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## Feature Articles and Webcast

### Women's suffering in times of conflict

*Empowering women to participate fully in economic life across all sectors and throughout all levels of economic activity is essential to build strong economies and establish more stable and just societies. It also propels countries to achieve their internationally agreed goals for development, sustainability and human rights as well as improve the quality of life for women, men, families and communities.*

The 2010 Annual Ministerial Review (AMR) will try to assess the progress made towards achieving some of these goals which are part of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and other goals and targets agreed at major UN conferences and summits over the past 15 years, which together constitute the United Nations Development Agenda (UNDA).

The AMR will be held during the High-Level Segment of the substantive session of ECOSOC from 28 June to 1 July 2010 at the United Nations Headquarters in New York. The central focus of the review will be on "Implementing the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to gender equality and the empowerment of women". It is expected that the AMR could also contribute to the Beijing+15 global review, assessing the progress made in the Beijing Platform for Action, adopted in 1995.

The AMR session consists of three main elements: A global review of the United Nations development agenda, a thematic review, and a series of national voluntary presentations of both developing and developed countries on their progress in implementing

internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

The current global and national trends and challenges and their impact on gender equality and empowerment of women are going to be at the forefront of the session. The major trends and challenges that have affected economic and social conditions worldwide, especially in developing countries include imbalances and systemic weaknesses in the global economy, food insecurity, climate change, humanitarian crises, armed conflicts, and international development cooperation.



### Women in conflict, post-conflict and post-crises situations

Women tend to suffer disproportionately in time of crisis or hardship, as evidenced during the recent financial and economic crisis and food crisis, as well as from the impacts of climate change. Also, women frequently have fewer and less effective economic and social safety nets. Periods of transition and crisis

provide, however, an opportunity to redefine economic and social policies and related institutions, to advance gender equality and empowerment of women.

Evidence shows that women and girls tend to suffer significantly more during times of conflict and unrest. The use of sexual and gender-based violence as a deliberate tactic of warfare has increased alarmingly in recent years. One trend, which have been observed in some conflicts, is increasingly organized and widespread sexual violence, including rape, sex trafficking, forced marriages, and other human rights abuses.

In times of crisis, all forms of gender-based violence, in particular sexual violence tend to exacerbate and access to health care, education and livelihood can also be severely affected. In addition, for women and girls, the occurrence of sexual violence often continues well after “peace” has been established.

One way to mitigate and address the situation is involving women in decision-making process in conflict, post-conflict and post-crises situations. In many crisis situations, women continue to be excluded from decision-making processes and recent evidence point to an inadequate recognition of and financing for their needs.

Conflicts, natural disasters and other crisis situations have profoundly different impacts on women, girls, boys and men, who also bring different perspectives and solutions to the issue at hand. The participation and inclusion of women in the aftermath of a crisis is not only effective but can also prove to be essential. For overlooking the needs and priorities of women and girls, including in terms of physical security, access to basic services and control of productive assets and income, can have devastating consequences.

However, crises may provide important opportunities for positive transformation of gender roles and women’s political, economic and social empowerment. In post-crisis situations, it is important to build on and expand these opportunities and redress gender inequalities and gender-based discrimination of the past, including through legislative change, policy development, institutional and economic reforms and allocation of resources.

### Ensuring women’s participation

Today there is an increased recognition of the importance of gender equality and empowerment of women to effective crisis response, as well as to sustainable economic growth and development.

The United Nations Security Council urges Member States, UN bodies, donors and civil society to ensure that women’s empowerment is taken into account during post-conflict needs assessments and planning, and factored into subsequent funding disbursements and programme activities, including through

developing transparent analysis and tracking of funds allocated for addressing women’s needs in the post-conflict phase.

The AMR also calls for women’s increased participation in peace processes, the elimination of sexual violence in armed conflict, the protection and promotion of women’s human rights and mainstreaming of gender equality perspectives in the context of armed conflict, peacekeeping, peacebuilding and reconstruction. There are good and promising practices which need to be implemented effectively in post-conflict and crisis situations.

For more information:

<http://www.un.org/en/ecosoc/newfunct/amr2010.shtml>

## Honouring the champions in public service

*The United Nations Millennium Declaration emphasizes the role of democratic and participatory governance in assuring the rights of men and women to “live their lives and raise their children in dignity, free from hunger and from the fear of violence, oppression, or injustice”. It also notes that good governance within each country is a prerequisite to “making development a reality for everyone and to freeing the entire human race from want”.*



With that vow in mind, the United Nations Public Service Awards (UNPSA) continues to recognize excellence in public service. One of the most prestigious international awards, UNPSA rewards the creative achievements and contributions of public service institutions to a more effective and responsive public administration in countries worldwide.

This year, on the occasion of the celebration of the United Nations Public Service Day, the UN Public Service Awards Ceremony and a Forum will take place in Barcelona, Spain from 21 to 23 June 2010 on the theme “The Role of Public Service in

Achieving the Millennium Development Goals: Challenges and Best Practices". The day has also been marked as the United Nations Public Service Day by the General Assembly in order to "celebrate the value and virtue of service to the community". Incidentally, 23 June is also Africa Public Service Day.

The award is given in four categories, namely: improving transparency, accountability and responsiveness in the Public Service; improving the delivery of services; fostering participation in policy-making decisions through innovative mechanisms, and advancing knowledge management in government. Also handed out each year is a Special Award—UNPAN Member Excellence Award on Knowledge Sharing.

### Some of the recipients of 2010

A total of twenty-two recipients from fourteen countries are being awarded this year. One of them is the "Women Friendly City Project" by the Women Policy Division of the Seoul Metropolitan Government in the Republic of Korea who won the first prize in the first category. In 2007, Seoul City launched the "Women Friendly City Project", comprising 90 sub-projects. This initiative was intended to promote "substantial" happiness among women. In the beginning it facilitated special consideration to women in the areas of employment, prosperity, convenience and safety. The areas covered have now been expanded to include roads, transportation, culture, and housing.

The second prize in the same category will go to the "State-Wide Attention on Grievances by Application of Technology", helmed by the Chief Minister's Office of the Government of Gujarat in India. The SWAGAT initiative is a transparent system through which citizens can air their grievances regarding government's provision of public services. It gives citizens direct access to meet the Chief Minister personally to present their case. Administrators are held accountable for responding to both the citizen and Chief Minister. This open and transparent system allows citizens to derive satisfaction from the fairness of the process, even if the decision is not in their favour. Status tracking of applications may also be viewed online and the updated status can be seen at any time.

Another recipient of the award in the category "Improving the delivery of public services" is "Online registry facilitating document access for citizens" by the Centre for Administrative Services of Tunisia. The Unified Civil Status System is a component of Tunisia's public sector management reform programme, which is aimed towards improving the quality and responsiveness of public services. This new system provides a centralized database for the civil status of all Tunisian citizens (birth, marriage, death, etc.) as well as for foreign residents and visitors. The public is assured of the protection of their personal data, in accordance with the laws of the country.

### The goal of the 2010 UNPSA

The scope and breadth of UNPSA is thus, wide-ranging. One of its major highlights is to inspire innovative institutions from around the globe working in the area of governance and public administration to improve the quality of life of citizens.

The event is expected to increase knowledge of public administration strategies and trends, enhance sharing of knowledge and practices, and create greater understanding of the key success factors in promoting an effective, transparent, accountable, participatory and citizen-centric public administration through the discussion of key recommendations and policy options.

In addition, for the first time, the UN Public Service Day and the Awards Ceremony will be held outside of the United Nations headquarters. The Directorate General for Participation of the Government of Catalonia of Spain, winner of the UNPSA in 2008, will co-sponsor and host this major event.

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

### Global economic recovery too slow to spur job growth video

The global economy is slowly rebounding from the worst of the recession but the recovery remains too anaemic to create enough jobs to replace those lost so far, says the updated 2010 World Economic Situation and Prospects, released on 27 May.



Speaking at a Headquarters press conference to present the updated report, Rob Vos, Director of Development Policy and Analysis, said "growth was projected at 3 per cent in 2010 and

3.1 per cent in 2011, if countries continued their fiscal and monetary stimulus activities.”

World gross product started to grow again in the early months of this year after it contracted by 2 per cent last year amid the most severe international recession since World War Two.

**Video:**

<http://webcast.un.org/ramgen/ondemand/pressconference/2010/pc100526am1.rm> (45 minutes)

**Press Conference:**

[http://www.un.org/News/briefings/docs//2010/100526\\_DESA.doc.htm](http://www.un.org/News/briefings/docs//2010/100526_DESA.doc.htm)

**Website:** <http://www.un.org/esa/policy/wess/wesp.html>

# Global Dialogue on Development

## Making development cooperation more coherent

*Second High-level Symposium in preparation of the 2010 Development Cooperation Forum (DCF) will be held from 3-4 June in Helsinki*

Jointly organized by DESA with the Government of Finland, the event is to promote pragmatic solutions to make development cooperation more coherent and to develop key messages for the upcoming 2010 United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) to be held later this month. The theme of this symposium will be “Coherent Development Cooperation: Maximizing Impact in a Changing Environment”.

Against the backdrop of multiple crises, it aims to foster discussions among a wide range of stakeholders on issues that can significantly improve the impact of development cooperation on the internationally agreed development goals, including the MDGs.

Furthermore, the Helsinki High-level Symposium will promote Policy Coherence for Development to ensure synergies between development objectives and other policies. The symposium will discuss the multifaceted challenges in building coherence in the range of policies affecting development. Stakeholders will share experiences on how different policies can have a significant impact, either positive or negative, on development and the MDGs.

The Helsinki High-level Symposium will also highlight the significant role of foundations, civil society and the private sector in development cooperation; discuss the positive impact that national mutual accountability mechanisms can have on effective aid delivery and development partnerships; and promote a more concerted effort in achieving gender-related development goals.

The discussions and key messages of the Helsinki Symposium will be captured in a report to inform the ongoing consultative process and analytical work of the DCF.

For more information:

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

## Civil society and private sector to prepare for MDG Summit

*Informal Interactive Hearings of the General Assembly with Non-governmental organizations, Civil society organizations and the Private sector will be held in New York from 14-15 June*

2010 will be a critical year in determining which development pathways our world will pursue. In 2000, UN Member States agreed to the Millennium Declaration and committed themselves to achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by 2015.

On 20-22 September 2010, the General Assembly will hold, in New York, a High-level Plenary Meeting, also referred to as the "MDG Summit". The Summit's main focus will be to build on what we have learned during the past 10 years since the adoption of the Millennium Declaration and how to accelerate progress towards the internationally agreed development goals, in particular the MDGs. The Summit will take stock of the successes, best practices, lessons learned, obstacles and gaps related to the MDGs and other development goals.

As a part of the process leading to the Summit, the General Assembly will also convene interactive hearings with representatives of NGOs, civil society and the private sector from 14-15 June. The outcomes of these hearings will provide an input to the preparatory process for the Summit and be issued as an Assembly document.

The President of the General Assembly would preside over the informal interactive hearings and encouraged Member States to actively participate in the hearings at the ambassadorial level to facilitate interaction between the Member States and the representatives of non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations and the private sector.

Following an opening plenary meeting, four sequential informal interactive sessions will take place and also include a closing of the hearings. The themes for the hearings will be based on the comprehensive report of the Secretary-General “Keeping the promise”. The four sessions will be held in the General Assembly Hall and devoted to the following themes: (1) Building a better tomorrow: local actions, national strategies and global structures; (2) Equal and inclusive partnerships: Accountability in the fight against poverty; (3) Sustaining development and withstanding crises; (4) From voice to policy: 1660 days left.

Over 700 NGO, civil society and private sector representatives have registered their interest to speak at the Hearings. As a result of the consultations 52 speakers and discussants most of them from developing countries have been selected.

For more information:

<http://esango.un.org/irene/?page=viewContent&nr=7222&type=8&section=8>

## Promoting excellence and innovation in government

*United Nations Public Service Day and Awards Ceremony will be held from 21-23 June in Barcelona*

For the first time this year, the Service Day and Awards Ceremony have been organized in collaboration with a previous award winner: the Directorate General for Participation of the Government of Catalonia of Spain.

Also for the first time this year, it will not be held at the United Nations Headquarters in New York but rather in Barcelona, Spain, as kindly offered by the Government of Spain, which is intended to increase the awareness of the event at the regional level. Indeed, 600 participants are expected to attend this year's Awards Ceremony as compared to 400 last year.

The purpose of the event is to celebrate Public Service Day and to recognize the winners of the 2010 United Nations Public Service Awards (UNPSA), as well as the winners of the 2010 United Nations e-Government Awards through a high-level ceremony. The theme this year will be "The Role of Public Service in Achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs): Challenges and Best Practices."

The Awards Ceremony will be followed by a Ministerial Roundtable on how to promote excellence and innovation in government. Participants will include the Deputy Prime Minister of Spain, the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations, ministers from all regions of the world, senior government officials, mayors, civil society representatives, the academia, and the private sector, as well as representatives of international organizations.

This event will also provide the opportunity for in-depth discussion and analysis of policies and strategies, innovative practices, and tools in four key thematic areas of public administration through substantive parallel capacity development workshops and an expert group meeting.

The workshops will focus on: 1) Promoting Innovation in Public Service Delivery for Achieving the MDGs; 2) Engaging Citizens in Development Management and Public Governance for the Achievement of the MDGs; 3) Advancing e-Government Development and Knowledge Management; and 4) Developing Institutional Capacities of Public Administration for the Achievement of MDGs in Post Conflict and Crisis Situations: Challenges, Best Practices, and Lessons Learned in Preparedness, Prevention, and Reconstruction.

A special meeting on "Sharing Knowledge among Public Service Awards Programmes" will also be organized within the context of this Forum.

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

## Progress and challenges in moving towards the development goals

*The Economic and Social Council's high-level segment unfolds in New York from 28 June to 2 July*

The Council gets into high gear with the second biennial Development Cooperation Forum taking place alongside the Annual Ministerial Review and other significant policy dialogues. At the Annual Ministerial Review, from 28 June to 1 July, thirteen developing and developed countries will report on the progress they have made towards implementing the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to gender equality and the empowerment of women.

Keynote addresses by Michelle Bachelet, former President of Chile (tbc), Recep Tayyip Erdogan, Prime Minister of Turkey, Zoleka Capa, Mayor of the Tambo district of South Africa and Frances Stewart, Chair of the Committee for Development Policy will focus on gender equality and empowerment of women. The related thematic debate's dialogue on 30 June will highlight the role of women in countries in special situations.

The Development Cooperation Forum takes place on 29-30 June with discussions of coherence, accountability, role of various forms of cooperation, impact of multiple crises and achieving the MDGs by 2015. Since the first DCF in 2008, the development landscape has changed significantly with the confluence of multiple crises.

Against this backdrop, the 2010 DCF represents an important opportunity to assess progress and challenges in moving towards the MDGs through global partnerships for development. The 2010 DCF will be structured around the following themes: (i) Promoting greater coherence: how can all policies be geared towards development goals? (ii) Accountable and transparent development cooperation: how can we build more equal partnerships? (iii) The role of various forms of cooperation including South-South and triangular cooperation. (iv) Impact of multiple crises: Allocating resources among competing needs; and (v) Achieving the MDGs by 2015: an agenda for more and improved development cooperation. Some eighty ministers or directors-general responsible for gender and development in developing and developed countries are expected to attend the high-level segment.

In addition to the opening of the segment, Council President, Hamidon Ali, and Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon will also open the DCF. DESA's Under-Secretary-General, Sha Zukang, will introduce the main reports. Representatives of the international financial and trade institutions will gather on 2 July

for a policy-dialogue on the state of the world economy and its implications for the achievement of the MDGs.

The dialogue, which will be moderated by DESA Under-Secretary-General, Mr. Sha Zukang, features Reza Moghadam, Director of the IMF's Strategy, Policy and Review Department, Otaviano Canuto, Vice President of Poverty Reduction and Economic Management Network of the World Bank, Pascal Lamy, Director-General of WTO (tbc) and Supachai Panitchpakdi, Secretary-General of UNCTAD. The high-level segment will conclude on 2 July with the adoption of a Ministerial Declaration.

Preparations for the DCF are well underway, highlighting recent trends in development cooperation and the impact of the current crises, as well as the quantity and quality of various forms of development financing, including aid and other flows. Special attention has been given to improving policy coherence and to building a more inclusive and transparent development.

The outcomes of the multi-stakeholder consultations, notably the High-level Symposium in November 2009 in Vienna, Austria and a High-level Symposium to be hosted by Finland early June will constitute an important input to the Council's deliberations.

For more information:

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

## Trends and Analysis

### Citizens and public service delivery

*Workshop on Engaging Citizens in Development Management and Public Governance for the Achievement of the Millennium Development Goals will be held in Barcelona from 21-23 June*

The workshop will explore policies, strategies, best practices and tools to promote the engagement of citizens in development management and public governance for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The goal of the workshop is to enhance the knowledge and build shared understanding among participants on how citizens can be engaged in different stages of strategy and policy making, and in public service delivery, with a view of promoting efficient and transparent public management and inclusive social and economic development.

The workshop will provide presentations by key experts from different regions of the world followed by open discussions with all participants, as well as group discussions on innovative approaches, methodologies and tools, including the use of ICT-tools, in citizens' engagement. Key findings of the workshop deliberations will be reflected in a set of recommendations.

The workshop will also lead to innovative networking among participants and the participants will contribute to the online knowledge base on public administration and citizens' engagement developed by the DESA's Division for Public Administration and Development Management (DPADM). The workshop is held in connection with the comprehensive three-day United Nations Public Service Day Awards Ceremony and Forum 2010 and co-organized with the host of the event, Government of Catalonia, Spain.

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

### Inclusive and Accessible Society and Development

*Expert Group Meeting on Accessibility will be held at World Bank Headquarters, Washington, DC, from 28-30 June*

The meeting, co-organized by DESA and the World Bank, will bring together experts with experience in various areas of accessibility as related to persons with disabilities, including the built-environment, transportation, facilities and services and information and communications technology. The expert group will have for its review a technical monograph on accessibility and other relevant documents as background documents.

The meeting is expected to review current policies and good practices, as well as existing national and international standards and practices on accessibility. The experts will make a set of recommendations for policies to advance and support the efforts of countries to implement internationally agreed development goals, such as MDGs.

The findings and recommendations of the meeting will provide a basis for the on-going discussion for Governments, development organizations, agencies and all other relevant stakeholders.

For more information:

<http://www.un.org/disabilities/default.asp?navid=14&pid=1516>

### Achieving results in public governance

*9th Session of the Committee of Experts on Public Administration (CEPA) was held from 19-23 April*

The Committee agreed to adopt a multi-year programme, 2011-2013, on the main theme, "Public governance for results to improve the quality of human life" and that each of the three years will have different sub-themes. The sub-themes for CEPA in 2011 will be on: a conceptual framework, public governance for results in post-conflict and post-crisis countries, social protection for vulnerable populations, and performance management in governance.

The report of the Committee included recommendations to the Member States, the Economic and Social Council and the UN Secretariat on key challenges and opportunities for public administration in the context of the financial and economic crisis with particular reference to leadership, transparency, accountability, and social protection for vulnerable groups and people-centred policies.

The report also included recommendations on the 2010 theme of the Annual Ministerial Review of the high-level segment of the Economic and Social Council: implementing agreed goals and commitments in regard to gender equality and the empowerment of women. These recommendations focused, among others, on the continued high relevance of gender equality, the under-representation of women in public administration and the importance of ICT as tool to advance the empowerment of women.

In reviewing the United Nations Programme on Public Administration and Finance, the Committee welcomed the restructuring of DPADM, including the creation of the Public Administration Knowledge Space (PAKS). The report also acknowledged the positive achievements of UNPAN in terms of collaboration and connectivity with different stakeholders.



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

## ICT4MDGs tools

*Consultations on DESA's Global Alliance for ICT and Development (GAID) eMDG Portal at WSIS Forum was held on 12-13 May in Geneva*

The concept and prototypes of the Matrix of ICT Solutions for Advancing the MDGs and of the Computer-aided Strategic Planner were presented to the participants of the WSIS Forum, which is the principal annual gathering of key stakeholders involved in the follow-up to the World Summit on Information Society.

Both sessions were well attended by representatives of governments, United Nations agencies, private sector and civil society and the outcome was both positive and constructive. The overall reaction of the attendees was unequivocally positive. No one questioned the utility and value of the proposed set of ICT4MDGs tools.

Representatives of several developing country governments were very encouraged by a presentation and endorsement from the Minister of ICT of Macedonia who shared his positive experience with the current prototype of the Strategic Planner. Government representatives expressed their urgent interest in testing the Planner and contributing to its further development.

For more information:  
<http://www.itu.int/ibs/WSIS/201005forum/index.html> or  
<http://www.un-gaid.org/>

## Capacity Development

### Implementing national development strategies

*Workshop for enhancing the role of National Economic Social Councils (ESCs) for Inclusive Socio-Economic Policy Development will be held on 1-3 June in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso*

The main objective of this workshop is to strengthen the capacity of ESCs in Africa to support the participatory process in public policy making, implementation and monitoring, in order to enhance design and implementation of National Development Strategies and improve service delivery for the achievement of the MDG.

In this regard, the workshop particularly aims at allowing the exchange of practices and experiences on how ESCs can contribute to National Development Strategies and the achievement of the MDGs, discussing the findings from the ad-hoc Survey and studies on African ESCs and proposing an in-country training plan for subsequent months.

The meeting will also seek to create awareness about the importance of citizens' engagement and knowledge management as cross-cutting elements in National Development Strategies and establish a dialogue among ESCs about strategies and actions to promote further citizens' engagement, particularly to reach the MDGs.

It will also facilitate networking among participants coming from all different ESCs, and UN officials from DESA, to jointly promote further participation of civil society about development policies. The meeting will mobilize the network of ESCs to contribute to DESA's Division for Public Administration and Development Management knowledge base on citizens engagement for development.

For more information:

<http://www.unpan.org/Events/BrowseEventsbyCalendar/tabid/94/mctl/EventDetails/ModuleID/1532/ItemID/1543/language/en-US/Default.aspx?selecteddate=6/1/2010>

### Developing national accounts for Caribbean States

*Seminar on the Implementation of the System of National Accounts 2008 in the CARICOM Region will be held in Kingston, Jamaica from 14 to 16 June*

The System of National Accounts, 2008 (2008 SNA) is an updated version of the System of National Accounts, 1993 (1993 SNA). It is the fifth version of the SNA, the first of which was published over fifty years ago.

The 2008 SNA was prepared under the auspices of the Inter-Secretariat Working Group on National Accounts (ISWGNA), which consists of five organizations: the Statistical Office of the European Commission (Eurostat), the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), DESA's Statistics Division and regional commissions of the United Nations Secretariat and the World Bank. The 2008 SNA is published jointly by these five organizations.

DESA's Statistics Division, in collaboration with the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Secretariat, is organizing this regional seminar to help develop a programme for the implementation of the System of National Accounts 2008 (2008 SNA) for countries in the CARICOM region. The seminar is hosted by the Statistical Institute of Jamaica.

The purpose of the seminar is to initiate the formulation of an implementation programme for the 2008 SNA and supporting economic statistics with the objective of developing comparable economic statistics for member states in the CARICOM region as a whole to monitor the integration of their economies. It is expected that this initiative would lead to a multi-year programme to move the countries over to the 2008 SNA and to establish a minimum common data set of annual and high frequency statistics.

For more information:

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

### Enhancing industrial statistics in Asia

*International Workshop on Industrial Statistics will be held in Dalian, China from 21-23 June*

DESA's Statistics Division, in collaboration with the National Bureau of Statistics of China, will organize this workshop to enhance the capacity of National Statistical Offices of Asian countries in the area of industrial statistics. 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 will address specific issues in industrial statistics, namely, the compilation of the index of industrial production, following the revision of the International Recommendations for

the Index of Industrial Production, the production of statistics on capacity utilization for manufacturing units and the conduct of business condition surveys for manufacturing units.

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

## Supporting older persons in Cameroon

*National Workshop to finalize a National Policy and Plan of Action for Older Persons in Cameroon will take place in Kribi from 28-30 June*

This activity is a follow up to work undertaken under a Development Account project. Following national consultations with stakeholders in all regions of the country, a national consultant, in collaboration with the Ministry for Social Affairs and DESA's Division for Social Policy and Development, produced a draft policy and plan of action.

This workshop will bring together approximately 50 stakeholders, including civil society, central and regional government representatives and UN agencies from around the country to review, suggest changes and endorse the draft to be submitted to Government for approval.

## Tourism statistics in Commonwealth and Independent States

*Developing National Systems of Tourism Statistics: Challenges and Good Practices will be discussed at a workshop for CIS countries in Chisinau, Moldova from 29 June-2 July*

The Workshop is organized by DESA's Statistics Division in collaboration with the UN World Tourism Organization (UNWTO), the Interstate Statistical Committee of the CIS (CISSTAT) and National Bureau of Statistics of the Republic of Moldova and hosted by the National Bureau of Statistics of the Republic of Moldova.

The objective of the workshop is to assist countries in strengthening their statistical capacity in the area of tourism statistics by training them in the International Recommendations for Tourism Statistics 2008 adopted by the United Nations Statistical Commission at its 39th session in February 2008 as well as by providing advice on practical issues of the implementation.

The training will focus on both the conceptual issues and good practices in organizing and improving the national programmes of tourism statistics under various country specific circumstances. The workshop aims also to promote and facilitate the inter-agency

cooperation to ensure that tourism statistics is compiled in an integrated and efficient way and the disseminated data serve the needs of national tourism agencies, national statistical offices and central banks in the best possible way.

For more information:

<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/tradeserv/cooperation.htm>

## Reviewing recommendations of MDG data

*Workshop on MDG Monitoring will be held in Tashkent, Uzbekistan from 29 June-2 July*

The Workshop, which is organized by DESA's Statistics Division in collaboration with the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), will bring together representatives from national statistical offices and line ministries to review recommendations for reporting of MDG data and to establish strategies for dealing with data discrepancies and data gaps at the national and international level, particularly for health related MDG indicators.

In addition, the workshop will provide participants with skills needed to improve the production and dissemination of MDG indicators.

## Strengthening e-government programmes

*Missions and meetings with Brunei, Portugal, Albania, Tunisia to support the 2010 United Nations e-Government Survey*

### Mission to Brunei on e-Government

At the International Conference on e-Government and Administration Simplification in Brunei Darussalam, 11-13 May, the results of the 2010 UN e-Government Survey attracted significant international interest. The impact of the Survey was evident as many of the participants referenced either the 2008 or the 2010 UN e-Government Survey. In particular, reference was made to the stages of e-government preparedness and the criteria used for the Survey. A number of countries also indicated that they use the Survey as a benchmarking tool as part of their e-government development programme.

The host country, Brunei Darussalam, noted with satisfaction that they jumped 19 places since the 2008 Survey and expressed an interest in sending a delegation to New York to meet with the Haiyan Qian and representatives of the e-Government Branch, Division for Public Administration & Development

Management (DPADM), to learn more about the UN e-Government Survey.

Haiyan Qian was invited to give a presentation and to chair a panel at the conference by the OECD/Korea Policy Centre. She was also interviewed on the results of the 2010 UN e-Government Survey and invited by the Government of Brunei Darussalam to visit their centre on e-government.

### **Meeting with a Delegation of Portugal**

In response to the results published in the UN e-Government Survey 2010, the Mission of Portugal requested a meeting to discuss the criteria used in the Survey to assess e-government preparedness. The delegation, consisting of Counsellor Manuel Silva Pereira of the Permanent Mission and Mr. Luis Goes Pinheiro, Chief of Staff of the State Office for Administrative Modernization in Lisbon, also took the opportunity to share the latest developments in the field of e-government in Portugal.

Some of these developments will be featured in DPADM's knowledge base (PAKS - Public Administration Knowledge Space) and publications such as the Compendium on e-Government Innovative Practices. Noteworthy examples shared by Portugal include the recent law enacted by the Portuguese Government to promote inter-agency connectivity, the development of citizen-centric online services such as the citizen card, the e-little school for children, the e-procurement system, and toolkits to support public administration and e-government in post-conflict countries in lusophone Africa and in East Timor. Overall, it was a mutually beneficial meeting, in which the technical products of DPADM were positively highlighted by a Member State.

### **Advisory mission to Albania**

The Government of Albania's e-government strategy and implementation of the e-government programme was the subject of a mission to Albania. Discussions focused on how DESA could provide support towards strengthening Albania's e-government capacity in key ministries and institutions.

DESA, through DPADM, presented a half-day workshop on the methodology of the UN e-Government Survey, the ranking as it pertains to Albania and the identification of strengths and challenges that exist in Albania, as well as DESA tools that could be used to provide support to the Government of Albania.

This led to enhanced awareness on the part of public officials about e-government issues to be tackled in a comprehensive manner and increased level of commitment for IT managers to become more e-government savvy and to create opportunities to increase citizen engagement through the use of blogs. Each IT Manager committed to developing his/her own blog.

In addition, a meeting with UNDP-Albania led to an agreement in principle to work together more closely in providing support to Albania. DESA was requested to develop a proposal to see how its expertise on e-government and public sector management could be used in the next Country Programme for Albania.

### **Advisory mission to Tunisia**

The strengths and challenges of Tunisia in developing a way forward towards strengthening its e-government programme were the subject of a mission to Tunisia. This mission was undertaken within the framework of the UNDP project to support the Office of the Prime Minister.

As for the advisory mission to Albania, a half-day workshop was presented on the methodology of the UN e-Government Survey, the ranking as it pertains to Tunisia and the identification of strengths and challenges that exist in Tunisia, as well as DESA tools that could be used to provide support to the Government of Tunisia, with similar outcomes.

The mission also finalized the terms of reference of the UNDP project, for which DESA is the implementing agency, of both the international and national consultants that would be recruited to support local governance and enhance e-content and accessibility as highlighted in the project document.

During the mission, the UN e-government methodology was presented to the UNDP-Tunisia country team, which led to some fruitful discussions between UNDP and UNDESA, and strengthened the foundation of cooperation between the two organizations.

For more information:

[http://www2.unpan.org/egovkb/global\\_reports/10report.htm](http://www2.unpan.org/egovkb/global_reports/10report.htm)

## Publications and Websites

### Technical reports



#### Mid-year update to the World Economic Situation and Prospects 2010

The world economy continued to improve in the first half of 2010, leading to a slight upward revision in the United Nations outlook for global growth. The pace of the recovery is too weak, however, to close the global output gap left by the crisis. The recovery is also uneven across countries. While growth prospects for some developing countries are encouraging, economic activity is lacklustre in developed economies and below potential elsewhere in the developing world.

For more information:

<http://www.un.org/esa/policy/wesp/wesp.html>

Download:

<http://www.un.org/esa/policy/wesp/wesp2010files/wesp10update.pdf>

Webcast:

<http://webcast.un.org/ramgen/ondemand/pressconference/2010/pc100526am1.rm>

#### Child Adoption: Trends and Policies

This is the first study of DESA's Population Division that provides a solid foundation for furthering research on child adoption and, more specifically, on the demographic factors that shape the demand for and availability of adoptable children. The focus of this report is on the nexus between adoption policies and trend at the national and global levels. Understanding adoption policies and their origins is all the more important today because, as adoption has become global, inconsistencies among the legal principals and traditions regarding adoption in different countries are increasingly coming to the fore.

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

## 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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Quarterly features in this issue:

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

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

#### 2006 Industrial Commodity Statistics Yearbook Volumes I and II

This Yearbook provides statistics on the production of about 600 major industrial commodities. Data are provided for a ten-year period and for approximately 200 countries and territories. The commodities have been selected on the basis of their importance in world production and trade.

This edition of the Yearbook is the second one to provide data on the value of industrial production, in addition to quantities of industrial production that have been the scope of previous editions of the Yearbook. The Yearbook is therefore organized in two volumes: Volume I: Physical Quantity Data and Volume II: Monetary Value Data.

The publication contains three annexes to assist the user: an index of commodities in alphabetical order; a table of correspondence among the CPC-based commodity codes and the International Standard Industrial Classification (ISIC), Rev. 3.1, the Harmonized System (HS) 2002 and Prodcom 2002; and a list of Prodcom codes and definitions that are referenced in footnotes used in this publication.

For more information:

<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/pubs/gesgrid.asp?id=418>

To order: <https://unp.un.org/Details.aspx?pid=19188>

## Discussion papers

### Monthly Briefing on the World Economic Situation and Prospects

The May issue states that economic recovery continues albeit unevenly. While growth is rapid in many emerging economies, it remains fragile in most advanced economies. Euro zone countries and the IMF agreed on a three-year programme worth \$146 billion to support Greece amidst drastic fiscal austerity measures and risks of contagion to other European economies. An additional stabilization scheme worth \$930 billion was subsequently made available for the euro zone.

For more information:

[http://www.un.org/esa/policy/publications/dpad\\_wespmbn.html](http://www.un.org/esa/policy/publications/dpad_wespmbn.html)

## Databases

### Population, Resources, Environment and Development database

The Population, Resources, Environment and Development database (PRED 2009) is available on CD-ROM. The PRED database contains data series dealing with various aspects of population, labour force, education, economic and social development, land, water and energy use. It also provides the texts of selected international treaties and conventions related to major environment and development issues.

The 120 variables in the CD-ROM include regional, sub-regional and national data over time for 230 countries and regions. The population data are those produced by the United Nations Population Division. Other data were provided by various United Nations agencies and programmes as well as other research centres and non-governmental organisations.

To browse:

<http://www.un.org/esa/population/publications/PRED2009/pred2009.htm>

# Comings and Goings

## Comings

*The following staff members were promoted in May:*

Flor Bonilla, Programme Assistant, Division for Sustainable Development

Sarangerel Erdembileg, Senior Social Affairs Officer, Division for Social Policy and Development

Leah Lagunda, Human Resources Assistant, Executive Office

Rosemary Lane, Senior Social Affairs Officer, Division for Social Policy and Development

Hung-Yi Li, Economic Affairs Officer, Development Policy and Analysis Division

Oliver Paddison, Economic Affairs Officer, Development Policy and Analysis Division

Carolin, Schleker, Social Affairs Officer, Division for the Advancement of Women

## Goings

*The following staff member retired May:*

Vladimir Servianov, Economic Affairs Officer, Division for Sustainable Development

*The following staff member will be reassigned in June:*

Maria Isabel Cobos-Fernandez, Associate Statistician, Statistics Division to Associate Population Affairs Officer, Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean.

# Calendar

## June

Enhancing the role of National ESCs for Inclusive Socio-economic Policy Development  
Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, 1-3 June  
<http://www.unpan.org/Events/BrowseEventsbyCalendar/tabid/94/mctl/EventDetails/ModuleID/1532/ItemID/1543/language/en-US/Default.aspx?selecteddate=6/1/2010>

Second High-level Symposium in preparation of the 2010 Development Cooperation Forum (DCF)  
3-4 June, Helsinki  
<http://www.un.org/en/ecosoc/newfunct/dcfhelsinki10.shtml>

Informal Interactive Hearings of the General Assembly with Non-governmental organizations, Civil society organizations and the Private sector  
New York, 14-15 June  
<http://esango.un.org/irene/?page=viewContent&nr=7222&type=8&section=8>

Seminar on the Implementation of the System of National Accounts 2008 in the CARICOM Region

Kingston, Jamaica, 14-16 June  
<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/nationalaccount/sna2008.asp>

United Nations Public Service Day and Awards Ceremony  
Barcelona, 21-23 June  
<http://www.unpan.org/2010unpsa>

International Workshop on Industrial Statistics  
Dalian, China 21-23 June  
<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/industry/meetings>

Workshop on Engaging Citizens in Development Management and Public Governance for the Achievement of the Millennium Development Goals  
Barcelona, 21-23 June  
<http://www.unpan.org/ce>

Substantive Session of the Economic and Social Council  
New York, 28 June - 22 July  
<http://www.un.org/en/ecosoc/julyhls/index10.shtml>

National Workshop to finalize a National Policy and Plan of Action for Older Persons  
Kribi, Cameroon, 28-30 June

**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.**

