared.

IGF Open Consultations and MAG meeting

The Internet Governance Forum (IGF) held its Open Consultations and a meeting of the Multi-stakeholder Advisory Group (MAG) from 18 to 19 May at the ILO Headquarters in Geneva with approximately 100 people in attendance. The MAG deliberations, which mainly focused on the selection of workshops and the format of the main themes, including the selection of speakers, were considered positive and resolved to finalize the programme through online collaboration. They welcomed the note asking them to continue with their work until the conclusion of the 2011 IGF to be held in Nairobi and individual members volunteered as focal points for each theme shepherding it until then.

Fourteenth session of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD)

While discussing agenda item 2 “Progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the World Summit on the Information Society outcomes at the regional and international levels”, it was agreed by the Commission that the mandate of the “Working Group for the improvements to the IGF” should be extended for one more year to give it time to complete its work. The meeting also adopted a draft resolution which will be sent to ECOSOC for deliberation as part of the report.

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

Capacity Development

Official statistics informing on green economy

An International Seminar on Green Economy and Official Statistics will be held in Seoul, Republic of Korea on 6–8 July

This Seminar is being organized by DESA's Statistics Division, in collaboration with Statistics Korea, the national statistics office of the Republic of Korea. A green economy has been recognized as one of the critical development models for the future which improves well-being and social equity while significantly reducing environmental risks and ecological scarcities. The concept of a green economy has become a centre of policy debates in recent years. During the recent global financial crisis, the UN General Assembly and several UN agencies underscored that the crisis represented an opportunity to promote green economy initiatives as part of the stimulus packages being put in place to support the recovery.

The General Assembly has decided that one of the major themes for the UN Conference on Sustainable Development, to be held in June 2012 in Rio de Janeiro is "a green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication." The following outcomes are envisaged from the Seminar:

- A recognition that official statistics will be required to inform on green economy issues and that national statistical systems will accordingly need to adapt.
- An emerging understanding of the key issues/indicators that official statistics will need to focus on.
- A sense of the work that international agencies and the United Nations Statistical Commission might best focus on, over and above what they are already doing, to support countries in this work.

For more information:

http://unstats.un.org/unsd/green_economy/korea/default.htm

Enhanced knowledge-sharing on e-governance

Conference on e-Government in Asia and the Pacific to enhance e-Government policy making capacity was organized in Seoul, Republic of Korea on 11-13 May

The conference was organized by DESA's Division for Public Administration and Development Management (DPADM), in collaboration with the Ministry of Public Administration and Security (MOPAS) through the UN Project Office on Governance (UNPOG) and Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the

Pacific (ESCAP). The purpose was to enhance e-government policy making capacity and the conference also provided an opportunity through the Chief Information Officer's (CIOs) and the e-Government Officials' Forum to discuss e-government policy issues, institutional, legal and regulatory frameworks and strategies in the region.

The conference resulted in enhanced experience and knowledge-sharing among CIOs and e-government officials while exploring ways to enhance cooperation among Asia-Pacific e-government officials. A summary of its deliberations, including the list of validated CIO/e-government officials is to be prepared.

United Nations Public Administration Country Studies (UNPACS) was introduced to the audience and received recognition and many compliments. Several countries expressed interest in contributing to these studies particularly in the area of e-government at the country level.

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

With a focus on transfer pricing for developing countries

An Informal Meeting on Practical Transfer Pricing Issues for Developing Countries was held in New York on 7-8 June

The event was organized by the Financing for Development Office (FfDO) of DESA, in cooperation with three NGOs, Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung, Center of Concern and Christian Aid. The main objective of the event was to discuss draft chapters of the UN Practical Manual on Transfer Pricing for Developing Countries, which is being prepared by a subcommittee of the UN Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters, with the view of ensuring that developing country perspectives, priorities and experiences are fully represented in the Manual.

The meeting featured presentations by Committee members, Government representatives, OECD, IMF, Academia, Civil Society, the Business Sector and FfDO/DESA. Assistant Secretary-General Jomo Kwame Sundaram delivered a keynote address on the burdens of complexity and the disproportionate effect of these on developing countries in this area.

The morning session on the first day focused on: (1) the role of the UN in international tax cooperation; (2) the impact of transfer pricing on sustainable development and possible responses; and (3) overview of specific transfer pricing issues on the agenda of the international community. This session, aiming to familiarize the UN delegations with the issue of transfer pricing and the costs to development of "improper pricing" by multinational enterprises, was well attended and positively assessed by many UN delegates.

The remaining sessions were of a practical and rather technical nature, as transfer pricing involves very technical issues of what profits can probably be ascribed to activities and functions located in a particular country, by comparison to what would happen between independent entities. Each session began with panel presentations on country experiences focused on a draft chapter of the Manual, followed by interactive discussions.

During the discussions, the following issues were emphasized: (1) the importance of the Manual as a tool for developing countries in dealing with complex transactions; (2) the critical importance of capacity building in developing countries in the area of transfer pricing; (3) how much flexibility should there be within the “arm’s length” price, and could more flexible approaches reduce the costs and resource implications of transfer pricing analysis, especially for developing countries?; and (4) the need for dispute resolution mechanism, which would give equal footing to developed and developing countries.

As a result of the meeting, new developing country inputs will be introduced into the draft chapters of the Manual. A report on the meeting will be submitted to the annual session of the Committee in October 2011.

For more information:

http://www.un.org/esa/ffd/tax/2011_TP/index.htm

Updating the UN Model Double Taxation Convention

Ad Hoc Expert Group Meeting on “2011 Update of the UN Model Double Taxation Convention” was arranged in New York on 9-10 June

The meeting was arranged by DESA’s Financing for Development Office with the purpose of bringing together Members of the UN Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters and other specialists with expertise in international taxation and tax treaties in order to consider the 2011 update of the UN Model, with a view to assisting the Committee in making it as modern, developing country needs-responsive polished and consistent as possible. It will be the first update of the Model since 1999 and should set the scene for more regular updates of the Model, which is heavily relied on by developing countries in double tax treaty negotiations.

Following a short session devoted to general considerations and reflections, the discussions spanned all 30 Articles of the UN Model and their commentaries. The focus remained on what could realistically be agreed upon by the Committee during its annual session in October 2011. The Secretariat also recorded the longer-term proposals that naturally emerged from these discussions for the future work of the Committee.

The following issues were emphasized: (1) the wide reliance of developing countries on the UN Model in their bilateral treaty negotiations; (2) the importance of finalizing the update of the UN Model during the annual session of the Committee in October 2011 for the benefit of such countries; and (3) the need for more frequent updates to the UN Model. It was also agreed that a background paper considering inclusion of developing country positions in the UN Model or as a separate document would be prepared for the 2011 session of the Committee.

As a result of the meeting, a draft of the 2011 update of the UN Model was verified and refined for further consideration by the Committee at its annual session in Geneva on 24-28 October. A report on the meeting will also be submitted to the annual session of the Committee.

For more information:

<http://www.un.org/esa/ffd/tax/2011EGM/index.htm>

Launch of Russian version of the E-Government Interoperability Interactive Course

DESA’s Division for Public Administration and Development Management (DPADM) recently launched the Russian version of the E-Government Interoperability Interactive Course

The translation of the course was a joint initiative of DPADM and the Institute of the Information Society (IIS), Russia. The course highlights the value of e-government interoperability and the steps required to achieve effective interoperability. It explains the standards and architecture in interoperability, and the Government Interoperability Framework (GIF) and its development.

It is available at the UNPAN Online Training Centre free of charge, with government officials as its target audience, especially those from developing, post-conflict and post-crisis countries: www.unpan.org/elearning

Publications and Websites

Technical reports



Launch of the World Economic and Social Survey 2011: The Great Green Technological Transformation

The report to be released in Geneva on 5 July, states that over the next 40 years, \$1.9 trillion per year will be needed for incremental investments in green technologies. At least one half or \$1.1 trillion per year, of the required investments will need to be made in developing countries to meet their rapidly increasing food and energy demand through the application of green technologies.

“This report shows how important technological progress will be for ensuring a future that benefits everyone while protecting our planet,” says Sha Zukang, Under-Secretary General of DESA and the Secretary-General of the UN Conference on Sustainable Development, Rio+20, to take place in June 2012 in Rio de Janeiro. “The report is required reading as we gear up for Rio+20, which is an opportunity to define pathways to a safer, cleaner and more prosperous world for all.”

For more information:

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

The World Economic and Social Survey (WESS) 2011 is also available on the following ebook readers:

Kindle: <http://www.amazon.com/dp/B00580V4KW>

Nook: <http://search.barnesandnoble.com/World-Economic-and-Social-Survey-2011/United-Nations/e/2940012886330>

Apple iBookstore: forthcoming



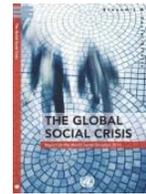
Launch of the Millennium Development Goals Report 2011

The report to be released on 7 July is the result of an intensively collaborative effort, led by the Statistics Division of DESA. It involves twenty-seven international organizations and agencies and a group of representatives of national statistical systems, who meet every year to review the tools to compile and analyze the necessary data. These data are drawn from national statistics provided by Governments to the international statistical system and adjusted for comparability.

The report will present the most updated assessment of progress towards the MDGs. It will be a key resource in informing the

political debate at ECOSOC and at the General Assembly in September when Member States will come together to assess what has worked in accelerating progress and what needs to be done to bridge existing gaps.

For more information: <http://mdgs.un.org>



Report on the World Social Situation 2011: The Global Social Crisis

The report reveals that many governments did not pay sufficient attention to the social implications of the global economic crisis. It states that economic policies considered in isolation from their social consequences often create dire results for people's nutrition, health and education, which adversely affect long-term economic growth.

“The economic crisis reminds us that it is essential for people to be healthy, educated, adequately housed and well fed to be more productive and better able to contribute to society,” said Jomo Kwame Sundaram, UN-DESA Assistant Secretary-General for Economic Development.

Recovery has been uneven and still remains fragile, and, the report says, wide-ranging negative social outcomes linger from the global economic downturn.

For more information:

<http://social.un.org/index/ReportontheWorldSocialSituation/2011.aspx>

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

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This month, the following tables, which are featured in the MBS on a quarterly or bimonthly basis, are presented along with the regular recurrent monthly tables: Earnings in manufacturing, by

sex and Total exports and imports by regions: volume and unit value indices and terms of trade.

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

Newsletters

Rio+20: Making it Happen

The latest issue of the newsletter, Volume 2, Issue 11, features activities marking the one year count-down to Rio+20 in both New York and Rio de Janeiro. With other events and issues highlighted, it also announces the three-day High-level Dialogue on Institutional Framework for Sustainable Development to be held on 19-21 July, in Solo, Central Java, Indonesia.

View full issue at:

<http://www.uncsd2012.org/rio20/index.php?menu=14>

Working papers

Food Crises and Gender Inequality

This paper examines the current food crises, the projected effect of climate change, the vulnerabilities created by regional concentrations of food production, imports and exports, and the significant role of women as food producers, consumers and family food managers. Bridging productivity differentials between male and female farmers, by helping women overcome production constraints, would significantly increase agricultural output. This becomes an imperative, given the feminization of agriculture. Institutionally, a group approach to farming would help women and other small holders enhance their access to land and inputs, benefit from economies of scale, and increase their bargaining power economically and socially.

For more information:

http://www.un.org/esa/desa/papers/2011/wp107_2011.pdf

The Scorecard on Development, 1960-2010: Closing the Gap?

This paper examines data on economic growth and various social indicators for 193 countries over the past 50 years, divided into three periods: 1960-1980, 1980-2000, and 2000-2010. The paper finds that after a sharp slowdown in economic growth and in progress on social indicators during the second period (1980-2000), there has been a recovery on both economic growth and, for many countries, a rebound in progress on social indicators (including life expectancy, adult, infant, and child mortality, and education) during the past decade. The paper discusses some of the

economic and policy changes that might explain the slowdown and rebound.

For more information:

http://www.un.org/esa/desa/papers/2011/wp106_2011.pdf

Discussion papers

Monthly Briefing on the World Economic Situation and Prospects

The United Nations forecast for growth of the global economy was increased slightly to 3.3 per cent in 2011 and 3.6 per cent in 2012. However, the pace of the global recovery remains uneven across countries. Output growth is strong among developing countries and feeble in many developed economies. Serious downside risks to the global recovery remain. Developed economies face continued financial sector fragility, sovereign debt distress and high unemployment rates. Many developing countries face new headwinds, including rising inflation, assets bubble risks and strong exchange rate appreciation.

For more information:

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

Publications in other languages

The following publications are now available in other languages:

- Handbook on Population and Housing Census Editing Revision 1, ST/ESA/STAT/SER. F/82/Rev.1 (Chinese, Spanish)
- International Recommendations for Tourism Statistics, ST/ESA/STAT/SER. M/83/Rev.1 (Chinese)

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

Comings and Goings

Comings

The following staff members were promoted in June:

Xinxin Cai, Team Assistant, Division for Public Administration and Development Management

Daphnis Novoa, Information Technology Assistant, Division for Sustainable Development

Carol Pollack, Social Affairs Officer, Division for Social Policy and Development

Goings

The following staff member retired in June:

Marilyn El-Shahawi, Editorial Assistant, Population Division

Calendar

July

Seminar on Disability and Economics: The nexus between disability, education and employment

New York, 1 July

<http://www.un.org/disabilities/default.asp?id=1575>

2011 Substantive session of the Economic and Social Council

Geneva, 4-29 July

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

International Seminar on Green Economy and Official Statistics

Seoul, Republic of Korea, 6–8 July

http://unstats.un.org/unsd/green_economy/korea/default.htm

Expert Group Meeting on “Engaging Citizens to Enhance Public Sector Accountability and Prevent Corruption in the Delivery of Public Services”

Vienna, 7-8 July

<http://www.unpan.org/2011EGM-CE>

Workshop on Engaging Citizen to Enhance Public Service Delivery and Strengthen Accountability

Vienna, 11-13 July

<http://www.unpan.org/2011WKS-CE-Vienna>

UN/INTOSAI 21st Interregional Symposium

Vienna, 13-15 July

<http://www.unpan.org/2011UN-INTOSAI-Symposium>

High-level Meeting on “Youth Dialogue and Mutual Understanding”

New York, 25- 26 July

<http://social.un.org/youthyear/high-level-meeting.html>

August

Second Session of the Open-ended Working Group on Ageing

New York, 1-4 August

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

International Youth Day

12 August

<http://social.un.org/index/Youth/WhoWeAre/InternationalYouthDay.aspx>

Observances

International Day of Cooperatives

2 July

The United Nations recognizes and reaffirms the role of cooperatives in economic, social and cultural development and in the achievement of social policy objectives as shown in various resolutions specific to cooperatives and the biennial publication of the Secretary-General’s report on the role of cooperatives in social development.

The theme for this year’s International Day of Cooperatives, “Youth, the Future of Cooperatives”, highlights the enormous value of engaging the energy and drive of young people. The theme links to the observance of the United Nations International Year of Youth which encourages dialogue and understanding across generations and promotes the ideals of peace, respect for human rights and freedoms, and solidarity. It addresses the need for all cooperative stakeholders to promote the participation of young people in the cooperative movement.

For more information:

<http://social.un.org/index/Cooperatives/InternationalDayofCooperatives.aspx>

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