

IN THIS ISSUE >>>

Shaping tomorrow's innovators | Towards a renewed global partnership for development | Successes and way forward after Rio+20

Global dialogue on development: Tackling emerging challenges for development, Innovation Award: Call for Stories on People's Empowerment, Global celebration of forests

Trends and analysis: E-discussion on "Building the Future We Want with Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) and Culture", Join Google+ Hangout on youth migration and development, Advancing the post-2015 sustainable development agenda

Capacity development: Meeting knowledge and capacity needs after Rio+20, Innovations and best practices in census taking, Outlining regional consultations for the AMR

Publications and websites | Cominas and aoinas | Calendar

Feature Articles

Shaping tomorrow's innovators

"Empowering young people is crucial. Half the world is under 25 years of age. Young women and men everywhere want decent jobs. They want dignity. They want a greater say in their own destiny," said Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon recently. With the purpose of leveraging the potentials of youth in solving global challenges, ECOSOC is arranging a Youth Forum on 27 March.



The number of young people in the world has never been higher with 1.2 billion being between the ages of 15 and 24. As a group, they are among those most affected by the economic, social and environmental challenges facing the world today.

"The youth employment crisis is worsening: young people represent 40 per cent of the jobless worldwide," said DESA's Under-Secretary-General Wu Hongbo as he addressed the Commission for Social Development in February. "This translates in numbers to almost 74 million unemployed young people, whose ranks continue to grow. These are not just mere statistics. Behind the numbers are lives affected, livelihoods lost and opportunities missed," Mr. Wu added.

Looking beyond these serious hurdles, the United Nations Economic and Social Council aims to spotlight the possibilities available for the world's youth to harness. There is a willingness among youth to take the lead in transforming societies. Their hunger for jobs, education and desire to engage in world matters has also put a growing spotlight on global youth issues.

The Secretary-General has given priority to working with and for young people in his 5-year Action Agenda and the international community is also looking to them as potential partners in designing effective responses to development challenges around the globe.

Leveraging the potential of young people

Science, technology, innovation (STI) and culture have the power to transform and improve societies. They propel and sustain development efforts by generating knowledge as well as technological and social innovations that meet the demands of nations across the globe.

In July 2013, UN Member States, policy-makers, civil society, academia and private sector representatives will meet in Geneva

for the high-level segment of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). “Science, technology and innovation, and the potential of culture, for promoting sustainable development and achieving the MDGs” will be the main theme for the Annual Ministerial Review (AMR) this year.

To bring the voices of youth into these important discussions and to engage young people on how STI and culture can facilitate change, ECOSOC is gathering youth representatives, young corporate leaders and opinion leaders for a Youth Forum Event on 27 March. Arranged under the theme “Shaping tomorrow’s innovators: Leveraging science, technology, innovation and culture for today’s youth”, the event intends to bring attention to the potential of young men and women as problem-solvers, innovators and actors for development.

Organized by DESA in collaboration with UNESCO, UNICEF, UNDP, ITU, UN-HABITAT and with the support of “New York Tech Meet Up”, the forum will also provide a platform to discuss the development agenda beyond 2015. It will address barriers facing today’s youth, critical areas requiring special attention as well as appropriate actions to move development forward.

Innovating the future

The Youth Forum will highlight a range of topics including on girls and young women in science; youth as an engine for creative economy; and using social media to make ideas happen. Besides Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, ECOSOC President Néstor Osorio and DESA’s Under-Secretary-General Wu Hongbo, other prominent speakers will include Hashem Bajwa, CEO of DE-DE, Matt Mahan, CEO of Causes.com, Mandë Holford, Co-founder of the World Association of Young Scientists, Internet activist and computer engineer Wael Ghonim and Mashable.com’s Chief Marketing Officer Stacy Martinet.

The event will also welcome to the podium 15-year-old Adora Svitak, an internationally published author, teacher, speaker, activist and World Food Programme youth representative. Ms. Svitak will set the stage for the day, following the opening remarks by the Secretary-General, who not long ago also underscored the importance of stepping up efforts for young people, saying “we must support them. And for that, we must step up our efforts. I strongly believe the priorities of youth should be just as prominent in our meeting space as they are in cyberspace,” said Ban Ki-moon.

Prior to the event on 27 March, ECOSOC and DESA will launch a social media campaign calling all youth innovators across the globe to share their ideas for a sustainable future. More details to follow on the ECOSOC Facebook page as well as on the event page listed below.

“I very much look forward to this event, to meet and be inspired by the voices of young people as they share their ideas for the future we want,” says ECOSOC President Néstor Osorio.

For more information:

[“Shaping tomorrow’s innovators: Leveraging science, technology, innovation and culture for today’s youth” ECOSOC on Facebook](#)
[ECOSOC on Twitter](#)

Towards a renewed global partnership for development

The global partnership for development that underpins the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) was captured as a standalone goal (MDG8) in 2000. It has played a crucial role in the achievement of the MDGs by facilitating resources and an overall environment conducive to development. A report assessing MDG8 will be released early March and later followed by a chat on Facebook.



As the conversation gears towards the 2015 development agenda, there is great interest to learn from the experience of implementation of MDG8 and ways to strengthen the global partnership for development in the post-2015 era. In this sense, the Secretary-General’s High-level Panel of Eminent Persons will place this important issue at the centre of its upcoming meeting in Indonesia at the end of March.

The UN System Task Team (UNTT) on the Post-2015 UN Development Agenda has prepared a report on global partnership which will be published in early March on the UNTT website. Titled ‘Towards a renewed global partnership for development’ the report presents an assessment of MDG8 and it reviews new challenges for the global economy as well as new trends in development cooperation. The report proposes possible contours, alternative formats and a robust accountability mechanism for a renewed global partnership for the post-2015 era.

Recognizing new challenges

MDG8 served as an important advocacy tool to stress the important role of the international community in achieving the globally agreed development goals outlined in the MDG framework. Based in the context of 2000, when the MDGs were conceived, the focus of MDG8 is primarily in the areas of Official Development Assistance (ODA), debt relief, trade, technology and access to essential medicines. It also gave special attention to the needs of the least developed and most vulnerable countries.

Going forward, a renewed global partnership for development needs to recognize the challenges of the world we live in today and formulate adequate global efforts that corresponds with global challenges in the areas of climate change, rising inequalities, changing population dynamics, and remaining governance and human rights deficits. Fragile countries have seen the least progress in terms of MDG achievement and thus any attention to most vulnerable countries needs to include fragile states.

Sustainability at the core

In the discussion about the characteristics of the post-2015 development agenda, there is broad consensus among all stakeholders that sustainability must be at the core of the new agenda. Larger financing needs can be anticipated which cannot be met by ODA alone. While ODA commitments will continue playing a key role supporting the development efforts of the poorest countries, the recent years have seen the rise of a more multi-polar economy leading to a significant shift in global economic balance. Given the rise of middle-income countries, the face of poverty has changed significantly.

Today, 75 per cent of the poor live in middle-income countries and further progress to eradicate poverty will require greater policy coherence at global and national levels. Based on the emergence of new economic powers, South-South cooperation has increased and a large array of non-governmental actors (including the private sectors, philanthropy and civil society organizations) have engaged in various forms of global partnerships, often focusing on specific sectors, mainly in the areas of health, education and food security.

Reshaping donor-recipient relationships

A renewed global partnership will need to move away from the traditional donor-recipient relationship that characterized MDG8 and consider a wider range of actors and mechanisms to make the most effective contribution to global development. Unlike MDG8, the new agenda should also build a robust accountability mechanism to address, on a continuous basis, possible shortcomings from commitments made as part of a renewed global partnership for development.

When speaking at an event recently, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon also described the need for renewed global partnership. “The current global partnership for development needs to be rebalanced and redefined – taking into account emerging economies, South-South partnership, private sector engagement and innovative financing,” he said.

Participate in live chat on Facebook

Looking at the various challenges at hand and the need for consistent global responses with participation from multiple actors, the discussion about the characteristics of a renewed global partnership for development in the post-2015 era is rather complex. The report of the UN System Task Team provides an overview of the key challenges involved and makes recommendations on ways to address some of these questions with clear suggestions about the format and the contours of a renewed global partnership.

In addition to the publication of the report, DESA’s Division for Policy Development and Analysis together with UNDP, invite you to talk to the authors of the report directly through a Facebook chat taking place on Thursday, 14 March at 9 – 11 am EST. This will be an opportunity to ask questions directly to members of the UN System Task Team. Check back on the DESA Facebook page closer to the date for more details and to sign up to the event.

For more information:
[UN System Task Team](#)
[DESA’s Facebook page](#)

Successes and way forward after Rio+20

On 12 February, the first in a series of Google+ Hangouts was hosted by DESA’s Division for Sustainable Development, outlining key outcomes of the Rio+20 Conference and the actions taken to realize promises made. “The message of inclusion, engagement, integration of decision-making, all that came out very strongly from Rio,” said Nikhil Seth, Director of DESA’s Division for Sustainable Development.



As the first panelist to take the stage in this online discussion, Mr. Seth, who also headed the Rio+20 Secretariat, described the event in Rio de Janeiro as one of the largest UN conferences

ever, bringing together 50,000 people representing governments, civil society, media and academia. “The major concern that came out at Rio, was the fact that we are heading towards a set of economic, social and environmental crises,” he said. “The only way to change things is to rethink development. That was the fundamental message from the Rio outcome,” Mr. Seth added.

He underscored the importance of engagement of people in the follow up process. “We need to give it real meaning in the way we work and the way we focus on implementing, to realize the future we want,” he said.

Mr. Seth also highlighted one of the main messages conveyed, namely that people are important, “but equally important is the planet on which the prosperity of these people depends,” he said. The role of young people as “architects of the future we want”, as well as the significance of developing the so called sustainable development goals were other outcomes underlined by Mr. Seth.

Elizabeth Thompson, former Minister for Energy and Environment of Barbados and the Executive Coordinator for Rio+20, outlined some of the main challenges that Small Island Developing States (SIDS) face and what the conference has meant for them. “The Rio conference was very important for SIDS, as one of the outcomes was an agreement to host a UN conference specifically for Small Island Developing States,” Ms. Thompson said, referring to the event scheduled to take place in 2014.

“The challenges that small island developing states encounter are very, very difficult and complex and there are a number of items on the agenda at Rio which treat particularly to their issues – climate change, issues of oceans and the blue economy, marine biodiversity and sustainable energy,” she explained, underscoring particularly the vital role of sustainable energy.

In addition to outcomes related to sustainable agriculture, sustainable tourism, water and sanitation, Ms. Thompson underlined the importance of capacity building in order to make SIDS competitive, as well as partnerships. “I hope that we will see coming out of this, an increasing number of partnerships as part of the mechanism in which the benefits for small islands developing states can be achieved and can be leveraged,” she said.

Supplying real time information

Kimo Goree, Vice-President of the International Institute for Sustainable Development Reporting Services (IISD), shared his perspective covering the conference. IISD provided real time information on the negotiations and most other events taking place in Rio. “IISD continue to track the negotiations after Rio and we’ve been providing reports on the negotiations taking place in the General Assembly and the establishment of the open working group for the development of sustainable development goals,” Mr. Goree added.

“Rio+20 builds on 20 years of involvement via NGOs, now referred to as Major Groups in international discussions on sustainable development,” he said. He shared his experience,

dating back to the preparations for the first Earth Summit in Rio in 1992, when Mr. Goree was one of the handful of NGOs participating in a preparatory meeting in Nairobi.

Mr. Goree also explained that it was at that meeting in Nairobi 23 years ago, that a decision was made allowing NGOs to attend. “It set precedent for unprecedented NGO access,” Mr. Goree explained. “NGOs were at the table and not in the streets,” he added.

Commitments for specific actions

“I have seen the value and importance of these big international gatherings in stimulating attention to probably the biggest challenges we as humans face,” said Jacob Scherr, Director of global strategy and advocacy for the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC). An environmental lawyer and advocate for many years, Mr. Scherr attended the original Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in 1992 and he also took part in preparations for last year’s event.

“Some of these commitments were real game-changers,” he said, mentioning multilateral development banks, which made a commitment to invest 175 Billion USD to green urban transportation and the pledge of 40 of the world’s largest manufacturers and retailers, to make their supply chain deforestation free within the next eight years. “Microsoft, which has operations around the world, said that they would make their own facilities carbon neutral by the end of next year,” Mr. Scherr further added.

“In addition to the negotiated outcome document, The Future We Want, there were hundreds of these commitments for very specific actions,” he explained. “And those are the ones that we think will be the real legacy of Rio.”

Stay tuned for more hangouts

Moderated by John Romano, Social Media Focal Point within DESA’s Division for Sustainable Development, the discussion also responded to online questions posted via social media.

Some concerned the progress of the Sustainable Development Goals and the possibility for civil society to interact in the process. Others focused on how we could make local actions impact on an international level for the future we want.

After the hangout had concluded, Mr. Seth shared his thoughts saying, “the Google+ format helps you have a conversation. And if we are hoping to change things, if we are hoping to inspire people, we have to talk to them, and listen to their concerns and be responsive to them,” he said, also pointing out that his Division looks forward to hosting more of these events in the near future.

For information about this and upcoming hangouts:

<http://bit.ly/RioHangout>

Full on-demand video featuring “Sustainable development in action” Post-Rio+20 Hangout on 12 February 2013

Global Dialogue on Development

Tackling emerging challenges for development

The Committee for Development Policy (CDP) will convene for its fifteenth annual meeting to be held in New York on 18-22 March



The year 2013 is a year of transition. Time is fast closing to the end of the period the international community assigned to itself to implement the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) while discussions on the contours of UN development strategy for the post 2015 era have already started.

The Committee for Development Policy (CDP) will address these and other emerging development issues at its fifteenth annual meeting, which also marks the first time the new CDP membership, nominated last year by the Secretary-General, meets in plenary.

A source of independent advice on critical matters

As a subsidiary body of the UN Economic and Social Council, the CDP provides independent advice on critical issues on the international development agenda. The Committee is also responsible for the triennial review of the list of least developed countries (LDCs).

Membership is composed of twenty-four experts nominated by the Secretary-General on the basis of their personal for a three-year term. At its plenary session, the CDP drafts its annual report which includes the main conclusions and policy recommendations of the discussions on studies prepared by members with the assistance of the Secretariat. The report is then considered by the Council at its substantive session in July.

Science, technology and innovation for achieving sustainable development

As a contribution to the Council's deliberations at its high level segment of its substantive session, the CDP will analyze science, technology and innovation, and the potential of culture for the achievement of the MDGs – the topic of this year's Annual Ministerial Review.

It will also consider the vulnerabilities and development needs of the Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and continue with its work on the future of the UN development agenda beyond 2015 focusing, this time, on emerging issues in the global environment. The Committee will examine the role of science, technology, and innovation policies in the context of national development strategies, and the potential contribution of international

cooperation in the area of technology transfer and capacity building.

It will focus the analysis on answering the following questions: what policy measures should countries undertake at different catch-up stages while climbing up the technological ladder? What can countries at the bottom of the technological hierarchy learn from the experiences of countries currently at higher levels?

More importantly, are these experiences still applicable in today's context? As protection of intellectual property rights is strengthened at the global level, the acquisition of new products or production methods has become more restrictive and more costly. In this regard, there is need to consider alternative strategies and new ways to engage international cooperation, particularly by countries with greater technological capabilities and resources, to best support catch-up efforts.

Emerging issues in the global economy: implications for the post-2015 development agenda

The world has changed significantly since the adoption of the UN Millennium Declaration: an increasing heterogeneity among developing countries, the rise of new powers coming from the developing world, the new geographical patterns of global poverty, the heightened importance of international public goods for national development, and the increasing relevance of private actors in the international environment.

This changing landscape is raising fundamental questions on whether the current global rules and structures allow the building of effective responses against international problems and the promotion of a fair distribution of development opportunities among all countries and to identify the necessary policy responses to that end. The Committee will discuss this issue to contribute to framing a renewed global architecture to implement a post-2015 international development framework to achieve an inclusive, sustainable and equitable development as envisaged by the Declaration.

Development needs of Small Island Developing States (SIDS)

The Committee will examine the vulnerabilities and development needs of SIDS and possible policy responses, focusing on how to further the full and effective implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action (BPoA) and the Mauritius Strategy.

In particular, the Committee will consider whether there is need to refocus efforts towards a more results-oriented approach and establish whether improved and additional measures might be needed to more effectively address the unique and particular vulnerabilities and development needs of SIDS. In this regard, while a wide range of measures in critical areas are already in place or under development, there is a need to fully implement, scale up and continuously improve these measures, in particular to reduce the occurrence and magnitude of external shocks, to enhancing copying mechanisms by the provision of necessary

resources in the aftermath of negative shocks, and to establish a robust and effective global monitoring framework for the implementation of the BPoA and Mauritius Strategy.

During the week of 18-22 March, the Committee will be holding a series of briefings and panel discussions on the various agenda items. Announcements will be posted in the UN Journal.

For more information:

[The Committee for Development Policy](#)

Innovation Award: Call for Stories on People's Empowerment

DESA's Division for Social Policy and Development (DSPD) seeks to find and bring to scale the most incredible stories on people's empowerment around the globe. Stories like YOURS!

You can nominate yourself, or another person you admire who empowered you and therefore your unique and special story. We truly believe that the major social challenges of our time can be solved only with the full participation of people at all levels of society.



This innovation award represents DSPD's commitment to the promotion of people's empowerment and social development globally. It is administered by DSPD as part of its mission to promote more equitable growth, seeks to identify innovative approaches for poverty eradication, social integration, full employment and decent work for all.

The deadline for submitting your stories is **14 May 2013**.

Once the selection process is completed, we will be honored to announce the final six winners on our website. Winners will also receive an award certificate from the United Nations.

To submit your story, please complete the online form following 2 basic rules:

- 1 – 1.000 words maximum for your written story (in English)
- 2 – 10 minutes maximum for your recorded video-story (in English or with English subtitles)

Empower yourself and inspire the world!

To submit your story, please visit:

[Innovation Award: Call for Stories](#)

Global celebration of forests

21 March has been declared to be the International Day of Forests by the United Nations General Assembly



This new global celebration of forests builds on the successes of the International Year of Forests in 2011, and provides a platform to raise awareness of the importance of all types of forests and of trees outside forests.

Activities expected to take place on the International Day include tree-planting and other community-level events, and national celebrations including art, photo and film as well as social media outreach.

The launch of the International Day will take place in many countries. Mr. Wu Hongbo, Under-Secretary-General of DESA, along with Chinese government officials, will be launching the International Day of Forests in China at a ceremony in Beijing on 21 March.

DESA's United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) Secretariat was designated by the General Assembly to facilitate the implementation of the International Day, in collaboration with FAO, Governments, and other members of the Collaborative Partnerships on Forests and international, regional and subregional organizations as well as relevant stakeholders, including civil society.

The UNFF Secretariat is working with the UN Graphic Design Unit to develop a logo for the International Day, which will be launched in time for the first celebration of the Day this year on 21 March. In addition, a mobile App on Forest facts, as well as other social media products will be launched by the UNFF Secretariat on the International Day of Forests.

A webpage for the International Day of Forests is currently under development and will be accessible from the United Nations Forum on Forests website at www.un.org/esa/forests.

How will you celebrate the International Day of Forests?

Governments, international, regional and sub-regional organizations, and relevant stakeholders are encouraged to share information on their planned activities for the International Day of Forests by contacting the UNFF Secretariat at forests@un.org.

Five draft resolutions approved to promote people's empowerment

On 15 February, concluding its fifty-first session, the Commission for Social Development (CSocD) approved five draft resolutions for adoption by the Economic and Social Council

The resolutions cover a range of issues crucial to the promotion of societies rooted in respect for the dignity of every individual, from youth and disability, to ageing and African development.



The Commission's approval of the texts capped two weeks of negotiations, panel discussions and general debate under the priority theme "Promoting empowerment of people in achieving poverty eradication, social integration and full employment and decent work for all".

Representatives of Governments and civil society advocates from around the world described efforts to stimulate job creation, combat poverty and create inclusive societies, with a view to informing the Commission's policy session next year, and more broadly, the global development agenda beyond 2015.

"We have just concluded eight intense and fruitful days of work," Commission Chair Sewa Lamsal Adhikari (Nepal) declared in concluding remarks, noting that delegates had affirmed the essential role of Governments in creating and enabling environment to empower people, by providing the necessary tools and capacity-building opportunities. Decent work was also vital to promoting empowerment, reducing poverty and enhancing social inclusion, she added.

The Commission had laid the foundation for the fifty-second session, Ms. Adhikari continued, saying the 47-member body would produce a policy outcome on the priority theme. After recapping the work accomplished, she thanked delegates for their "flexibility and resolve", exercised in a spirit of cooperation, which had facilitated the consensus approval of all the texts under consideration. She also thanked the facilitators for their "extreme patience" in guiding consultations.

Several of the texts approved highlighted the critical importance of empowering people and of their participation in advancing social development.

For more information:

[51st Session of the Commission for Social Development](#)

Trends and Analysis

E-discussion on “Building the Future We Want with Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) and Culture”

As part of the preparatory process for the ECOSOC 2013 Annual Ministerial Review, DESA is holding an e-discussion from 18 February to 19 March



Arranged in partnership with UNDP and UNESCO, the e-discussion serves as an open, multi-stakeholder forum for practitioners, experts and researchers to share new ideas and formulate critical policy messages to the UN intergovernmental negotiations on the potential of STI and culture for sustainable development solutions.

This year, expert moderators from UNDP, UNESCO and the MDG Achievement Fund will facilitate the e-discussion. The outcome will feed directly into the Annual Ministerial Review being held in Geneva during the Substantive Session of ECOSOC in July 2013.

If you are not a member of UNDG’s MDG-Net, UNDP Poverty Reduction Network, Gender or Human Development Report Networks, please visit <https://one.unteamworks.org/AMR2013> to request an invite and participate in this e-discussion.

Join Google+ Hangout on youth migration and development

As part of on-going activities for the forthcoming UN World Youth Report 2013, the UN Focal Point on Youth is organizing a Google+ Hangout on 6 March at 11:00 EST on the [UN Google+ Account](#), featuring key experts on youth migration and development.



Under the overarching theme “Youth migration and development: towards sustainable solutions”, the web-based event will offer an opportunity for youth, the UN and Member States to discuss the issue of youth migration and development.

Youth will have the opportunity to ask questions related to strategies for enhancing the development potential of youth migration while mitigating associated risk in the migration process (i.e. pre-departure/departure, in-transit, arrival, post arrival, return or no return).

It also aims to explore the nexus between youth migration and key issues such as access to basic social services, social integration, remittances, migrant rights, the post-2015 development agenda and environmental change.

“The phenomenon of migration has profound impact on young migrants as well as origin, transit and destination countries. We need to work together to enhance the development potential of youth migration while mitigating its risk. I encourage young people and other relevant stakeholders to participate and submit questions for the panellists to answer live in this upcoming Google+ Hangout,” said Mr. Ahmad Alhendawi, the UN Secretary-General’s Envoy on Youth.

The Google+ Hangout will also feature a 20-minute live Q&A session with the panelists. Tweet your questions for panelists to [@UN4Youth](#) using #youthmigration, post your questions on the [UNyouthyear Facebook page](#) or submit your questions on the [UN World Youth Report web platform](#).

This particular Google+ Hangout is aimed at young people (15-35 years of age), as well as members of Permanent Missions, UN staff, the private sector, academia and civil society organizations, interested and working in the field of youth migration and development.

For further information on the UN World Youth Report Google+ Hangout, please visit: www.unworldyouthreport.org or email the UN Focal Point on Youth at youth@un.org with the subject line: Youth Migration Google + Hangout.

Advancing the post-2015 sustainable development agenda

The international NGO conference on the post-2015 sustainable development agenda will take place on 20–22 March in Bonn, Germany

This event, focusing on reconfirming rights, recognizing limits and redefining goals, will bring together about 250 civil society activists and stakeholder representatives to gather inputs into the sustainable development and post-2015 discussions.



At present, a multitude of discussions and consultation processes are taking place worldwide. Some in the context of the Rio+20 process, others preparing for the post-2015 agenda. Some with a specific sector focus, others on national or regional level. While wide-ranging and participatory processes are welcome, we need to gain a better overview on civil society perspectives and demands in order to advocate more effectively for their implementation.

The event aims at providing such an overview by bringing together key actors and helping them to exchange information,

learn from each other, benefit from our sector's diversity and agree on joint demands and strategies where this is possible.

Supported by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and DESA, the conference is being shaped by a Steering Committee composed of many of the major international civil society networks such as CIVICUS, Beyond 2015, Development Alternatives with Women for a New Era (DAWN), Global Call to Action against Poverty (GCAP), Global Campaign for Climate Action (GCCA), Social Watch, VENRO and the Baltic Sea Forum.

For more information:

[Advancing the post-2015 sustainable development agenda](#)

Challenges and hope for world's indigenous youth

“Indigenous Youth: Identity, Challenges and Hope: Articles 14, 17, 21 and 25 of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples” was in focus for an expert group meeting in New York on 29-31 January



hopes.

The world has never faced such a large youth population as the one inhabiting the globe today, with about 40 per cent of the world population under the age of 25. With the recent economic crisis and high unemployment rates, there are many challenges facing today's young generation. The world's 67 million indigenous youth face even greater challenges, but have big

To address these issues, indigenous youth experts from around the world gathered for an expert group meeting in New York focusing on “Indigenous Youth: Identity, Challenges and Hope: Articles 14, 17, 21 and 25 of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples” on 29-31 January.

Ms. Shamshad Akhtar, Assistant Secretary-General for Economic Affairs in DESA, outlined some of the main challenges as she addressed the meeting. “They face higher levels of illiteracy rates, drop out rates and other indicators and they tend to experience lower enrollment ratios, higher unemployment rates and lower incomes. Indigenous youth struggle to develop and define their identities, maintain their cultures and preserve and revitalize their languages,” Ms. Akhtar said.

With youth representatives from countries including Australia, Canada, Finland, Peru and Uganda, the meeting looked closer at issues of identity, challenges and hope. The meeting also analyzed how international human rights standards and policies can be more responsive to advancing the rights of indigenous youth. Vast documentation is available online from seven indigenous youth experts examining these topics.

Meenakshi Munda, who is an indigenous youth from the Munda community of Jharkhand, India, attended the meeting in her role as President of the Asia Pacific Indigenous Youth Network (APIYN). Speaking with UN Radio, Ms. Munda underscored the importance of rejuvenating indigenous languages to protect the identity of indigenous communities and the rich culture and wisdom preserved in this way.

Describing the knowledge the elders in her community has in medicine and plants she said, “this knowledge is intact in mother tongue. If we want to learn that, we have to learn indigenous language. Also, our oral history is intact in mother tongue, so if we want to know our own history, we have to know our own culture, our own language”, she explained.

“It is of course important that the UN now puts more focus on indigenous youth because if we look at indigenous peoples as a whole, the youth are the most important group. It is our responsibility to continue our language, traditions and cultures,” said Tuomas Aslak Juuso, President of the National Finnish Sámi Youths, as he spoke with UN Radio. Mr. Juuso, who has been promoting the rights of the Sámi in Finland over the past decade and who is also the co-chair of the Global Indigenous Youth Caucus, emphasized the importance of being able to use your own language and to continue traditional livelihoods.

At the meeting, Ms. Akhtar described youth as “our global asset” and their role as critical for both social and economic stability. She further stated that a “younger generation of indigenous population can be promising for their community if their vitality and vigor is appropriately unleashed and they can transform the overall indigenous community's destiny. Youth drives idealism, creativity, entrepreneurship and with appropriate support can help make the world a better place”.

For more information:

[International Expert Group Meeting on Indigenous Youth: Identity, challenges and hope: Articles 14, 17, 21 and 25 of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples](#)

Capacity development

Meeting knowledge and capacity needs after Rio+20

Expert consultation on knowledge and capacity needs for sustainable development in the post-Rio+20 era will be organized on 6-8 March in Incheon, Republic of Korea



Over the past decades, there have been a number of initiatives aiming at providing knowledge and capacity building in the field of sustainable development. Following the Rio+20 Conference, several platforms, programmes, and training initiatives were launched, quickly making it challenging to determine who does what, and how.

Arranged by the United Nations Office for Sustainable Development (UNOSD) in Incheon, the consultation aims to address this challenge, among others. It will bring together senior policy-making experts representing governments and a broad spectrum of organizations to develop a framework for action that meets the knowledge and capacity needs of the post-Rio+20 era.

The Consultation is preceded by UNOSD's second Steering Committee meeting, which will be held on 5 March. The Committee will review the progress made and discuss activities to be carried out during 2013.

For more information:
[United Nations Office for Sustainable Development \(UNOSD\)](#)

Innovations and best practices in census taking

Seminar on Population and Housing Census Practices of the Organization of Islamic Countries (OIC) Member Countries will be held on 6-8 March in Ankara, Turkey

As part of its programme on the 2010 World Population and Housing Census Programme, DESA's Statistics Division will participate in and contribute to the Seminar on Population and Housing Census Practices of the OIC Member Countries.



The objective of the Seminar is to discuss lessons learnt and share national experiences in innovations and best practices in census taking for the 2010 round in the Member States of the OIC. It will also provide a discussion forum for the countries

on the likely future of their censuses for the 2020 round and on ways to enhance future cooperation among the Member States in census taking.

For more information:
[2010 World Population and Housing Census Programme](#)

Outlining regional consultations for the AMR

Four regional consultations have been scheduled on the 2013 theme of the Annual Ministerial Review (AMR), putting a spotlight on "Science, technology and innovation (STI) and culture for sustainable development and the MDGs"



DESA's Office for ECOSOC Support and Coordination (OESC), in collaboration with relevant UN Regional Commissions and UN agencies have planned four regional Annual Ministerial Review consultations to take place in Africa, West Asia, Asia and the Pacific, Latin America, and Europe.

Regional meetings are key preparatory activities leading to the ECOSOC Annual Ministerial Review (AMR). They focus on a topic related to the AMR theme that is of particular relevance to the region hosting the consultations and facilitate: a) exchange of views among different stakeholders; b) review of regional progress and challenges; c) sharing of good practices; d) generation of action-oriented recommendations; and e) identification of regional perspectives to be reflected in the AMR.

The schedule has been outlined as follows:

- West Asia: "Science, technology and innovation for sustainable development", (Amman, 26 November, 2012). The meeting was hosted by the Government of Jordan in cooperation with UNESCWA, UNDESA, and UNESCO. Mr. Navid Hanif, Director of the Office of ECOSOC Support and Coordination delivered a statement on behalf of the ECOSOC President. For more information: [Regional Preparatory Meeting for Western Asia on "Science, technology and innovation for sustainable development", 26 November 2012, Amman](#)
- Latin America: "Science and technology for development" (Lima, Peru, 9 January 2013). The meeting was organized by DESA in cooperation with UNCTAD and was held in the context of the CSTD meeting organized by UNCTAD. Mr. Neil Pierre, Chief of the Policy Coordination Branch/OESC participated on behalf of DESA.

- Asia and the Pacific: “Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) for Promoting Renewable Energy Technologies” (Bangkok, 13 March, 2013). The event will be hosted by the Government of Thailand in cooperation with ESCAP and DESA and held in conjunction with ESCAP preparatory meeting for the Asia and Pacific Energy Forum (14-15 March). It will provide a direct contribution to the meeting of the High-Level Panel on Post-2015 Development Agenda on “means of implementation and global partnership” to be held in Bali, on 26 March. Mr. Thomas Stelzer, ASG for Policy Coordination and Inter-Agency Affairs in DESA, will represent the department. A pre-recorded message from the President of the ECOSOC will open the meeting.
For more information: [Regional Preparatory Meeting for Asia and Pacific on “Science, technology and innovation for promoting renewable energy technologies for sustainable development”, 13 March 2013, Bangkok](#)
- Africa: “Innovation for sustainable development” (Dar es Salaam, 14 March, 2013). The meeting will be organized by World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) in cooperation with DESA and the Government of Tanzania, which will host the meeting. H.E. Mr. Néstor Osorio, the President of ECOSOC will participate. Mr. Wu Hongbo, DESA’s Under-Secretary-General and Mr. Navid Hanif, Director OESC/DESA, will represent the department.
For more information: [Regional Preparatory Meeting for Africa on “Innovation for Sustainable Development”, 14 March, 2013, Dar es Salaam](#)

For more information:
[2013 Regional Meetings on ECOSOC AMR](#)

Classifying activities and products

Workshop on International Statistical Classifications will be held in Kishinev, Moldova, on 19-21 March



DESA’s Statistics Division in cooperation with the Statistics Division of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe and the Statistical Office of the European Communities (Eurostat) is organizing a Workshop on International

Statistical Classifications.

Arranged primarily for CIS member countries, the Workshop will focus on the implementation of the recently revised activity and product classifications and will in particular review the current implementation and use of national activity and product classifications and their relationship to the International Standard Industrial Classification of all Economic Activities (ISIC) and the Central Product Classification (CPC) in the region.

It will also provide information on methodological changes related to the application of the classification, such as outlined in the revised introductions and address implementation issues in connection with the revised classifications.

The workshop will address country experiences and case studies and discuss measures to facilitate cooperation in the field of classifications, including coordination of work on regional/sub regional cooperation in classifications.

For more information:
[Workshop on International Statistical Classifications](#)

Publications and Websites

Technical reports

Towards a renewed global partnership for development



On March 6, the UN System Task Team on the Post-2015 Development Agenda will publish its second report with recommendations on a global partnership for development in the post-2015 era. The report assesses MDG8 and provides an overview of lessons learnt, including the Monterrey Consensus. It reviews new challenges and trends in the international development

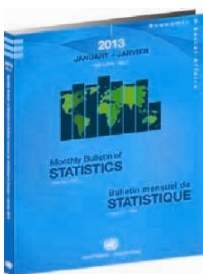
landscape and suggests possible contours, alternative formats and a robust accountability mechanism for a renewed global partnership.

Titled “Towards a renewed global partnership for development”, the report will be available on the [UN System Task Team Website](#) from 6 March. Established by the Secretary-General in January 2012, the UN System Task Team on the Post-2015 UN Development Agenda assembles more than 60 UN agencies and international organizations under its umbrella to provide analytical inputs to the post-2015 process. It is co-chaired by UN DESA and UNDP.

For more information: [UN System Task Team](#)

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.

Vol. LXVII – No. 1, January 2013

In addition to the regular recurrent monthly tables, this issue includes the quarterly table: 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:

[Monthly Bulletin of Statistics](#)

Outreach material

DESA NGO News

The February issue features among other things the Google+ Hangout on sustainable development, the Committee on NGOs and the e-discussion on Building the future we want with science, technology and innovation (STI) and culture. The online monthly newsletter is published by DESA’s NGO Branch, providing the most up-to-date information on news and upcoming events of interest to civil society at UN headquarters in New York, Geneva and elsewhere.

Read full issue: [DESA NGO News](#)

Sustainable Development in Action – Issue 2, Volume 1

The latest issue is now available on the Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform website. The newsletter aims to highlight the work carried out by Member States, the UN, Major Groups and other relevant stakeholders in implementing sustainable development and leading the way to the Future We Want.

View full issue: [Sustainable Development in Action Newsletter](#)

Youth Flash Newsletter

The February issue features an article on “Tracking the Promises on Youth Participation: UN High Level Panel on Post-2015 Development Agenda”. The newsletter is published by DESA’s Division for Social Policy and Development Focal Point on Youth to keep the public informed about the work of the UN on youth issues. It is prepared with input from UN offices, agencies, and from youth organizations around the world.

View full issue at: [Youth Flash Newsletter](#)

Booklet on “Empowerment: What does it mean to you?”



Published by DESA’s Division for Social Policy and Development, the booklet represents a collaborative effort, made possible by the answers received from people all over the world on the Empowerment theme.

A great number of young individuals, persons with disabilities, older persons, and people working for various institutions and organizations committed to social development issues, provided

input. Their keen interest on empowerment was a testament to the constantly growing importance this topic has in society.

Download: [Empowerment: What does it mean to you?](#)

Discussion papers

Monthly Briefing on the World Economic Situation and Prospects No. 51

Published by DESA's Development Policy and Analysis Division, the February issue states that a number of new policy initiatives adopted by major economies have measurably improved the situation in global financial markets. The report also highlights the increased depreciation of the yen against other major currencies, due to the new monetary policy stance in Japan.

Download:

[Monthly Briefing on the World Economic Situation and Prospects No. 51](#)

Websites

Launch of website for Small Island Developing States (SIDS) conference

A new website has been launched for the 2014 Third International



Conference on Small Island Developing States (SIDS), following up to Rio+20 Conference in June last year. The website contains a wealth of information on the upcoming event to be held in Apia,

Samoa.

To browse:

[2014 Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States \(SIDS\) website](#)

Comings and Goings

Tribute to Ms. Haiyan Qian



Ms. Haiyan Qian, Director of DESA's Division for Public Administration and Development Management, a devoted wife, loving mother and dedicated International Civil Servant for the United Nations, died on the morning of 18 February 2013 at the age of 57 after a heroic battle with cancer. Throughout the past 33 years, Ms. Qian dedicated her career to global public policy, governance, science and technology, public administration and development.

Since joining DESA, Ms. Qian served as Chief Manager of the United Nations Public Administration Network (UNPAN) and Chief of the Knowledge Management Branch before becoming Director of the Division for Public Administration and Development Management (DPADM) on 1 February 2009. Prior to joining DESA, Ms. Qian worked for other United Nations agencies, including the Centre for Science and Technology for Development and UNEP's Centre on Environmentally Sound Technology in Japan.

Before joining the United Nations, Ms. Qian worked for the Chinese Government in the area of science and technology for development and served in the Chinese Permanent Mission to the United Nations based in New York, covering the United Nations Second Committee on Economic and Social Affairs.

As noted by Mr. Hongbo Wu, Under Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, "Haiyan was a wonderful colleague and a great asset to the UN. Her dedicated service to the Organization's goals is a source of inspiration to us all."

Ms. Qian has left a legacy founded on hard work, dedicated service and loyalty. She was a visionary leader who was admired and respected by all her colleagues and others in the field of public administration from around the world.

Ms. Qian received her Bachelor of Arts in Beijing, China and her Master in Public Administration from the Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University, USA.

Messages of condolence to Ms. Qian's family, friends and colleagues can be posted at <http://haiyan.unpan1.org>

A Chinese web site created by a few UN Chinese colleagues can be found here: <http://qianhaiyan.last-memories.com/>

Comings

The following staff members were promoted in February:

Joshua Del Duca, Team Assistant, Division for Social Policy and Development

Marilou D. Vicente, Computer Systems Assistant, Population Division

Federica Pietracci, Senior Economic Affairs Officer, Division for Sustainable Development

Maria Cynthia Sicangco, Finance & Budget Assistant, Executive Office

Natalie Ollier-Stolzenbach, Editorial Assistant, Population Division

Nadezhda Demidova, Finance & Budget Assistant, Executive Office

Lydia Debbie Gatan, Secretary, Development Policy and Analysis Division

Goings

The following staff member retired in February:

Serguey Ivanov, Population Affairs Officer, Population Division

Calendar

March

Google+ Hangout on youth migration and development

6 March at 11:00 EST, <https://plus.google.com/+UnitedNations>
<http://bit.ly/Wgzjzbz>

Expert Consultation on Knowledge and Capacity Needs for Sustainable Development in Post-Rio+20 Era

Incheon, Republic of Korea, 6-8 March
<http://www.unosd.org>

Seminar on Population and Housing Census Practices of Organization of Islamic Countries (OIC) Member Countries

Ankara, Turkey, 6-8 March
<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/sources/cwp2010/docs.htm>

Regional Preparatory Meeting for Asia and Pacific on "Science, technology and innovation for promoting renewable energy technologies for sustainable development"

Bangkok, 13 March
<http://www.un.org/en/ecosoc/newfunct/amr2013thailand.shtml>

Facebook chat on global partnership for development

14 March at 9 – 11am EST
<http://www.facebook.com/joinundesa>

Committee for Development Policy, Fifteenth session

New York, 18-22 March
<http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/policy/cdp/index.shtml>

Workshop on International Statistical Classifications

Kishinev, Moldova, 19-21 March
<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/class/intercop/training/ece13/ac258-2.asp>

International Day of Forests

21 March
<http://www.un.org/esa/forests/>

International NGO conference on the post-2015 sustainable development agenda

Bonn, Germany, 20–22 March
<http://www.berlin-civil-society-center.org/shared-services/post-2015/>

Youth ECOSOC 2013 - "Shaping tomorrow's innovators: Leveraging science, technology, innovation and culture for today's youth"

New York, 27 March
<http://www.un.org/en/ecosoc/youth2013/>

April

12th session of the UN Committee of Experts on Public Administration

New York, 15-19 April
<http://www.unpan.org/DPADM/CEPA/12thSession/tabid/1544/language/en-US/Default.aspx>

46th Session of the Commission on Population and Development

New York, 22 - 26 April
<http://www.un.org/esa/population/cpd/cpd2013/cpd46.htm>

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.