



Renewing focus on sustainable islands | Good governance – recognizing indigenous peoples for who they are | Cities for a sustainable future

Global dialogue on development: Negotiating sustainable development goals, Importance of families for present and future generations, Financing for development and the post-2015 agenda

Trends and analysis: ICTs – game changer for development beyond 2015, Strengthening collection of international trade data

Capacity development: Assessing strategies for data dissemination, Improving vital statistics

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

Feature Articles

Renewing focus on sustainable islands

“Many of the challenges facing Small Island Developing States are shared by the international community, such as climate change, biodiversity loss, oceans and seas, disasters [...],” said UN DESA’s Under-Secretary-General Wu Hongbo, as preparations accelerate ahead of the UN Conference on Small Island Developing States. DESA News also spoke with some of the conference bureau members who shared their hopes for this major event.



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

Preparations for the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States (SIDS), to be held in Apia, Samoa on 1-4 September, began practically right after the Rio+20 conference in 2012, when Member States called for this third conference. “At Rio+20, Member States noted with concern that SIDS had made less progress in sustainable development than most other groupings. In economic terms, especially in terms of poverty reduction and debt sustainability, SIDS had actually regressed,” explained Mr. Wu in his new blog. Mr. Wu, who is the Conference Secretary-General, also shared how the work is progressing and how “the spirit of partnership has been strong in the preparatory process so far”.

The inter-sessional meeting just recently concluded negotiations on the zero draft document, when DESA News got an opportunity to speak with some of the conference bureau members. “It is very important for the outcome document to be action-oriented and aspirational,” said the Permanent Representative of Samoa to the UN Ali’ioaiga Feturi Alisaia, highlighting the important multi-lateral processes taking place at the UN surrounding the conference. “We see the timing of the conference as ideal, so that there will be input from Small Island Developing States that will feed into all these processes,” he said referring to the work designing the Sustainable Development Goals, as well as the Secretary-General’s upcoming summit on climate change.

“This conference is a global conference; it is not a conference which is of interest to SIDS only; it is relevant for the international community as a whole,” stressed the Permanent Representative of Mauritius to the UN Milan J N Meetarghan. He said that the world is now aware of inter-dependence of

economies in developing countries, small developing countries, and the developed world, and it is important that the international community comes up with a global solution which will impact all Member States.

Quest for genuine and durable partnerships

The main theme of this conference will be “The sustainable development of small island developing States through genuine and durable partnerships” and the bureau members all agreed on the importance of this theme for the successful outcome document. “I think it is a very timely theme and I hope that during the conference, there will be real, genuine and sustainable partnerships for the SIDS,” said the Permanent Representative of Singapore Karen Tan. Adding; “I hope that not just Member States, but also international organizations, international financial institutions, CSOs come together and announce good partnerships”.

Ambassador Meetarghan also pointed to the importance of partnerships among the Small Island Developing States themselves. “We believe that beyond conventional partnerships, it is also important to talk about SIDS — SIDS partnerships, regional cooperation among SIDS, but also cooperation among SIDS worldwide,” Mr. Meetarghan said, highlighting the possibility created when SIDS pool their resources.

“The traditional donor-based, “North — South” partnership model hasn’t lived up to our expectations,” said the Roving Ambassador of Seychelles for Climate Change and Small Island Developing States Ronald Jumeau. “We have to look to new ways to achieve all that needs to be done for SIDS,” he said, suggesting sourcing the resources from other areas and non-traditional sectors. The Seychelles have been looking across the spectrum, such as private sector, philanthropic trusts and foundations, especially in helping with issues such as the oceans, in the context of mitigating climate change.

“No partnership is too big or too small,” said the Deputy Permanent Representative of New Zealand Phillip Taula. “In New Zealand, we have a saying, ‘Nā tō rourou, nā taku rourouka ora ai te iwi’, which means, ‘with your basket and my basket, the people will thrive’, so by working together, we can ensure great success,” Ambassador Taula said.

Priorities: Oceans and Climate Change

As one of the main priorities for the conference, the bureau members highlighted oceans and their importance to the sustainable development of Small Islands Developing States. “This conference is about developing our potential with respect to the oceans. SIDS in general do not have much in terms of resources, but they do have potentially enormous resources in oceans around them,” said Ambassador Meetarghan. He underscored the importance of the common strategy in developing the oceans as a natural resource. “I believe for SIDS, the oceans are the next frontier,” he added.

“As an island nation surrounded by oceans, New Zealand particularly appreciates the environmental issues and challenges that the Small Island Developing States face,” Ambassador Taula said.

The issue of tackling climate change was also brought up by the bureau members. “There will be no sustainable development of the SIDS without tackling climate change,” said Ambassador Jumeau, who also stressed that “the future and the sustainable managing of oceans is of great importance to the Small Island Developing States.”

Looking towards and beyond Apia

One of the most important goals of the conference will be to develop resilience of SIDS so that they can overcome their vulnerabilities. Climate change is likely to top the list of priorities, as it represents an existential issue for many of these nations. However, the most effective way to build that resilience is contained in the main theme for the conference: genuine and durable partnerships. A lot of work has already been done, and the Conference will provide an ideal platform to raise the level of cooperation to new levels. This has also been underscored by Conference Secretary-General Mr. Wu.

“The International Conference in Samoa will be a major milestone for SIDS. It will make an important contribution to the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda. It will also result in tangible outcomes through strengthened collaborative partnerships between SIDS and the international community,” said Mr. Wu.

For more information:

[Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States](#)

[Blog of Conference Secretary-General Wu Hongbo](#)

Good governance – recognizing indigenous peoples for who they are

The thirteenth session of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues will take place on 12-23 May with principles of good governance at the forefront of discussions. For indigenous peoples, good governance is grounded in the right to self-determination, which is a pre-condition for the enjoyment of all other rights as it means the right to freely determine their political status and pursue their economic, social and cultural development.



Good governance is premised on the recognition of indigenous forms of autonomy, self-governance and ancestral authorities, as well as of customary governance systems and land tenure systems over lands, territories and natural resources. It encompasses the right to fully and effectively participate in decision-making that impacts indigenous peoples' rights, lives, communities, lands, territories and resources.

At the same time, good governance needs to be inclusive and ensure equity and justice for indigenous peoples to achieve their individual and collective well-being. Good governance must be consistent with the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), adopted in 2007 and which affirms the distinct status and rights of indigenous peoples. The UN Declaration clearly states that "indigenous peoples in the exercise of their rights should be free from discrimination of any kind" and conveys "inalienable ethical messages – the recognition of indigenous peoples for who they are, the imperative to remedy historical wrongs and the acceptance of traditional practices as part of the global culture of mankind," as H.E. Ambassador Abulkalam Abdul Momen, Vice-President of the UN General Assembly stated in last year's forum session.

Situation for indigenous peoples in the Asian region

Two thirds of the world's indigenous peoples live in Asia, which is

home to over 2000 civilizations and languages. In Asia, indigenous peoples include many groups that are often referred to as "tribal peoples", "hill tribes", "scheduled tribes", "janajati", "orang asli", "masyarakat adat", "adivasis", "ethnic minorities" or "nationalities". Irrespective of their legal status or the terminology used, many indigenous peoples in this region experience non-recognition of their cultural identity, exclusion and marginalization. Their situation will be in focus on Thursday, 15 May, during a half-day discussion on indigenous peoples in the Asian region as part of this year's forum held at UN Headquarters in New York.

The Permanent Forum will also discuss the preparations for the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples, a high-level plenary meeting of the United Nations General Assembly to be convened on 22-23 September 2014 at UN Headquarters in New York. There will also be a discussion on the Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous Peoples, which was adopted by the General Assembly on 22 December 2004, and which will come full circle at the end of this year.

Addressing sexual health and reproductive rights

Despite a pervasive lack of disaggregated data on the health of indigenous peoples, there is strong evidence around the world that indigenous peoples are still disproportionately affected by high rates of maternal and infant mortality, and lack of access to culturally-appropriate maternal health care services. HIV/AIDS is one of the most urgent challenges faced by indigenous women, with economic, social and sex exploitation as contributing factors.

The Permanent Forum will also discuss indigenous peoples' sexual health and reproductive rights on Wednesday 14 May, when it will consider the report of the Expert Group Meeting on "Sexual health and reproductive rights: articles 21, 22 (1), 23 and 24 of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples", held in January 2014.

The Permanent Forum will also follow up on the priority themes of indigenous youth and children, on Friday 16 May. A report on the living conditions of indigenous children and adolescents in Mesoamerica and compliance with their rights will be presented. The study shows the gaps between indigenous children and the rest of the population, with the differences starting from birth. Often indigenous children do not speak the language of instruction, and the curricula and teaching methods are culturally inappropriate, leading to poorer educational performance and higher dropout rates for indigenous children compared to their non-indigenous peers.

Active involvement in preparing post-2015 development agenda

Indigenous peoples are actively involved in the work preparing for the post-2015 development agenda, including the designing of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), to ensure that

their concerns are reflected and their rights protected. A discussion on the post-2015 development agenda will take place at the Forum, with indigenous peoples presenting their vision and priorities for the UN Sustainable Development Goals and the post-2015 development agenda.

The critical importance of the participation of indigenous peoples in this process was already underscored by UN DESA's Under-Secretary-General Wu Hongbo at last year's forum. "The process underway to advance a development agenda that has sustainable development at its core, represents a unique opportunity for a more comprehensive consideration of poverty and well-being that includes the indigenous perspective. It provides us the space to adopt a new partnership for development – built on the human rights-based approach. I believe that working together, we can achieve a real, inclusive and participatory post-2015 development agenda," Mr. Wu stated.

Photo credit: Broddi Sigurdarson, UN DESA

For more information:

[Programme of the Thirteenth Session of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues](#)

[Indigenous Peoples Major group](#)

[DESA News February 2014: Promoting the well-being of indigenous peoples](#)

Cities for a sustainable future

By 2050, about 70 per cent of the world's population is expected to live in urban areas and over 60 per cent of the land projected to become urban by 2030 is yet to be built. If done right, urbanization can help deliver a sustainable future. Taking aim at the topic of sustainable urbanization, ECOSOC is gathering high-level representatives from across the globe for a three-day event on 27-29 May.



Over the centuries, the world has become more and more urbanized. At the beginning of the 19th century, only 2 per cent of the world's population lived in cities, whereas during the first decade of the 21st century, this number reached the 50 per cent mark. Urban centres have thus become the most dominant habitat of humankind and the trend continues.

"95 per cent of urban expansion will take place in the developing world," said UN DESA's Under-Secretary-General Mr. Wu Hongbo as he addressed a High-level Symposium on Sustainable Cities and Sustainable Urbanization in China last year. "In China, 350 million people are expected to move into cities in the coming two decades. Clearly, such massive changes will pose social, economic and environmental challenges, while also creating tremendous opportunities," Mr. Wu said.

Posing challenges as well as opportunities

With the world urban population estimated to increase from 3.5 billion today to 6.2 billion in 2050, urbanization poses both a challenge and an opportunity to sustainable development. Urban areas are faced with problems of unsustainable geographical expansion patterns; ineffective urban planning, governance and financing systems; inefficient resource use; poverty, inequalities and slums; as well as inadequate delivery of basic services.

Youth, women and people with disabilities have also often been left behind in conventional models of urban development.

Extreme deprivation remains a major concern with one billion people living in slums. Furthermore, cities continue to be the major contributor to the total greenhouse gas emissions.

Despite these challenges, urban areas are also a source of growth, development and jobs. They offer opportunities for economies of scale and scope in development efforts, in particular in addressing poverty, health and education issues. Urban centres account for 70 per cent of the world's gross domestic product (GDP), i.e. 55 per cent in low-income countries, 73 per cent in middle-income countries, and 85 per cent in high-income economies.

The process of urbanization can thus create an enabling environment for transforming production capacities, income levels and living standards, especially in developing countries. However, this requires a shift in mind-set of decision makers, away from viewing urbanization as a problem, towards viewing urbanization as an opportunity to promote sustainable development.

Urbanization – transformational power to achieve and advance sustainable development

The Outcome Document of the Rio+20 Conference also highlighted the potential of cities, recognizing that if cities were well planned and developed, including through integrated planning and management approaches, they could promote economically, socially and environmentally sustainable societies.

Integrated approaches to sustainable urbanization target multiple MDGs and allow for the strengthening of synergies between efforts to achieve different goals, such as health, education, water and sanitation, maternal and child health, empowerment of women and environmental sustainability.

Addressing sustainable urbanization would entail the consideration of its economic, social and environmental implications and connections and it would require collective action by a wide range of stakeholders, including Governments, the UN system, private enterprises, civil society and communities.

ECOSOC contributes to new urban agenda

Taking aim at the issue of sustainable urbanization during the Integration Segment on 27-29 May, this will offer the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) an opportunity to contribute to the third United Nations conference on housing and sustainable urban development (Habitat III) scheduled to take place in 2016, and more importantly, to the expected outcome document outlining the new urban agenda.

By bringing together the ECOSOC system, policy makers and key stakeholders, including networks of UN-Habitat, Major Groups representatives and UN system organizations, the event will help to establish a common understanding of the role of urbanization in sustainable development and to define the fundamental attributes

of the 'sustainable city', which Member States and the UN could collectively promote.

Organized by UN DESA in collaboration with UN-Habitat and the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa (OSAA), the event will feature various interactive panel discussions, dialogues, and a town-hall style meeting. Side events, that will be organized by Member States, the UN system and other stakeholders, will offer opportunities for ministers, mayors and other representatives to engage with each other on the future of cities. This segment will also complement and provide input to the work of the High-Level Segment of the Economic and Social Council and the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development.

Urban prosperity and urban inequalities

In addition to cities as drivers of sustainable development, a number of other issues will be addressed during the event by high-level participants from across the globe, including sustainable urbanization in Africa and effective governance, policy-making and planning for sustainable urbanization.

The event will also examine urban prosperity and inequalities. The theme of urban equity was also at the core for the recently held [World Urban Forum](#) convened by UN Habitat. Their estimates indicate that two-thirds of the world's urban population live in cities where income inequality has increased since the 1980s. Cities play a critical role in addressing the inequality problem, as their design, governance, and infrastructure have direct impact on the lives and opportunities of their inhabitants.

The event will focus on possible mechanisms for inclusive urbanization and for promoting equality and also on how sustainable urbanization policies can address the issue of inequalities in access to basic public services.

Imagining the cities of the future

"Many experts predict that the battle of the future sustainable development will be won and lost in cities," said Mr. Wu at the high level symposium in China. "It will be critical to achieving the post-2015 development agenda and the sustainable development goals – whether we will be able to usher in a new era of cities and a new track of sustainable urbanization."

The cities of the future will also be a topic for discussion at the ECOSOC Integration Segment, featuring questions on what future cities and some of the innovations and partnerships for sustainable urbanization could look like.

"For me, a sustainable city will be a place of economic dynamism. An engine of inclusive, balanced, smart, green and low-carbon economic growth. A place for social progress with social cohesion, socially-balanced housing, as well as public services for all, including health care and education," Mr. Wu

said. “A sustainable city will be a place of green space and environmental regeneration. In short, a sustainable city is a city we all want, for us and for our children,” he added.

For more information:

[ECOSOC Integration Segment – Sustainable Urbanization](#)

Global Dialogue on Development

Negotiating sustainable development goals



As the Open Working Group (OWG) process has transitioned from a stock-taking to a negotiation phase, the opportunity for civil society to have their inputs heard has become increasingly important.

This was evident during the 10th session of the OWG on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) which took place on 31 March – 4 April. This work will continue during the next session, scheduled to take place in New York on 5-9 May.

During a one and a half hour long meeting at the 10th session with the Open Working Group Co-Chairs, Major Groups and other stakeholders were able to make their suggestions for specific goals and targets for consideration by the Co-Chairs and Member States.

The session was designed to directly address the document outlining the focus areas, while also acknowledging the important differences between constituency needs. Using google docs, focus areas statements were developed in an open and transparent way, enabling constituents and organizing partners alike to have their say in the views expressed in each intervention. The focus area statements were also produced in consultation with other stakeholders to provide both breadth and depth to each statement. The constituency-based statements were developed in consultation with each party and organizing partner.

All of these statements were subsequently integrated into a compilation document, along with a brief summary, both of which were consulted upon with MGoS before release to the Co-Chairs. A programme of work for future sessions was released at the end of the 10th session, delineating the tasks ahead, and since then, a new focus areas document has been produced, which will serve as the basis for negotiations moving forward.

Major Groups look forward to participating in the upcoming OWG11 session, the date and time of such participation still remains to be finalized. They are committed to staying flexible during negotiations and appreciate the hard work and dedication of the Co-Chairs in being inclusive and open as the OWG process continues on.

For more information:

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

[Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals](#)

Importance of families for present and future generations

This year's annual observance of the International Day of Families on 15 May celebrates the 20th anniversary of the International Year of the Family, which was held in 1994.



The preparations for this landmark anniversary is being carried out by the Focal Point on the Family, in UN DESA's Social Policy and Development Division and aims to achieve a greater recognition that families should be a focus of social policy for the sake of present and future generations. The event seeks to raise awareness of the importance of families, to promote knowledge of socio-economic and demographic trends affecting families and stimulate efforts to respond to challenges faced by families.

The major policy areas under recent consideration include: family poverty, social exclusion and inter-generational transfer of poverty; work-family balance, including unpaid work at home and the sharing of household responsibilities between parents as well as a variety of inter-generational issues. There is ample evidence that policies in those areas are effective, contribute to the achievement of internationally agreed development goals and should be advanced further.

The theme of this year's International Day is Families Matter for the Achievement of Development Goals. No doubt, a myriad of development goals, ranging from poverty and inequality reduction, education, maternal and child health require greater focus on families. Inter-generational transfer of poverty occurs at the family level; inequality is perpetuated when families don't have access to health services and can't send their children to school. It is at the family level, where decisions about educating girls take place.

Yet, although families face mounting challenges, they are rarely a focus of systematic research and evidence-based policy making. What's more, there have been inadequate efforts to

assist families in fulfilling their numerous and indispensable functions. That is why the observance of this year's International Day of Families is to encourage a more concerted action on the part of Governments and civil society to add families to post-2015 development agenda.

The observance of the Day is to sum up and illustrate recent contributions of civil society, Governments, academic institutions and the private sector to the well-being of families worldwide. The observance will feature a panel discussion focusing on building better public policy for families by communicating research to policymakers and feature contribution of civil society to the benefit of families globally. A landmark publication, "Family Futures" by Tudor Rose in observance of the anniversary, will be featured together with two brief documentaries on the role of civil society.

The event is organized in cooperation with the UN Department of Public Information.

For more information: [International Day of Families](#)

Financing for development and the post-2015 agenda



The 2014 Special high-level meeting of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) with the World Bank, IMF, WTO and UNCTAD was held on 14-15 April in New York under the overall theme of "Coherence, coordination and

cooperation in the context of financing for sustainable development and the post-2015 development agenda."

Following the opening remarks by ECOSOC President Martin Sajdik and Deputy Secretary-General Jan Eliasson, a Ministerial segment was held on the theme "World economic situation and prospects" and two informal thematic debates focused on "Mobilization of financial resources and their effective use for sustainable development" and "Global partnership for sustainable development in the context of the post-2015 development agenda". A multi-stakeholder dialogue on the way forward took place on the second day of the meeting.

World economic situation and prospects

The Ministerial segment started with a presentation on the World Economic Outlook (WEO) by Mr. Thomas Helbling, Chief of the World Economic Studies Division at the International Monetary Fund (IMF). The discussion highlighted that the recovery from the global economic and financial crisis was under way but remained

weak and fragile. Additionally, trends in economic growth are still very uneven between countries.

While advanced economies are back on the recovery track, emerging markets are under significant pressure. In addition to long-term structural factors, cyclical factors are at play, including through possible adaptations of monetary policies in the United States. Participants stressed the need for greater cooperation and coherence in macroeconomic policies, and for strengthened multilateralism. They also cautioned that despite improved global growth, the global employment situation remained bleak, especially among young people, and inequalities continued to grow.

Mobilization and effective use of financial resources for sustainable development

At the start of the session, the two co-chairs of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing presented the advances made by the Committee. Mr. Mahmoud Mohieldin introduced the analytical work and policy recommendations of the World Bank on sustainable development financing in the context of the post-2015 development agenda. Participants agreed that the mobilization of resources for sustainable development depended on strengthened international cooperation anchored in a coherent financing framework. In this context, they emphasized the important role of and the third international conference on financing for development.

The Monterrey Consensus and the Doha Declaration will serve as a conceptual basis for an updated financing framework for the post-2015 agenda. Many participants underscored the need to employ the full range of financing sources and non-financial means available, including private and public, domestic and international, while taking into consideration their different characteristics, rationales and specific strengths. The importance of Official Development Assistance (ODA) was underlined.

Participants also welcomed the recent rise in ODA and called for more progress to meet the target of 0.7 per cent of GNI. In addition, there were calls for governance reforms at the global level, for a fair multilateral trading system and a stable global financial system. Greater international cooperation on tax matters to curb tax evasion and illicit financial flows will also be needed. Several speakers highlighted the role of private sector financing to contribute to sustainable development. However, public policies would need to set the right incentives to support private sector investment in sustainable development.

Global partnership for sustainable development in the context of the post-2015 development agenda

Ambassador George Talbot (Guyana) briefed the audience on the ongoing consultations on the preparations for the third international conference on financing for development. Mr. Serge Tomasi introduced the work undertaken by the OECD

Development Assistance Committee to modernize the definition and measurement of development finance. There was a general agreement that a renewed and strengthened global partnership for sustainable development would be crucial to support the implementation of the post-2015 development agenda.

Such a partnership would need to contain strong monitoring and accountability mechanisms. The upcoming third international conference on financing for development will be a crucial opportunity to promote the new global partnership with a holistic and comprehensive financing framework. Many speakers stressed that global governance and the voice and representation of developing countries in economic decision-making bodies would need to be improved as a matter of urgency.

The outcome of the meeting will be a summary by the President of ECOSOC, which will be issued as an official UN document and will serve as an input to further discussions in the Council and the General Assembly. The summary will also inform the work of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing and the preparatory process of the third international conference on financing for development.

For more information:

[ECOSOC Special high-level meeting with the World Bank, IMF, WTO and UNCTAD](#)

Commission on Population and Development concludes 47th session



The Commission on Population and Development concluded its 47th session on 12 April. This year's session focused on the "Assessment of the status of implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development".

The meeting was held only a few months ahead of the 20-year anniversary of the largest intergovernmental conference on population and development ever held – the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) in Cairo in 1994.

In his opening remarks, UN Deputy Secretary-General Jan Eliasson said that the 1994 Conference had placed individuals' rights and dignity at the heart of development and had advocated an agenda for inclusive and equitable growth. Chef de Cabinet Ms. Paulette Bethel, speaking on behalf of Mr. John W. Ashe,

President of the General Assembly, noted that the General Assembly had decided to extend the Programme of Action beyond 2014, due to the gaps in implementation. She called on Member States to respond to new challenges as outlined in the operational review of the implementation of the Programme of Action, undertaken by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) in consultation with Member States, the United Nations system and other relevant international organizations.

Mr. Wu Hongbo, UN DESA's Under-Secretary-General, remarked that the Assembly's special session in September will be an opportunity to renew political support for the goals of the ICPD Programme of Action and to define the work of the UN in the field of population and development for years to come. Mr. Babatunde Osotimehin, Executive Director of UNFPA recalled that the Cairo consensus had been part of a forward-looking agenda to empower women and girls. The outcome of this Commission, he noted, should be judged by whether we can bring the promises of 1994 to all.

In a keynote address, Nafis Sadik, Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for HIV/AIDS in Asia and the Pacific and Secretary-General of the ICPD in 1994, said it was not sufficient to plan for the 200 million women who lacked reproductive health care today. Policymakers should also look at the needs of girls entering reproductive age in the coming decades and stressed that the biggest single obstacle to better public health is prejudice and discrimination by society against girls and women.

In the Commission's general debate, Member States reaffirmed their commitments to the goals and objectives of the ICPD Programme of Action and shared their national experiences, recounting their progress in implementing the Cairo consensus as well the challenges that were remaining in further implementing ICPD beyond 2014. Building on the report of the Secretary-General on [world demographic trends](#) prepared for this meeting, the debate focused on fertility and family planning, mortality, including HIV/AIDS, urbanization, migration, adolescents and youth and ageing.

Member States stressed their progress in enhancing access to reproductive health, reducing maternal and infant mortality, containing the spread of HIV, as well as improvements in women and girls' education and gender equality. They also identified remaining gaps in implementation, such as the need to further improve access to reproductive health services, including family planning, reduce the number of unwanted pregnancies and unsafe abortions, as well as provide sexual education to young people. They referred to the challenges and opportunities of population dynamics, including population ageing, the youth bulge, the demographic dividend, international migration, and urbanization. Member States also called for the Cairo consensus to be fully integrated into the post-2015 development agenda and the new sustainable development goals and for placing people at the center of the development debate.

In accordance with General Assembly resolution 67/250, which had called for effective participation of civil society in the meeting, more than 800 NGO participants registered for this year's Commission, setting a new record in NGO participation in CPD meetings. Almost 30 NGOs made statements during the plenary meeting, which contributed to a lively general debate.

The Commission adopted a resolution by consensus on the theme of the session that "calls upon Governments to recognize the important linkages between the priorities of the ICPD Programme of Action and sustainable development and to build on progress made and experiences gained from its implementation over the last twenty years in the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda". It also "reiterates that increased political will from all Governments is urgently needed to address existing gaps in the implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action and to respond to new challenges relevant to population and development".

The deliberations and outcome of this 47th session represent a key contribution to the preparations for the General Assembly's special session on ICPD Beyond 2014 in September and a fundamental input to the final phase in the preparations of the post-2015 development agenda and the sustainable development goals.

The 48th session of the Commission in 2015 will be chaired by H.E. Ms. Bénédicte Frankinet, Permanent Representative of Belgium to the United Nations. The session will be devoted to the theme "Realizing the Future We Want: Integrating Population Issues into the post-2015 UN-Development Agenda".

For more information: [Commission on Population and Development](#)

Addressing governance challenges for sustainable development

The 13th session of the UN Committee of Experts on Public Administration (CEPA) was held at UN Headquarters on 7-11 April, focusing on the main theme of "transforming public administration for sustainable development".



During this session, the discussions focused on three sub-themes: (a) strengthening national and local capacities for sustainable development management; b) promoting leadership, innovation and risk management; and (c) invigorating the professionalism and morale of the public service. In addition, the Committee also

reviewed the United Nations Programme on Public Administration and Finance and provided recommendations for enhancement of the program.

The Committee acknowledged the crucial role of strengthening the national and local capacities of governments in transforming public administration. Its members also noted that governance, rule of law, capable institutions are both outcome and enabler to advance all three pillars of sustainable development and the post-2015 development agenda. At the same time, they highlighted that any future sustainable development goals should be translated and adapted at the national level in accordance with the conditions and priorities of each country. The Committee recommended that Member States ensure adequate capacity to identify governance risks; to experiment and adapt in response to successes and shortcomings; and to ensure a match between resources and responsibilities.

CEPA further recognized that strong political will and leadership are critical for promoting renovation in public administration and for implementing sustainable development. To achieve sustainable development objectives, there has to be a continuity of effective policies and implementation mechanisms in the medium to long term. Moreover, given the complexity of ever more challenging demands, technological and analytical tools should be used as instruments to support decision-making to enable innovative decisions. In view of this, the Committee recommended improvement of awareness and training in the field of ICT, as well as the promotion of e-government as the enabler of more efficient, transparent, participatory and accountable governance.

With regard to strengthening professionalism and morale in public sector, CEPA suggested that the UN could initiate discourse on the need for a strong and effective government in public service and civil society alike for the pursuit of sustainable development. It emphasized the need to promote knowledge-exchange among relevant institutions to build human resource capacity and promote professionalism and improve morale in public service. Acknowledging the critical need for promoting codes of conduct and ethical norms and values, the Committee advised the Secretariat to continue promoting regional and national charters of public service.

For the next year's 14th session of CEPA to take place from 20 to 24 April 2015, the Committee agreed on the main theme of "Building public trust", but recommended that more specific topics would be identified later upon further study and reflection.

For more information: [13th session of the UN Committee of Experts on Public Administration \(CEPA\)](#)

Trends and Analysis

ICTs – game changer for development beyond 2015



High-Level Event of the General Assembly “Contributions of North-South, South-South, Triangular Cooperation, and ICTs for Development to the implementation of the Post-2015 Development Agenda” will take place on 21-22 of May

The post-2015 development agenda, unified in focus and universal in form, will require more effective, strengthened and improved modes of development cooperation to support its implementation. Scientific and technological cooperation will be fundamental for increasing innovation, strengthening environmental protection and driving social and economic development worldwide.

Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) have a specific potential to be a game changer for all countries’ efforts to achieve sustainable development. There is increasing evidence that widespread access, transfer of, building capacity to utilize at the national level, and use of ICTs can help eradicate poverty, accelerate the achievement of several of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), such as those aimed towards achieving gender equality, ensuring environmental sustainability and combating diseases.

Development cooperation beyond 2015 will have to increase and continue to support developing countries, with a special emphasis in poor and vulnerable communities facing sustainable development challenges, while mobilizing additional resources to address global challenges.

For such reasons, the Outcome Document of the Special Event to Follow-Up Efforts to Achieve the Millennium Development Goals held on 25 September 2013, underscored the central role of a strengthened global partnership for development and the need to honor previous developmental commitments. This was further reinforced and elaborated in the resolution entitled Follow-up to the International Conference on Financing for Development adopted in December 2013.

South-South Cooperation is not a substitute for, but rather a complement to North-South Cooperation, which will remain the

primary form of cooperation between countries of the North and South. The principles of South-South Cooperation have been defined in the Nairobi Outcome document of the UN High-level Conference on South-South Cooperation and further elaborated through relevant General Assembly resolutions. South-South and triangular cooperation vary greatly in approaches and modalities, yet their importance have increased manifold since the year 2000 and are set to be important auxiliary tools for catalyzing implementation efforts among developing countries beyond 2015.

The high-level event will consist of one plenary and two interactive multi-stakeholder panel discussions. It will focus on mobilizing political commitment for the means of implementation and to promote the scaling-up of the impact of all forms of cooperation in the post-2015 development agenda. It also aims to promote the urgent implementation of commitments under the global partnership for development and to identify how ICTs can be best used to bridge technology divides among countries.

For more information:

[High-Level Event of the General Assembly “Contributions of North-South, South-South, Triangular Cooperation, and ICTs for Development to the implementation of the Post-2015 Development Agenda”](#)

Strengthening collection of international trade data

Regional Seminar on International Trade Statistics: Implementation of recommendations will take place on 12-16 May at the African Union Commission (AUC) Headquarters in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.



The seminar is organized jointly by the AUC and UN DESA’s Statistics Division in collaboration with the African Development Bank (AfDB) and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) with the objective to strengthen the capacity of the national statistical systems of countries throughout the African continent in statistics of international trade in goods and services. This activity forms a significant part of the broader effort to improve integrated economic statistics through the implementation of the 2008 System of National Accounts.

The event will bring together national experts in the compilation of international merchandise trade statistics (IMTS), statistics of international trade in services (SITS), and the goods and services accounts of the balance of payments. The agenda is meant to elicit hands-on discussion and focuses on the status and, especially, the challenges encountered in the implementation of the international recommendations in these fields. A specific item on the agenda is the report of the results of the IMTS quality assessment questionnaire, along with selected issues of concern. Other topics are bridging IMTS and BOP, informal cross border trade, linking trade and the business register, FATS, and data dissemination. The joint activity is an important component in the overall effort to improve evidence-based policy making in Africa.

For more information:

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

Capacity development

Assessing strategies for data dissemination



United Nations Regional Workshop on Data Dissemination and Communication will take place in Niamey, Niger, on 13-15 May.

The event is part of a global series of workshops on data dissemination and

communication, with the purpose of providing a forum for sharing national practices and experiences in the dissemination of statistical data and metadata. The workshop will review emerging trends, innovative approaches and technological tools employed in the dissemination of data.

The event is expected to provide a basis for assessing existing national dissemination strategies as well as technologies used by National Statistical Offices. It will also aid in taking stock of national capacities and challenges for meeting the increasing requirements of users. Furthermore, the workshop is expected to help in identifying good practices and lessons learned in the dissemination and communication of data. The ideas generated by the discussions and the recommendations made by participants during all workshops will contribute towards the drafting of a technical report and/or the creation of a knowledge base on the website of UN DESA's Statistics Division, dedicated to the topic of effective dissemination of data.

For more information: [Calendar of Events of UN DESA's Statistics Division](#)

Improving vital statistics



Regional Workshop on Production and Use of Vital Statistics: Applying Tools and Materials Available to Improve Vital Statistics, will take place in Daejeon, Republic of Korea, on 26-30 May.

UN DESA's Statistics Division, in collaboration with the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (SIAP), a regional institution of the UNESCAP, and Statistics Korea, the national statistical authority of the Republic of Korea is organizing the Third Regional Workshop on Production and Use of Vital Statistics: Applying Tools and Materials Available to Improve Vital Statistics.

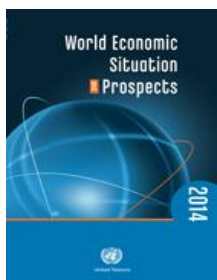
The regional workshop will be conducted to strengthen technical capacity to contribute to the efforts in improving civil registration and vital statistics systems. The goal is to increase the knowledge of government statisticians and civil registration officials about the revised international principles and recommendations for compiling, processing and disseminating vital statistics; and improve their capability in identifying gaps and challenges in applying international standards to improve their vital statistics system. The participants of the workshop consist of one statistician and one civil registrar from 14 Asian countries.

For more information: [Calendar of Events of UN DESA's Statistics Division](#)

Publications and Websites

Technical reports

Launch of the World Economic Situation and Prospects as of mid-2014



The World Economic Situation and Prospects as of mid-2014 will be launched on 22 May. Published by UN DESA's Development Policy and Analysis Division, the WESP 2014 reports that the global economy is improving but remains vulnerable to new and old headwinds. Global economic growth is forecast to accelerate from a sluggish 2.1 per cent in 2013 to 3.0 per cent in 2014 and 3.3 per cent in 2015. The report warns of the risks associated with the upcoming unwinding of quantitative easing programs in major developed economies.

The WESP 2014 Mid-Year Update will include new information and forecasts for different global economic issues, as well as updates to the economic outlooks for all regions of the world.

- [To download](#)

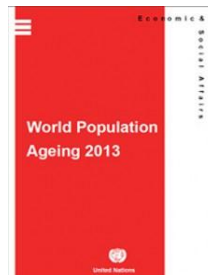
International Migration Wallchart 2013



The International Migration Wall chart 2013 displays the latest data and information available on international migration and development, covering topics such as size of the migrant stock, refugees, net migration, remittances, and ratification status in respect of relevant United Nations instruments.

- [To download](#)

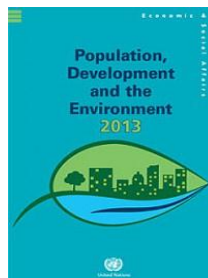
World Population Ageing 2013



The World Population Ageing 2013 report is the fourth in a series. The first report was released in 2002 in conjunction with the Second World Assembly on Ageing. The present report, which updates the 2007 and 2009 editions, provides a description of global trends in population ageing and includes new features on the socio-economic and health aspects of ageing. This report is accompanied by an interactive database on the Profiles of Ageing 2013.

- [To download](#)

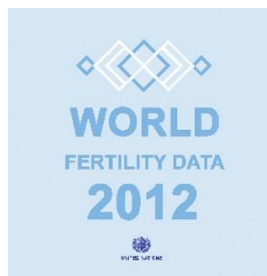
Population, Development and the Environment 2013 Wallchart



The wall chart presents the latest data available on 15 demographic, socio-economic and environmental indicators at the national, regional and world levels. It also contains illustrative maps and graphs, along with brief explanatory texts of selected regional and global trends on population, development and the environment.

- [To download](#)

World Fertility Data 2012



World Fertility Data 2012 provides an up-to-date set of national data on fertility and the timing of childbearing for all countries and areas of the world. Six key indicators are covered: the annual number of births, crude birth rate, age-specific fertility rates, total fertility, mean age at childbearing and the mean number of children ever born.

Data are presented for five reference dates: 1970, 1985, 1995, 2005 and the most recent data available. Major sources of data are civil registration systems, sample surveys and censuses. Information on the definition of each indicator, data sources and criteria for data source selection, limitations and data coverage is provided in the metadata files. The data set presents data available as of January 2013.

- [To download](#)

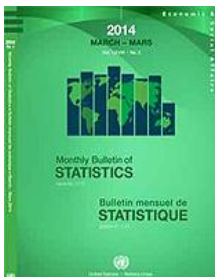
The Trends in International Migrant Stock: The 2013 Revision – Migrants by Destination and Origin

This publication provides estimates of the international migrant stock by destination and origin for the mid-point (1 July) of each year: 1990, 2000, 2010 and 2013. The estimates are based on official statistics on the foreign-born or the foreign population, classified by country of origin. Most of the statistics utilised to estimate the international migrant stock were obtained from population censuses. Additionally, population registers and nationally representative surveys provided information on the number and composition of international migrants.

- [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. 3, March 2014

In addition to the regular recurrent monthly tables, this issue includes quarterly tables: Earnings in non-agricultural activities, by sex; Fuel imports, developed economies: unit value and volume indices, and value; Indicators on fuel imports, developed economies; External trade conversion factors; Manufactured goods

exports: unit value indices, volume indices and value; and Selected series of world statistics.

- [For more information](#)

Outreach material

Sustainable Development in Action – Issue 4, Volume 2

The latest issue, published by UN DESA's Division for Sustainable Development, highlights among others, the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals. 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](#)

Enable Newsletter

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

- [Read full issue](#)

Youth Flash Newsletter

Published by UN DESA's Division for Social Policy and Development Focal Point on Youth, the April issue is available online featuring the article "Youth Advocate for Equitable Cities" written by Francis Anyaegbu, a youth champion currently serving as Africa's representative on the UN-HABITAT Youth Advisory Board and chair of the Youth advisory Board's Committee on the Post-2015 development agenda. This issue also puts a spotlight on the "World Urban Forum 7" and provides updates on youth related activities, including an update from the United Nations Inter-agency Network on Youth Development (IANYD). The newsletter is prepared with input from UN offices, agencies, and from youth organizations around the world.

- [Read full issue](#)

Discussion papers

Monthly Briefing on the World Economic Situation and Prospects No. 65

Published by UN DESA's Development Policy and Analysis Division, the April issue is available online, highlighting among other things that global employment remains a challenge, that the United States Federal Reserve faces challenges in adjusting its monetary policy and that financial markets in emerging economies attempted to stabilise.

- [To download](#)

Comings and Goings

Comings

The following staff members were promoted in April:

Chaudhry Iqbal, Research Assistant, Division for Sustainable Development

Yunxiao Long, Staff Assistant, Office of the Under-Secretary-General

Goings

The following staff members retired in April:

Karen Cassamajor, Statistician, Statistics Division

Vilma Fernandes, Administrative Assistant, Division for Social Policy and Development

Danielle Lamour-St.Macary, Technical Co-operation Assistant, Division for Sustainable Development

Thet Wynn, Information Systems Assistant, Development Policy and Analysis Division

Calendar

May

Launch of the World Economic Situation and Prospects as of mid-2014

2 May, New York

Eleventh session of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals

5-9 May, New York

Thirteenth Session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

12-23 May, New York

Regional Seminar on International Trade Statistics:
Implementation of recommendations

12-16 May, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Regional Workshop on Data Dissemination and Communication

13-15 May, Niamey, Niger

International Day of Families

15 May

High-Level Event of the General Assembly “Contributions of North-South, South-South, Triangular Cooperation, and ICTs for Development to the implementation of the Post-2015 Development Agenda”

21-22 May, New York

Regional Workshop on Production and Use of Vital Statistics:
Applying Tools and Materials Available to Improve Vital Statistics

26-30 May, Daejeon, Republic of Korea

ECOSOC Integration Segment – Sustainable Urbanization

27-29 May, 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.