



Securing reliable data for development | Celebrating forests for sustainable development | Moving development agenda forward through people's empowerment

Global dialogue on development: Open Working Group meets for ninth session, Towards more accountable and effective development cooperation, Addressing challenges to meet development goals

Trends and analysis: With a spotlight on sustainable development financing, Making the value of census results visible, Worldwide study of cooperatives

Capacity development: Building capacities to collect energy statistics, Innovations for public service delivery

[Publications and websites](#) | [Comings and goings](#) | [Calendar](#)

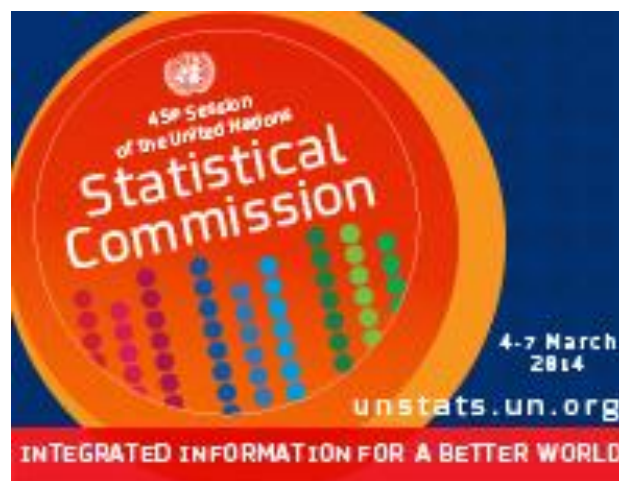
Feature Articles

Securing reliable data for development

“Statistics is shaping our understanding of the world,” UN DESA’s Under-Secretary-General Wu Hongbo said as he addressed last year’s Statistical Commission, underscoring the fundamental role that data plays for development. On 4-7 March, the Commission is gathering for its 45th session, bringing together official statisticians from all corners of the world. The event kicks off already on Friday 28 February with a day-long seminar on Managing the Data revolution, followed on 3 March with a high-level forum to mark the 20th Anniversary of the UN Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics.

“The Statistical Commission has been instrumental in the establishment of a global information infrastructure. The Commission has managed to provide methodological guidance to countries, and ensure the international comparability of our data,” Mr. Wu said as he participated at the 44th session.

With representatives from some 140 Member States gathering at UN Headquarters in New York, the schedule is packed with many important agenda items aimed at ensuring that the global statistical community is responding to current and emerging challenges. This includes developing a solid measuring framework for the post-2015 sustainable development agenda.



Other issues for discussion and decisions before the Commission, which has now been in existence for 68 years, include the implementation of the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics, its working methods and measures of progress. A wide range of additional topics will also be in focus including environmental-economic accounting, international trade and economic globalization statistics, disability statistics, big data and modernization of statistical systems, gender statistics, international migration statistics and environment statistics, and many more.

Guiding the work of global statistics

There is also cause to celebrate a milestone event. On 29 January, the UN General Assembly endorsed the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics, a set of ten principles that codify the fundamental values and principles that govern the statistical work in order to produce reliable high-quality statistics in support of analysis and decision making. Since 1994, these principles have stood the test of time, guiding the production and dissemination of all official statistics around the globe.

To mark this endorsement as well as to celebrate the 20th anniversary, UN DESA's Statistics Division is organizing a High-Level Forum on Official Statistics – UN Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics. Taking place on 3 March, the event will highlight the genesis of these principles, their initial adoption and the recent endorsement by the General Assembly. It will also look at their continued relevance as well as past, current and future challenges to their implementation.

Reviewing working methods and assessing progress

In addition to reviewing its working methods, the Commission will also assess broader measures of progress, including the prospects for and the way forward towards a technically solid and globally agreed set of measures of progress. It will also examine existing proposals for a post-2015 development framework, elaborating the need for an integrated and technically robust measurement approach and identifying critical elements for the implementation of a new monitoring framework.

“Being innovative is one of the fundamental challenges of our profession because we are measuring the world and the world around us is changing continuously in so many areas,” said Stefan Schweinfest, Acting Director of UN DESA's Statistics Division, in an earlier DESA News interview.

“In statistics [...] there are no short cuts, there are no quick fixes,” Mr. Schweinfest said. “I am always saying, we are not taking pictures, we are actually making a movie, so when we talk about sustainable development, we also need sustainable statistics to support sustainable development,” he added.

Managing the data revolution

In addition to the regular programme of the Commission, more than 60 side events are scheduled to take place, making the Statistical Commission one of the largest and busiest events held at UN Headquarters. Kicking off already the week before, one of the events arranged by UN DESA's Statistics Division on 28 February, puts a spotlight on “Managing the data revolution”. The term “Data Revolution” was introduced by the High-Level Panel of Eminent Persons to underline the urgency for more and timelier data to monitor progress of the post-2015 development agenda.

Other events will take a closer look at food security, agricultural and rural statistics and new strategies for a gender data revolution.

Common metrics on sustainability with the business sector in the post 2015 development era will also be highlighted, as will disability measurement and how to improve data collection and analysis on aging for social policies formulation, monitoring and evaluation.

The Commission, UN DESA's Statistics Division along with statisticians from across the globe will continue their important work, collecting data and ensuring that the international community has reliable information to move towards a sustainable post-2015 development agenda.

The central role of their work, as well as the importance of supporting capacity building efforts around the world, has been stressed by Under-Secretary-General Wu Hongbo. “Sustained efforts are critical to build and maintain statistical capacity in developing countries. These efforts, together with sound statistical institutions, infrastructure and operations, should remain at the heart of our development agenda,” Mr. Wu said as he addressed last year's Statistical Commission.

Follow [@UNStats](#) and [#UNStats2014](#) for updates on the work of the Commission.

45th Session of the UN Statistical Commission

[DESA's Statistics Division](#)

[DESA News interview with Stefan Schweinfest, Acting Director of UN DESA's Statistics Division](#)

Celebrating forests for sustainable development

Forests are essential for the survival of people everywhere. They are also at the heart of sustainable development. In 2012, the UN General Assembly declared 21 March as the International Day of Forests to “celebrate and raise awareness of the importance of all types of forests and of trees outside forests”. A wide range of special events will celebrate the International Day of Forests 2014.

Nearly 1.6 billion people worldwide depend on forests for their livelihood, food, fuel, shelter and medicine. The International Day of Forests is an opportunity for people around the world to celebrate their unique personal relationship to forests and trees in their communities.



As policy makers deliberate on defining the post-2015 UN development agenda, the Day further provides an opportunity to highlight the vital role of forests in providing economic safety nets for the poor and vulnerable, in food security and nutrition, in public health, in the provision of freshwater and in building resilience of communities.

During the month of March 2014, the United Nations Forum on Forests Secretariat (UNFF) in UN DESA, will arrange a series of activities to celebrate the International Day of Forests at UN Headquarters in New York. The celebrations will feature a week-long series of screenings of award-winning forest films, a two-week exhibition of award-winning forest photographs and children's art and a special half-day event on 21 March, which will be broadcast live via UN Web TV.

Special event: International Day of Forests 2014

The special event on 21 March, taking place at 10 am – 1 pm in the ECOSOC Chamber at UN Headquarters, will feature a panel discussion highlighting inspiring women who are making a difference for forests and sustainable development, as the 2014 International Day of Forests coincides with the 58th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW58).

Thought leaders, from forest heroes to film makers will share their inspiring stories of action for forests and sustainable development. The UNFF Secretariat awarded Forest Hero awards in 2012 and 2013 to celebrate “unsung heroes” who champion efforts to sustain, protect and manage forests. Film clips and film makers from the 2011 and 2013 international forest film festivals will also provide a compelling visual journey to diverse forests, as part of the event.

Forests photo and art exhibition

The two-week exhibition of award-winning forest photographs and children's art will be on display on 17-28 March at UN Headquarters. The International Forest Photograph Award was launched in 2013 by the UNFF Secretariat in UN DESA to honor efforts that visually capture the unique connection between forests and people everywhere. Over 400 entries from 39 countries competed to win. Young students vied with professional nature photographers to showcase a personal and often extraordinary perspective of forests. The exhibit features 21 winning photographs.

In 2011, as part of the celebrations of the International Year of Forests, the UNFF Secretariat partnered with the Gabarrón Foundation to hold an international children's art contest, with the theme of “Celebrate the Forests.” The contest challenged children and youth between the ages of 5 to 14 to use the power of imagery to increase awareness of the many benefits of forests. Over 300 children's paintings from 27 countries competed in 2011 contest. The exhibit features 8 posters of winning paintings.

In addition, the exhibit will also feature posters of the 2013 winners of the Forest Heroes awards (from Brazil, Rwanda, Thailand, Turkey and the United States), and International Forest Short Film festival.

Forest Film Festival screenings

Film screenings, to be held from 17-20 March at 1:15-2:30 pm at UN Headquarters, will provide a window to unique and personal stories of how forests underpin sustainable development around the world from the unique biodiversity of the Amazon, to inspiring stories of landscape restoration in China and Rwanda.

The curated films from the 2011 and 2013 UN International forest film festivals feature community leaders who have inspired change through innovative approaches to afforestation

and reducing land degradation. The film festivals were organized by the UNFF Secretariat in collaboration with the Jackson Hole Wildlife Film Festival, to honor the creative efforts of filmmakers who visually capture what forests mean to people.

UN 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.

For further information on the International Day of Forests, visit the website of the [UN Forum on Forests](#)

Moving development agenda forward through people's empowerment

"There is consensus on the need to adopt an approach to development that integrates economic, social and environmental dimensions of development in a balanced manner. People's empowerment is increasingly recognized as fundamental to achieving sustainable development, and new technologies, as well as policy approaches have emerged to make this a reality," said Sewa-Lamsal Adhikari, Chair of 52nd Session of the Commission for Social Development.



After ten days of work, the Commission completed its 52nd session on 21 February and approved six draft resolutions, which will now be sent to the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) for adoption.

As this session ended, so did the two-year cycle of the review and policy meetings held under the priority theme of "Promoting

empowerment of people in achieving poverty eradication, social integration and full employment and decent work for all." During the course of its session, the Commission convened a high-level panel discussion, as well as a general debate on the subject of empowerment.

Empowerment in focus

Among the six draft resolutions, the Commission turned its attention to the subject of inclusive, equitable and balanced approaches to overcoming poverty. The draft resolution on promoting empowerment calls for improving access to employment, quality education, water and sanitation, health care and social protection. Transparency and accountability, good governance and civic engagement were underscored as core elements of an empowering approach to policy-making and policy implementation.

"We live in a world of growing inequality, not only in wealth, but also inequality in power. The Commission has the responsibility, as well as an opportunity, to re-affirm the role of empowerment as an insurance against growing disempowerment and inequality. It is only if we support people's right to have a voice throughout the policy making process, that the social protection policies and human rights frameworks can be made real," said John Gaventa, Director of the Coady International Institute, following the high-level panel discussion.

Several Member States shared their good practices and successful policy measures at the national and regional levels. They highlighted the importance of empowerment in accelerating the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals by 2015, as well as in ensuring that the post-2015 development agenda is truly people-centered.

Social drivers of sustainable development

The panel discussion took a closer look at emerging issues, emphasizing the importance of approaching sustainable development from a social angle, which is an essential process towards formulating an inclusive post-2015 development framework. This kind of approach allows policy-makers to move beyond addressing immediate social issues and to understand the role of social factors in the sustainable development processes.

Several civil society representatives also took the floor during the Civil Society Forum, arranged the day before the opening of the Commission. Jose Nuñez from ADT 4th World, underscored the importance of the human component in assistance programmes for those living in poverty. "Good programmes need to treat people like human beings. They need to treat people with empathy. (...) We have to find ways to build meaning for people if they are going to have success in life," Mr. Nuñez said.

When it comes to improving the work of the Commission, participants had several suggestions for future sessions. Fabio Palacio from ADT 4th World, talked about the need for including the people living in poverty in future discussion on social issues. “If we are speaking about empowerment, without hearing those who live in poverty, we are actively disempowering them,” Mr. Palacio said.

Social groups and post-2015 development

The Commission held general discussions on issues related to various social groups, such as youth, older persons, families, and persons with disabilities. It also reviewed the report of the Special Rapporteur on Disability and urged Member States, UN agencies and others to view accessibility as a means, as well as a goal of inclusive sustainable development. Member States also shared their experiences addressing youth employment challenges and participants also highlighted the renewed emphasis on youth in the work of the United Nations.

Age-based discrimination, active aging and moving away from a medical/welfare approach to a rights-based one, were among the issues debated in the general discussion. The delegations highlighted the need to advance discussions on an international legally-binding instrument to protect the rights of older persons.

Civil Society participants highlighted the Declaration on the Occasion of the 20th Anniversary of the International Year of the Family, urging Member States to strengthen family-oriented policy-making at all levels. Family poverty, children’s well-being, reconciling of work and family life and gender equality remain a concern for many countries. Proposals were also voiced to include a family focus in the post-2015 development agenda.

The post-2015 development agenda was a recurring theme throughout the discussions. The importance of integrating all dimensions of development when moving forward, was also underscored by UN DESA’s Under-Secretary-General Wu Hongbo, as he addressed the Commission. “The post-2015 development agenda calls for a single development framework with poverty reduction and sustainable development at its core. Development, however, will only be fully sustainable when its economic, environmental and social dimensions are integrated in a balanced way. It is therefore vital that we discuss how social policy can support the economic and environmental changes that lead to sustainable development,” said Mr. Wu.

The Commission decided that the priority theme for its next two-year period will be “Rethinking and strengthening social development in the contemporary world”.

All relevant information on the work of the Commission, background notes, official documents and statements are available on the website of [UN DESA’s Division for Social Policy and Development](#)

Global Dialogue on Development

Open Working Group meets for ninth session



The ninth session of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals will take place from 3 to 5 March.

The first two days of the session will feature comments from and discussions by Member States. On

the third day, the Group will have a joint meeting with the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Financing for Sustainable Development. The third day will also include a meeting between the Open Working Group and Major Groups of society.

The Open Working Group has published a progress report which outlines the substantive highlights of the Group's deliberations during its first eight sessions, its stocktaking phase. This report, along with a document outlining 19 focus areas of the sustainable development goals, can be found on the [Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform](#).

Towards more accountable and effective development cooperation



To advance the dialogue on development cooperation, the Government of Germany and UN DESA are organizing a High-Level Symposium in preparation for the 2014 ECOSOC Development Cooperation Forum (DCF) on "Accountable and effective development cooperation

in a post-2015 era" on 20-21 March in Berlin, Germany.

The success of the post-2015 development agenda will depend on how the lessons learned from the MDGs are harnessed and new issues of global concern are addressed. A shared understanding has emerged that a strong sense of ownership and leadership,

solidarity, cooperation and accountability must underpin the post-2015 development agenda.

Which lessons from effective development cooperation can be reflected? How can a global monitoring and accountability framework for development cooperation commitments be designed to support implementation of commitments under a renewed global partnership for development?

Development cooperation in a post-2015 era

There is a recognized need to enhance the effectiveness and accountability of development cooperation and its ability to respond to changing development needs. A range of measures to maximize the quality, effectiveness and impact of development cooperation are currently in place. Governments, civil society, the private sector, philanthropic organizations, parliamentarians, local governments and international organizations and others, increasingly work in unison to deliver sustainable development results and support an enabling environment for such outcomes. This wealth of experience can provide lessons for the post-2015 development agenda.

Effective accountability can incentivize progress of implementation

The ambitious common agenda will require a renewed global partnership for development that catalyses long-term finance and effectively engages and monitors different actors and holds them answerable to their promises and pledges. The wealth of experience of development actors to strengthen accountability to deliver on development cooperation commitments – of a quantitative and qualitative nature – can provide critical lessons for the design of a multi-stakeholder monitoring and accountability framework for development cooperation.

Continuing this dialogue in Germany

The Symposium will provide an opportunity to explore how to engage the diverse range of development actors in a monitoring and accountability framework for development cooperation for the post-2015 era. This will include the assessment of how lessons learned on enhancing the impact of development cooperation can be reflected in the post-2015 development agenda. The Symposium will build on key messages from the Ethiopia and Switzerland symposia and analytical work by UN DESA on mutual accountability and effectiveness of development cooperation.

The Symposium will make a contribution to the discussion on how a renewed global partnership for development can be implemented in a more coherent, effective and legitimate manner. Key messages from the Symposium will contribute to the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals and the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing. The key messages of the symposium will also inform the discussions at the first ministerial meeting of

the Busan Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation, which in turn will present its outcome to the 2014 DCF.

170 High-level participants from national and local governments, civil society organizations and academia, parliaments, foundations and the private sector and multilateral organizations are confirmed to attend the Symposium.

The 2014 Development Cooperation Forum

The DCF Germany Symposium will serve as the final preparatory event for the 2014 Development Cooperation Forum of the United Nations Economic and Social Council, to be held in New York on 10-11 July 2014.

The 2014 DCF will help to advance the global dialogue on the future of development cooperation in the post-2015 agenda. To support the preparations for the 2014 DCF, UN DESA is organizing three High-Level Symposia in partnership with UN member States and a number of high-level preparatory meetings focusing on thematic aspects such as gender, South-South Cooperation or philanthropic engagement in development cooperation.

For more information:

[2014 Germany High-Level Symposium on “Accountable and effective development cooperation in a post-2015 era” – Berlin, 20-21 March 2014](#)

Global celebration of forests



Forests will be in focus on 21 March when the International Day of Forests is celebrated worldwide.

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.

UN 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.

For centuries forests have been a source of food, fibre, livelihoods, resources and water. They are also central to combating climate change, but until last year, and despite a multitude of special days

honouring or commemorating key elements of human life, there has never been a globally recognized day for paying homage to the world's forests.

That changed when the United Nations General Assembly in December 2012 designated 21 March as the International Day of Forests “to celebrate and raise awareness of the importance of all types of forests and of trees outside forests”.

In a message for the new International Day celebrated for the first time in 2013, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said: “By proclaiming the International Day of Forests, the United Nations has created a new platform to raise awareness about the importance of all types of forest ecosystems to sustainable development.”

Wu Hongbo, UN DESA's Under-Secretary-General also noted that “forests are inextricably linked to our social and economic value, to our bonds with nature and the health of ecosystems. Hence, we cannot think of them in isolation. It is up to us to make these connections and establish the policies, laws and institutions required. It is up to us to implement sustainable forest management.”

For more information:

[DESA News feature story and video](#)

[International Day of Forests](#)

Addressing challenges to meet development goals



The Committee for Development Policy will hold its sixteenth session from 24 to 28 March 2014, examining the 2014 Annual Ministerial Review (AMR) theme on Addressing ongoing and emerging challenges for meeting the Millennium

Development Goals in 2015 and for sustaining development gains for the future.

The Committee will also consider the refinement of the criteria for the identification of least developed countries (LDCs), the role of country grouping for development and monitoring reports on countries that are graduating and graduated from the LDC category.

The Committee for Development Policy (CDP) is a subsidiary body of the United Nations Economic and Social Council. CDP

provides inputs and independent advice to the Council on emerging cross-sectoral development issues and on international cooperation for development, focusing on medium- and long-term aspects. The Committee is also responsible for reviewing the status of least developed countries (LDCs) and for monitoring their progress after graduation from the category.

The 24 members of the Committee are nominated by the United Nations Secretary-General in their personal capacity, and are appointed by the Council for a period of three years. Membership is geared to reflect a wide range of development experience as well as geographical and gender balance.

For more information: [Committee for Development Policy](#)

Open Working Group arrives at transitional moment



The Open Working Group on sustainable development goals has arrived at an important moment of transition. “Almost one productive year has passed in which we have done some deep reflection together, and now we begin crafting a proposal on sustainable development goals”,

said Csaba Kőrösi, Permanent Representative of Hungary and Co-Chair of the Group, at the conclusion of its eighth session.

Ambassador Kőrösi presented the Co-Chairs’ draft summary, in which he and the second Co-Chair of the Group, Macharia Kamau, Permanent Representative of Kenya, outline some of the main arguments made during the deliberations that lasted from 3 to 7 February.

Healthy oceans and forests are vital life-support systems

The first cluster of issues discussed at the session – oceans and seas, forests and biodiversity – was universally acknowledged as important for the sustainable development agenda. “Picking up on the metaphor of the Earth’s lungs, if oceans are one lung, forests are the other”, said Ambassador Kőrösi. Forests and oceans were described as by far the richest habitats of biodiversity, on which humans depend for food supplies, medicines, livelihoods, ecosystem stability, and other vital services, and which also carry important cultural value. “We need to recognize the living value of species beyond their commodity values”, said the Ambassador, referring to a statement a delegate had made earlier.

The Open Working Group discussed a number of drivers of biodiversity loss that the sustainable development goals should help slow and reverse, among them deforestation, overfishing, pollution and habitat alteration from ocean acidification. Positive

efforts by governments and stakeholders that could help reverse the tide were also highlighted, such as the creation of biosphere reserves, protected areas and no-catch zones. Indigenous peoples and local communities would have to enjoy benefits from such ecosystem management for it to succeed.

Being born into poverty must not be a life sentence

With respect to the second cluster of issues – promoting equality, including social equity, gender equality and women’s empowerment – concerns were voiced by many about the wide and in some respects widening inequalities in the world, both within and between countries. “These pose a risk to social cohesion and addressing them effectively calls for social solidarity,” said Co-Chair Kőrösi.

Referring to a metaphor used during the deliberations, he also said that it was critical that the ‘social elevator’ is in good working order, so that being born into poverty is not a life sentence. This could be achieved by affordable access for the poor and disadvantaged to education and health care as well as productive and remunerative employment opportunities. Policies supportive of entrepreneurship and small-scale enterprises could also enhance opportunities for the poor.

Gender inequality was overwhelmingly recognized as the most pervasive form of inequality in the world. Promoting gender equality and women’s empowerment was not only a matter of human rights, but a fundamental condition for sustainable social and economic development. “We know that depriving women of the right to realize their full human potential imposes an enormous cost on society as a whole,” said Ambassador Kőrösi.

There was broad support for a two-pronged approach to reflecting gender equality and women’s empowerment in the sustainable development goals: through a stand-alone goal and through mainstreaming gender equality in other goals.

In the course of the discussions it was also noted that social equity had other important dimensions in addition to gender equality. All vulnerable groups would need to be ensured equitable access to capacities and opportunities, basic services and participation in social, economic and political life.

Peaceful societies are the basis for sustainable development

Regarding the final cluster of issues – conflict prevention, post-conflict peacebuilding and the promotion of durable peace, rule of law and governance – many delegates said that conflict undermines development and that peaceful societies are the basis for sustainable development.

Severe inequalities of power, voice, opportunity and wealth among ethnic and other identity groups were identified as being among sources of conflict, as were competition over natural

resource wealth, transnational crime and illicit arms trade, among others.

Participatory governance was mentioned as contributing to conflict prevention. It was stressed that such governance would need to include both women and men as well as young people and all vulnerable groups, including indigenous peoples. Rule of law was described as a cornerstone of society, which, as one speaker noted, should focus not just on fair process but on fair outcomes at national and global levels.

The SDGs will need a good business plan

The valuable contributions of Major Groups to the sessions' discussions were also recognized by the Co-Chairs. One such contribution was the observation that a good business plan will be needed if any goals are to be achieved, and that means of implementation could be viewed as part of that plan. The Co-Chairs also noted as important the question raised by Major Groups as to how the High-Level Political Forum would be empowered to perform its important oversight function in monitoring progress towards the sustainable development goals.

The Co-Chairs' concluding remarks and bullet point summary can be found on [the Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform](#).

The photo shown was taken by Olga Lavrushko, Ukraine, one of the winners of the UN International Forest Photograph Awards. The photos of the winners and finalists of this contest are currently on display (until 28 February 2014) in the [“My Forest – Our Future” photo exhibit](#) at the Gabarron Foundation in New York.

Trends and Analysis

With a spotlight on sustainable development financing



The Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing (ICESDF) will hold its third session on 3-7 March at UN Headquarters in New York.

While the session is closed, reserved to the Committee, an open interactive multi-stakeholder dialogue will be organized on Monday, 3 March from 3 to 6 pm. The first part of this dialogue will consist of a briefing from the Co-chairs and thematic co-facilitators on the work of the Committee. The second part will see presentations from a panel composed of three to five representatives from NGOs, the private sector and other Major Groups engaged in the Rio+20 Conference and the Financing for Development process.

This will be followed by an open dialogue around strategic questions related to the Committee's work on thematic cluster two (mobilization of resources and their effective use) and cluster three (institutional arrangements, policy coherence, synergies and governance issues), with the Committee experts, Member States, international organizations and non-state actors.

There will also be an open joint meeting of the ICESDF and the Open Working Group on sustainable development goals on Wednesday, from 10:00 to 13:00, where the co-chairs of the ICESDF will brief the Open Working Group on the work of the Committee and discuss how the work between the two processes complement each other. Both derive their mandate from the UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) and will contribute to the intergovernmental negotiations on the post-2015 development agenda.

The Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing was established in follow-up to Rio+20 with a mandate to prepare "a report proposing options on an effective sustainable development financing strategy to facilitate the mobilization of resources and their effective use in achieving sustainable development objectives". To this end, the Committee was tasked to assess financing needs, consider the effectiveness, consistency and synergies of existing instruments and frameworks, and evaluate additional initiatives.

More information, including summaries of the first two sessions,

are available on the [Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform](#).

Making the value of census results visible



Regional Seminar on the Promotion and Utilisation of Census Results: Making Value Visible, will take place in Pretoria, South Africa, on 24 – 26 March with over 40 African countries represented.

UN DESA's Statistics Division, in cooperation with Statistics South Africa and the UN ECA African Centre for Statistics and the support from the African Development Bank and UNFPA, is organising this event with essential objective to discuss lessons learnt and share national experience from the 2010 round of population and housing censuses, with regard to effective strategies for promoting the dissemination and utilisation of census results.

In addition, the event will provide an opportunity to gather the input of African countries based on their experiences towards the revision of the United Nations Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses, the major international guidelines for the next round of population and housing censuses.

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

Worldwide study of cooperatives



UN DESA is currently conducting a study of cooperatives throughout the world, presently placing its focus on cooperatives in China and India.

A database will be prepared showing consolidated and sector-level data on cooperatives across industries. The data will include as many cooperative sectors as possible (e.g., financial services, agriculture, credit unions, social and public services, commercial sales and marketing, housing, utilities).

To gather the data, the study will use existing data sources both from government ministries and cooperative associations. The project will compile the number of cooperatives, the number of

clients or members served by each cooperative, and the number of offices. To the extent possible, the project will also compile key economic indicators including annual turnovers, annual gross revenue and total assets at the national level.

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

Capacity development

Building capacities to collect energy statistics

The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UN ESCWA) is organizing a Training for trainers on Energy Statistics and Balances in the Arab region on 9-13 March in Muscat, Oman.



The training is organized in cooperation with the Statistical Center for the Cooperation Council for the Arab countries of the Gulf (GCC Stat), the International Energy Agency and UN DESA's Statistics Division.

The aim of the workshop is (a) to build capacity of experts in energy statistics to collect basic energy statistics and compile energy balances and (b) to review the links between energy statistics and energy accounts, energy efficiency indicators and CO2 emissions. UNSD staff will participate as a resource person in the training.

For more information: [Training for trainers on Energy Statistics and Balances in the Arab region](#)

Innovations for public service delivery



The Public Administration Capacity Building Branch of UN DESA is organizing a capacity-building workshop on "Transfer and adaptation of innovative practices for improved public service delivery in LDCs" that will take place in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 17 to 19 March.

The Workshop for some 25-30 trainees from the interested least developed countries will offer a platform for selected public sector managers to increase awareness of the innovations available for important areas of service delivery.

Specifically, the workshop will serve as a working space for networking and for exchanging ideas, knowledge and strategies on the ways to design and implement efficient, equitable and responsive delivery systems. The workshop is expected to make recommendations, what specific innovations are to be transferred

and adapted, as well as what countries would participate in the subsequent practitioner-to-practitioner knowledge transfer workshops.

For more information: ["Transfer and adaptation of innovative practices for improved public service delivery in Least Developed Countries \(LDCs\)"](#)

Improving quality and availability of oil data



The International Energy Forum (IEF) in collaboration with the Joint Organisations Data Initiative (JODI) partners APEC, Eurostat, IEA, OPEC, OLADE and UN DESA's Statistics Division organized the 9th Regional JODI Training Workshop on 25-27 February

in Baku, Azerbaijan.

The Workshop aimed to improve the quality and availability of monthly oil data and train participants in the collection and reporting of monthly gas data within the JODI programme.

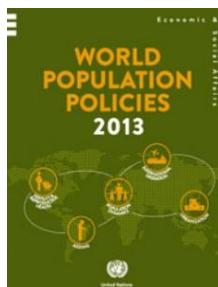
The work on gas data is especially important in light of the upcoming launch of the JODI-Gas database in May 2014. Staff from UN DESA's Statistics Division will participate as a resource person in the training.

For more information: [9th Regional JODI Training Workshop](#)

Publications and Websites

Technical reports

World Population Policies 2013



Published by UN DESA's Population Division, the report is part of a series that provides comprehensive and up-to-date available information on the population policy situations and trends for all 193 Member States, two Observer States and two non-member States of the United Nations. The publication documents changes in Government views and policies from 1976 to 2013 with respect to population size and

growth, age structure, fertility, reproductive health and family planning, health and mortality, spatial distribution and internal migration, and international migration within the context of demographic, social and economic change.

- [To download](#)

World Mortality Report 2013

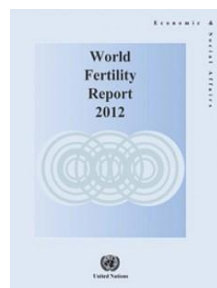


Issued by UN DESA's Population Division, the report assesses changes in mortality risks at the global, regional and country levels, focusing in particular on the implementation period of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, from 1990-1995 to 2010-2015. It evaluates the progress of regions and countries with respect to life expectancy at birth, child mortality,

mortality in the reproductive and working ages and life expectancy at advanced ages. It also discusses the contributions of improvements in survival at different stages of life towards the achievement of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) survival targets.

- [To download](#)

World Fertility Report 2012



World Fertility Report 2012, published by UN DESA's Population Division, is the fourth in a series and provides empirical evidence of changes in reproductive behaviour worldwide from the 1970s to the 1990s to the present time period.

The report describes fertility levels and timing of childbearing, marriage and union formation and demand for contraception. Online data and metadata for 198 countries or areas on a broad set of indicators are also included.

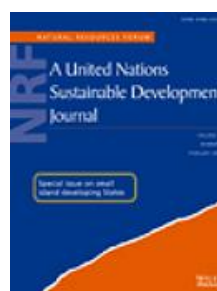
- [To download](#)

International Migration Report 2013

Prepared by UN DESA's Population Division, the International Migration Report 2013 presents information on international migration levels and policies as well as other related indicators for major areas, regions and countries of the world.

- [To download](#)

Natural Resources Forum, a United Nations Sustainable Development Journal (NRF)



Natural Resources Forum, a United Nations Sustainable Development Journal, delivers cutting edge research on policy issues relevant to the sustainable development agenda. The journal considers papers on all topics relevant to sustainable development. In addition, it dedicates series, issues and special sections to specific themes that are relevant to the current discussions of the

United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD).

The latest special issue of the journal, issued by UN DESA's Division for Sustainable Development, focuses on Small Island Developing States.

- [For more information](#)

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. LXVIII – No. 1, January 2014

In addition to the regular recurrent monthly tables, this issue includes the quarterly tables: 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](#)

Outreach material

Sustainable Development in Action – Issue 2, Volume 2

The latest issue, published by UN DESA's Division for Sustainable Development, highlights the International Year of Small Island Developing States (SIDS). 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 February issue is available online with a feature article highlighting youth voices on migration and the recently released World Youth Report. The newsletter is prepared with input from UN offices, agencies, and from youth organizations around the world.

- [Read full issue](#)

DESA NGO News

The February issue is available online. Published by UN DESA's NGO Branch, the newsletter provides 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. The latest issue highlights recent events including the General Assembly debate addressing the water, sanitation and sustainable energy crises; the Commission for Social Development; the Committee on NGOs; and the General Assembly President's initiative for the post-2015 development agenda.

- [Read full issue](#)

Discussion papers

Monthly Briefing on the World Economic Situation and Prospects No. 63

Published by UN DESA's Development Policy and Analysis Division, the February issue states that the currencies of several developing economies depreciated sharply vis-à-vis the U.S. dollar and that the GDP growth in the United States was better than expected in 2013.

- [To download](#)

Policy briefs

Achieving sustainable development: the energy investment challenge

The latest policy brief, prepared by Diana Alarcon and Eduardo Zepeda of UN DESA's Development Policy and Analysis Division, talks about how transforming the world energy system calls for strong leadership, carefully designed policies, behavioral changes and large investments, both in developed and developing countries

- [To download](#)

Working papers

International Tax Cooperation and Innovative Development Finance

Effective income and wealth taxation is a central development cooperation issue because taxation of foreign companies and their own residents' overseas assets remain problematic for developing countries. Estimates of the scale of undeclared expatriated profits and overseas assets, and thus the income tax lost to developing countries, are large relative to other forms of innovative development finance. The international cooperation required involves information exchange between jurisdictions to allow the full application of existing tax codes. This expanded global tax base would be a more sustainable and equitable system than the traditional donor-recipient relationship.

- [To download](#)

Aid Securitization: Beyond IFFIm

The International Finance Facility for Immunization (IFFIm), which securitized future aid commitments by donor countries, has been successful in providing funds to immunize children in poor countries. Since capital is likely to remain scarce, the paper evaluates the prospects of setting up IFFIm-like mechanisms to fund a variety of objectives. Two broad conclusions emerge. First, replicating IFFIm could prove challenging because donor pledges will lack the desired credibility. Second, credit enhancements like third party guarantees, excess coverage, and channeling of pledges through a preferred creditor, could overcome this deficiency. Finally, Advance Market Commitments and Cash on Delivery are alternatives to deliver some of the advantages of IFFIm.

- [To download](#)

Websites



A new website has been launched on February 24 for the International Year of Small Island Developing States (SIDS). The website contains a wealth of information on the upcoming 2014 Third International

Conference on SIDS to be held in 2014 in Apia, Samoa.

- [To browse](#)

Comings and Goings

Comings

The following staff members were promoted in February:

Jacob Assa, Statistician, Statistics Division

Sara Hertog, Population Affairs Officer, Population Division

Yu Jung Kim, Information Management Officer, Division for
Public Administration and Development Management

Calendar

March

Ninth session of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals

3-5 March, New York

<http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/index.php?menu=1680>

Third session of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing (ICESDF)

3-7 March, New York

<http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/index.php?menu=1558>

45th session of the Statistical Commission

4-7 March, New York

http://unstats.un.org/unsd/statcom/commission_45th_session.htm

Training for trainers on Energy Statistics and Balances in the Arab region

9-13 March, Muscat, Oman

http://unstats.un.org/unsd/newsletter/globalstat_unsd_calendar.htm#9-13Mar2014

Capacity-building workshop on “Transfer and adaptation of innovative practices for improved public service delivery in LDCs”

17-19 March, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

High-Level Symposium in preparation for the 2014 ECOSOC Development Cooperation Forum (DCF) on “Accountable and effective development cooperation in a post-2015 era”

20-21 March, Berlin, Germany

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

International Day of Forests

21 March

<http://www.un.org/esa/forests/international-day-of-forests/index.html>

Sixteenth session of the Committee for Development Policy

24-28 March, New York

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

Regional Seminar on the Promotion and Utilisation of Census Results: Making Value Visible

24-26 March, Pretoria, South Africa

<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/sources/cwp2010/docs.htm>

April

47th Session of the Commission on Population and Development

7-11 April, New York

<https://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/commission/previous-sessions/2014/index.shtml>

10th session of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals

31 March - 04 April, 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.