

**Innovation at the heart of ECOSOC | The world is making big strides towards achieving the MDGs | Counting 9.6 billion humans on earth by 2050**

**Global dialogue on development:** Persons with disabilities need adequate standard of living, 600 billion dollars commitments for Sustainable Development

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## Feature Articles

### Innovation at the heart of ECOSOC

The 2013 High-level Segment of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) is taking place on 1-4 July in Geneva. The Secretary-General's report emphasizes that science, technology, innovation and culture are critical to the achievement of the MDGs and a successful transition to sustainable development. A Thunderclap campaign running since April helped youth bring their voices to the world's leaders.



As the participants of the 2013 High-level Segment of ECOSOC were getting ready in Geneva last week, hundreds of Twitter users were signing-up to share a special tweet with all their followers on 1 July. This campaign, called "Thunderclap" aimed at bringing youth voices to the ECOSOC high-level segment.

"Investing in youth will enable us to solve sustainable development challenges such as poor education, lack of access to health care, high unemployment, violence, conflicts and extremism. This involves reaching out, listening to and learning from young people", said Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon in a video message to promote the campaign, a week before the opening of the High-Level Segment.

With a call to "Innovate your Future", young people have been encouraged to sustain the planet and ask the world leaders at ECOSOC to help. By sharing a single tweet, Twitter users from all over the world and from all backgrounds showed their support to empower youth. "At the United Nations, we believe that young people have the energy and ideas we need to change the world", added the Secretary-General in his message.

#### Science, technology, innovation and culture for sustainable development

The ECOSOC Substantive Session is taking place from 1 to 25 July. It is divided in 5 Segments, a High-level Segment, which opens the session during the first week, a Coordination Segment, an Operational Activities Segment, a Humanitarian affairs Segment and a General Segment.

As part of the High-Level Segment, the theme of this year's Annual Ministerial Review (AMR) is "Science, technology and innovation (STI) and culture for promoting sustainable development and the achievement of the Millennium

Development Goals.” These fields are presented as enablers for sustainable development and important elements of the post-2015 development agenda.

STI and culture significantly impact each of the three pillars of sustainable development – economic, social and environmental. STI drives the dynamic transformation of economies through productivity growth, which influences economic growth. Over time, economic growth fueled by innovations in science and technology can increase social cohesion, stability, and democratic governance while also increasing energy efficiency, reducing waste, mitigating climate change and embarking on sustainable development pathways. Culturally-based, local and indigenous knowledge as well as skills and endogenous know-how are core resources for coping with climate change, preventing biodiversity loss and ensuring environmental sustainability.

### Five regions to report on Innovation for Development

The [High-Level Segment](#) will benefit from the reports of five regional consultations conducted in preparation for the AMR in Western Asia, Latin, Asia and the Pacific, Africa and Europe, all focusing on Science and Technology for Development.

The High-level Segment will also include National Voluntary Presentations from France, Nigeria, Peru, Thailand and Viet Nam, who will showcase their national reports on STI and culture and their experiences in promoting sustainable development and achieving the MDGs. It will also host several panel discussions and a thematic debate on the contribution of the Economic and Social Council to the elaboration of a Post-2015 development agenda.

The High-Level Segment will be opened by H.E. Mr. Néstor Osorio, President of ECOSOC. Also addressing the Council during its opening ceremony will be Mr. Ban Ki-moon, Secretary-General, H.E. Mr. Vuk Jeremić, President of the General Assembly, and H.E. Mr. Ueli Maurer, President of the Swiss Confederation

### Coordination to promote employment and decent work for all

Organized on 5-9 July, the [Coordination Segment](#) will focus on following up to the 2012 Ministerial Declaration on “Promoting productive capacity, employment and decent work to eradicate poverty in the context of inclusive, sustainable and equitable economic growth at all levels for achieving the Millennium Development Goals” and to the International Conference on Financing for Development.

There will be a dialogue with the executive secretaries of the regional commissions on the theme of “Regional perspectives on the post-2015 development agenda”. In addition, the annual overview report of the UN system Chief Executive Board for Coordination (CEB) will be presented to the Council. The Secretary-General’s report on “the role of the United Nations system in promoting productive capacity, employment and decent

work to eradicate poverty in the context of inclusive, sustainable and equitable economic growth at all levels for achieving the Millennium Development Goals” will provide the background analysis for the debate. In addition, the Segment will also feature a session on financing for development.

### A resolution to monitor and implement the QCPR

The [Operational Activities Segment](#), held from 10-12 July, will focus on progress in implementing the General Assembly 67/226 resolution on the Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review of UN system’s operational activities (QCPR). The resolution adopts several important reforms measures with an aim to enhance the relevance, coherence, effectiveness and efficiency of UN operational activities for development.

The reports of the Secretary-General show that the UN system has taken some action in implementing the QCPR resolution. At the same time, some time-bound reform measures require urgent action. In particular, the UN development system needs to advance vigorously on several fronts, in particular harmonization of rules and regulations that govern business operations. At the end of the segment, a resolution is expected to be adopted which will provide further guidance on the monitoring and implementation of the resolution.

### A Humanitarian Fair

The [Humanitarian Affairs Segment](#) (15-17 July) provides an essential forum where Member States, humanitarian organizations and other relevant counterparts discuss the challenges, opportunities and activities related to the strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations. The theme this Segment will be “The future of humanitarian affairs: towards greater inclusiveness, coordination, interoperability and effectiveness”; and it will convene two panel discussions.

The first panel discussion will focus on how humanitarian and development actors must work in ways that seek to reduce and manage the risks posed to people and communities vulnerable to humanitarian crises and the impacts of global challenges. The panel on “Promoting humanitarian innovation for improved response” will focus on how the humanitarian system can create an enabling environment for innovation and how it can ensure the identification and integration of innovations that address operational challenges and opportunities.

For the first time this year, a Humanitarian Fair will showcase, in the corridors of the Palais des Nations, how innovation can contribute to humanitarian response in more than 20 booths from various UN and NGO partners, representatives of the civil society, as well as regional organizations and the private sector.

### General Segment to review reports of subsidiary bodies

At the **General Segment** (18-25 July), 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 and a report of the Secretary General on South Sudan.

A number of system-wide thematic issues will be reviewed, among them, the mainstreaming of a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the UN system, the Joint Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) and the report of the UN inter-agency task force on tobacco control.

For more information:

**High-level Segment:**

<http://www.un.org/en/ecosoc/julyhls/index13.shtml>

**Coordination Segment:**

<http://www.un.org/en/ecosoc/julyhls/cs2013.shtml>

**Operational Activities Segment:**

<http://www.un.org/en/ecosoc/julyhls/oa2013.shtml>

**Humanitarian Affairs Segment:**

<http://www.un.org/en/ecosoc/julyhls/oa2013.shtml>

**General Segment:**

<http://www.un.org/en/ecosoc/julyhls/g2013.shtml>

## The world is making big strides towards achieving the MDGs

*Several important targets of the Millennium Development Goals have or will be met by the 2015 deadline, but progress in many areas is far from sufficient, according to this year's Millennium Development Goals Report launched today by UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon.*



“The Millennium Development Goals have been the most successful global anti-poverty push in history,” Mr. Ban said. “The MDGs have proven that focused global development objectives can make a profound difference.” The eight goals were agreed by all countries as an outgrowth of the UN Millennium Summit in 2000.

The analysis in this report, based on a wide range of statistics, shows that the actions of national governments, the international community, civil society and the private sector are coalescing in the achievement of many of the MDGs. At the same time, many items on the agenda remain incomplete. Redoubled efforts are urgently needed, in particular in regions most behind to jumpstart advancement and achieve maximum gains. The report also reveals that our attention needs to focus on disparities across geographical areas and social groups. The results of this report give us a clear indication where our efforts must be directed in the days remaining before the 2015 deadline.

The Millennium Development Goals Report is an annual assessment of global and regional progress towards the Goals. It is produced by the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and reflects the most comprehensive, up-to-date data and analysis compiled by over 27 UN and international agencies.

### Important MDG targets already met or within close reach

The proportion of people living in extreme poverty has been halved at the global level and the world reached the poverty reduction target five years ahead of schedule. About 700 million fewer people lived in conditions of extreme poverty in 2010 than in 1990. Also, MDG drinking water target was met five years ahead of the target date with over 2 billion people having gained access to improved sources of drinking water since 1990.

Over 200 million slum dwellers benefitted from improved water sources, sanitation facilities, durable housing or sufficient living space between 2000 and 2010, thereby exceeding the 100 million MDG target. Given reinvigorated efforts, the target of halving the percentage of people suffering from hunger by 2015 appears to be within reach.

Remarkable gains have also been made in the fight against malaria and tuberculosis. Mortality rates from malaria fell by more than 25 per cent globally between 2000 and 2010. Between 1995 and 2011, a cumulative total of 51 million tuberculosis patients were successfully treated, saving 20 million lives.

### Accelerated progress and bolder action needed in many areas

Environmental sustainability is under severe threat, demanding a new level of global cooperation: The growth in global greenhouse gases is accelerating, and emissions of carbon dioxide today are more than 46 per cent higher than their 1990 level. Forests continue to be lost at an alarming rate.

Overexploitation of marine fish stocks is resulting in diminished yields. More of the earth's land and marine areas are under protection, but birds, mammals and other species are heading for extinction at an ever faster rate, with declines in both populations and distribution.

Worldwide, the mortality rate for children under five dropped by 41 per cent—from 87 deaths per 1,000 live births in 1990 to 51 in 2011. Despite this enormous accomplishment, more rapid progress is needed to meet the 2015 target of a two-thirds reduction in child deaths. Most maternal deaths are preventable, but progress in this area is falling short. Globally, the maternal mortality ratio declined by 47 per cent over the last two decades, from 400 maternal deaths per 100,000 live births to 210 between 1990 and 2010. Meeting the MDG target of reducing the ratio by three quarters will require accelerated interventions and stronger political backing for women and children.

Also in other areas progress has not been sufficient: Access to antiretroviral therapy and knowledge about HIV prevention must expand. In 2011, 57 millions primary school age children were still denied their right to primary education. From 1990 to 2011, 1.9 billion people gained access to a latrine, flush toilet or other improved sanitation facility but more rapid progress is needed to meet the MDG sanitation target.

A low debt burden and an improved climate for trade are levelling the playing field for developing countries. However, there is less aid money overall, with the poorest countries most adversely affected. In 2012, bilateral official development assistance to least developed countries fell by 13 per cent, to about \$26 billion.

### Global attention needs to focus on disparities

Progress towards the eight MDGs has been uneven – not only among regions and countries, but also between rural and urban areas, men and women, and among other population groups within countries. In 2011, only 53 per cent of births in rural areas were attended by skilled health personnel, versus 84 per cent in urban areas. Eighty-three per cent of the population without access to an improved drinking water source live in rural communities. Also, gender-based inequalities in decision-making power persist.

### Creating a stable foundation for future development action

The United Nations is working with governments, civil society and other partners to build on the momentum generated by the MDGs, to craft an ambitious, yet realistic, post-2015 agenda. A successful conclusion to the MDGs will be an important building block for a successor development agenda, and volumes of experience and lessons learned from the MDGs will benefit prospects for continued progress.

“Through accelerated action, the world can achieve the MDGs and generate momentum for an ambitious and inspiring post-2015 development framework,” Mr. Ban said. “Now is the time to step

up our efforts to build a more just, secure and sustainable future for all.”

For more information:

United Nations Millennium Development Goals Indicators

(<http://mdgs.un.org/>)

United Nations Millennium Development Goals

(<http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/>)

## Counting 9.6 billion humans on earth by 2050

*The current world population of 7.2 billion is projected to increase by 1 billion over the next 12 years and reach 9.6 billion by 2050, according to a report launched by DESA's Population Division in June. The report points out that growth will be mainly in developing countries, with more than half in Africa. Watch our interview with John Wilmoth, Director of the Population Division, who gives us some insights about the last figures available.*



Watch video: <http://youtu.be/H62dqX8urrc>

In our video interview, John Wilmoth is highlighting the most surprising findings of this report, mainly focused on fertility rates, how to cope with the lack of registry systems in developing countries, as well as the challenges induced by the global increase of life expectancy.

The report, *World Population Prospects: the 2012 Revision*, notes that the population of developed regions will remain largely unchanged at around 1.3 billion from now until 2050. In contrast, the 49 least developed countries are projected to double in size from around 900 million people in 2013 to 1.8 billion in 2050.

“Although population growth has slowed for the world as a whole, this report reminds us that some developing countries, especially in Africa, are still growing rapidly,” said the Under-

Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, Wu Hongbo in a press release on the report in June.

Source: UN News/DESA

For more information: <http://esa.un.org/unpd/wpp/index.htm>

### **New information available**

Compared to previous assessments of world population trends, the new projected total population is higher, mainly due to new information obtained on fertility levels of certain countries. For example, in 15 high-fertility countries of sub-Saharan Africa, the estimated average number of children per woman has been adjusted upwards by more than 5 per cent.

“In some cases, the actual level of fertility appears to have risen in recent years; in other cases, the previous estimate was too low,” said the Director of the Population Division in the UN’s Department of Economic and Social Affairs, John Wilmoth, during a press conference in New York.

“While there has been a rapid fall in the average number of children per woman in large developing countries such as China, India, Indonesia, Iran, Brazil and South Africa [...] rapid growth is expected to continue over the next few decades in countries with high levels of fertility such as Nigeria, Niger, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia and Uganda but also Afghanistan and Timor-Leste, where there are more than five children per woman.”

Mr. Wilmoth added that changes in fertility rates over the next few decades could have major consequence for population size, structure and distribution in the long run.

### **China’s population to start decreasing**

The report notes that India is expected to become the world’s largest country, passing China around 2028, when both countries will have populations of 1.45 billion. After that, India’s population will continue to grow and China’s is expected to start decreasing. Meanwhile, Nigeria’s population is expected to surpass that of the United States before 2050.

Europe’s population is projected to decline by 14 per cent, the report states, and Mr. Wilmoth warned that the continent is already facing challenges in providing care and support for a rapidly aging population.

### **82 years average life expectancy by 2100**

Overall, life expectancy is projected to increase in developed and developing countries in future years. At the global level, it is projected to reach 76 years in the period 2045-2050 and 82 years in 2095-2100. By the end of the century, people in developed countries could live on average around 89 years, compared to about 81 years in developing regions.

The report’s figures are based on a comprehensive review of available demographic data from 233 countries and areas around the world, including the 2010 round of population censuses.

## Global Dialogue on Development

### Persons with disabilities need adequate standard of living

*The sixth session of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities will take place in New York from 17- 19 July and will focus on standard of living.*



The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities was adopted by the General Assembly on 13 December 2006 and came into force on 3 May 2008. Since then States Parties to the Convention have met in five sessions at UN Headquarters in

New York, to address issues regarding the implementation of the Convention, as well as share experiences and best practices.

This year, the sixth session will be held from 17-19 July that will focus on the ways to ensure and adequate standard of living and the empowerment of persons with disabilities. Thematic discussions will include economic empowerment through inclusive social protection and poverty reduction strategies; disability-inclusive development in national, regional and international processes, and community-based rehabilitation and habilitation for inclusive society.

A day prior to the Conference, a Civil Society Forum will be organized by non-governmental organizations, including organizations of persons with disabilities, with the support of DESA, to network and share experiences in implementing the Convention.

This annual Conference is fast developing into the largest international disability meeting that includes high-level representation from Government ministries, UN system organizations, civil society organizations, academia, the private sector and other stakeholders. In conjunction with the Conferences held at UN Headquarters in 2011 and 2012, over 35 side-events, covering a range of disability issues, were conducted by the stakeholders, during each of the two and a half-day sessions.

For more information:

<http://www.un.org/disabilities/default.asp?id=1606>

## Poverty eradication remains central to reach SDGs

*The fourth session of the Open Working Group (OWG) on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) took place from 17–19 June at UN Headquarters in New York.*



Chaired by the Permanent Representatives of Kenya and Hungary, Macharia Kamau and Csaba Körösi, this session focused on employment and decent work for all, social protection, youth, education and culture, as well as health

and population dynamics. The report of the SG's High-level Panel on the post-2015 development agenda was presented by its lead author, Homi Karhas, and the Co-chairs met with the representatives of Major Groups and other stakeholders every morning of the session.

In their concluding remarks, the co-chairs underlined the progress that the OWG was making: "We think we are making amazing progress", said Ambassador Kamau, adding that "the commonality of views and perspectives is something that is giving us great encouragement for the way forward".

The co-chairs also noted how the issue of poverty eradication kept on coming back as a central overriding theme, and stressed its link with the issues discussed, such as decent and productive work, social protection, education and health care. "There is no poverty eradication without us taking care of these issues, we have to be clear about that", said Ambassador Kamau.

The concluding remarks by the Co-chairs, statements and presentations made during the OWG, as well as recordings from the session are available on the [Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform](#).

### Safeguarding financing for sustainable development

*DESA and the Permanent Mission of Austria jointly organized on 28 May 2013 in New York a high-level panel on Safeguarding Financing for Sustainable Development.*



The objective of the panel was to raise awareness of the challenges and potential safeguards to ensure economic, efficient and effective use of, and preventing corruption in, financing for sustainable development, particularly in

view of anticipated new and innovative sources of funding.

H.E. Mr. Martin Sajdik, the Permanent Representative of Austria, chaired the event that was attended by over 110 participants, representing nearly 60 permanent missions.

In his keynote address, Mr Moser, Secretary-General of the International Organisation of Supreme Audit Institutions (INTOSAI) spoke about the role of INTOSAI and Supreme Audit Institutions (SAI's). The lack of transparency and accountability of public finances and their use causes tremendous damage to states, endangers peace and security and undermines the efficiency of development aid. The scope of SAI's work is to increase transparency for the benefit of citizens through contributing to safeguarding of finances.

Mr. Wu Hongbo, USG of DESA, highlighted the necessity of building trust among new and emerging public and private donors in order to mobilize the high levels of funding necessary to implement the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's). He also mentioned that the inter-governmental process for considering a sustainable development financing strategy can benefit from the expertise and experience of finance and audit specialists to ensure an appropriate accountability framework.

#### Safeguarding funds requires good governance and independent oversight

The first discussant, H.E. Mr. Vladimir Lupan, illustrated the progress of the Moldovan government in increasing transparency and accountability which corresponds with reduced waste and decreased loss of funds. The second discussant, Mr. Amitabh Mukhopadhyay, stated that accountability must be foregrounded in the process of good governance, and not simply accompany good governance as an appendage. Looking at the prevailing deficits in fighting corruption as they exist in several countries, he added that SAI's need to step into a much more proactive role.

The discussion from the floor included the relationship between the MDG's and SDG's and how the MDG's should be addressed before turning to a new set of goals, the need to honour Official Development Aid (ODA) commitments and targets, and the uncertainty that accompanies new sources of funding, putting in question the stability and sufficiency of flows of funding.

The closing remarks stressed the need for sufficient funding to realize sustainable development initiatives and the importance of attracting new sources of funding, especially from the private sector. The successful mobilization of the large amounts of funds necessary to implement the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's) will depend on establishing public trust that the funds will end up in good hands. The enabling environment for safeguarding financing is part of good governance and establishing that trust. The important oversight role of audit in good governance and in implementation must be part of the inter-governmental deliberations on financing for sustainable development.

For more information:

<http://www.unpan.org/Events/BrowseEventsbyCalendar/tabid/94/mctl/EventDetails/ModuleID/1532/ItemID/2382/language/en-US/Default.aspx?selecteddate=5/28/2013>

## 600 billion dollars commitments for Sustainable Development

*Just over a year after the Rio+20 took place in Brazil, the first progress report on Voluntary Commitments and Partnerships for Sustainable Development is being published.*



The report, featured in a special edition of the "Sustainable Development in Action Newsletter", summarizes information on the 1,382 voluntary commitments, partnerships and initiatives for sustainable development – worth close to US\$ 600 billion

– that have been registered to date with the Rio+20 Secretariat.

Rio+20, as well as earlier sustainable development conferences, emphasized the importance of voluntary commitments, partnerships and initiatives to complement government-led action in realizing sustainable development. These multi-stakeholder initiatives by Governments, intergovernmental organizations, major groups and others aim to contribute to the implementation of intergovernmentally agreed sustainable development goals and commitments in Rio+20, Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development.

The report makes clear that voluntary commitments and partnerships are not a substitute for Government responsibilities and actions, and that the latter remain the cornerstone of national, regional and global efforts to pursue sustainable development. But they are intended to strengthen implementation by involving those relevant stakeholders that can make a contribution to sustainable development.

The initiatives are compiled and available through the SD in Action registry on the Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform, where the report will also be published.

For more information:

<http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdinaction>

Google+Hangout on the Rio+20 Anniversary:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-JwQhr4tNQ4>

## Trends and Analysis

### e-Governance as an enabler for Post-2015

*In partnership with the Center for Electronic Governance at UN University IIST (UNU), DESA is organizing a 3-days Expert Group Meeting (EGM) from 3-5 July 2013 in Geneva on Governance, Public Administration and Information & Communication Technologies for Post 2015 Development.*

The objective of the Meeting is to widen the United Nations' thinking on governance as an enabler for Post-2015 development by exploring and identifying issues and challenges facing both governments and citizens in their quest towards sustainable development. The EGM will invite experts in a variety of disciplines to explore state-of-the-art approaches to governance and public administration which, underpinned by effective, transparent, accountable and responsive institutions, can contribute to the integrated governance framework for pursuing sustainable development by the world community. In doing so, the EGM will also focus on how technology-enabled governance can be leveraged by the public sector to add value to the functioning of institutions for the achievement of the Post-2015 Development Agenda.

The Meeting will review governance and public administration paradigms, and assess conceptual and methodological approaches to better understand the key dimensions of governance to support sustainable development during the Post-2015 era. The EGM discussions will pave the way forward for integrating governance and technology-enabled governance in the discussions of the UN Post-2015 Development Agenda, and inform the work of UNDESA on the Post-2015 UN Development Agenda.

For more information:

<http://www.unpan.org/Events/BrowseEventsbyCalendar/tabid/94/mctl/EventDetails/ModuleID/1532/ItemID/2403/language/en-US/Default.aspx?selecteddate=7/3/2013>

### How to measure asset ownership

*A Technical Meeting on Measuring Asset Ownership from a Gender Perspective will take place from 30 July – 2 August in Bangkok, Thailand*

Organized by the Evidence and Data for Gender Equality (EDGE) project, DESA's Statistics Division (UNSD) and UN Women, this meeting will bring together around 30 experts including survey statisticians and gender specialists from selected countries, partner agencies and regional commissions to discuss how to measure asset ownership at the individual level. More precisely, participants will: (a) review and discuss the draft Technical Report on

Collecting Sex-Disaggregated Asset Data presenting the proposed methodology to collect individual-level asset data through a dedicated module attached to a multi-purpose national household survey; (b) share national practices on measuring asset ownership; and (c) discuss the project implementation strategy in selected pilot countries.

For more information:

[http://unstats.un.org/unsd/newsletter/globalstat\\_unsd\\_calendar.htm](http://unstats.un.org/unsd/newsletter/globalstat_unsd_calendar.htm)



## Capacity development

### Enhancing industrial statistics capacity in Asia

*DESA's Statistics Division is organizing an International Workshop on Industrial Statistics in Beijing, China, from 8-10 July, in collaboration with the UN Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and with the National Bureau of Statistics of China.*

This workshop is part of a series of events organized under the project on strengthening statistical capacity development in China and other developing countries in Asia funded by the Chinese Government. The workshop aims to enhance the capacity of National Statistical Offices of Asian countries in the area of industrial statistics. In particular, it will address specific issues in industrial statistics, focusing on the preparation and conduct of industrial surveys, sampling techniques, the list of data items and other guidelines identified in the International Recommendations for Industrial Statistics (IRIS) 2008.

For more information:

<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/industry/meetings/china2013/ac271-2.asp>

### Better dissemination of National Development Indicators

*A Workshop on CountryData, Sharing Best Practice in the Dissemination of National Development Indicators, will take place in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 29 July – 2 August.*

This workshop will promote best practice in dissemination of development indicators, including the MDGs through country practice presentations and demonstration of key tools in dissemination, metadata management, exchange (especially through the SDMX standard), communication and promotion of these indicators. This workshop builds on previous workshops conducted in the region and internationally in the area of national development indicators and incorporates the second in a series of four international workshops planned as part of the UNSD-DFID Project on “Improving the collation, availability and dissemination of national development indicators, including MDGs”.

For more information::

<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/Dissemination/workshops/countrydata2/default.html>

## Publications and Websites

### Technical reports

#### Launch of the Millennium Development Goals Report 2013



At the occasion of the opening of ECOSOC, the Secretary-General will officially launch the Millennium Development Goals Report 2013 in Geneva on 1 July. In addition, launching events are planned in more than 20 cities worldwide on or around 1 July.

With the deadline for the MDGs on the horizon, this year's report examines where the targets have been met and where redoubled efforts are needed urgently to accelerate the progress. It also reveals that our attention needs to focus on disparities across geographical areas and social groups, which often do not surface in the analysis at the global level.

For more information and to download:  
<http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/reports.shtml>

#### Launch of the World Economic and Social Survey 2013

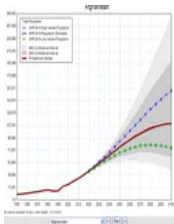


The World Economic and Social Survey 2013 (WESS) will be launched in Geneva on 2 July. Shamshad Akhtar, ASG for Economic Development, and Willem Van Der Geest, Chief of Development Strategy and Policy Analysis Unit in DESA, will launch the report.

The WESS provides objective analysis of pressing long-term social and economic development issues, and discusses the positive and negative impact of corresponding policies.

For more information and to download:  
<http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/policy/wess/index.shtml>

#### World Population Prospects: the 2012 Revision



The report, launched by DESA's Population division in June, notes that the population of developed regions will remain largely unchanged at around 1.3 billion from now until 2050. In contrast, the 49 least developed countries are projected to double in size from around 900 million people in 2013 to 1.8 billion in 2050.

“Although population growth has slowed for the world as a whole, this report reminds us that some developing countries, especially in Africa, are still growing rapidly,” said the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, Wu Hongbo in a press release on the report in June.

For more information: <http://esa.un.org/unpd/wpp/index.htm>

#### Creating Universal Access to Safe, Clean and Affordable Transport



The transformative role of transport in realizing sustainable development is well understood and was acknowledged in The Future We Want, the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) as well as the report of the Secretary General's High Level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015

Development Agenda.

The report outlines key challenges and opportunities on sustainable transport; reviews the implementation of the Voluntary Commitments in their first year; presents a number of additional Voluntary Commitments with a focus on measuring; and defines transport sector's role in the post-2015 development framework.

To download:  
[http://slocat.net/sites/default/files/u10/slocat\\_status\\_report\\_rio\\_20-june\\_19\\_2013.pdf](http://slocat.net/sites/default/files/u10/slocat_status_report_rio_20-june_19_2013.pdf)

## Statistical compilations

#### Monthly Bulletin of Statistics and MBS Online



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

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In addition to the regular recurrent monthly tables, this issue includes the quarterly tables: Earnings in manufacturing, by sex; Total exports and imports by regions: quantum and unit value indices and terms of trade in US dollars.

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

## Outreach material

### Sustainable Development in Action – Issue 6, Volume 1

The latest issue is now available featuring the Third session of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals. Published by DESA's Division for Sustainable Development, the newsletter aims to highlight the work carried out by Member States, the UN, Major Groups and other relevant stakeholders in implementing sustainable development and leading the way to the Future We Want.

Read full issue:

<http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/index.php?menu=1637>

### Enable Newsletter

Prepared by the Secretariat for the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (SCRPD) within DESA's Division for Social Policy and Development, the May issue is available. The newsletter features input from UN offices, agencies, funds and programmes, and civil society.

Read full issue:

<http://www.un.org/disabilities/documents/newsletter/may2013.doc>

### Youth Flash Newsletter

May issue is available featuring an article on the UN Secretary General's Envoy on Youth, Ahmad Alhendawi, hosting the first in a series of Google+ Hangouts. The newsletter is published by DESA's Division for Social Policy and Development Focal Point on Youth to keep the public informed about the work of the UN on youth issues. It is prepared with input from UN offices, agencies, and from youth organizations around the world.

View full issue at:

<http://social.un.org/index/Youth/YouthFlashNewsletter/2013/May.aspx>

## Discussion papers

### Monthly Briefing on the World Economic Situation and Prospects No. 55

Published by DESA's Development Policy and Analysis Division, the June issue states that despite improved global financial conditions and signs of reduced short-term risks, the world economy continues to expand at a subdued pace. After markedly slower growth over the past two years, global economic activity is expected to slowly gain momentum in the second half of 2013, but growth will still remain below potential.

Read full issue:

[http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/policy/wesp/wesp\\_mb/wesp\\_mb55.pdf](http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/policy/wesp/wesp_mb/wesp_mb55.pdf)

## Working papers

### The distributional effects of fiscal austerity

This paper examines the distributional effects of fiscal austerity. Using episodes of fiscal consolidation measures for a sample of 17 OECD countries over the period 1978-2009, we find that fiscal consolidation episodes have typically led to a significant and long-lasting increase in inequality. Tax-based consolidation episodes tend to have a larger and more persistent effect on inequality than spending-based consolidations. The evidence also shows that while fiscal consolidations have typically led to a fall in wage income, they have not had a significant effect on profit and rent income.

To download:

[http://www.un.org/esa/desa/papers/2013/wp129\\_2013.pdf](http://www.un.org/esa/desa/papers/2013/wp129_2013.pdf)

## Websites

### Enhanced DESA Website & e-Brochure



The Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) launched a new website and e-Brochure that extends the current design with interactive multimedia features and accessibility from mobile devices.

The new site comes with an improved navigation structure and better incorporates latest developments on the Internet. Users have access to latest news, publications and events of the Department, and can interact with DESA through video messages and social media.

To browse: <http://www.un.org/desa>

e-Brochure: <http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/e-brochure/>

# Comings and Goings

## Goings



**Thomas Stelzer**, Assistant Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Inter-Agency Affairs and Secretary of the Chief Executives Board (CEB), will leave his post on 30 June to assume his new position as Austrian Ambassador to

Portugal.

Thomas Stelzer joined the United Nations in March of 2008. His first challenge upon assuming his post was the Global Food Crisis, to which the CEB responded by establishing the High Level Task Force on Food Security. Throughout eleven CEB Sessions, Thomas Stelzer supported the Secretary-General in UN system-wide coordination efforts. The Economic and Financial Crisis of 2008, the 2010 MDG Summit, Climate Change, Sustainable Energy, Rio+20 and the post-2015 Development Agenda were among the CEB core issues. In preparing for the High Level Dialogue on Migration and Development, the CEB was able to bring the Global System together on an important emerging issue in identifying, together with the GMG, recommendations and outcomes. Accelerating MDG implementation will be key to the CEB agenda until 2015.

Within DESA, Thomas Stelzer supported two successive USGs on strategic, political and management issues. He coordinated political processes and many DESA contributions to UN system-wide activities. He was the focal point for MDGs and coordinated the Secretary-General's MDG Advocates Group. As Chair of the UN MDG Task Team, he led preparations for the 2010 MDG Summit, an enormous multi-stakeholder success. In addition to supporting the inter-governmental processes, Thomas Stelzer proactively engaged a wide array of stakeholders, working with them on their contributions towards the MDGs and linking them to UN activities. He participated in multitudinous Conferences, many times as key-note speaker, supporting inter-governmental processes, civil society activities, academia, and the UN relations with the private sector. He contributed to many aspects of the sustainable development agenda, like water, food security, sustainable energy, migration, forests, social inclusion and economic opportunities. He represented the Secretary-General in numerous conferences, like the Global Forum on Migration and Development, Global Social Business Summit as well as the yearly Global Summits of Nobel Peace Laureates. He remains passionate about the United Nations and will continue to support the Secretary-General in advocating UN issues, principles, strategies and actions.

## Comings

*The following staff member was promoted in June:*

Grigor Agabekian, Economic Affairs Officer, Development Policy and Analysis Division

# Calendar

## July

### ECOSOC 2013 Substantive Session

1-25 July, Geneva

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

### Launch of the Millennium Development Goals Report 2013

1 July, Geneva

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

### Launch of the World Economic and Social Survey 2013

2 July, Geneva

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

### Expert Group Meeting (EGM) on Governance, Public Administration and Information & Communication Technologies for Post 2015 Development.

3-5 July, Geneva

<http://www.unpan.org/Events/BrowseEventsbyCalendar/tabid/94/mctl/EventDetails/ModuleID/1532/ItemID/2403/language/en-US/Default.aspx?selecteddate=7/3/2013>

### International Workshop on Industrial Statistics

8-10 July Beijing, China

<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/industry/meetings/china2013/ac271-2.asp>

### Sixth session of the Conference of States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

17-19 July, New York

<http://www.un.org/disabilities/default.asp?id=1606>

### Workshop on CountryData, Sharing Best Practice in the Dissemination of National Development Indicators

29 July – 2 August, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/Dissemination/workshops/countrydata2/default.html>

### A Technical Meeting on Measuring Asset Ownership from a Gender Perspective

30 July – 2 August, Bangkok, Thailand

[http://unstats.un.org/unsd/newsletter/globalstat\\_unsd\\_calendar.htm](http://unstats.un.org/unsd/newsletter/globalstat_unsd_calendar.htm)

## August

### International Day of the World's Indigenous People

09 August

<http://www.un.org/en/events/indigenousday/>

### International Youth Day

12 August

<http://www.un.org/en/events/youthday/>

**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.**