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Uniting for youth beyond 2015

“You have the energy to transform the world,” said the Secretary-General’s Envoy on Youth Ahmad Alhendawi, encouraging youth worldwide to partner with the United Nations as the global community embarks on the road to sustainable development beyond 2015. The UN is working in many different ways to ensure that the voices of youth are heard. As part of these efforts, ECOSOC is hosting its Youth Forum on 2-3 June.



Watch the video on YouTube: <http://bit.ly/1knOos>

There are 1.2 billion young people in the world today. It is the largest generation of youth ever seen and the United Nations has made it one of the organization’s top priorities to partner with and for them. “The post-2015 development agenda is about building a better future. The future means youth. [...] We need the participation, perspectives and passion of young people. Today’s youth are at the leading edge of innovative ways to amplify voices and share ideas,” said Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon as he addressed a high-level event of the UN General Assembly recently.

For the third consecutive year, the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) is bringing together large crowds at UN Headquarters. Some 600 youth representatives from Member States, National Youth Councils, regional youth organizations and the United Nations Major Group for Children and Youth are expected to attend the Youth Forum, which is hosted together with the UN Youth Envoy Ahmad Alhendawi.

Engaging with and for young people

There is an impressive line-up for the two-day event arranged under the theme *#Youth2015: Realizing the Future They Want*. It will kick off with a performance by Lisa Russell, Spoken Word Artist. The ECOSOC President Martin Sajdik will then take the floor along with the President of the UN General Assembly John W. Ashe, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and Brittany Trilford, Activist and Youth advisor at CIVICUS Alliance, who will deliver a keynote address. A number of other high-level youth representatives will also address the forum.

Ahmad Alhendawi will set the stage for the event, which will feature working sessions on themes including “Promoting Youth Employment – Creating Decent Jobs for a More Sustainable

Future”; “Reports from global and regional Youth Fora”; “Advancing progress in Africa beyond 2015: A Youth Perspective”; and “Youth: The Future They Want Beyond 2015”. Youth representatives will have the opportunity to listen to and engage in interactive discussions on these topics. The event will be broadcast live via UN Web TV and participants will be able to share questions via social media through Facebook and Twitter, using the hashtags #Youth2015 and #UN4Youth.

Addressing youth employment and progress in Africa

Youth make up 25 per cent of the global working age population, but account for 43.7 per cent of the unemployed and they continue to be particularly affected by the weak and uneven recovery of the world economy. In 2013, almost 202 million people were unemployed, of which some 74.5 million were between the ages of 15 and 24. According to the International Labour Organization, the youth-to-adult unemployment ratio has reached a historical peak, especially in the Middle East and North Africa, as well as in parts of Latin America, the Caribbean and in Southern Europe.

Attacking global poverty requires policy-makers to put youth employment at the centre of the post-2015 development agenda. During the first part of the forum, a moderated conversation will address challenges, good policies, strategies, partnerships and programmes for creating decent jobs for young people, including in dynamic sectors such as jobs that promote sustainable development and new information and communication technologies.

The vital importance of addressing youth employment was also expressed by UN DESA’s Under-Secretary-General Wu Hongbo at last year’s forum. “We need to take a serious look at how our education and employment sectors can work better together. We need to create more opportunities for young people to develop the skills needed for the labour market, through apprenticeship and on-the-job learning opportunities. We must nurture young people’s creativity and innovation,” Mr. Wu said.

Another part of the programme will address progress in Africa. While many African countries are off-track to achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), an outstanding and sustained effort across the continent has resulted in significant progress towards the MDGs since 2000. At the same time, the continent has witnessed new and recurring conflict during this period, which threatens development gains, the stability of the region and impacts youth disproportionately.

The forum aims to generate ideas and solutions to empower young people to promote a renewed commitment to ending violence in the region, and to shaping a comprehensive post-2015 development agenda that addresses the income, gender and rural-urban inequalities that persist in Africa.

The future youth want

More than 1.2 million young people have voted in the My World 2015 survey, conveying the priorities and concerns most important for them as the international community moves forward and beyond the 2015 MDGs target date. As part of the efforts of the Global Partnership for Youth in the Post-2015 Development Agenda, launched by the President of the General Assembly and the UN Envoy on Youth, youth have also participated in the crowdsourcing platform aiming to consolidate the outcomes of national, regional, global and online consultations into concrete proposals for the post-2015 development framework.

“Despite significant progress made since the Millennium Development Goals were adopted, the current generation of youth – the largest the world has ever seen – has been left behind. They are still denied the opportunities they need to realize their full potential,” stressed Ahmad Alhendawi, as the results were completed ahead of the ECOSOC Youth Forum.

Results, based on the specific priorities that youth have suggested through the crowdsourcing platform within the areas of education; employment and entrepreneurship; health; good governance; peace and stability, have now been consolidated into concrete youth-focused target areas, reflected in the [Global call on youth in the post-2015 development agenda](#). These will also be discussed during the final part of the forum, which will seek to identify the next steps and the key elements of an advocacy strategy or “road map” to the 2015 Development Summit and how youth can partner with the UN system, civil society and the private sector to ensure its implementation.

“We must listen to young people. We must involve young people. From employment challenges to creating a sustainable future, it is crucial that young people’s voices are heard,” concluded Mr. Wu as he addressed the youth representatives that had gathered at last year’s forum.

For more information:

[ECOSOC Youth Forum](#)

[UN Youth Envoy Ahmad Alhendawi](#)

[The Focal Point on Youth in UN DESA’s Division for Social Policy and Development](#)

[UN Web TV](#)

Celebrating public service excellence

Efficient public administration plays a vital role in advancing development worldwide. Putting a spotlight on public service excellence across the globe, the United Nations Public Service Forum, Day and Awards Ceremony, a global capacity-building gathering on public governance, will take place on 23- 26 June in Seoul, Republic of Korea.



“The United Nations has long recognized the importance of good governance and efficient public administration. Current global consultations on the post-2015 agenda have further underscored their centrality to all development objectives, said UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon in his message as the UN Public Service Day was celebrated last year, highlighting how the day “encourages countries to celebrate the contribution of public servants to society’s progress.”

The United Nations General Assembly designated 23 June as the United Nations Public Service Day and reiterated that particular emphasis should be given to the exchange of experiences related to the role of public administration in the implementation of internationally agreed goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration.

Promoting innovative governance for sustainable development

Kicking off this year on the UN Public Service Day, the event will be held under the theme “Innovating Governance for Sustainable Development and Well-being of the People.” It is organized by UN DESA’s Division for Public Administration and Development Management (DPADM) in collaboration with the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women) and the hosting Government of the Republic of Korea.

Over 1000 participants are expected to attend the Forum, including high-level United Nations officials and representatives of the Republic of Korea, as well as world leaders, ministers, senior government officials, mayors, civil society representatives, the academia, the private sector, and representatives from international and regional organizations.

Driver of development beyond 2015

The kind of innovative improvement in governance that will drive the last efforts to achieve the MDGs, pursue the post-2015 development agenda and achieve sustainable development, entails not only the design and implementation of innovative practices in public governance, but also a transformation of government’s role, functions, institutional frameworks and processes as well as human resource capacities and competences.

Experience has shown that governments that made progress in promoting transparency and accountability, and in providing equitable and effective service delivery have developed innovative ideas and practices, making use, whenever possible, of information and communication technology, and strategic partnerships.

Honoring Public Service Award winners

The UN Public Service Awards (UNPSA) will honour public institutions that have distinguished themselves in the following categories: Improving the Delivery of Public Services; Fostering Participation in Policy-making Decisions through Innovative Mechanisms; Promoting Whole-of-Government Approaches in the Information Age and Promoting Gender-Responsive Delivery of Public Services. The award highlights cutting edge innovations and recognizes that democracy and successful governance are built on a competent civil service.

On the last day of the event on 26 June, the Awards Ceremony will be held, honoring 19 award winners from 14 countries. The winning projects which will receive the award include Sustainable Work in the Water Sector and Sanitation in Cameroon, Data Intermediation Platform of Spain, Mobile Seva of India, Transparency and Citizen’s Access to Information in Brazil, Children Working in Ankara Streets Project in Turkey, The National Contact Centre of Bahrain and Gender Responsive Budgeting in Morocco.

Since its inception in 2003, the UNPSA has been a valuable vehicle for facilitating the collection and adaptation of innovative practices in public governance. It instils a culture of innovation and exemplary public service through rewarding public institutions for their pursuit for excellence and creativity, recognizing that innovating and improving governance is a critical enabler for sustainable development. Adaptation and replication of innovations provides concrete solutions to governance challenges and can save governments significant

resources and time. Nominations for the awards are open to public organizations of all kinds, including governments and public-private partnerships, in delivering public services.

For more information: [United Nations Public Service Forum, Day and Awards Ceremony](#)

A home for the SDGs and the post-2015 development agenda

“The high-level political forum on sustainable development will be the home for the SDGs and the Post-2015 development agenda. It is the place where the international community comes together to address and coordinate the entirety of sustainable development issues,” said Nikhil Seth, Director of UN DESA’s Division for Sustainable Development, ahead of the Forum’s second meeting on 30 June-9 July, which will be the first meeting under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council.



The theme of the Forum’s second meeting will be ‘Achieving the Millennium Development Goals and charting the way for an ambitious post-2015 development agenda including the Sustainable Development Goals’. The high-level political forum (HLPF) is the main United Nations platform providing political leadership and guidance on sustainable development. It was created at the Rio+20 Conference held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in 2012.

It is convened every four years at the level of Heads of State and Government under the auspices of the General Assembly and chaired by the President of the General Assembly, and every year under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) for eight days, including a three-day ministerial segment and chaired by the President of ECOSOC. It is a new kind of hybrid platform with its own distinct identity and 197 Member States.

Social, economic and environmental dimensions under one roof

An important role of the Forum will be to integrate the three dimensions of sustainable development. At the inaugural meeting of the Forum last year, General Assembly President John Ashe highlighted this point: “One distinct benefit of the new forum is that it is designed to attract participation from representatives of all three dimensions of sustainable development, rather than chiefly from members of the environmental community. This is critical to ensuring that sustainability is a central modality to development and that it is mainstreamed into policy, planning and living,” he said.

The Forum is also to follow up and review progress in implementing sustainable development commitments and address new and emerging sustainable development challenges. Earlier this year, ECOSOC President Martin Sajdik said that “a transformative agenda for development will only make a difference if effectively implemented. This will be the role and function of the high-level political forum.”

The preliminary programme of the HLPF envisions that during the second meeting of the Forum, 21 dialogues and a host of other events and presentations will take place along the following four tracks: From Rio+20 to post-2015; Regional dimension and countries in special situations; Shaping the forum beyond 2015; Science policy interface.

Host to a virtual Pacific-Caribbean town hall meeting

One of the moderated dialogues dealing with countries in special situations is expected to focus on small island developing States (SIDS). Entitled “Island voices, global choices: promoting genuine and durable partnerships”, the dialogue will explore how to best build the resilience of SIDS and meet their unique challenges in the post-2015 development agenda, how to encourage genuine and durable partnerships for sustainable development in SIDS, and how to ensure effective implementation of the outcome document of the Third International Conference on SIDS taking place in Apia, Samoa, from 1 – 4 September. The dialogue may include a video link to a Town Hall meeting in Samoa and Barbados.

Doors wide open for Major Groups and other Stakeholders

The HLPF is the most inclusive and participatory process of its kind, bringing all States Members of the United Nations and States members of specialized agencies together. Through the major groups and other stakeholders format it provides participation opportunities for non-central state actors like no other UN process does. Major groups, civil society and other stakeholders will have various opportunities to contribute to the discussions at the HLPF, including morning sessions with the ECOSOC President and participation as panellists and lead discussants in a number of dialogues.

Anyone interested in sharing their views, messages or questions with participants at the high-level political forum can do so by tweeting or posting on Facebook using #HLPF. Selected messages and questions will be shared with participants at the Forum. More information about this can be found on the [Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform \(SDKP\)](#).

Sustainable development science as foundation

The Rio+20 Conference highlighted the importance of basing sustainable development policies on solid science including through a Global Sustainable Development Report (GSDR), which is to bring together existing assessments and to strengthen the science-policy interface at the HLPF.

In response to the Rio+20 mandate, a “prototype” report has been produced. It illustrates a range of potential content, alternative approaches and various ways of participation in respect to such a report. The prototype Global Sustainable Development Report will be presented by Under-Secretary-General Wu Hongbo at the Forum.

For more information:

[High-level Political Forum](#)

[Global Sustainable Development Report](#)

Global Dialogue on Development

Securing a disability-inclusive development agenda



The seventh session of the Conference of States Parties (COSP) will take place from 10 to 12 June at UN Headquarters in New York.

Government delegates, experts, disability advocates and practitioners, representatives of civil society organizations, including organizations of persons with disabilities from around the world, will come together to discuss challenges faced and progress made in efforts to implement the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and to advance the global disability agenda.

Since the landmark Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) was unanimously adopted by the General Assembly in 2006, its global support by Governments has been growing, amounting to 145 ratifications and 158 signatories to-date. The Convention entered into force in 2008, which called for the convening of the Conference of States Parties (COSP), in accordance with its Article 40.

This year, the seventh session of the Conference will take place at UN Headquarters and it will be opened by UN DESA's Under-Secretary-General Wu Hongbo, on behalf of Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon. The session will include the election of nine members of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and feature two roundtable discussions and one informal discussion to cover issues relating to incorporating the provisions of the CRPD in the post-2015 development agenda, national implementation and monitoring, and youth with disabilities. An interactive dialogue between States Parties and the UN system on the implementation of the CRPD will take place on the last afternoon of the Conference.

In conjunction with the COSP, UN DESA will support side-events, organized by Governments, the UN system, and civil society organizations, particularly organizations of persons with disabilities. Additionally, on 11 and 13 June, the "DESA Forum on Disability and Development" will discuss issues related to disability-inclusive disaster risk reduction and resilience, and financial inclusion for inclusive and sustainable development from a disability perspective. These meetings aim to contribute to the

ongoing discourse on sustainable development goals and the post-2015 development agenda.

The broad support for the Convention by the international community in terms of ratifications and signatories has yet to be realized in the full inclusion of disability in development efforts and the well-being of persons with disabilities, worldwide. Since the last session of the COSP, the General Assembly convened the High-level meeting on disability and development (HLMDD) at the level of Heads of States on 23 September 2013, to address this gap. At the HLMDD, the General Assembly negotiated and adopted an outcome document calling for actions to further promote a disability-inclusive development agenda.

Increasingly, people around the world ask questions on how the post-2015 development framework could be made more sustainable, equitable and truly inclusive of persons with disabilities? With this backdrop, this year's Conference of State Parties will primarily focus on the implementation of the Convention for a disability-inclusive development agenda, especially in the post-2015 development agenda, for which ongoing processes are taking place at UN Headquarters.

Indeed, we find ourselves at a critical junction. It is imperative to make every effort to include the one billion persons with disabilities in internationally agreed development goals, as for without the inclusion of 15 per cent of the world's population, it would be impossible to achieve any internationally agreed development goal.

For more information: [United Nations ENABLE](#)

Focus area on 'promoting equality' to be added to OWG's working document

As the eleventh session of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals concluded on 9 May, the Group's co-chairs welcomed its outcome, with many concrete suggestions on targets made by delegations. The next session will be held in New York on 16-20 June.



In their closing remarks at the eleventh session of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals on 9 May, the Group's co-chairs, Ambassador Csaba Kőrösi, Permanent Representative of Hungary, and Ambassador Macharia Kamau, Permanent Representative of Kenya, welcomed the outcome of

the week's deliberations, referring to the very many concrete suggestions on targets made by delegations. The next session of the Open Working Group will be held in New York on 16-20 June.

Ambassador Kamau highlighted four areas in which the co-chairs see a particular need for more work, namely equality, climate change, means of implementation, and 'peaceful and inclusive societies, rule of law and capable institutions.'

He said that, responding to calls from many delegations, the new iteration of the working document would contain an additional goal on promoting equality, bringing the number of focus areas to 17. This new iteration will be issued by the co-chairs shortly. The Ambassador also said that the co-chairs are "very emphatic that it would not be a good idea to end up with too many focus areas," and encouraged members of the Group to keep thinking of how to cluster some of them better.

The session ended on a high note, with delegations greeting the co-chairs' proposal on the way forward with acclaim. At the next session, the co-chairs intend to proceed by obtaining agreement on targets one by one. Informal-informals will be held from 9 to 11 June, in the week before the 12th session of the Open Working Group, with the aim of removing potential stumbling blocks to progress. A draft chapeau has been produced and is available on the Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform.

As in previous sessions, the Open Working Group continued holding morning meetings with Major Groups and other stakeholders. The Group's twelfth session will take place from 16 to 20th June.

For more information:

[Eleventh session of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals](#)

[Twelfth session of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals](#)

Making final preparations for UN Conference on Small Island Developing States



The final meeting of the Preparatory Committee (PrepCom) for the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States (SIDS) will be held from 23 to 27 June at UN Headquarters in New York.

UN Member States will conclude the preparatory work for the Conference, which will take place from 1 to 4 September 2014 in Apia, Samoa. They will also aim to finalize the outcome document by the end of the PrepCom. UN Agencies and Major Groups and other Stakeholders will have the opportunity to provide inputs.

A number of side events will take place during the PrepCom. On 23 June, the Office of the Under-Secretary-General, UN DESA, and the Permanent Mission of Samoa will organize a joint outreach event for the SIDS Conference, and the International Organization of La Francophonie is hosting an event entitled Initiative de partenariat sur le Tourisme Durable adapté au contexte et aux besoins des PEID, which will look into Sustainable Tourism in SIDS.

On the same day, an event on private sector partnerships in support of SIDS' sustainable development will be organized by UN-OHRLLS. It will showcase the Private Sector Partnerships Forum that will be held at the SIDS Conference. On 25 June, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Mauritius Ministry for Environment will hold an event on 'SIDS for Sustainable Consumption and Production: re-thinking food and tourism'.

UN Women will organize an event on promoting gender equality as a prerequisite for addressing climate change and sustainable development and IRENA will host an event entitled 'SIDS-Lighthouses for a transition to a sustainable energy future'. On 26 June, an event looking at the three top recommendations for the post-2015 agenda from the SIDS perspective will be organized by the UN Development Programme (UNDP), on behalf of the UN Development Group (UNDG).

Plans are ongoing for a photo exhibition during the PrepCom, which will feature photos from the 'Islands 2014 photo call'. The call is part of the celebrations for the International Year of Small Island Developing States, and asks for images that

showcase the beauty and richness of small island developing States to be sent by 6 June. Photos can be entered under three categories: culture, environment and development. A series of lunchtime lectures on topics related to the International Year of SIDS is also being planned.

For more information:

[Preparatory Committee \(PrepCom\) for the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States \(SIDS\)](#)

[Islands 2014 photo call](#)

Trends and Analysis

Mobilizing resources for development through cooperation on taxes



On 5 June 2014, the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) will hold a special meeting to consider international cooperation in tax matters including, as appropriate, its contribution to mobilizing domestic financial resources for

development and the institutional arrangements to promote such cooperation.

Participants will include representatives from national tax authorities and major international organizations active in the tax area, such as the IMF, World Bank, OECD, the Inter-American Centre of Tax Administrations (CIAT) and the African Tax Administration Forum (ATAF).

Following a short opening plenary featuring presentation by the Chair of the UN Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters on the outcome of the 9th session of the Committee (Geneva, 21-25 October 2013), the meeting will include three panel discussions on: (1) Current issues on the agenda of international organizations; (2) Current issues in domestic resource mobilization for development: Base erosion and profit shifting (BEPS); and (3) Extractive industries taxation issues for developing countries.

Preceding the ECOSOC meeting, FfDO is organizing, in cooperation with the OECD Center for Tax Policy and Administration (CTPA) a workshop on “Tax Base Protection for Developing Countries” with the participation of representatives of developing countries.

This meeting is part of a project, undertaken by FfDO, which focuses on strengthening the capacity of developing countries to increase their potential for domestic revenue mobilization through protecting and broadening their tax base. The work will be focused on selected set of topics of particular relevance to developing countries, at the relevant stage of their capacity development, with a view to outlining a range of practical and feasible solutions, which could be implemented by these countries, resulting in increased tax revenues. The final outcome of the project will be a

UN handbook, comprising a collection of papers developed in a novel demand-driven manner taking into account inputs from developing countries.

This workshop will provide a broad overview and update on the UN and OECD work in this area and then focus on the following topics: (1) Preventing tax treaty abuse; (2) Taxation of services (including taxation of fees for technical services); (3) Protecting the tax base in the digital economy; and (4) Tax incentives and tax base protection issues.

For more information:

[ECOSOC Special Meeting on International Cooperation in Tax Matters](#)

[Workshop on Tax Base Protection for Developing Countries](#)

Facebook chat on mid-year WESP 2014 update

A Facebook chat will be held on 12 June from 10 am to 11 am EDT, to discuss the latest updates on global



growth and the risks and uncertainties facing the world economy identified in the recently released the mid-year update of the World Economic Situation and Prospects 2014.

Economists from the Global Economic Monitoring Unit of UN DESA’s Division for Development Policy and Analysis will be on hand to answer questions about their latest report, the World Economic Situation and Prospects as of mid-2014 launched on 21 May. The global growth trajectory was modified to 2.8 per cent in 2014 and 3.2 per cent in 2015, slightly lower than previously forecast in the World Economic Situation and Prospects 2014 released in January.

The recovery in the developed economies will continue, but the growth prospects for the developing economies and the economies in transition have been revised downward, largely because of challenging economic and/or political conditions in a number of countries in these two latter groups.

You can post your questions at <http://bit.ly/AskWESP2014> or on Twitter [@UNDevelopPolicy](#) using the hashtag #AskWESP2014

For more information: [World Economic Situation and Prospects as of mid-2014](#)

Enabling youth civic engagement



UN DESA's Division for Social Policy and Development and the United

Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), will organize an Expert Group Meeting on the theme "Youth Civic

Engagement: Enabling Youth Participation in Political, Social and Economic Life" at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris on 16-17 June.

Civic engagement is increasingly recognized as an important component of youth development because it can help build human and social capital. The practice of civic engagement has an important impact in educating young people about their rights and responsibilities as citizens and allowing them to develop skill sets that are valuable to them as they undergo the transition to adulthood. Civic engagement is also perceived as a driving force for community and national development as it enables youth to unleash their potential and contribute to the development of their societies.

The event in Paris will bring together experts and representatives of youth organizations, academia, representatives of Member States, United Nations entities, and intergovernmental organizations to discuss the ways in which youth civic engagement can be an enabler for political, social and economic participation, as well as to examine current opportunities and challenges affecting such potential. These topics will be considered under the framework of both the World Programme of Action for Youth and the UN System-Wide Action Plan on Youth which respectively incorporate youth participation and youth civic engagement among their priority areas for action.

For more information: [UN DESA's Division for Social Policy and Development](#)

Shaping an effective sustainable development financing strategy



The Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing (ICESDF) held its fourth session at UN Headquarters in New York on 12-16 May.

While this was a closed session, an interactive multi-stakeholder dialogue took place on Monday, 12 May. The Co-Chairs of the Committee, Ambassador Pertti Majanen from Finland and Mr. Mansur Muhtar from Nigeria, also gave an open briefing on the Committee's work to date on Friday, 16 May.

"I am pleased to report that we have made significant progress over the last few days", said Mr Muhtar at the open briefing. He mentioned that the Committee had finished discussing the zero draft of its report proposing options on an effective sustainable development financing strategy, as tasked by the Rio+20 Conference. "We are confident that we will continue our work in this very constructive atmosphere and expect to finalize the report at our last session in August," he said.

The report will be structured around the mobilization and effective use of (1) domestic public resources for sustainable development; (2) domestic private financing for sustainable development; (3) international private finance for sustainable development; (4) International public financing for sustainable development; and (5) blended financing for sustainable development. The sixth section will deal with options for an institutional framework for sustainable development financing. This will be followed by a conclusion that will hone in on key actions and options for a sustainable development financing strategy.

Among the findings of the Committee was that there are both enormous financing needs, but also untapped financial flows. If only a portion of these were redirected, financing needs could be met. "So the challenge is how to incentivize these flows, how to ensure that they are channelled to support sustainable development," said Mr. Muhtar.

Reporting from the multi-stakeholder dialogue, he said that a wide range of stakeholders had emphasized the importance of "a unified financing framework for the post-2015 development

agenda, including the role of the private sector, as well as its limitations, and the importance of incorporating human rights.”

Looking ahead, Mr. Muhtar said that the Committee’s outreach activities would continue, with meetings scheduled for 2 June at the Islamic Development Bank in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, where the potential of Islamic finance in sustainable development financing will be explored, and on 10-11 June in Jakarta, Indonesia, which will be hosted by the Government of Indonesia and the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and will focus on the challenges in sustainable development financing in the Asia-Pacific region.

For more information:

[Fourth session of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing](#)

Capacity development

Statistics to monitor progress of development goals



UN DESA's Statistics Division is completing the Development Account project titled "Enhancing key statistics and indicators to monitor progress towards the Millennium Development Goals and other internationally agreed development goals"

and will attend the upcoming Work Session on the Communication of Statistics in Geneva on 18-20 June.

In addition, the Statistics Division is funding several participants from transition countries to participate in the meeting. The session is organized by United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) with the objective of exchanging experiences and best practices on the communication and dissemination of statistics.

The meeting will address the challenges faced by statistical organizations to communicate effectively with all their audiences and stakeholders. Attention will be focused on statistical literacy, communication with respondents, evaluation of communications campaigns, good practices in electronic publications and quick wins on low and zero budgets. The meeting audience will include managers and experts responsible for communication and media relations in national and international statistical organizations.

For more information:

[Calendar of Events of UN DESA's Statistics Division](#)

With a spotlight on environmental-economic accounting

Ninth Meeting of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Environmental-Economic Accounting (UNCEEA) will take place at UN Headquarters in New York on 25-27 June.



The UNCEEA is composed of representatives from national statistical offices and international agencies, and provides strategic vision and direction to environmental-economic accounting and related statistics. During its ninth meeting, UNCEEA will discuss how the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA) can inform the current process on the development of SDGs and the role of the Committee in advancing the work on indicators.

It will also discuss modalities of cooperation with the corporate sector developing sustainability reporting and the input-output community working on multiregional input-output (MRIO) analysis. The meeting will also discuss a proposal for a medium-term programme of work for the implementation of the SEEA. It will discuss the work programme of the technical committee on the SEEA Central Framework, including proposals for core set of tables and accounts and process to finalize them, training of trainers, compilation guidelines and other materials supporting the implementation of the SEEA.

For more information:

[Calendar of Events of UN DESA's Statistics Division](#)

Publications and Websites

Technical reports

World Economic Situation and Prospects as of mid-2014



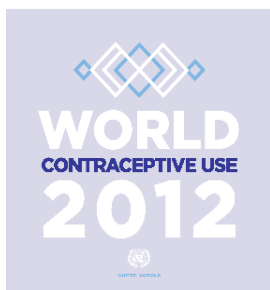
The latest updated global growth trajectory from the World Economic Situation and

Prospects as of mid-2014 is 2.8 per cent in 2014 and 3.2 per cent in 2015, slightly lower than previously forecast in the World Economic Situation and Prospects 2014 released in January. The recovery in the developed economies will continue, but the growth prospects for the developing economies and the economies in transition have been revised downward, largely because of challenging economic and/or political conditions in a number of countries in these two latter groups.

This mid-year update identifies a number of risks and uncertainties for the world economy, including international spill-overs from the future unwinding of the monetary easing by major developed economies; vulnerabilities of emerging economies on both external and domestic fronts; remaining fragilities in the euro area; unsustainable public finances in the longer run for many developed countries; and risks associated with geopolitical tensions.

- [To download](#)

World Contraceptive Use 2012



Contraceptive prevalence and unmet need for family planning are key indicators for measuring improvements in access to reproductive health. The data set World Contraceptive Use 2012 includes country data as of July 2012 on contraceptive prevalence among married or in-union women for 194 countries or areas of the world and unmet need for family planning for 111

countries or areas of the world. Detailed trend data on contraceptive prevalence (total and by type of method) are available from 1950 to 2012. Unmet need for family planning data (total, spacing and limiting) are available from 1986 to 2012.

The data set also includes new annual, model-based estimates and short-term projections from 1990 to 2015 of contraceptive prevalence (total, modern and traditional methods), unmet need for family planning (total and for modern methods) and related indicators. Median estimates with 80 per cent and 95 per cent uncertainty intervals are provided for 194 countries or areas of the world and for regions and development groups.

- [To download](#)

World Marriage Data 2012



Comparable and up-to-date national data on the marital status of the population by age and sex for 221 countries and areas of the world are provided by World Marriage Data 2012 on four key indicators: Marital status of men and women, Currently married men and women, Ever married men and women and Singulate mean age at marriage (SMAM).

For each of these indicators and to the extent that data are available, data are presented for five reference dates: 1970, 1985, 1995, 2005 and the most recent data available. Major sources of data on marital status are censuses, sample surveys and national estimates based on population register data or on estimation methods using census data. Information on the definition of each indicator, data sources and criteria for data source selection, limitations and data coverage is provided in the metadata file. The data set presents data available as of January 2013.

- [To download](#)

Trends in International Migrant Stock: The 2013 Revision – Migrants by Age and Sex

For each of these data sets, estimates are presented for: 1990, 2000, 2010 and 2013. The estimates are based on official statistics on the foreign-born or the foreign population, classified by sex, and age. Most of the statistics utilized to estimate the international migrant stock were obtained from population censuses. Additionally, population registers and nationally representative surveys provided information on the number and composition of international migrants.

- [To download](#)

Adolescent Fertility since the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) in Cairo

This report presents new estimates of the levels and trends in adolescent fertility worldwide over the past 20 years and highlights key social and demographic factors underlying adolescent fertility, including early marriage, the timing and context of first sex, contraceptive use and education.

- [To download](#)

Estimates and Projections of Family Planning Indicators: 2013 Revision

This revision presents model-based estimates and projections of contraceptive prevalence, unmet need for family planning, total demand for family planning and percentage of demand for family planning that is satisfied among married or in-union women from 1970 to 2030. Median estimates with 80 per cent and 95 per cent uncertainty intervals are provided for 194 countries or areas of the world and for regions and development groups.

The revision updates the first release of model-based estimates in World Contraceptive Use 2012, incorporates recently available data and extends the projection period from 2015 to 2030. Model results are as of May 2013.

- [To download](#)

World Contraceptive Patterns 2013 Wall chart

As part of Millennium Development Goal 5 to improve maternal health, Governments committed themselves to achieve, by 2015, universal access to reproductive health (Target 5.B). This wall chart presents the latest data available on two of the indicators under this target: contraceptive prevalence and unmet need for family planning. Estimates of specific contraceptive methods used in major areas and sub-regions of the world are also presented.

- [To download](#)

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

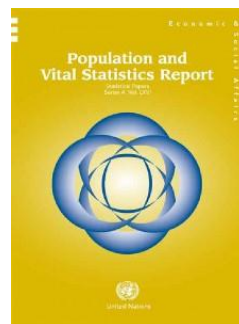
economic trends and developments, including population, prices, employment and earnings, energy, manufacturing, transport, construction, international merchandise trade and finance.

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In addition to the regular recurrent monthly tables, this issue includes quarterly and bimonthly tables: Retail price indices relating to living expenditures of United Nations officials; Civil aviation traffic: passenger-km and cargo net ton-km; Total exports and imports by countries or areas: volume, unit value, terms of trade and purchasing power of exports, in US dollars.

- [For more information](#)

Population and Vital Statistics Report, Volume 66



The Population and Vital Statistics Report presents most recent data on population size (total, male and female) from the latest available census of the population, national official population estimates and the number and rate (births, deaths and infant deaths) for the latest available year within the past 15 years. It also presents United Nations estimates of the mid-year population of the world, and its major areas and

regions.

This report, in this format, is published once a year, while the electronic version is updated every two weeks at the UNSD website. The report presents data on total, female and male population counts from the most recent population census, population estimates and number and rates of vital events – births, deaths and infant deaths – for all the countries of the world. These data are presented as reported by national statistical authorities to the United Nations Demographic Yearbook.

Outreach material

Sustainable Development in Action – Issue 5, Volume 2

The latest issue, published by UN DESA's Division for Sustainable Development, highlights among others, the High-level Political Forum on sustainable development. The newsletter aims to feature the work carried out by Member States, United Nations system, Major Groups and other relevant

stakeholders in implementing sustainable development and leading the way to the Future We Want.

- [Read full issue](#)

Youth Flash Newsletter

Published by UN DESA's Division for Social Policy and Development Focal Point on Youth, the May issue is available online including a feature story providing a youth perspective to why inter-generational ties are important. The newsletter is prepared with input from UN offices, agencies, and from youth organizations around the world.

- [Read full issue](#)

Comings and Goings

Comings

The following staff members were promoted in May:

Ashley N. Toth, Staff Assistant, Division for Sustainable Development

Nimali Ariyawansa, Administrative Assistant, Division for Social Policy and Development

Elena De Jesus, Information Systems Officer, Office for ECOSOC Support and Coordination

Amit K. Joshi, Information Systems Officer, Capacity Development Office

Isabelle Mc Kusick, Programme Assistant, Division for Sustainable Development

Doris Schmitz-Meiners, Programme Officer, Office for ECOSOC Support and Coordination

Lotta Tahtinen, Senior Economic Affairs Officer, Division for Sustainable Development

Goings

The following staff member retired in May:

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

Calendar

June

ECOSOC Youth Forum
2-3 June, New York

Special Meeting of ECOSOC on International Cooperation in Tax Matters
5 June, New York

Seventh session of the Conference of States Parties (COSP)
10-12 June, New York

Facebook chat on mid-year WESP 2014 update
12 June, <http://bit.ly/AskWESP2014>

Expert Group Meeting on the theme “Youth Civic Engagement: Enabling Youth Participation in Political, Social and Economic Life”
16-17 June, Paris

Twelfth session of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals
16-20 June, New York

Work Session on the Communication of Statistics
18-20 June, Geneva

UN Public Service Forum, Day and Awards Ceremony
23-26 June, Seoul, Republic of Korea,

Final meeting of the Preparatory Committee (PrepCom) for the third International Conference on SIDS
23-27 June, New York.

Ninth Meeting of the UN Committee of Experts on Environmental-Economic Accounting (UNCEEA)
25-27 June, New York

Second Meeting of the High-level political Forum on Sustainable Development
30 June – 9 July, New York

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.